

# THE HOME MISSIONARY

Arise, Shine: for  
thy Light is Come, and the Glory of the Lord is Risen upon Thee

VOL. IX.

BATTLE CREEK, U. S. A., NOVEMBER, 1897.

No. 10.

TO BE READ ON SABBATH, DEC. 18, 1897.

## THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

ANOTHER year has been added to the past, and again we are permitted to assemble in the week of prayer. These have always been important meetings; but we are impressed that this will be the most important one ever yet held.

The year 1897 has brought us to a turning-point in our work, and also in our lives as individuals. The perils of the last days are upon us; and if we would fill the place, and accomplish the work, assigned us, we must seek for and obtain a deeper consecration and richer experience in the things of God, and that full measure of his power which comes only through the constant indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

What we need now — and all the time till the Lord comes — is a Pentecostal blessing; but this cannot be obtained unless we take the same course that brought the blessing upon the early disciples. "They put away all differences. They continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, that they might receive the fulfilment of the promise of the Holy Spirit; for they were to preach the gospel in the demonstration of the Spirit and in the power of God." The union and oneness of the disciples was what fitted them for the blessing. Envy, jealousy, evil surmising, wrath, clamor, evil-speaking, and false accusation have grieved the Spirit of God, and brought weakness into our ranks; but the time has fully come when all these things must be put away from us by the grace of Christ, that we may be "filled with the Spirit."

To this end, as we assemble in 1897 in these meetings for prayer, let us each make *personal* efforts to

cleanse the soul temple of every defiling influence that separates us from God. The Lord has sent his message, telling us what is needed for this time — 1897; and he is giving us opportunity to come up armed and equipped to the help of the Lord. Instead of aiding the enemy in his work, as many of us have done, by cherishing evil traits, let us now be employed in erecting barriers against the wily foe. Let us pray for the sword of the Lord to cut away the very soul and marrow of fleshly lusts, appetites, and passions, and pierce and divide in a far greater degree than it has ever yet done. We are told that "this purging and cleansing will pass through every church in our land that has had great opportunities and privileges, and has passed them by unheeded." O, that at this time we all might realize our great need of help, and, like Jacob of old, wrestle until we obtain the blessing and are filled with the Spirit, so that henceforth from us may flow rivers of living water, to refresh those who are perishing by the way!

Our first plan for readings for the week of prayer was to call for volunteers to write as the Lord gave them a burden; but as only one or two responded, we felt convinced that the Lord had some better plan. Upon looking over some of the recent Testimonies, we found more than enough to supply the different readings, bearing directly upon the work the Lord would have his people engage in at the present time, and the preparation necessary to fit them for such work. And inasmuch as these Testimonies had gone into the hands of only a few, it seemed clear to the committee that the Lord would be pleased to have all the people hear and be benefited by these things. So

much has been lost in the past by following our own, or man-made, plans and suggestions, that we feel to distrust anything in future from that source, and hence are glad to be able to present something better for study and guidance.

I trust we all may be impressed with the importance of this time; for it is the set time to favor Zion. Already the good work has begun in different places. God grant that it may be taken up in every church in the land; so that when the year 1897 closes, the prayer of Christ that his church may be one as he is one with the Father, will have been answered, and the rich dowry of the Holy Spirit be given, that through its constant supply to the people of God they will become witnesses in the world of the power of God unto salvation.

"Light, brethren, more light we need. Blow the

trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm in the holy mountain. Gather the host of the Lord, with sanctified hearts, to hear what the Lord will say unto his people; for he has increased light for all who will hear. Let them be armed and equipped, and come up to the battle, to the help of the Lord against the mighty. God himself will work for Israel. Every lying tongue shall be silenced. Angels' hands will overthrow the deceptive schemes that are being formed. The bulwarks of Satan will never triumph. Victory will attend the third angel's message. As the Captain of the Lord's hosts tore down the walls of Jericho, so will the Lord's commandment-keeping people triumph, and all opposing elements be defeated." "The word of the Lord to you is: I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people, saith the Lord."

G. A. IRWIN,

*Pres. Gen. Conf.*

## READING FOR WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22, 1897.

### NO RESTRICTION TO OUR WORK.

THE Lord has aggressive work to be done. To every human being he has committed a work, and he would have his servants stand at their post of duty. But many are unwilling to do anything for the Master that will incur self-denial, self-sacrifice. They will hover over the ninety and nine who are safely sheltered from danger, but refuse to go out into the highways and hedges with the gospel message, "Come; for all things are now ready." There must be an awakening among the people of God. The entire church is to be tested. There are some who will go into the highways and hedges, and labor with patient earnestness, simplicity, and zeal united with earnest effort to restore health to the body. On the part of such there will be most decided efforts to awaken to life the souls that are dead in trespasses and sins.

The Lord calls upon the churches that know the truth to be converted, soul, body, and spirit; to be sanctified, and dedicated to his service. They are not to stand, saying, "Who is my neighbor?" They are to bear in mind that their neighbor is the one who most needs their help and sympathy. Those who will stand where the Lord can work through them to communicate light to the world, will be chosen as vessels unto honor.

Many have no heart, no love, for the service of

Christ. They do not choose to stand on his side. Christ declared, "He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." The mission of Christ was a constant work of humility. He came from the throne of God in heaven, to be cradled in a manger, to follow the blood-stained path to the cross of Calvary. In his life were made manifest the principles that should govern the life of every Christian missionary worker. Each is to make the truth of God known in the world; the love of Christ is to be his study. Christ humbled himself to the nature of man; and by his humiliation he made it the duty of man to proclaim salvation to earth's remotest bounds; and as new fields are constantly opening, more means are required to accomplish the work, to lift the standard of truth and righteousness. The truth is to sanctify the life of the teacher, and through him to be a sanctifying power upon others.

The church is to be trained to obtain a knowledge of missionary work. Every member may, by interested study, gain a practical knowledge of how to treat disease. And practical work will accomplish far more than sermons. In order to enlarge our ideas of it, Christian benevolence must be worked out. While on earth, Christ sought to sweep away the dis-

distinction that had been made by the Jews as to who was their neighbor, and who their enemy. He teaches us to regard every man as our neighbor who is in need of our sympathy, our assistance, and our love. He takes his disciples to the mount of vision, and opens before them the fact that there are no territorial lines, no artificial distinctions, no caste; that there is no aristocracy. The only pre-eminence he recognizes is that of pure and undefiled religion, which will constitute them true workers, to make known the word of God, and find their way to the hearts of their fellow men by relieving, as far as possible, their temporal necessities. This opens the way to present the love of Christ. God's workers are to despair of nothing, and to hope for everything. We do not go forth in mere human strength. Christ has promised, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

The field of labor is vast; agencies of every kind will be set in action to oppose the work of God; and by indifference and unfaithfulness now, we shall range ourselves on the enemy's side. No wall of selfishness is to be erected to prescribe certain limits to any person's work in seeking in any way to get light before the people. Each single act in this line is a link in a chain which will extend to others. Let there be no selfish practise in God's work. Let there be no narrow ideas; for they may shut out opportunities and privileges whereby souls might be reached. Limits may be prescribed which will dishonor God and encourage selfishness. And the spirit of selfishness is strange fire, which should not be mingled with God's sacred service.

The work is one in every place the world over; and any selfish ideas or plans that may be allowed to creep in in arrangements for the management of the work of God are a far greater evil than if the same principles were carried out in common worldly matters. There are to be no selfish confines in dealing with God's work. If prosperity attends the work, it will be because there is not a thread of selfishness interwoven with it. If in any case the natural traits of character would lead to narrow and close dealing in business matters, there is danger. This spirit, indulged in any manner of deal, opens the door for Satan to come in and strengthen the detestable root of selfishness. God gives to every man his work, and he is to do his best in every place, working for the recovery of the world. He is to sow the seed beside all waters. Not a hand should be raised, nor a barrier be placed, to

prescribe or limit the work. There is to be no cheap figuring; for this will bring the displeasure of God upon the one who indulges in this business.

In sending forth the seventy to proclaim the kingdom of God throughout Judea, Christ taught that the piety of his people is to be diffusive. He was educating his church to enlarge the borders of their labor, and eventually to belt the world. "The field is the world." Christ annihilates the ancient distinctions made between the Jew and the Gentile. There is to be no boundary to our labor. It must take us from the small circle and plans which would narrow the work to the limits which selfishness would prescribe. He presents to our view the inhabitants of the world, who may become enlightened, and lay hold upon immortality through faith in Jesus Christ. They are all exposed to the temptations of Satan, who hopes to see them taken in his snare; but the Lord calls those who would be laborers together with him to bring every power into exercise to work for the deliverance of these souls from satanic agencies.

Every encouragement is given God's people for unlimited progress and improvement. We are to work as if we knew we were in sight of the whole universe of heaven, and through Christ say, "I will not fail nor be discouraged, but hope for everything in moral advancement, and the restoration of the image of God in man." At every step our prayers should ascend to the throne of God. While working as if everything depended upon our diligence and faithfulness, we must make God our only dependence. We must do unto others as we would wish them to do to us. This principle is broad and deep. Not one thread of selfishness must tarnish the work of God. Kill the monster as soon as it shows itself. Teach by precept and example that earth can be assimilated to heaven.

Our means of doing good is never to be limited to any man's ideas or devising. We are empowered of God at every step to work in Christ's lines. Lay hold of the work in any place, and this will set in motion the heavenly agencies to prepare the way for the sowers and the reapers. Study the word. Read it with all your mind, your heart, and your soul; for eternal interests are here involved. Then his lessons will have a voice. They will call to you; they will breathe divine counsels; they will make all who learn of him meek and lowly in heart, and wise unto salvation.

## READING FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 23, 1897.

## THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST WITH THE BELIEVER.

SIDE by side, wearing the yoke of Christ, the laborers of God must do their appointed work. The question as to who is our neighbor is answered in the mission fields, at home and abroad, that await our labor. These call for workers with no pharisaical principles, no narrow views. *The worker is not to follow his own ideas and plans for work. The Lord's individuality is to be sunk in that of no living being.* Christ's followers are to love God supremely, and their neighbor as themselves.

It is as much the privilege of every individual member of the church to know from the word, God's will in regard to his course of action as it is for the president of the conference, or for any other man in office of trust. God is ready to commune with his people. He would be sought unto by all who would be instructed, enlightened, and moved by his Holy Spirit. He declares: "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. For I will not contend forever, neither will I be always wroth: for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made. For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on frowardly in the way of his heart. I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his mourners. I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him. But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."

Every individual must seek by earnest prayer to know the word of God for himself, and then to do it. Only in day by day putting his trust in God, and not in the arm of flesh, will any soul obtain the experience essential to answer the prayer of Christ, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." This is the lesson given to every soul. In all

your temporal concerns, in all your cares and anxieties, wait upon the Lord. Put not your trust in princes, nor in the sons of men, because they may have been placed in positions of trust. The Lord has united your heart with him. If you love him, and are accepted in his service, bring all your burdens, both public and private, to the Lord, and wait upon him. You will then have an individual experience, a conviction of his presence and his readiness to hear your prayer for wisdom and instruction, that will give you assurance, and confidence in his willingness to succor you in your perplexities.

Live as in the presence of God. "Come unto me," is the invitation of Christ. By this he does not mean that you shall go to a far country, to inquire of the president of the conference what your duty is. He would have you rejoice and praise him every day for the privilege granted you in the words of Christ: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Spread out your case before the Lord, and whatever your anxieties and trials, your spirit will be braced for endurance. The way will be opened before you to disentangle yourself from embarrassment and difficulty. You need not go to the ends of the earth, or even to the next town, to learn what course you should pursue. Trust in God as your present helper, who will overrule all things as One who knows best. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."

"Forasmuch then as Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin." This is the truest wisdom,—certain, not disappointing. This is the very essence of all true service, of pure and undefiled religion before God.

Christ declares, "All ye are brethren." We are all exposed to the same temptations, the same danger

of making mistakes. There is no security, no support in the midst of trial, but the conviction that God is present, watching over his people, and ready to answer their cries. "Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; and if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: and the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." "Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward." "Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

The apostle Paul says, "Make full proof of thy ministry." In this reference "minister" is not confined to preachers, but is applied to any who are doing God's service. A kind and loving Friend and Father is overruling all things. And if this is so of individuals and nations, how much more of his church, his chosen ones. His church is built on the rock, Christ Jesus; and when men miscalculate their position of trust, and suppose that this gives them power to rule the minds and work of their fellow men, they make a great blunder, which the Lord will not sustain. They are drawing men away, and educating them to look to men, and depend upon men, and receive their instruction almost entirely from finite beings.

But the presence of God is guaranteed to the Christian. The Rock of faith is the living presence of God. The weakest may depend upon it. Those who think themselves the strongest, may become the weakest unless they depend upon Christ as their efficiency, their worthiness. This is the Rock upon which the church may build successfully. God is near in Christ's atoning sacrifice, in his intercession, his loving, tender ruling power over the church. Seated by the eternal throne, he watches them with intense interest. If the members of the church shall through faith draw sap and nourishment from Christ, not depending on man's opinions, devisings, and methods; if having a conviction of the nearness of God in Christ,

they put their entire trust in him, they will have a vital connection with Christ, as the branch is connected with the parent stock. The church is not established on theories of men, on long-drawn-out plans and forms; it depends upon Christ, our righteousness. It is built on faith in Christ; "and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

"In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." Take this with you through the year. The strength of every soul is in God, and not in man. Quietness and confidence will be the strength of all who give their hearts to God. Christ has not a casual interest in us, but an interest stronger than a mother for her child. Says the prophet, "Can a woman forget her sucking child? . . . yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee." Our Saviour has purchased us by human suffering and sorrow, by insult, reproach, abuse, mockery, rejection, and death. He is watching over you, trembling child of God. He will make you secure under his protection. Through his servant he says: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." "They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever."

To the Jewish nation God revealed himself as a watchful, kind, forbearing Father, a God of mercy and truth. He manifested himself to them through his Son. And this Saviour is our advocate. Our weakness in human nature will not bar our access to the Heavenly Father; for he died to make intercession for us.

"In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." I entreat all families and churches to read this scripture, and act in accordance with the word of God.

"Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us. O Lord our God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over us: but by thee only will we make mention of thy name." Christ is our ruler, and to man is not given the power to lord it over the meek of God. The minister is to be one with the believers, not shutting

himself within himself, as a superior of whom his fellow men must be afraid.

The Elder Brother of our race is by the eternal throne. He looks upon every soul who is turning his face toward him as his Saviour. He knows by experience what are the weaknesses of humanity, what are their wants, and where lies the strength of their temptations; for he was tempted in all points as we are, "yet without sin." Thank the Lord *he* is ordained to be our ruler, and the judge of all men.

The Lord would have every one come to him as his refuge for counsel, for comfort, and for hope in all his anxieties. To him you may tell all your griefs. You will never be told, "I cannot help you. Such a one in authority has placed your case before me in such a light that I can do nothing for you." To him all your griefs are worthy of consideration. You may have his help under every difficulty. You may, I may, the weakest one in all the ranks of believers may, trust in a loving, pitiful, faithful High Priest, who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He keeps us safe from Satan's power even while we are full of perplexities, discouragements, and trials. Every believer is to keep looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of his faith. All who will do this will work calmly and quietly, as if in view of the whole universe of heaven. They will trust to no man's opinion of their virtues, but feeling an individual responsibility resting upon them in temporal and eternal things, they will put their trust in God.

"And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand."

Let the individual Christians, the families, and the churches bear in mind that they are closely allied to heaven. The Lord has a special interest in his church militant here below. The angels who offer the smoke of the fragrant incense are ministering for the praying saints. Then let the evening prayers in every family rise steadily to heaven in the sunset hour,

while these divine ministers are speaking before God, in our behalf, of the merits of the blood of a crucified and risen Saviour. The blood alone is efficacious. It alone can make propitiation for our sins. It is the blood of the only begotten Son of God, that is of value for us, enabling us to draw nigh unto God; his blood alone that taketh "away the sin of the world." Morning and evening the heavenly universe beholds every household that prays; and the angel with the incense, representing the blood of the atonement, finds access to God.

Since every soul is dependent upon Jesus Christ our Elder Brother, for mercy and forgiveness of sins, why should one member of the human family exalt himself above another? Why should he feel at liberty to take upon himself prerogatives that his position does not give him? Why should he order about and seek to control his fellow men, and tell what this one should do, and that one should do? These very ones have been required of God to come directly to *him*, and ask for the wisdom they need, and the promise is, "If ye believe that ye receive it, ye shall have it."

"Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my Spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law. Thus saith God the Lord, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth bread to the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein; I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison-house. I am the Lord; that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images."

*Cooranbong, N. S. W., March 14, 1897.*

## READING FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 24, 1897.

## PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK.

Now I wish to tell you that the Lord is showing that a great weakness has come upon our people by the various ways that lead a man so thoroughly to look to and depend upon his fellow man that the Lord is left out of the question.

As the good tree testifies of its value by the fruit it bears, so also the genuine Christian is known by his usefulness. He does not merely blossom out with a pretentious show in professing godliness, but he bears fruit abundantly. There is not a dying twig or a barren bough on the whole tree that grows by the rivers of the grace of Christ. The fruit is yielded in varieties. Whether in foreign fields or in home missions, the fruit appears, ripening in the sunshine of the righteousness of Christ. "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit."

How can a Christian sleep in such an age as we are now living in? Knowledge has increased, and facilities are increased for attaining great results for God and humanity. Then we see so many fields opening before us, inviting those of strong faith, and hope, and courage to enter them and secure the harvest.

Is there a Christian whose pulse does not beat with quickened action as he anticipates the great events already opening before us? The Lord is coming. We hear the footsteps of an approaching God, as he comes to punish the world for their iniquity. We are to prepare the way for him by acting our part to get a people ready for that great day; and to sleep now is a fearful crime.

There is a work to be done, and let every heart as well as every hand be engaged to do this work. When men and women go to the Lord Jesus Christ for their individual selves, and are not educated to look to and trust in men, there will be fewer and fewer committee meetings; for all will be instructed of God. Men and women will understand thoroughly their personal responsibilities, and the important results of personal effort. Nothing in the way of barriers will be erected to keep men from their fellow men. The work of saving souls will be the first great work. The individual believer will reach the individual sinner. We shall all kindle our tapers from the divine altar. All have a lamp, and that lamp, filled

with the golden oil received from the heavenly witnesses standing before the throne of God, will shed the most precious, strong, pure, clear rays of light on the sinner's pathway. The word is given from the throne of God, "*Every man to his work, each to do his best.*" The long sessions of committee meetings have confused the senses with words of great things to be done which have not been done at all. We want the mind of Christ, and then each one will indeed become a partner in the great firm with an invincible Jesus.

There have been altogether too many looking in upon their own trials and difficulties. But when they forget self, and look upon the suffering necessity of others, there will be no time to magnify their own griefs. Earnest work for the Lord is a recipe for mind ailments; and the helpful hand to lift the burdens Christ has borne for all his heritage, will lessen our burdens, and they will not seem worth mentioning. True, honest work will give healthy action to the mind by giving healthy action to the muscles. It is the constant manufacturing of ills and burdens that kills. We are to be content to bear the strain of daily duties; and the great pressure of to-morrow's liabilities—leave these cares for the time when we must take them.

We are called now to be educated, that we may do the work that God has assigned to us, and it will not crush out our life. The humblest can have a share in the work, and a share in the reward when the coronation shall take place, and Christ, our Advocate and Redeemer, becomes the king of his redeemed subjects. We must now do all in our power to seek personal consecration to God. It is not more mighty men, not more talented men, not more learned men, that we need in the presentation of the truth for this time; but men who have a knowledge of God and Jesus Christ, whom he has sent. Personal piety will qualify any worker, for the Holy Spirit takes possession of him, and the truth for this time becomes a power, because his every-day thoughts, and all his activities are running in Christ's lines. He has an abiding Christ; and the humblest soul, linked with Christ Jesus, is a power, and his work will abide. May the Lord help

us to understand his divine will, and do it heartily, unflinchingly, and there will be joy in the Lord.

*"Sunnyside," Coorambong, N. S. W.,*

*March 15, 1897.*

In what sense can it be said that God is reconciled to the sinner? Will he excuse my guilt if I continue to transgress? We may all understand the meaning of this reconciliation. Through Christ every obstruction is removed, and access to God is secured. Man is urged and welcomed to the pardoning love of God. By his love for fallen men, God is honored and glorified and magnified through Jesus Christ. God can be just, and yet pardon the transgressor. O what love, what matchless love! The justice, holiness, and truth of Christ are vindicated in the law, and therefore there is nothing to hinder God's mercy from descending, abundant, free, and full, in pardon, taking away sin, and imputing the righteousness of Christ. Those who accept this pardon form themselves into a glorious copartnership with Christ, and they become channels to communicate the grace of pardoning love to those who are in the darkness of error.

God justly condemns all who will not receive and believe in Christ as their personal Saviour. Christ is standing at the door of our hearts, longing to pardon all who will come unto him that they may have life. O what words, what precious words are these! He is not merely merciful, but is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Our work is to hear his voice, open the door of our hearts, and welcome the heavenly guest. We then stand before God and the whole heavenly universe innocent, though ourselves undeserving, while Jesus carries our guilt. He takes the load which it was the lot of the sinner to bear. What responsive love, what gratitude, what thank-offerings should ascend to God, because Christ has died to make reconciliation for our sins, and by his complete obedience bring in everlasting righteousness.

Christ has paid all that man owes to God from the beginning of his life. Sin is the transgression of the law, and through Christ man must now render perfect obedience to that law. By his righteousness of active obedience, Christ clothes me with his righteousness, in order that I shall not continue in sin, but perfect a character after the similitude of Christ.

## READING FOR SABBATH, DEC. 25, 1897.

### A DECIDED MESSAGE.

I HAVE a decided message from the Lord for the people. I cannot but present before them their danger. There are many who, though members of churches, are unconverted. But there is no excuse for any one remaining in a cold, lifeless state spiritually. Christ has warned us, "Be not ye the servants of men;" but there is danger that we shall serve men instead of serving the Lord Jesus.

The Bible is God's voice speaking to us just as surely as though we could hear him with our ears. The word of the living God is not merely written, but spoken. Do we receive the Bible as the oracle of God? If we realized the importance of this word, with what awe would we open it, and with what earnestness would we search its precepts! The reading and contemplation of the Scriptures would be regarded as an audience with the Most High.

God's word is a message to us to be obeyed, a volume to be perused diligently, and with a spirit

willing to take in the truths written for the admonition of those upon whom the ends of the world are come. It must not be neglected for any other book. If we do not eat the word of God, we need converting. If we practise this word, it will exert an elevating influence on our mental, moral, and physical life. Eternal interests are involved in this work; the truth must do something for the receiver. Let us study and eat the word of God, for we are built up from that which we eat. When we open the Bible, let us compare our lives with its requirements, measuring our character by the great moral standard of righteousness, God's holy law.

The message to the church at Ephesus is a close, decided personal testimony to them for leaving their first love, and an earnest call to repentance, lest their candlestick be moved out of its place. We need to heed these words of warning, and repent of our sins. But you cannot depend upon ministers to come and



help you, for *they must go to places where the word of God has never been heard*. The last message of mercy must be given to the world. The members of our churches must read and study the word of God for themselves, praying to him for light and guidance.

It is not enough in the Christian life that *some* changes be made. The work of reform must be deep and thorough. True Christians will not close their eyes to their own defective characters. Wrong habits which have been formed must be changed. Much talking that in no way glorifies God, is done by professed Christians. Many gossip over the faults committed by others; but those who do this do not engage in Christian conversation with the one they think in the wrong. They have no desire to meet him face to face, and in a kindly Christ-like way tell him his faults, and pray with him, and then leave the whole matter with God.

As long as the church in any location shall feel at liberty to handle character as they have done in the past, and to act as judges of one another, God cannot bless them. We must keep off the enemy's ground. He is the accuser of the brethren, and accuses them before God day and night. He tempts them to sin, and constantly leads them to transgress the law of God. Then he presents their defection and transgression as a reason why he should work his will to destroy them, and why God should not interpose his power against Satan's power.

I tell you, in the name of the Lord God of heaven, that some who profess to believe the truth need that transformation of character that will build up and encourage the church, in the place of weakening and destroying it. Jesus is the Restorer; Satan is the destroyer. You cannot afford to sow one seed of doubt; for one seed of doubt sown will spring up in other minds, and bear a harvest that you will not care to garner.

We have no time to spend in cultivating and cherishing our unlovely traits of character. The hour of grace is fast passing. Christ has borne long with the world, but the cup of long-deferred wrath is fast filling. God has given us light, great light. Have we walked in the light? Have we lived the light? Have not some, fully satisfied with their own unsanctified, irreligious lives, walked directly contrary to the light?

I would ask you to look back and review the history of your lives. How is it with you in your families? Have your words been true and kind and pure and

edifying, or have the words you have spoken been of a repining, complaining character? Have you gathered up the objectionable features and the defects in the characters of others, and made them apparent, while you yourselves were unholy and unsanctified in thought and word and action? There is great weakness where there should be strength.

Time is passing. Christ speaks to your individual hearts, as he spoke to Philip, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip?" But thank God it is not yet too late to repent. Mercy still lingers. Will you, in this your day, heed the words of invitation and mercy? Will you know the things which belong unto your peace? The gracious invitation is still sounding. The things which belong unto your peace are still presented to you for acceptance.

This generation is making itself guilty of the rejection of Christ. He presents invitations and warnings. Shall these solemn warnings be rejected? Bear in mind that if they are, you yourselves are responsible. "Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." The world is rushing on madly, blindly, infatuated with amusements, with horse-racing, and with gambling, without a thought of the final retribution that is coming. Whole cities are being destroyed by fire and tempest. Is your house built securely on the solid Rock?

As a church, will you work intelligently and considerately for God? As sons and daughters of God, will you prove yourselves to be the light of the world, shining amid moral darkness? Will you keep the standard of truth uplifted, testifying to the pure light of truth by your words and your influence? Will you help one another? Like faithful stewards of the grace of God, will you build up one another in the most holy faith? Will you strive to strengthen those who are weak in the faith?

Some have a strong, masterly spirit for the wrong. They are dead weights, stumbling-blocks in the pathway of others, causing them to fail in doing their God-appointed work for time and for eternity. But shall the temple of the human soul be thus wrecked for eternity? Will not those in this house of worship rise up in their God-given, moral independence, and say: "I will no longer give God a divided heart. I will serve him with undivided affections. I will no longer misrepresent his sacred truth. I will arise and shine. I will sanctify myself through the truth. I will obey the truth." Will you not make this resolve to-day, Dec. 25, 1897? Will you not to-day pledge

yourselves before God to seek him with all your heart, to cease from all evil-speaking, to put away every trait of character that has dwarfed and crippled your religious life? Will you not resolve to be fully on the Lord's side?

Pardon and peace is yours to-day if you will reach forth your hand and take it as the free gift of God. If to-day in simple faith and sincerity of soul you cast yourselves prostrate before the mercy-seat, you will

receive the pardoning love of Jesus. Notwithstanding your past ingratitude and unthankfulness, and your resistance of warnings and invitations, Jesus will receive you just as you are, if you will receive him. Henceforth, wearing his yoke and lifting the cross, you will be able to say, "I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." Let it be recorded in the books of heaven that this day, Dec. 25, 1897, this church made a covenant with God by sacrifice.

## READING FOR SABBATH AFTERNOON OR EVENING, DEC. 25, 1897.

### OUR WORK AT THIS TIME.

THE power of the Lord came upon me, and I spoke most earnestly upon the parable of the invitation to the royal supper, the refusal of those who were invited, and the commission given to call another class of guests; for not one who had been called should taste of the supper. Then still another class was to be called,—the poor, the maimed, the halt, and the blind. Then the messengers went into the highways and the byways. This is the work for every church to do, for each family to be interestedly engaged in, to give the last message of mercy to the world. This feast is not for an hour, but a lifetime; and the invitation is to go from human lips of persons co-operating with God.

The invitation is to be given to classes that have not heard the constant efforts made to urge ministers and people, so constantly and at great expense, to hear the word of God and do it. These efforts have not accomplished the work it was supposed they would; because the Lord could not sanction this constant effort and expenditure of time and means for weeks, with the idea of helping the ministers to do more perfect work. They were enjoying a rich feast to repletion, and were cloyed, while other souls who had never heard the truth were in most deplorable need, and the time and money should have been expended to feed hungry souls starving for the bread of life.

The invitation is to go to all, without limitation or restriction. Bad, yes, evil men and women, old and young, rich and poor, white and black—all are to be called, but only those will be chosen who truly receive Christ. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to

them that believe on his name." Those who truly accept, and in so doing yield themselves up to God, to be and to do as he wills, obeying the commandments, and living as he has given them an example in his life, will wear the wedding garment.

This royal banquet is not a thing of an hour, but lasts through a lifetime, and stretches into eternity. None can endure to be with God if they are not constantly conforming their minds and hearts to his will and developing characters after the divine similitude. None can have forgiveness without living the purity of character exemplified in Christ. No man need expect *happiness* without the *holiness* of God. They cannot partake of the feast without the garment of Christ's righteousness, woven in the loom of heaven. Privileges and opportunities *improved*, will give every soul a fitness to obey the law of his kingdom.

Imagine, if possible, the nature and degree of Christ's suffering. This suffering in humanity was to prevent the outpouring of the wrath of God upon those for whom Christ died. Yea; for the church this great sacrifice will be efficacious throughout eternity. Can we compute the amount of her transgressions in figures?—Impossible! Then who can approach to a conception of what Christ endured when standing as surety for his church, in the solemn hour of atonement, when he yielded up his life as a sacrificial offering? Never, never can it be that God will again so manifest his holiness, his spotless purity; the sin that sprung up in heaven and its inconceivably heinous character; his utter hatred of sin, his solemn purpose to punish it, and that in the only one who could bear the strokes in behalf of the sinner,

and because of his innocence would not be consumed.

How did the glory of God magnify itself in glorious perfection on that day when Christ's life was given as a sacrifice for the world! When he cried out, "It is finished," there was a mighty earthquake, the rocks rent, the graves flew open, and Christ bowed his head, and died. In the sacrifice of God's only begotten Son is demonstrated the awful glory of divine justice and holiness. "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins." In consideration of the great work which God has done to redeem, to uplift, to bring back the moral image of God in man, what is the human agent doing on his part as a worker together with God?

The Lord has been speaking through Testimonies to Seventh-day Adventists. Who have heeded the word given, that the Lord requires every soul to communicate to others the light that has been given to him?—It has not been done. Those who have had great light have been largely the subjects of labor. What an account thousands will have to render for their selfish living to please themselves, when their lives ought to be a living sacrifice to God. Those who have received so much labor have not been glorifying God; they have a work to do in giving the invitation to the gospel feast, "Come; for all things are now ready."

Thousands are groping in darkness who ought to have had light long ago. Time and money have been consumed unnecessarily, and voices that could speak have been silent when they should have been giving the last message of mercy to the world. O how much the people of God have yet to learn before they will realize that it is *not those who know the truth who are to be forever favored with the work of the ministers*; but the ministers should work with their God-given ability to erect the standard of truth among those who have not even heard that there is such a people in the world as Seventh-day Adventists.

The religion of Jesus Christ will reveal an earnest working Christian; and in working and exercising his talents, he gains other talents also. Every soul that he instructs will have the opportunities the Lord designed he should have from his brother. The Holy Spirit is given to every earnest worker as a helper, if the human agent will be moved upon.

There are human beings of low tendencies, but they have some most excellent traits of character; and they long for help, for strength; and the voice of

God through his servants who are willing to minister, imparts encouragement and strength so that they will venture to lay hold upon the help presented to them. Through human instrumentalities, they are enabled immediately to co-operate with divine power. But men who profess to know God are asleep, doing nothing. Those who flatter themselves that they are the children of God, are yet indifferent to perishing souls around them. Ignorant, you may say they are; yes, and so would you be, if you had been in their place. But if they are ignorant, they need enlightenment; they need the very information their brethren can impart to them of the way of life.

The church ought to have taken up this work in every conference. And if the powers of thought which have been so fully occupied in devising plans which cannot succeed, and which have not the endorsement of Heaven, had been put into devising plans to carry out the very work the Lord has been calling them to do in reaching the people where they are, the work would have been borne by many instead of by the few. This work is the work the churches have left undone, and *they cannot prosper until they have taken hold of this work in the cities, in highways, and in hedges*. Then angels of God will co-operate with human instrumentalities, and a religious system will be inaugurated to relieve the necessities of suffering human beings who are in physical, mental, and moral need.

The moral apathy that is prevailing in the churches to-day, would be largely corrected, if they would consider that they are under service to God to do the very work Christ did when he was upon the earth and "went about doing good." The very work Dr. Kellogg has been managing is the kind of work *the whole of our churches are bound to do under covenant relation to God*. They are to love God supremely and their neighbor as themselves. They are to realize "all ye are brethren." There are no favorites with God.

There are some who withhold themselves from their fellow men, and shut themselves within themselves, and the gospel of Jesus Christ is made void by their practise. Their words go as far as *expressions* of warmth, but the poor are not clothed, nor fed, nor warmed, nor taught, nor given personal labor. These indolent, slothful servants are abundant; but they say, and do not. They themselves are destitute of hope, faith, and love, and they are not helped by the gospel, because they are not doers of the word. Some moral expressions are made, and some frozen

exhibitions are shown, but the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness do not penetrate the heart, brighten the life, and give vitality to their religious experience. They do not know what service, unselfish service, to God means. Many consider that it will sometime be their duty; but it cannot be now. They contemplate it afar off, as something we are not ready for, when it should have been brought into their life at the very beginning of their religious experience.

The moral attitude of these believers is at variance with correct reason, and with the Bible instruction that points out the whole duty of man, which is to love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves. Just in proportion as this is done, there will be a doing of the word, and the convictions of the Holy Spirit are in proportion to their unselfish service to him. In the Lord's moral vineyard a great work has been waiting to be done. What has hindered this work?—The want of co-operation on the part of the human agent, the failure to become a channel through which the Lord can communicate to those who are in moral darkness. It seems that Satan has lulled them to sleep.

The word of God is to be acted, it is to be lived, it is to be practised. How long shall the Lord wait for the churches to take up the work he has appointed them! If they had done their part, Dr. Kellogg would have had only his proportionate part; but those who ought to have taken a large part in this line of work are content to watch and criticize and conjecture. Far better would it have been for their spiritual and eternal good, had they learned what true, unselfish service to God means. Have those who have professed to be servants of Jesus Christ forgotten the words of Inspiration, "Ye are laborers together with God," to break up, by every means in their power, the infatuation that is holding the world away from faith in God?

Man is a being with strong passions, which need to be brought under the control of God. Who will become partners with Christ in this great work? Satan is working diligently; he is determined to battle to the last for supremacy. The Christian united with Christ, must exert an influence that will be a positive power to counter-work the deceiving power of Satan over human souls. The Lord calls for faithful workers, who will give direct personal

labor to reach men and women where they are, and educate and train the trembling sinner to look to Christ and live. Bear in mind that no one becomes virtuous or pure or holy without seeking most earnestly and continually to be thus.

Help is needed. There are many minds, that, if proper labor were bestowed upon them in faith, would develop fine specimens of redeemed humanity for God's glory, and would become true, apt workers to win other souls to Christ. They would know the better by their own experience, the needs of those in moral darkness, without God, without hope in the world.

*The courage of the soldier rises as he puts on his uniform.* We all need to put on Christ, in order to reveal Christ. It is a working church that is a living church. My brethren in America, in the place of questioning and criticizing Dr. Kellogg because he is doing the class of work he is, when you do your God-given service, you will be heart and soul engaged in doing the same kind of work, which will be of far more account in the sight of God than for so many to flock into Battle Creek, where they become religious dwarfs because they do not do the work God has appointed them. Had the Testimonies God has given been heeded, we should have had to-day churches full of zeal, earnest to save souls who have not had any personal efforts made in their behalf.

In reaching after the most hopeless, you reach after many who have once held high positions — physicians, ministers, mechanics, merchants, men of every degree, high and low. The Lord has appointed that these shall have a chance, and one soul that has been forgiven much because he received Christ, will be prepared to give the same kind of labor to other perishing souls. This will give far more character to the work than will your imposing buildings. *God will put his signature upon such work.* The churches in America should have seen that this kind of work needed to be done. And it needs to be done here [in Australia], if we had any means that we could use to set in operation such a work.

The blessed Jesus, our Redeemer, received his appointed work, his priestly office, by the Lord setting him apart. He did not live to glorify himself, but to serve his fellow men.

*"Sunnyside," Cooranbong, N. S. W.,  
Jan. 1, 1897.*

## READING FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 26, 1897.

## THE PRESENT DEMANDS.

Why should we make an annual offering for foreign missions? In answering this question, it will be necessary to examine briefly the history and the present demands of our work in foreign lands.

The Lord has clearly indicated that this people have a work to do in connection with the preaching of the gospel to the nations of earth in these last days. He entrusted us with the messages of truth for this time, and then sent calls for the living preacher to go to various lands to proclaim the truth he had given us. The Lord has called out, in a few years, a large company of believers to keep all the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. As the Son of God could not be satisfied to enjoy the glory and purity of heaven while the creatures he had made were going farther away from God and into darkness, so those upon whom he has bestowed his Holy Spirit cannot rest in the most enlightened land while in other lands those for whom Christ died are perishing for want of the light that we have. In response to the calls from these lands, the Lord laid the burden on some of the faithful ones, and they have gone out, finding an open door everywhere. At the present time, in addition to those that have gone to Europe and Australia, we have laborers in the West Indies, South America, India, Turkey, Africa, China, Japan, and the Islands of the Pacific.

The work in the West Indies has been blessed of the Lord in a wonderful way, though we have been slow in providing means and helpers to carry on the work. The boat for the Caribbean Sea is at last paid for, and Brother Hutchins is using it in connection with the work in the Bay Islands. But the school at Bonacca has been without a teacher for two years; and those that obey the truth cannot send their children to the government schools, because of the immorality, and because Thursday, instead of Sabbath, is vacation day. We have been unable to supply other laborers that were greatly needed in that field. A man to take charge of the canvassing and other work has been demanded in Jamaica for a long time, and also a competent teacher for the school in the city of Kingston. The Lord has blessed the work of the laborers already there. As a result of the efforts

of Brother C. A. Hall, there is a church of more than fifty members, and a church building has been erected. The work is growing and other missionaries than those already mentioned could find a fruitful field in that island. Brother Van Deusen, in Barbadoes, and Brother E. W. Webster, in Trinidad, have called long and earnestly for help. Brother Webster is very much worn by excessive labors. With all that has been done, many of the islands of the West Indies have not yet been entered.

British Guiana has only one native laborer at present; but many missionaries should be employed in that field, which has a population of 356,000.

We have at present eight laborers in Brazil,—four canvassers, two ministers, and two Bible workers. The population of this field is 15,000,000, divided among English, Portuguese, Germans, Indians, negroes, and mixed races. Many laborers are needed in this country, as ministers, canvassers, Bible workers, etc. This field was first entered by canvassers for our books in 1891. At present, there are about three hundred believers in Brazil, and the work is spreading.

The Argentine Republic has a population of 4,800,000. The work was begun there the same year as in Brazil, and by the same men. At present there are in this field twelve laborers altogether—ministers, Bible workers, canvassers, etc. Churches numbering nearly four hundred members have been organized. The population is composed of Spanish, English, Germans, and Italians. English ministers are needed, as well as a medical missionary, canvassers, etc.

Chile, the last of the South American fields in which work has been done, was entered a little more than two years ago. Only Elder Baber has been employed in this country. About one hundred have embraced the truth, and among them a man who has become a valuable Spanish laborer. Spanish, German, and English laborers of all classes are needed in this and surrounding countries of the west coast of South America, where millions of people are waiting to hear the truth for these last days.

All are more or less familiar with the work in Europe and Australasia, where the message has been

going for years, so I pass over these to speak of the regions beyond.

In India, with its 287,000,000 people, we have twelve workers employed as ministers, doctors, nurses, teachers, and canvassers. Elder Robinson, who is in charge of the field, in a letter of recent date, appeals to the Mission Board to send, if possible, a number of canvassers, who were first called for two years ago. These men could be self-supporting when they reached the field. Fifteen to twenty men to sell works on present truth would be only a tithe of those that ought to be sent to India at once. The Mission Board is anxious to respond to these calls, and we believe the Lord has heard them; for we, as well as the brethren in India, have laid them before him; and he will make known his will in the matter to his people, and they will respond. Elder Robinson writes of a most extraordinary interest to hear the truth in the city of Calcutta, where hundreds of people flock to the place of meeting in the most heated season of the year. The Lord is clearly indicating that this people is ready for the truth.

In Turkey and Asia Minor, in particular, many souls are seeking for the light of the gospel. Brother Baharian seldom visits a place but that the seed sown falls on good ground, and souls are saved. But what is one man among a population equal to that of the United States? There is no country in the Old World in which we can preach the truth more freely.

Our work in Africa outside of the South African Conference is in its infancy, and yet we have made a beginning. Elder G. B. Tripp and company went to Matabeleland in 1895; and they have opened up a mission farm, which they are cultivating to aid them in carrying on the work. The buildings are of a temporary character, and funds are needed to erect substantial ones for school and chapel purposes, as well as a dwelling-house. We have been able to send material for a beginning only, but nothing for the erection of buildings this year. Since the Matabele War, seed for planting has been scarce, and difficult to obtain. A supply for next year's planting will have to be sent, and also more farm implements for use on the one farm now opened up, as well as a full supply for the new mission farm to be opened by Elder Frank Armitage, who went there during the present year.

The work on the Gold Coast is left in the hands of two natives; but help will have to be sent as early as possible. A man is needed who can take charge of the mission farm and other property we have there,

and also carry forward the teaching among the native people.

The work in Africa will have to be done in large measure by means of mission farms, where the natives can be taught to cultivate the soil as a source of obtaining a living, and at the same time learn how to secure the Bread of eternal life.

In China, a country teeming with its 403,000,000 people, we have at present only one worker, Brother A. La Rue, who has labored for some time in Hong-Kong. Within the last year a minister, who went from America as a missionary to the north of China about seven years ago, under the direction of the Union Mission Board, has embraced the truth through reading, and resigned his charge; and in the month of September he set out to join Brother La Rue at Hong-Kong. This man has acquired the Chinese language, and writes that he is ready to engage in preaching the truth of the Bible free from the traditions of men. We have been so slow in entering upon the work in China that the Lord may open the way for this work to be done, and we have little connection with it.

The school work among the Chinese in the Sandwich Islands bids fair to be a very great aid in opening up the work in China. At Honolulu, Brother Howell has about fifty bright young men in school, studying the Bible as well as sciences; and at Hilo, in another island, Brother Brand and his wife are instructing about twenty-five more; and these schools are growing in numbers. If faithful work is done, some of these young men will become missionaries among their own people, and we shall need persons that can direct the work of these natives. Where are consecrated men and women?

In Japan we have two laborers, Elder Grainger and Brother Okahira. Since going to Tokio, one year ago, these brethren have been instructing from thirty-five to sixty young men in the Bible; and Brother Grainger urges that several more teachers be sent at once to engage in Bible teaching. The people receiving instruction are of the very best class, and a thirst for the new religion has taken possession of the Japanese. Shall we not walk in the opening providence of God.

It would require too much time to speak of all the needs of all the mission stations of the Pacific,— of Fiji, where Brother J. E. Fulton is now laboring alone, and where another minister, at least, is needed, and medical help also; of Tahiti, Tonga, and Rarotonga; of Samoa and Hawaii, where ministers, Bible

workers, teachers, and medical missionaries are called for, and where money is needed to build churches and schoolhouses in which the people can worship and receive instruction. There are thousands of islands yet unvisited by our ship: shall some of these be visited on her next voyage? Will there be means in the treasury with which to send out the ship next February? And will it go, laden with missionaries for these needy fields?

During the week of prayer, let us seek the Lord as

never before; and in his fear let us answer our own prayers for the conversion of the heathen.

A volume might be written in giving the details of the various openings for Christian work in the lands mentioned, but this brief sketch must suffice.

The income of the Mission Board from the Sabbath-school offerings and First-day offerings is only about one half enough to sustain the laborers already in the foreign fields; hence the necessity for an annual offering.

ALLEN MOON,

*Pres. Foreign Mission Board.*



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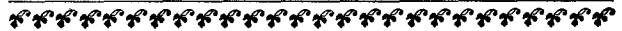
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## THE WEEK-OF-PRAYER READINGS.

It has not been thought best, in these readings, to make a strong or stirring appeal for means. The greater stress has been laid upon our spiritual condition; for we believe that when our hearts are right before God, so that he can trust us with his Spirit without measure, there will be a selling and converting of property into money; and that free-will offerings will be made, equal in spirit, but far in excess, of those made in the early Pentecostal days.

The demands of the work have been set before us from time to time; and in Elder Moon's article, our attention has been called again to the openings and needs of the cause in foreign fields. The time has come when prophecies will be fulfilled in rapid succession, and the Lord has agencies in training whereby he can cut short the work in righteousness; and if we would have a part in this final closing work, and have the "well done" said unto us, we must act quickly.

Nothing has been said about fasting at this time, by abstaining from food. We leave that optional with each individual; but we would call especial attention to the fast spoken of by the Lord in Isa. 58:6, 7, as it precedes the blessing we earnestly pray may come to us on this occasion.

Only one reading a day has been provided; but this need not hinder any church from dividing the readings, and having two or more each day, thus giving more time for prayer and a careful study of the readings.

The meetings should not be planned or conducted so as to subordinate the readings to preaching services; but where there is a minister present, let both minister and people study earnestly together to understand the meaning of what the Lord has said.

In planning for each meeting, the selection of a good reader is very important, and this should be done long enough beforehand, so that the individual may have time carefully to read and study the reading, and be able to enter into the spirit of it. Especially should the heart of the reader be touched and

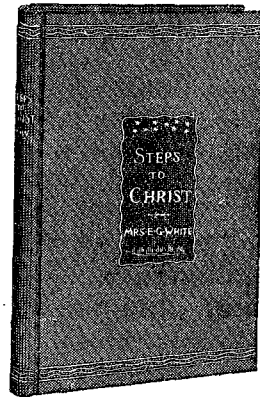
made tender and susceptible to the influence of the Holy Spirit. Without this, an otherwise faultless effort would be a failure.

The meetings should not be made long or tedious, or taken advantage of by individuals to give long prosy exhortations. They will naturally open with singing, followed by earnest prayer, in which several might take part. After another song, the reading of the article can begin, and this should usually be followed by a social meeting, wherein the testimonies may be brief, bearing on the subject under consideration.

As the means raised at this time goes to the support of the work in foreign fields, all donations should be sent to W. H. Edwards, Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board, 1730 North 15th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

May the Lord bless us abundantly, and give us liberal hearts to respond. G. A. IRWIN.

ALL the readings of this week of prayer, except the last one, are precious Testimonies. As such, they are worthy of preservation and careful study in times to come. We have therefore electrotyped this number of the HOME MISSIONARY, so that individuals can have copies for themselves. Anybody who wants a copy can have it by sending *five cents* in money or stamps to L. A. Hoopes, Battle Creek, Mich.



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