

METHODIST CHURCH COROWA

LAUNCHING OF NEW CALVARY CHURCH

And Memorial Youth Centre

There was a large congregation at the Methodist Church, Corowa, on Sunday afternoon to witness the official launching of the New Calvary Church and War Memorial Youth Centre. Mr. E. T. Kendall, president. Mr. W. C. Brown, A.R.A., L.A., of Sydney, was also present to assist in the appeal.

With Mrs McFarlane at the piano, proceedings opened with the singing of the National Anthem.

The Rev. W. H. McElhinney said this was a significant day for them as it marked the opening of their raising campaign for their Church and War Memorial Youth Centre. They were pleased to have with them today as chairman Mr. E. T. Kendall, who a few months ago made his presence felt in no uncertain manner when they were launching their campaign to build the parishage. They were also glad to welcome the visiting artists. Unfortunately "Mr. influenza" was on the war path and had prevented a number from being present.

Mr. E. T. Kendall (chairman), in his opening remarks, said he was very pleased to accept their kind invitation to help that day with this worthy appeal. One reason for his pleasure was that he admired the Rev. McElhinney, and he desired to do something to help towards the great work Mr. McElhinney was doing as a clergyman, and in particular his great work in trying to bring the youth of this country to the Church. It was the youths who would have to carry on the battle against paganism and communism. He said that in his early days the first church he had known was the Methodist Church, in the Wimmers, where he came from. Sunday School and Church services had been conducted in a large kitchen adjoining a country station homestead. He could quite well remember being spanked for not keeping quiet. For seven or eight years there had been no other church there. His wife also went to this same church. Later a small Methodist Church had been built, and this church also became a centre for the Presbyterians and the Anglicans. It was therefore with great sentiment that he was pleased to help their clergyman, who was so enthusiastic and keen. He was pleased to do what he could to help towards the building of this new Calvary Church and War Memorial Youth Centre.

A very fine programme by visiting artists was then proceeded with. Mr. Fred Grimmett, of Albury, rendered two solos, accompanied on the piano by Mrs Dr. Terry, also of Albury. Miss Boyce pleased with some recitations, and Miss Irene Thomas, of Corowa, delighted with pianoforte items.

Mr. Kendall thanked the artists personally for their very fine items, which were so much enjoyed by the congregation present. Mr. Kendall, in launching the appeal for funds towards the building fund, said that it was very obvious, when looking round, to see that they must have a new church. The present building was becoming dangerous. Judging by the approved plan before them that day they would all agree that the new church and youth centre would be a great acquisition

that the new church and youth centre would be a great acquisition to Corowa and to the Methodist community. The idea was to build the Youth Centre and Kindergarten and then the church. It was a very ambitious programme, but certainly not beyond the means of Corowa. He did not like the idea of doing half the work and then leaving it. He thought they should go on and on and not postpone the building of the new church. He thought it was

a great idea once they went into the matter of building they should conclude the work. He had been advised that some handsome donations had already been made and the great work could only be done with the financial support of all. He said a donation of £100 had been received from Sydney, and Messrs Black and Lavis had each promised £100, and Mr. Kendall would donate £10.

Rev. McElhinney thanked Mr. Kendall for sponsoring the appeal. He said their building programme would cost approximately £1400. In their Methodist Crusade for the church they had no struts and no rackets. They believed the people would respond. They were anxiously awaiting details from Mr. J. W. Hughes of the most ambitious department, the Taxation Department, regarding the allowance of deduction from taxation for amounts donated towards the building fund. They hoped to have the kindergarten and youth centre completed early next year.

At this stage Mrs Dickins rendered two solos, accompanied by Mrs McFarlane on the piano.

Mr. W. C. Brown, of the property department and choir-master of Five Dock Methodist Choir, City, said he was glad to be associated with the launching of this appeal. Throughout the length and breadth of the country their Methodist Church was held in the greatest esteem, and everywhere a great warmth of fellowship was meted out. He brought greetings from the property department in Sydney to the Methodist people in Corowa. He had hoped that the Rev. R. H. Donat would be with them in Corowa that day, but unfortunately, owing to the sickness of his wife, he could not come. He said the property department greatly appreciated the good work done in the past by the Corowa people, especially in the building of the home for their minister. He recently had a call from the Missionary Board to go to Fiji, and whilst there was asked to visit Toga to advise them about the building of a new church there. When he arrived after a very torrid trip by plane, he found a very old wooden building, listed to port and to starboard, for seating about 2000 people. They had to have a building to stand the ravages of hurricane and earthquakes. At about 5 o'clock next morning he heard the bells ringing for the services to start at a quarter past 3. On account of the torrid trip he had in the plane he was not called to get up. He felt ashamed when he found that at quarter past 3 about 1500 people had gathered for the service and he was not there. The services lasted until 11 o'clock at night. He asked the people of

The services lasted until 11 o'clock at night. He asked the people of Corowa to accept God's richest blessing and to endeavour to further his Kingdom.

The offertory taken up realised £400.

It is the intention of the church authorities to lay the foundation stone of the new church building in the spring of this year, and for it to be dedicated by the Rev. F. H. Hayward, in 1952.