

# THE Welcome Visitor

"Surely I Come Quickly. Even So, Come, Lord Jesus."

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## THE OHIO CONFERENCE.

"As a church, as individuals, if we would stand clear in the judgment, we must make more liberal efforts for the training of our young people, that they may be better fitted for the various branches of the great work committed to our hands."

### FINISHING THE WORK.

DURING the ministry of Christ on earth he said to his disciples on one occasion, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."

If this same spirit of devotion and earnestness would take possession of every Seventh-day Adventist in the Ohio Conference, how long would it take to give the Third Angel's Message to the people of this State, and set everything in readiness for the coming of Christ?

This message has been before the people for many years, and we naturally ask how long before the work will be finished. Peter tells us that when the Lord is about to appear, men will scoff, and will say, "Where is the promise of his coming?" 2 Peter 3:4. The time when his people looked for him is evidently in the past, and many conclude that the "promise" is worthless. And we must confess that the message to prepare a people for translation has already required more time than most of those who accepted it at first supposed it would.

### The Key Note.

Then why this delay? "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9. The cause of delay remains with the people. Many who profess to be looking for the coming of Christ are unprepared. The Lord has been sending instructions, reproofs and warnings to lead his people to repentance, but still wrong habits are indulged in, and practices continue which he has said must cease before we are ready for his coming and kingdom. "The return

of Christ to our world will not be long delayed. Let this be the keynote of every message." "Testimonies," vol. 6, p. 406.

Dear reader, is this the keynote of the message you are individually bearing to the world? What a solemn time this is! The last of the signs that indicate the end at hand; the last generation that will live on the earth; the last days of probationary time; the last gospel message that will ever be given; the last opportunities to consecrate ourselves and our means to the Lord and his cause; all are rapidly passing away.

### A United Effort.

For many years the cause in Ohio has been struggling under financial embarrassment. This condition should no longer be permitted to exist by those who profess to love this closing message more than anything else in all the world. By a united effort on the part of all, this burden might easily be lifted, no one suffer any inconvenience, the Master's cause set free, and the people themselves enjoy a rich outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The means thus given would be forever saved to the work of Christ, and who of us at his glorious appearing would regret that it had been so used.

We hope soon to present to our people in Ohio a true financial statement of the present condition of our Conference. May we not also indulge the hope that a unanimity of sentiment will prevail to formulate and set in operation such plans as will result in a speedy liquidation of all Conference indebtedness.

Why should this work be neglected longer? Will there ever come a more favorable time to accomplish it? I do not believe there ever will. Then why delay? Why allow the cause to longer suffer, the work to remain crippled and the reproach of debt to hinder us from receiving the full baptism of the Holy Spirit. Let us start anew for the kingdom, put ourselves on record as opposed to a debt-making policy in Conference administration, prepare to take up our heaven appointed work and be in readiness for the soon coming and kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

H. H. BURKHOLDER.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION.

GOD has given us an everlasting law. In the beginning he created man perfect physically, mentally and spiritually, formed him in his own image so that he would at all times and in all places reflect the image and character of his Maker. In other words God was desirous of revealing himself in human flesh. His character and image, which were eternal, were governed by perfect laws, the observance of which would perpetuate that same life and image and character eternally, and were given to man for two great purposes. First, that his Creator might be honored and glorified; and, second, for the pleasure and enjoyment which man himself might derive from the willing service which he would render to his Creator.

But God gave man the power to choose to obey these perfect laws and thus perpetuate and increase infinitely and unmeasurably that glorious life, or to choose a way of his own. Man in his shortsightedness chose a way of his own, and while reaping the results of his own course discovered that there can be only one perfect way. And that the way of his choosing, not being the perfect way shown him by the infinite mind, must consequently result in death and the loss of all the grandeur and fullness of life with which he was surrounded in nature, in the trees and flowers, brooks and rivers, the valleys and hills, and every beautiful thing with which God had blessed him. And so he was left in a very sad condition indeed, and with no avenue of escape from the natural results of his own choosing. And thus by his own choice he lost the image of God in his soul.

Then God in direct harmony with the same perfect laws which he laid down and set before man, hoping that he would choose to have them govern his life, devised a most wonderful plan whereby, if man would repent of his former choice, he might again have the privilege of making the right choice. Thus he might regain that fullness of life and joy and comprehension of everlasting truth which only the observance of these eternal laws can bring, in other words, the restoration of the image of God in the soul.

Now we are told by God himself that the work of Christian education is the restoration of that very image in our souls. Then how broad is our educational work? When does it begin, and where does it end? How many of us are embraced in it? Can any of us, even the least one, avoid throwing our whole soul into some department of God's great university without thereby throwing away our chance of eternal life?

To assist in the restoring of this image of God in the soul is the work of our schools. Not only to restore it in the souls of the pupils who may attend the schools, but also in the souls of all who choose to place themselves in any way under the influence of our schools. But it is left to each individual to choose whether he desires to have the everlasting laws operative in his life, or whether he will walk in the ways of his own choosing.

Now as to the place and object of the various branches taught in our schools, everything should aid in the great object for which they are established, the restoration of the image of God in the soul; and this object should never be lost sight of. Did God create the earth with every living creature upon it, from man down to the smallest insect of the air or the smallest creature that inhabits the waters, the plant life from the giant of the forest down to the tiniest microscopical plant, every inanimate substance, the very materials of which the earth is composed? Do all of these things bear any relation to his great plan for the earth? Did he create the sun, moon, and stars and set them swinging in their great orbits all in perfect tune and perfect time, and do they bear any relation to his great plan for the universe? Did he not give us language with which to express to others the beautiful truths which we discover in his ways? Has he not been seeking to teach humanity lessons in his dealings with every individual and every nation which has ever existed on the earth? Are not all of these things parts of his ways? And does he not wish us to behold his character as revealed in all of these things? Then surely he who studies them the most thoroughly and makes them his, and studies them in the light thrown upon them by the Word, will come nearest to the great heart of the Eternal and have the greatest measure of life; for "This is life eternal that they might know thee."

"He lives the most whose eye perceives  
The beauty hid in every zone,  
Whose faith can pierce all distances  
And make the things unseen its own."

CHARLES E. WELCH.

## FROM THE WORKERS.

**Workers' Meeting July 27 to Aug. 6. See notice on last page.**

Wheelersburg.

QUARTERLY meeting service was held here on Sabbath, July 11. Three more dear souls from Portsmouth connected with us upon this occasion. A Baptist minister joined us in the meeting. He expressed himself as being well pleased with our Sabbath-school and church service. R. R. KENNEDY.

Clyde and Toledo.

WELCOME VISITOR: We had an excellent quarterly meeting at Clyde, although not largely attended. Our meeting at Toledo was one of unusual interest. Three dear souls were baptised and added to the church. The work still prospers with us, and we praise the dear Lord for it, and are of good courage in the Lord. I am looking forward to our camp-meeting with great interest, hoping to meet many of the saints, and to enjoy with them the fellowship of the gospel in Christ. D. W. LINDSEY.

Columbus.

OUR work is progressing nicely here. Our brethren are pressing closer together. They are taking hold of the work with renewed zeal and fervor. Light is breaking for the discouraged ones. The Lord has wonderfully blessed in raising money to pay off our mortgage of \$1,000. That amount has already been subscribed. We owe another claim of \$300. A beginning has already been made to lift this last sum also. There are several more who will contribute freely to this sum. When this shall have been raised we shall be free from the bondage of debt and thus have more money to help the general cause. Let all assist with their plans and means to accomplish this work and share in the joy of those who shall hear the welcome plaudit: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

There will be baptism here on next Sabbath afternoon. Several have recently connected with the church subject to baptism. We are cheered to see these loved ones connect with us in church fellowship, hoping at last, in that great day, to be presented unto the Lord without spot, wrinkle, or any such thing. R. R. KENNEDY.

Millfield.

DEAR VISITOR: We appreciate your weekly visits very much, as you carry news of the progress of the work in the State. We also desire that you should carry a few words concerning the work at this corner of the vineyard.

The interest is still good. The tent is almost full each night. There are very few in the neighborhood but what attend the meetings, and nearly all are regular attendants. The people are more free from prejudice than any we have met for some time, and seem ready to acknowledge a truth when it is presented to them. The prospects at present are good for fruit unto the Lord from this point.

We realize we have now reached a testing point in our work. The people will soon take their stand one way or the other. We ask an interest in your prayers for the work here at this time when souls will be making decisions. Our desire is to help them to decide on the side of right. We are of good courage. The Lord is with us.

JAMES H. SMITH,  
FRED M. FAIRCHILD.

Piqua.

WE closed our series of lectures at Piqua Sunday night, July 12, with a large attendance and apparently good interest. On Sabbath, the brethren from the Laura church came over and we enjoyed a rich blessing. In our program several interesting themes were considered, but perhaps the most profitable was that of Christian Education. This seemed to absorb a great portion of the time, because of the active part taken by all present. We believe these churches start out for the coming season fully appreciating the need and advantages of church schools and a more thorough discipline and training of the young among us. Sister Sara Hall, a teacher in South Lancaster Academy, who is visiting relatives in Piqua, gave us a most interesting talk on school work from the standpoint of her long experience as instructor. A few from Dayton and other places were also present on Sunday.

Arrangements are made for baptism Sunday, July 19. We expect five or six to go forward in this ordinance. The Piqua church will then be reorganized, the old work resurrected, and the brethren go forward with courage, because of the strength added to that which remained. We will continue with the company until camp-meeting. Sincerely and courageously.

C. A. WATKINS,  
R. B. THURBER.

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK.

### THE CAMP-MEETING.

I WRITE "unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." 1 John 2:14. Now as never before in the history of the world, do we need young men, and also young women, who are so true to Christ that this scripture may apply in their lives. Young men are needed who will stand loyal for truth under every test, as did Daniel and Joseph, and young women also who are so consecrated to the Lord that they will follow the example of Esther and stand as a witness for Christ, even though death stare them in the face.

Just such devotion as this, Seventh-day Adventist young people must have, if they expect to fulfil their part in the Third Angel's Message; for it is upon them that the Lord will lay much of the burden of carrying the message to the world at this time. In order that the youth may better realize the exalted privilege of being "laborers together with God," the great responsibility which is upon them, the urgent need of laborers, and the dangers of these times, not only do they need to have instruction along these lines, but they also need to meet together for mutual encouragement and help. It is hoped that the young people's meetings which are being planned for the coming camp-meeting will meet both these needs.

We long to see an army of young people in Ohio who are united in one purpose, and devoted heart and soul to giving the last warning message to a wicked world. Only eternity can reveal what a power for good three hundred young people would be, if they were all fully consecrated to the Lord, with the one object in life to hasten his coming.

May the Lord impress fathers and mothers all over this State with the importance of making every effort to bring to the camp-meeting the young people of your home, or your church, or any others that you can influence. And we make an urgent appeal to all our young men and women to put forth earnest effort to meet with others of like precious faith at the coming camp-meeting.

We have been assured of two meetings a day, which will be occupied in praise and prayer. We are planning for one of these meetings each day to be devoted to short, pointed talks, which will be given by men and women of experience, whom we expect to be in attendance. Those branches of the work will be considered especially

which afford openings for our young people to enter the Lord's work.

We are planning to have some missionary work for the young people to do at the meeting this year; so we trust that all will come with willing hearts to do with your might what your hands find to do. Yours in the Young People's Work,

BENJAMIN L. HOUSE.

### THE DAY OF THE LORD.

THIS is the time of the church's greatest responsibility, for "the great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly." Zephaniah says: "The mighty man shall cry there bitterly;" he says it is a "time of trouble and distress;" it is "a day of clouds and thick darkness." The prophet also adds that it is "a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers." The church should be intensely active in her Master's work. It is a day in which we as children of God ought each to seriously ask himself the question, Am I studying my Bible enough? Is my conversation about Christ's second coming, and about the things he would have me do? Do I offer up prayer to my Father often enough? Do I think every morning to get down on my knees and humble myself before him, thanking him for keeping me through another night or asking that he keep me through another day, and say: "Lord, I give my life into thy hands; take me and use me as thou seest best"? Do I take part in the family worship and try to learn what lesson the Lord has in it for me? Do I attend the prayer meetings every time, as well as the other meetings of the Lord's appointment? Am I associating with the ones that the Lord would choose for me? Am I living to-day safe in the arms of Jesus? Let us, as young people, ask ourselves these questions and live the answers as God would have us.

What solemn heed should be given to the warnings sent this wicked age: "I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord." And "neither their silver nor their gold," which they have "heaped together for the last days," "shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath." Surely this scripture adds a most decided testimony to the fact that there shall be a great time of trouble just before the coming of the Just One. We have already seen that the last days will be full of Satanic deceptions. What peril and trouble these deceptions will lead men into only divine foresight is able to reveal. We have been forewarned

that at the coming of the Son of man, even as in the days of Noah, every imagination of the thoughts of men's hearts will be only evil continually; that all flesh will corrupt his way upon the earth, and the earth will be filled with violence.

It is good to know the Lord, and to be in his service. The Lord has blessed me greatly and I am of good courage.

F. E. GIBSON.

### THE HARVEST.

WE are called to work in the harvest field of the Lord. "Say you not there are yet four months till the harvest, lift up you eyes and see, the fields are white to harvest." Just at this time when the wheat harvest is ripening, we may gain many illustrative lessons from the work of the reapers.

First the machinery is brought out from the dusty warehouses and oiled ready for the day of beginning. So the reaper in the Lord's harvest gets his Bible down from the dusty shelf where neglect has exiled it, opens the sacred pages, and lo! as he reads, over his soul is swept the "oil of joy for mourning and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."

And then comes the test. Those who labor in the harvest field do not go from absolute shade and attempt to stand the scorching rays all day. So the Lord's harvester must have his training. He must be well grounded in Bible facts to be able to meet the adversary who is present in every field, and that he may not dishonor the Lord of the harvest "who has called him out of darkness into his marvelous light."

The harvester must occasionally seek the shelter of the trees and drink deep of the spring that bubbles from the rock in the mountain side. Right here is a grand lesson for each of us—to seek the strength which the Lord alone can give, to rest under his protecting wings, and drink deep of the "rifted Rock of ages." Oh, the blessed peace which creeps over the soul when we commune alone with God!

The harvester would fain linger in these refreshing shades, but a mutter of distant thunder tells of the fast approaching storm, and the true harvester who cares for the sheaves hurries back, forgetting the fierce rays of the sun in his anxiety to gather all before the storm breaks. Yes, the storm is fast approaching. "The harvest of the earth is ripe." Soon the Lord of the harvest will come in the clouds of glory. Let us be true harvesters, lest those who are not saved will cry out against us, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended and we are not saved." RACHEAL R. HESS.

The  
Welcome Visitor

ISSUED WEEKLY BY THE

Ohio Conference of Seventh-day  
Adventists

Price, 25 Cents a Year in Advance.

N. W. LAWRENCE - Editor.

Sabbath begins July 24 at 7:23 P. M.

"THE work of the gospel is not to depend solely upon the minister; every soul should take an active part in advancing the cause of God."

DEAR WELCOME VISITOR: You are welcome in our little home in Toledo. We prize hearing of the good work of our tent brethren. May the dear Lord bless them in their labor, is our earnest prayer. Yours in the Master's work,  
MRS. ETTIE ELSTEN.

IN spite of the many dark features of our time, there is an omen for good in the land. There is a growing disposition on the part of our people to undo the heavy burdens, to stand free both in the sight of God and of man. It becomes more evident daily that this is God's appointed time to shake off the clogs that have hindered the progress of the work in Ohio. And this increasing disposition on the part of our brethren to say every man to his neighbor, "Be of good courage; *it can be done*," is but the leading of God's spirit stirring us up to make the most of our opportunity.

NOW, while we plan for personal liberty, and for church liberty, let us not fail to make large allowance for the one child of *all* the people—the Mount Vernon Academy. Why should there not be meetings held by every church company and Sabbath-school now before camp-meeting, to consider ways and means to help place this institution on vantage ground? Why should not the children and youth share with others in suggesting how they can raise funds for this very important work? Just now, this very year, 1903, by a universal and concerted effort, our beloved Academy may be freed from its burden of debt, be made self-supporting, become a still more efficient educator of our young people, and thus a greater factor in our Conference work. God wants it done. We want it done. *It can be done.* LET'S DO IT. The editor of the VISITOR will be glad to hear directly from all who are ready to take hold of this matter to stay with it to the finish, and by suggestion or counsel aid in every way possible to accomplish this purpose without delay.

CANVASSERS' REPORTS.

(For week ending July 10.)

Raleigh French, Van Wert County.  
—Coming King: value of orders, \$34; helps, \$17; total value, \$51.  
Fred C. Webster, Guernsey County.  
—Miscellaneous: deliveries, \$46.

SABBATH-SCHOOL SECRETARIES.

WE are glad that the secretaries have so generally responded to the request to have their reports in by July 15. There are some others, however, not yet received, and unless these soon arrive the yearly State report will be delayed, and an incomplete statement appear at the camp-meeting. We believe these delinquent ones will aid us by sending them *immediately*. Let us be "not slothful in business," but remember that the divine record says: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."  
B. E. R.

FROM THE SOUTH.

OF all the good things of this life, there is none that I shall ever look upon with more pleasure than my visit to Ohio. Never before had I seen such beautiful farms, but that was not the thing which interested me the most. Meeting the dear brethren and sisters of the different churches was what gave me the most satisfaction. Everywhere I went I was given a cordial reception.

During my short stay, I visited the company at Barberton, who are indeed a zealous little company. The church at Akron responded nobly to the call for help in the great Southland. May God bless these dear brethren.

In all my travels I love to meet the young people, and at Cleveland I found a very earnest company of them. Oh, what a work the Lord will do through them in that great city if they will be true to him! They pledged a goodly sum to help the worthy poor of the South to obtain an education.

There are several other places which I very much desire to visit, but being called away, I cannot do it now. If the Lord is willing I hope to see once more some of the dear ones whom I have visited.

If any have the money wherewith to pay their pledges, send it to Prof. N. W. Lawrence, Academia, O., and it will be called for and receipted at that place. Remember the cause in the South as you kneel around your family altars. Your brother in Christ,  
THOMAS ROWE.

NOTICE TO OUR BRETHREN IN THE EMPLOY OF THE CONFERENCE.

WE are planning to make the next camp-meeting the best ever held in our State. We are in the days of the latter rain. The Lord wants us to draw nigh to him that he may draw nigh to us. We desire to have our work all planned and the camp in order ready to receive the lay brethren when they first come. We owe this time to them and the interested ones who may attend for the first time.

In order to do this, it will be necessary to come ready for service as early as July 27. Our camp-meetings are expensive. If we fail to do the spiritual work that should be done, souls may be lost. Their blood may be found upon our garments. Let all our laborers therefore come on Monday, July 27, to work and seek the Lord for his blessing and power during this important meeting.

R. R. KENNEDY.

DEDICATION AT AKRON.

ACCORDING to appointment, the new church building at Akron was dedicated Sabbath, July 18. Though the day was stormy outside, about eighty were in attendance to share in the blessings of the services inside. At the conclusion of the sermon by Elder Burkholder, opportunity was offered for further gifts and pledges, and enough was collected to more than pay all unpaid accounts to date. With happy hearts for God's prospering hand in the work of building, and for his presence and blessing, all joined Prof. Lawrence in prayer, dedicating both church and people to the service of the Lord. The singing of the "Doxology" by the congregation, and the benediction by Elder Shannon, concluded the morning service.

An afternoon service was held at half past two consisting of a Bible study, followed by a social service in which nearly all present took part, giving evidence of faith in God and a purpose to stay by the truth till it is finished. Elders Burkholder and Shannon remained over Sunday to assist in the consideration of the Sabbath-school and church work. May God's blessing abide with the Akron church, and may it continue to shine so brightly that many souls may be guided safely to the kingdom by its radiant beams.

The building is 20x54 feet over all, and is divided into a chapel 20x40, and a schoolroom 14x20. It has been about eighteen months in building, and aside from donations of labor and material has cost about eight hundred dollars.