

Clergyman Criticises Attitude to Aborigines

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SYDNEY.—White Australians considered themselves racially superior to Aborigines, despite protestations to the contrary, the director of Adelaide's Life Line Centre (the Rev. Arthur Preston) said.

Mr. Preston, who is to be associate to the Rev. Sir Irving Benson in Melbourne, said the church stood with the colored people of the world in their struggle for independence.

He attacked the White Australia policy and said the Japanese considered it an affront to their national prestige.

It was inevitable that Australia would become a multi-racial community in the future, he said.

"Now is the time for great statesmanship and we look to the Minister for Immigration and the Commonwealth Government to give us great statesmanship," he said.

It was profoundly significant that while the world was falling apart the power of the Bible was resulting in denominational barriers being pulled down.

Speaking at a Pleasant Sunday Afternoon service in Sydney, Mr. Preston said "Australia had a particular responsibility to Aborigines."

Australia remained the only country in the world which had not recognised the rights of the original occupants to own land, he declared.

All reserve land was owned by the Crown.

Aboriginal reserves upon which minerals or any other asset of value to the white population was found could be leased or sold without consultation with the Aborigines.

"It is generally believed among white Australians that Aborigines are less intelligent than they are," he said.

"However, sociologists have disproved these assumptions."