

Levin
Churches

years
Of
Assembly Testimony
In
Southern Manawatu

By

W. H. Rolston

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A short and concise history of the Assemblies of the Lord's people, known as brethren, in the Southern part of the Manawatu district from the Manawatu River to Paekakariki from 1890 to 1956.

SIXTY-SIX YEARS OF ASSEMBLY TESTIMONY IN SOUTHERN MANAWATU

A short and concise history of the Assemblies of the Lord's people, known as brethren, in the Southern part of the Manawatu district from the Manawatu River to Paekakariki from 1890 to 1956, by W. H. Rolston, Levin.



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Dedication

To the memory of my late elder brother

SAMUEL

who was called to be with Christ

on the 13th February, 1955,

and

my twin brother

ROBERT

who was called to be with Christ

on the 16th June, 1951.

Token of many long years of brotherly love; also over forty years preaching the gospel of Christ and sweet fellowship together in the things of God.

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~ Preface ~

THE writer has for many months felt the urge to collect and piece together the history of the Assemblies of the Lord's people in the different centres south of the Manawatu River and down as far as Paekakariki, who over the years have gathered in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is head of the body of the Church (Col. 1:18); and head of the Church, and Saviour of the body (Eph. 5:23); and head over all things to the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all (Eph. 1:22-23); having been born again (1 Pet. 1:23); saved by grace through faith (in Christ) (Eph. 2:8); baptised (by immersion) in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost (Matt. 28:19); and called unto the fellowship of His (God's) Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, having the Holy Spirit as their leader (Gal. 5:18); and the Word of God as their guide (1 Thess. 2:13)); the chief functions of such being to gather together in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ; in fellowship with their risen head (Christ Himself), and with one another, for worship, remembering the Lord in the breaking of bread, Ministry of the Word, prayer and testimony.

It will be obvious to all, that to compile such a history after the lapse of nearly seventy years entails much research; delving into old family records, looking up Treasury notes, corresponding with many people, especially those closely connected with the early planting of those assemblies, most of whose parents who were foundation members having gone on before, and their descendants scattered far and wide; and personal interviews with many others still residing within the area.

Only in this way could one gather, and piece the fragments together, by comparing the information gleaned, together with one's own personal knowledge of these matters, thus arriving at reasonable accuracy as regarding dates, places, persons and incidents after the lapse of so many years.

The writer was born at Ohau in the early "eighteen-nineties" and has lived in the district all his life. He was personally acquainted with a great number of the dear saints of God who constituted the foundation members of these assemblies, particularly at Ohau, Manakau, Levin, Tokomaru, Shannon and Otaki; also with almost all of the persons whose names appear in this history. With the advantage of this personal knowledge the task has been so much easier.

It is obvious that every member connected with these assemblies over the years could not be eulogised in such a work as this. Therefore the writer has endeavoured not to over-eulogise the work of any individual believer, recognising that the work of maintaining a local testimony requires the close co-operation of all its members.

We are all members of His (Christ's) body, and members in particular. Each member has his or her work to do, each in their own particular sphere, and according to the gift bestowed by the Spirit and divided to each one severally as he will. (1 Cor. 12:11.)

The writer has therefore mostly reserved his eulogising of

local Christians to the occasions when such have fallen asleep, and more or less in abbreviated form, remembering that the true value of the work and testimony of each will be placed upon their work in a coming day: for we must all appear before the Judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether good or bad (2 Cor. 5:10). Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work shall abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burnt, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire (1 Cor. 3:13-15). Therefore, judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God (1 Cor. 4:5). (Then says Paul): "And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another. For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive" (1 Cor. 4:6-7).

The founding of a true New Testament Assembly (or local Church) is the work of the Holy Spirit. The instruments used are the local believers, saved by grace, who He leads to gather together in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, thus forming the foundation membership of such an assembly. The smallest number constituting such a gathering is two. "For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20).

Over the years past we have known, and appreciated, so many of the Lord's servants in each of the assemblies who have stood firm for God and His Word; leading the assembly in worship, ministering the Word to the saints, feeding and shepherding the flock, and preaching the Gospel to the unsaved. Also the great work done by the sisters such as Sunday School work, preparing the food for conferences, extending hospitality to visitors, and many other services which earn for them commendation as did Phoebe (Rom. 16:1).

I am deeply indebted to the many far and near who have so graciously co-operated and yielded up the treasures of their knowledge of these matters. To these and all others who have given such valued assistance, thus making this record possible, I tender my sincere and grateful thanks. I would specially mention that I have received much help from the "Treasury" Office and have made much use of their notes, also "Radiant Youth" and "Te Mahi" Maori magazines, for which I am deeply thankful.

So we look back over the years, and see God's hand moving mightily in and through His people, guiding and blessing them all along the way. And as we think of the many souls won for Christ through the faithful ministry of those dear ones gone on before, whose memory is very dear to us, we thank God for their faithful example, and say from our hearts, "To God be all the glory and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord."

—W.H.R.

SIXTY-SIX YEARS OF ASSEMBLY TESTIMONY IN SOUTHERN MANAWATU

OHAU

OHAU was a small settlement with only a very few white people, and a large number of natives, when a Post Office was opened on September 1st, 1874, at the homestead of the late Mr. John Kebbell. He was the postmaster and collected the mail from the horse-drawn coach as it passed to and from Wellington and Foxton via the coast.

When the railway opened in 1886, Mr. Kebbell would meet the train, open the mail bags, stamp the letters, and deliver them to addressees on the spot. The time came when the Post Office was shifted to the office of the sawmill of Messrs. Whiley and Rolston near the railway station. This office was connected by telephone with the Post Office at Otaki. They also had the first general store, about 1890. There was another move to Wilson's bakery premises, in 1893, where it remained until 1925 when the present Post Office was opened.

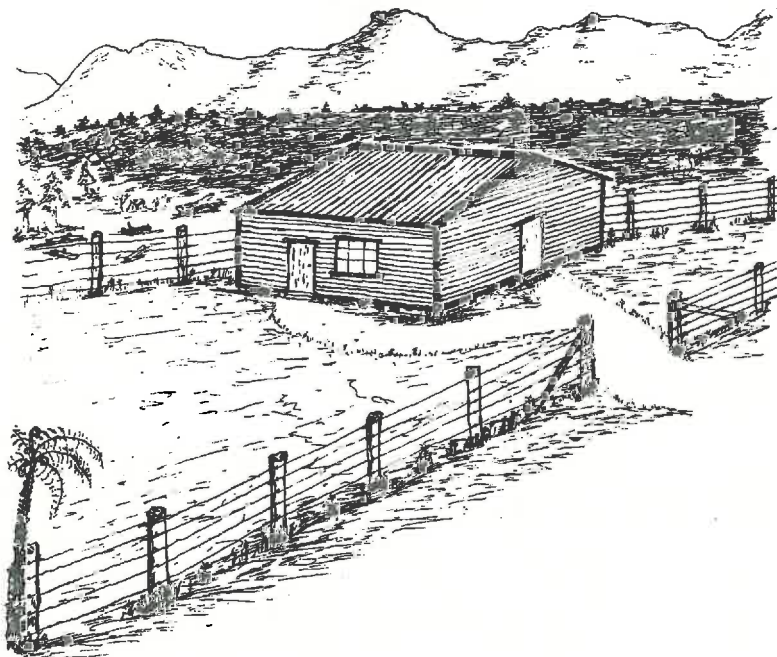
The first day school was opened in September, 1891, with twelve scholars attending the first day. A general store was also doing business on its present site the same year. There were three flaxmills and two sawmills in operation.

In February, 1888, the Manawatu Railway Company cut up and sold a large piece of land, all in standing bush, on the eastern side of the railway now known as Muhunua East. The writer's father, the late Mr. R. A. Rolston, bought his farm at that sale and came to reside that same year. Others who came in May of that year were Mr. and Mrs. H. Rickard, who journeyed from Wellington to Ohau by train, then to Muhunua East by bullock cart; and Mr. and Mrs. C. Rickard and Mrs. Rickard Senior. Mr. and Mrs. J. Bassett were already in residence thereabouts. With one exception these were all Christians, as were some others in and around the township.

COMMENCEMENT OF ASSEMBLY

1890: Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Martin came to the district this year and settled down over the river at Muhunua East where the bridge now spans the river. As there were already a number of Christians in the district, it was decided to start an assembly, with the result that fifteen believers met for the first time in Mr. Martin's house for remembering the Lord in the breaking of bread. Those who met were Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bassett, Mr. and Mrs. H. Rickard, Mr. and Mrs. C. Rickard, Mrs. Rickard Senior (known as Granny Rickard), Mr. A. Whiley, Mr. and Mrs. R. Stevenson, Mr. Fred Martin, Mr. Arthur Martin, and Mr. Humphries. These fifteen believers constituted the foundation

membership of the Ohau assembly of brethren which was the first assembly of brethren in the Southern Manawatu. Of these dear believers most if not all are now with the Lord. Gospel meetings were also held in Mr. Martin's house. Children of the believers and some unsaved around attended these meetings regularly. This little assembly seems to have been the first in Southern Manawatu between the Manawatu River and Paekakariki.



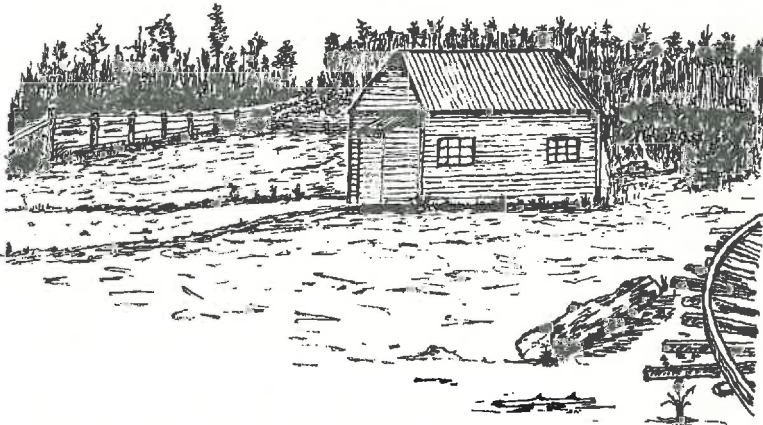
Temporary home of Mr. and Mrs. Martin where the assembly first met in 1890. Mr. Martin's permanent residence was later built in the foreground.

1892: There was no bridge at this time, the river having to be forded on foot or horseback. The bridge was built about 1892. At the time it was under construction, a little son of one of the settlers died at the early age of about two years. The body was buried on a little elevated island formed by a small stream which runs into the river quite close to the bridge. Mr. A. Whiley, the writer's uncle, made the little casket and conducted the funeral. The local people who attended the funeral from the opposite side of the river walked across the uncompleted bridge on planks. It was afterwards called "The Bridge of Sighs", probably because of the lonely little grave close by, constantly reminding the users of the bridge of the brevity of life.

It was in November, 1892, that Mr. A. J. Clarke, of Palmerston North, was holding some Gospel meetings at Mr. Martin's house, and my unsaved father attended the meetings. I am sure many

prayers went up to God's throne on his behalf, for throughout Bro. Clarke's ministry he was brought to know Christ as his Saviour. The great transaction took place as he sat on his horse at the roadside just outside Mr. Martin's gate. The first entry in his ledger (now in my possession) and in his own handwriting reads: "I, Richard Rolston, took God as my guide, November, 1892." He was later baptised in the river by Mr. Clarke, and together with my mother, who had been saved some years before at Longburn through the preaching of Mr. C. H. Hinman, joined the little company. Both continued to meet with the Lord's people until their Home Call in 1935 and 1946 respectively.

1894: About December, 1894, the meeting place was moved to the Ohau township, the brethren having acquired a small two-roomed sawmill cottage near the railway station. Messrs. Whiley and Rolston, having milled the totara bush between the Ohau and Muhunoa East bridges, the sawmill was shifted elsewhere. The cottage had for some time been occupied by two Salvation Army officers as their headquarters for the district, Levin at that time being an outstation. The dwelling had become vacant so the partition was removed and it was made into quite a comfortable little hall where the assembly met for many years. It was the scene of much blessing in the Gospel, many souls being reaped for Christ and added to the local assembly.



Hall near the railway station where the assembly met from 1894 to 1920.

1897: In April, 1897, Mr. H. Moffatt and Mr. James Coppin had a Gospel meeting in the little hall and two young men confessed Christ as their Saviour. One of them is now with the Lord. Another young man who was with them that night was deeply convicted, but when asked if he would decide for Christ answered, "Not tonight." And although he has been approached on different occasions since by brethren known to the writer, his answer has always been, "I should have been saved that night, but I decided against it, and the Spirit has never striven with me since. I am convinced that this is the only heaven I will ever have, and I am going

to go in for it." Now, in 1956, he is an old man, and to the writer's knowledge still out of Christ, and were he asked what sort of a heaven has it been, he would have to reply, "Not much good." I knew this man personally though I was only a boy then. What a solemn warning to accept Christ as soon as possible, if my reader has not already done so. God's Word says, "Because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before Mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not" (Isaiah 65:12). "Because I have called and ye refused; I have stretched out My hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all My counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your fear someth as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon Me, but I will not answer; they shall seek Me early, but they shall not find Me . . . but whoso hearkeneth unto Me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil" (Prov. 1:24-33).

The two young men were baptised with three others and added to the assembly.

About the end of 1897, Mr. H. Moffatt, who lived at Manakau, came up to Ohau and held a Sunday School for one Sunday in Mr. C. Rickard's house at Muhunoa East, about a mile from our home. There were present five children, all very young. Two of them were Mr. Rickard's, and the other three were two of my brothers, now with the Lord, and myself. Mr. Moffatt gave us an object lesson with a magnet and some pins and needles. He told us about the Coming of the Lord, and the need to be ready as some would be taken and those not ready left behind. This was our very first experience of Sunday School, and although very young it created a strong impression which never left me but continued until I accepted Christ as my Saviour at the age of 16 years. Truly the seed had been sown, the reaping was after many days. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable Gift"—His own dear Son.

Sunday School was later held in Mr. Martin's house until 1898 when it was moved to the hall in the township by the railway station, as Mr. and Mrs. Martin had now moved away from the district.

1899: During January and February of 1899, Mr. James Coppin had some meetings at Ohau which were helpful and bore some fruit. Sunday School was also carried on in the hall, as were also Gospel meetings each Sunday evening for some years.

1900: By this time the assembly had grown considerably in numbers, several families having come to reside there. Also, some Christians who lived about Levin, Mr. E. H. Snow, Mr. and Mrs. John Row, and Mr. and Mrs. F. James, broke bread at Ohau.

1901: As the hall was now rather small for the number attending and as the public hall had been built, the Gospel meeting was moved there, and very wonderful and powerful meetings were experienced in that place. Larrikinism was a very prominent feature of that period and a small gang of five or six would come

regularly to the Gospel meetings on Sunday evenings and endeavour to cause a disturbance. They would tramp in one by one at intervals after the meeting had started, try to amuse any who would take notice of them, and then repeat the rowdy performance of leaving the hall before the end of the meeting in the same manner in which they entered. Of course this only created a deal of interest, and consequently the hall would be packed almost to the door, Sunday after Sunday, and many heard the faithfully preached Gospel throughout the years. Who knows what the results have been for eternity? The record is on High. I am sure many surprises await us in heaven.

Many humorous tales could be told of the frequent pranks played by the disorderly element. On one occasion one of the aged brethren had bought a nice new Panama hat. This had evidently caught the eye of these young fellows, and when the Gospel meeting had terminated the hat had disappeared. A number of them had gathered under the verandah of the shop at the corner close by to watch the hatless victim ride past on his bicycle to his home.

Most of the Christians living at a distance drove to the meetings with horse and trap. One night while the meeting was in progress, only a portion of the gang came in, while the rest took the horse out of the shafts of one of the traps, pushed the shafts through the fence, then led the horse round into the adjacent paddock and yoked him up in the same shafts, but on the other side of the fence. However, this all came to a sudden end when one of their number was cut off without warning, as he was bush-felling, on August 30th, 1905. He was struck by a tree about four o'clock in the afternoon and died at five o'clock next morning without regaining consciousness. The gang then ceased their pranks and went about very quiet and subdued. Some of them have passed beyond this scene. One at least accepted Christ as his Saviour a while before he passed away. Another is blind and two others seem to be still out of Christ, even after having heard the Gospel many times. "Sad, sad, that bitter wail, almost—but lost."

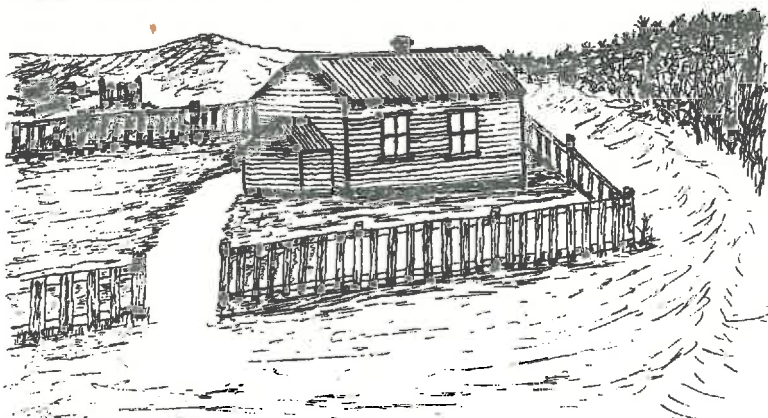
On the coming from Sydney of Mr. S. Rolston Snr., who took up residence at Mr. Martin's old home at Muhunoa East, the Sunday School and week-night prayer meetings were moved back there until late in 1902, when the final move was made to the new hall by the bridge. Sunday School also was continued in the hall of the township.

1901: A "Treasury" note of the May issue states that "At Ohau, two or three have been baptised in the last three months and Bro. Rickard wishes it to be made known that they have a 'Prophet's Chamber' there for any of the Lord's servants who may come along."

Mr. H. Moffatt writes from Ohau in April, 1901: "Traces of 'War Paint' are still to be seen around the village. Believers are walking two and three miles after milking to hear the Word of God . . . often without tea, rather than miss the chance. Yea, one

aged brother walks four miles in and four miles out, and we have a little sister who frequently leaves her husband to take care of the home while she walks six miles to the Breaking of Bread. On May 9th we had a baptism in the river. The first one, a young girl of fifteen, the next a married woman, wife of a Roman Catholic. She had been prevented for some time. These came with such joy and happiness that I don't know when I was at such a scene of joy and power of the Holy Ghost. The next was an old man of 68, full of life and vigour, who never saw a baptism until now. (This man was possibly a very quaint character and known to us as 'Daddy Williams'.) After baptism, whilst still in the water, he lifted up his hands to heaven shouting, 'Glory to God! Glory to God!' and then put his wet arms around the 'undertaker'. The same old man, a few months ago, met with a people where truth was a secondary consideration, and who despised him for reproving the 'shepherds' for going to football and other unprofitables. They, being filled with anger, thrust him out bag and baggage, and cast his Bible after him."

1902: Mr. Moffatt again sends word that Ohau has been a scene of joy, for on May 11th four young people who had professed Christ for over two years were baptised—the fruit of Sunday School work. A goodly number were present at the river where an address was given to parents, guardians, and critics. Brother Grubb paid a farewell visit and had a good time. During the year, Mr. Martin allowed the brethren to erect a small hall on a piece of his land just over the Muhunoa East bridge. The work was done by voluntary labour of the Christians in the vicinity. The total cost of the hall was £100. The Sunday School was then moved to this new hall and carried on for many years, and as well the Friday night prayer meeting. The Christians and their children from the township attended. Many of us remember the wonderful singing practices led by Mr. Wm. Read, who taught us the tunes of the old hymns of praise. He also superintended the Sunday School until he moved to Levin in 1914.



Hall built at the bridge at Muhunoa East, Ohau, in 1902. The grave depicted is that mentioned earlier in this history.

On December 28th, 1902, the assembly held its first conference meetings, which were in the public hall. Only one day was held and the meetings were good. Not many were present but a hearty spirit prevailed. Ministry was given by Brethren J. Chrystall, Lewers, H. Moffatt and E. Whitehead, Senr. All kinds of vehicles were used to convey the people to the conference meetings at this time. Some came in traps, some in four-wheeled express, some in spring carts, some on bicycles, some on horseback, and some walked.

1903: Brethren E. G. Whitehead and George Pearson visited Ohau with the Gospel Carriage about January and February of this year, visiting and holding meetings and continuing in visitation through to Wellington. This seems to have been the first Gospel Carriage to come to Ohau. The carriage had come only as far as Levin in November, 1902.

Mr. F. Ferguson held a series of meetings in May, and the June "Treasury" states that "the public hall is well filled on Sunday nights, and the little Gospel Hall by the station, and another place (the hall at Muhunoa East) are likewise well attended on week nights. There seems to be a good interest and the hand of the Lord is manifestly with us, and there is much liberty in preaching the gospel." The annual conference meetings were held on December 28th. (No details of the conference seem to be recorded.)

1904: The Levin assembly had now dwindled to two brethren and one sister, Mr. E. H. Snow and Mr. and Mrs. John Row. These believers therefore returned to the Ohau assembly where they had previously been in fellowship for some years.

In June, Mr. H. Moffatt had a happy time at Ohau and says he felt his own soul richly blessed in ministering to the saints and preaching the Gospel to sinners. The annual conference was held in December. The attendance was only fair. Heavy rain set in at noon, but nevertheless it was a searching time. Mr. Grubb spoke on the lack of spiritual power, restoration, and God's love and grace. Other speakers were Messrs. Lewers, J. Coppin, H. Moffatt, G. Collis, and M. Harrison.

1905: On December 28th the annual conference meetings were held in the public hall. There was a very good attendance for a small place. Brethren J. Coppin, E. Whitehead, and Dr. Hamilton ministered the Word and a really good day was experienced.

1906: Mr. Moffatt, who had been in the South Island for a time, returned to the North Island and had some meetings at Ohau in March when five young people were baptised—the fruit of parental work and Sunday School teaching. Mr. and Mrs. J. Phillips and family had come to Levin to reside and as there was no assembly there at that time they broke bread at Ohau. As the assembly was growing with these additional ones and some others from Levin the little hall was packed for the breaking of bread meeting. In June, Mr. A. Alexander, an Irish evangelist, had encouraging meetings and souls professed to be saved. Mr. Moffatt also had some meetings and five proved cases—young people—were baptised. Mr. Mark Harrison visited and had meetings in

December. No conference was held this year, probably on account of the conference held at Levin at the opening of the new hall there in November.

1907: The conference meetings this year were held on May 24th. There was a good attendance and the general impression was that the meetings were good. Messrs. E. Whitehead, A. Clark, H. Jefferies, and H. Burns ministered the Word upon Separation, Lot's choice, dealing with Amalek, and the result of going on with Christ, green pastures, quiet waters, and restoration of soul. This was the last conference meeting held at Ohau. The assembly contributed toward the expenses of the Levin conference meetings for some years after this.

1908: Mr. F. Ferguson had some meetings in April.

1909: Mr. J. C. Rock spent some weeks at Ohau in July-August. The meetings were good and well attended and some professed to be saved. One lady gives her testimony thus: One Sunday night during Mr. Rock's meetings at Ohau, two girls (cousins) sat together on about the fourth seat from the back on the right-hand side of the public hall. At the close of the meeting Mr. Rock said that if anyone present wished to leave before he made an appeal for any who would like to receive Christ they could do so. One of the girls said to the other, "Come, let us go." The other said, "No, we'll stay." The result was that one of them (the writer's sister) accepted Christ as her Saviour. Some time after I was baptised together with two other youths at the Gospel Hall at Levin and came into fellowship at Ohau. (She has continued to go on for God throughout the years and now (1956) meets with the Christians at Oxford Street Gospel Hall Assembly, Levin.)

Mr. C. W. Winter had some meetings in October which were well attended and helpful to God's people. He used his chart, "The Two Roads". A baptism on November 9th followed these meetings, when nine believers, six young men including the writer, and three sisters, obeyed the Lord in this ordinance. For convenience the baptism was held in the Gospell Hall at Levin. Mr. John Phillips did the baptising. Eight of these believers came into fellowship at Ohau, the other one belonging to Levin. The addition of eight young believers to the assembly was a great joy to the saints. The writer will never forget the happy and hearty welcome extended to them by the late Mr. H. Saint on that Lord's Day morning when we sat down with them to remember our Lord for the first time.

"Great the joy when Christians meet;
Christian fellowship how sweet.
When, our Theme of praise the same,
We exalt Jehovah's Name."

One of the elder brethren, Mr. William Read, who was good with young people, soon gathered eight of us young men together including two already in fellowship, for a prayer-meeting and reading of God's Word. Then after a few weeks he left us to continue ourselves. Thus we carried on for some years and what happy times we had together over the Word of God and in prayer. Truly we were experiencing our first love.

On Friday nights the assembly prayer meeting was held at the Ohau Hall. We would get our work done, rush to the station, board the train and give out tracts down to Manakau where the trains crossed. We would there leave the down train and return on the up train, continuing with tract distribution as far as Ohau, and arrive back in time for the prayer meeting. Ultimately the authorities stopped us because the newspaper sellers complained that the people were reading our tracts instead of buying their papers. God has declared in Isaiah 55:11, "So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Mr. W. J. McClure, of the United States, on his visit to New Zealand had one Sunday at Ohau. He was a man mighty in the Scriptures.

1910: Mr. H. Curran, who laboured much among the Maoris, visited Ohau for the first time in March and later was a frequent visitor.

Mr. John Stevenson had some meetings in October. He was a man who delved deep into the Word of God and gave to the Lord's people out of the rich treasure of his soul's experience. Many saints were thus refreshed and enriched by his ministry.

1911: Mr. John Blair, a most able expositor of the Word of God, had meetings in May.

1912: Three believers from Ohau were baptised at Levin following meetings held in both places by Mr. H. S. Taylor.

1913: Mr. H. Moffatt, returned from Queensland, visited the Lord's people at Ohau and sought to encourage them in the Lord.

1914: Mr. E. H. Snow, well known in New Zealand (especially at Ohau, Manakau and Levin where he ministered much), writing to the "Treasury" from the Transvaal, South Africa, wished to be remembered to all his personal friends and says he is "still looking forward to the glories which await the ransomed in the city which hath foundations and where there are joys and pleasures for evermore".

1915: In July, Mr. J. Chrystall had a few meetings at Ohau in a school towards the hills (Muhunoa East School). The people came out well considering few lived near. However, he had not the joy of seeing any convinced of sin and converted to God.

1917: The hall at the Muhunoa East bridge was now in disuse owing to so many of the believers leaving the district, so it was sold for the sum of £50. The meetings were still carried on in the township. About this time an elderly couple (previously Roman Catholics) were brought to Christ through Mr. H. S. Taylor visiting them. They came into fellowship and both proved to be real trophies of divine grace and very dear saints in the Lord. The husband could neither read nor write even his own name. Often he would be singing the hymns of praise at the meetings with his hymn book upside down. Although about 70 years of age when converted, he learned with the help of his wife to read the Scriptures. They are both now with the Lord. The wife's last audible

words ere she departed to be with Christ were, "Peace, perfect Peace." The husband passed into the Lord's presence on July 20th, 1922.

1918: The terrible influenza epidemic which struck New Zealand at the end of the First World War in 1918 took its toll of Christians as well as others. The "Treasury" of January, 1919, records eleven deaths from our assemblies. "Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am" (Psa. 39:4). "Remember how short my time is" (Psa. 89:47).

1919: Messrs. W. Omerod and G. Black visited Ohau in May with the Gospel Carriage No. 2 and had meetings and visited the surrounding country. "Gospel Ambassadors" and tracts were well received and some souls were found who were on the point of decision.

1920: In January of this year the breaking of bread meeting was moved from the hall at the station, where it had been held since 1894, to the Public Hall where the Gospel meeting was already being held and had been so since 1901.

1922: On August 26th there passed into the presence of his Lord one of His most able and esteemed servants, Mr. C. H. Hinman, at the age of 63. He was a preacher who excelled in the Gospel and one whose Christian ministry was known from one end of New Zealand to the other. He was first editor of the "Treasury" in 1899, from which much of the information contained herein has been drawn. Therefore one feels it to be in line with the purpose of this work that a few facts be stated with regard to him.

Charles Hillam Hinman was born in Leigh, England, in 1859, and born again on May 10th, 1880, in New Zealand under the preaching of Mr. Gordon Forlong. He was one of the speakers at the first conference meetings in New Zealand, held at Rowe's sawmill at Campbelltown (now Rongotea) early in 1881. Mr. Hinman described that first all-day meeting as follows: "Four upright poles were put into the ground, others were put on top of them, over these was stretched a stackcloth, and all was ready. Here our first all-day meeting was held. . . . We numbered altogether 19 souls, and we were happy in each other's fellowship. The ministry wasn't much, but we were satisfied with it and the joy of the Lord filled our hearts. To us it was a wonderful day, making quite an epoch in our history." This was shortly after the assembly was started there by brethren William Anderson and James Chrystall in 1881. After editing the "Treasury" for about four years our brother relinquished this work to give his full time to the preaching of the Gospel and the ministry of the Word. He was well known in the Manawatu, and as well as being a great soul-winner his ministry is remembered by many of us with thanksgiving to the Lord. Almost his last words spoken with his loved ones gathered around his bed were: "What shall the first five minutes be like in Heaven?" He was looking forward and upward to that glad meeting with the Saviour. Now he rests from his labours. "Whose faith follow" (Heb. 13:7).

1923: Ohau item of interest in the October issue of the "Treasury" was: A married couple were invited to the Gospel meetings. They came, and in less than a month professed faith in Christ. The Gospel was all new to them and they declared they had never heard it before. The husband has been baptised in the river and his wife hopes to follow soon.

1924: Mr. J. Stout had two months of meetings, July and August, at Ohau. His ministry to believers was much enjoyed and the Lord also gave blessing in the Gospel. A few confessed acceptance of Christ and two of these were baptised. Cottage meetings were also held around the district.

1929: Mr. George Menzies had some meetings in December, 1929, with good response.

1931: In May and June, Mr. C. F. Gedge had four weeks of meetings with good numbers, some souls being saved, some restored, and eight baptised.

1933: Mr. E. Coppin had a few meetings in May when two (a married couple) confessed acceptance of Christ.

1934: Mr. and Mrs. T. Bailey (labouring mostly among the Maoris) travelled south with their Gospel van and journeyed as far as Ohau.

During May, Mr. J. Clark had about four weeks of meetings using the chart "Two Roads" with blessing, three professing to be saved.

1935: Fallen Asleep. On December 25th, Mr. Richard A. Rolston. The late Mr. Rolston was born in Portadown, County Armagh, Northern Ireland, in 1857, and came to New Zealand by sailing ship, landing at Lyttelton in 1874. He spent the first eleven years in the South Island and came to the North Island in 1885 and spent the next three years at Martinborough. On acquiring a property at Ohau he came to live there in 1888 and was brought to Christ on November 28th, 1892, through the ministry of the late Mr. Arthur Clarke, of Palmerston North, who was holding cottage meetings in Mr. Martin's house about half a mile from his own home. He was baptised shortly after in the river and came into fellowship there where he continued to meet until his Home Call. He was a very Godly man and an example to all in life and walk. With his wife he was regular at the meetings, always on time, and took his family of eleven, all of whom were brought to know Christ as Saviour. He took an active part in the assembly and as an overseer he was well equipped. About his last words were, "He is precious." Now he rests from his labours and his works do follow him.

1939: Owing to removals and some being called Home to be with the Lord the numbers declined, but the meetings were kept going by the few remaining to maintain the Testimony until October 29th, 1939, when the assembly met for the last time. The believers remaining then went to Levin and joined with the assembly at Oxford Street. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

Most of these dear ones whom we have known and loved so well are now with the Lord. Their work on earth is done and they have gone to their reward.

“One by one, they’re passing over,
One by one, they’re going Home,
There to meet in blissful union,
Gathered with the ransomed throng.

“One by one, they cross the river,
One by one, they stem the tide,
There in bright celestial glory,
With the Saviour to abide.

“Soon the ransomed all will gather,
With our Saviour we shall reign,
Sing the song that will exalt Him,
Worthy the lamb for He was slain.”

MANAKAU

PRIOR to 1885, Manakau was in standing bush, but with the opening of the railway in 1886 and settlers pushing northward from Wellington and native lands becoming "Europeanised", Manakau became a small settlement.

When Mr. and Mrs. Henry Moffatt came from Palmerston North to Manakau in 1889 they began propagating the Gospel in the district. Mr. Moffatt came to New Zealand in 1878 and was shipwrecked when the sailing ship "City of Auckland" went ashore on the Otaki Beach at about 9 p.m. on October 22nd, 1878. There were 256 immigrants on the ship in addition to the crew, but no lives were lost, all getting to shore safely. The ship became a total wreck. The mast with its cross arm stood aloft and was a real landmark for many years.

On taking up residence at Manakau, Mr. Moffatt began to hold some Gospel meetings fortnightly in the school (built the previous year), also cottage meetings. There does not appear to have been any assembly formed at this time. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Douglas came from Rongotea to Manakau and began visiting the people about 1893, with some becoming interested. These two brethren no doubt prepared the way for the revival which was soon to follow and thus became "sharers together".

It appears that Mr. Hinman also visited Manakau late in 1893 and so the Lord was further preparing the way for what was to follow.

START OF ASSEMBLY

1894: By this time more settlers had arrived and taken up land and the settlement was growing. Early this year Mr. C. H. Hinman came and held special Gospel meetings in the school, and while the precious seed of the Gospel had been faithfully sown during the few years past this effort proved to be the reaping time. "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psalm 126:6). "A time of rejoicing it truly was for about forty precious souls were brought to Christ," as one Christian lady (one of those saved at the time) put it, "and the nest was stirred up."

As a result of this wonderful work of grace an assembly was formed and met together for remembering the Lord in the breaking of bread in the school, and Gospel meetings were continued. Cottage meetings were very popular at that time and these seemed to be held in different homes. Surely the expression of their hearts, as they gathered together in happy fellowship with the Lord and each other, would be with the Psalmist, "Praise ye the Lord, Praise O ye servants of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and for evermore." "From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised. The Lord is high above the nations, and His glory above the heavens. Who is like unto the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high" (Psalm 113:1-5).

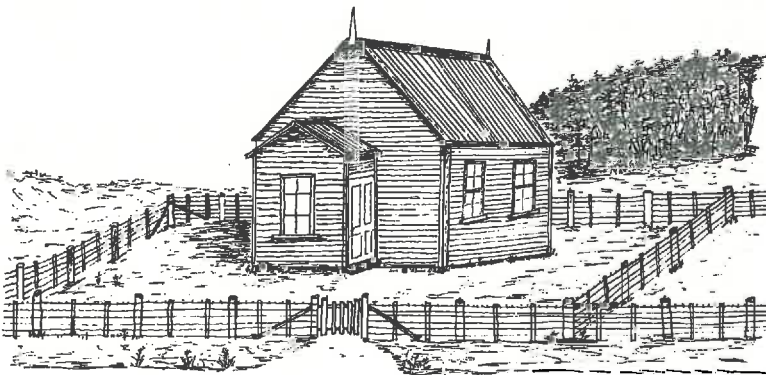
Mr. James Chrystall also visited Manakau at this time, and those of us who knew him so well would realise that the unsaved would have no rest while he sought their souls for Christ. Many a poor wayfarer was contacted and told of a Saviour mighty to save. Some of the original members of this newly formed assembly were Mr. and Mrs. H. Moffatt, Mr. and Mrs. J. Rickard and family, Mr. W. Rickard, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas, some of the Houghton family, Mr. F. B. Brown, Mr. Gordon Forlong (visiting), Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Tuck and Miss Mary Tuck, and Mr. and Mrs. Colville and some of their family. Later others were added such as Miss Mary Houghton, Mrs. Tuck Snr., Mr. D. Brown, Mr. C. Gardner, the Novich family, Mr. C. Vagg, Mr. and Miss James (probably from Otaki), and possibly others.

Other visiting brethren to Manakau about this time were Mr. Arthur Clark and Mr. Franklin Ferguson, of Palmerston North. So the work went on with visiting, preaching and personal witness. Some of those dear early Manakau saints are still spared to this day, a number of them eighty years old and over, but most of them have passed this vale of tears and gone into the presence of their Lord where pain, sorrow and parting never come. The expression of one dear sister now over 80 was: "I was once young but now I am old, but I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread" (Psalm 37:25).

"I will not ask for earthly store,
Thou wilt my need supply;
But I would covet more and more,
The clear and single eye,
To see my duty face to face
And trust Thee Lord for dally grace."

Later the meetings were held in the Town Hall until the Gospel Hall was built.

1895: A piece of land on the main road south of the Public Hall was made available to the assembly by one of its members and the brethren set to work to build a hall. A very nice hall was built suitable to the needs of the assembly and on completion the meetings were held there.



Gospel Hall at Manakau. Built in 1895.

1898: What seem to be the first conference meetings held in the southern part of the Manawatu were held at Manakau on December 27th, 1898. A goodly company of believers came together, some from the neighbouring places such as Ohau and Otaki. The Word of God was ministered by Messrs. Hockly, Moffatt, Clark, Everiss, Smith, Chrystall, Snow and Rock.

About this time the assembly at Otaki had dwindled owing to removals and the meeting closed down, the remaining Christians in fellowship joining with the assembly at Manakau.

1899: No conference meetings appear to have been held here this year, but Mr. J. Coppin had six weeks of meetings at Manakau and Ohau. Details are lacking.

1900: The conference meetings were held at Manakau on December 27th and 28th and a good time was experienced. The meeting was small, but with visitors from Ohau and Palmerston North a goodly number were present. The Word was searching and powerful throughout. A "Treasury" note states: "Most of the following brethren who had ministered the Word at Palmerston North the two days previous were present, but it is not quite clear whether all took part, viz., Wm. Coppin, J. Coppin, Louder, Mc-Ivor, Dickie, Chrystall, Laurence, F. Migill, T. Rowe and C. H. Hinman.

1901: In February-March, Mr. H. Moffatt laboured for some time, chiefly about Manakau. The annual conference meetings were held on December 27th, but there is no record of the speakers or ministry.

1902: A note in the February "Treasury" of 1902 states: "There is no report to hand of the conference held on December 27th (1901) but from a little we hear we understand there were not many visitors present." The conferences were held in the Public Hall which was close by the Gospel Hall on the main road. The author was privileged to attend some of these conference meetings.

1903: About February-March, Mr. E. G. Whitehead and Mr. George Pierson visited Manakau with the Gospel Carriage while working their way down the line to Wellington. Visitation was carried out and some Bible readings were held in Mr. J. Rickard's house, where cottage meetings were frequently held. June "Treasury" states: "Mr. Henry Moffatt is back again in Manakau. Good numbers are coming out to the Sunday night meetings and we hear of one case of conversion. 'The Lord's servant,' says our brother, 'is often like a hunter in sight of game, but he cannot always get it.'"

In May-June, Mr. F. Ferguson had a fortnight's meetings at Manakau. The residents seemingly had no heart for the Gospel and would not attend the hall, although entertainments, etc., were well patronised. However, he found a good reception for Gospel literature and houses for miles around were visited. May the Lord bless the seed sown. Only one person refused the papers. The Christians who attended seemed to receive help from the meetings.

What a lesson and a challenge for us today! We should support the assembly with which we are associated wholeheartedly. How discouraging for a visiting brother, or even a local speaker, to find the hall half empty or less, the greater part of the assembly being absent—perhaps with S.M.O. disease (Sunday Mornings Only). "I know thy works, that thou art neither hot nor cold: I would thou wert cold or hot. . . . I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment that thou mayest be clothed and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve that thou mayest see. As many as I love I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. . . . To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches" (Rev. 3:15-22).

Fallen Asleep: Mrs. John Rickard, on June 4th, 1905. Cottage meetings were held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rickard from time to time and her Home Call was referred to as a "triumphant departure".

It is only the Christian who can truly triumph in death, and that only because Christ our Redeemer has passed this way before. His death was a vicarious sacrifice, He rose again the third day; abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel (2 Tim. 1:10).

"With Him shall my rest be on high
When in holiness bright I sit down,
In the joy of His love ever nigh,
In the peace that His presence shall crown."

1904: The little assembly is having fairly good meetings on Lord's days. Quite a large number have been coming out to the evening Gospel meetings and our brethren express their thankfulness to the Lord for His goodness. (Evidently the assembly had experienced some measure of restoration to the Lord at this time.)

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him ye people here below,
Praise Him who sits upon the throne,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost."

1906: During March, Mr. H. Moffatt had some meetings at Manakau. The assembly has continued on quietly but with reduced numbers owing to a large number of believers shifting and moving northwards. With timber mills, one of the main sources of industry, gradually closing down as the timber becomes exhausted, the workers have had to seek work elsewhere.

1909: By the end of this year the numbers had become so reduced that the assembly closed down and the few remaining Christians went to Ohau. The hall was then sold. The exact date of the sale cannot be determined but it would seem to be about the end of the year.

1910: A note in the "Treasury" of March, 1910, states: "**Manakau Hall:** The trustees of the Manakau Hall wish it to be known that they met together at Ohau on January 28th, 1910, to decide

what to do with the proceeds of the sale of the hall. After full discussion it was decided to lodge the amount, viz., £18/5/1, at the Post Office Savings Bank with a view to its being used ultimately for building purposes as the Lord may direct."

1911: Fallen Asleep. At Manakau, July 10th, 1911, Mrs. Rickard, Senr., well known to many of us as "Granny Rickard"; aged 79 years. A Cornish lady, and a very happy Christian saved about 1888. Spent her latter years (about 20) at Manakau and Ohau where she was well known and seemed to be always rejoicing in the Lord. The writer visited her many times during the last days prior to her Home Call and always came away feeling that she had imparted a little bit of heaven, and could only describe her as a very rich soul.

Further note in "Treasury" of October, 1911: "Statement re Manakau Hall. In connection with the sale of this hall the sum of £19/2/10 (including 17/10 interest) has been lying in the Post Office to the credit of the trustees. This sum they have now disposed of through the 'Treasury' as follows: £1/5/- for tract distribution, £17/10/- to be distributed among certain of the Lord's servants, and 7/10 for office expenses."

The brethren at Ohau carried on Gospel meetings at Manakau for some time after the hall was sold. The writer attended these meetings which were then held in the Public Hall.

1915: A notice in the "Treasury" of December, 1915, concerning Mr. Henry Moffatt would be of special interest as he had laboured among and had been associated with the people of the surrounding districts for some fifteen years during his residence at Manakau.

Fallen Asleep. At Toowomba, Queensland, on October 26th, 1915, Mr. Henry Moffatt; aged 68. Mr. Moffatt came to N.Z. in the ship "City of Auckland" and was shipwrecked at Otaki on October 22nd, 1878. He resided for some time at Palmerston North, then at Manakau, and was well known in the surrounding districts. It was not his habit to visit the larger assemblies or frequent the more beaten tracks but to get around the country parts and search out isolated believers, ministering Christ to them and preaching in cottage meetings and speaking to the wayfarer by the wayside. He had a kind and gentle manner and would lend a hand with the milking or anything else to enable some to get to the meetings. He also laboured for some years in Queensland and many souls were blessed by his ministry.

"Oh what is all that earth can give
To those who share in God's own joy?
Dead to the world, in Thee we live,
In Thee is bliss without alloy;
Well may we earthly joys resign—
All things are ours since we are Thine!"

TOKOMARU

1894:

A SMALL assembly was commenced in Tokomaru in 1894 when four believers met together to remember the Lord in the breaking of bread in the house of Mr. T. J. Row, situated near the blacksmith's shop, just a short distance south of the township. They were Mr. and Mrs. Row and Mr. and Mrs. Ayson, who came from very near Linton. Very soon after, they were joined by Messrs. F. and H. Burns, Mr. and Mrs. T. Miller, Mr. Sorenson and Mrs. Caird and family.

1895: About this time a Negro, working with a party of surveyors about Tokomaru and in assembly fellowship, at times preached the Gospel in the school and on one occasion mentioned two men who promised each other that whichever one died first he would return and tell his mate what it was like on the other side. But he never returned! "There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it. . . . And so I saw the wicked buried,

who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: . . . Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God" (Eccl. 8:8, 11, 12, 13).

The time to get right with God is now. "Behold now is the accepted time, Behold now is the day of Salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

1897: Mr. Row disposed of his property near the blacksmith's shop to Mr. Geo. Stevenson and shifted to another property on the side road east of the township, and here the little assembly continued to meet, the Gospel meetings being held in the school in the township.



Residence of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Row, on the Main Road at Tokomaru, where the assembly met from 1894 to 1897.

1901: In February and March, Mr. C. H. Hinman had three weeks of meetings at Tokomaru with blessing, six being baptised in the river, four men and two women. As the assembly was growing it had been decided to build a Gospel Hall large enough to accommodate eighty people, and this was in the course of erection. A note in the July issue of the "Treasury" (page 111) states: "Tokomaru:—Through the goodness of God and the liberality of His children, the long-felt want in this district is supplied at last in the new Gospel Hall just finished. It will seat 80 persons, is well finished and comfortably seated.



Home of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Row, on Tokomaru Road, where the assembly met from 1897 to 1901.

"Our brother, Mr. Hinman, came down to open it on June 2nd when the Lord gave us a good day. At night it was fairly well filled and the Gospel was preached from Psalm 87, 'The Lord shall count, when He writeth up the people, that this man was born there.' May this be the experience of many around us! Meetings were continued through the week and on the Wednesday two young ones, with three others from Palmerston North, obeyed the Lord in baptism. It was a good time. Prejudice here needs to be removed in order that the truth in its simplicity may be received. Will believers pray for this."



Gospel Hall on the Main Road, Tokomaru, built in 1901. The assembly met here from 1901 until it closed in 1910. The hall was then sold.

The following practical exhortation was given by a Tasmanian Christian in the same "Treasury": "How to help a preacher:—Pray for him, go further—plead for him. Go early to the meeting. Do not look round when a book falls or a baby cries, for in doing so you distract more than either child or

book did. Do not sit on the end of the seat, because someone may come in late, and you'll have to shift, and two make more noise than one. Do not put your coat and hat, etc., on the seat. Strangers do not like to shift other people's things. Bring along all you can and encourage them to come again. Remember that one is enough to talk at a time, so do not whisper to your neighbour during the preaching. May the Lord help us to do the right thing."

1903: In June, Mr. F. Ferguson paid a visit to Tokomaru and held a fortnight's meetings and visiting from house to house. It has been a little reviving for the assembly, though few outsiders came to the hall during the week time.

1906: July "Treasury" states that "Mr. J. Chrystall went down the Manawatu Line to Tokomaru", and in September copy, "Mr. Ferguson has lately been at Tokomaru".

Mr. John Row (Mr. T. J. Row's father) passed into the presence of his Lord on August 10th, 1906. He first gathered to the Lord's Name in Palmerston North about 1884 and afterward built the hall at Longburn. Later he came to Levin and was associated with the first assembly there in 1901-04. He also sought to help the believers at Tokomaru. "And when he, Apollos, was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace" (Acts 18:27).

1909: September "Treasury" states:—"Mr. J. C. Rock is now at Tokomaru." (Further details are lacking.)

1910: Sale of the Hall. The little meeting at Tokomaru, owing chiefly to removals, has completely dwindled away, and as the brethren responsible for the hall considered it inadvisable to leave it empty it was decided to consult others who had been instrumental in its erection to see if they would favour selling the hall and giving the proceeds for mission buildings in other lands. The proposal was agreed to and accordingly the little place was sold for £95. It would appear that the meetings ceased to meet early this year, probably after March, as it was still shown in the "Assembly List" of the March issue of the "Treasury".

1923: Fallen Asleep. Mr. Duncan F. Ayson, on March 7th. Lived at Linton and met with believers at Tokomaru. Was one of the four believers associated with the first assembly there when it started in Mr. J. Row's house in 1894.

ASSEMBLY RESTARTED

1927: Mr. D. Balneaves had some cottage meetings at Tokomaru in July with good interest and some professions. Several were expecting to obey the Lord in baptism. Mr. Balneaves continued for six weeks visiting and holding cottage meetings. Seven souls confessed Christ. Five were baptised and others expected to follow.

"Treasury" note in November issue states: "Tokomaru: Gospel effort in this place has been much blessed of late and now a little company of about twelve meet to remember the Lord in the house

of Mr. Stevenson, blacksmith. They also have a Gospel meeting in the Public Hall. We can thank God for establishing once more a testimony in Tokomaru."

This is the same house, previously owned by Mr. T. J. Row, where the first assembly started in 1894 and the present assembly continued to meet there until September, 1956. The Gospel meeting is now held in the Public Hall. Mr. George Stevenson, now 86, was brought to Christ through the ministry of the late Mr. C. H. Hinman when he had meetings there in 1897, and was for a time associated with the first assembly.

Messrs. E. Whitehead and S. Palmer started tent meetings at Tokomaru on November 13th with an encouraging attendance, and an effort was also made to reach the children by afternoon meetings after school hours.

1928: N.I. Gospel Tent No. 1. January issue of the "Treasury" states: "Messrs. Whitehead and Palmer continued their meetings in Tokomaru, but the response on the part of the public was poor, yet there were a few young people who confessed Christ. Three believers were baptised and two others went elsewhere to obey."

At the conclusion of the Gospel Tent meetings conducted by Messrs. Whitehead and Palmer, brethren A. F. Stevenson and Ron Hewetson continued with the Sunday School work in the Public Hall, with a number of others assisting at various times. A good number of children attended, the highest number reaching about thirty-five. Who knows the full results of the precious seed sown in the hearts of these young lives by faithful servants of Christ over the years. The Word of God ever reminds us that, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psa. 126:6). May God grant a rich harvest.

In June, Mr. J. McNair had three weeks at Tokomaru helping the new assembly in the ministry of the Word and visiting from house to house with tracts. It was a precious time. Mr. D. Balneaves visited around Tokomaru in September, also holding a few cottage meetings, and two or three confessed Christ.

1929: Mr. A. M. Barry had a fortnight at Tokomaru in May, holding meetings and visiting. Several adults confessed Christ after much exercise of heart. In June, Mr. J. McNair had a few meetings and had a nice time with the assembly, speaking from the "Feasts of the Lord" (Lev. 23). He had the joy of seeing some souls won for Christ. Mr. A. J. H. White spent some time in and around Tokomaru during September.

1930: "Treasury" note in November: "God's Forgiveness. The forgiveness of God is like the God who grants it—everlasting, all-comprehensive, immeasurable . . . no possibility of condemnation. The bond that was against me is now nailed up, as it were, in the court of justice for the protection of the debtor. I now owe everything to the love of God; I owe my whole self. Let Christ dwell in my heart, to guide every glance of the eye, every thought of the mind.—R. C. Chapman."

1934: Mr. John Clark had two weeks of meetings in the Town Hall at Tokomaru township. One professed Christ and others were interested.

1936: In November, Mr. Clark was again at Tokomaru, finding good interest in meetings and visiting homes.

1938: The assembly has been cheered recently by two obeying the Lord in baptism and being received into fellowship. Mr. W. Richards has been here for two weeks, having special meetings and doing visitation work during January.

1945: Fallen Asleep. Mr. W. F. M. Burns, on May 9th. Our brother joined the first little assembly in Mr. Row's house shortly after it started and continued till he left Tokomaru about 1915.

1948: Fallen Asleep. Mr. Wesley Richards, on July 17th. Our brother had spent the day at Tokomaru assembly, and in the evening was walking a short distance to the Public Hall to take the Gospel meeting when he was knocked down (presumably by a car) and was found unconscious. He passed Home three days later without regaining consciousness. He had intended to preach on 1 John 3:1: "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. Therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not." The Lord had used our brother much in conversions and comforting sick and lonely saints. He was a lovely brother, deeply read in the Scriptures, and rich in spiritual truth.

"Perishing things of clay,
Born but for one brief day,
Pass from my heart away,
Jesus is mine."

1952: The Sunday School work started by brethren A. F. Stevenson and R. Hewetson following the tent meetings held in Tokomaru early in 1928 and maintained over the last twenty-four years now lapsed for want of scholars. How many dear little children heard the sweet Gospel message during those precious years of faithful sowing of the seed! "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good" (Eccl. 11:6). May the Lord bless those who sowed the precious seed of the Word of God in the hearts of the young these many years and give them the joy in a coming day of meeting in Glory those who have been won for Christ.

1955: In March, Messrs. Lind and Watts visited Tokomaru with the Manawatu and West Coast Bible Coach and found encouragement and interest and several who showed interest in spiritual things. The assembly purchased a building in the township opposite the Post Office in November.

1956: The building has now been reconditioned and made into a comfortable Gospel Hall.

The assembly numbering about twenty moved into the new premises on September 23rd. May the Lord bless the new venture and prosper the testimony in Tokomaru, as in days gone by, to the glory and praise of His name.

Fallen Asleep. At Wanganui, on October 5th, Mr. T. J. Row; aged 92. Saved in 1884 at the age of 20 under the preaching of the late C. H. Hinman, he was received into fellowship that year at Palmerston North. Later he moved to Longburn, then to Tokomaru where in 1894 an assembly began its meetings in his home. In 1903 he moved to Hastings and in 1920 to Gonville, Wanganui, where he continued till his Home Call. He was in assembly fellowship continuously for 72 years. All

through these years he went on steadfastly and with deep interest in the life of the assembly. He was a godly man, gentle and discreet, a wise counsellor and an example to the saints. "Whose faith follow."

"We speak of the land of the blest—
That country so bright, and so fair,
And oft are its glories confessed,
But what must it be to be there?"

The assembly now in 1956 is graced with one octogenarian, Mr. Geo. Stevenson. The writer has visited him on several occasions and found him a very happy brother in the Lord. He was brought to Christ through the ministry of our late brother, Mr. C. H. Hinman, when holding meetings in Tokomaru in 1897. May the Lord continue to richly bless our dear brother and grant him much joy and peace during the days that are yet left to him. May the Lord continue to bless the assembly and make each member strong for Christ in their united testimony for Him.



Gospel Hall, Tokomaru, opened September, 1956, where the assembly now meets.

OTAKI

COMMENCEMENT OF ASSEMBLY

1895:

MR. JAMES CHRYSTALL visited Otaki, held meetings wherever possible, and visited from house to house as his manner was. He was most zealous in warning sinners to flee from the wrath to come and telling out the gospel message, and a work of grace was in evidence, a few being brought to Christ. Among those converted at that time were Mr. and Mrs. William James, Senr., and several of their family: George, William, Emily Sarah and Edith. An assembly was then started and the first meeting for the breaking of bread in remembrance of the Lord was held in the home of Mr. W. James, Senr., in Rahui Road. It appears to have been held in his home for one Sunday only, moving then to a cottage in the town situated on the corner of Aotaki and Rangatira Streets, but the Gospel and week-night meetings were continued in Mr. James's house. Those gathering together in assembly fellowship were Mr. and Mrs. W. James, Senr. the several members of their family who had been converted at that time, Mr. Miller, Mr. B. Eagle, Mrs. Byron Brown, Mrs. Bromley, who walked from Manakau, Mr. Moeller, Miss Bright, and possibly some others.



Home of Mr. W. James, in Rahui Road, where the assembly commenced in 1895.

Some of the brethren came down from Manakau at times, amongst whom were Mr. Henry Moffatt, Mr. C. Vagg, Mr. E. Houghton and Mr. George Nixon.

1898: It appears that owing to removals, the meeting had dwindled in numbers and was finally closed. The remaining believers then came up to Manakau and joined in the fellowship of the assembly there. Roading facilities at that time were somewhat primitive, and according to one aged brother, who was only a young man then, the journey from Otaki to Manakau took about two hours each way, much of it having to be covered on foot. The love and zeal of the Lord's people at that time would seem to put us to shame today. Modern roads, means of conveyance, conveniences of every kind, changed methods and new innovations do not seem to have helped our spiritual standard and so the results are just in proportion in spite of all our activi-

ties. How often do we see those professing salvation come forward to obey the Lord in baptism and take a stand for Christ? Surely it is time to awaken out of our sleep and teach those who should be coming on to observe all things whatsoever He has commanded us. What will we have to say in a coming day when we are called to give an account? "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers to feed the Church of God which He hath purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28).

1914: Mr. and Mrs. George Sperring came to Otaki, taking up a property near Te Horo.

RECOMMENCEMENT OF ASSEMBLY

In 1917 following the tragic death of their only son, aged four years, Mr. and Mrs. Sperring became concerned about their spiritual needs. They were contacted by some Christian neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. Lawry, Senr., and through their Christian influence were brought to know Christ as their Saviour. They were baptised at Levin shortly after their conversion. As a result an assembly was formed and met in Mr. Charles Rickard's house in Swamp Road, near Te Horo. Those thus meeting together at this time were Mr. and Mrs. C. Rickard, Mr. and Mrs. Lawry, Senr., Mr. and Mrs. G. Sperring, Mr. and Mrs. John Fryer, Mrs. Lund, and possibly some others.

About the close of 1917 the meeting was moved to Mr. Sperring's house and continued there for a short period.



Home of Mr. Chas. Rickard at Swamp Road where the assembly met for a time at its commencement in 1917.



Mr. Geo. Sperring's house near Te Horo where the assembly met for a short period in 1917-18.

1918: The meeting was again moved at the beginning of this year to Mr. John Fryer's house in Beach Street, now called Rangiruru Road, near the Telegraph Hotel in the town of Otaki, and the breaking of bread meeting was held there. Open-air meetings were held in the town when opportunity offered, Mr. R. D. Rolston from Levin often taking part in these meetings. Early this year Mr. W. Ormerod and Mr. George Black visited Otaki with the Gospel Carriage and held meetings.



Mr. John Fryer's house in Beach Street. The assembly met here for a time in 1918-19.



Home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Fryer in Rahu Road where the assembly met from 1920 to 1922.

1919: Toward the end of this year Mr. and Mrs. J. Fryer moved from their residence in Beach Street to a site near the railway station. The assembly was then moved to its new home for breaking of bread in remembrance of the Lord. At times Gospel meetings were held in a hall near the station but this was later burnt down.

1920: Again Mr. and Mrs. J. Fryer moved their place of residence to a house in Rahu Road near the racecourse, and the assembly meetings continued in their home for about the next two years.

From this time Mr. C. W. Winter was a frequent visitor and held Gospel meetings regularly and did a considerable amount of visitation. A note in the January issue of the "Treasury" states: "Mr. C. W. Winter has been plodding away at Otaki with the Gospel in a hall near the railway station and steadily visiting from house to house. There has been encouragement notwithstanding the very uphill nature of working there. Some appear anxious to be saved and one soul has confessed Christ. Our brother believes there may be more fruit if he patiently continues a while longer." A further note in the March issue states: "Mr. C. W. Winter is continuing at Otaki. Two men who have been saved were baptised in the river and there are also souls who seem anxious to be saved." Later Mr. Winter met with further encouragement at Otaki, two sisters in Christ being desirous of baptism.

1921: In January of this year Mr. Winter was in Otaki for two Lord's days. Two believers were baptised and received into fellowship, with the assembly meeting in Mr. Fryer's home. One of these was Mr. Fryer's son Edgar. Both were very happy in the Lord.

"O happy day that fixed my choice,
On Thee my Saviour and my God,
Well may this glowing heart rejoice,
And tell its raptures all abroad."

1922: Mr. C. W. Winter visited Otaki in April carrying the Gospel message from house to house in visitation, with a good few coming out to the Gospel meetings on Sunday evenings. He visited the Chinese gardeners there and distributed Gospels and calendars in Chinese, which seemed to be well appreciated. He also visited many of the houses at Te Horo. Mr. and Mrs. Fryer and family moved from Otaki about May and the assembly ceased to meet.

RE-COMMENCEMENT OF ASSEMBLY

1925: Mr. J. Stout held some meetings in Otaki in September. In December an assembly meeting was commenced in the Druids' Hall. Those meeting to remember the Lord in the breaking of bread were Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Forlong, Mr. and Mrs. Robert McIvor, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Hart, Mr. J. Bradbury and Mrs. Bradbury, Senr., Mrs. W. Dittmer, Miss D. Mannins and Mrs. Robert Mannins. Mr. E. H. Saint frequently visited the assembly and gave much appreciated help. Mr. J. Chrystall was a frequent visitor, few escaping from hearing the message of life while he was there. The first Sunday the believers met to break bread an open-air meeting was held on the Main Street. The first hymn sung on that occasion was from the old Sankey hymnbook, No. 477:

“Sinners Jesus will receive,
Sound this word of grace to all,
Who the heavenly pathway leave,
All who linger, all who fall.

“Sing it o'er and o'er again,
Christ receiveth sinful men,
Make the message clear and plain,
Christ receiveth sinful men.”

An aged brother who had served the Lord for many years and was nearing the end of his journey said: “Whom have I in heaven but Thee, and there is none on earth that I desire beside Thee. My flesh and my heart faileth, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever” (Psalm 73:25-26).

On one occasion Mr. Ernest Salisbury conducted the Gospel meeting in the Druids' Hall and a number of young fellows came in. From the back of the hall they interrupted while he was speaking, telling him different words to put in. Have any of these young fellows changed their attitude to the Gospel and Christ since then? I wonder!

1926: In February, Mr. Norman Hyde held some Gospel meetings in Otaki on Sunday and Wednesday evenings with good numbers coming into the hall. There was also a good opportunity for the Gospel in the open air on Saturday nights.

Mr. S. H. Cule visited Otaki in May when extensive visitation work was carried out and encouraging meetings held. Mr. D. Balneaves visited Otaki in June and held some meetings during his stay and did further visitation. Later Mr. Balneaves continued his meetings at Otaki and Ohau and a young man confessed

Christ. Through two meetings on baptism six were led to obey the Lord in baptism, two from each of the Otaki, Manakau and Ohau assemblies. In July, Mr. C. W. Winter had almost a fortnight in Otaki, holding meetings every night, some in the Druids' Hall and others in houses, besides doing house to house visitation with Gospel literature. He spoke one night on baptism when six were baptised, probably those mentioned above.

1927: Mr. M. Harrison visited Otaki in March, giving helpful ministry to the saints. Mr. C. W. Winter held some meetings in August and did some visiting. A large number of "Ambassadors" and other papers were distributed. A young girl confessed Christ and another who was a visitor saw the truth of baptism and obeyed the Lord in this ordinance.

About this time cottage meetings were also held in the home of Mrs. Bradbury, situated on the Main Road a little north of Otaki. At these meetings ministry was given for believers, the Gospel also being preached. Those taking part in the ministry here were brethren J. Chrystall, C. W. Winter, D. Balneaves, M. Logg, J. Stout, Bates, E. H. Saint, Hale, R. D. Rolston and W. H. Rolston. These meetings, which continued for about four years, were a great help and a joy to all. Mrs. Bradbury then moved up to Manakau and the meetings were continued in her home there for some time. Here Mr. W. Burgess also gave good help.

1928: Mr. M. Logg spent a little while in Otaki in September giving help to the believers. A good time was experienced and on the first Sunday there was a baptism. In October, Mr. James Chrystall had about a week at Otaki and Manakau with some blessing.

1930: Fallen Asleep. Mr. C. W. Winter. On April 18th, at the age of 64 years. Our late brother was well known in the Manawatu, in fact throughout New Zealand, and laboured much in Otaki, both in ministry, visitation, house to house, and searching out believers. He won many souls for Christ. Born in Norway where he received his education and later went into business, he went to sea at the age of 18, and for the next six years spent a seafaring life which took him to many parts of the globe. Landing in Wellington in 1888 or 1890 he was shortly afterwards exercised in soul through listening to the Gospel message at an open-air meeting. This was the means of leading him to the old hall in Herbert Street where he was led to Christ through the ministry of the late Mr. C. H. Hinman. From that time he went steadily on in the Christian life, seeking to please the Lord and serve Him. After about 12 years in business he went out into full-time service for the Lord and for the last 27 years plodded on faithfully, seeking to help the small assemblies and lead souls to Christ. Not long before he passed away he remarked, "The world knows nothing at all about it." When asked "About what?" he replied: "Peace, perfect peace."

"Oh happy day of cloudless light,
Eternal day without a night,
Lord, when shall we its dawning see,
And spend it all in praising Thee?"

Fallen Asleep. On June 20th, Mr. William James, Senr., aged 81. Our late brother was born in England and came to Australia in 1870 and then to New Zealand in 1875. Living for a while in one of the first houses in Dunedin, he later moved to the North Island and for some years resided in Otaki. He, together with his wife, was brought to Christ through Mr. James Chrystall in 1895, and shortly after both were baptised in the Otaki River by Mr. Henry Moffatt. They and a few others with them soon commenced an assembly to remember the Lord and to read His Word. Later they moved to Bunnythorpe.

“Was it the nails, O Saviour,
That bound Thee to the tree?
Nay, 'twas Thine everlasting love,
Thy love for me, for me.”

HALL BUILT

1933: The building of the new Gospel Hall in Dunstan Street, Otaki Railway, marked an epoch in the history of assembly testimony in Otaki. Over the years many moves were made from place to place for the believers to meet in. Mr. A. C. Bull (now a missionary in Brazil) was in charge of the building and was assisted by the local Christians who gave voluntary labour to the project. The hall is furnished with nice comfortable seats and a real pulpit. The place is well lighted and is altogether attractive and well suited to the assembly's needs.

The first meetings held in the new hall were on March 19th of this year. May it prove to be a place of much blessing not only to local believers, but also a birthplace of many a needy soul! In October-November, Mr. J. Clark had four weeks of meetings at Otaki where the Lord blessed the Word to saint and sinner. A number were saved, among them two men over 70 and one over 80 years of age. Gospel tracts were also distributed and gladly received.



Gospel Hall in Dunstan Street, Otaki
Railway, built in 1933.

1934: Mr. H. C. Hewlett had a series of special meetings in Otaki commencing on August 12th.

1936: During April-May, Mr. A. Kristensen spent some time in Otaki visiting and taking cottage meetings. He also had some meetings at the Children's Home at the beach for the children and some residents who were willing to attend.

1937: The little assembly here has been increasing in numbers in recent months. Mr. A. Hickman was at home for a time and gave needed help in the assembly. About this time Mrs. Cleary was in charge of the Sunday School. After serving the Lord in this work for some time she resigned the responsibility which was then taken over by Miss D. Meyer, who still continues (1956) with this good work among the young. We trust that many of these dear young children who have been taught the message of the Gospel in Sunday School will find peace and salvation by trusting the Saviour.

1938: Mr. J. Clark, Senr., was at Otaki for six weeks during September-October, ministering in the assembly and visiting houses with Gospel literature. As a result a number were led to Christ and nine were received into fellowship while he was there.

1939: In July, Mr. J. Graham had two weeks at Otaki and had the joy of leading some to Christ. Mr. J. M. Russell also had a few meetings.

A note in September issue of the "Treasury" states: "Otaki Children's Home:—Brethren from Wellington have been coming every other Sunday lately and having a meeting, which is a help to us and the children and some who come in from outside. There is also good interest in the Sunday School.—E.H.F."

1940: In August-September, Mr. Wesley Richards held three weeks of meetings and visitation work when interest was good and a number accepted Christ.

Fallen Asleep: In January, 1941, "Tohi Pare Mare Mare". Our late sister was a Maori chieftainess of high birth whose genealogy could be traced back through a line of great chiefs. Through contacts made by Miss Manins, "Tohi Pare Mare Mare" became interested and was finally brought to know Christ as her own Saviour by faith, through reading the Holy Scriptures in her own language. (She knew little English.) She was later baptised by Mr. John Clark and was received into assembly fellowship with the saints in the Gospel Hall at Otaki where she enjoyed the fellowship of the Lord's people.

After her conversion she continued to grow in grace and had a healthy hunger for God's Word in which she found all her comfort and solace. Before she went to her eternal home she calmly made arrangements for her burial and requested that her brethren from the Gospel Hall should conduct the service. She then "Fell asleep in Jesus". Mr. E. Edwards came down from Matakana Island and brought with him an able native brother, Mr. Weteru. The tangi which took place in the beautifully carved meeting house in Otaki was a great occasion, the climax being reached with the arrival of friends and relations from distant parts of New Zealand.

At the appointed time for the funeral the believers from Otaki assembly assembled and sang suitable hymns, after which Bro. Weteru gave a wonderful message in the Maori language. Her body was then carried up the Main Street of Otaki followed by the

whole assembly and hundreds of Maori people of the Ngati-Raukawa tribe. She was laid to rest in the historical cemetery where many of her ancestors were buried. Two pakeha brethren took the lead as pall-bearers, a thing unknown in Maori history for a chieftainess. The service at the graveside in the Otaki Native Cemetery was conducted by Mr. E. Edwards, all in the native language, and was most impressive. Maori chiefs expressed their satisfaction and no doubt the door for the Gospel testimony was thrown wide open from the day.

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints”
(Psa. 116:15).

“Hidden in the hollow of His blessed hand,
Never foe can follow, never traitor stand,
Not a surge of worry, not a shade of care,
Not a blast of hurry touch the spirit there.

“Stayed upon Jehovah hearts are fully blest,
Finding as He promised, perfect peace and rest.”

—W.S.R.

1942: Fallen Asleep. On June 27th, Mr. John T. Fryer; aged 72. He was predeceased by his wife who passed away on April 21st. Our late brother was born in Bedfordshire in 1870. He landed in New Zealand about December, 1907, and came to Otaki about 1917 where he resided for about five years. He then moved to Invercargill where he resided until his Home Call. Both he and his wife were earnest Christians and always ready to speak for the Lord as opportunity offered. The assembly met in their home from 1918 to 1922.

“With cheerful spirit let us spend,
Our all for Christ, till years shall end,
His love to show, His work to do,
And always to Himself found true,
Each passing year brings Jesus near,
He comes and then eternal cheer.”

1943: Mr. A. Kristensen had two Lord's days and week-night meetings in January. Mr. W. Richards had some meetings at the beach and railway township. At the Feltham Home room he used the chart of the Tabernacle. The children were especially interested and enjoyed his talks.

1944: In March, Mr. J. Graham was at Otaki for a time, having good cottage meetings and visiting homes with the Gospel. In January-February brethren Whitehead and Kristensen spent some time at Otaki. A goodly number of unsaved attended the meetings and no doubt the local believers were helped.

1945: Mr. N. Buchanan, who had been brought to a saving knowledge of Christ through the ministry of the late Mr. C. H. Hinman, came into fellowship with the believers at Otaki in 1935. Our dear brother, who had the welfare of the assembly at heart, has given royal and unstinted service to the assembly. Now,

owing to somewhat indifferent health and after having to a large extent borne the burden of responsibilities, Mr. J. Prentice, who had come to reside permanently at Otaki in 1944, and who also had the welfare of the assembly at heart, was asked to share the responsibilities with him, thus relieving him of some of the burden. May the Lord bless our two elder brethren and their wives with them, and give them much joy in the years yet spared to them.

1946: Fallen Asleep. On May 21st, 1946, Miss Adeline Cordelia Manins, of Otaki. Our late sister was converted as a girl through the late Mr. C. H. Hinman and was in fellowship at Kimbolton and for some years at Otaki. She was a very happy, zealous and practical Christian and loyal to the scriptural principles for which the assemblies stand. Always regular at the assembly meetings she knew her place as a sister in the Lord. Miss Manins was indefatigable in visitation work, seeking to comfort the sick and sorrowing. For many years she was a constant visitor to the Sanatorium, reading the Scriptures to the patients and seeking to win them and her neighbours for Christ.

It was through contacts first made by her that the Maori chieftainess, "Tohi Pare Mare Mare", was brought to Christ through the reading of the Scriptures in her own language. She also had Sunday School and cottage meetings in her house. During the latter part of her life she was instrumental in having a number of texts placed on hoardings in suitable places where they would be read by many. The first was in Mill Road with the text: "For the Wages of sin is death, but the Gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23), written in the Maori language. The second one in English was erected at the Otaki Railway Station: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8). The third in Chinese was put up on the Chinese Association premises in Main Street, Otaki: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5). The fourth in English, quoting John 3:16, was placed near the Cemetery Road. The fifth outside her house in Arthur Street read: "It is time to seek the Lord" (Hosea 10:12).

So our dear sister sought to bring the Word of God before all who passed by. One other sister in the Lord has said of her: "The memory of her is blessed." Her last words ere she passed to her reward were: "I'm going Home." So ended as far as this world is concerned one more life of sweet Christian fragrance.

One Ambition

"Till Thou shalt come to take me home,
Be this my one ambition Lord,
Self, sin, the world to overcome,
Fast clinging to Thy faithful Word,
More of Thyself each day to know,
And more into Thine image grow."

1947: In November, Mr. A. F. Witty commenced meetings in Otaki, using his chart. Attendance was good and there were

several interested cases but none made a definite decision for Christ.

1948: In September, Mr. E. Whitehead had two Lord's days at Otaki, also a week-night, and a lovely note says, "The assembly here is growing." May the Lord continue to add His blessing to the assembly of the saints.

1950: Mr. G. E. Dann commenced meetings on July 23rd and had the joy of seeing a number profess faith in Christ.

1952: During February and March, Messrs. E. and E. M. Coppin held tent meetings in Otaki. A section of the tent was removed to allow many who could not gain admission to sit outside and still see the platform. A number professed faith in Christ and some believers were restored.

Fallen Asleep. On December 11th, Mr. G. Sperring; aged 72 years. Our late brother was born in Somerset, near the Cheddar Cliffs where Toplady composed the hymn "Rock of Ages, cleft for me". He came to New Zealand about 1908. In 1914 he came to Otaki and took up farming near Te Horo where he together with his wife came to the knowledge of Christ as their Saviour following the tragic death of their only son, aged four years. The assembly was for a short time held in his home. He was of a kind and gentle disposition, zealous in the things of God, a real testimony, and a good, steady plodder in the assembly, one who loved the Lord.

"Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee,
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save me from its guilt and power."

1953: Fallen Asleep. At Manakau, on August 25th, Mr. H. J. V. Nicholson; aged 65 years. Our late brother was born at Manakau where he resided most of his life, was saved and came into fellowship at Ohau over 40 years ago, and in later years was associated with the assembly at Otaki. He was of a quiet and unassuming nature, was kind and generous in his thoughtfulness and consideration of fellow-Christians, and was always rejoicing in the things of God. He was a good testimony and a real help in the assembly.

"To Thee O loving Lord,
My soul in praise expands,
And fain would sing the rapturous song
Thy deathless love demands!"

1954: In October-November, by special invitation, brother W. H. Rolston, of Levin, took eight Sunday night meetings in the Gospel Hall at Otaki, giving Christian ministry to the saints and also incorporating the Gospel message. The subjects ministered on were: "The propagation of the Gospel in the early Church",

“The Church Universal and the Church Local”, “The Great Love Chapter of the Bible, 1 Cor. 13”, and the last four meetings on the first chapter of the Epistle to the Philippians. Good numbers attended.

1955: Fallen Asleep. On February 1st, Mr. C. Rickard; aged 76. Our brother was saved at the age of 16 and baptised shortly after by the late Mr. J. Chrystall. He bore a good testimony and was associated with the Otaki assembly from its inception. A very happy brother who rejoiced in the Lord. Now at home with the Lord that he loved.

“No future but glory, Lord Jesus have we,
For man is in glory already in Thee;
The brighter the glory, that shines in Thy face,
The clearer our title to glory through grace.
Home, home bright, bright home,
Our future is glory in Thy blessed home.”

1956: Mr. E. Coppin secured a site in the Motor Camp at Otaki Beach in December where the Gospel Tent was pitched for a Gospel campaign during the holiday period. He was greatly assisted by the Otaki assembly and other helpers. All looked for the blessing of the Lord and some fruit in the Gospel.

A dear brother, Mr. T. N. Major, now in his 80th year, still does his part in cleaning the hall, setting the table, and keeping things tidy, with other little services for the Lord. This is appreciated by the assembly. May the Lord bless our dear aged brother and give him much joy in the days yet spared to him.

“When my life on earth is ended,
And my work on earth is done,
I will soar to regions yonder,
With my Saviour and my King.”

LEVIN

COMMENCEMENT OF ASSEMBLY

1901:

IT was in August of 1901 that Mr. C. H. Hinman commenced a series of meetings in the old Levin Town Hall (demolished in 1942), situated on the west side of the present Bank of New Zealand in Queen Street West. The September issue of the "Treasury" contains his expressed desire for the prayers of the Christians for the place.



Bank of N.Z. (left). Bank of Australasia (right). Levin Town Hall (middle background) built in late 1890's. Demolished in 1942. Mr. C. H. Hinman held his first Gospel meetings here in 1901.

There were a few Christians in Levin at that time who went to Ohau for the remembrance of the Lord in the breaking of bread. Mr. Hinman met with a spirit of most determined opposition. Nevertheless an assembly was started in Levin as a result of these meetings. Though only a small boy, the writer had the privilege of attending them. The members of the new assembly numbered about six—Mr. and Mrs. John Row, of Heatherlea, Mr. E. H. Snow, surveyor and engineer to the Roads Board, Mr. I. James, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jefferies. The assembly met for worship and remembering the Lord in the breaking of bread in the old Council office in Oxford Street during the period of its existence.

1902: In November, Mr. E. Whitehead, Junr., and Mr. George Pearson visited Levin with the Gospel Carriage and held Gospel meetings in the home of Mr. John Row at Heatherlea, Sunday School also being held there. This seems to have been the first visit of the carriage to this part of the Manawatu.



Council office, built by the Road Board in Oxford Street, opposite the Chronicle Office, where the assembly met from 1901 to 1904. The building was sold for removal in 1925.



North Island Gospel Carriage No. 1, built in 1899, and in which Mr. E. G. Whitehead and the late Mr. Geo. Pierson visited Levin in November, 1902. The vehicle was horse drawn and in this photo the tethered animal is marked with a cross.

1904: The assembly continued to meet until March, 1904, when there being only two brethren left, these went back to Ohau for fellowship and observed the Lord's Supper there.

1905: About this time Mr. A. Alexander, an Irish evangelist, held Gospel meetings in a building on Beach Road, Weraroa. The writer attended these meetings.

1906: Mr. Henry Moffatt, who had been in the South Island for some time, returned and in March of 1906 had some meetings at Etherly (Heatherlea), presumably in Mr. John Row's home.

OXFORD STREET GOSPEL HALL ASSEMBLY

1906: Mr. James Coppin came to reside in Levin in 1905 and his family followed in 1906. Mr. Coppin was a full-time worker in service for the Lord.

Mr. and Mrs. John Phillips and family came to reside in 1906. As there was no assembly here at the time they joined in the assembly fellowship at Ohau.

The following note appeared in the "Treasury" of October, 1906: "Levin. Since Mr. John Phillips, of Feilding, and Mr. James Coppin have moved here to live, and seeing there are a few other believers about the place, it has been thought well, after making it a matter of prayer for Divine guidance, to secure a site and proceed with the erection of a hall. Our brethren seem satisfied that there is a work to be done in Levin and they ask for the prayers of the Lord's people, realising that without Him they can do nothing. We feel glad that our brother, Mr. Coppin, has been led to come here and make this a centre for Gospel labours as a large and important field presents itself up and down the Manawatu Line."

A site having been procured, the work was proceeded with without delay. Timber was easily procured at that time as two sawmills were operating less than a mile distant. Mr. Frank Dunford was the architect, Mr. Amos Mudgway the builder, and Mr. James Coppin did the overseeing. Mr. Frank Dunford also made the seats and presented the assembly with the clock. Mr. Dunford passed into the presence of his Lord on November 19th, 1907. How true the words of the Psalmist, "My times are in Thy Hands."

The November "Treasury" states: "Mr. James Coppin, having made Levin his headquarters, has been fairly busy lately getting into line for more aggressive work. The new hall will (D.V.) be ready for use shortly. Through visiting about several Christians have been found who received the Word, also some unsaved. At present the believers who meet all go to the Ohau meeting, the little hall by the station being packed full for the breaking of bread, and some precious times are experienced." A further note announces: "LEVIN. There are to be all-day meetings held here on Sunday and Monday, November 18th and 19th, the occasion of the opening of the new Gospel Hall now nearing completion by the mercies of God.

"A right hearty invitation is given to fellow-believers — whosoever reads this notice — to come along to the help of the Lord against the mighty! The local friends in putting up the hall and arranging the meetings have done so for the Lord's sake, the furtherance of the Gospel, and a testimony to His Name. Being the opening of a new assembly, and many of the townspeople expected to be present, prayer is earnestly asked that a clear and gracious presentation of the Truth might be made that will be helpful to the Lord's dear people not accustomed to the way we meet. It is of importance



Gospel Hall, Oxford Street, Levin, built in 1906.

on such an occasion as this that the Truth shall commend itself to every man's conscience; therefore much love, grace and wisdom will be needed on the part of ministering brethren to lead souls to see 'the way of the Lord more perfectly'. Special arrangements will be made to meet the demands of accommodation, and on this account it is really needful that those to be provided for shall not neglect to send word of their coming. Provisions will be freely provided for all those who attend, townspeople as well. Communications to be addressed to Mr. John Phillips, Salisbury Street, Levin."

The meetings on November 18th and 19th were well attended, although there was no public holiday, and an unusually large number of preachers were present—about a dozen. Much harmony prevailed right through. The Lord's presence was felt and His Word blessed to souls. The subjects ministered on were: "The plumbline of the Word", "The obedience of the Son of God", "An explanation of how we meet", "The ways of blessing", "Cost of not standing for Christ", "Not to live on past faith and past experiences", "The Church at Pergamos", "The essentials of growth", "The place where God has His Name", "The Church's foundation", and "The Lordship of Christ". The ministry was given by Messrs. Southall, W. and J. Coppin, F. Ferguson, E. Whitehead, Senr., M. Harrison, Scouler, Wilson (Borneo), H. Taylor, J. Chrystall, and Dr. Hamilton. One man, a Maori named Hopa Tepika, professed to be saved, and a young man was baptised. Hopa Tepika was later baptised and received into fellowship at the age of 88 years. He went to be with the Lord about two years later.

A hymnal used at the commencement and for some years after was called "The Old Revival" Hymnbook. It had been com-

piled in 1905 by three brethren, Mr. George Hayden, Mr. James Coppin and Dr. George Hamilton. Later, it was superseded by the Sankey hymnbook.

After the Conference, Mr. H. Taylor stayed on and had some meetings. Mr. Wm. Coppin also helped his brother James in the Gospel for some time, then later came Mr. J. Chrystall.

Some of the foundation members of the new assembly were: Mr. and Mrs. J. Phillips, Misses S. and M. Phillips, Mr. James Coppin, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dunford, Misses E., R. and A. Coppin, Mr. E. H. Snow, a member of the previous assembly, and possibly some others.

Mr. John Row, another member of the previous assembly, departed to be with Christ on August 6th, 1906, about three months before the new assembly started.

1907: In January of 1907 a baptism was held when a young lad about eleven and a-half years, Enoch Coppin, was baptised by Mr. John Phillips.

The July copy of the "Treasury" contained the news of what was probably the first marriage in the Oxford Street Gospel Hall: "On May 30th, at Gospel Hall, Levin, Mr. W. F. Harrop, of Auckland, and Miss Snow, of Levin."

A year after the opening of the hall, Mr. James Coppin states in the "Treasury" of November, 1907: "We are going on slowly at Levin, but plowing and sowing as the way opens. Some cases are hopeful. We had a baptism, and the brother who was baptised was received into fellowship. We number about 22, and I understand two more brethren are coming here to live, which I think will add three more to the little company. We are still going on with something for the people to read, and sometimes get opportunities to deal pointedly with the people at their doors. I have been visiting a sick man who was really troubled about his soul, fearing he had sinned away his day of grace. He has since professed and confessed Christ on his knees, which I trust will prove real."

"Thou changest not, O Blessed Lord,
Though all things change around;
And in Thy changelessness my soul,
A deep sweet rest hath found.

"So let me live, with heart set free
For other souls to care,
Till they, too, taste Thy changeless love,
And all Thy goodness share."

—F.H.A.

Conference meetings were held on May 25th and 26th. The large hired hall was full, ministry was good, some very good and needful. Many seemed helped. Speakers were: Messrs. Moor, Heal, Ferguson, Stout, Hunter, Anderson, Winter, Paton, Arbuckle, and Balneaves.

1907: Fallen Asleep. Mr. Frank Dunford, on November 19th, at Wellington Hospital. Our late brother was a foundation member of the assembly and was associated with the erection of the hall. He made the seats and presented the assembly with the clock. He played an important part in the commencement of the assembly just one year before his Home Call. He whose ways are "past finding out" is the God of all comfort.

1908: In the early part of the year Mr. H. Moffatt did some visiting down the Manawatu Line and then went to the South Island. Mr. Franklin Ferguson had ten days of meetings at Levin and Ohau, rather more attending than is usual in these places. Taken all through the meetings were encouraging and helpful to the believers in fellowship.

1909: In September we had a visit from our esteemed brother in the Lord, Mr. William Macdonald, of Penang, who was able to bring to us something of the atmosphere and need of his part of the Field. In November, Mr. C. W. Winter had meetings at Ohau and Levin and nine were baptised, eight being from Ohau, including the writer and two of his brothers, both of whom are now (1956) with the Lord. They both ministered the Word acceptably in the assemblies for many long years until being taken Home to be with the Lord in 1951 and 1955 respectively.

1910: The "Treasury" intimated that the Levin Conference would be held on July 10th and 11th. CommunicationstoJ.Coppin, Oxford St., or J. Phillips, Weraroa Rd.

1911: Mr. George Milson states in the March issue of the "Treasury" "that he finds encouragement at Levin. An old native woman who till recently held to the Hauhau religion appears to be yielding to the Lord Jesus. It has been arranged to have meetings in her house on alternate Lord's days, another native's house being open for meetings also. The last visit she was quoting from memory John 3:16 and Matt. 11:28."

The Conference was held this year on June 22nd and 23rd. In September "Treasury", Mr. G. Milson states he is "still about the Master's business, though he feels the cold weather very trying at his age. He says there are very few instances in which Maoris are not found in the streets of Levin, even on cold days. 'I saw the other day a native woman whom I had not met before. She is happy in the Lord because she is exercising faith in Him (Christ), but her husband appears to be one of Nabal's sort. Later on I had another conversation with her and it quite cheered me, for it redounded to the Glory of God!' Mr. Milson further states: 'A native who was in my school many years ago met me the other day. He said, "I have learned something lately, that there is something better for a man than to be always thinking how he can make money." "What is that?" I inquired. "Faith in God," he replied. The same day I saw an aged Maori woman whose bent form showed her great age—nearly 100 years. She was waiting for the coach to take her to her pah five miles away, and looking upward with a smile on her face she said, "God is my hope!"'

"My hope is built on nothing less,
Than Jesu's Blood and Righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesu's Name."

1912: Mr. G. Milson writes in the "Treasury", May issue: "Among the Maoris about Levin who have an ear for the Word I believe there are three or four who are believers." The annual Conference meetings were held on June 22nd and 23rd this year.

In July some more believers from Ohau were baptised in the Oxford Street Gospel Hall, Levin. Mr. Watson Le Couteur paid a visit to us, also in July. Mr. George Pearson, too, had a few meetings.

1913: The Conference was held on June 22nd and 23rd and a very helpful time was experienced. Two professed faith in Christ at the close of the meetings. Mr. George Milson again writes: "That prayers of faith by beloved brethren for workers are a great help is borne out by the following. Recently on going to a meeting I found on my arrival a congregation of twelve instead of the usual three. One had a happy expression on his face and said, 'Thou art Christ's servant.' This man (a Maori) some seven years ago threatened to throw me into the lake when crossing it when I told him I was going to preach the Gospel on the other side. Praise the Lord!"

1914: In August, Mr. C. W. Winter had some meetings at Levin in the Gospel Hall and also some cottage meetings. The interest was encouraging and some professed to be restored to the Lord. At a baptism five who had been saved previously obeyed the Lord in this ordinance.

1916: The Conference meetings held this year on August 6th and 7th were fairly well attended, the hall appearing to be comfortably filled part of the time. The ministry of the Word given by brethren Dickie, Chrystall, Taylor, Fox and F. Ferguson was really helpful and refreshing.

1917: Mr. Matthew Logg had some meetings in the Gospel Hall. The Christians came out well and on Sunday nights there was a nice hall full with some strangers to hear the Gospel. The annual Conference was held in the King's Theatre on June 24th and 25th with the largest attendance yet. It was a profitable and very nice time, ministry being given by Messrs. Hinman, Fox, Heal, Taylor, Buchanan (India), Chrystall, Hockley and Ormerod.

1918: Mr. C. H. Hinman had over five weeks of meetings in April and May. To Christians, God has given much blessing and restoration, and a fine number of people have been saved. They are very clear cases, nearly every one outside of the meeting, and almost all married people. It has made a stir in the place. The hall has been crowded and it has given much joy to the assembly. Some have been received into fellowship and others are expected to be baptised and to follow.

In June, Mr. Franklin Ferguson paid the assembly a short visit. On the Friday night the hall was just about filled when the subject of baptism of believers was opened up at some length,

followed by two brethren and four sisters being immersed. This is the fruit of Mr. Hinman's recent visit. All six were received into fellowship the following Lord's day, and it was a truly precious season as the assembly met to remember the Lord and to show His death in the breaking of bread.

"Gathered Lord around Thy table,
We now seek Thy face,
Let us know Thy presence with us,
Lord of Grace.

"Love divine first drew us to Thee,
In our sin and need,
For our sin, in deep compassion,
Thou didst bleed."

Very good all-day meetings were held on June 23rd and 24th, 1918, with probably the largest attendance yet, a larger hall being taken for the second day. Ministering brethren from many parts came—Messrs. Hunter, Taylor, Fox, Heal, Tipson (Straits Settlement), Wilson (Holland), Stevenson, Grubb, Chrystall, Hall, Hockley, Dickie, Ormerod and Doherty. All however did not take part. It has been a good finish to the special time of Gospel blessing in Levin of late and should leave its mark behind.

1921: The annual Conference meetings were held on May 22nd and 23rd, 1921. (No details seem to be recorded.)

1922: In February, Mr. J. C. Heal had a few good meetings at Levin and the ministry of the Word was enjoyed. Mr. C. W. Winter also had ten days' visiting and one or two meetings in March. Mr. Norman Hyde had some meetings in May which were well attended. Quite a number professed to be saved. There have been some baptisms and additions to the assembly and altogether there seems to have been times of refreshing in Levin.

The annual Conference meetings were held on May 28th and 29th. Mr. Mark Harrison spent eight days at Levin in December and much enjoyed seeing the believers.

1923: In February, Mr. J. Stevenson had some good and helpful meetings. The annual Conference was held on May 27th and 28th when a large company gathered in the Druids' Hall. There was much helpful ministry and a very good time was experienced. Speakers were: Messrs. Miller, Stevenson, Taylor, Ferguson, Chrystall, Witty, Driller, Dickie, and Ormerod.

In July, Mr. J. Stout had a fortnight's meetings at Levin which were encouraging and appreciated. During the visit a lad professed to be saved.

Mr. F. May, back from Australia, where he had been labouring for the Lord for some time, had two weeks of meetings at Levin in October.

1924: In May, Mr. Moor paid a visit to Levin. The Lord blessed his ministry. In July, Mr. Bernard Fox had two Lord's days but the weather had been rather against the meetings. In the course of visiting he came across two women who were anxious to be saved and both accepted Christ. The Annual Conference was held on May 25th and 26th and the large hired hall was filled.

Ministry was good, some very good and needful, many seemed helped. Speakers were: Messrs. Moor, Heal, Ferguson, Stout, Hunter, Anderson, Winter, Paton, Arbuckle and Balneaves.

1925: Fallen Asleep. On March 23rd, Mr. Charles Read, aged 65. Our brother came from England in 1893 and for about 25 years had been in fellowship at Ohau and Levin. Though not gifted for public ministry he has been a good help by advice and example, and a consistent testimony. He has left a widow and thirteen children, all saved and in fellowship.

Christ Jesus

“Himself, not gifts or blessings,
However rich and rare,
Himself the heart possessing,
Gives joy beyond compare.”

In April, Mr. George Menzies had two weeks of meetings and at the last meeting four souls professed to be saved. All were comparative strangers and had been attending the meetings and seemed real cases of conversion.

The Annual Conference was held on May 25th and 26th in the picture theatre, with a very large attendance. It was one of the best yet held in Levin. Practical, searching and edifying ministry was given by brethren Whitehead, Ferguson, Taylor, Menzies, Willacy and Barry.

1926: The usual two-days' conference meetings were held on May 23rd and 24th, the attendance probably reaching 400. Ministry was timely, practical and stirring. Speakers were: Brethren J. Chrystall, F. Ferguson, H. Taylor, C. W. Winter, E. Whitehead, Hale, Willacy, J. M. Murdoch, Balneaves, Boyce and Powell.

Mr. E. Whitehead began meetings in September, later being joined by Mr. H. Isaac. The people came out well and there was some fruit.

1927: Annual Conference meetings were duly held on May 22nd and 23rd in the De Luxe Theatre, Municipal Buildings. The attendance was good, the ministry good and profitable, and a nice spirit prevailed with much to give God thanks for. Speakers: R. Miller, Hamilton (Bolivia), J. Chrystall, F. Ferguson, G. Menzies, A. Witty and H. S. Taylor.

Mrs. Hamilton had a missionary meeting for sisters. Two lads confessed Christ as their Saviour. Mr. C. W. Winter had a few meetings in July with a little fruit in the Gospel. Mr. Mark Harrison had a few meetings in October for the help of the Lord's people. Though our brother is about eighty years of age, he is wonderfully sustained and able to continue quietly his ministry in the assemblies.

1928: In March, Messrs. E. Whitehead and S. Palmer began holding Tent Meetings in Levin. There was good interest with people turning out well to the meetings. Blessing from the Lord was expected and there was much prayer on behalf of this effort. The meetings continued on in April with the attendance continuing good and a number of unsaved coming in. One or two pro-

fessed to be saved but more were expected. The tent was later blown down by a severe gale and being late in the season it was decided not to put it up again but transfer the meetings to the Gospel Hall. The interest continued and God reached and saved some souls. The Annual Conference meetings were held on May 27th and 28th. A large number gathered from round the district. Ministry was good and the last meeting was a splendid finish with one soul being saved. Speakers were: Messrs. Ferguson, Miller, Whitehead, Chrystall, Anderson, Adam and Persson. The meetings that were being held by brethren E. Whitehead and S. Palmer were continued after the conference.

One night there was a baptism when twelve believers obeyed the Lord in this ordinance. Several more had applied and others were exercised about it, while some said they wanted to be saved but seemed to get no further.

1928: About the end of July, following the close of the tent meetings held by Mr. E. G. Whitehead and Mr. S. Palmer when a goodly number of souls were brought to Christ and a number baptised and received into fellowship, a young men's Bible Class was started in order to help the young converts. This was conducted by brethren R. D. and W. H. Rolston. A good number attended and some precious times were spent over the Word of God. A question box was also introduced and this proved very popular. By this means many questions of special interest to a company of young converts revelling in their first love, and zealous to learn and press forward in the things of the Lord, were dealt with. Sometimes the whole afternoon was taken up in dealing with these questions.

The ministry given generally took the form of verse by verse exposition, firstly going through the Book of the Acts. Thus were these young converts confirmed in the faith, once and for all delivered to the saints. The class continued to function until 1934 and many were profited by it.

In August, Mr. Forbes Macleod had several weeks of meetings, preaching the Gospel as well as confirming the newly saved ones during the visit of Messrs. Whitehead and Palmer. Despite much local sickness the interest was keen, several more confessed the Lord, and others were in a degree concerned. Some others expressed their desire for baptism and fellowship and there has been cause to praise God.

"How good is the God we adore,
Our faithful, unchangeable Friend;
Whose love is as great as His power,
And knows neither measure nor end."

In September, Mr. Henry Hitchmen, a visitor to this country from the Homeland, had nearly three weeks of meetings at Levin. The meetings were well attended with an excellent interest throughout. The believers have been much helped by the instructive addresses on assembly principles and were very desirous of hearing more. The last night there was a baptism. Mr. Forbes Macleod came up from Wellington when four believers obeyed the Lord in this Divine ordinance.

1929: In May, Mr. M. Harrison had three weeks of meetings. Besides meetings on the Lord's days he was able to conduct two other meetings during the week. The all-day meetings were held on May 19th and 20th and were well attended and generally enjoyed. There was good and needful ministry and beautiful weather. Speakers: J. Chrystall, W. Le Couteur, F. Ferguson, E. Whitehead, Driller, J. M. Murdoch and McNair.

1929: Fallen Asleep. On July 22nd, Mr. William Faloan, aged 55. Saved in Northern Ireland when about 15 years of age he was soon baptised and received into fellowship. He carried a steady and faithful testimony all through his life. Coming to New Zealand he spent about nine years in Levin and was a good help in the assembly. A man of high Christian principles and integrity he was very gracious and loving. Now he has completed 40 years of pilgrimage and entered into his rest.

In November-December, Mr. Geo. Menzies had a very good series of meetings at Levin where the people came out in increasing numbers and with growing interest all the five weeks he was there.

1930: The Conference was held this year on May 21st in the Century Hall which was well filled. The general impression was that God had been mindful of His people and gave suitable ministry. Speakers were: Messrs. Driller, Harrison, Gedge, Fox, Ferguson, Fulton, Chrystall, Johnson and Hart. During June, Mr. C. F. Gedge held special meetings in Levin. It was a time of help and blessing with profit to the believers. Souls have been saved and believers have been baptised, including four from Shannon.

In November the following announcement appeared in the "Treasury": "Mr. W. H. Beckett, commended by the assemblies at Hope (Nelson) and Levin, now believes after a long exercise of heart that God is calling him to the Belgian Congo to labour with Mr. Rout who heartily welcomes him. He is a schoolteacher by profession and has had some experience in Christian service. Our brother sailed on 10th of February, 1931. May God's rich blessing attend his service for Him."

1931: This year was marked by a disastrous earthquake which caused much alarm at Levin and doubtless terror to the unsaved. Within a few hours, however, the Dominion was made aware of the real seriousness and catastrophic proportions of the results at the centre of the disturbance which was the Hawke's Bay coast. A subsequent "Treasury" statement



Mr. and Mrs. W. Beckett. Mr. Beckett left Levin for service for the Lord in the Belgian Congo in 1931.

reads: "On February 3rd at fourteen

minutes to eleven in the morning, in beautiful summer weather, with everyone at their usual occupation or enjoyment, without a second's warning, a terrific series of shakes rocked and upheaved the towns of Napier and Hastings, and in a few seconds almost all the buildings in the business area crashed in a fearful roar, burying hundreds in the wreckage and severely injuring many hundreds more."

Napier suffered more than Hastings. "It was by far the greatest disaster which has befallen this fair Dominion." Fortunately the Gospel Hall at Napier escaped except for a few broken windows. One hall at Hastings was destroyed. Only two in assembly fellowship at Napier lost their lives and at Hastings one at Karamu Road and one at Nelson Street. There were altogether between 300 and 400 in fellowship in the two meetings. A few were injured. Karamu Road Hall, a wooden structure, was damaged by a falling building. Nelson Street Hall, all brick, fell down. An overwhelming calamity. Truly when God speaks He speaks loudly indeed. "All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean. To him that sacrificeth and to him that sacrificeth not" (Ecclesiastes 9:2).

Mr. Franklin Ferguson concluded in the "Treasury" his graphic account of the earthquake with these words: "In such times as these, what a comfort to the child of God are the words spoken through the Psalmist, 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear though the earth be removed . . . though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. . . . Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge' (Psa. 46)."

Fallen Asleep. On February 23rd, 1931, Mr. James Coppin; in his 75th year. He was a foundation member of the present Levin assembly and played a large and important part in the establishing of the assembly testimony in Levin. He also laboured in the Gospel in many localities and was well known in the Manawatu. He was the means used of the Lord to the founding of a number of New Zealand assemblies and in both Islands his ministry was blessed to many.

"We shall come with joy and gladness,
We shall gather round the Throne;
Face to face with those that love us,
We shall know as we are known;
And the song of our redemption,
Shall resound through endless day,
When the shadows have departed,
And the mists have rolled away."

The Annual Conference meetings were held in the Century Hall on May 27th, the hall being well filled again. Believers were helped by the ministry and one soul professed faith in Christ at the close. Speakers: Messrs. Hickman, Gedge, Perkins (India), Ferguson, Taylor, Russell, McNair and Hart.

In July, Mr. H. C. Hewlett had a series of meetings at Levin. The ministry was edifying and helpful, the Lord giving blessing on His Word.

1932: The Conference meetings were held on May 11th and had about the usual attendance with some helpful ministry. Speakers: Messrs. Hickman, Blick, Taylor, Whitehead, Russell, J. M. Murdoch, McNair and W. Blick (Malaya). Mr. Blick gave a short account of the work in Malaya in the evening. A "Treasury" note states: "Levin. Meetings are very encouraging here. Four have been baptised and received into fellowship recently." In August, Mr. G. A. Ritchie had two weeks of special meetings which were well attended. Jointly with the Otaki believers, encouraging meetings were held weekly at the Te Horo Unemployment Camp. Meetings were held in a long hut and good numbers came in and heard the Gospel."

1933: Fallen Asleep. At Levin, on February 18th, 1933, Mr. James Chrystall, at the advanced age of 86 years. After a short illness, there was called Home to be forever with the Lord our widely-known and esteemed brother. A faithful man, and one who feared God above many. (Neh. 7:2.) "Steadfast, always abounding in the work of the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58; Acts 11:24). He was well known in the Manawatu and laboured much there. The same could be said about him in most of the districts of New Zealand. There was hardly a corner of the Dominion he did not reach with the Gospel. He had an intimate knowledge of the Gospel which he proclaimed with no uncertain sound, and he won many souls for Christ. His ministry to the saints was rich, edifying, and Christ-exalting.

Eight young believers were baptised here on March 2nd, some being from Shannon.

Mr. A. Hickman followed on afterward with meetings specially for the young believers at first, and after that, helpful ministry for the saints generally. The attendance was very good and his visit much appreciated. The Annual Conference was held on May 24th. The attendance was not quite up to other years, but still, all present seemed to enjoy the meetings. Ministry was given by brethren Hale, Lynn, Bates, Taylor, Stewart, Hickman and others. Mr. J. Wilson had three weeks of meetings here, his ministry being appreciated and fruitful. Eight believers obeyed the Lord in baptism on August 24th.

In December, Mr. J. Spottiswoode spent a week with three Lord's days at Levin. His ministry was rich and profitable. Mr. J. Clark also spent a week at Levin when he did a good deal of tract distributing and visiting.

The years 1933-34 proved to be a period of great difficulty and distress when the enemy of souls made a determined attempt to destroy the testimony in Levin. The assembly was specially blessed at this time in having in its midst such men of calibre and long years of Christian experience as Mr. John Phillips, Mr. H. Saint, Senr., Mr. William Read, Senr., and Mr. J. M. Murdoch;

also a number of brethren of slightly less experience, yet altogether quite capable of handling the assembly's affairs and dealing with any circumstances which arose.

So, in spite of this master-stroke of the enemy, during this time the assembly, though slightly reduced in numbers, continued to function normally and maintain the testimony as it had done for twenty-seven years, and has continued to do so even until now, 1956. The Lord has continued to save souls from time to time and added them to the company which now far exceeds in number anything previously experienced.

"Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock" (Matt. 7:24-25).

"Behold I come quickly: hold fast that which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem which cometh down from heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches" (Rev. 3:11-13).

1934: Fallen Asleep. At Levin, on January 20th, Mr. John Phillips; in his 92nd year. Our late brother was born in Pembroke, South Wales. Seventy years ago he came to New Zealand, landing at Wellington. Shortly after he was brought under the sound of the Gospel at Turakina and was saved. Soon after his conversion he came into contact with a few believers at Wanganui who gathered simply in the Name of the Lord, and united with them. Enjoying good health he was able to attend meetings and was a help in assembly matters almost until his Home Call. About 1876 he removed to Feilding where he resided for 30 years. He came to Levin in 1906 and was a foundation member of the present assembly, where he helped to establish and maintain the Testimony. He sought to feed the saints and shepherd the flock, and held tenaciously to the Word of God. He was a good visitor, much given to hospitality, was well known and respected by many, and was much missed by the assembly.

1934: The young women's Bible Class held on Sunday afternoons had been conducted for some years by Mr. Wm. Read, Senr. About the middle of this year he relinquished this responsibility. The class was then conducted by Mr. W. H. Rolston for a short period.

1935: About the beginning of this year the Bible Class was changed over to a ministry meeting. This meeting was carried on regularly until December, 1940, proved to be a very profitable time for the saints, with good numbers attending. The late Mr. J. M. Murdoch took a leading part in the ministry. Taking one chapter for each meeting in his turn, he ably covered the 1st and 2nd Epistles to the Corinthians in verse by verse expositions. His ministry, which he continued up to his Home Call, was always

refreshing. Mr. W. H. Rolston also covered in turn the Epistles to Philippians, Colossians, 1st and 2nd Timothy, and Titus in verse by verse expositions.

Mr. H. R. Keys shared in the responsibility, his ministry taking the form of devotional and instructive subjects to edification. Mr. R. D. Rolston gave valuable help in ministry at the commencement before commencing a Sunday School at Hokio. Mr. P. E. Read gave good help until he moved away from Levin. Mr. A. Whiley, on coming from Ohau to reside in Levin in 1939, took his part in the ministry, which was sweet and refreshing, having in view the pre-eminence of Christ and His imminent return. Mr. J. Maskell, a frequent visitor to Levin and for a short time resident here, shared the ministry and was much appreciated. This also applied to the ministry given by other casual visitors from time to time.

The Annual Conference was held on May 16th, the attendance being the largest for two or three years. The ministry was practical and searching. Speakers were: Brethren Buchanan (India), Hickman, Clark, Ferguson, Hart, Whitehead, Pepperel and Taylor.

1935: The Annual Conference was changed from the usual date in May to Anzac Day, April 25th, and held in the Century Hall.

Fallen Asleep. On December 26th, Mr. William Read, Senr.; aged 73 years. The late Mr. Read was saved as a young man in South Wales. He came to New Zealand in 1893, became associated with the assembly at Ohau about 1900, then moved to Levin in 1914 where he was associated with the Oxford Street assembly until his Home Call. He was a brother specially gifted for work among the young people and laboured much in Sunday School work at Ohau and Bible Class work at Levin. Many a young believer, including the writer, was helped and encouraged by him. He was very tactful in speaking to individuals concerning spiritual things. His Christian life was exemplary and the fruit of his labours are still in evidence. He was a help in the assembly and his wisdom in assembly matters was of a high standard.

Conference was held as usual in the Century Hall on Anzac Day, April 25th.

Fallen Asleep. At Levin, May 21st, Mr. H. Saint; aged 77 years. Born in Somerset, our brother was Born Again through a Congregational S.S. teacher. He came to New Zealand when 19 years of age and resided in Wellington for some years, where he was baptised. Later he took up land at Manakau. Afterward he removed to Ohau where he came into fellowship with Christians gathered to the Lord's Name and took a leading part in the assembly for many years. Was later associated with the assembly at Foxton for a short time and latterly at Oxford Street, Levin. He bore a continuous and consistent testimony for the Lord till his Home Call. His ministry in the Gospel and to the Lord's people was always fresh and to edification, and it could be truly said of him, "He oft refreshed me" (2 Tim. 1:16).

In August, Mr. John Clark, Senr., held three weeks of meetings at the Gospel Hall, the Lord giving blessing. Three professed salvation and three others were baptised.

Mr. Bernard Fox had four weeks of meetings in November-December, speaking chiefly on the Lord's return. His ministry was searching and edifying.

CAMP RALLY

1937: The following notes are taken from "Radiant Youth" Magazine of February, 1937: "Levin. We (campers) decided to hold a camp rally in Gospel Hall, and to the rally call campers came from Palmerston North and Wellington. Who could resist the bond that binds campers in a fellowship of prayer and service. Commencing from 2 p.m. with bright singing under the leadership of Bro. H. Barham, we soon reached camp pitch. Bro. Barham followed, taking as his subject 'Truth in its different aspects'. Bro. S. Cunningham, from Judges 20, gave a helpful word, and Bro. J. Downie closed the afternoon session with an appeal through the Gospel.

"Ministry was resumed after a hearty sing of camp songs and choruses. Bro. R. Hewetson spoke of the greatest knowledge, the Will of God, and the greatest achievement, to do that Will. Bro. A. G. Pegler gave an interesting talk on different phases of Faith from Matt. 6:8, 14, 16, 17. 'What sign sheweth thou?' was the searching question asked by Bro. N. Pallison. What sign do we show at home, at work, to the world, that we are Christ's? Several local brethren followed, giving helpful counsel and comfort to all. The countenances of all gave evidence that we had experienced a real time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord." —P. E. Read (camper).

The Annual Conference meetings were held on April 24th and 25th. Helpful and refreshing ministry was given by visiting brethren, Messrs. Ferguson, Stewart, J. Clark, Senr., and W. Richards.

1938: Conference was held on April 25th in the Century Hall, which was well filled. The weather cleared up and the day was comfortable. Attendance was specially good. The evening meeting was held in the Gospel Hall. Ministry was given in good variety and was Christ-exalting. Speakers: Messrs. Dunford Senr., R. King, W. Le Couteur, John Wallace, W. Hart, R. James, J. M. Murdoch, P. Le Couteur, P. Drake, T. Pratt, A. Hare and E. Coppin.

1939: Many hundreds of Gospel booklets were distributed among the airmen and soldiers entering the town on Sunday evenings during the war period, the work of distributing being done by members of the assembly. The record is kept above, and the Day will declare the results fully, to God's glory. Mr. Wesley Richards commenced a three weeks' series of meetings in the Gospel Hall on January 8th, using his chart of "Daniel's Image". There was a good attendance of believers and others and several were exercised about fellowship.

On March 11th a Young People's Conference was held in the Gospel Hall with meetings in the afternoon and evening. A good number came together and a very profitable time was spent over the Word of God. The ministry was given in good variety, blended well, and was instructive and edifying.

The first speaker in the afternoon was Mr. R. D. Rolston who, after extending a hearty welcome to all the visitors, read 1 Thess., Chap. 1., and elaborated on "A Model Assembly", the chief characteristics of which are Faith, Love and Hope.

Mr. E. Edwards read John 4:5, 27:35. He drew attention to the fields that are white unto harvest, and contrasted material things (verse 8) with spiritual things (verses 32, 34) and opportunities that are ours today, to do the Will of the Lord.

Mr. Patiki, a native of Ruatoria (saved only three weeks) gave his testimony and told of wonderful experiences following his conversion to God. Mr. Roldie King read John 4:3. He must needs go. It cost Him something to go through Samaria. He was weary with His journey. Samaria was neighbour to Jerusalem. We need to be neighbourly with our neighbours and win them for Christ, and brotherly with our brethren for Christ's sake.

Mr. J. M. Murdoch very fittingly opened the evening meeting, reading Heb. 6:1, and elaborated on the need to go on to perfection, grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, reading the Word of God, waiting upon Him in prayer, not neglecting the assembling of ourselves together, going on from faith to faith, and strength to strength, making spiritual progress.

Mr. C. Johnson followed, reading Heb. 4:14-16. We have a great High Priest that is passed into the heavens, come boldly unto the throne of grace! What for? To obtain mercy and grace to help in time of need. The Lord Jesus hungered, yet was the bread of life. The Lord Jesus thirsted, yet was the water of life. The Lord Jesus was weary, but could say, "Come and I will give you rest."

Mr. C. W. Read followed with Heb. 5:6. Eternal Priesthood of Christ, not after the order of Melchisedec (Heb. 7:21), having made one sacrifice for sins forever sat down at the right hand of God (Heb. 10:12), He (Christ) the forerunner is for us entered (Heb. 6:20). The One who is touched with the feeling of our infirmity (Heb. 6:20) and succours those who are tempted.

Mr. F. Howard spoke of Christian experience and read Matt. 9:2, "Thy sins be forgiven thee", the starting point (conversion), Matt. 14:24, tossed by the waves (not all plain sailing); Matt. 14:25, Jesus went unto them (Jesus at hand); Matt. 14:27, Jesus speaks, "Be of good cheer; it is I, be not afraid."

Mr. J. Maskell (Auckland) spoke from Mark 10:42, 45, and 2 Tim. 4:1-11. The believers to be servants to minister to others. The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and give His life a ransom for many.

Mr. W. H. Rolston, the last speaker, read 1 Tim. 3:14-15, and Heb. 13:7, 17, emphasising the need of behaviour in the House of God, the House of God being the Church gathered together in assembly capacity; the need for being present (not at home), and giving the local Church (or assembly) their whole strength and co-operation.

The Annual Conference meetings were held in the Century Hall on April 25th. About 200 attended and a very profitable time was experienced. Speakers: Messrs. A. Hart, J. Clark, Senr., J. M. Murdoch, W. Richards, N. Rowe, J. Maskell, I. Persson and Ladd. The evening meeting was in the Gospel Hall. A number gave their testimony and ministry, followed by brethren J. Chrystall, R. King and J. Clark, Senr.

Fallen Asleep. On April 30th, Mr. Edward Buchanan, Senr., in his 84th year. Our brother was born in Sydney and came to N.Z. with his parents as a boy. He was led to Christ through brethren Hinman and Anderson in the early part of the revival at Rongotea in 1881. He was baptised shortly after and came into fellowship at Rongotea. Later he came to Levin and resided there for some time, finally moving to Palmerston North about 1925, where he remained until his Home Call. He was a helpful brother and an asset to the assemblies with which he was associated. He was a God-fearing man but fearless in his association with his fellow-men, always ready to speak a word for his Master, a wise counsellor and one to whom one could go with implicit confidence. He was respected by all who knew him.

“Character is the highest peak of the Christian life; for just as fruit is the outcome of life in a tree, so true character is the fruit of Christian living and is the best proof of its existence.”

Fallen Asleep. At Levin, December 19th, Mr. J. M. Murdoch. Our brother's sudden Home Call came as a great shock to many, and his passing was a great loss to the Oxford Street Gospel Hall assembly where he had been in fellowship for the last six years. Saved in early life, he afterwards came to New Zealand, and coming into contact with believers gathered to the Lord's Name was baptised in Palmerston North about 1895 and came into fellowship at Pohangina where he resided for many years. He followed the teaching profession. He was associated with the first Manawatu Gospel Carriage (horse-drawn) and served with it for a short time, and up to the time of his Home Call was a trustee. He was interested in tract work, introduced the Postal Tract work into the assembly at Levin, and led this work till the time of his death. He was a very able minister of the Word and many were the refreshing messages given by him to the edification of the saints, both in the assembly and at conference meetings. On the Lord's Day before his Home Call he ministered from 1 Cor. 12:31 on “The more excellent way”. In keeping with his ministry he maintained a very high and consistent Christian standard. He served the assembly well. Now at Home with the Lord.

"When I shall gaze upon the face of Him
Who died for me, with eye no longer dim,
And praise Him with the everlasting hymn,
I shall be satisfied, be satisfied."

1940: On March 7th, Mr. E. D. Rout (missionary from Africa) gave a very interesting address on missionary work in Africa. A good company was present. On Tuesday, April 9th, Mr. A. G. Compton (Auckland) gave an interesting and informative address on the Ebenezer Printing Press work and Missionary Rest Home in Auckland, illustrated with lantern slides.

The Annual Conference meetings were held on Anzac Day, April 25th, morning and afternoon in the Century Hall and an evening meeting in the Gospel Hall. The day was fine and the attendance good. Speakers: Messrs. I. Persson, G. E. Rowe, N. Rowe, W. Le Couteur, A. Anderson, A. Kemp and R. King. On Sunday, May 26th, Mr. W. Le Couteur spent the Lord's Day with us and took the Gospel meeting in the evening. On Sunday afternoon Mr. E. Edwards gave a very interesting outline of the work among the Maori soldiers in the Military Camp at Palmerston North. During the month of June, Mr. F. C. Saxton took the Gospel meeting each Sunday night at the Gospel Hall, and also Sunday afternoon meetings, speaking from his Dispensational chart. The ministry given was appreciated.

Mr. H. C. Hewlett held three weeks of meetings during July and gave splendid ministry.

In December, Mr. J. W. Clapham spent two Lord's Days with the assembly, taking both Gospel meetings; also three meetings during the week. The Century Hall was engaged for Tuesday night and it was packed with people to hear the address given on Palestine, Egypt, etc., and illustrated with slides. The address was most interesting and informative.

1941: In February, Mr. Bury, schoolmaster from Ootacamund, India, spent eight days at Oxford Street Gospel Hall. He took the Sunday afternoon ministry meeting and Gospel address in the evening. He also had two meetings for ministry as well as one describing school work in India and the work of missionaries there. The Annual Conference was held on Anzac Day, April 25th. Company not quite so large as last year. Speakers: Messrs. I. Persson, A. Kemp, Burt, W. Le Couteur, N. Rowe, D. Hewlett, A. Kristensen, W. Ormerod and H. Linton. Mr. Burt gave a most interesting address on missionary work in connection with assemblies.

On June 17th, Mr. H. Isaac paid a visit and held a week of meetings, giving very profitable ministry. On June 28th, Mr. E. Edwards gave an address on Maori work, illustrated by lantern slides.

1942: No Conference was held this year owing to petrol restrictions and to no trains running on Anzac Day. Commencing on April 19th, Mr. J. Clark had three weeks of meetings in the

Gospel Hall with blessing resulting. Mr. G. Menzies had special meetings with the assembly from November 29th to December 6th, taking afternoon ministry meetings and the Gospel on the two Lord's Days as well as four week-night meetings. The ministry was of a high standard, and very profitable, with good interest and numbers.

1943: No Conference meetings were held this year.

Fallen Asleep. On October 12th, Mr. Alfred Whiley, of Levin. Our brother was born at Wainuiomata in 1866. As a young man, together with his elder brother, Mr. Walter Whiley, of Ohau, he walked from Longburn to Ohau. On arriving at a point just south of the Levin railway station, where the Levin saleyards now stand, darkness came on, and not being able to proceed further they spread out their blankets in the bush and slept under the trees. Next day they continued their tramp to Ohau and traversed the Ohau River up to where the Muhunoa East bridge now spans the river. About 71 years ago the two brothers assisted in clearing the bush for the railway line and the main road between Ohau and Levin. Our brother was brought to know Christ as his Saviour through the ministry of the late Mr. C. H. Hinman. He was a foundation member of the assembly at Ohau in 1890 and was in fellowship there for almost 50 years. He then shifted to Levin and met with the Oxford Street assembly. He was a fine Gospel preacher and his ministry to the saints was always gentle and bore a sweet savour of Christ. His long experience made him a wise counsellor, a faithful overseer and a brother beloved.

"But oh, how glad my soul will be,
When, through His love and grace,
He calls me from this earth away,
To meet Him face to face!"

Mr. G. Menzies spent three weeks in Levin in November and December, having meetings at both halls.

1944: Mr. W. Richards had five weeks of meetings at Oxford Street Gospel Hall. Interest and attendance were good.

1945: No Conference held and the year seems to have been a quiet one, other than the assembly's usual activities.

1946: As no Conference meetings had been held since April 25th, 1941, owing to petrol restrictions, etc., it was cheering to have them recommenced. The Conference was held on April 6th, the place of gathering being the Gospel Hall, Oxford Street. The day was slightly wet, nevertheless a good number came together and the hall was well packed. A good time was experienced. Speakers: Messrs. Kemp, Tilyard, Hamilton, Pepperell, Palmer and Clapham. The evening meeting was taken by our brother Clapham.

Mr. Colin Graham had four weeks of meetings at Oxford Street Hall in August-September, holding four meetings a week

with encouraging results. A number of both young and old were converted and six obeyed the Lord in baptism and were added to the assembly.

1947: Mr. E. Coppin began meetings during February, having a meeting first in each hall for the Christians, followed by special Gospel meetings in the "Welcome Hut" specially erected for the purpose. Over 160 were present the first night and the daily meeting at 3 p.m. for children was well attended. Mr. Clapham helped on the opening days. A live interest was maintained by Christians and a number professed conversion. The children's work flourished, with up to 100 attending the daily after-school session. Mr. Roy Munn helped with the visiting from door to door, in song-leading and in the children's services. Mr. Coppin concluded his 12 weeks' campaign on April 30th with a very happy thanksgiving fellowship tea. The assemblies have both been greatly blessed through this united effort and quite a number of souls have been saved and others restored to the Lord. One encouraging feature was the children's sessions immediately after school, when up to 150 attended with many definite conversions. Towards the close of the meetings baptisms were held in each hall, when over 20 were baptised, a number of whom have been received into fellowship. Others were to be baptised later.

The Conference meetings were held again on May 10th, this time in the Century Hall. The weather was fine and a good company came together. Speakers: Messrs. A. Kemp, I. Persson, L. Taylor, Hale, Howan, Witty, R. King, A. Bull, and R. Munn. The burden of the ministry in the morning was: "Departure from God and disobedience to His Word", the trend of ministry in the afternoon "Restoration and going into the Sanctuary of God", and the line of thought in the evening was "Witnessing to an exalted and pre-eminent Lord, as a result of a vision of His holiness".

In May, Everyboy's and Everygirl's Rally was commenced.

1948: The Annual Conference meetings were held in the Century Hall on April 10th. The weather was fine and a good company present. Speakers: Messrs. Curle, R. Auld, W. Noble, H. C. Hewlett, and C. J. Drake. Messrs. Drake and Tilyard took the evening meeting.

November "Treasury": "Miss Kath McNaughton, who has been commended from Levin and Dunedin assemblies, purposes leaving for India as soon as shipping is available. She will be with Miss Talbot at Ootacamund while studying the Tamil language."

1949: In April the Gospel Hall was provided with new seating throughout, thus giving greater comfort. Most of the old seats were disposed of.

The Annual Conference was held on May 21st. Weather was fine and again a good company of the Lord's people gathered and profited by the ministry given by brethren J. F. Crane (Fiji), Gordon Ritchie (India), Eaves, E. Buchanan (India), A. Packer and J. Allen (Hastings).

1950: Miss K. McNaughton left Auckland with Mr. and Mrs. G. Junk on January 4th, en route to India. In February, 1952, she married Mr. Ron Appleby, an English missionary, and continued to serve the Lord until their recent furlough. We wish them both God's richest blessing in their service for the Lord in the land of India.



Mr. and Mrs. R. Appleby and daughter. Mrs. Appleby (nee Miss Kath McNaughton) left Levin to serve the Lord in India in 1950.

1950: The Annual Conference meetings were held this year on Saturday, March 25th, and continued on Sunday afternoon. The weather was fine both days. Number present was rather less than usual. Ministry was given by brethren Chenery, Trew, Buchanan, and Harrison. In the evening meeting Mr. Hathaway gave an address to young people and was followed by Mr. Chenery and Mr. Buchanan. Finally Mr. Archer gave a most impressive message in the Gospel. Speakers on Sunday afternoon were: Messrs. Eaves, Chenery and Buchanan. "Thanks be unto God," "He failleth not."

Mr. E. Coppin began a three-weeks' campaign with the assembly on November 19th. The interest gradually increased and a number of souls confessed Christ as their Saviour. To God be all the Glory, both now and forevermore. A number were baptised and received into fellowship.

Some improvements were made inside the hall, the old platform being removed and a new movable pulpit provided. The baptistry was also rebuilt.

1951: The Annual Conference was held on April 14th. The weather was ideal and a large crowd gathered to hear the Word of God. Speakers: Mr. A. McLeod Smith, Mr. H. C. Hewlett, Dr. Edwards (Sydney) and Stokes; then on Sunday afternoon, Mr. J. Clark and Dr. Edwards. The ministry generally was profitable.

On October 24th, Mr. Fred Elliott paid a visit to Levin and held a series of special Gospel meetings at Oxford Street Gospel Hall. These were well attended throughout the campaign. Some fruit was gleaned and several were baptised and received into assembly fellowship. His ministry was much appreciated.

Fallen Asleep. At Levin, on June 16th, Mr. Robert D. Rolston; aged 57. Saved at Ohau at the age of 13 our brother came into fellowship there in November, 1909, and was for the last 35 years connected with the Oxford Street assembly in Levin. Our brother was a good Gospel preacher and a winner of souls, while his ministry in the assembly was rich and edifying and a help to

many. He was diligent in his service for the Lord, often travelling many miles with horse and gig to preach the Gospel, sometimes arriving home near midnight. Later he used his own car freely for his Lord. Many a soul has blessed the Lord through hearing the Gospel from his lips. He could adapt himself to almost any circumstances and was always ready to speak a word for his Master in season and out of season. His ministry at conferences was appreciated. He was a veteran of the 1st World War and had many opportunities of witnessing for the Lord, both in the Homeland and in France. Now his labours are over and his work on earth is done. The race has been run, the battle fought, the victory won, and he has gone to his reward.

Also on July 6th, Mr. F. Howard, of Levin; aged 70. He was born in Ashley Clinton and was brought to know Christ as his Saviour at the age of 17 at the time of the Hawke's Bay revival. He enjoyed 53 years of unbroken fellowship at Rongotea, Palmerston North and for the last 34 years at Levin with the Oxford Street assembly where he took a leading part. His messages to the saints were always sweet and he was a very dear brother in the Lord.

The Lord took these two dear brethren from our midst within 20 days of each other and both of them could be ill spared. Truly the ways of God are past finding out, but He makes no mistakes and so we bow to His Will.

"How lovely are the faces of the men who walk with God,
Lit with an inner radiance of the path their feet have trod!
How gentle is the manner of a man who talks with Him;
No strength can overcome him, and no cloud his courage dim."

1952: The Annual Conference meetings were held in the Century Hall, Queen Street, on Saturday, March 29th, morning and evening, and Sunday afternoon in the Gospel Hall. Speakers on this occasion were brethren F. Elliott (London), C. J. Drake, R. Auld and others. At the meeting in the Century Hall on Saturday evening Mr. Elliott handed to Mr. Toka Graham, as representing the Poroutawhao Maori Christian Assembly, a nicely bound Bible, a gift from his assembly in London. A lovely gesture, the gift was received by Mr. Graham on behalf of the Poroutawhao assembly with grateful thanks and appreciation.

In October of this year the sisters of the Oxford Street assembly began holding a Women's Friendly Hour meeting. These meetings were to be continued one afternoon each month. May the Lord add His blessing to this important effort to reach the women of Levin with the Gospel.

1953: January "Treasury": "Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sim have been commended by the Oxford Street assembly to the work of the Lord in New Guinea. They expect to leave for Melbourne on January 2nd to take a course in linguistics and tropical medicine, and then to return to New Zealand before finally leaving for New Guinea."

The Annual Conference meetings were held on April 18th and good ministry was given by a number of brethren. Mr. E.

Buchanan took his message from Isaiah 40:3-9, "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, 'Behold your God!'" Mr. C. G. Grant followed with the subject of "Walking in newness of life". Mr. D. A. Hewlett spoke on "A life devoted to Christ". Then Mr. Grant started the second session with "The Christian life governed by the Word of God", and Mr. Cappie concluded with "Being crucified with Christ".

Fallen Asleep. Here we would refer to the terrible railway disaster that took place at Tangiwai on Christmas Eve, 1953, which caused the loss of 151 lives. Amongst these were two young men, Messrs. Allan Drown and Thomas Rowe Scott Moir, the latter the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Moir. Allan was associated with the Tory Street Assembly and was a keen Christian worker, whilst Thomas was associated with both meetings in Levin. He was especially active in Rally work and young people's work generally. Having known him so well the author would here testify to the loss sustained by his untimely death. Saved in early life at the age of 19, he was baptised about six years ago. He was regarded as a promising young Christian, gentle and courteous, and was a lover of good things. Truly the Lord picked a beautiful flower from His garden while the bud was just opening out into full bloom. His ways are past finding out.

"With Christ! brief word, all human thoughts transcending,
To tell its bliss the mortal tongue must fail,
Earth has no speech, and mind no comprehending,
For that blest state which dwells within the veil."

The following account is gleaned from February issue of the "Treasury", 1954.

Tangiwai

On Christmas Day, 1953, the shadow of sorrow lay deeply upon the people of New Zealand. About 10.20 p.m. on Christmas Eve the Wellington-Auckland express met with disaster at Tangiwai, and death came quickly to more than one hundred and fifty persons. It appears that the water of the lake in the crater of Mt. Ruapehu burst through its wall of ice and a devastating torrent swept down the mountainside to meet the doomed express at the shattered bridge. There was thus no element of human error, but an "act of God" permitted in His far-seeing purposes for His creatures. Surely God has spoken to the people of this country, and to us each one, reminding of the brevity of life, and the need for readiness to enter eternity. At Tangiwai the end came suddenly. At the most there were but moments of shock, and then death. God, who is "long-suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish", has spoken by this disaster, but how soon His voice is forgotten, and men and women are intent again upon the affairs of life and forget their urgent need of the Salvation wrought by His Son at Calvary.

In the pain of such happenings, the people of God are not necessarily exempt. They are called upon to know both the joys and sorrows common to human life, and in them to show to those around the triumph of the Saviour's grace. Among those wh-

died in this accident were some of God's children, cut off in the bright promise of early life, and including two young men in assembly fellowship. The sincere and loving sympathy of our readers will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Drown, of Wellington, in the loss of their son Allan, and to Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Moir, of Levin, in the loss of their son Thomas.

That believers should be taken in the vigour and hope of early years has ever been fraught with mystery, though not to our God who sees the end from the beginning and acts in perfect wisdom and love. In the glory of heaven we shall understand this enigma and marvel at the wonder and the achievement of God's purposes.—H.C.H.

1954: The Annual Conference meetings were held in the Century Hall on May 8th. Speakers were: Mr. Ransome, Mr. W. Cooper who spoke on the subject of "The Holy Trinity of the Godhead", Mr. C. C. Graham who spoke on "The Holy Spirit", Mr. W. J. Burrows on "The growth of an assembly", and Mr. R. Greenfield of Him Who is "The Branch", "The King", "The Servant", and "The Son of God", etc.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Sim left New Zealand on 11th June to serve the Lord in New Guinea. May the Lord richly bless them in their service for Him.

In September, Mr. C. C. Graham began a campaign of four weeks in an effort to reach the unsaved in Levin. The main meetings were held in the Regent Theatre where up to 600 people were present on occasions and a large number professed to receive Christ as their personal Saviour. Twenty-four were baptised and received into fellowship, some in each of the surrounding assemblies, Oxford Street, Queen Street, Poroutawhao (Maori assembly) and Foxton. Others have been restored and are now back in fellowship. Most who professed conversion were adults.



Mr. and Mrs. W. Sim, who left Levin for service for the Lord in New Guinea in June, 1954.

Fallen Asleep. On September 4th, Mr. Alan E. Keys; aged 82 years. At the age of 20 our brother was brought to Christ through the ministry of the late Mr. C. H. Hinman at Upper Hutt, and came into fellowship there, where he remained for about 33 years.

His last 30 years were spent in Levin where he was associated with the Oxford Street assembly. He bore a good testimony for the Lord and though he did not take audible part in the assembly he lost no opportunity to speak to those with whom he associated and worked, warning them to get right with God while they had opportunity. He was a quiet and loving brother and did not care for the limelight. He was regular at the meetings and appreciated ministry that exalted Christ. Among his last words were, "He died for me, and He rose again for me." A good man that feared God, and loved the Lord!

1955: Fallen Asleep. At Levin, on February 13th, Mr. Samuel Rolston; aged 63. Our brother was saved in early boyhood at Ohau and came into fellowship there in November, 1909. He took an active part in the assembly both in the Gospel and in ministry to the saints and was one of the few remaining to hold the fort when the assembly ceased in October, 1939. He then shifted to Tawa Flat where there was a new assembly and gave valuable help there until he shifted to Levin about the end of 1952. For the last 2½ years he has been associated with the Oxford Street assembly. He was rich in scripture knowledge and was able to bring out of its treasure things old and new. His ministry on the Lord's coming was a rich feast. Such men can ill be spared in these days. He suffered much during his lifetime, undergoing many surgical operations which he bore with patience, and his spirit always rose above his circumstances, thus enabling him to at all times speak well of Christ whom he had come to know and love and serve. Now he has finished his course, he has kept the faith and gone in to see the King in all His beauty and grandeur and glory, and to be like Him forever.

"When the silver cord is broken,
And this mortal life is o'er,
With ten thousand times ten thousand,
I shall sing for evermore."

May 21st: The Conference was held this year in the Oxford Street Gospel Hall in the afternoon and evening only. A profitable time was spent.

In October, Mr. R. W. McAdam had three weeks of meetings in the hall, giving valuable ministry on the subject of "The Tabernacle in the Wilderness". This was forcefully illustrated by a beautiful model of the Tabernacle which he brought with him from London. Mr. McAdam later had another series of meetings, taking as the subject of his addresses "The Holy Spirit". The ministry was very profitable indeed and much appreciated by the Christians.

1956: The Annual Conference meetings were held on Saturday, May 12th, and the Sunday afternoon following.

In June-July brethren Watts and Muir, with the Manawatu Bible Coach, came to Levin and visited surrounding districts with some encouragement. Thus the seed continues to be sown. The Day of Christ alone will declare the full harvest. To Him be all the praise.



Manawatu and West Coast Gospel Caravan, 1955.

The October "Treasury" announced that "the Oxford Street Gospel Hall assembly expected (D.V.) to hold its Golden Jubilee Conference on November 10th and 11th. A large number of Christians associated with the assembly over the years were expected to be present and old acquaintances would be renewed. The saints were looking forward to a good season of refreshing from the Lord."

About four years ago a "Women's Friendly Hour" meeting was started by the sisters, and held once a month. This still continues, and has proved a splendid means of service. Large numbers of the women of the town attend and there have been cases of conversion.

Over the years a great number of missionaries have visited the assembly, mostly to have one missionary meeting. These visits have not been included in this history generally, not for lack of interest but because of lack of record. This also applies in the case of ministering brethren who have paid only casual and brief visits, but all such have been appreciated and enjoyed.

From our hearts we exclaim, "Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion, forever and ever. Amen." (Rev. 1:5-6.)

On October 25th, Mr. Colin Price, from Equatorial Africa, associate of the late Dr. John Olley, who, after being commended from the New Zealand assemblies, spent 37 years on the Mission Field without a furlough, gave an account of the latter's missionary work in that land, illustrated with lantern slides. The meeting was well attended by believers who greatly appreciated the interesting and informative address.

During the month the assembly posted out to the people of Levin nearly 2000 copies of a special and attractive issue of the book, "The Reason Why", written by Mr. R. A. Laidlaw, together with an invitation to the special Jubilee Gospel meeting to be held in the Gospel Hall on November 11th.

In October-November, Mr. E. Coppin preached the Gospel on three Sunday evenings. On the final occasion, November 4th, a young woman confessed Christ as Saviour.

At this stage in the history of the assembly, and having in view a function to celebrate the Golden Jubilee, it would seem appropriate to make the following comments:

The assembly is much honoured in having in its membership one nonagenarian, Mrs. Buchanan, Snr., and four octogenarians, Mrs. Murdoch, Mrs. Whiley, Snr., Mrs. Alsop and Mrs. Jefferies. These dear sisters, who have been so signally blessed of the Lord with long life on the earth, have graced the assembly gatherings with their presence and fellowship for many years. We wish them all God's richest blessing

with health and peace in the days that are left to them. "For by Me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased" (Prov. 9:11).



Gospel Hall, Oxford Street, Levin, 1956,
after alterations had been effected.

"And shall I really see Thee glorious Lord?
Who though unseen, and worshipped, loved, adored,
What joy and rapture fill my longing heart,
To think that I shall see Thee as Thou art.
Shall stand before Thee, perfect, spotless, whole,
Fruit of Thy suffering, travail of Thy soul,
O joy of joys, O ecstasy of bliss,
What thought can measure such a thought as this?"

Sisters have in their particular sphere, and in so many ways, played a large and important part in the life of the assembly over the years, and we can indeed say "Thank God for our sisters!" "She hath done what she could" (Mark 14:8).

Other activities of the assembly are young people's meetings, Everyboy's and Everygirl's Rallies, also Gospel efforts on the beaches during summer holidays, and, of course, Sunday School and Bible Class work.

It would seem appropriate here to pay tribute to the many brethren both past and present who have served the Lord in the assembly, in leading the assembly in worship and prayer and also contributing such ministry to the saints as devotional exhortation and instruction. Also the many responsibilities which fall to their lot in shepherding the flock and maintaining the testimony over the years, both in times of prosperity and times of adversity. All that has been done for the Lord's sake will receive its reward in a coming day.

“And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake” (Phil. 1:28-29).

Over the past few years some alterations have been made to the hall. The front porch has been removed and a new vestibule built. Also the hall has been extended by moving the rear wall back, thus including the original prayer room in the main hall. A new room and all conveniences have been built on behind it, and new seating provided throughout, thus making the building adequate for present day conditions. The inside of the hall has been suitably painted and lighted with modern fluorescent lighting. Seven very suitable and appropriate texts (six of which were an anonymous gift to the assembly), all artistically painted in colours, and expressed in “Old English”, adorn the walls, thus speaking a word of warning and a message of Salvation to those in need.

The clock hanging on the wall, given to the assembly at its commencement by the late Mr. Frank Dunford, and which has given continuous service for fifty years, still continues to tick off the hours that pass into eternity, thus reminding us that we only pass this way but once.

And now in 1956 another anonymous gift of a lovely piano has been received. It is much appreciated by the assembly. Thanks to each and all the donors!

1956: November.—A special meeting was held in the Gospel Hall on Wednesday, September 5th, to consider the matter of the Jubilee Conference when 10 brethren and four sisters were present. Many phases of the proposed conference were considered. The following were appointed to be responsible for the catering arrangements for the occasion: Messrs. G. W. and K. L. Read and Mesdames W. T. Wilson, O. H. Nikolaison, V. T. Whiley, and Miss G. Phillips. It was also decided to set up a special committee to be responsible for the arrangement of the special reunion meeting to be held in the Gospel Hall on Saturday evening, November 10th. The following brethren were duly appointed: Messrs. W. T. Wilson, S. B. Read, V. T. Whiley, J. R. Champion and W. H. Rolston.

The special Conference meetings celebrating the fifty years of the assembly's existence were duly held on November 10th and 11th. The weather was partly fine, some rain falling at times. Nevertheless there was a good company present, including old members who had become scattered over the years. Some came from as far as Auckland in the north, and others from Nelson in the south, and a wonderful time of refreshing was experienced in meeting old friends and sitting together under the ministry which was throughout of a high standard, instructive and edifying to the saints.

Saturday morning and afternoon meetings for ministry were held in the Masonic Hall and meals were prepared and served in

the Memorial Hall. The sisters excelled in the dinner enjoyed by all at midday, and the evening meal was also splendidly prepared. Miss Mary Phillips, the one remaining foundation member still in the Oxford Street assembly, cut the cake. Thank you, sisters! You did your part well!

The first speaker during the morning session was Mr. E. G. Whitehead, of Palmerston North, who had together with the late Mr. Geo. Pierson visited Levin with the Gospel Carriage in November, 1902, while the first little assembly was in existence. Mr. Whitehead read John 17:17-18, "Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth. As Thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." Then he spoke on the subject of "Sanctification and Consecration".

He was followed by Mr. E. Coppin, who as a lad had been present at the opening all-day meetings in 1906. His message was based on the verses from Hebrews 13:7-9, "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever". He spoke of Christ as the Unchangeable and Changeless One.

Ministry was given in the afternoon by Mr. J. S. Burt, of Auckland, who read Acts 20:16-38, and spoke very earnestly on "Serving the Lord with tears". He was followed by Mr. R. W. McAdam, late of London, who took as his scripture reading John 14:1-14, and particularised on verse 12, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father."

ASSEMBLY REUNION

The evening meeting took the form of the assembly reunion, the hall being packed to capacity for the occasion. The major part was taken up with assembly history and reminiscences, followed by a short time of ministry given by Mr. McAdam. The meeting was ably chaired by Mr. G. W. Read and the singing was led by Mr. Harold Smith, of Palmerston North. Mrs. Ron Hardman (nee Clarke) took the part of accompaniste at the piano.

The first speaker on this very special occasion was Mr. E. G. Whitehead, who gave reminiscences of his first visit to Levin and his association with the district in those early days. He spoke with appreciation of the late Mrs. R. B. Martin, Mr. H. Saint, Senr., and Mr. Wm. Read, Senr., all of Ohau, and all now with the Lord.

Mr. W. H. Rolston followed, first supporting the welcome given by Mr. Godfrey Read to visiting members, then adding his personal appreciation, particularly of three Christians previously associated with the Ohau assembly prior to the year 1900. They were Mrs. Whiley, Senr. (now an octogenarian), Mr. E. H. Saint and Mrs. Searle, who had been spared to be with us that evening. Also the four remaining foundation members of the present Oxford Street (Levin) assembly, namely Miss M. Phillips, Mrs. W. W. Nicolls, Mrs. R. Joyce and Mrs. H. B. Honore, all of whom

were present, and to them he expressed the wish that grace, mercy and peace would be multiplied unto them. Mr. Rolston also read a letter of greetings from Mr. Franklin Ferguson, of Palmerston North, now in his 90th year, which he completed on November 22nd. He is the sole survivor of the panel of speakers of the opening all-day meetings in 1906, and was a constant visitor and speaker at conferences over the years, his ministry being always rich and sweet. To him a special invitation had been sent, with the suggestion that if unable to be present, he might care to send a written message. This he had done. May the Lord continue to bless our aged veteran brother!

Mr. Rolston then briefly reviewed the history of the planting of the assembly testimony in and around the district, from its beginning at Ohau in 1890 and onward to the first meetings held in Levin by the late Mr. C. H. Hinman (in the old town hall) which led to the start of the first little assembly in 1901, and which continued to function till about March, 1904. He also described the erection of the present hall and opening all-day meetings at the commencement of the present assembly in 1906, together with other reminiscences.

Mr. C. W. Read gave some details of Mr. and Mrs. John Phillips in connection with their home and assembly life, then read to the gathering a highly spiritual letter written many years before by an evangelist and teacher, a Mr. Feist.

Mr. E. Coppin read some extracts from the "Treasuries" of 1906-7 relating to the association of Mr. John Phillips and Mr. James Coppin in the starting of the assembly and having the hall built, and the aggressive work which followed. Mr. Coppin spoke appreciatively of Mr. Phillips, and also of one of his Sunday School teachers, Mr. E. H. Saint, who not only bore with him, but encouraged him to memorise many chapters of the Bible which had stood him in good stead throughout the years. He also gave some personal reminiscences.

Mr. E. H. Saint then addressed the meeting. He spoke of his conversion to God through the preaching of the Gospel from Hosea 7:8, "Ephraim is a cake not turned." Reference was also made to John 12, where Martha is described as the one who served Lazarus at the table (communion) and Mary worshipping at His feet. Then to Isaiah 61:3, "To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness: that they might be called the trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified." Mr. Saint also gave some interesting reminiscences.

Mr. H. R. Keys, surveying the last 30 years of the assembly's history, mentioned the tent meetings held by Messrs. E. G. Whitehead and S. Palmer when 16 believers were baptised, and also made reference to the young men's Bible Class led by the late Mr. R. D. Rolston and his brother, Mr. W. H. Rolston. He affirmed

that he was greatly indebted to those two brethren for their faithful instruction in the Word. He then expressed his appreciative memory of the Sunday afternoon ministry meetings, also the Postal Tract work which had resulted in some 50,000 Gospel booklets and papers being posted out. With these activities he strongly connected the late Mr. J. M. Murdoch, to whom he owed much, including the favour of a godly helpmeet. Mr. Keys also made reference to the Everyboy's and Everygirl's Rallies.

Mr. Howard Barham gave his testimony as to when he was saved in Levin, and spoke in appreciation of Mr. E. H. Saint, who had been his Sunday School teacher. What he had always greatly admired about Mr. Saint was the thoroughness with which he prepared his messages for his class.

Mr. George Holmes, of Wanganui, gave some reminiscences of his experiences as a visitor to Levin over the years and spoke very highly of Mr. and Mrs. Phillips and their hospitality.

Mr. R. W. McAdam then followed with suitable ministry, basing his message of exhortation upon 2 Timothy 1:3-6, "Stir up the gift that is in thee". Speaking of service and stewardship he pointed out how prone we are to tackle the high and lofty things, and how slow to stoop to the menial tasks which are just as necessary.

An enjoyable supper was then served and the proceedings of the evening were brought to a close by the singing of the following lines:

"Before we part, we'll praise the Lord,
For all His love and grace;
And pray that we will faithful be,
Until we see His face.
And if our next blest meeting place,
Should be up in the air,
What joy throughout eternity,
With Christ, God's Son and Heir."

On Sunday afternoon, November 11th, Mr. J. S. Burt gave ministry on the "Lord's Coming" showing the first mention of His Coming in the New Testament to have been given by the Lord Himself in John 14:3; the manner of it, in 1 Thess. 4:16; and the change that will take place in 1 Cor. 15:15-52; and the event following, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, in Rev. 19:7.

Sunday evening Gospel service was also taken by the same speaker, who opened with the appropriate hymn, "To God be the Glory, great things He hath done". The Radio Quartet was present from Wellington and rendered three special items which were very effective and much enjoyed.

Mr. Burt, announcing his subject as "The Jubilee Year", read Luke 4:18-19, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath

anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind; to set at liberty them that are bruised; to preach the acceptable year (an allusion to the Jubilee Year, Lev. 25:10) of the Lord." The address was masterly, powerful and convincing.

So now the first fifty years of our assembly is past. The part each one has had in it, whether prominent or obscure, is recorded above. Failures may have been many, but there have been blessings above measure. Some precious fruit has been gleaned and many souls brought to Christ over the years. Numbers of these are at Home with the Lord. Faithful brethren and sisters, too, set us an example of faith and conduct which we may well follow.

In 1954 brethren J. G. and N. A. Nicholson and J. Sundgren began a Sunday School in the Public Hall at Manakau. They were assisted by Miss Maureen Saint. There has been some fruit from this important work, a number having confessed Christ as their Saviour. There are now 38 pupils on the roll, representing 18 different families. May the Lord richly bless these dear Christian workers in their unstinted service for their Lord.

But what of the future?

With two assemblies now in Levin seeking to maintain a testimony for the Lord, namely Oxford Street Gospel Hall Assembly and Queen Street Assembly, the need of the town appears to be adequately met for the present in providing a gathering centre for the Lord's people for worship and fellowship. Should the town continue to expand with the phenomenal increase of population as it has done in the last few years, no doubt more assemblies will spring up in the area as circumstances necessitate.

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light" (Rom. 13:11-12).

So, dear fellow-Christians: Let us awake out of sleep, be up and doing, for the time is short. The Lord's Coming is at hand; may we be ready to meet Him.

"And now, little children, abide in Him; that when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His Coming" (1 John 2:28).

"When this passing world is done,
When has sunk yon radiant sun,
When I stand with Christ on high,
Looking o'er life's history—
Then Lord, shall I fully know,
Not till then, how much I owe."

SHANNON

1903:

A NOTE in the "Treasury" of April, 1903, Page 107, states:—"Manawatu Line: Mr. F. Ferguson has been down this way having a fortnight's meetings and visiting from house to house at Tokomaru. Besides Tokomaru there are meetings at Ohau and Manakau and a few meet at Levin and Shannon."

It would seem that this meeting was probably held at the creamery house at Moutoa, a few miles on the road to Foxton. (The creamery was managed by Mr. Percy Le Couteur and apparently the Christians at Shannon met there.)

1907: Mr. A. Alexander spent some time at Shannon but found it a hard place to work.

1911: An intimation in the "Treasury", September, 1911, states: "A few of the Lord's people meet at the creamery house at Moutoa (four miles from Foxton). Correspondence can be addressed to Mr. H. G. Grover, Marotiri, via Shannon. Mr. Grover says that they are pleased that seven can gather together on the first day of the week, and they are trying to locate one or two others whom they hear are living in the district. They wish to be remembered in prayer."

1914: September "Treasury" has the following notice: "We have been asked to mention that there is no assembly at Shannon, but a meeting is held at Moutoa, a few miles out of Shannon on the road to Foxton. Communications to Mr. T. J. Prier."

1915: There has been some blessing here of late, three young people professed to receive Christ. Two have been baptised and received into fellowship.

1923: Mr. A. Witty began cottage meetings in Shannon in Mr. Newport's house early in November, and these were coupled with house to house visitation. Much prayer is going up for this very needy and populous place. There are a few cases who are interested in the things of God, but the place appears to be particularly indifferent to anything of God. One or two souls have confessed Christ. The meetings are small but God seems to be quietly working and our brethren feel encouraged. The Christians in Shannon now meet at the home of Mr. Newport for remembering the Lord in the breaking of bread. They are Mr. and Mrs. Newport, Mr. and Mrs. J. Forno, Miss Forno, Mr. and Mrs. W. James, D. and H. James (the last two just recently converted), Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Jessop, Mr. and Mrs. Tamplin and Mr. and Mrs. H. Prier. These were later joined by the Christians coming from Tokomaru.

1924: A note in January "Treasury" states: "Mr. A. F. Witty has continued at Shannon, the Lord granting encouragement. The souls who have confessed Christ are going on nicely. There is now a small company meeting to remember the Lord in the breaking of bread. It has been decided to rent a hall and it is hoped to meet there early in the New Year. There is the probability that

the few believers at Moutoa will now come into Shannon. Nearly every house has been visited and the 'Gospel Ambassador' left. A very good reception has been given. The work has gone on quietly, with a sense of the Lord's help and presence."

This do in remembrance of Me.

How sweet when humble two's and three's,
Of sinners saved by grace divine,
Just gather in Christ's name;
Who seek alone the Lord to please,
And trust the Spirit's energies
Their worship to inflame.

Mr. Witty continued on at Shannon, the Lord granting encouragement.

On January 6th the little assembly moved into very suitable premises (known as Hyde's Hall), of which they have the entire use. A number of visitors were there for the occasion and a very good day was spent together in the Lord's presence. There are signs of coming increase, and prayer will be much valued. The four who recently confessed Christ are always at the meetings and give evidence of spiritual growth.

The Moutoa brethren who have been coming to Shannon are a good help, and three other brethren have secured positions on the electric works and are able to take part in the hall and open-air meetings. The visitation of all houses is nearly completed for the second time and tracts and "Ambassadors" are being well circulated. Helpful truths for the assembly are looked into at the Thursday evening Bible-reading and a Saturday afternoon effort is made to reach the children. Good numbers are attending and an interest is being taken in the blackboard lessons given. From 25 to 30 believers have recently been breaking bread in remembrance of the Lord.

In March, Mr. Witty after a long stay concluded his ministry in Shannon. There are quite a good number in the assembly, including believers from Moutoa, and they seem to be getting along nicely. The meetings are held in a suitable hired building opposite the Police Station on Lord's Day, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and a Gospel meeting at Mangaore on Friday. On Saturday afternoon there is a well attended children's meeting and a good open-air service in the evening.

In June, Mr. Bernard Fox went to Shannon and found good encouragement, one soul having believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. Mr. Norman Hyde was a frequent visitor and held meetings from time to time and some cottage meetings in Mr. Newport's house.

1925: Mr. Witty paid a number of visits in July, taking the meetings in the evening and visiting during the day. A "Gospel Ambassador" was left at nearly every house and many an interesting conversation was held.

1926: In July, Mr. D. Balneaves went to Shannon and here he had the joy of pointing four believers to the truth of baptism. They have since obeyed and been received into fellowship. It was strange that the baptism and a football match happened to be held near together. The footballers all came along to the bank of

the creek and a very large and attentive company witnessed the ordinance and heard the Gospel.

1927: Gleaned from the "Treasury" of January: "The Happy Man. The happy man was born in the city of Regeneration, in the parish of Repentance unto Life; he now lives in the city of Perseverance, having a large estate in the county of Christian Contentment. He was educated in the School of Obedience. He works at the trade of Diligence and many times does jobs of Self-denial. He wears the garments of Humility and has a better suit to put on when he goes to court called the 'Robe of Christ's Righteousness'. He often walks in the valley of Self-abasement and sometimes climbs the mountain of Heavenly-mindedness. He breakfasts every morning on Spiritual prayer and sups every night on the same. He has meat to eat that the world knows not of, and his drink is the Sincere milk of the Word of God. Thus, happy he lives and happy he dies. Happy is the man who has Gospel submission in his will, due order in his affections, sound peace in his conscience, and sanctifying grace in his soul, real divinity in his breast, the Redeemer's yoke on his neck, a vain world under his feet, and a crown of glory on his head. Happy is the life of such a man. To attain such, believe firmly, pray fervently, wait patiently, work abundantly, live holily, die daily, watch your heart, guide your senses, redeem your time, love your Saviour and live for glory."

1928: The assembly moved from the hall which it had occupied since early in 1924 to the present building in Ballance Street. The assembly was later able to purchase this building and make it suitable for assembly gatherings.



Gospel Hall, Ballance Street, Shannon.

—Photo 1956

"I have a Friend, a Friend who never fails me,
I have a peace, a joy no cloud can dim,
In Christ my Lord, who gave His life to save me,
Oh won't you come, and give your heart to Him?"

1931: In November the Manawatu Gospel Tent, in charge of Mr. E. G. Whitehead, was pitched in Shannon—a very needy place—and it was hoped that sinners would be saved and added to the little assembly. The tent meetings which concluded on December 13th were well attended and felt to be helpful to the Christians there. Mr. Whitehead and two other brethren were responsible for the meetings.

1943: In September, Mr. E. G. Whitehead had a Lord's Day with the assembly.

1944: Mr. A. F. Witty spent a Lord's Day at Shannon with the assembly, in November—the scene of his labours some years ago—and was pleased to find some saved then still going on well.

1952: Fallen Asleep. On September 9th, Mr. W. James; aged 70 years. Our brother was brought to know Christ as his Saviour as a young man at Otaki at the time of much blessing under the preaching of Mr. James Chrystall and Mr. H. Moffatt. He was in assembly fellowship first at Manakau, riding from Otaki on horseback. Later he was associated with the believers at Oxford Street, Levin, and then took a leading part in the newly-formed Shannon assembly. He later took up residence in Palmerston North where he met with fellow-Christians at Queen Street until his Home Call. He was a very dear and reliable brother and a personal friend of the writer.

“Absent from sin, from sorrow, from care,
Absent from sickness, distress and despair,
At Home with the Lord! Oh what must it mean!
Mind cannot fathom, and eye hath not seen.”

1956: The assembly has had the hall altered and improved and brought up to a good standard of comfort. New seating has been provided throughout; also a nice new modern pulpit, and with the inside nicely finished and well lighted it is now very attractive. We trust and pray that it will yet prove to be the spiritual birthplace of many souls. Although small in numbers owing to removals, and some gone Home to be with the Lord, yet the lamp still burns and the assembly continues to function. The Gospel is preached to all who may come and hear the Word of God. A special effort was made by a group from Levin with good numbers attending to hear the Gospel and some fruit. Praise His Name!

The Glories of Christ.

Christ alone could measure the greatness of God,
For He was His equal,
Christ alone could express the likeness of God,
For He was the express image of His person,
Christ alone could declare the glory of God,
For He dwelt in the bosom of the Father,
Christ alone could reveal the mind of God,
For He was ever in His eternal councils,
Christ alone could redeem mankind,
For He was the Lamb that God provided.
“Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.”

PAEKAKARIKI

COMMENCEMENT OF ASSEMBLY

1911:

MR. T. CAIRNS, who now in 1956 is 93½ years of age, came with his wife to Paekakariki in 1911, and the little assembly consisting of five believers was formed immediately and on the very first Lord's Day met in his house. Those remembering the Lord on that first occasion were Mr. and Mrs. T. Cairns, Mr. and Mrs. P. Jackson and Mr. Johnston. These continued and there were also evening meetings.

1915: Towards the end of 1915, Mr. Johnston met with an accident and passed away within two weeks, and the little assembly was reduced to four members. Mr. Cairns was then transferred to Cross Creek and this ended the assembly. Mr. Cairns visited Ohau assembly at times while at Paekakariki and is well remembered by the author who appreciated his lovely ministry. May the Lord bless our aged brother and grant him much joy and peace in the days yet spared to him.

The Long View:

In looking back look as far as the cross,

In looking forward look as far as the crown.

1930: The "Treasury" of February, 1930, records that at Paekakariki, Messrs. A. V. Brown and R. G. Nairn pitched the Manawatu Gospel Tent but closed down after a while owing to stormy weather. They hoped to make a fresh start later. There seems to have been no assembly from 1915 to the end of 1937.

1938: An assembly was again started in Paekakariki and met for remembering the Lord in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Miller at 49 The Parade in 1938. The assembly members meeting at that time were Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Arnold and Mrs. Stuart. Sunday School was also held.

1943: In March, Mr. W. Le Couteur had encouraging times in visitation work and cottage meetings at Paekakariki. Others joining the assembly about this time were Mr. and Mrs. R. Price and Mr. H. Grover. When the New Zealand soldiers came into camp here some of them were in fellowship. Later the American Camp was set up and of these there were also some in fellowship. Good numbers of both camps came to the Gospel meetings, sometimes up to 70, and a good number were saved. A U.S. military officer, Mr. A. McCullagh, and a U.S. soldier, H. Lindburgh, were a great help with the meetings. During April, 1943, Mr. J. Graham visited and worked around Paekakariki while the American soldiers were in camp, but there was much that could not be reported at that time. The hut which had been at the Palmerston North Showgrounds was removed to Paekakariki about July. Special permission was granted by the authorities in the United States for its erection in their military camp, the only religious body to be so treated, and we should thank God for this unusual open door.

At this time the meeting for breaking of bread in remembrance of the Lord was held at 6.30 p.m., followed by the evening meeting. Presumably this time was more convenient for those coming from the camp. Later there was Sunday School at 10 a.m., breaking of bread at 11.15 a.m., and an evening meeting at 7 p.m. When the special permission was granted for the erection of an "Everyman's Hut" in the American Military Camp and Mr. J. McCracken had undertaken the full time responsibility of the work, a dear brother in Christ became exercised about the need of a house so that Mrs. McCracken and their children (who were living in Auckland) could be together. All efforts to rent a house being fruitless, he purchased a dwelling and placed it at the disposal of the McCracken family.

A note in October "Treasury" states: "At Paekakariki brethren McCracken and Clarke have been kept busy, the Hut being popular. Attendance is 800 per day, and tracts are well received. Several have professed conversion and some have been restored." Mr. Pethybridge later replaced Mr. Clarke who returned to Auckland. In May, Mr. J. Graham, after attending at Taranaki conference, returned to the special service he is doing at Paekakariki.

1945: At the conclusion of the war the house provided for and occupied by Mr. McCracken and his family was then let to quite a number of well-known Christian families in assembly fellowship for holiday periods and by this means quite a good deal of help was given to the small local assembly.

1946: This year the property was disposed of and a house was built on a section having a frontage to Marine Parade with a delightful elevated view of the sea and island. The place was named "Hermon" because it was the home of our esteemed brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Salisbury and their four children, during their 15 months period of furlough in New Zealand in 1947-48.

In June, Mr. W. Le Couteur spent a few weeks at Paekakariki where he found a few interested souls.

1948: Mr. W. Le Couteur spent two Lord's Days and has been visiting at Paekakariki.

1949: A note in "Treasury" of April, 1949, states: "Missionary Home. Brethren concerned in this home at Paekakariki, 26 miles from Wellington, ask us to announce that it is now ready for free occupation, and Mr. and Mrs. G. Fountain are to be the first missionaries to reside there. It is felt that the home will meet a very definite need and missionaries desiring further particulars can write to Mr. C. G. Grant, 25 Glen Road, Kelburn, Wellington."

October "Treasury" states: "The meetings are now being held in the Assembly Hall at the Missionary House, not at Mr. Miller's."

It would seem most fitting here that tribute be paid to the faithful service of Mr. and Mrs. Millar for their labour of love for His name over the years 1938-1949 when the assembly meetings

were held in their home. When the American soldiers first came to Paekakariki, in order to accommodate the numbers of men who came to the Gospel meetings, a special addition to their house (at 49 The Parade) was built. The construction work was undertaken by Mr. Chas. Wilcox. This provided accommodation for 80 men and the place used to be packed out every Sunday night and many souls found Christ through these meetings.

Mrs. Miller, assisted by her family and a band of faithful sisters of the assembly, provided suppers to all who attended the meetings. This "labour of love" is not forgotten by the Lord and we today may well remember to His praise the service rendered. Mrs. Miller took a deep interest in the spiritual welfare of a large number of Americans and used to write to the mothers or next-of-kin of those contacted through the Gospel meetings at her home.

During the years following the war the providing of suppers after the evening meetings was continued and many have cause to look back with happy memories to the times of blessing and refreshment in "the large upper room" overlooking the sea, at 49 The Parade.

Mrs. Miller was called to her rest and reward on November 8th, 1955. Of her it can be truly said that she was "a succourer of many".

(The writer is indebted to Mr. Arthur E. Salisbury for these details.)

1950: Paekakariki Winter House Party was held from June 2nd to 8th inclusive.

1951: The Summer Bible Conference was held from January 6th to 12th in the camp buildings. This was an occasion of a very happy fellowship and of much spiritual help while the meeting room was full to capacity. Mr. J. McAlpine (Scotland) gave valuable help which was much appreciated.

The Winter Bible Conference was held from June 2nd to 9th. During August, Mr. McAlpine had meetings at Paekakariki in the public hall where good numbers gathered.

1951-52: The Summer Bible Conference was held in the camp buildings from December 27th to January 3rd.

1952: Winter Bible School was held from May 31st to June 6th. Speakers: F. Elliot (London), R. Auld, W. J. Burrows, R. E. Jones (China) and others. The conference again proved its worth as a means of promoting fellowship among the Lord's people. In the special meetings at Vivian Street, Wellington, and at Paekakariki over the Queen's Birthday weekend, and in the meetings morning and evening during the rest of the week, much helpful ministry was given, while the Bible readings on 1 Peter were rich and stimulating. We commend to our readers this opportunity winter by winter for warm-hearted fellowship and reverent study of the Word of God.

1952-53: The Summer Bible Conference was again held in the camp buildings from December 27th to January 4th.

1953: The special meetings held from January 5th to 12th, comprising an "Active Service Instruction Course" conducted by brethren E. Coppin, C. Graham, and Dr. W. H. Pettit at the camp buildings, were most appreciated. The Easter Camp was held from April 6th to 10th. Speakers: Messrs. C. J. Drake (Wellington) and McClunie (Te Awamutu). The Winter Bible School at Paekakariki was felt to be most profitable. The morning readings on Romans 1 to 8 were led by Mr. R. Auld, while in the evening character studies were given by Mr. A. L. Goold and Mr. D. A. Hewlett. The presence of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Black (India), Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Cooper (India) and Mr. P. W. Aish (Argentine) afforded opportunity for much informative discussion and help on missionary labour.

Purchase of Section: A centrally situated corner section has now been purchased in Mira Street, having in view the building of a hall for the assembly meetings and activities.

1953-54: Summer Bible Conference was held in the camp buildings from January 1st to 8th. Ministry was given by brethren E. W. Rogers and G. C. D. Howley.

1954: A Winter House Party was held in the camp buildings from June 5th to 12th. Speakers: Dr. R. H. Brown (Bolivia), Messrs. R. Judd, J. J. Burns, R. Greenfield (India), A. E. McKenzie (India) and R. Parkinson.

1954-55: Summer Bible Conference was held in the camp buildings from December 29th to January 4th. Speakers: Messrs. E. Coppin, E. Hay, R. Parkinson, A. McKenzie (India) and others. Meetings proved to be a season of refreshment and help to many who were present. These meetings are meeting a real need in providing opportunities for day after day Bible study.

1955: Easter Camp was held from Thursday evening, April 7th, to Monday evening, 11th. Speakers: Messrs. L. B. Clarke and A. L. Goold (Auckland) and G. Junk (India).

Winter House Party held June 4th to 11th. Speakers: Messrs. R. Auld, D. Burt (India), G. Junk (India) and G. R. Raymond (Northern Rhodesia).

1955-56: Summer School Conference from evening of December 29th till afternoon of January 4th. Ministry by Messrs. R. Auld, R. W. Macadam, L. Taylor and others. A wonderful time was spent over the study of the Holy Spirit by Mr. Auld.

1956: Wellington's Easter Camp was held at the camp buildings from Thursday evening, March 29th, to Monday evening, April 2nd. Speakers: Messrs. S. Capie (Lower Hutt), F. King (Morrinsville) and R. Lind (Belgian Congo).

Winter Bible School held from Saturday, June 2nd, to Thursday, June 7th. Speakers: Messrs. R. Auld, J. S. Moir, J. J. Burns, G. Ritchie (India) and others.

Fallen Asleep: On November 24th, 1956, Mr. George Arnold, at the advanced age of 82 years. He was well known at Paekakariki where he associated with the assembly meeting in Mr. Miller's house at its commencement and through the years during visits there. A kind, gracious, consistent and useful brother indeed, and one whose ministry was always to edification. Now he is with Christ which is far better. "To Christ be all the praise both now and evermore."

The assembly continues to meet in the camp buildings. May the Lord bless the testimony there and give our brethren strength to continue in His (Christ's) love (John 15:9), in the faith (Acts 14:22), in the grace of God (Acts 14:16), in prayer (Colossians 4:2), and in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of knowing of whom thou hast learned them (2 Timothy 3:14). And now brethren I commend you to God and the word of His grace which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified (Acts 20:32).

Arms of Jesus! fold me closer
To Thy strong and loving breast!
Till my spirit on Thy bosom
Finds its everlasting rest.
And when Time's last sands are sinking,
Shield my heart from all alarms;
Softly whispering—"Underneath thee
Are the everlasting arms."

LINTON

AT Linton there does not seem to have been any assembly of brethren meeting in the "Name of the Lord Jesus Christ" alone to remember the Lord in the breaking of bread. In 1917, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Murdoch, together with their family, came from Pohangina to reside at Linton. As there was no assembly at Linton our brother and sister, with some of their family, associated with Main Street Assembly at Palmerston North for a time, and later with Orange Hall Assembly, Palmerston North. Mr. Murdoch, who followed the teaching profession, was headmaster of the Linton School for some 16 years until his retirement in 1932.

COMMENCEMENT OF GOSPEL TESTIMONY

About 1922, Mr. Murdoch was instrumental in commencing a Gospel testimony, first at the school and later at the public hall. He continued the responsibility of maintaining these meetings during the remaining ten years of his residence at Linton. Brethren R. Hewetson and O. Haselden, with possibly some others, gave valuable help, and in 1931 Mr. H. R. Keys, of Levin, being a frequent visitor, often assisted with the evening services. On retirement from the teaching profession in 1932, Mr. Murdoch, with his family, moved from Linton and resided for about six months at Plimmerton before shifting to Levin.

Early in 1933, Mr. Murdoch, with his daughter Naomi, left for a trip to Great Britain and Palestine. On returning from abroad he made Levin his permanent place of residence from January, 1934.

When Mr. Murdoch left Linton in 1932 the brethren of Queen Street, Palmerston North, took over the responsibility of the Gospel meetings in the public hall, sending invitation cards to the residents in the surrounding area to attend these meetings. Among those who helped to maintain this valuable work of proclaiming the message of the Gospel in the district were brethren W. Knight, J. Rowan, D. Cooper, N. Pallesen, A. Pegler, R. James, Dr. Gordon Smith and others. About 1951 these meetings ceased on account of the very small attendance at this time. Thus the precious seed of the Gospel was sown in this area for about 29 years. A number professed to receive Christ as their Saviour, but Eternity alone will reveal the full extent of the harvest.

EVERYMAN'S HUT WORK

Linton Military Camp: During the period of World War II, Everyman's Hut work proved very popular in the various camps throughout New Zealand. As there was a large camp at Linton permission was granted to establish an Everyman's Hut there. This hut was opened on March 2nd, 1943, with Mr. D. A. Hewlett in charge. A special meeting was held in the evening, attended by Christians in the district and some brethren from Wellington. The building was filled to capacity on this occasion.

Helpers came from surrounding assemblies to help in the cafeteria in the evenings for there was much to be done serving food and tea to the men, as well as washing up dishes, etc. Short Gospel messages were given and many hundreds of soldiers heard the Gospel message of salvation, resulting in a real work of grace being done in many hearts.

In June "Treasury" of 1943, Mr. D. Hewlett reports: "At Linton the hut is crowded and large numbers listen to the message each night with quiet attention. Four have professed to be saved."

In May "Treasury", 1944, Mr. Hewlett (Linton) reports having received a letter from a man overseas (who was dealt with before leaving) telling how he accepted Christ on the voyage.

Again Mr. Hewlett reports that approximately 500 booklets are taken voluntarily by the men each month, quite apart from selected tracts given to men contacted personally. Therefore it seems that a good number accepted Christ as their own personal Saviour.

The Everyman's Hut at Linton Camp was closed at the end of July, 1944. The hut was finally disposed of to the Lower Hutt Christians for use at Naenae. No doubt many hundreds of men will thank God in Eternity for ever having heard the Gospel of God's Salvation in Everyman's Huts in the camps in New Zealand. To God be all the praise and glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

"God loved the world of sinners lost
And ruined by the fall;
Salvation full, at highest cost,
Is published free to all:
Love brings the glorious fullness in,
And to His saints makes known
The blessed rest from inbred sin,
Through faith in Christ alone."

TIRITEA

SITUATED five miles south-east of Palmerston North in the Fitzherbert West district is the sole-teacher school of Tiritea. The district around is a farming area. At the turn of the century Messrs. Stuart and Robertson were operating a sawmill in the district. These two brethren, who were associated with the Main Street Assembly in Palmerston North, began and carried on a Sunday School in the Tiritea School from about the year 1900. This was later carried on for some years by Messrs. G. Arnold and A. E. Pickin, of Palmerston North, both of whom are now (1956) with the Lord. Many dear children from the neighbourhood must have heard the glad message of salvation from the lips of these faithful men during those years. We trust that some who heard the way of life during their young and tender years came to know Christ as their own personal Saviour.

In 1935 a family of believers came to reside in the district and in 1936 a very small Sunday School was commenced once more in the school. Each year a tea and prize-giving was held and the parents responded so well that in the year 1943 special Gospel meetings were commenced in the school by our esteemed brother, Mr. J. W. Clapham (Palestine), then home on furlough during the war period. At these meetings, which continued for many months, quite a number professed salvation. Cottage meetings were also held mid-week and homes visited around the district. Finally thirteen believers were baptised. In November-December, Mr. W. Richards had four Sunday evenings at Tiritea.

COMMENCEMENT OF ASSEMBLY

1945: On April 22nd, in full fellowship with the brethren in Palmerston North, a breaking of bread meeting was commenced in the school when sixteen believers sat down to remember the Lord in His own appointed way. "And He (Jesus) took bread, and gave thanks, and break it, and gave unto them, saying, This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the New Testament in My blood which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19-20). "For I (Paul) have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which He was betrayed took bread: and when He had given thanks, He break it, and said, take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me. After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This Cup is the New Testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come" (1 Cor. 11:23-26).

In September of this year Mr. Young, of Gisborne, held three Sunday evening meetings, preaching the Gospel. Also one meeting in December. Mr. Young passed into the presence of his Lord on November 4th, 1946.

1946: Mr. Dunbar, of Christchurch, had some meetings in March. August "Treasury" records that Mr. E. Whitehead had a few meetings at Rongotea, Ashhurst and Tiritea. Mr. W. Richards also had some meetings at Tiritea during September.

Many of the brethren from Terrace End and Queen Street Assemblies, Palmerston North, have given valuable help to the assembly in ministering to the saints and preaching the Gospel to the unsaved, and a number at various times have been brought to Christ. This help and fellowship has been appreciated and was a great joy to the assembly.

1947: May "Treasury" records that Mr. Whitehead had Lord's Days at Tiritea, Lyndhurst Street Hall and Old People's Home, Palmerston North, and Rongotea. Other brethren who held meetings at Tiritea were Messrs. Jackson Smith, G. Menzies, R. Lind (Belgian Congo), and many others, while Mr. E. Whitehead and Mr. Watson La Couter were frequent visitors and did much visiting in the area.

Mr. Airth, from Paraguay, visited the assembly and had a missionary meeting on December 2nd.

1948: Mr. R. Lind took the Gospel meeting on January 5th. Mr. G. Menzies began meetings on March 20th and continued until April 2nd, preaching the Gospel and giving Christian ministry which was most edifying and appreciated.

On May 23rd, Mr. C. Hewlett took the Sunday night meeting, Mr. E. Whitehead preached the Gospel on Sunday evening, June 8th, and Mr. R. Greenfield on June 20th.

1949: On April 14th, at the request of residents in the Opiki district, ten miles away, another Sunday School was commenced there. Numbers were few at the beginning but after visiting and much prayer the numbers grew and more transport had to be arranged. Many children have passed through the Sunday School, and now in 1956 there are 52 on the roll. May the Lord bless these dear little children and that the precious seed sown in their hearts by these Christian workers who give their time and labour freely, may bring forth much fruit to God's glory.

1956: In April the Manawatu Gospel Carriage workers, brethren A. Watts and Thomas Lind, visited the district, and interest was fairly good. There were two restored to fellowship and one other who professed salvation has quite recently been baptised and received into fellowship.

Fallen Asleep: On May 21st, 1956, Mrs. H. W. Hunt; aged 65. Our sister was born at Kaimatarau (near Rongotea). She was saved at the age of 10 and about 1904 came into fellowship at Rongotea where she remained for many years, then at Oroua Downs, and for a time at Oxford Street Levin, then later at Terrace End, Palmerston North, and for the last 11 years at Tiritea. Our sister was a valuable worker in the Sunday School, a godly, Christian lady and respected by all who knew her. She was laid aside for some time before her Home Call but was always cheerful and was a patient sufferer. Now she is with Christ which is far better.

“Home! Where loved ones fast are gathering!
Home! Where all is joy and light!
Home! Whose doors are barred forever,
'Gainst earth's sorrows and its night!
Home! Where love that never ceaseth,
Hath for thee a feast prepared.
Home! Where angels wait to serve thee;
There shall joys with Him be shared!”

A section has been given, situated on the main south road, near to the Linton Military Camp. This is a gift to the assembly by a beloved brother in Christ in the Upper Hutt Assembly. The Lord bless you, dear brother, whoever you are, and He will surely reward you for your generosity in a coming day. With such sacrifices God is well pleased (Heb. 13:16). It is the intention of the believers in the will of the Lord to build a hall shortly. May the Lord add His blessing.

Several families who met with the assembly at the beginning have shifted away, but the believers still continue to maintain the testimony for the Lord. Worship meetings, Gospel meetings and Sunday School continue to be held in the Tiritea School, and the Christians here still continue to maintain the now large Sunday School at Opiki.

“I know not when I may hear it,
That voice so low and sweet,
Calling me from the shadows
My blessed Lord to meet,
Up through the glowing splendour
Of a starry earthly night,
To 'see the King in His beauty'
In a land of purer light.”

POROUTAWHAO

RETROSPECTIVE

POROUTAWHAO is a Maori settlement about five miles from Levin on the Foxton highway. Gospel work among the Maoris in the district appears to have begun away back as far as 1906 by a dear aged Christian named Mr. George Milson (well remembered by the writer). He was apparently a full-time worker in fellowship with our assemblies and labouring among the Maoris at that time.

A note in "Treasury" of October issue, 1901, states:—"Mr. G. Milson, who for nearly 25 years (1876-1901) has been in the Maori work, is just now visiting the paha along the Foxton line, the Wellington-Manawatu Company's line, and other paha in the Manawatu district. . . . He has just written another series of Maori tracts, which are in the hands of Mr. Whitehead for printing. May the Lord add His blessing."

Later Mr. Milson writes: "Having returned from visiting the Maoris in the Manawatu and Lower Hutt districts, including Wellington and Foxton Line, I record with thankfulness that there were many open doors for service. At one paha where I stayed two nights, they wanted me to remain there altogether; at another settlement the leading native, who is very rich in this world's goods, spoke of his conversion and of the second coming of the Lord; also about the many mansions awaiting the redeemed in glory. . . . At Otaki I was near being mobbed by white men and Maoris combined. One native I saw there on a sick bed was a rejoicing Christian and had been so for twelve years."

In November, 1902, our brother writes: "At Ohau a brother told how he was journeying on horseback with a Maori, and asked him where he was. The native replied, 'Under the cover of the blood,' and said he had heard Mr. Milson preaching some time ago and had accepted salvation then."

The January "Treasury" of 1905 records the following list of New Zealand workers labouring among the Maoris: Messrs. G. Milson, H. Curran, C. E. Smith, F. S. Martin, Misses M. Reeve, E. Allen and F. E. Fear.

1910: In December, Mr. Milson records that when recently visiting Levin he saw a young native woman belonging to the South Island. She was very bright and told him her sins were put away in "the blood". At the railway station he saw three more Maoris; two were boys in his mission school 35 years ago. At that time one was deeply convicted of sin through reading about the prodigal son, even to tears. He may yet yield to the Lord. He lives at Weraroa.

1911: January "Treasury" records: "Mr. George Milson is no longer able, through advanced age, to go long journeys to Maoris and is glad to settle down (D.V.) in Levin, where he will be near some of the natives, there being several settlements of them in the

neighbourhood, besides three houses in town. As the Maoris frequent Levin, Mr. Milson will have many opportunities still of speaking to them personally of Christ the Lamb of God."

About this time when talking to two natives, a third one came unobserved and took hold of his hand and gave it a friendly shake. Some years ago he was paddling Mr. Milson across the lake (Horowhenua), and when told by him that his object in going over was to preach the Gospel, he said, "I will throw you into the water." Then, instead of that, "I will hang you when you get over there." Then, in the place of that, "I will get all the Maoris together and drive you away." Mr. Milson was there five days sowing the seed of the Word of God unmolested.

"Sowing the seed by the dawn-light fair,
Sowing the seed by the moonlight glare,
Sowing the seed by the fading light,
Sowing the seed in the solemn night:
Oh, what shall the harvest be?
Sown in the darkness or sown in the light,
Sown in our weakness or sown in our might,
Gathered in time or eternity,
Sure, oh! sure, will the harvest be!"

One day Mr. Milson saw an aged Maori woman, whose bent form showed her great age—nearly 100 years. She was waiting for the coach to take her back to her pah five miles away, and looking upward with a smile on her face, she said, "God is my hope."

Another native said: "I have learned something lately, that there is something better for a man than to be always thinking how he can make money." What is that I inquired? "Faith in God," he replied.

1912: In May, Mr. George Milson, in a note to the "Treasury", states: "The Lord's Day afternoon congregation is not always the same. Now I have a meeting in a Maori's house in an opposite direction than formerly, eleven were present and two children. They desire me to continue. In another house I am welcomed by an old couple, and one of them enjoys a talk about the Bible, from which he quotes largely. Among the Maoris about Levin who have an ear for the Word, I believe there are three or four who are believers."

Mr. Milson, though feeble by age, says he is yet able to do a little for the souls of the natives around Levin and has liberty for meetings in their houses.

1913: Later he writes: "That prayers of faith by beloved brethren for workers are a great help. . . . Recently before I went to a Maori meeting a brother prayed for the Maoris. On arriving at the settlement I found a good reception and a congregation of twelve instead of the usual three. . . . Truly things here are changed as I now have three houses where I preach the good tidings. Praise the Lord!"

1914: Mr. Milson writes in May "Treasury": "I am now an aged pilgrim, 81 on April 4th, and have been saved 59 years. Grace abounding all the way."

1928: From this time onward Mr. E. Edwards visited Maori homes and held cottage meetings in many Maori homes in Levin and also at Shannon and Otaki. He is well known in the area for his work and labour of love among the Maori people.

Of those brought to Christ through our brother's ministry about this time was a young girl, Miss Alice Riaka, now Mrs. Heta Gilbert. Her husband was later led to Christ through Mr. Packer, and both are in assembly fellowship with the Lord's people.

About 1931 a Sunday School was started by Mr. H. Thurlow in the "Huia" meeting house at Poroutawhao. This was later carried on by Miss G. Phillips and Miss P. Sheargold and assisted later by Miss M. Rolston, all from Oxford Street Assembly, Levin. Gospel meetings were also held at this time on Sunday evenings, and were carried on by brethren from Levin when many of our Maori people heard the Gospel message of salvation. There was also some evidence of fruit from this work.

The writer is indebted to Mrs. Toka Graham for the following record, and is given in full.

"About the year 1931-1932 my eldest child started Sunday School at the Huia meeting house, Poroutawhao. Sunday School teachers came from Oxford Street, Levin. At the end of the year a Christmas party was held at the Phillips' homestead. There was a large Christmas tree on the front lawn, with presents for each child. Tea was provided, after which we proceeded to the living room for a meeting. The work begun had its effect in many of our hearts. I know of one young Maori woman saved around about this time, a Miss Waeroa Tamihana. Later I was invited to Oxford Street Assembly to witness her baptism.

"Then Mrs. W. Ingram and Waeroa asked permission to start a regular weekly afternoon meeting in my house. The result, although not immediate, was that quite a number showed much interest. Miss Tamihana's father, mother, aunt and uncle professed faith in the Saviour; also three of her younger brothers and some Sunday School pupils accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour. The Sunday School feats had aroused in many of us Maoris a wonder as to what it was that made the brethren people so kind and thoughtful, unlike our own Churches. However, in my own case, I wanted to know more of this wonderful love, and so it was in the year 1934 I knew Jesus as my own personal Saviour, and the bond of love between Him and His own was no more a mystery to me, for His love was also shed abroad in my heart. Then in the midst of rejoicing sadness came, for my infant daughter and I were involved in an accident. The Lord took her to Heaven, where we shall see her in the sweet by and by. However, I will not dwell on that: the Lord has a purpose in it all. I was kept in hospital for four months, on the seriously ill list for a while. Praise God for the bond of Christian love that had developed between my sister in Christ Jesus, Mrs. Ingram, and myself, for she visited me often while I lay in hospital. The Lord used His servant as a means of bringing me the much needed encouragement and

assurance that He did care for me after all. Perhaps He wanted me to trust Him more fully, more completely. Still in my early twenties, suddenly I knew I must call on the Lord to let me get well again, as I wanted to tell my husband and tell others, yes, indeed, shout it from the housetops, what a wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord. Well, dear reader, you may think my husband was saved immediately after, but nay. Again God was putting me through a severe test. Indeed, so many times I came near to succumbing to the will of the enemy.

"Praise God for His keeping power. Some changes were due in our life. We had a move from our little settlement of Poroutawhao to Waikanae for 10 years, then to Foxton for two years, during which time I had no contact with the Lord's people. Perhaps He was teaching me to walk on my own two feet, so praying became my secret weapon. Satan is a real enemy and my husband was a real problem, for he loved all the world could give him. Parties were a dreaded thing to me, for they took my husband from me for days on end.

"Thank God for His dear people, who were interested in my case, for I know my dear brother and sister, Mr. and Mrs. W. Ingram, were continually at the throne of grace on our behalf, and oh how I needed their prayers. Drifting along with an unsaved husband was almost my undoing. Then God intervened and brought us back to Poroutawhao, where again I had fellowship with His people. In the year 1946, two young fellows, Messrs. Trevor Wilson and Alister Coppin, both of Levin, visited me with the purpose of starting a young people's meeting. This I eagerly accepted, and a weekly evening meeting began in our house at Clay Road, Poroutawhao. These two men, along with other helpers, were also the Sunday School teachers at this time. These evenings were a real blessing to me, for they brought me spiritual food for my hungry soul. Jesus became my all, a living, bright reality. I began to attend the worship meeting at Queen Street for the first time. They became so precious to me I did not like to miss them, although not yet baptised. My husband was silently opposed, and sometimes we quarrelled over our different beliefs. This went on for two years. Then God opened my eyes to see victory in Christ for me. I was considering baptism again. Should I obey the call in my heart, or my husband? So I turned to God's Holy Word, asking Him to show me. The Bible opened at the Book of Joshua and my eyes fell upon verse 9 in chapter 1. Let me quote it, as it has proved a wonderful blessing: 'Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.' That was all I needed. I approached my husband this time without any fear, and told him of my decision. I was ready to follow my Lord, come what may, my first step being to follow Him into the waters of baptism. So I arranged for that to be held in Queen Street Gospel Hall, Levin, as soon as it could be made known to believers. This took place in 1949. God proved that verse to me sooner than I expected, for three months later my husband was saved, and three months later again, he, too, was baptised, all in the same year. God knows the sacrifices we make for Him and we are rewarded.

"I should mention that between my baptism and my husband's salvation, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Wall, full time Maori workers in the Manawatu, began visiting us. Sometimes they brought another Maori brother along, Waari Ward, of Awahuri, who proved a big help in my husband's spiritual growth. I make bold to state that a Maori, bringing God's Word to another Maori, speaks volumes in itself.

"Well, things moved really fast with the Lord as our Pilot. Now there were two of us in our house, seeking His daily sustenance and guidance. From the time my husband was saved and his baptism, three others were saved, and also desiring baptism. They were interviewed by some of the leading Levin brethren and preparation for their baptism proceeded. The other three baptised with my husband were Mrs. J. Armstrong, Mrs. J. Solomon and Miss Tati Hohaia.

"Mr. Wall, better known to us as Hemi, continued his visits, sometimes bringing a film. These were happy times. At the end of this eventful year some of us went to the Marton house party or camp. My husband attended this camp, while I visited occasionally, Mr. E. Coppin taking me up and bringing me home again after the night meeting. We also had with us John Solomon. I remember my husband getting up on the platform for the first time and telling his testimony. Oh, what joy! I guess the tears flowed freely that day when I was asked to give my testimony. I was just hopeless. There were more tears than words. That was in 1949.

"In 1950 we were singing together praises to our Saviour. We sought to tell and let our light so shine before men that they, too, might see that we were new creatures. Now we had Christ Jesus living in us, so in fellowship with all the believers of Levin, and Hemi and Waari Ward, we saw the time was ready to hold a small hui or conference for the first time, on Maori ground, right in the pah at Matau. The marae was ideal for a small hui. Speakers were invited. From Ngatira came brothers Haki and Finn Thompson, and from Te Puke came Mr. Walter Bowen who brought with him Mati Webster and Ned Te Amos. Ernie Edwards, too, rendered his support to this worthy cause. It was an Easter Conference, commencing on the Good Friday morning and through to Easter Monday. The local brethren from the two assemblies supported us, both spiritually and practically. We would take this opportunity of thanking you all. We know that your reward awaits you in Glory. The hui was a success. Maoris were brought in from near and far. One party Mr. Chas. Johnson brought down from Onepuhi, near Halcombe. Mr. Johnson gave a good part, if not all of his spare time, to Maori work in that district. On the occasion of this first hui he brought with him an elderly couple who had put their trust in the Lord; also an old, old lady who at that time was steeped in Ratanatism and was recognised as one of the leaders of that cult. When night came, and it was time to bed down, that old lady was biding her time. She thought she was going to have a grand time showing us a thing or two,

because in true Maori fashion she knew her time would arrive when everyone would adjourn to the meeting house, or whare-puni, where according to Maori custom women were at liberty to speak. Thus she started a debate which left no room for sleep. The Maori brethren, praise God, were able to satisfy this old lady from God's own Word, until finally in the early hours of the morning the dear old soul was gloriously saved. Like the woman at the well whom the Lord walked many miles to meet! Yes, just one soul, but oh how precious to him! Two years later the old lady had passed into His presence.

"It was at this conference that the Lord first spoke to Morphy. He heard the Word of God preached and testimonies told until he began to examine himself and he knew that if the Lord came now he was not ready and would go to hell. He did not want to go there, so he yielded to the Holy Spirit later at home. Here, with brother Hemi and the Word of God, the new birth and eternal life were explained and made clear.

"It was decided at the close of this first hui that another of its kind might be profitable, so later in the year another was held at the same marae, Matau. It was Labour weekend and this time the visiting brothers came from Wairoa.

"December 26th, 1950, saw most of us Poroutawhao believers in camp at Marton. A most profitable time was spent and we were strengthened. For this one year we were in fellowship with the Queen Street Assembly, Levin. By January, 1951, however, we numbered about fourteen, so it was decided that we break bread each Lord's Day morning at home in our new house that the Lord had blessed us with. This began in January (1951) of that year. Those in fellowship at this time were: Mrs. J. Solomon, Mr. and Mrs. Wiremu Kingi, Mr. and Mrs. Toka Grahah, Mr. Rangi Hill, Mr. Whare Chase, Mr. W. Burgess, Mr. M. Graham, Mr. B. Graham, Mr. R. Rikihana, Mrs. Jean Armstrong, Miss Tati Hohaha, Miss Luini Graham, and Mr. E. Coppin.

"May I give a brief account of our first contact with Mr. Raniera Rikihana. He was invited to our first hui. He came, and all the Christians spent much time praying for his conversion. He was very critical, and from man's point of view a very tough nut to crack: but, thank God, nothing is impossible to Him, although no results. Then the time came for the second hui. Again Mr. Rikihana was invited. You may wonder why we had picked him out as a special person to bring before the Lord. Well, Mrs. Rikihana had already accepted the Lord as her Saviour and naturally our interests were centred on the Lord's children and those who needed special help. At the second hui Mr. Rikihana had only intended to visit us casually, impatiently sitting the meetings out. I really don't know what made him come, or should I say, I do know that it was the Divine power drawing him still a little nearer to the foot of the Cross. Prayer continued, both men and women asking the Lord to hold Mr. Rikihana for the duration of the hui. So when night came, it found me making a bed for our esteemed visitor in the meeting house. I chose a spot in

between Mr. Wall and brother Waari Ward. When Mr. Rikihana was shown his bed, he inquired as to who were on either side of him. When told, he remarked, 'So you think you can pin me in, eh? Well, we shall see' (as much as to say he was ready for the fray). However, although there was little sleep for the trio, Mr. Rikihana did not yield to the Holy Spirit. It was two months later, at the 1950 Maori House Party, held in Marton, that the wall of resistance finally broke down and the Holy Spirit had His way and another victory was won for Christ. Mr. R. Rikihana received the Saviour and was gloriously saved.

"Second hui at Matau: An American evangelist was being conveyed along the highway and on reaching the entrance into the Matau pa the car in which he was a passenger suddenly broke down. It absolutely refused to go. On looking around the American inquired as to what was going on. He saw there were marquee tents erected in the paddock, and he was told that a Maori Christian conference was in progress. The American said, 'That's what it is' (meaning the reason the car had stopped), 'the Lord wants us to call in here.' So they did. He was made known and was given the opportunity to speak that afternoon. He was a very big man with a very small Bible and he thrilled those present with his message."

—Tuia Graham

1940—The Manawatu District: Bro. Ern Edwards has been working in the Manawatu District, down as far as Otaki. Many contacts have been made in isolated paha. The Lord is working and prayer would be valued that a reaping time may come. There is a great need in this district among the Maori people, and there is much to discourage us as we see the havoc wrought by the devil in the lives of so many of our native people.

One of the bright spots was a visit to the sickbed of a dear Maori sister in Otaki. Her body is racked with pain night and day as she lies on her bed, yet her face was radiant as we talked to her of Jesus and His love. She said, "Yes, He is all I have now, and He is all I want; soon I will be with Him forever." As one listened to those words of testimony the answer was given to the question often asked, "Is the Maori worthwhile?" We believe that God is moving the Maori people.

A new Maori convert, giving his testimony at Jerusalem (on the Wanganui River), one one occasion in 1944 said: "Last Christmas I was drunk. I bought a bottle of whisky, and on my way home I stole a sucking pig and a fowl. This Christmas I said goodbye whisky, stolen fowl and pig. I don't want you now; the Lord has saved me." This made a deep impression upon many and one was saved there that night.

1946: It would not seem out of place to add a note here taken from "Radiant Youth Magazine" of December issue, under the heading "Early Days": "About the year 1898, Mr. Henry Curran, a frequent visitor to Manawatu and well known to the writer, and

probably the first from the assemblies in New Zealand to give his whole time to the work among the Maori people, while laid aside from actual work took the opportunity to study their language and customs. Later he spent his whole time throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand in seeking to win them for the Lord. The last 26 years of his life were spent in the Hawera district, reaching out as far as Kai-iwi (near Wanganui), to Muni and Urenui. Many of the Maori people today speak of the untiring efforts of their sincere friend in the great epidemic of 1918 when many of their lives were saved from death. Our hearts are moved as we think of this servant of God who laboured for Him and the Maori people for approximately 48 years in obscurity (for we have not heard much of him or his work) until he was recently called Home to be with the One he loved and served so faithfully while here." (Mr. Curran passed into the presence of his Lord on October 26th, 1945.)

1948: By this year the missionaries labouring among the Maoris numbered 26. The list given in "Te Mahi Maori" of December issue was as follows: Mr. and Mrs. A. Rankin (Tauranga), Miss Martin (Te Puke), Miss E. Phillips (Te Puke), Miss E. Severinsen (Whangarei), Mr. and Mrs. E. Edwards (Morrinsville), Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Kerr (Kaitaia), Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Withers (Whangarei), Mr. and Mrs. Arnot Edwards (Dargaville), Mr. and Mrs. R. Dick (Te Araroa), Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Samuel (Morrinsville), Miss D. Eichler (Te Araroa), Miss M. Hay (Kaikohe), Mr. and Mrs. Ngu Kake (Whangarei), Mr. D. King (Te Aroha), Mr. and Mrs. J. Patterson (Rotorua), Mr. and Mrs. J. Wall (Palmerston North), Mr. and Mrs. T. Bailey (Barton), and later Mr. and Mrs. Wati James (Ahipara).

Mr. Arnot Edwards is director of the "Maori Postal Sunday School Work", a most important and fruitful work among the young. May the Lord continue His blessing. This work was started by Mr. Withers and Mr. Edwards in September, 1945, in the Whangarei and Dargaville districts and has spread to the far north, and as far south as the Bluff. "To God be the glory, great things He hath done."

MANAWATU

1949: J. F. and E. Wall report in "Te Mahi Maori" December issue: "We have had much joy in seeing souls saved and baptised in our district since last news report. Four were baptised and we believe about the same number have been saved. We hope to see these take the same step later on. Please continue to pray for us. Most of this progress has occurred at Poroutawhao and due to the faithful service of part-time workers, who have spent many years in the past in seeking to win our Maori people for the Lord. We rejoice together to see His hand working among us and would not forget that He has given the increase. To Him be the glory."

We are pleased to see further names added to the missionary list:—Miss D. Bevin (Dargaville) and Mr. A. McCulloch (Rotorua). May the Lord richly bless them in their service for Him.

This great field is white unto harvest and lies right at our hand with doors open everywhere for the Gospel. Many have already been won for Christ. May many more sheaves be gathered in ere the Lord of the harvest comes to gather the harvest home.

1950: Report for Manawatu states: "The Lord has been pleased to bless our efforts in this district. A number have been saved and seem to be standing well for the Lord. We praise God for your help and prayers for the work. There is a lot to be done to build up and establish the believers in the faith. Please pray on.

"We have suffered the loss of a dear brother and servant of God, Mr. Alister Coppin, who gave all his spare time to work among the Maori people, especially among the young. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. His humble and kindly spirit has drawn a number to him and to the Saviour whom he loved. Our brother, who was in his 21st year, departed to be with Christ on February 8th, 1950, after a brief illness. He was led to a knowledge of Christ by his father when in his seventh year and went on steadfastly for the Lord until his Home Call."

"Mysterious love, how deep, how full, how free,
My spirit longs to find its rest with Thee,
To see Thy face, to hear Thee call me Thine,
To dwell for ever in Thy love divine."

—D.S.R.

THE HUI AT POROUTAWHAO

1950: June issue of "Te Mahi Maori" records the hui at Poroutawhao as follows: "We have much cause for thanksgiving today as we see the Lord's hand working among our Maori people in all parts of this country. Many are turning to God with all their hearts to serve and follow Him and the Lord is raising up among them gifted evangelists and teachers who have speeded up their evangelisation. Those who have toiled in the past in prayer and preaching must be deeply gratified to see the great interest and progress among them at the present time. This was very apparent at the hui held at Poroutawhao on the marae (at Matau pah) which was the first of its kind held by Christian Maoris here. We had a very profitable time together and one or two professed to be saved. Some barriers were removed and some leading Maori people opened the way for the Gospel to be preached in their own districts. Among those who ministered the Word from among our Maori people were: Bill Paul and Bob Hoetawa (Wairoa), Bill Winiata (Taihape), Finn Thompson, Bill Dick and Haki Thompson (Ngatira), Dave Taukomo (Ruatoria), Ned Te Amo and Mate Webster (Te Puke) and Waari Ward (Awahuri). From among the pakehas messages were given by brethren W. E. Bowen (Te Puke), E. Coppin (Levin), Jim Patterson and Roger Kusabs (Rotorua), and others who were visitors to the conference." (This conference was held over the Easter weekend.)

A further note states: "At Poroutawhao, the little group of Christians are going on brightly for the Lord and bearing a good testimony. . . . Our brother, Mr. Coppin, has been a great help in the area and many of us have been blessed through his ministry."

(Hospital: We visit the hospitals at Otaki and Palmerston

North when we can and have had many opportunities to encourage the sick and to make known the Gospel. In this way, too, many contacts are made which open the doors to other homes and districts.—Ed.)

CONFERENCE

This was held on Labour Day weekend at Poroutawhao. Some of the speakers were: Waari Ward, Pop Winiata, Haki Thompson, Finn Thompson, E. Edwards and J. F. Wall. Excellent results followed, a number being awakened and brought to Christ.

We have much to praise God for in this area as we see His hand working in saving and blessing our dear Maori people. We thank God also for answered prayer in giving us His blessing and help at our recent conference at Poroutawhao where we met together from various districts to have fellowship with one another around the Word of God. None of us will fully know or realise here what far-reaching effects this gathering has had upon the work in this district. We are indebted to all who have contributed to its success and whatever has been done for Him will surely receive its reward.

Hospital: Here visitation continues with opportunities to speak a word for our Lord, and this is bearing fruit to His glory. We feel it is a great privilege indeed to take the Word of Life to those who are laid aside and those who are dying. Grace and strength are needed for this work as our bodies can only stand a certain amount. "For He knoweth our frame, He remembereth that we are dust" (Psa. 103:14). We were recently at the bedside of a sister who was an inmate of the hospital through a serious injury received from a fire. After some weeks of suffering she passed away peacefully to be with her Lord.—J. F. Wall.

MAORI HOUSE PARTY

1951: December Maori House Party: "Many of you will be pleased to hear of the blessing received from the Lord at the House Party held at Marton this year. We experienced a very happy time together, and although there were less than on previous occasions, due to the railway strike, yet we felt that the time there was well repaid. Since then a Maori Assembly has sprung up in the district (Manawatu) at Poroutawhao, which is probably the outcome of this conference."

The following written testimony has been given to the writer by Raniera (Dan) Rikihana, and with his approval it is recorded here: "On December 29th, 1950, I was invited by Enoch Coppin to visit the Marton Brethren Camp Conference and both my wife and I went, and also my uncle, Rawiri Tatana. It was at this conference that I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour, and that was on December 31st, Sunday night, at 9.10 p.m. There were eight others who followed me to the platform and Phillip Samuel was ministering the Word. On January 13th, 1951, I was baptised in the Queen Street Hall, Levin. I was the first, followed by Morphy Graham, Rangi Hill, Whare Chase, and I forget the other two." (May the Lord bless our dear brother and

his Christian wife, who already knew the Lord as her Saviour; also the other dear believers, and make them to prosper in the things of God.)

COMMENCEMENT OF ASSEMBLY

1951: There were now a good number of Maori Christians at Poroutawhao, a goodly number having been brought to Christ over the years. The following account was given the writer by Mr. Raniera (Dan) Rikihana: "On Sunday, January 21st, 1951, we held our first Maori Assembly worship meetings in brother Toka Graham's residence, and we continued to have our meetings there until we moved into our new hall."

A note in February issue of the "Treasury" states: "Levin.—In recent months there has been much fruit from the sowing of many years by believers from both assemblies. During January, four Maori men were baptised, two being elderly men of high standing. A Maori Assembly has now been formed at Poroutawhao (several miles from Levin) in fellowship with both the Oxford Street and Queen Street Assemblies."

1952: As the new assembly was prospering and growing in numbers, the providing of a hall for the assembly to meet in became obvious. Gleanings from Poroutawhao Christian Assembly report that a section had been graciously offered to the assembly for this purpose by a brother and his wife both connected with the Poroutawhao Assembly. To do this they were sacrificing part of their small holding to provide for a hall for the testimony of God's beloved Son. All were very grateful to the brother and sister for their generous offer. However, the location of the section presented a number of problems, the two main ones being, firstly, it was too far away from the centre of the pah, and, secondly, at least half a mile of roadway was required to be formed and metalled. We prayed more earnestly for guidance, and most remarkably were our prayers answered beyond our expectations. Right in the middle of the pah there was a freehold section owned by a couple who lived some miles away. When approached, they reacted very favourably and we were given the option of purchase to cover the few days necessary to consider and pray over it. After very serious prayer and consideration it was unanimously decided to purchase the section. Thus the Lord has given us a site on the main highway, and the very section most of us would have preferred but never dreamed the Lord had it in store for us.

Now, because we felt this change of site might be said to have been made by using the moneys already sent to us by assemblies to pay the cost of the building and not of a section, we decided to give more heavily ourselves to the general building fund. This we did, and perhaps we might have ultimately contributed enough to buy the section, but the Lord sent along a brother with a cheque as a gift for the whole price of the section, as the result of two months' exercise of heart, that he should buy the section for the Lord's sake and for the sake of the Maori people.

Any possible difficulties thus disappeared. How wonderfully God has shown His hand to us, in this and other marvellous ways, will be seen in the following list of major items: Firstly, the sec-

tion was God's choice; secondly, He exercised a brother to pay for the section; thirdly, another brother promised 1500 feet of flooring; fourthly, another brother has given material to make 2000 blocks; and fifthly, another brother has promised an appreciable cut on a tile roof, if we use tiles. How good the Lord is in answering prayers in this way. "And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking I will hear" (Isa. 65:24).

The property, consisting of 1 rood 15.2 perches, has been vested in "The Stewards Trust of New Zealand, Incorporated". In March, Mr. and Mrs. James Wall report: "The assembly at Poroutawhao is still making progress and their zeal in seeking to reach the people of outlying districts is a challenge to us all. Recently a dear sister obeyed the Lord in baptism. She had been hindered on a number of occasions but this time determined to put the Lord first, being obedient to His will. It was a real joy to us to witness this service and we felt that many prayers were answered that day. The service was conducted in the open at Poroutawhao. The young people continue in their prayer meetings and their study classes and are seeking to go on for the Lord. One or two have shifted away from the district and we do well to pray for them."

GIFT OF A BIBLE

At the Saturday evening meeting of the Oxford Street annual Conference held in the Century Hall, Levin, on March 29th, 1952, Mr. Fred Elliot (a visiting evangelist from London) handed to Mr. Toka Graham a nicely bound Bible, being a gift to the Poroutawhao Assembly from his own assembly in London. Inside the Bible the following is inscribed in handwriting: "A token of love and fellowship from the Alpertons Assembly, Wembley, London, to the Poroutawhao Assembly. 'Preach the Word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine' (2 Tim. 4:2). On behalf of the Alpertons Assembly, Fred Elliot, March 29/52."

The following acknowledgment was sent to Mr. Elliot from Hokio Beach Road on June 16th, 1952:—

"Dearly Beloved Brother in our Lord Jesus Christ,—On behalf of the Poroutawhao Christian Assembly, I wish to express our very sincere thanks and assurance of deep gratitude to you for the fulfilment of your mission of love to us, committed to you by our English brethren and sisters of the Wembley Assembly. It is the sincere wish of this Maori Assembly that you will convey to the brethren and sisters of the Wembley Assembly our humble thanks for the valued token of their love in the form of a beautiful platform Bible. This act and expression of the love of God towards the Maori Christians has filled our hearts with joy. When you return to them please assure them that their gift is highly esteemed by us, because of that which it represents, and that we heartily reciprocate their love. May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, ever multiply showers of blessing upon thee. Amen. With very

sincere thanks again, and warm Maori Christian Greetings, yours anxiously waiting for His Coming.—RANIERA (DAN) RIKIHANA.”

A note in June issue of “Te Mahi Maori”, by Mr. and Mrs. James Wall, states: “The assembly at Poroutawhao is progressing well. Various ones have given very helpful ministry which is building up our brethren in the faith. One Sunday we had a visit from our brother, Mr. Walter Bowen, from Te Puke, who gave helpful ministry in the morning and took the Gospel meeting at night. Mr. E. Coppin, who takes a keen interest in the work, has also been a great help to the assembly. The ministry given in both languages by Bro. Waari Ward is much appreciated, as are also the occasional visits and rich ministry of Phil Samuels.”

In June “Treasury”, Mr. J. Wall writes: “Poroutawhao.—Progress in the erection of the new hall continues, the walls being almost completed. Workers have come from many parts of the North Island and the assembly is deeply grateful to all who have helped with the cost of the building. The assembly is prospering spiritually, and as a result of a conference held in the district several were brought to Christ and others were baptised.”

CONFERENCE HELD AT PARIRI PAH, LEVIN

A conference was held at this pah (situate at the southern end of Lake Horowhenua) over the Easter weekend of this year (April 9th to 13th). A goodly number of local Christians came together and also visitors from many parts. God richly blessed the messages given. Some were saved and two believers baptised. The baptism was held in the adjacent lake. Testimonies were also given. The speakers at this hui were: Brethren Waari Ward, E. Coppin, Ern Edwards, J. Wall, W. H. Rolston, W. Burgess and some others.

Report in September issue of “Te Mahi Maori”: “The Christians at Poroutawhao are seeking still to serve the Lord and are active in their testimony in witnessing to others in the surrounding districts. Recently five of them, with two from Palmerston North district, assisted with an effort in the P.W.D. Camp at Bunnythorpe. We had a very good time there with believers from the local assembly and men from the workers' camp, and we feel that a real interest may have been awakened in the hearts of some.”

December issue of the “Treasury” states: “Manawatu.—The Maori brethren at Poroutawhao (near Levin) will (D.V.) open their new hall on Saturday, December 27th, and they desire to thank all who have helped in the work.—D. Rikihana.”

“Members of the Poroutawhao Assembly are active in their witness in the district; also in visitation at the Otaki Sanatorium. We had the joy of seeing another soul turn to the Lord.—J. Wall.”

NEW HALL OPENED

1952: The Poroutawhao Maori Assembly's anniversary conference was held in their new hall on Saturday, December 27th, 1952. The opening day proved to be a time of blessing and some found the Saviour during the time of the conference. Some others

came to Him afterwards. There were some restored, too, and two believers were baptised. Visitors came from many parts by car and bus to assist and to enjoy fellowship together. Speakers were: Brethren Piripi Hamiora, Haki Thompson, Tau Paranihi, Kepa Nuku, Wi Paul, W. H. Rolston, Dr. Pettit and some others.

ANNIVERSARY

The assembly anniversary meeting was held later on and a happy weekend was experienced with helpful ministry given by brethren Hoani Peni, Rangi Marsh, Hemi Pahau, Mr. Munro Perry (Bolivia), Mr. E. Coppin, Mr. E. Buchanan (India), Mr. Moir and Mr. James.

Through substantial gifts of money and material, and free labour given by individuals and groups of brethren, the hall has been completed. This has been a great encouragement to the local Maori believers, who have devoted all available resources to the work. May the Lord crown their effort with blessing and encourage them to go on for Him.

Mrs. D. Coppin, who had recently been commended by Queen Street Assembly, Levin, to work among the Maori people, has been added to the list of names of workers. May the Lord richly bless our sister in her service for Him among the Maori people.



Poroutawhao Maori Gospel Hall, built in
1952.

1954: "Te Mahi Maori", of March issue, records: "Poroutawhao.—The assembly has had helpful ministry given recently by brother W. Bowen. One or two have expressed their appreciation of the blessing received from our brother's messages. Our young brother Darcy is back in hospital at present and we would appreciate prayer on his behalf. He will be missed at Poroutawhao and district as the Lord has endowed him with the gift of personal work and tract distribution." (May the Lord bless our dear brother in his service for his Lord.)

Report in "Te Mahi Maori" of June issue: "Assembly Poroutawhao.—Although numbers have been depleted to some extent due to lack of conveyance and partly to spheres of occupation, the meetings continue as usual with some blessing attending the efforts of the believers. Prayer meetings are sometimes held at the meeting-house and sometimes at the home of Rangi Marsh. These are usually well attended and helpful and we expect to see

results in the near future. Sunday School is conducted on the mornings of each Sunday by brethren A. Ingram and B. Honore and Mrs. D. Coppin, and it is good to hear the voices of the children raised in singing and learning the Scriptures. Pray for those who have taken the responsibility of reaching the young. Every second Thursday evening a meeting is held in the home of brother and sister Gilbert, Otaki, when Mr. and Mrs. Toka Graham and others seek to help the Christians there and tell out the Gospel to those who have not yet trusted the Saviour."

Fallen Asleep. On July 25th, Mr. H. P. Edwards, of Palmerston North; aged 74. Our brother was saved 54 years ago at Palmerston North and was received into fellowship at Main Street Assembly, but later removed to Newtown and then to Miramar. For a season he worked on the Bible Carriage with the late Mr. Allan Smith. He returned to Palmerston North 28 years ago and was zealous in many avenues of service for the Lord. He was a grand visitor and his constancy and wise judgment made his words weighty. Also the Maori work and workers lost a lifetime supporter and prayer partner in the passing of our brother. For many years he carried out systematic visitation of Maori patients in the Palmerston North Hospital. He had visited the various Maori assemblies, attended huis, and has consistently prayed for all the Maori workers on the prayer list for many years. A party of Maori Christians from Waikato, Manawatu and Rangitikei districts attended his funeral. The Maori lament, "Piko nei te Matenga", was sung at the graveside. Truly a brother beloved.

By June of this year the assembly numbers had depleted a little due to some working in other districts, and to some extent through sickness which prevails in some places at this time of the year. We trust this is only temporary and soon we hope to see others also added to their numbers. Mr. Toka Graham, Foxton Road, Levin, is responsible at present for the assembly correspondence.

December issue of "Te Mahi Maori" reports a baptism as follows: "Two of our brethren were baptised recently at Poroutawhao and they humbly testify what God has done for them. It was indeed a joy to our hearts to see the reality and earnestness of their testimonies. The mother of one of these came 200 miles to witness her son's obedience to the Saviour's command."

1955: March issue of "Te Mahi Maori" records: "Poroutawhao.—The believers here are continually seeking to help one another and are endeavouring to take the Gospel to other parts as the way opens. It is encouraging to see the work progressing, maybe slowly and with some setbacks at times. A baptism was held recently at Otaki when one young brother sought to obey the Lord in baptism. It provided a good opportunity to preach the Gospel to a number of unsaved ones in the gathering, as well as to those on the other side of the sandbank nearby. About six of the brethren took part in this open air witness." (It is good to see our Maori people not only receiving Christ but also being obedient to His command. May the Lord bless our young brother.)

HOROWHENUA, LEVIN

Mrs. D. Coppin writes in June issue of "Treasury": "Of recent weeks several more young lives have been rescued from the devil's grasp. This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes. Some of these young people were taught the way of salvation in Sunday School days, but nevertheless went out in pursuit of worldly pleasure. We do thank the Lord for drawing them to Himself and revealing to them the emptiness of a Christless life. This encourages us again in our Sunday School work to teach God's Word carefully and prayerfully, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

A further note in same issue by Mr. and Mrs. J. Wall: "We had a great time when our brethren from Levin, Manakau and Otaki came for a meeting with our people at Kaitoke Pah several weeks ago. It was good to be there and hear their witness in the singing, testimonies and messages from the Word. This visit was much appreciated by all and was a great help to the work in this area."

MAORI POSTAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

This is a great and important work carried on by Mr. and Mrs. Arnot Edwards, the superintendents of the work. (Address: M.P.S.S. Headquarters: Office, Room 2 (upstairs), Ord-Hunter's Buildings, 19 Maria Place, Wanganui.)

As the precious seed of the Gospel is sown in the hearts of the young the Holy Spirit is then able to bring it to fruition, and many a young child is thus won for Christ and saved not only from hell but also from a life of sin. May the Lord bless our brother and sister in this great field of service for Him and grant much fruit for His glory.

Mrs. D. Coppin again writes: "Girls' Camp.—Last week we were able to take five young girls to a Rally Camp where they received a great deal of spiritual help. Two of them accepted the Lord as their Saviour, both of whom have had sufficient teaching to fully understand the step they have taken."

1956: Fallen Asleep. At Te Puke, on July 11th, Mr. W. E. Bowen; aged 73. Our brother was saved in 1928 in Nelson Street, Hastings, through the ministry of the late Mr. C. F. Gedge. (He was known in Maoriland as Wata.) It was the delight of our brother to visit among the Maoris and to help them both in Christian ministry and the Gospel. He was one of the speakers at the hui at Poroutawhao in 1950.

Fallen Asleep: On August 19th, Mr. W. Burgess; aged 78. Our brother was saved at the age of 18 at Johnsonville and later received into the Newtown Assembly. After marriage he moved to Levin, on to Owaka, and then for some years at Ohau. In later years he was a particular help to the Maori believers in his neighbourhood and to the Maori Assembly at Poroutawhao where he rendered unstinted service for the Lord and was appreciated by the Maori Christians there.

Numbers Small: Since several of the Maori Christians have moved away to work elsewhere, our little assembly is again very small in numbers. However, we can continue to sow the seed here and there knowing that the Lord will bless whatever we do for Him.

A further note in June issue states: "**Horowhenua (Levin).—Happy Times:** Since the beginning of this year we have had very happy times working together with the Maori Christians to win their relatives and friends for the Lord. A few have come to Christ since the Easter hui, and we see that the Spirit of God is striving with others also to lay down their pride and self-righteousness and come to the foot of the Cross. We are a very happy little company of Christians, and as we read and pray together we feel that the work of the Spirit to convict of sin is so necessary that we who are saved must live before the unsaved as becometh the Gospel of Christ."

The sisters meeting, which began in 1951 and in which Mrs. J. Wall and Mrs. Haseldine gave valuable help, continued about one year, then ceased for a time. It has recently been recommenced and still continues, some unsaved attending.

About 1935, Mr. P. E. Read, assisted by Mr. Nelson Gedge, began a Sunday School at Pariri Pah, Hokio Beach Road, for the Maori children and continued for a time. Mr. R. D. Rolston then took over and continued till about 1943 when it ceased. In 1941 Miss Bertha Williams, a Maori Christian, started one at Weraroa and continued for about a year, when it was taken over by Mr. W. D. Rolston and with the help of Mrs. D. Coppin this Sunday School still continues and is now held in the Rally Hall with some 35 to 40 pupils on the roll. Five scholars who passed through the Sunday School have been saved and baptised and received into fellowship at Poroutawhao and several others give some evidence of spiritual life.

"Lord make Calvary real to me,
Lord make Calvary real to me,
Open my eyes to see Victory in Christ for me,
Lord make Calvary real to me."

APPENDIX

The writer, one of twin brothers, was born at Ohau on August 10th, 1893, and came into the light and knowledge of God's salvation at the age of 16, through the enlightening and regenerating power of the Holy Spirit, while meditating on the text of Isaiah 53:5, "But He (Christ) was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and by His stripes we are healed." So the Lord used the Gospel in Old Testament language to open my blind eyes and bring me to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ my Lord, who died for me and rose again.

I, with eight others, was baptised and then received into fellowship at Ohau where I enjoyed sweet fellowship with the dear saints of God there for eleven years. Then, for the last 36 years, I have had the happy privilege of meeting with the saints at Oxford Street Gospel Hall Assembly, Levin, and where I still continue. How good the Lord has been! Though unworthy the servant, yet the Master has not failed. "Praise His Name!"

And now, as it would seem fitting, I desire to pay a lasting tribute to my dear and godly parents who guarded, guided and cared for me, together with the rest of a large family, with loving affection, instructing us in the things of God which matter most, and training us up in the way in which we should go (Prov. 22:6), many prayers and supplications in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication (Eph. 6:18), sent up to the Throne of Grace from their hearts on our behalf. Such persevering prayer, backed up with parental godly life, must, and did, bear fruit for God's glory, for they both lived to see their family of eleven all brought to know Christ as their own personal Saviour. They both served the Lord faithfully and set us a lasting example during the long years they were spared to us until they were taken Home to be with the Lord on December 27th, 1935, and November 3rd, 1946, respectively.

To my dear and loving parents I owe a deep debt of gratitude which I can never repay, but which the Grace of God has enabled me to appreciate. The wonderful hospitality they extended at all times to the Lord's servants visiting Ohau, and to the saints generally, and also to strangers, like to that of so many others who so willingly gave of their best in those splendid days now past, is remembered by many.

For a short time my dear mother held a Sunday School in her own home. A number of the neighbours' children attended and she taught them the great truth of the Gospel. We trust that some through hearing have believed.

I also would pay tribute to my elder brother Samuel, and my twin brother Robert. Together we had so much in common, not only as boys together growing up, but also in the things of God. All three of us were saved in our early teens, baptised the same

day and came into fellowship at Ohau, and had the joy of preaching the Gospel together for over forty years. Now they, together with my dear parents, are with the Lord whom they loved and served. In their passing they have left me with memories perfumed with sweetest fragrance.

I acknowledge the kindness and hospitality extended to me by my late father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. H. Saint, Senr., of Ohau. From them I received much spiritual help. To them I owe much, including the gift of a true helpmeet in Christ, one who for 36 years has stood beside me in times of prosperity and times of adversity, in sickness and in health, in prayer and sympathy and much encouragement. I express my thanks to God for His loving kindness in providing for me such great blessings all along the way.

To our dear daughter, Mira, whom the Lord gave to us as a rich treasure indeed, and to our esteemed son-in-law, Mr. George W. Satherley, I would express the fervent hope that the Lord will continue to bless, guard, and keep them both till the end. And to our two dear little grandsons, Paul and John, aged 4 years and 2½ years respectively, may the Lord richly bless you Paul and John, and we hope and pray that you will each find the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Saviour, Friend and Guide, and that you will grow up to be a joy and delight to your parents; that you will honour God in all your ways, for His promise is still the same: "Them that honour Me I will honour" (1 Sam. 2:30).

To my many personal friends, whom I love in the Lord, I extend greetings. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God (Phil. 1:3, 9-11). May our Christian friendship and fellowship continue to grow stronger and sweeter as we journey on towards the glory land.

To all my readers, I express the wish that you will find something within the covers of this book that will help and encourage you on in the things of God, and that we altogether will be found watching, working and waiting in anticipation of that grand moment when our Saviour Lord shall come and call all His redeemed ones to Himself and we shall be with Him and like Him forever.

To any who may be still out of Christ, I commend my Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, whom I have known for nearly fifty years and who saves and keeps and satisfies. To save us from sin and hell He went to the Cross and bore the judgment of sin that was due to us, satisfied the claims of a holy God, and now on a righteous basis offers to you a free pardon, peace, salvation, satisfaction and a hope for eternity. And it is all within your reach. "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in

thy heart: that is, the word of faith which we preach; that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus (or Jesus as your Lord) and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness: and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:9-10). He (Christ) is the only Saviour of sinners, He is the only one that can meet your soul's need, and He is the Saviour for you; Then, dear sinner: believe Him, receive him as your own Saviour by faith, and experience the Salvation which He gives to all who trust in Him. But as many as received Him (Christ Jesus) to them gave He power to become the sons (or children) of God, even to them which believe on His Name which were born, not of blood nor the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13).

And now, dear saints in Christ, I commend you to God and to the Word of His Grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified (Acts 20:32).

So now, as we look back over the years and see God's hand moving mightily in and through His people, guiding and blessing them, and see the many souls won for Christ through the faithful ministry of those dear ones gone on before, whose memory is very dear to us, and say from our hearts: To God be all the glory and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—W. H. ROLSTON

Lindsay Road,
Levin.

31st December, 1956.