

B.S.L. NOTES

For the Friends of the Brotherhood of S. Laurence

The Brotherhood helps those in need and endeavours
to arouse thought and action on social questions.

FITZROY

APRIL, 1958

No. 129



"100,000 DEPRESSED PENSIONERS"

"100,000 DEPRESSED PENSIONERS — how £7 million will ease their plight". This is the title of a pamphlet produced last week by the Brotherhood. It analyses the differing needs and resources among those old people who make up Australia's pensioner population and suggests that the first step in pension reform should be to provide special allowances for those who are in greatest need. Such a plan is needed as a "safety net" regardless of what new methods of financing or extending pensions might in the future be adopted by the Government.

Practical methods of implementing these proposals are described and the cost is estimated.

The 12 page pamphlet with a striking cover design is available from 51 Royal Arcade, or any other B.S.L. Centre, for 1/- plus 4d. postage.

The Superior writes on . . .

"DREAMS" — FAMILY CENTRES — A TASK FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

I have found over the years that the first step to be taken to attain anything for the Brotherhood is to talk to you about it through the medium of this letter. Some remarkable things have happened in this way. It is a sort of dreaming on paper (if there can be such thing!) and a certain number of you join in my dreaming and then things begin to happen. A considerable time may have to elapse before the dream becomes a reality, but if it is in accordance with God's Will, in time, it does become a reality. All this is leading up to tell you of my latest "dream".

You may remember that most of my last letter dealt with the problem that has arisen in recent years as a result of the advent of vast housing projects in all parts of the Commonwealth. We have planned to have a survey made in order to ascertain what effect living under such conditions has on the people concerned. That is what Mr. Oswald Barnett, the great pioneer for slum clearance, did in regard to that particular problem. Mr. Barnett, for instance, found that on an average 5 children in the inner industrial areas became delinquents, while on an average 1 child in the ordinary suburbs and in the country met a similar fate. With such and many other findings of a similar nature, facts and figures were produced which could not be refuted. While waiting until we can make a scientific survey, I have myself been finding out what I can about this subject, and the result is most depressing.

I was told by the Vicar of one parish which is made up largely of Housing Commission homes that his best people got out as soon as they could and that the rest spent their time in drinking beer and looking at T.V. Such may have been an exaggeration, but it came from a faithful Parish Priest who is bravely tackling a heart-breaking task. I heard from others tragic stories of broken homes, vandalism and uncontrollable children. The streets (the children's only playground) in one area, reminded me of the worst of our slum lanes. Personally I would much prefer to return to the slum

home I occupied when first coming to Melbourne than I would live in the locality to which I refer. It is dreadful to know that countless numbers of our future citizens are being brought up under such adverse conditions. I in no way blame the people of such areas who do not "make good". The odds are all against them. I ask myself how I could stand up to such conditions.

FAMILY CENTRES

But what is to be done? Herein comes my "dream". I would like a gift of, say, £20,000, which, with a Grant from the Government, could become £30,000. Please understand that I am not making an appeal to you for financial assistance for this purpose for we have already a heavy commitment for projects already in hand. My hope is that some generous citizen or citizens may realise the need and thereby enable us to demonstrate what we maintain should be done to cope with the situation. To do this, what I call a FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTRE should be erected in one of the housing areas in which such an amenity is specially needed. When the value of making provision for the social and spiritual needs of people is realised, others would follow the example set. What we have done in demonstrating how best to care for the aged could be done for this still more important need.

IMAGINATION

With the recent Moomba Festival we have demonstrated that we have organising ability and that if the

The Superior's Letter (cont.)

imagination is caught (for the carrying out of a project which is considered to be of value to the community), we can carry out a project which is of value to the community as a whole.

The same applied to the staging of the Olympic Games by which Australia was put "on the map". We have the opportunity of doing something of still greater value — something which could be of value to all countries which have similar housing problems as ours. When launching our slum campaign I considered that there could be nothing of greater importance than that, but the one now before us is of far greater importance — one that concerns the nation as a whole and one on which, to a very large extent, depends our future destiny.

I fully realise that the FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTRES which I visualise would have to be staffed. This can be done if more young men of education, vision and a sense of true citizenship come forward for special training now provided by the Universities. I would appeal to parents to bear in mind the need for the best of our sons to undertake this work. We must train social service experts in the way we train doctors, parsons, lawyers and the like.

As your help, sympathy and understanding have enabled us to push on with projects which seem to be ours, so we will press on with other projects, knowing that we still have the same unfailing support.

With our Greetings to you all from us all,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

G. Kennedy Tucker
Secretary B.S.L.

BUS TRIPS TO CARRUM DOWNS

Bus trips to Carrum Downs will be arranged on the following days—

Saturday, April 19th.

Saturday, May 3rd.

Saturday, May 3rd. (Opening of "Better Way" Cottage.)

Saturday, June 14th.

Tickets are obtainable from the City Shop, 51 Royal Arcade, for 6/6 return.

OPENING OF FIRST "BETTER WAY" COTTAGE

The opening of the first "Better Way" Cottage at Carrum Downs on Saturday, May 3rd, will be the first fruits of an idea that the Brotherhood pioneered in Australia in 1954 when the "Better Way" plan was launched.

The idea is based on the Swedish Flower Fund and enables people to honour the dead and express sympathy to their relatives and at the same time assist in providing accommodation for old people in desperate need.

Instead of sending flowers to a funeral or to the relatives of a deceased person, hundreds of people are now preferring to send a donation to the Brotherhood's "Better Way" Fund. This money is set aside to build cottages for elderly people. A sympathetic, dignified card is immediately despatched to the relative or friend designated by the donor.

The card is sent immediately the necessary information is telephoned or written to the "Better Way" office at 51 Royal Arcade, MF 3011. The donation can then be sent at the donor's convenience.

All the Office needs to know is the name of the deceased person, the name and address of the person to whom the card is to be sent, and the name and address of the person whom the donation and card is from.

The wording on the card reads —

**"In memory of
(name of deceased)**

in whose honour

(name of sender)

has sent a gift to the

Brotherhood of St. Laurence"

The amount of the gift does not, of course, appear on the card. Most people send an amount equivalent to the cost of the flowers they would otherwise have sent. The donations range from 10/- to £5.

In four years, £1,400 has been contributed to the "Better Way" Fund.

Instead of flowers that soon wither and die the departed are honoured in a practical way that brings happiness and security to old people and provides a lasting memorial to departed loved ones.

NAMING OF COTTAGES

In addition to the opening of "The Better Way" Cottage, Father Tucker will unveil a plaque on the "Ralph Wilson" cottage, which has been erected in memory of the late Ralph Wilson, founder of the Voluntary Helpers' Shop, Camberwell, which financed this and several other cottages at Carrum Downs.

Another plaque will be unveiled on a cottage that has been endowed by the staff of Georges Ltd., of Collins Street.

NEW DESIGN FOR "BETTER WAY" COTTAGE

New ideas have been incorporated in the "Better Way" Cottage to be opened on Saturday, May 3rd. The cottage is centrally situated on a corner site on Tuxen Avenue, the main road into the Settlement.

It will provide accommodation for a single elderly person on a slightly larger scale than most of the Settlement's single person cottages. It consists of a small entrance porch, living room, bed room, kitchenette and servery, bathroom and utility space with wash troughs and storage space. Gas stove, gas fire and bathheater, a shower recess and built-in cupboards are included among the fittings.

The cottage is sited well back from the road and the raised terrace adds to the attractiveness of the building. Shrubs, trees and lawn will be planted in the front, leaving space behind the cottage for vegetables or any other kind of garden the resident may prefer.

SIX YEARS OF 'POSTSCRIPT'

"POSTSCRIPT", the Brotherhood's Sunday night radio programme broadcast from 3KZ at 10.10 p.m., celebrated its sixth anniversary on March 30th.

The programme of music, news of the Brotherhood's activities and comments on topical social problems is usually presented by Archdeacon Sambell but Father Tucker, Mr. Scott and many other staff members have contributed.

A review of the material presented over "Postscript" would give a picture of the progress of the Brotherhood's work in that time. "Postscript" listeners are renowned for their ready and generous response to appeals that are made over the programme from time to time. The holidays provided annually for 200 old people and 250 needy children are largely financed by "Postscript" listeners and many voluntary workers have been recruited through the programme.

BROTHERHOOD ABLE TO ASSIST REFUGEES

The Brotherhood has recently been privileged to make a very small, but practical, contribution to the task of resettling refugees.

One of the most tragic aspects of the world refugee problem is the plight of older refugees who are unable to join their families who have emigrated, or have the chance to emigrate, because of the maintenance guarantees required by the Australian Government.

The Government fears that unless someone guarantees to support the older or handicapped refugee should the occasion arise, they will become a burden on the health, hospital or pension services of the country.

Without going into the justice, or injustice, of this policy, it means that some person other than the relatives must be found to provide this guarantee. If a guarantor cannot be found the families must make the heart-breaking decision whether to remain behind in a refugee camp for the rest of their lives or break up the family and leave behind the old and unwanted.

The Resettlement Department of the World Council of Churches is doing a magnificent job in arranging the migration of thousands of people who do not fit into the Commonwealth's Immigration programme but its efforts to provide a new life for many who desperately need it are often frustrated by this need to find some person or organisation who will provide the guarantee required.

Last year the World Council approached the Brotherhood to see if a guarantee could be given to facilitate the immigration of an elderly

refugee in Italy whose wife had come to Australia some years ago hoping that he would be able to join her. The obstacle to this reunion was the guarantee the Government required. The Brotherhood provided the guarantee and was able to give the same assistance in a more recent case involving two elderly people, White Russian refugees, in Harbin, Manchuria.

The married daughter and her husband have the chance to emigrate to Australia for some years but would not leave the parents behind. The guarantee will now make it possible for the old couple and the younger people to exchange a life of poverty and insecurity for the opportunities of life in Australia.

It is improbable that in either of these cases the Brotherhood will ever have to support the old people so the Brotherhood's contribution is a very minute one.

The story is told in the hope that friends of the Brotherhood might interest their Church groups, or other organisations to which they may belong, to consider the possibility of helping in a similar way some of the other cases known to the World Council's Resettlement Department.

NOTES FROM AUXILIARIES

SIXTY ATTEND INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON

CAMBERWELL AUXILIARY are again raising money for the Brotherhood by their International Luncheons, the first of which was held at the home of Mrs. Hudson during March. This was a Chinese Luncheon, at which 60 friends attended, and a delightful address was given by the wife of the new Chinese Consul of Victoria, Mrs. K. Y. Leung, who is very interested in the Brotherhood and who has agreed to help us in any way she possibly can.

The next luncheon will be held at the home of Mrs. Hillas of 661 Burke Road, Camberwell, on the first Thursday in May.

As our President, Mrs. Hall, and committee member, Mrs. Read, are going overseas early in April, the remainder of the committee are anxiously hoping that friends of the Brotherhood in Camberwell will help us to carry on with these luncheons which have raised a lot of interest in the community as well as money for the Brotherhood. If any friends of the Brotherhood could help, we would be pleased if they would ring Miss Rawlins at JA 3057. We are glad to welcome to our committee

Mrs. Lutjens and Mrs. Leonard, both recent arrivals in Australia.

ORMOND AUXILIARY: now hold their meetings on the first Tuesday in every month at the new hall in the Methodist Church, Glen Orme Avenue, Ormond, as from their May meeting.

This Auxiliary are hoping to have street stalls in Ormond every second month and are also making arrangements for a mannequin parade. A very excellent lecture was given by

Mr. E. W. P. Chinnery, D.I.P. (Amprop.) at Mrs. Simpson's home, 28 Lillimur Road, Ormond, on April 1st.

At the annual meeting, Mrs. Vera Simpson and Mrs. Fenton-Smith were re-elected as President and Treasurer respectively. Miss Hill was elected as Secretary, and Mrs. E. R. Smith as Social Secretary. The President would like to hear of friends of the Brotherhood who live in this neighbourhood to join the auxiliary. In interested, please ring Mrs. Simpson at LW 2314.

ARMADALE AUXILIARY: meet each second Wednesday in the month. They are busily knitting baby clothes and tea cosys which they hope to sell at the annual "Fair" at the Lower Melbourne Town Hall on October 8. Later on they intend holding a tea cosy competition when prizes will be given for the most original cosy. All entries will be sold to benefit the Brotherhood.

This auxiliary held a very pleasant afternoon at the studio of Mrs. Peg Maltby, "Olinda". They are very grateful for the support of the other auxiliaries. Armadale Auxiliary is looking for more willing people who are anxious to help the Brotherhood. If YOU are interested, ring Mrs. Thorn at UY 7169.

BRIGHTON AUXILIARY: had a most successful day at "St. Ninians", Brighton, on March 1st, and our sincere thanks go to Mrs. Blakemore for the use of her beautiful home. This auxiliary is holding a street stall in Brighton on April 11th, so, ladies — don't miss it!

PRESTON AUXILIARY: which was formed in October last year, is now firmly established after its excellent effort in January when it had a Speedboat Carnival at Edwardes Lake, Reservoir. Over £75 was raised at this effort, and the auxiliary's thanks goes to Mrs. Pittman and her helpers from the Melbourne Younger Set for their valuable help in looking after the collection boxes.

Mrs. R. Biddle, former secretary of this group, is unfortunately unable to carry on at present and Mrs. Grindrod has agreed to act as secretary. We are grateful to her for her co-operation. The group are now working on a stall to be held in the Guide Hall early in the year, and a "Button Day", which is planned for the Preston-Northcote district, when a day has been arranged with the Council.

This group meets on the first Monday of each month at the Preston Town Hall and any friends of the Brotherhood in this district would be most welcome to the auxiliary.

GLEN IRIS GROUP: Owing to the Queen Mother's visit, the group have not yet met for this year, but

will hold their annual meeting in May when plans will be made for future activities.

ESSENDON GROUP: will have their first meeting in May when activities will be arranged. This group had a very successful day at the Boys' Camp at "Morven" in January. The boys very much appreciate the beautiful tea that was arranged for them.

FITZROY SHOP: are continuing as usual with their sorting on Wednesdays and running of the Fitzroy shop. New helpers for the shop are needed, especially on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Anyone willing to help at Fitzroy should contact Mrs. C. G. Bucknall, BY 1818. The group was very proud to have Mrs. Healey, one of the members of the group, attend the Queen Mother's Reception at St. Kilda, representing the Brotherhood of St. Laurence.

CITY SHOP AUXILIARY: The loss of Miss Evelyn Rutter from the City Auxiliary will leave a blank that no one will be able to fill. Her many friends in the auxiliary would like to pay tribute to her work as Secretary to the auxiliary. Miss Rutter was also co-secretary with Mrs. F. C. Kimpton for the Annual Fair and has made many friends among the customers at the shop. She has worked in the shop every Wednesday for the past twelve years and she will be very greatly missed.

Miss Dick of the Auxiliary represented the Brotherhood at the Queen Mother's Reception.

The **MELBOURNE YOUNGER SET** are commencing their activities for the year by holding a Gala Dance in conjunction with the Royal South Yarra Tennis Club at the South Yarra Courts on Friday, May 9th, when they hope to have 400 people present. Tickets are £5/5/- a double and are obtainable from Miss Rawlins at JA 3057. This promises to be a very successful night — the dance will be held in lighted marquees on the courts.

We are grateful to the Royal South Yarra Tennis Courts for their co-operation. The group have many other activities in view during the year and hope to keep up their record beginning.

MORNINGTON AUXILIARY: Members of this auxiliary spent a very active afternoon in the hut at "Morven" packing away blankets and generally tidying up after Christmas Camp before their monthly business meeting in March.

The group are working very enthusiastically in the shop and hope that they will be able to carry on in the same place for a little longer. Mrs. McLaren is always ready to receive used clothing and unwanted household goods. They may be left at the shop, 48 Main Street, Mornington, on Thursdays, Fridays or Saturday mornings.

CHELTENHAM - MENTONE GROUP: had their first meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. New office bearers were elected as follows: President, Mrs. T. Alderson, XF1193; Secretary, Mrs. Kelly, XY3939, and Treasurer, Mrs. Herd.

MIDDLE PARK GROUP: had their first meeting for the year and have decided to carry on with their card-parties, theatre-parties, etc., to raise funds for the Brotherhood. The members still do their wonderful job of sorting at our Salvage Division each Thursday evening. Meetings are held at the home of Mrs. Felgate on the last Monday in the month. For any enquiries, please ring Mrs. Felgate, MX 1623.

HUGHESDALE - MURRUMBEENA GROUP: As a result of their first meeting, this group now have two willing helpers to sort at our Salvage Division, one day a week.

The group wish to welcome back Mrs. Rogers whom they have missed considerably since her unfortunate accident. At the same time, the group are very sorry indeed to lose Mrs. Apperley, who now resides in Morwell.

It is very gratifying to know that so many Malvern people benefit so much and are grateful for our second-hand clothing department.

"RESTAURANT HELPS BROTHERHOOD"

For those who patronise the "Charcoal Grill Coffee Lounge", situated at 399 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, and would like to support the Brotherhood at the same time, here is a novel and interesting scheme. From the restaurant a free book of tickets may be obtained and, on each subsequent visit, a ticket will be torn out and for each of these the Brotherhood will receive 6d.

CUSHION CLUB: commenced activities for the year by a meeting at Ajacka Street, North Balwyn, when four American guests were present. There was a discussion on American current affairs, and slides were shown. The next meeting will be in the form of a Mystery Evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. Purdie of Balwyn on 29th March.

FATHER TUCKER will speak at a meeting at the home of Mrs. Pomery of 10 Landale Street, Box Hill, on Monday, April 14th, at 2.30 p.m. It is hoped that an auxiliary will be formed to help raise funds for the Brotherhood.

HOLIDAYS FOR THE AGED

An old lady in an inner Melbourne suburb is joyfully awaiting her turn for a holiday at "Morven", the Brotherhood's holiday home. She lives in a small and dark sub-standard home and has suffered ill-health for some time. The doctor has recommended a holiday, but it is impossible for her to finance it herself on the pension of £4/7/6 a week. In the next few weeks she will enjoy an eight-day holiday with good food, comfort, fresh air and new interests at "Morven".

It is hoped that holidays will be provided for 200 elderly people during the year.

The cost of providing a holiday for one elderly person is £4, and B.S.L. friends are invited to sponsor one or more needy holiday makers. Donations for this purpose should be marked "Holidays for Aged", and forwarded to 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

DONATION SLIP

THE SUPERIOR,
BROTHERHOOD OF ST. LAURENCE
51 ROYAL ARCADE,
MELBOURNE, C.I. MF 3011

Please find my donation £ : :

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."