

Field Tidings

The Southeastern Union Conference

VOL. 2

GRAYSVILLE, TENNESSEE, APRIL 27, 1910.

NO. 14

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

On page 29 of Vol. 6, "Testimonies for the Church" we read: "The church of God was organized for missionary purposes, and the Lord desires to see the entire church devising ways and means whereby high and low, rich and poor may hear the Message of Truth." Again on Page 447 "The obligation that binds us to place our names on the church roll holds us responsible to work for God to the utmost of our ability.

The church is of divine origin, composed of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by their belief, are "obliged to place their names on the church roll" for the purpose of doing missionary work for all classes. And when a missionary campaign is to be launched, the Lord "desires to see the entire church devising the means."

It seems clear by this that it is not God's plan for individuals, independent of the counsel of the organized body, to begin a great campaign for some special class of people. God has organized his church upon earth for a purpose, and he is not pleased to have that organization ignored.

On page 210, Vol. 3 we read "The people of God should move understandingly, and should be united in their efforts. They should be of the same mind, of the same judgment; then their efforts will not be scattered, but will tell forcibly in the upbuilding of the cause of present truth. Order must be observed and there must be union in maintaining order or Satan will take the advantage."

Language could not be plainer. That Satan may not have the advantage, our efforts should not be scattered, but put forth under order and oneness of mind. This is obtained by the entire "Church devising ways and means to reach all classes."

From page 31 "Life of Paul" I quote, "The redeemer of the world does not sanction experience and exercise in religious matters independent of his organized and acknowledged church." Surely missionary efforts that are

not sanctioned by the Redeemer of the world would be futile. How important then that we do not follow an independent course.

Solomon says where no counsel is, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety. Prov. 11:14; 15:22; 24:6. God's plan of organization is in accord with this counsel. We have in connection with our work the different departments for reaching and qualifying all classes. Each department is in need of more help; so if any one is especially moved to do missionary work, there is room to connect with the organized body. Not to do so would throw us out of harmony with the above instructions, and our influence against organization.

May God give wisdom and grace to all his dear people is my prayer.

CHAS. THOMPSON

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OPEN LETTERS TO BROTHER DASH

Epistle No. 2

Tithe Paying

Dear Brother:-

You believe in paying tithe, or so you said when you joined the church. I have been asking myself whether or not it can be possible that you are not being fair with yourself and honest with the Lord. For I notice by looking over the treasurer's books that your tithe for the half-year lately closed was \$6.30. Of course if this is a real tithe of your income, you have lived on \$63.00 I thought possibly the larger part of your income might have been realized in the half-year preceeding, so I looked to see. The half-year previous you had paid \$9.40. This makes a total for the year of \$15.70 or, if you have paid a tithe, suggests for you an annual income of \$157.00. Do you really live on this amount Brother Dash? Or have you made the mistake of robbing the Lord of a part of the tithe? Now please don't reply that it is none of my business. I don't want to scold you. I

have no spirit of criticism,—no desire to offend. I would if I dared hold my peace, for it is not pleasant to incur the displeasure of our friends. But I can not be still. You are in danger. You are losing. By withholding from the Lord, you are starving your soul and placing yourself outside the channel of the free grace of God.

To be sure you cannot buy yourself into the Kingdom, but neither can you hope for the blessing of God unless you are willing to comply with his requirements. You will be no poorer by giving the Lord his portion, but rather you will be vastly the loser if you fail to do so

Truly your brother,

T. H. JEYS.

* * *

LAND INVESTMENTS

A number of brethren have asked my advice concerning investments in certain lands somewhere among the Everglades of Florida.

At first it occurred to me to refer the inquirers to some of our brethren living in that region; but upon further consideration, have decided to give a few thoughts which may help those interested.

1. There is no doubt about there being such a place, for Rand, McNally, & Co have it plainly marked and specifically named.

2. The base insinuation that these are inaccessible morasses has proven wholly wrong, for the map shows that they are cut up into sections by the surveyors and these section lines even extend many miles out into the water.

3. No doubt opportunity will be given for investment in these lands, for already circulars describing the country are being scattered abroad by well meaning philanthropists who are willing to sell.

4. That these persons are wholly unselfish in their work is shown in the fact that they are willing to sell all their holdings, not even reserving some of the best for themselves.

5. Our brethren who need to cultivate an unselfish disposition should be urged to invest in this, for there is not the remotest probability that they will ever get any thing in return. Then they will learn to, "give, hoping for nothing again."

6. Let no one surmise that everything is not just as represented, for the promoters have sent a man to investigate, and he has returned more enthusiastic than ever and has himself bought another "share." What clearer proof is needed?

7. When calls come for contributions to the \$300,000 fund let great care be exercised in responding to such, for how does any body know

what is done with that money any way? How much better to invest in Florida frog farms!

Well, seriously, Florida is not to blame for having some low, swampy coasts, nor is it any special credit to the state that human sharks make use of these, to swallow up surplus funds of their too easily persuaded fellow-fish of another name. But it would seem that, of all men in this selfish world of ours, Seventh-day Adventists, who know that only a few short year of probation remain, would be the last to desire such a means of wasting their hard-earned money.

T. H. JEYS.

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FROM THE COTTON MILL TO THE CANVASSING WORK

It was in August, 1908, that I first heard the sound of the "Third Angel's Message." At that time I was at work in one of the large cotton mills in Greenville, S. C. Only a few months before, I was converted, through reading the Bible in the home, which the Lord, alone gave me a desire to do, and in that way I became acquainted with the meek and lowly Jesus. Then, following up my convictions, I was thrown into company with a young man whom I thought to be a Christian, and we became real friends, taking active part in the prayer meetings which were held twice a week in the little town in which we then lived. Later we decided to go to Greenville.

Not very long after we had begun work, we noticed across the way a large white tent with two smaller ones near by. After passing and repassing, I asked my friend if he knew what was going on out there. He said he thought a series of meetings were being held there. I told him that I thought that it was a show of some kind. Afterwards we learned that it was a "Seventh-day Adventist" tent meeting. Then I became anxious to go to hear them, but my friend would not go with me at first. Finally I prevailed, and got him to agree to go with me by telling him if they were preaching Bible they would not hurt us, and that we ought to go and see if they were. So we went, but, very naturally, we took a back seat. We listened attentively to the sermon, which was so strangely yet clearly presented. As we were going home, I told my friend that I thought it was the plainest sermon I ever heard and that I wanted to go back the next night to hear the one that was announced, but he refused to go with me any more and said, 'If you don't stop going to hear them, they will

have you believing as they do." But I was determined to hear them once more, so I went back alone the following night and eagerly listened as the minister explained the Word of God as I had never before heard it. When the services were over some one handed me a small tract on "Christ's Second Coming," which I read, and was more anxious than ever to go back and hear it explained. And so in this way I continued to go night after night, now and then moving up a seat or so closer to the preacher that I might not let anything slip unnoticed. After a while, by hearing the prophecies of "Daniel and the Revelation" explained and reading all the tracts I could get, I was convinced of the great truths that were being given by this people, and the importance of keeping all the commandments of God. I felt that I would do a great wrong if I didn't obey, so I renewed my covenant with my Father and became one of the fold. Of course I was compelled to give up my regular occupation, but the Lord had a far better work for me to do which I have been engaged in ever since, and I love the canvassing work more than anything else, and I am by the help of the Lord, going to continue in His service till he comes and says, "It is enough."

H. B. GALLION.

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NEIGHBORHOOD TALK

Recently I wrote to Brother——telling him I was visiting the isolated Sabbath keepers in the eastern part of the conference and that I expected to spend a certain Sabbath with him, and as I did not know just how to find his place, I would be glad to have him meet me at the station.

I arrived at the appointed time and was pleased to find the brother there waiting for me; we had a very pleasant conversation as we rode out to his country home. I learned on the way that he was in harmony with all points of the truth and was glad to hear of its progress.

Arriving at his house, I was attracted by the well filled corn crib, and found upon inquiry that he had a little better crop than others. I became more curious, and interested, after seeing his tithe receipts from the office, and was led to ask him, what in his opinion was the secret of his success. I was immediately referred to the third chapter of Malachi.

I soon found he was particular to "bring in all the tithe" and "of all that" God gave him, Gen. 28: 22; and his wife, I found, was just as

particular, believing that a tithe of "All" the eggs and butter was "Holy unto the Lord." Lev. 23:30.

The neighborhood talk is, "They get along so nicely, and only work five days in a week", and their neighbors know that they pay a "Tithe of all", and they talk about that also.

I wonder how many of our brethren and sisters on small farms, or in other work in N. C., are meeting the Bible requirements and receiving the blessing of God, to such an extent as to cause such neighborhood talk.

G. W. WELLS.

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PUBLISHING HOUSE RECOMMENDATIONS

Among others the following recommendations were passed at the recent annual meeting of the constituency of the Southern Publishing Association held at Nashville, Tenn., January 20-22, 1910.

1. Resolved;—That we co-operate with the several conferences and tract societies in selecting and training book and periodical agents in harmony with the suggestions adopted at the recent bookmen's conventions.

Whereas, our local conferences and tract societies are the natural and most effective means of furnishing supplies; and,

Whereas, we are under the necessity of systematizing the periodical work for the interests of all concerned; therefore,

2. Resolved;—(a) That we co-operate with the local conferences in the selection, training, and protection of suitable persons to handle our periodicals;

(b) That supplies be furnished on order of the local conference or tract society, the publishers allowing the regular tract society discounts;

(c) That in those conferences not in position to properly handle the subscription book business, arrangements be made with the publishers to handle the same on the 5% basis, as heretofore;

(d) That before conferences shall assume control of the subscription book work, competent help be secured.

3. Resolved;—That we concur in Recommendation 62, of the General Conference Publishing Department, adding another section thereto, so that the recommendation shall read: That each conference take full charge of the work of canvassers for periodicals in its respective territory;

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M. B. VanKirk, Editor

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(a) The selection and training of workers for periodicals;

(b) The assigning of territory;

(c) The adoption of a general reporting system; and,

(d) That all club orders be forwarded through the tract society where such a society exists.

Recommendation No. 2 has for its object the thorough re-organization of the conference tract societies; or in other words, that as rapidly as the change can be consistently brought about, all orders in each conference be sent to the conference office instead of direct to the publishing house. Heretofore the publishing house has acted as the tract society supply house for the entire field, but it is not easy for the publishing house to keep properly in touch with so large a field, and it can not look after the individual and local needs of the work as well as can be done through a well organized conference tract society. Especially do the conferences need to maintain watchful care over the periodical work.

This recommendation does not become operative in any conference until adopted by that conference. Some of our conferences have already taken steps along the line indicated by this recommendation. It is believed that the working-out of these recommendations will prove to be of great advantage to the work in our Union, and it is hoped that every reasonable effort will be put forth both by conference officers and the members of our churches toward the establishment of the conference tract society, and for the loyal support of such society.

Until other announcements are made orders should be sent as heretofore to the Atlanta Branch Office. It is expected however that each conference will at once take charge of the periodical work in its respective field.

L. D. RANDALL.

CUMBERLAND

A statement of the \$300,000 fund as pledged and paid in by our churches for the month of March.

	Pledged.	Paid.
Athens	50.00.	
Brayton Cove.		
Cleveland.	200.00	35.00
Chattanooga. No.1	240.00	
Chattanooga. No.2	80.00	
Copper Ridge.	110.00	10.00
Daylight.		10.00
Graysville.	1305.00	129.00
Individuals.		1.00
Knoxville. No.1	360.00	
Knoxville. No.2	135.00	4.00
Mission. Ridge.	225.00	36.00
Toco.	40.00	
Grand Total.	2745.00	226.00

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CANVASSING REPORT

Southeastern Union Conference for week ending April 9.

Name,	Book,	Hours,	Value,	Del.
GEORGIA				
I. T. Merchant	DR	40	74.00	3.00
R. M. Carter	DR	15	58.25	58.25
J. A. Sudduth	DR	20		29.10
B. F. Brown	CK	?	17.50	69.00
Miss E. A. Zook	CK	21		42.50
Miss D. Sudduth	CK	7		9.00
Miss C. Bivens	CK	6	2.50	
E. E. Kurtz	PG	3	.50	28.00
C. N. Bivens	GC	49	105.00	3.00
CUMBERLAND				
Fannie Fine	COT	14	5.00	
C. A. York	BFL	37	11.75	7.00
R. A. Judy	PPF	42	59.45	
Mrs. A. D. Day	BFL	17	15.00	
J. C. Aust	CK	42	14.75	
T. J. Lea	DR	43	12.00	
Grady Lea	PPF	30	10.25	
Ruby Lea	PPF	30	17.25	
James Donaldson	PPF	27	36.90	
FLORIDA				
W. A. Manns	PPF	9	16.50	4.00
Mrs. J. W. Morris	BF	13	20.00	
Ella Thomas	BF			6.50
J. E. Baker	PPF	19	79.50	
Marry I. Manns	Misc	10	1.00	6.00
C. D. Wolf	Misc	36	18.50	38.75
G. S. Vreeland	GC	35	27.00	12.70
M. S. Baldwin	PPF	20		62.00
Anna Orr	S of D	18	16.70	6.25
F. M. Haegert	S of P	18	17.25	7.00
Chas. Dyre	GP	29	89.50	16.50
Mrs. Martha Litchfield	BF	4	3.00	
Grace Hunter	BF	23	18.50	
Summary				
Florida	Total	234	307.45	159.70
Cumberland	Total	283	182.35	7.00
Georgia	Total	161	257.75	241.85
Grand Total		678	747.55	408.55