



OFFICERS OF THE CHELTENHAM CHURCH.

Top Row—H. FOREMAN, R. L. JUDD, W. WOFF, S. ORGAN.

Bottom Row—W. JUDD, R. W. TUCK, H. MAHON, W. H. BARNETT, J. FISHER.

CHELTENHAM.

—♦♦♦—

IN the later part of 1857, primitive Christianity took root in this district, when Bro. Keir, Penny, Organ, and Sister Keir met for the first time in Bro. Keir's house to break bread. Soon after these were joined by Bro. Walker. Though few in number they were strong in faith. A building was erected on Bro. Walker's property, on the Chesterville-road, in which the Gospel was preached and a Sunday School established. Many hearing the Gospel in this place believed, were baptized and added to the church.

In 1858, a cause was started at Beaumaris by Bro. Hilliar. The meetings were held in a private house (Charman's). It was here that the Judd family believed and obeyed the Gospel. Other families soon became identified with the cause in the district, among whom may be mentioned—Charman, Moysey, Fisher, Ruse, Hayes and Bodley. The

cause prospered until it was found necessary to find larger premises to carry on the work. Accordingly a chapel was erected on Bro. Ruse's property, on Charman-road. Even this had to be enlarged to meet the demand for room.

After a few years it was resolved to build a chapel in the centre of the district, when the present building was put up under the supervision of J. Brough, who has since gone to his rest. This building is free from debt. The hand of God has been with them and the cause has prospered abundantly. This year they have built a most substantial building for school purposes, which is an ornament to the township. This building has been erected under C. F. McDonald's supervision, who also provided the plans. The Sunday School, which is the largest in the district, is presided over by E. T. Penny, a son of one of the founders of the cause here. R. W. Tuck has been Secretary of the school for the past 20 years. He has also filled the position of church Secretary for 16 years.

The church has been established 46 years, and during that time they have had labored among them as Evangelists some valiant soldiers of the cross. Well do they remember Bro. Strang, Moyses, Bryant, Chaplam, Goodacre, Pittman, Green and Judd. The present preacher is H. Mahon, who is well and favorably known.

Of the original stock who have labored long with patience and with love, many have gone to receive their reward. But they are still with them Bro. Keir, Organ and Fisher, also Sisters Le Page and Meeres, a daughter of Bro. Walker, both of whom joined the church in the early days.

Although there are several sectarian churches about, the Church of Christ has the largest building, the largest school, and the largest congregation; therefore, truly it may be said of those who have gone to be with Christ—"They rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

GALAQUIL.



ABOUT the middle of May, 1892, Bro. White and Cooper of the Brunswick church, and employees of the Victorian Railway Department, were sent to work on the line at Galaquil, 235 miles from Melbourne, in the Mallee District. Hearing incidentally that there were disciples in the district, they sought them out, and found Mr. and Mrs. R. Howard, who were also upon the same mission. These four met on 5th June, 1892, in the tent of Bro. White and Cooper, to break bread. The little gathering was further augmented, and on 12th June, 1892, ten met for worship.

In response to an appeal, the Home Missionary Committee sent G. H. Browne, from Murton, to preach the Gospel. A church was at once organized. The first to respond to the Gospel call were—Robert Langley and the daughter of R. Howard. In quick succession 13 others were added to the church. These were followed by more, and a strong church was built up. Now many of these are scattered throughout the States. In its early days the church was greatly strengthened by the visits of—G. B. Moyses, A. B. Mauston, J. Pittman, F. M. Ludbrook, M. McLellan and several others. Although the church is not so strong numerically as it was, yet it is alive and active. From it have sprung several churches in the surrounding districts, which also hold forth the Word of Life.

BAIRNSDALE.



BAIRNSDALE is a picturesque town situated on the River Mitchell, and is noted as a hop growing and maize producing district. It has a population of about 4,000. It derived its name, so tradition says, through one of the early settlers, who, after a few years' absence, was surprised to find on his return quite a number of children

and exclaimed—"What a Dale for Bairns." Hence the name Bairnsdale. During the years 1881-82-83, there moved to Bairnsdale—Martin Zelius, Mrs. Zelius and their two daughters, F. W. Clurey and wife, and Bro. and Sister Ball. These were not long in coming together to discuss the advisability of spreading the Lord's table. A Sunday School was started, some three miles down the river, in a hop kiln. Though not smooth work the brethren plodded joyfully along. In the early part of 1884, W. J. Joiner and wife arrived from the church in Sale, and as he was anxious to take up the preaching, M. Zelius waited upon the other brethren, who gladly agreed to co-operate, and Bro. Joiner was engaged as Evangelist. Arrangements were made to hold the meetings in M. Zelius' house. After a short time the Oddfellows' Hall was rented, and the Gospel preached every Sunday evening. At the end of the year it was found 23 had joined as the result of nine months' labor. Early in 1885 W. J. Joiner resigned, and Martin Zelius carried on the work for a time, after which H. Hilliar was engaged for twelve months. In 1887, Bro. Zelius sold the church a piece of land, and the present building was erected thereon. The Gospel services have been discontinued for some time past, but the breaking of bread is continued the first day of every week. In consequence of removals only some twelve brethren now remain, and five of them are over 70 years of age.

PITFIELD.



THIS church was established two years ago, and now consists of eight members, five of whom came from the Ballarat West church, one from Lygon-street, Carlton, and two who have united with them since the church meetings were first held. They hold a meeting for worship every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, in the Mechanics' Institute, and in the summer months Gospel meetings are held on alternate Sunday evenings, as they have to share the hall with the Presbyterians. This is a mining town, and like most others of like nature, is a very hard one to work from a religious point of view. The large preponderance of Roman Catholics makes it still worse in this respect. The Methodists are about the strongest body of Protestants there, and they are so deficient in zeal that they cannot muster enough teachers to properly conduct their Sunday School. The Presbyterians are very weak in numbers, and the Church of England, after about 12 months' effort to maintain an existence, have now discontinued their meetings. Although the circumstances are somewhat depressing the church is holding on, and presenting the Word of Life as opportunity occurs. Although they cannot give such a glowing report as they could wish, they have good reason to believe that the little church is laying a foundation that will not easily be moved. Although they cannot report large increase in numbers, they trust they are growing in the "grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Short History of Individual Members in Victoria.

DR. JAS. COOK.

See page 266

DR. JAMES COOK was born in Castlemaine, in this State, 4th February, 1868, both parents being members of the church. At the age of nine he was removed to Bendigo, which was then as now named as given in this article, but in the meantime had been called Sandhurst. The lad won a State School Scholarship worth £35 per year for six years, which enabled him to enter college and the university. Building on that foundation, he won the diplomas of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and from 1893 to 1895 served as Resident Medical Officer to the Homoeopathic Hospital in Melbourne, until he started private practice in Bendigo in the latter year. He first took his stand publicly for Christ in a Salvation Army meeting, when fifteen years of age, and was baptized into Christ in the Baptist chapel in Bendigo. He first united with the Church of Christ at the Fitzroy Tabernacle, when W. S. Houchins was laboring there, being then nineteen years of age, working and occasionally speaking for the church. In May, 1896, he took up the preaching work at Bendigo, where for the last six years he has been the Evangelist.

In that time 310 have been baptized by him, and the church is in every way better than it has been in the past. In December, 1895, Dr. Cook married Bessie Wilson, of the Fitzroy church, and has great reason to be well pleased with the help brought to his hands, more especially in the work of the church.

HENRY HILLIAR.

See page 218.

HENRY HILLIAR'S surviving relatives have supplied a few facts in which our readers will be interested, as to the unpretending labors of our departed friend. He was born at Sherborne, England, on 16th January, 1818, and died in Melbourne, having reached the ripe age of 72 years. His partner in life, Sarah Beaton, was born at Chilthorne, England, in January, 1822, and died at Garfield, in this State, in 1887. They were married in March, 1855, having to family two sons and three daughters, all united with the disciples of Christ. A sailor in his youth, Henry Hilliar was, with other members of a shipwrecked crew, cast on shore near Port Fairy. It is recorded by his own pen that in his young manhood he was inclined to scepticism, although nominally attached to the Church of England, but when his conscience became awakened to the necessity of leading a godly life, a conflict arose between the Prayer Book and the Bible. The truth prevailed, and the enquirer stood committed to the Bible alone. In March, 1858, he was baptized at Brighton, and immediately afterwards he commenced meeting in S. Charman's house. On 8th March, 1859, to use his own

words once more, "The Table of the Lord was spread for the first time at Beaumaris." His wife, with twelve others, was immersed 3rd April, 1859, and the little family remained united with the Church of Christ wherever they were located (frequently in their own house), until the end of their pilgrimage.



F. W. GREENWOOD.