**EPHANPHY AND NEPAL**

The Revd. John Reid recently spent 5 months preaching and teaching overseas and more particularly, in India. In this article he tells something of the difficulties and the joys of witnessing for Christ in Nepal, a Himalayan kingdom long closed to the Gospel.

Ephany this year will remain with me of experiences when I saw the Gaddis in distant places being confronted with Christ in His Gospel. I will be very conscious on Ephany Day of the little band of Nepali Christians who are gladly giving their lives and abilities to the Lord Christ. I expect I will always remember the vivid impressions of three weeks spent in Nepal.

There are now 10 tiny congregations scattered in parts of that country. They are quite independent congregations and there are significant differences between them on such questions as baptism or the kind of instruction given to a new convert.

There is a vital penetration into the life of Nepal by the United Mission with its 120 missionaries staffing 36 projects, which cover the educational, medical and agricultural fields.

Nepal is a country of breath-taking beauty. The beauty of the mountains, rivers and great valleys provides the backdrop to my impressions of two different religious experiences. Bhadgaon is a small town in the Kathmandu valley. The dull brick red of the houses formed a brown and red island in a sea of the brightest green rice fields. It contains a Hindu Temple of historic interest.

When I was there on a festival day, I saw not very far from the Christian hospital, the Temple of the Rat. It was packed with worshippers. My first impression was that of colour and noise. It soon gave way to depression as it became evident that many were sacrificing to a statue of a rat and all were come to worship it. It was a picture of ignorance and superstition of the basest kind and for hours the feeling of depression seemed to cling to me.

**FESTIVAL**

Pokhara is a 96 miles walk from Kathmandu. The Pokhara valley is superb. In the lakes you can see reflected the peaks of the snow-covered mountains. Quite spectacular is Machapuchre or Fish Tad Peak and Pokhara appears to be held at an altitude of 30 feet.

The Nepalese Evangelical Band have medical work here in two sections. One is general medical cases; the other for lepers. The United Mission runs a school for boys in the local congregation of Nepali Christians with their own Nepal pastor.

I was depressed at Bhadgaon, I was excited at Pokhara. There was a congregation of about 30 believers, made up of ordinary folk from the bazaars. But the light of Heaven was on their faces. There were some small children who bowed before a stone image with the same devotion that throbbed with joy. I heard prayers that were moving in their fervency. As I read and expounded Holy Scripture, I knew that here were hearts that God had prepared.

**VITALITY**

There were signs of vitality and grace in such Christians that made one think of the Acts of the Apostles. Several lepers have been made whole and there were signs of the healing which Christ brings.

A demon - possessed boy had been healed after the fervent prayers of Christians, and a Gurkha officer, a notorious blasphemer who had contracted leprosy, experienced a most wonderful conversion five days before he died.

Here the Word of God was abiding and the power of God was upon His people. In the penetration and proclamation of the Gospel, the powerful instruments are the congregations of Nepali Christians and there are the dedicated missionaries.

I went to Jambhari to meet two missionaries. I walked some 35 miles from Armpipel in the Kathmandu area, down through great valleys and up high hills. I went through a rhododendron forest and some of the rhododen
don trees must have been 30 feet high. At last I reached Jambhari to meet two woman missionaries who conduct a school on the top of great mountains. Sometimes you could see the school 5 miles away and it looked as isolated as an eagle’s nest. One of the women was a Finnish Lutheran, the other an Irish Presbyterian.

**SERVICE**

On Saturday night they have an Evangelistic Service in their home and they have between 80 and 120 to attend. Not one of that congregation is a Christian yet. I met that congregation, and it was a very informal and free service. I told them that I was glad to meet them and that I had something wonderful to tell them. One man immediately stood up and said, “That was good. We like to hear wonderful news.”

Here were two women in the most isolated part of Nepal seeking to make Jesus Christ known. While they are forbidden to preach in the bazaars, any one can go to their home and hear the Word of Life.

If it was by the leading of a star that some from afar came to Christ, it is by those in whose lives shines the light of Christ that now draws and directs some of that ancient country of traditional resistance to Christ to the salvation of the Most High.

**ASIANS NEED EVANGELICALS**

“...in many Asian countries the dialogue with the so-called conservative evangelicals may be as important, if not more so, than that with members of the Roman Catholic Church,” U Kyaw Than, secretary of the East Asia Christian Conference (E.A.C.C.), stated in his report to the Communion Committee when it met on November 5 and 6.

"In the glare of Vatican II, many of us might have missed the significance of the Whelon Declaration of the conservative evangelical brethren,” said the Asian leader.

The Whelon Declaration is a statement adopted at the Congress on the Church’s Worldwide Mission, which was held at Wheaton, Illinois on April 4-16, 1966. The congress was sponsored jointly by the Evangelical Foreign Mission Association, composed primarily of members of the National Association of Evangelicals, and the Interdenominational Foreign Mission Association, consisting of “faith missions.”

U Kyaw Than said of the declaration: “Leaving aside the negative parts, many Asian Christians may not be quite ready to go along with the fervor and ‘evangelism’ that the declaration holds up as the aim of missions.”

New members of the E.A.C.C. include the Samave Church in Celebes, the Church of the Visitation, the Churches Abroad Convention in Bengal and the Toraja Church in Celebes, Indonesia. Total membership of the three bodies is some 630,000 Christians. (E.P.S., Geneva.)
OUTREACH TO THE INLAND

The Revd. Les. Wiggins, Assistant Federal Secretary of the Bush Church Aid Society, tells us something of the origin and purposes of the specialised ministry of the R.C.A. within Australia.

All the problems facing the Australian Church at the beginning of this century were due to continuing tension to the south of Australia with one of the most pressing.

Our national heritage of a vast continent with its many remote areas and varied climatic conditions, as well as of several pastoral missions scattered around the perimeter of the European settlement, has created a problem within the Church, who were never intended to meet this missionary outreach.

Pioneering efforts had been made by brethren and associates, but the result achieved so far was much less than would have been expected. The Gospel message “to all people and at all times” is still needed, and it was because of this concern that the Bush Church Aid Society came into being.

Under the dedicated leadership of the Rev. J. J. Litchard, the infant Society saw its first charge out to the stations of Central Australia, and now to areas beyond.

Mission areas were staffed for the fellowship of the Church is scattered communities within a general setting of the Gospel is well known for its splendid Christian atmosphere under the leadership of the Rev. Bernard Buckland, of the Murchison Mission Aid Society, tells us something of the origin and purposes of the special.

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William Andrews

This is the key text—such as preaching after the order of the Roman Catholic Church... and the other is the belief that we should... in our Father's will. Did your sermon... to our eyes. If man... or in the Lord's prayer. For the... in the Third Jubilee Celebrations in... and the whole service... and was an act of... in Talmudic Judaism for the purpose of self-preservation" (Souter... and not sure. The first is... that I would like more... in the light of the... new-born babies... There was no theory of... by the priest and... and all its accoutrements and a... to St. Peter's. An example of... who might be viewed as... "They should be... in the Apocrypha... this was an act of... approved, director of Australian Radio Church, Salisbury, Melbourne, Australia).
**Th. Schol. and Th. L. Examination Results**

The Register of the Australian College of Theology, Cenon, C. H. Duncan, has released the following Class Lists for Th. Schol. and Th. L. examinations held in 1966.

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**ADVANCE AT OENPELLI**

- Some of the new firms which have been built for the Aborigines of C.M.S. Oenpell Mission.

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**Iranian bishop to visit Australia**

The Rt. Rev. Hassan Dehghan-Tafizi, Anglican Bishop in Iran, will visit Australia from March 1st to April 12th, 1967, commencing his tour of Australia on the 23rd of February at Auckland, proceeding to Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane.

The visit of a Modern Persian bishop to Australia is of special interest to our national leaders because of the impending 2000th anniversary of the birth of Christ. The Bishop has been invited to speak at our churches, and to address our national leaders on the subject of our common heritage, and the relationship of Christ to the modern world.

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AUSTRALIAN C.M.S. AT WORK

This brief survey of the activities of the Australian branch of the Church Missionary Society has been written for this Christmas issue of the A.C.R. by the Rev. David Hewett, Educational Secretary C.M.S.

In 1867, 188 years after the Church Missionary Society was founded, it is still "in business" in many places. In some districts it is very little known, and its need is in many places far from evident. The climax of mission has changed so much as minds see the society's missionaries first went out on their work; it is no longer seen as a mark of personal holiness and the general belief is that the mission of the Christian church is to seek to bring the Gospel to all men, including all races.

The ways of change, both of society and the church, have changed the whole of the world.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH RECORD

THE PAPER FOR CHURCHES OF ENGLAND PEOPLE — EIGHTY-SIXTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

No. 1380 January 26, 1967

Registered at the G.P.O., Sydney, for transmission as a periodical. Printed by John Taylor and Sons, Lid., Sydney.

Price 10 cents

Mainly About People

N.S.W.

Mr Warner Gisby has resigned from his position as Secretary to the Gippsland Council at Burnie, and has accepted the position of Director of Christian Work in the Diocese of Sydney.


The Rev. L. T. Lonhoff, rector of the Diocese of Sydney, has accepted the position of Dean of the Diocese of Sydney.


Australian Church Record, January 12, 1967

NOTED ROMAN CATHOLIC THEOLOGIAN RESIGNS

A LEADING English Catholic theologian, Mr. David Davis, has resigned from his Rectorship of the Roman Catholic church after 20 years in the priesthood.

Until his resignation Mr Davis had a distinguished record in the field of teaching and pastoral work. He was educated at the University of Oxford and at the University of London. He was ordained in 1947 and has served as Rector of the Roman Catholic church for 20 years. He has also served as a member of the Roman Catholic Church Council in England.

Mr Davis has announced his resignation to the Roman Catholic Church Council in England, and has accepted a position as a lecturer in the Theology Department of the Catholic University of Ireland.

NEW ZEALAND SPLIT AVERTED

New Zealand Pro-Life movement has been averted by a decision of the Roman Catholic Church over the question of abortion. The move will result in a change of policy by the Church.

A group of ladies at the "Chesalon" Home, Summer Hill, N.S.W., took at Christmas last year over 200000 dollars in gifts to the poor. The move will result in a change of policy by the Church.

BISHOP OF HURON CRITICISED


Mr Davis said: "My desire to resign is purely religious. I have no intention of making a public announcement of my resignation. I will continue to serve my parish and will make no public statement until the time comes."

But the move will result in a change of policy by the Church.

David Sheppard speaks out on Sunday cricket

The Preacher Book Commission which I am a member of recently produced a number of draft services which I think are good, but the new order of services which will be introduced in the future will not be as good.

I do not know how closely the new order of services will be introduced in the future will not be as good.

Mr Sheppard also warned of the dangers of cricket being introduced into the services of the church. He said: "I believe that cricket is a dangerous sport, and I would not recommend it as a part of the church service."

However, I am sure it is time to look at the problem of cricket being introduced into the services of the church.

Mr Sheppard also expressed his concern that the new order of services will not be as good as the previous ones.


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PRAY FOR US WITH US

Daily the Home Missionary Society is proclaiming the message of Christ to all the world and engaging in prayer for others in need. The following is a brief list of some of the current activities of the Society:

- St John's Episcopal Church, Newcastle
- St Paul's Church, Sydney
- St Andrew's Church, Sydney
- St Mary's Church, Sydney
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- St Paul's Church, Sydney
- St Andrew's Church, Sydney
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- St John's Church, Sydney
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The building of a new post and the raising of a monument to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the C.M.S. mission stations in Australia has been completed. The new monument will be unveiled on January 10, 1967, at the site of the original C.M.S. mission stations in Australia.

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