

BUSINESS ARISING

"First Australian Baptists". The Chairman advised that a decision had now been made to reprint this publication which was in strong demand.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary advised receipt of the following correspondence:

1. Royal Australian Historical Society Journal.
2. Church Archivists' Newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- * Annual subscriptions were now due and payable to the Treasurer.
- * Copies of the Society's literature were available for sale.
- * The next meeting would be on 20th June, the subject being the story of the Theological College (this year being the 75th anniversary) with Rev. E. R. Rogers as the speaker.
- * The centenary of the Baptist Mission at Leichhardt would be held in August. The Merrylands Church would be celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year while fifty years of witness occurs at Parkes, Sutherland, The Entrance and Wagga Wagga.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS AND ADOPTION OF REPORTS

These were conducted by Dr. Andersen, the Chairman and Secretary having vacated their positions. Dr. Andersen brought greetings from the Baptist Union and congratulated the Society on its continued work and series of publications. He went on to say that just as it was important to record the history of the individual churches it was also essential to ensure that the history of the Union and its various departments and agencies were not overlooked. As well as names and dates, he said, it should not be overlooked to record trends and progress so that we can learn from past experiences.

Dr. Andersen then moved that the Annual Report and the Treasurer's Report, as published in The Recorder, be adopted. Members endorsed this approach with the Treasurer adding that his report had now been audited.

All positions having been declared vacant, the following officers were elected:

Chairman	Mr. H. Watkin-Smith
Vice-Chairman	Rev. V. Grice and Rev. E. R. Rogers
Secretary	Mr. O. C. Nannelli
Treasurer	Mr. M. J. Petras
Archivist	Rev. E. A. Archer
Essay Competition Secretary	Mr. P. Young
Editor, "The Recorder"	Mr. H. Watkin-Smith
Auditor	Mr. R. McAlpin

Mr. H. Watkin-Smith resumed the Chair and thanked members for their confidence in his ability to continue in the position for another year. It was imperative, he said, that we should get younger people involved in the work of the Society.

The Chairman again thanked Dr. Andersen for coming and assured him that his comments had been noted and thoughts such as he had expressed were constantly in the minds of the Committee as to how they can be addressed.

THE ANNUAL LECTURE

The special speaker, Mr. Bruce King, was again welcomed by the Chairman. Although there was no need for a special introduction Mr. Watkin-Smith said that Mr. King was a man who had given himself with tremendous enthusiasm and

"WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?"

A Summary of the Annual Lecture, delivered by

Mr. Bruce A. King, for ten years the

National Director of Australian Baptist World Aid and Relief Committee.

Assistance to destitute people by the Baptist World Alliance was begun in Europe after World War II but its Australian-focussed beginnings commenced when Dr. C. J. Tinsley and Rev. P. J. Hayes returned from the 7th World Congress, Copenhagen, 1947, to inspire and lead Australian Baptists to respond to the challenge. Rev. P. J. Hayes was appointed Relief Officer and during the 1947-57 decade Australian Baptists contributed food and clothing valued at well over one million dollars. In 1959 the annual Christmas Appeal was begun. From 7,430 pounds then it has grown to \$785,760. At the Triennial Assembly of the Baptist Union of Australia in Perth, 1959, a committee, The Australian Baptist World Aid and Relief Committee (ABWARC) was set up with headquarters in Sydney. Its present name is Australian Baptist World Aid. The effectiveness of the Committee has been aided by the continuity of service given by its officers.

Rev. A. C. Prior served as Chairman for 25 years, 1959-1984; Mr. B. A. King as Secretary/Treasurer 1959-62, as Treasurer 1962-80, National Director 1980-90; Rev. T. J. Cardwell as Secretary 1962-71 and then as Vice-Chairman; Rev. G. S. Parish as Secretary 1971-80; Mr. R. Martin as Treasurer 1982-84 and as Chairman since 1984.

At the Triennial Assembly of the Baptist Union of Australia in January 1984 the Committee became one of the three Boards of the Federal Union, the others being the ABMS and the Australian Baptist Home Mission. In addition to those resident in NSW the Board's membership now consists of two persons appointed by each of the seven constituents of the Federal Union. This Board meets annually, the NSW members constituting an Executive with regular meetings. At all times the Committee has enjoyed the confidence and co-operation of National and State officers.

In World Refugee Year, July 1959-June 1960, Rev. A. C. Prior was a member of the Australian National Committee for World Refugee Year and ABWARC shared in the proceeds of its first Door-knock Appeal. There were 45 million refugees after World War II and in 1991 there are still 15 million.

In response to the refugee problem and in co-operation with the NSW Baptist Homes Trust a residence was purchased in Randwick for 13,000 pounds to house 27 aged White Russian refugees. This spacious mansion was opened by Rev. F. A. Marsh, President-General of the Baptist Union of Australia in the presence of the Hon. Arthur Caldwell, Minister for Immigration, and was operated until 1972.

Arising out of World Refugee Year was the formation of Austcare and the Australian Freedom from Hunger Campaign. Officers of ABWARC played a leading role in both. Revs. A. C. Prior and G. S. Parish held executive positions in Austcare and in these roles enhanced the standing of Baptists. With the passing of time a national umbrella organisation, the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) was formed and located in Canberra to present united proposals of common concern to those delivering overseas aid. Through ACFOA voluntary agencies receive funding from the Federal Government's Department of Foreign Affairs. In 1980 ABWARC was one of the 23 member bodies of ACFOA given approval for gifts of \$2 or more to be tax deductible.

THE PLIGHT OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN SAO

Prominent among the achievements of ABWARC is the story of Support An Orphan (SAO). Mr. King told an exciting story of two factors in its beginnings: (a) requests from Australian Baptists to sponsor children in a similar fashion to other Christian organisations, and (b) the desperate situation of orphan children in South India. It began with a grant to the Telegu Baptist Churches in 1974 to establish five hostels for orphans. In December of that year a plan of Rev. A. C. Prior was adopted and SAO was set up as an auxiliary of ABWARC. From a small number of needy orphan children it has been expanded to support a number of non-orphan children, but all destitute and deprived. The name SAO has been retained but in all information and promotion it is emphasised that help is for orphaned and destitute children. SAO was very much a venture into the unknown. Although using the methods of similar organisations it has developed along its own lines, especially (a) to operate only through National Baptist Churches and (b) every cent given to go to the supported child. The second of these aims is made possible by an ever-increasing number of voluntary workers and this support keeps the sponsorship amount lower than prevails in other organisations. Donations from others than sponsors permits (a) back-up for national workers who service the programmes and (b) funds to meet emergencies. French's Forest Church has made a special contribution to this service, two of its members serving in an executive capacity. Mrs Janine Prior became the Honorary Secretary and is now a member of the Executive Committee. Mrs Val. Hampton became Honorary Treasurer and carries day-do-day responsibility as Honorary Office Manager. It is estimated that the value of the voluntary service last year would have been \$200,000. From its small beginnings SAO has become a large and complex undertaking. Care is given to 2,430 children in hostels in India, to 170 in Assam, to 380 in Bangladesh, to 40 in Sri Lanka and 4,100 in the Philippines. Income for Child Sponsorship and Child Projects for the year ended June 1990 was \$1,686,895.

AID RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

The wider ministry of ABWARC, begun with aid to White Russian refugees, is not restricted to Baptists and Christians, but at all stages in its operations it enjoys the service and dedication of the Baptist fellowship. Between this country and the places where aid and relief operate ABWARC is a safe channel for the transmission of resources and their application to those purposes for which they are provided. Missionaries of the ABMS have often served as administrators but increasingly leaders of national Baptist Churches have carried the responsibility. To meet disasters and emergencies experienced workers from Australia have served for limited periods.

Mr. King outlined the work in various areas. We summarise the tasks undertaken although our space prohibits the giving of the graphic details which make the story so telling.

KOREA

The Korean War left 3,700,000 homeless and 100,000 orphaned with cities and land devastated. American Baptists commenced a relief effort and Australian Baptists early responded to their appeal for help. Directed by Rev. P. J. Hayes, workers, food, clothing, money and medicines continued to flow to Korea for 14 years to the value of at least \$100,000. From 1954 to 1960 Rev. and Mrs Chataway (ABMS missionaries) worked in Pusan supported by ABWARC.

HONG KONG

The tremendous influx into Hong Kong of refugees from Communism contained many Chinese Baptists. Rev. A. C. Prior reported on the misery and indignity these homeless people suffered. A project for resettlement of these farming people in a modest home on five-acre farmlots was undertaken on a nearby

island, Chu Lap Kok. Equipment and stock were provided and support given until the first returns were received. A film of the project, "I was a Stranger", produced during a visit of Mr. Prior, proved an effective fund-raiser. This agricultural project was followed by one for fishermen. Next came amenities such as a church, a school and a holiday camp for poor children from crowded areas in Kowloon. "Operation Dawn", a project to help drug addicts, so impressed the Government that it provided an island where the project is being extended. Over the years hundreds have been redeemed from drug addiction.

BANGLADESH

Mr. King painted a moving and gruesome picture of conditions in this country, the scene of the first Australian Baptist missionary effort. Through changing names for the area the needs of the people remain the same. Existence is a hazard - droughts and floods, disease and malnutrition, famine and pestilence, cyclones, tropical heat and oppression by the Government or religious groups. The missionaries help to identify needs and supervise and direct aid. ABWARC's earliest efforts were restricted to emergency aid. They now cover medical care, agricultural development, education, craft projects and rehabilitation after natural disasters or religious and political disturbances. A particular feature was assistance to the Christian Hospital at Joyramkura, especially during widespread political uprisings in 1963 and 1971, when the hospital became a refuge for thousands of Garo refugees. Rev. W. Schubert, a returned missionary, was asked to undertake rehabilitation and an entire village, destroyed in the war, was rebuilt. A team organised by the French's Forest Church installed water reticulation for the hospital and a sprinkler irrigation system for the farmlands. ABWARC provided the hardware at a cost of \$108,000. The team found their own fares.

ASSAM

This is the homeland of the Garos, Boros, and Rabhas among whom our missionaries work in Bangladesh, though we have no missionaries in Assam. ABWARC has helped in alleviating poverty and meeting emergencies caused by familiar disasters.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Here the need for material sustenance has not been great and assistance has been chiefly through medical work and encouraging self-help economic and agricultural projects.

IRIAN JAYA

Following the 1963 massacre of Christians ABWARC became the channel for Baptist World Alliance relief. ABWARC provided food, medical supplies, the rebuilding of homes and replacement of tools. Irian Jaya has continued to be an area with a strong demand for development aid.

TIMOR

ABWARC has assisted ABMS in its medical work and its agricultural and trade-training efforts.

THAILAND

For three years from 1980 ABWARC organised medical teams in a camp for Kampuchean refugees. Aid has also been given to the hill tribes in the north for helpful development activities: clean water, irrigation, agricultural equipment and the like. Two major projects were supported: a better marketing organisation for the highly-skilled craft products and an agricultural training scheme.

INDIA

In Andra Pradesh in 1973 help began for the Ramapatnam Baptist Seminary which trains men and women for the ministry and for leadership in the whole life of the village communities, including agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, hygiene, irrigation, social welfare. This will raise the living standards and provide a basis for the support of a pastor. This has been one of the most rewarding of ABWARC's projects. ABWARC has provided drinking-water wells and irrigation projects in Andra Pradesh, a land subject to severe droughts during which thousands die. Relief has been necessary also to restore homes and replace crops lost in cyclones. One tribal group sold into slavery many generations ago has been freed from debt and homes and farms provided for their sustenance. The Government, impressed by ABWARC's help, has granted grazing rights on public land for the flocks purchased by ABWARC. Since 1981 an honoured Indian Baptist minister administers aid in India.

THE PHILIPPINES

In this country ABWARC's partnership is with the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches on the island of Panay and with the Luzon Baptist Convention in Manila. The relationship began in 1972 and ABWARC funds medical programmes for vaccination, diagnoses and treatment, dental care, infant welfare, diet and hygiene as well as grants for wells. Baptist institutions of high quality schools, a university, hospitals, and agricultural and social welfare services have been helped. Medical equipment which would not otherwise have been obtained was given to the Christian Hospital in Iloilo. In the Philippines the SAO programme does not work through hostels but is given and supervised by the local pastor. A development aid project to provide trained leadership for rural communities gives a three year course and has a self-support basis to permit its operation without continuing outside sustenance. Indo-Chinese refugees to the Philippines are cared for by the Filipino Baptists and ABWARC's contribution is the care of the unfortunate single females rescued from drifting boats after attacks by pirates.

SRI LANKA

Contact with Singhalese Baptist churches was made through the Asian Baptist Federation. In addition to welfare relief ABWARC is supporting, with assistance from a branch of the Australian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a large scale project linked with Trinity College in Kandy. The Principal of Trinity College is Dr. Wickramasinghe, first president of the Asian Baptist Federation, and his scheme envisages farm training for poor families.

BEYOND ASIA

Aid given by ABWARC beyond Asia is directed by Baptist World Aid. Appeals from Africa for countries experiencing persistent famine, Ethiopia, Uganda, Somalia and Sudan, have been met by supplies of food.

In Zambia ABWARC has been involved because of the presence of the ABMS and medical and welfare ministries have been assisted.

In Kenya, as a result of the meetings there in 1982 of the Baptist World Alliance Council, assistance was given to a housing project of the Kenya Baptist Convention aimed at replacing a cardboard city with more substantial dwellings.

AUSTRALIA

The needs of refugees and migrants to our own country have been met by various devices to aid re-settlement and the establishment of different national groups in their own Baptist Churches.

On the denominational level, in addition to his membership of committees, he was Treasurer for fifteen years of the Foreign Mission Committee. His concern for the work in the homeland was expressed in his purchase in both the country and metropolis of sites for the building of churches as well as generous donations to the cost of erecting buildings for the preaching of the Gospel. Of a retiring disposition, he avoided public recognition of his services, refusing on a number of occasions to be nominated for the presidency of the Union. It often fell to his wife to lay the foundation stones and open the doors of new church buildings which he had generously subsidised.

His views on how a Christian businessman should conduct his affairs were set out in an article "Religion in Business" in The Baptist of April 1902, and in a paper "Ethics in Business" read before the Baptist World Congress in London in 1905. He emphasised the need to observe such virtues as integrity, self-control and truth in advertising. He believed it was fallacy that a man cannot be honest in business and succeed. He contended that a Christian businessman who is dishonest may have apparent success for a time but God would send leanness into his soul and disaster would overtake him sooner or later. He held that it is not true that mere money-making is success, for a man as rich as Croesus has not succeeded if he has allowed one dishonest practice to obtain. He asks: "What shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?". His pastor at Stanmore, Rev. C. J. Tinsley, said that Buckingham regarded himself as a steward of the wealth of God. Buckingham believed that the giving of one's substance to God's cause shut the door against covetousness. At the head of his invoices he had printed the Scripture "There is that scattereth yet increaseth and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." As a strict sabbatarian he had the blinds drawn over his display windows on Sundays.

In his personal life he delighted in Bible study and prayer. For twenty years after daily lunch at the YMCA he retired, usually with a few friends, to a quiet room for prayer.

William Buckingham died at his home, Balnagowan, on 7th December, 1928. His funeral service in the Stanmore Church was presided over by Rev. C. J. Tinsley and the tribute was paid by Rev. W. Lamb of Burton Street. At Rookwood Revs. C. J. Tinsley and W. L. Jarvis spoke at the interment.