

The Missionary Leader

"The leaders took the lead in Israel"

Vol. 1

SYDNEY, AUGUST, 1914

No. 3

Church Missionary Programmes

First Week

Fulfilling Prophecy

Opening Exercises.
Reports of Labour.
Signs of the Times."
"Sowing the Seed."

LEADER'S NOTE.—This programme should help the members to see that the coming of the Lord is drawing very near, and that the only thing that is hindering it is that the gospel of the kingdom has not been fully preached for a witness. This depends on God's people. "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."—"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. IX, page 117.

There are five Sabbaths in August, but only four sets of programmes are provided. We suggest that the leader appoint a committee early in the month, who will be responsible for the fifth programme. This will be a good experience for the members.

Signs of the Times

READ responsively Mark 13 : 28-37.

(The leader should then read the signs, and give the fulfilments to different members present to read.)

1. Read Matt. 24 : 6.

There never was a time when war preparations were as extensive as now. The immense standing armies are being continually increased and the navies strengthened. New and more deadly weapons are being invented, and every preparation is being made for warfare. The newspapers give, almost daily, fresh rumours of war, and give as their opinion that the nations appear to be preparing for the great fight of Armageddon.

2. Read Matt. 24 : 7.

History records more than three hundred and fifty famines since the memorable seven years' famine in

Egypt. Among the most prominent of recent times may be mentioned the following:

1775, on Cape Verde, fifteen thousand persons perished.

1814, 1816, 1822, 1831, and 1843, occurred the notable famines in Ireland.

1837-38, six hundred thousand perished in north-western India.

1865-66, in Bengal and Orissa, about one million perished.

1868-69, in India, about one million five hundred thousand perished.

1897, it is believed that in the famine in India six million persons perished.

Since then there have been other famines in India, also severe ones in Russia and China, in which millions have perished. At the present time there are severe famines constantly recurring in different countries.

3. "And pestilences." Matt. 24 : 7.

The black, or bubonic, plague is one of the most fatal of pestilences. It dates from A.D. 253, and has raged in various countries ever since, causing millions of deaths. Small-pox has carried off thousands. Yellow fever and cholera have devastated whole provinces in some of the warmer countries. The influenza has visited almost every country and claimed thousands of victims. Besides these, there are diphtheria, typhoid fever, measles, and scarlet fever, which yearly carry off a large number; and consumption, which is responsible for nearly one-third of the death rate. Lately there have been severe epidemics of spinal meningitis. Cancer is increasing at an alarming rate. While medical science overcomes some diseases, others take their places and increase rapidly.

4. "And earthquakes, in divers places." Matt. 24 : 7.

From B.C. 1700 to A.D. 96, a period of 1,796 years, we read of only sixteen earthquakes, making an average of one in 112 years.

From A.D. 96 to 1850, a period of 1,754 years, about the same length of time as given in the first period, there were two hundred and four earthquakes, giving one to every eight years.

From 1850 to 1865, a period of fifteen years, there were fifteen earthquakes, or one for each year.

From 1865 to 1868, a period of three years, there were fifteen earthquakes, or an average of five for each year.

In 1885 there occurred ninety-seven earthquakes, and in 1886, one hundred and four. It is estimated that thirteen million persons have perished by earthquakes. During recent years earthquakes have become so common that the mention of them in the daily papers is hardly noticed. Only the most destructive ones are noted. All will remember the earthquakes in San Francisco and Messina.

5. Read Luke 21 : 25.

A glance at the nations of the earth will make it apparent to every one that there is widespread distress, with perplexity. One of the causes is the militarism which prevails, and which causes distress in two ways; first, by withdrawing so many men from useful labour; and second, by the enormous taxation it renders necessary.

The heaping up of money by the few, causing increased poverty of the many, is another cause of this distress and perplexity. The conflicts between capital and labour are continually on the increase, and are becoming a serious menace to the nations. Anarchists and socialists are increasing in number, and there is every prospect of terrible outbreaks in the near future. The trade-unionists openly state that they are waging a war on capitalists which is to destroy them.

6. "The sea and the waves roaring." Luke 21 : 25.

We have only to read of the ter-

rible tornadoes and the awful tidal waves, as reported in the newspapers from time to time, to know that we are in a period of disaster from these causes, such as the world has never before known. Cyclones are becoming matters of common occurrence, and thousands have perished in these terrible storms.

7. Read Luke 21 : 26.

That men's hearts are failing them for fear is evidenced by the appalling increase of suicides. Not a day passes without many such cases. Men, women, and children alike take their own lives, because they have not the courage to live. While a man keeps up his heart, he can battle with the world and his troubles; but when his heart fails him, he is lost.

8. Read Mark 13 : 21.

Many false prophets have arisen and deceived many, but all have perished. Mohammed was a false prophet, and his followers number millions. The Mormons come within the compass of Christ's warning words, "Wherefore when they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth." Modern Spiritualism is the work of lying spirits. They invite us to their secret seances, but Christ has told us if they say, "He is in the secret chambers; believe it not." Christian Science is presented to us as the coming of Christ. Men arise from time to time, performing signs and wonders, and claiming to be Christ, but it is not thus that Christ will come.

9. Read Matt. 24 : 14.

The third angel's message has been extensively preached throughout the United States, Canada, Newfoundland, Mexico, and Alaska. Missions are established in all the countries of South America, and in most of the West India Islands. The work has been begun in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales; in France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, and the Scandinavian countries; in Russia, Greece, and all the European countries; in Palestine and Egypt; in South, North, East, and West Africa, and is reaching into the centre; in India, Japan, China, and Korea; in Australia, New Zealand, and many of the islands of the

Pacific. It has reached almost every country in the world. The facilities for doing the work are now in such a condition that the work could speedily be finished if all the Lord's people would arise and do their part in giving this message of warning. This last sign is being rapidly fulfilled. When it is fulfilled, then will the end come.

10. Read Matt. 24 : 30.

Thus all the signs of Christ's coming are fulfilled or are rapidly fulfilling, and the next event will be His coming with power and great glory. May we all do our part in the work that is left for us to do, and labour as that servant who is watching for his Master's return.

"And what I say unto you I say unto all, WATCH."

Sowing the Seed

In the foregoing study we have seen how rapidly all of the signs of the Lord's coming are being fulfilled. But the world generally, including many earnest Christians, are ignorant of these things. Our papers and tracts are filled with just such information as the people need on the fulfilment of prophecy. Let every one resolve to join the noble army of soul-winners who are scattering the printed page. Here are some experiences showing how those who sow the seed, and those who reap the benefit of the seed sown, are rejoicing together:

"I am doing my best to persuade as many as possible to subscribe for the *Signs*. It is the paper that made me interested in the truth."

"I have been a reader of the *Signs* ever since I learned present truth, about twenty-seven years ago. I have used it as a medium to convey the truth to others, both in my field work and with individuals by correspondence. I am using a few copies at the present time, and find it a most profitable way in which to interest the public."

"Some two years ago a man picked up a part of a page of the *Signs*, and became interested in it. He had a newspaper dealer order the paper for him, and just before I left the city, I had the privilege of taking him into the church, and I am told that he has become a worker. There is no paper that I prize so highly for missionary work as the *Signs*."

"A young man came to the door to sell us the *Signs of the Times*. My wife refusing to buy, he offered to leave it for examination. My wife accepted it. When I came home she showed it to me and I said, 'Wife, I believe this is just what we have been looking for.' We at once subscribed for the *Signs*, and in a few months a minister opened a series of tent meetings. I attended, and as a result, accepted the truth."

"Find enclosed post office order to pay for the *Signs* for another six months, as my present subscription expires on June 10. I feel that I need the help and comfort of its weekly visits, as I am the only one in a large family who is trying, by the grace of God, to keep His Sabbath, and you may know it is not easy after keeping the first day for over fifty years. But my delight is to try to serve the Lord acceptably His way. I am the widow of a Baptist minister, and mother of a large family. I trust that you will pray that they may see and walk in the light of God's truth."

"I was a customer of a brother who made weekly calls, selling fruit and dairy products. He never failed to leave the *Signs* with me, and always called my attention to certain things contained therein. Home cares and responsibilities left but little time for reading, consequently I gave little thought to the paper which ultimately was the means of bringing me into the truth. One day a member of the church to which I then belonged, called, and seeing the *Signs*, warned me against reading such a pernicious (?) publication. This aroused my interest, and you may be sure a careful reading of it followed, with the foregoing result."

Second Week

Health and Temperance

Opening Exercises.

Reports of Labour.

"The Gospel of Health—No 3."

"Christian Help Work."

LEADER'S NOTE.—A supply of *Life and Health* and leaflets on health topics should be secured and taken to the meeting. By calling attention to these and planning for their distribution while the subject is fresh in mind, better results will be obtained than at any other time.

The Gospel of Health—No. 3

1. FREELY God has given to us an abundance of light and air, those two things which are essential to life.

2. Instead of utilizing to the full these life-giving agencies, man shuts himself up in dark, ill-ventilated houses in crowded, narrow streets.

3. Frequently it is supposed that unless we shut out of our homes "night air," we shall "take cold."

4, 5. The fact is, that by shutting out God's pure air, which is exactly the same air at night as in the daytime, a dangerous kind of "night air" is produced by the process of respiration, and the system is poisoned.

6. We need never be afraid of the "night air" out-doors.

6. It is the "night air" indoors that we should guard against, by making ample provision for a free circulation of God's pure air in every part of the house, and especially in the sleeping-rooms.

7. Air is composed of two gases mixed in the proportion of twenty-one parts of oxygen to seventy-nine parts of nitrogen. The air also contains a small quantity of carbonic acid gas, amounting to about one two-thousandth part of the whole volume of the atmosphere. Outdoors these proportions are invariably maintained, because natural laws are in operation which continuously distribute these gases in this ratio. One authority tells us that "whether the air is taken from the greatest depths, or the most exalted heights that man has ever reached, the proportion of the oxygen and nitrogen gases is maintained invariably. The air on the summit of Chimborazo, or on the arid plains of Arabia, or on the pestilential delta of the Niger, gives the same proportion of these gases as we find in that of the most temperate and salubrious countries on the globe."

8. But it cannot be too emphatically stated that in order that the ratio of these gases may be maintained in our sleeping-rooms, there must be a free circulation of air from God's great outdoors. "In breathing, the air which is evolved from the lungs at every respiration, consists chiefly of nitrogen, which is entirely unfit to be breathed again." Fortunately, the Creator in His wisdom gave to nitrogen a little less weight than common air, so after each breath the nitrogen

which is given off from the lungs ascends before the next inspiration. Given a free circulation with the pure air outside, this nitrogen becomes again permeated with oxygen, but on the other hand, shut off from all communication with the pure, outdoor atmosphere, this nitrogen accumulates in a very short time in sufficient quantity to endanger life.

It has been said that "no possible change can be made in the composition of the air, without rendering it injurious both to animal and vegetable life.

9. "If the quantity of nitrogen were but a little increased, all the vital functions of man would be performed with difficulty, pain, and slowness, and the pendulum of life would come to a stand."—*Work Days of God,* page 125.

Things to Remember

"Air that has been breathed over and over again is not pure air. Indeed it is very impure, and will not make the blood red and pure and the body healthy.

10. "To keep the blood in good condition, one must not only eat good food, but breathe pure air. Breathing bad air makes one pale and listless, just as eating bad food does.

"Both by day and by night, there should be some way for the pure air to come into the house and for the impure air to get out.

11. "When one wakes from sleep with a headache, it is nearly always because the air in the sleeping-room was not pure.

"Some people think that, if a bedroom is aired in the morning, that is enough to keep the air pure. But it is not enough simply to air a room once a day. The air must be changing all the time when any one is in it, because it is all the time being made impure."—*New Century Primer of Hygiene.*"

Questions

1. What two things has the Lord given to us freely?

2. How has man abused these privileges?

3. What fallacious idea prevails concerning "night air"?

4. Is there any difference between "night air" and day air?

5. What is produced by the process of respiration?

6. How should we guard against this dangerous gas?

7. Of what two gases is air composed?

8. How only can the exact ratio of these two gases be maintained?

9. What would be the result if the quantity of nitrogen in the atmosphere were only a little increased?

10. What are the results from breathing pure air and bad air?

11. What is the prolific cause of headache?

12. What is essential in order to keep a sleeping-room healthy?

Christian Help Work

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE work with literature will bring workers into contact with people who need help in various ways. There are the sick, the chronic invalids, the blind, the poor, the discouraged, and others who may be cheered on their way. For every opportunity the Christian worker should always be on the watch.

Visiting the Sick

This is a work in which almost every one can at some time have a part. All our people should learn how to give simple treatments, so that, when needful, they may be able to relieve suffering, and so perhaps win their way to the hearts of the sufferers.

When lending tracts from house to house, persons will be found to whom treatment may be given. In such cases ask permission to see the invalid. If this is granted, make a sympathetic inquiry as to the nature of the illness, and if you can give assistance, ask the privilege of doing so. If the case is under a doctor's care, so that you may not give treatment, speak some comforting words which will direct the mind of the sufferer to the Saviour, and offer prayer if allowed. Use tact with regard to leaving literature in such cases. Leave tracts which will be a source of encouragement and comfort, and avoid controverted points. Follow up such cases with tender sympathy, and you will win some souls by so doing.

Reading to the Sick

Many chronic invalids and all blind people enjoy having some one read aloud to them. This work young people can do and bring cheer to many hearts. Care should be taken in the selection of books. "Ministry of Healing," "Christ's Object Lessons,"

"Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing," "Steps to Christ," "Patriarchs and Prophets," "Desire of Ages," are excellent books for this purpose. Variety may be given by introducing such books as "Advance Guard of Missions" and "Making Home Happy," when the reading extends over a length of time.

Invalids usually appreciate gifts of flowers. These should be made into bouquets with a card attached, on which is written one of God's promises.

Choice fruits, or some dainty article of food to tempt the appetite, will be much appreciated by most invalids.

In making these visits care must be taken not to weary the invalid. A cheerful but sympathetic manner, and a spirit of genuine love, will do much to win hearts. Papers and magazines may be left to be read, but subjects that might worry or disturb the invalid should be avoided.

Visiting Hospitals and Institutions

Bouquets and flowers, with a text attached nicely written on a card, may be distributed, and are always gladly received. Tracts and papers can be given at the same time. Do not introduce doctrinal subjects when talking to patients, but speak of the love of Jesus, His sustaining power, and similar topics. Endeavour to cheer and encourage, and point to Jesus, the Saviour. Do not weary the patients. To some who are stronger and able to read, a small book may be given or lent. The children of the church should be encouraged to make small scrapbooks, and other simple things, for the entertainment of the sick children, and also to make up little bouquets of flowers to take to them.

Meetings may sometimes be held in public institutions. The more experienced members should conduct these. If possible, get some singers to go and have a song service. In some cases Bible readings can be held. Literature is almost always gladly received. If those who visit these institutions are warm with the love of Christ, they cannot fail to accomplish good.

Caring for the Poor

There are poor who need help in various ways. Even in our own churches we have the poor to care for. Every church should have a Dorcas society, which will gather left-off

garments and repair and alter them for the needy ones.

As a general rule, what the poor most need is work; and if we can, by any means, find remunerative employment for them, that is the best possible help to give. In some cases financial aid will be necessary. Such cases may be brought to the attention of those who dispense the poor fund. As far as possible, help and strengthen people to help themselves. Always investigate a case before giving money.

Many mothers will be found who have little idea how to care for and train their children, how to cook properly, and how to keep their homes neat and clean. Such people need practical help and instruction, but it will be necessary to use much tact in order to create in them a desire to receive this assistance. The expression of a little sympathy with their many burdens, and an offer to help in their work while you talk to them, may open the way for some tactful suggestions.

Often the worker will meet those who are intemperate. Many of these poor souls long to be free from their bondage. Efforts should be made to pray with them for overcoming grace, and to get them to sign the temperance pledge. When this has been accomplished, these persons should be carefully followed up and encouraged, for they will have a difficult road to travel.

The discouraged should be pointed to the Saviour, and efforts made to lead them to give their hearts to Him. Kindly sympathy and interest will generally lead to a revelation of what is at the root of the trouble, when help can be better given.

Those who go forth in the spirit of Christ will find many opportunities of binding up the broken-hearted, and proclaiming liberty to the captives of sin, and faithful Christian help work will save many souls.—*Selected.*

Third Week

Personal Work

Opening Exercises.

Bible Study: "Christ's Method of Work."

"Personal Work."

"Individual Work the Hardest Work."

"Our Aim."

"Experiences Told in a Missionary Meeting Across the Sea."

Poem: "Evangelize."

Christ's Method of Work

1. How were the first two disciples brought to Jesus? John 1:35-39.

2. What did Andrew immediately do? John 1:40-42.

3. How were James and John won? Matt. 4:21, 22.

4. How was Philip called? John 1:43.

5. What did Philip then do? John 1:45, 46.

6. What caused Matthew to follow Jesus? Matt. 9:9.

7. What did Jesus say He would make of these men who had been won to Him by personal work? Matt. 4:19.

8. How did the Lord work for Zaccheus? Luke 19:1-10.

9. What may we gather from these and similar incidents in the Lord's work concerning His method of saving souls? *Ans.*—It would seem that personal work was His preferred method, the working for one soul at a time.

Personal Work

"I ONCE heard Henry Ward Beecher say: 'The longer I live, the more confidence I have in those sermons preached where one man is the minister and one man is the congregation; where there is no question as to who is meant when the preacher says, "Thou art the man."' Years after this I heard the Rev. Dr. Nevius speak similarly as to the missionary field in China. He said he wanted no great preachers in his field. Those were not the sort of missionaries who were needed in China. If he could find a man who could talk familiarly, face to face, with another man, wherever he met him, he had missionary work for that kind of man in China. This is the way to do Christian work in China or in the homefield."

"Such a man as Mr. Moody, who thought more of how many individuals he could reach than of his preaching before an audience, however large, is always desirous of getting through with his preparatory pulpit appeal, and of getting at his more important work of pleading with individual souls in the inquiry meeting. And that is the feeling of every earnest evangelist who thinks more of the work of reaping and harvesting than of the work of incessantly sowing broadcast seed that may, or that may not, have final fruitage. . . ."

"And which would any sensible pastor and preacher choose for his own church, if it were merely a matter of choice,—to have great revival meetings, or to have every church member actively and persistently engaged in individual soul-

winning seven days in the week all the year round? The second would insure the first: but the first, unfortunately, occurs without being followed by the second."—"Taking Men Alive."

"I have been amazed in my study of the biographies of men and women who have been specially used of God, to see how almost universal is the rule that they have come to Christ, or to an experience of power, through the personal influence of a friend or an acquaintance. Preaching is not enough; it is sometimes too general. The impressions of a song may soon be effaced; but the personal touch, the tear in the eye, the pathos in the voice, the concern which is manifested in the very expression of one's countenance,—these are used with great effect, and thousands of people have been brought to the Saviour, and are engaged in His service, because of such influences being brought to bear upon their lives."—"The Personal Touch."

The personal experiences of these great evangelists prove that personal work is still the most effective way of leading men and women to give themselves to the Lord. What better method is there for leading people to accept the truth of the third angel's message?

Individual Work the Hardest Work

"DR. TRUMBULL was often spoken of as being a man of exceptional tact. He practised constantly at individual soul-winning from the time that he first found the Saviour, at twenty-one, until his death, more than fifty years later. People who knew him and his ways and his lifelong habit have said of him, 'O, it was "second nature" to Dr. Trumbull to speak to a man about his soul! He fairly couldn't help doing it, it was so easy for him. I never could get his ease in the work.' And in so saying they showed how little they knew of him or of the demands of his work.

"The book on "Individual Work" was written when its author was seventy years of age. Hear what he had to say as to the 'ease' which his long practice had brought him:

"From nearly half a century of such practice, as I have had opportunity day by day, I can say that I have spoken to thousands upon thou-

sands on the subject of their spiritual welfare. Yet, so far from my becoming accustomed to this matter so that I can take hold of it as a matter of course, I find it as difficult to speak about it at the end of these years as at the beginning. Never to the present day can I speak to a single soul for Christ without being reminded by Satan that I am in danger of harming the cause by introducing it just now. If there is one thing that Satan is sensitive about, it is the danger of a Christian's harming the cause he loves by speaking of Christ to a needy soul. He [Satan] has more than once, or twice, or thrice, kept me from speaking on the subject by his sensitive, pious caution, and he has tried a thousand times to do so. Therefore my experience leads me to suppose that he is urging other persons to try any method for souls except the best one."

"Have we not the answer here to the question which was passed over a moment ago, as to why this work is the hardest in the world? Just because it is the most effective work for Christ, the devil opposes it most bitterly, and always will while he is permitted to oppose anything good. The devil strikes hardest and most persistently at the forces which will, if effective, hurt his cause most. He devotes his chief energies to those from whom he has most to fear; their side he never leaves. Therefore the worker who seeks to win individuals to Christ, may rest assured that he has, by entering upon that work, served notice upon the devil for a life-and-death conflict; and that notice will be accepted by the devil as an obligation to swerve the worker from his purpose, whenever, by any subtle means in the devil's power, this can be done. Let us write down large in our mental or real notebooks the devil's favourite argument: 'His favourite argument with a believer is that just now is not a good time to speak on the subject. The lover of Christ and of souls is told that he will harm the cause he loves by introducing the theme of themes just now.'—"Taking Men Alive."

If personal work is the hardest in ordinary Christian work, we must expect it will be even more so in the giving of the last message. The devil is fighting as he never fought before to keep souls from accepting the truth. But, seeing it is the most effective method of work, shall we allow our-

selves to be prevented from using it because it is hard? Shall we not rather take courage, and, because it is the most effective method, use it whenever we have opportunity? He that is for us is greater than he that is against us.

Our Aim

OUR aim for this year is, "Every Sabbath-keeper to bring at least one soul to Christ in 1914."

Dr. Trumbull, early in his Christian life, made this resolution:

"Whenever I am justified in choosing my subject of conversation with another, the theme of themes shall have prominence between us, so that I may learn his need, and, if possible, meet it."

Such a resolution calls for the use of tact, in turning a conversation from any starting point to the things that have to do with the way of salvation. It makes necessary a continual watching for opportunities to lead persons to a consideration of their spiritual needs.

Just such a resolution as this is needed to enable us to reach our aim. The distribution of our literature gives us wonderful opportunities to lead souls to Christ. If we watch and pray as we visit the homes of the people with our tracts, papers, and books, we shall find many openings where we can present to the people Christ's love for them and His call to them to give themselves to Him. Shall we not make the remainder of this year one of personal work for all we can reach?

Evangelize!

Give us a watchword for the hour;
A thrilling word, a word of power,
A battle-cry, a flaming breath
That calls to conquest or to death,

A word to rouse the church from rest
To heed her Master's high behest.
The call is given: Ye hosts arise,
Our watchword is, *Evangelize!*

The glad evangel now proclaim
Through all the earth, in Jesus' name,
This word is ringing through the skies—
Evangelize, evangelize!

To dying men, a fallen race,
Make known the gift of gospel grace.
The world that now in darkness lies,
Evangelize, evangelize!

—Henry Crocker, in "Missions."

Experiences Told in a Missionary Meeting Across the Sea

"LAST Sabbath when we visited the jails, we did not have our singers with us, and the time was spent in personal heart-to-heart talks with the men. One man who has been studying quite earnestly of late, was a photographer here in Oakland. The men now call him the parson. Last Sabbath he told us that he had read "Great Controversy" through, and had been studying the signs of the times. Said he: 'I am very much impressed with this second coming of the Saviour. I believe in it as I compare these writings with the Bible.' His cell-mate is a Japanese, and we have arranged for some of our Japanese brethren to study with him."

"THROUGH a magazine taken from a blind woman on the street, a Catholic man, employed in the gas works, who has heretofore turned a deaf ear to everything that one of our brethren working near him has tried to interest him in, has become interested, and is studying the truth. The Lord is working with a number who are now accepting literature and asking questions."

"A YOUNG woman who said she could not get out very much, told of having given a man who called for something to eat, a copy of "Steps to Christ," while she was preparing something for him. 'This is a beautiful book,' said he. 'I wish I could have it.' He promised to read it through, and she received a blessing in giving him the book."

"THERE seems to be more in this missionary work than there used to be,' testified a brother who keeps a grocery store, and is coming in touch with many people. 'I think it is because I am putting more effort into it. That being the case, I seem to have more opportunities.' Then he told of several experiences in giving away tracts on various subjects, and entering into conversations that have gained the interest of several."

"MY brother entered college last September to prepare to study for the priesthood. I felt scorched over it, but prayed that God might turn him back before it was too late, and God answered my prayer. He had to leave school on account of his eyes, never to take up hard study again. I was turned back from the very convent doors fifteen years

ago. Five years later, through a good isolated sister, I subscribed for the *Signs*, found this blessed truth, and have rejoiced in it ever since. I am praying that God will open the hearts of my people to receive the light. They forbade me, years ago, to send anything to them, so it will have to go from the office, and I know God will take care of it. I have four brothers and they have all been educated in Catholic colleges. I wish you would join with me in praying that God may break down the walls of prejudice, and let His light into the home of my beloved ones. I am alone in this message, and I long to see my loved ones saved."

Fourth Week

Religious Liberty

Opening Exercises.

"Religious Liberty Studies—No. 3."

"Testimony Study on Aims of the Papacy."

"Could not Pay for Her Seat."

Religious Liberty Studies—No. 3

Roman Activity

EVENTS during the past few months are indicative of increased activity on the part of the great enemy of God and His church. The efforts which are being put forth by the Catholic Federation to restrict the circulation of literature by which attacks are made upon the Catholic religion, are sufficient in themselves to show how energetically Protestants should labour to retard the growing power of Rome. Already the Catholic Federation of New Zealand has entered upon an active campaign "against the circulation of literature which tends to undermine good morals, or which assails religious faith." The Federation proposed to approach all booksellers who stock "objectionable literature," and to invite them to withdraw such books from circulation. Should any bookseller fail to withdraw the "objectionable" literature from circulation, members of the Federation are to be advised to withdraw their custom from him. As the Federation is becoming a powerful organization, it is not likely that many booksellers will refuse to accept its advice. Hall Caine's novels, which have been severely criticized by Catholic reviewers on account of the references in them to Catholic doctrines, are tabooed, and booksellers handling this literature are threatened with boycott.

An American weekly entitled the *Menace*, which has an enormous circulation, has also aroused the ire of the Federation. Because this

magazine contains attacks upon the Catholic Church, the Postmaster-General was requested to refuse to distribute copies through the mails in New Zealand. Strange to say, the Postmaster-General has acceded to the request of the Federation, and has notified the public that the "post office should no longer be made the means for distributing an American journal concerning which representation was made to him by the Federation." The success of this Roman Catholic organization in barring the *Menace* from circulation in New Zealand, has led its members to correspond further with the Postmaster-General, with a view to shutting out other similar publications. Who can tell how soon the Federation may direct its efforts against certain journals and books which are published in Australia, and which contain very definite allusions to the Papacy?

From America news comes of a number of cases where Protestant speakers have been mobbed, or their meetings broken up or interfered with by Roman Catholics. Free speech has been the boast of Americans, but there can be no liberty in a land where freedom of speech is not protected by the guardian of the law. Probably the most flagrant instance of Roman Catholic animosity against a Protestant speaker which has come under our notice for some time, is reported in the *Protestant Magazine* for May last. A Baptist minister, the Rev. Otis L. Spurgeon, was announced to speak at a Presbyterian church in Denver, Colorado, his subject being, "The Woman and the Scarlet-Coloured Beast of the Seventeenth Chapter of Revelation." When the time arrived for the meeting, the people who came to hear the lecture found the church in darkness, and upon enquiring the cause, learned that the Catholic priests had telephoned to the trustees to say that "they could not restrain their congregations if the meeting took place." However, the Roman Catholics had determined at all costs to prevent the lecture being delivered, for a mob of men forcibly seized Mr. Spurgeon in his private room at the hotel where he was residing, and carrying him to a motor car outside, drove off with their victim to a lonely spot outside of the city. There he was cruelly beaten, and very severely injured. *No arrests were reported!*

Of course these happenings should

not cause any surprise. For years we have been expecting such outbursts of Roman Catholic animosity. But now that these perils are manifesting themselves in the open light of day, should we sit silently by without lifting a warning voice? "God has revealed what is to take place in the last days, that His people may be prepared to stand against the tempest of opposition and wrath. Those who have been warned of the events before them are not to sit in calm expectation of the coming storm, comforting themselves that the Lord will shelter His faithful ones in the day of trouble. We are to be as men waiting for their Lord, not in idle expectancy, but in earnest work, with unwavering faith. It is no time now to allow our minds to be engrossed with things of minor importance. While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord's people may not have mercy or justice."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. V, page 452.

A. W. ANDERSON.

The Aims of the Papacy

(A Testimony Study)

1. What is said of the Protestant churches, and why?

The Protestant churches are in great darkness, or they would discern the signs of the times.

2. For what is the Roman Church preparing?

The Roman Church is far-reaching in her plans and modes of operation. She is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done.

3. What evidence have we that Romanism is gaining ground?

Catholicism is gaining ground upon every side. See the increasing number of her churches and chapels in Protestant countries. Look at the popularity of her colleges and seminaries in America, so widely patronized by Protestants. Look at the growth of ritualism in England, and the frequent defections to the ranks of the Catholics. These things should awaken the anxiety of all who prize the pure principles of the gospel.

4. While this is going on, what are men doing?

Men are closing their eyes to the real character of Romanism, and the dangers to be apprehended from her supremacy.

5. What do the people need?

The people need to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty.

6. Has the Romish Church undergone any change in principle?

Every principle of popery that existed in past ages exists to-day. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The popery that Protestants are now so ready to honour is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and arrogant assumption that lorded it over kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty, and slew the saints of the Most High.

7. Does prophecy foretell a restoration of the Papacy?

In this homage to Papacy, the United States will not be alone. The influence of Rome in the countries that once acknowledged her dominion, is still far from being destroyed. And prophecy foretells a restoration of her power.

8. What warning has the Word of God given?

God's Word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men. She is piling up her lofty and massive structures, in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. Stealthily and unsuspectedly she is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element is. Whoever shall believe and obey the Word of God will thereby incur reproach and persecution.

THE work in the homefield is a vital problem just now. The present time is the most favourable opportunity that we shall have to work these fields. In a little while the situation will be much more difficult.—*Home Missionary Work*, page 12.

"How few there are who are truly humble, devoted, God-fearing servants in the cause of Christ, whose hearts are full of gratitude and thanksgiving, because they are called to act a part in the work of God, being co-labourers with Jesus Christ, partakers with Christ of His sufferings."

Could Not Pay for Her Seat

A WORKER in a Roman Catholic field writes:

"A poor woman was visiting in a certain city. On Sunday she had been to the cathedral to attend services. She saw the rector and asked for a seat while in the city.

"He asked, 'Have you any money to pay for it?'

"I have not much money with me, but I want to come to church,' was her reply.

"Look here, woman,' he said, 'I want to tell you it takes money to run this church. If you do not have the money to pay for your pew, you can stay away. We are not running this church for souls; we want the money, and must have it. Do you hear.'

"The next day she came to our mission crying, to seek for comfort and counsel. We told her that the Lord receives any poor soul who comes to Him. Come without money and without price, He says. She studied the truth for these last days, and soon began to obey it."

Missionary Volunteer Programmes

First Week

Pioneer Missionary Work in Fiji

Hymn.

Prayer.

Secretary's Report.

Scripture Drill.

Hymn.

Reports of Labour.

"Geography of Fiji."

"The Landing of the First Missionaries."

"The Work of William Cross and David Cargill."

"New Recruits."

"The Heroism of Mrs. Calvert and Mrs. Lyth."

LEADER'S NOTE.—Have a member, appointed beforehand, give a five-minute talk on the geography of Fiji. If possible, have a map, or draw one on the board, and show the relative position of Fiji to Rarotonga, the field previously visited on our missionary tour.

The Landing of the First Missionaries

IN October, 1835, William Cross and David Cargill, who had spent some time in Tonga, started for Fiji.

The two families embarked on a passing schooner, October 8, 1835. King George of Tonga manifested his sincere interest in the undertaking by sending along with them an influential person with a present to the chief of the district whither they were bound, urging him to treat the missionaries well, and stating what great benefits had accrued to him and his people from their sojourn among them at Tonga.

In four days they reached Lakemba. Early in the morning the two men went ashore, from whence deafening yells had announced the approach of the vessel. A hundred feet from the water's edge were two hundred men armed with muskets, bayonets fixed on sticks, clubs, bows and arrows, their bodies painted jet black, and their faces reddened, in the approved manner of the Fijian fashion of fifty years ago. The missionaries hailed the Tongans in the crowd with the familiar greetings of their own land, giving assurance of the well-meant intention of their visit.

Leaving the long row of houses that lined the shore beneath the shade of coconut trees, they came to the abode of the chief, situated in a large inland fortress. To him and his great men they explained the purpose of their visit, and begged some land on which to erect a house. This was readily granted: they were promised temporary homes at once, and were desired to land their families and their goods. Then the vessel cast anchor, and the seasick women and children were taken on shore. They were in the midst of a tribe that often killed and ate strangers who ventured to their shores.—*Selected.*

The Work of William Cross and David Cargill

NEXT day the mission work began in earnest by their holding two outdoor services, conducted in the Tongan tongue. The king had been invited, and he came and listened attentively. A favourable impression seemed to have been made on him. "The Dayspring from on High" had

at length visited this region of the darkness and shadow of death.

Speedily the language was mastered. A version of part of St. Matthew's Gospel, containing the Sermon on the Mount, was soon ready to be sent to the Tongan press, where it was printed in a booklet of twenty-four pages. This provided a valuable acquisition. Meantime the preaching in the Tongan dialect was bearing its own precious fruits. Many Tongans became truly converted. In the first six months thirty-one adults were publicly baptized.

The two pioneer missionaries, by advice of the king, determined to push their efforts at length into the more important part of Fiji. Thus Mr. Cross left Lakemba and proceeded to Mbau, then promising to be the centre of power, which it afterward became. Here he found affairs in a state of high tension, the place crowded with people wrought up to a pitch of excitement. A battle had been fought, the king banished, and now they were celebrating their victory. Two bodies were already in the ovens; so he thought it wiser to settle at Rewa, on the mainland of Viti Levu, and distant from Mbau by river about twelve miles, the king there offering him protection, and promising that any of his people who chose, could accept *lotu*—as the new religion was called.

The first services were conducted in the dialect of Lakemba, but in a week Mr. Cross was able to talk to the people in their own brogue. His house was small and damp, and here the missionary sickened. "For six weeks he lay ill, first with intermittent fever, then with cholera, and then with typhus fever, until his strength was gone, and his poor wife saw closely threatening her the hard lot of being left alone with her little ones among the cannibals.

On his recovery, a better house was built, a chief and his wife were converted, the services were well attended, a school was opened, and the aspect seemed brightening, when persecution arose; and besides being threatened with arson, Mr. Cross nearly lost his life by one of the stones hurled into the Christian assembly. Here the chief of Viwa, a town a few miles north of Mbau, besought that a Christian teacher be sent to him. A teacher was accordingly sent into this new district.

Thus was the mission started in two centres of influence, east and west, by these two men, defying, single-handed, the evil one in his ancient fastness of Fiji, where, secluded in its lovely islands, he had for ages succeeded unchecked in fostering every vice and unheard-of abomination. No wonder if the demon of savagery, outstripping the common limits of plunder and bloodshed in his fury, and violating the very instincts of humanity, should have been provoked so that opposition became obstinate, and the people appeared more debased and devilish than ever. But Providence had His never-slumbering eye upon His servants, not only protecting them, but in due course sending them much needed help.—*Selected.*

New Recruits

SOON new missionaries came to help those who had opened the work in Fiji. John Hunt, James Calvert, R. B. Lyth, and others joined them. The work progressed. A printing press was established. While Mr. Hunt translated the Scriptures, Mr. Calvert managed the press, assisted by a Frenchman who had been wrecked on the coast. Mr. Lyth knew considerable about medicine. His first influential patient was a young chief. While Mr. Lyth nursed him successfully through a long siege of sickness, the two became very good friends. But this did not mean that the missionaries were out of danger.

"Cannibal feasts were of constant occurrence, the bodies being cooked in ovens close to the houses in which Mr. Hunt and Mr. Lyth had their quarters; and so great was the offence they gave by closing the doors to try to shut out the revolting scenes, that their own lives were endangered, and the king's son came up furiously, club in hand, threatening to kill Mr. Lyth, who had ventured on remonstrance." Every day increased the peril in which they stood, until one awful night they believed their doom was sealed. Defence was impossible, and, crouched in the great gloomy house, they closed the great doors and hung up their curtains of mosquito cloth to hide themselves from eyes that might be peering through the reed walls; and then, one after another, they called upon God, resolved that their savage murderers should kill them on their knees. A

band of noble martyr-spirits, they had left their happy homes in England, counting the cost of the risk they ran in these islands of blood; and now, when the full sacrifice appeared to be demanded, they bent their knees to its completion. "Just at midnight, when each pleading voice was hushed, and each head bowed lower," the horrid, brooding stillness was broken by a wild, sudden, ringing yell; but God had changed the death-knell, which they took it to be, into a savage invitation to call the women to come out to dance. So the night passed with the ghastly cannibal purpose unfulfilled.—*Selected.*

The Heroism of Mrs. Calvert and Mrs. Lyth

ON one occasion a tribe of sea rovers returned to Mbau, bringing a large present of spoil to the king. Profitable guests like these must be entertained by the royal honours of a cannibal feast. The missionaries were away at the district meeting. The chief of the fishermen set out in his official capacity and zeal, with a murderous crew, on an expedition to obtain *bokolo* (human flesh). At a certain point, hiding themselves in the bushes, and covering their canoes with leaves, they awaited their prey. Fourteen women were seized alive, and one man was killed. Long before they returned, the news spread to Mbau, and the rejoicing was great. The next day there was an excited mob to meet the fleet of death. The story of the slaughter of the poor women was soon carried to their white sisters, Mrs. Calvert and Mrs. Lyth, who were alone with their children at the Viwa mission station. It would be desperate for the two lone women to venture into Mbau to thwart the fiendish rage of those blood-thirsty cannibals, yet they determined to go. They obtained a canoe; and as they approached the place, the yells of the people, the beating of the death drums, the firing of the muskets, mingled with the piercing shrieks of the victims, grew louder. A *lotu* chief met them and hurried them on impatiently. Guarded by angels, they pressed through the mad crowd, unhurt, into the old king's house, whose entrance was barred to women. Without ceremony they took the old man by storm; and the butchery was stayed, though nine

had been already killed. Then they visited the chief whose word had sealed their dark sisters' death warrant, and made him wince again under their sharp rebukes. Women like these were the brave, intrepid heroines, who in many a similar scene of horror, proved themselves true helpmeets of the missionaries whose lot they shared.—*Selected.*

Children's Division

Sleeping

SCRIPTURE TEXT: 1 Thess. 5: 6.

When asleep, we know nothing of what is passing around us. We cannot visit, play, or work; we do not feel or sense anything.

It is unsafe to sleep sometimes: as when the house is on fire, or when thieves are about; or in some places, as on a railway track.

This world, and all the things in it, are soon to be burned up. 2 Pet. 3: 10.

There are two kinds of sleep—natural sleep and spiritual sleep, or body sleep and mind sleep. Before Jesus comes, many people will be sound asleep who look as if they were wide-awake. Their consciences are asleep. Against this kind of sleep the Lord warns us. It is a deadly sleep. He says to all such, "Awake, awake." Isa. 52: 1, first part.

It is hardest to keep awake just before morning. It is dangerous to be sleeping when Jesus' coming is near. Rom. 13: 11, 12.

Jesus tells us how to keep awake. Mark 13: 33-37. "Watch, pray, work." What shall we watch? For what pray? For whom shall we work? Let us do all these during this year, and keep on doing them till Jesus comes.

"IN whatever calling a Christian is found, he has work to do for the Lord in representing Christ to the world."

"IN the face of what might be done, will the church sleep on, or will they feel the responsibility and the honour that is conferred upon them through the merciful providence of God, and gather up their hereditary trusts and the advantages of present light, and feel the necessity of rising to the urgent emergency that now presents itself before us?"

Who Is With You?

Children, do you know the Saviour
Waits for you each day,
As you start to school each morning,
Or bound away to play?

Are you sure He's always with you,
As you go to work?
For, remember, children, others
Round the corner lurk.

These are Satan's evil angels,
Watching their skill to try,
Thinking they may quickly capture
The children, if they try.

So be sure that only Jesus
Goes with you each day,
Helping you be true and loyal,
When you work or play.

—*Selected.*

Second Week

Work with Our Magazines

Opening Exercises.

Reports of Labour.

"Some Suggestions on Selling Magazines."

"What Periodicals May Do."

"Results."

LEADER'S NOTE.—The leader should endeavour to secure some members to act as regular magazine sellers, who will take a certain number each month and sell them from house to house. If possible, definite orders should be secured. While we do not desire our people to take up this work simply to make a living, it is a fact that many might make a good living selling our magazines, while at the same time they would be spreading the truth abroad in the land. While planning new work, do not neglect to keep up the tract lending and distribution in other ways, or the missionary correspondence.

Some Suggestions on Selling Magazines

THE work with our magazines is a very important one, for they deal with the present issues in a manner that would be likely to help the public if they could read them. In order for them to read the magazines, some one must take the papers to them. We are therefore anxious to enlist some members in every church in this work.

Select the magazine in which you are most interested. Study your magazines carefully before you go out, that you may be able to talk about them intelligently to your customers. Always be strictly truthful in what you say, so that you may sell to them again. Do not tell the customers too much. Rather strive to arouse their interest to read the magazine. If the

subject you first mention does not interest, pass quickly to another.

Do not talk too much. Tell in a few well-chosen words the main subjects of the magazine, and as they look through the paper, lift up your heart to God in prayer, that He will cause them to buy.

Learn to overcome objections, and to make these the reasons why they should buy. Do not argue, but refer the questions raised to the paper if it contains anything on the subject. If not, pass from the questions to what is in the paper.

Always be cheerful, kind, and pleasant, no matter what reception you meet. If discouraged, seek the Lord until you receive strength from on high. Then you will be able to sell.

Tell the people honestly that it is a Seventh-day Adventist paper when they ask you. More often than not the people will buy it because it is an Adventist publication, because it is becoming known that we send out a high class of literature that is worth reading.

Put in faithful time, even in cloudy and bad weather. Experienced agents say that the longer hours they put in during a week, the larger sales they average an hour. People are often glad to have some diversion on a stormy day, and will welcome one who comes with a cheerful word and a smile.

In carrying the magazines, care must be taken to keep them clean. Some use leather or cloth carriers with shoulder straps. Others wrap the magazines in a strong paper wrapper, leaving one end open, that the magazine may be removed without opening the package. If you fail to sell a magazine always slip it back into the package before leaving the house. If you leave the house carrying the magazine in your hand, the people in the next house will probably form the conclusion that you did not sell one to their neighbour.

Above all, keep constantly near to the Lord, and give Him the glory for the sales you make. If you fail, seek Him for success. Prayer and hard work will succeed, and souls will be won as a result of faithful labour.—*Selected.*

Note.—This article should be talked rather than read. Some of the points may be enlarged upon, and others added. At the close, the leader should make an appeal for volunteers to take up this work. He should have sample copies of *Life and Health* and the *Outlook* to show, and should

have previously made arrangements with the conference tract society secretary in regard to the territory open to church members for magazine work.

If none respond to the appeal, the missionary leader and the missionary secretary should select persons they think would be suitable for this work, and labour with them personally and privately. They should not be satisfied until, in all places sufficiently thickly populated, there are some members regularly selling magazines. Even in the sparsely populated places, small clubs could be used. Remember that we are fishers of men, and must use all kinds of bait in order to succeed.

What Periodicals May Do

BEFORE the periodicals can do all they might do, there must be certain characteristics in the lives of the people who distribute them. First, there must be consecration, a deep love for souls, and a sense of responsibility to God for putting as many papers as possible into the homes. If we do not care whether souls are saved or not, we cannot expect much success in our work.

Next comes faithfulness. The periodical worker must be faithful, never discouraged, but work steadily day after day, as time permits. There should be careful planning, that as much time as possible may be obtained for this work.

When the worker starts out in the morning to sell papers, he should take with him a notebook, a pencil, and small change. The notebook is indispensable, as notes should be made of the places where the people are out, of empty houses, and of other things that may help in the doing of thorough work. One periodical worker tells how he called at one house four times, and had to walk up a long path from the road to the door. At last a lady came to the door and inquired why he was so persistent in calling at her house. She had seen him the three times before, and was now eager to know his business, though on the other occasions she had watched him through the window, and would not answer. She became a regular reader. So perseverance pays.

As the work progresses, regular readers will be obtained, and these should be supplied at definite intervals. Some of these will become interested in the truth, and their names may be given to other members in the church, that they may hold Bible readings with them, if the one selling the papers is unable to do this part of the work.

Results

"Our Little Friend" Assists

A LADY told of a visit of one of our workers who left her a paper. Her name was handed to a Bible worker, and studies followed. This lady with her children, and a sister and her children, all accepted the truth. "What paper did the man leave?" I inquired. "*Our Little Friend*," she replied. Surely we "know not whether shall prosper, either this or that." Let us sow the seed.

"Life and Health" Helps

A field missionary agent went out to sell *Life and Health* and found a man much interested in what we believe as a people. Bible studies were arranged for, and in two weeks this man decided to keep the Sabbath.

Some Faithful Worker Sold a Magazine

"Some faithful magazine worker sold a magazine to a firm of real estate people for whom I used to work. I picked it up, and while in the train read every line. By the time I reached my destination, my heart was set to keep the true Sabbath. I have in my possession, and will always keep for a relic, the very magazine that sowed the truth in my heart."

These are simply illustrations of what our periodicals are doing, and could be multiplied many times. Who of the members of this church will now order a club of papers for use in this way among their neighbours? There are souls to be saved, but only those who work will have the joy of saving them.—*Selected.*

Children's Division

Obedience

The Two Voices

THERE was once a little boy who said that whenever he was going to do anything wrong he heard two voices speaking to him. Do you know what he meant? Perhaps this story will help you.

The boy's name was Cecil. Cecil's father had a very beautiful and rare canary, which had been brought far over the sea as a present to him.

Cecil often helped to feed the canary and give it fresh water, and sometimes his father would allow him to open the door of the cage and

the bird would come out and perch on his hand, which delighted Cecil very much; but he was not allowed to open the door of the cage unless his father was with him.

One day, however, Cecil came to the cage alone, and while he watched the canary, a little voice said, "Open the door and take him out; father will never know." That was a **WRONG** voice, and Cecil tried not to listen. It would have been better if he had gone away from the cage, but he did not; and the voice came again, "Open the door and let him out." And another little voice said, "No, don't; your father said you must not." But Cecil listened to the **WRONG** voice; he opened the door, and out flew the pretty bird. First it perched on his finger, then it flew about the room, and then—Cecil had not noticed that the window was open—then, before he knew, out of the window flew the canary, and poor Cecil burst into tears. "Oh! if I had listened to the **GOOD** voice, the **RIGHT** voice, and not opened the door! Father will be so angry." Then the **BAD** voice came again and said, "Don't tell your father; say you know nothing about it." But Cecil did not listen this time; he was too brave a boy to tell his father a lie, and he determined to tell the truth and be punished, if necessary.

Of course his father was very sorry to lose his beautiful canary, and more sorry still that his little son had been disobedient, but he was glad that Cecil told him the truth.

Now do you know the two things that the **WRONG** voice told Cecil to do? It told him (1) Not to obey; (2) Not to tell the truth. I think we have all heard those two voices, not with our ears, but **WITHIN** us. Let us always listen to the **GOOD** voice—the **RIGHT** voice.

(Blackboard Sketch)

Two voices:

(1) **GOOD**, says, "OBEY," "Speak the truth."

(2) **BAD**, says, "DISOBEY," "Tell untruth."

(The leader should draw out from the children by questions the story of the first lie told in the world by Satan, and of Adam and Eve's first act of disobedience, and all it has cost.)

Third Week

Temperance Programme

- Opening Exercises.
- Reports of Labour.
- Scripture Reading: Saloon-Keepers' Psalm (Ps. 10:5-11).
- Bible Reading: "Temperance."
- "The Artist Astonished."
- Roll Call: "What Some People Say About Liquor."
- "You Did It."
- Poem: "A Signboard."

LEADER'S NOTE.—For the item "What Some People Say About Liquor," select nine members, and have them render it as a "Roll Call." As the leader calls the names of the writers, those to whom the pieces have been assigned may respond with the quotations. The Scripture reading may also be given to a member to read.

Temperance

1. Temperance is a fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22, 23.
2. A round in the Christian ladder. 2 Pet. 1:5, 6.
3. An essential to success. 1 Cor. 9:25.
4. Paul practised temperance. Verse 27.
5. Daniel purposed to be temperate. Dan. 1:8.
6. John the Baptist drank neither wine nor strong drink. Luke 1:13-15.

Results of Intemperance

7. Brings sorrow and trouble. Prov. 23:29, 30.
8. Robs one of reason. Prov. 31:4, 5.
9. Makes it impossible to choose between right and wrong. Lev. 10:8-10.
10. Shuts the gate to heaven. 1 Cor. 6:10.

The Artist Astonished

WHEN Leonardo da Vinci was painting his masterpiece, "The Last Supper," it is said he chose a young man who was a chorister in the beautiful Milan cathedral, for the character of the Saviour. Years passed before the picture was completed. The artist left the character representing Judas to the last, and one day, while in the city of Rome, he noticed a man in the street, whom he selected as his model. With bent shoulders, and an evil, cold, and hardened expression, the man came very near to the artist's conception of the Lord's betrayer. After entering the studio, the man began to look around, and

finally said to Da Vinci, "Maestro, I was in this room twenty-five years ago. I then sat for Christ." Such is one effect of the sin of intemperance.—*Selected.*

What Some People Say About Liquor

- WINE is a mocker.—*Solomon.*
- A curse.—*Queen Victoria.*
- A scandal and a shame.—*Wm. E. Gladstone.*
- Stupifies and besots.—*Bismarck.*
- The devil in solution.—*Sir Wilfred Lawson.*
- Drunkness is the ripe fruit of moderate drinking.—*Frances E. Willard.*

I never use it; I am more afraid of it than of bullets.—*Stonewall Jackson.*

Strong drink is not only the devil's way into a man, but a man's way to the devil.—*Adam Clarke.*

An Indian chief thus summed up the effects of "fire-water" upon his people: "Once we were powerful; we were a great nation; our young men were many; our lodges were full of children; our enemies feared us. . . . Now we are very poor; we are weak; nobody fears us; our lodges are empty; our hunting-grounds deserted; our council fires are gone out."

You Did It

LITTLE Bessie was dying. Her father had come home crazed by drink, and had struck her a terrible blow on the spine. There was great grief in the home.

Among those of the neighbours who had gathered in amid the excitement, was the saloon-keeper, who had been selling the poisonous liquor in that neighbourhood for years. He drew near the death-bed, and heard the mother say, "That blow has killed our darling."

Little Bessie caught the whisper and raising her eyes, which were growing large in death, she fixed a dying gaze on the saloon-keeper, and said, "You did it!" In a few moments she died. Bessie's dying words were never forgotten by the man who had sold her father the whisky. Over and over again he could hear the child say, "You did it."

Bessie was dead! Who do you think killed her?—*Selected.*

A Signboard

I will paint you a sign, rumseller,
And hang it over your door;
A truer and better signboard
Than ever you had before,
I will paint with the skill of a master,
And many shall pause to see
This wonderful piece of painting,
So like the reality.

I will paint yourself, rumseller,
As you wait for that fair boy,
Just in the morning of manhood,
A mother's pride and joy.
He has no thought of stopping,
But you greet him with a smile,
And you seem so blithe and friendly,
That he pauses to chat awhile.

I will paint you again, rumseller,
I will paint you as you stand
With a foaming glass of liquor
Extended in your hand.
He wavers, but you urge him,
"Drink, pledge me just this one!"
And he takes the glass and drains it,
And the hellish work is done.

And next I will paint a drunkard;
Only a year has flown,
But into that loathsome creature
The fair young boy has grown.
The work was sure and rapid,
I will paint him as he lies,
In a torpid, drunken slumber,
Under the wintry skies.

I will paint the form of the mother
As she kneels at her darling's side,
Her beautiful boy that was dearer
Than all the world beside,
I will paint the shape of a coffin,
Labelled with one word,—"Lost,"
I will paint all this, rumseller,
And will paint it free of cost.

The sin and the shame and the sorrow,
The crime and the want and the woe,
That are born there in your workshop,
No hand can paint, you know.
But I'll paint you a sign, rumseller,
And many shall pause to view
This wonderful swinging signboard,
So terribly, fearfully true.

—Selected.

Children's Division

Children as Soul-Winners

A LITTLE girl was lying on her death-bed. She called her father, and, putting her arms around his neck, said, "Father, what shall I tell Jesus is the reason why you will not love Him?" The poor father's heart was broken; and after a few minutes he said, "O! my child, tell Him that I do love Him." And there and then he surrendered himself to Christ.

A father, coming home, heard his little girl praying for him. It brought him under great conviction of sin. He went downstairs, and, telling his wife, asked if there was a Bible in the

house. It was found, and the wife read the fifty-third Psalm. Then he asked her to pray for him, but she could not, and little Mary was called to pray. As the result of her prayer both her father and mother were brought to Christ.

A little Indian girl was wasting away with consumption. One afternoon she begged that her father take her to the brook once more. He did so, and sat down in the shade, where the child could see the water. Turning away her wasted face, she said, earnestly, "Pray, father." "O! I can't, my darling," he said hastily. "Father," she said, "I am going to die soon; and I want to know that my father prays." While the child's belief was hardly orthodox, yet her words wrought for good. The strong man's head was bowed, and there went up such a prayer of repentance and confession as must have thrilled with joy the courts of heaven.

Two sisters and their brother were returning from a meeting, when one of them said, "I wish we could get father to go to the meetings." "I'll tell you," said the boy, "we'll all pray for him. You go into the parlour, and I will go to the barn." The father came in from the field, and started to pass through the parlour; but as he opened the door quietly, he heard the prayer, turned and went to the barn, and there heard his boy's voice in prayer. As the little fellow slid down from the mow, his father put his hand upon the lad's head, and said, "I will go to the meeting"; and what is better, he came to Jesus.

A Boy Soul Winner

A LITTLE boy in England went to his pastor and asked if there wasn't something that boys could do for the Lord. The pastor said, "Why, I don't know. You are too small to lead a class, and hardly old enough to be a tract distributor." "Seems to me," said the child, "there ought to be something for boys to do."

The pastor thought a few moments and then asked, "Is your seat-mate in school a Christian?" "No, sir, I think not." "Then go to work as the Lord will show you how, and secure his conversion. Then take another and another. I cannot tell

you exactly what to do, but if you pray, the Saviour will show you how to gain their salvation."

Some months after that, when Mrs. Palmer was holding meetings in that place, this little boy was lying very ill. The doctors had given him up to die. His father went to the afternoon meeting, and when he came home, little Willie roused up and asked his father, "Was Neddie Smith at the meeting this afternoon?"—"Yes, dear." "Did he give his heart to the Lord Jesus Christ?"—"No, I think not." "O dear," said the little sick boy, "I thought he would!" The next day his father left him again, and went to the afternoon meeting. When he came home, Willie asked him the same question and expressed the same disappointment that his little friend was not converted. The third day Willie was yet alive, and when his father came home from the meeting, he asked the same question and received a different answer. "Yes, Neddie gave his heart to the Saviour this afternoon." "I'm so glad," was the answer.

After this little boy had passed away, they opened his little box and found a list of forty boys. The first one was his seat-mate at the time when he went to the pastor and asked for something to do for the Lord, and the last name was Neddie Smith. And every boy on the list was converted. He had taken them one by one in faith and prayer, giving them books to read, showing them texts of Scripture, praying with and for them when the Lord awakened them, and the whole forty had been converted through his efforts.

And there is plenty for us to do, and, if we are willing, the Lord will show us how to do it. The only thing is to be ready to obey His voice and let Him lead and teach us. "Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth," and heareth to obey.—Selected.

"It is no time now for the watchman to become sleepy, and cease to be a sentinel upon the walls of Zion."

WE are persuaded that there is no book by perusal of which the mind is so much strengthened and so much enlarged as it is by the perusal of the Bible.—*Dr. Melville.*

Fourth Week

The Pilgrim's Progress

Hymn.
Prayer.
Secretary's Report.
Scripture Drill.
Hymn.
Reports of Labour.
Questions on "Pilgrim's Progress."
"Personal Experiences." (See Leader's Note.)
"Others Do, Why Not You?"

LEADER'S NOTE.—After the questions on "Pilgrim's Progress," which complete the book, let a little time be devoted to personal experiences, the members telling of the personal benefit or practical lessons they have received from reading "Pilgrim's Progress." Also, what part has particularly impressed them in the reading. It is sincerely hoped that all who have read the book will be as faithful as was Christian, and hence as victorious in reaching the Celestial City.

After reading the next item on the programme, encourage all to take the next reading course book. The month of September is given for the written review on "Pilgrim's Progress." Urge all who have read the book to take this review.

Others Do, Why Not You?

THE reading course membership is constantly growing. Everywhere more and more young people are finding time for reading the books, and devising a hundred different ways of earning money to buy them. We are also glad to see some of our old friends join us in reading the good books in the courses.

The secretary writes, "We have one little girl, ten years old, who sold papers to obtain the money with which to purchase her books. She is now reading her second book."

One of our young people's societies is selling *Life and Health* in order to obtain the money for their books.

One of our reading course members is an old gentleman over seventy-five years old, who is reading his second book. He cares for his horse, cow, chickens, and a five-acre orchard.

"Where there is a will, there is a way" to take the Missionary Volunteer Reading Courses. Many have taken them in their spare minutes. How are you using your spare moments? Do not say you have none. Matthew Arnold once said, "The plea that this or that man has no time for culture will vanish as soon as we desire culture so much that we begin to examine seriously into the present use of our time." Another

adds, "It is not lack of time, but lack of the will to improve our spare moments, that keeps us from going forward to success."

Young friend, the Missionary Volunteer Reading Courses are prepared for you. Many are enjoying the benefits of them, and are reading not only the current but the back courses. Why not you?

MATILDA ERICKSON.

Children's Division

Truthfulness

Lucy and the Jug of Milk

"LUCY," said her mother, "just run to the dairy and bring a pint of milk for me; here is the money; and do remember, child, to look where you are going, so that you do not stumble and drop the jug." I am afraid Lucy was a little like some other girls you may have heard of; she was too fond of staring about, and perhaps rather careless.

However, she went to the dairy and bought the milk, and had returned half-way home without any mishap, when she met a flock of sheep coming down the road, followed by a large sheep dog. Lucy stood on the pavement to watch them pass; it was such fun to see the sheep dog scamper from one side to the other, and the timid sheep spring forward as soon as the dog came near them. So far the milk was safe; but, after the sheep had passed, Lucy thought she would just turn round to have one more peep at them, and oh, dear, her foot tripped against a stone, and down she fell, milk, and jug, and all, and the jug was smashed to pieces.

Lucy was in great trouble, and as she stood there and looked at the broken jug, and the milk trickling down the gutter, she cried bitterly.

A big boy who was passing by at the time, and had seen the accident, came across the road and said to her: "Don't cry, little girl, just run home and tell your mother that the sheep dog bounced up against you and knocked the jug out of your hand; then you will not be punished."

Lucy dried her eyes quickly, and gazed at the boy in astonishment. "Tell my mother a LIE!" said she; "NO, I would rather be punished a dozen times than do so. I shall tell the truth," and she walked away home. Lucy was careless, but she

was not untruthful; surely the boy must have felt ashamed!

You remember that TRUTH is the foundation of character and this will all tumble down in ruins if we do not have a strong foundation, so we must be brave to bear punishment (as Lucy was) if we deserve it, and be sure to

(Blackboard)

Tell the Truth Whatever It Costs

(Let the children, with the help of the leader, recall some instances in the Bible where deceptions were practised and untruths told, and of the sad results, such as in the case of Jacob and the brothers of Joseph. All who take such a course will have to repent of it as they did, before they can have the blessing of God or enter heaven. "Patriarchs and Prophets" will give some helpful thoughts on these experiences.)

Sabbath-School
Missionary Exercises

(August 1)

Where Christ May Be
"Lifted Up"

OUR sanitariums present a wide field for the truest missionary effort. With very many of those who visit them, the physical ailments are only a part of the burden carried. In a large number of cases, the physical condition is a result of worry, or grief, or sin; and in all, of course, a neglect, through ignorance or carelessness, of God's laws for the physical life. If the physical trouble is relieved, it is something. The Master Medical Missionary relieved many of whom we have no record that they accepted Him. It is stated of Him that as He entered certain cities they brought Him their sick and "He healed them all."

So scores and hundreds seek relief at our institutions of whom we know no more after they go out. But witness has been borne to them of the truth that God wants to heal them, soul and body. While the tenets of no special church are pressed upon them, Christ the Healer, Christ the Cleanser, and Christ the Helper and ever present Friend is kept before them. They know the way, and sometime they may find it. We can only leave them with God.

Many a soul has gone away rejoicing in a salvation that includes both soul and body. Some of these

may fall by the way, perhaps, but others will go on to the fullness of faith and obedience. From many such we have encouraging reports that they are living out the truths of God's Word as far as they have grasped them, and are scattering in turn the seeds of life. There are thousands of whom we do not hear, and only eternity will show the results of the faithful ministry of physicians, nurses, and other Christian helpers.—*Selected.*

(August 8)

Lives Transformed through Our Sanitarium Work

A TEMPERANCE worker, who came to the sanitarium very ill, on leaving, wrote to the physician in charge as follows:

"I am now going back to my family a new man. I have taken none of the four kinds of medicine that I brought with me to the sanitarium, and I have abstained totally from tea, coffee, and meat.

"When I leave here, I will not need any of my medicine, for I am cured of all my complaints for which they were prescribed, praise the Lord, and thank you, with an honest, grateful heart.

"A new world above us has been opened by the telescope; a new world beneath our feet has been discovered by the microscope; a new world to me, how to live, has been opened up in the health reform idea. How blind and ignorant I have been all these years upon these foundation truths."

Then speaking of his conviction that a correct idea of "how to live is the very foundation of true temperance," and of his desire to give the light he had gained to others, he says:

"If I have innocently been so ignorant upon this subject, there are tens of thousands of others who are equally ignorant. During the remainder of my life I want to continue saving the drunkard, and now add these principles so that men may not be fired up by injurious food combinations so that they crave alcohol, and become drunkards. I want to tell it, teach it, preach it, for the sake of others and for Christ's sake." Truly in these principles there is life.

One patient, a teacher in one of the high schools, after becoming acquainted with the health principles,

and taking the treatments, became so interested in proper living that she began teaching her children the harm of using sweets, and lollies, etc., that it was better to buy fruits than those harmful things; and the result is that a number of them bring health foods and fruit for their lunch. Not only did she teach the children, but she educated the parents as well. She is also teaching her young girls the evils of the present mode of dress.

A patient came to the sanitarium about his physical condition, and finally said with an effort, "I have not told you the whole story, but I will—I am thoroughly disgusted with my life. I am ashamed of it, and I want to turn over a new leaf." He had been drinking and smoking heavily, and was a thoroughly dissipated man.

The physician, seeing that he needed more than physical help, and was ready to receive it, took up his Bible and read Job. 33:27, 28: "He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not; He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light."

"That is just my case," said the man. They knelt in prayer, and the man prayed earnestly for help to lead a new life. He was still young, and was not entirely broken down in health, but his habits of life had taken a strong hold upon him, and would soon have ruined his health completely. He found much comfort in the thought drawn from the text, that it was the Lord who put the desire to reform into his heart, and that He was able to complete the work He had begun.—*Selected.*

(August 15)

A Personal Experience

I HAVE been asked to write about how I became a Seventh-day Adventist, and I gladly comply with the request. Since I accepted the truth my life is very different. God has led me in a most wonderful way.

I was born of Roman Catholic parents. My mother died when my sister and I were small. My father, a man very liberal in his views, did not propose to have his children brought up in any narrow way. We were put in a Florence Protestant school kept by deaconesses, where

we mingled with children of all nationalities. We soon spoke different languages, and were given every possible advantage.

As to religious matters, our father would have us go to the Catholic, as well as to the Protestant church. We were taught both religions, and were left perfectly free to choose which we would accept. God was leading all along, and He has never ceased doing it.

After a few years my health began to fail. I had to suffer a great deal at the doctor's hand and was obliged to give up all work for months at a time. I prayed God to keep me up, to spare my life, for my poor father's sake more than for my own, and He answered my prayers often miraculously. About three years ago I had a very bad relapse of nervous prostration. An intimate friend was with me at that time, and, not approving of the physicians I had, she wrote to a doctor in Paris about me. He finally advised me to try the sanitarium, just opened in Basel, as soon as I was able to travel that far. After four months spent in bed, the Lord sent me to Basel. I could never have stood the long journey from Rome to the north of Switzerland, had I not been sustained by His love and mercy.

When I reached the sanitarium, Dr. De Forest thought I could not live much longer than a fortnight, but God willed differently. He sent a special message for me. I had been brought among His people, and soon became interested in their life and faith. My soul, that had been longing for more and more light, had at last found a haven of rest. God, through His people, answered all my secret longings, and wholly satisfied my heart and soul. I remained at the sanitarium for about five months, and received the kindest care. My little nurse was a comfort to me and did a great deal in helping me to find the true light.

Before leaving the sanitarium I was baptized. Oh! I shall never forget that day. God and His angels seemed near. My heart was so full of the sweetest strains that I could not utter a word. Tears were expressive of what I felt so intensely in my inmost soul, and words will ever fail me to speak the language of my heart at that time.

LOUISE CHIELLINE.

(August 22)

"A City Set upon a Hill"

WE believe that in a special sense a sanitarium represents a "city set upon a hill." We are glad for the light that goes out from these places, helping to dispel at least a little of the darkness that covers the earth, and the gross darkness of the people.

A physician recently came to us, helpless, hopeless, and anxious to die. He felt that suicide would be the only means of relief. He was the picture of absolute despair. He had once believed in God, and then for many years would acknowledge no God. We at once recognized his hopelessness, and were persuaded that there was one great thing needed for him. The first evening he came, we reviewed with him what he had said regarding his experience, and told him if he would be successful in regaining his health he must give himself to God. We asked the privilege of prayer; and as we knelt together, God came very near to us, and witnessed to our petition in a marvellous way. The patient received a new birth and a new hold on life. He progressed marvelously from day to day, and was entirely delivered. He has returned to the work which he had thought he would never be able to take up again, and is fully determined to live a life devoted to God's service.

"My patient recently remarked to me, 'Doctor, one reason I chose to come here was that I wished to be operated upon in an atmosphere of prayer.' We are frequently getting letters from individuals in different parts of the country, stating that they have heard and read some of the reports of our patients who have received spiritual and physical blessing, and they want to send their friends and loved ones to us for help by prayer and labour.

Brethren, we are not disappointed to have men and women everywhere know that we depend upon God. We feel that our sufficiency is of Him. We earnestly desire that every patient who comes to us may be so conscious of the divine presence and power here with us, that he will be compelled to acknowledge, "Surely God is in this place." We plan that in all things God shall have the pre-eminence.

GEORGE THOMASON, M.D.

(August 29)

Health Reform and the Gospel

I SAW that it is the duty of those who have received the light from heaven, and have realized the benefit of walking in it, to manifest a greater interest for those who are still suffering for want of knowledge. . . .

Our people should have an institution for the benefit of the diseased and suffering among us, who wish to have health and strength that they may glorify God in their bodies and spirits, which are His. . . .

As the health of invalids improves under judicious treatment, and they begin to enjoy life, they have confidence in those who have been instrumental in their restoration to health. Their hearts are filled with gratitude, and the good seed of truth will the more readily find a lodgment there, and in some cases will be nourished, spring up, and bear fruit to the glory of God. One such precious soul saved will be worth more than all the means needed to establish such an institution. Some will not have enough moral courage to yield to their convictions. They may be convinced that Sabbath-keepers have the truth, but the world and unbelieving relatives stand in the way of their receiving it. They cannot bring their minds to the point to sacrifice all for Christ. Yet some of this last-mentioned class will go away with their prejudices removed, and will stand as defenders of the faith of Seventh-day Adventists. Some who go away restored, or greatly benefited, will be the means of introducing our faith in new places, and raising the standard of truth where it would have been impossible to gain access had not prejudice been first removed from minds by a tarry among our people for the object of gaining health.

MRS. E. G. WHITE.

Fourth Sabbath Reading

Suggestive Programme

Hymn: "Sow in the Morn Thy Seed."
Prayer.

Bible Study: "How God Trains His Workers."

Hymn: "Ready to Do His Will."

"Japan."

"Encouraging Messages From the Orient."

Hymn: "Planting Sharon's Rose."

Bible Study**How God Trains His Workers**

ABRAHAM was called from home and kindred in order to become "the father of the faithful." Gen. 12:1, 2.

MOSES spent forty years in the desert tending sheep that he might be fitted to shepherd God's people. Exo. 2:15; 3:1.

JOSEPH was sold to be a slave. Gen. 37:28. He was imprisoned on a false charge. Gen. 39:20. Then God raised him up "in due time" to be a saviour of his people. Gen. 41:39-43.

DAVID, in keeping and protecting sheep, learned how to protect and lead his people. 1 Sam. 17:34-37.

JOHN THE BAPTIST, through hardship and self-denial, was fitted for the strenuous work of heralding the first advent. Matt. 11:7-10.

That God will train His workers to herald the second advent in the same way is shown in Rev. 7:13-17.

Japan

ATTENDING the workers' institute in Tokyo this winter, is a young woman aged about thirty years, who has been passing through deep waters for the Master's sake. Quiet, modest, and refined, she impresses one as a beautiful Christian character, though one would hardly look for such strength of purpose as she has developed, in such a little, timid body.

About two years ago, she and her husband with two little boys, began to attend the meetings in the tent in the city of Kogoshima. They were both converted and accepted our views, and later united with the church. He was connected with the post office, but was soon compelled to resign his position, and began to canvass for our little monthly magazine. He stood well for a time; but the ridicule from his former associates, and the hardships he was called to endure, were more than he had strength of character to resist, and he gave up the truth. The wife stood firm to her convictions of right, and by her influence won back her husband again; but last fall he again gave up, and attempted to compel her to follow him. When he saw that he could not tempt her from the right, it seemed as though Satan took complete possession of him, and the former kind husband became a tyrant. He gave her the choice of giving up her faith or of being divorced and having the children taken from her. What a struggle went on in her heart only the God in whom

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she puts her trust knows. What a victory she gained is best understood by those who know what it means here for a wife to be put away under such circumstances, and how hard it is to resist the authority of the husband after two thousand years of training to be entirely submissive to him. The Lord gave this little Japanese woman, only but a little time out of the darkness of heathenism, that grace and strength to stand true to Him in her trial. The husband fulfilled his threat after much personal abuse. He left her, taking her two little boys, and has married again. He remains in the city, but will not let the mother see the children.

A short time ago the boys stole away and returned to her; but the father immediately found them and took them away again; but before he could do so, the oldest boy left these words to comfort her: "Never mind, mamma, we will be good boys and we are growing older all the time, and we will soon be large enough to get away from him, and then we will come to you and will keep the Sabbath with you again."

This poor mother's heart bleeds for her children. She thinks of them; prays for them, and they are mentioned in her testimonies at social meeting; but the sympathizing Jesus applies the healing balm, and her great desire now is to be able to teach the same truth to others that she has found to be more precious than any earthly happiness.

Surely the Lord will honour her loyalty, and help her to become a winner of souls.

F. H. DE VINNEY.

Encouraging Messages from the Orient

DURING the week of prayer, which was held at the same time as ours in the homeland, some excellent

experiences are reported from Japan. Brother Kuniya writes concerning blessings enjoyed at Kogoshima:

We closed the week of prayer with much blessing from the Lord. We saw the fulfilment of His promise as recorded in the Book of Joel. Many strangers came in and joined us in seeking the Lord, and four of them began to keep the Sabbath. At the closing meeting, two brethren were baptized in the ocean, following the pattern of the Son of man. Some who attended had never heard the gospel before, but they were converted and gave up their idols, which they had worshipped for many years. They brought them to me and asked that I burn them up. Is not this the work of the Holy Spirit?

There is one old lady who cannot read a word, but as the result of an earnest desire to understand, the Holy Spirit opened her mind, and taught her many things in dreams concerning the message. This woman is a Christian and although her husband and son oppose her, she tells the glad news to every one who comes to her store. Surely the Spirit is moving upon the hearts of the people.

From Shanghai, Brother F. E. Stafford writes:

During the winter much sickness, especially among children, has been experienced here in Shanghai. Several of our church members have been sorely tried. I will mention one case which shows how God is working on the hearts of those who only a short time ago were in heathen darkness. Brother and Sister Z. M. Li, who were converted last summer, were greatly blessed recently by the birth of a son. They carefully guarded him night and day, he being their only child, for they had lost two children previously. On the eleventh day the child became violently ill. We thought it best to take the child to the hospital where it could have constant medical attention, but after all had been done that could be done by man, we prayed that, if it were the Lord's will, He would restore the child. Twenty-four hours later, it died. We were afraid that the grief-stricken parents would cast away their faith in God, whom they had confidently hoped would heal their child. Their friends and relatives taunted them and ridiculed their belief in the "Jesus doctrine." All that we could do was to encourage and pray for them. At the following prayer meeting, Brother Li gave such a ringing testimony of trust in God that it brought tears to the eyes of all present. Not only are he and his wife rejoicing in the Lord, but Sister Li's mother is now willing to listen to the gospel, whereas she had been persecuting and opposing her daughter before this experience. It is these experiences that cause us to take courage and press forward in our work for the people, for truly it is a work "worth while."

Down in central China, where during the past two years robbers have been rampant, and the loss of property and life has been great, Brother J. J. Westrup writes:

Last summer as we were building, I prayed daily and almost constantly, that the Lord would help us to get good teachers

for our school. We little expected that our teachers would come from the Presbyterians. God gave us four instead of two as we had asked Him,—two gentlemen and two lady teachers. They are so well educated that they read music, and also play on the organ; but best of all they are earnest Christians, and know how to manage a school. This year they have managed the school and taught the secular branches. They are rejoicing in their new-found faith as they are daily studying the truth. This is another evidence that God gives us richly above what we ask or think. I often say to myself, "You must be diligent and faithful in this high and holy calling, read the holy Word, pray, teach, and preach, and with the love and spirit of Jesus show forth the mind of Christ, and thus help sinners to return to Christ."

Fifty thousand soldiers did Peh Lang (White Wolf) very little harm in the east of Honan where he did not know the country. Now that he has escaped to the western mountain fortresses, where he knows every inch of the ground, I do not suppose that one hundred thousand could crush him. His last two months' experience with the soldiers has made him more bold and ferocious. He does not fear the soldiers. His ferocious deeds in Loahokow are already widely known. Aside from killing and wounding, he carried away rich booty. I think the foreign legation will compel the government to do something that will soon put a stop to all this.

We see many clear evidences of answer to prayer. Only yesterday a colporteur told me that God continually protected him and his family and the brethren, while others around them suffered constantly from robbers. One day he passed through a few of the "White Wolf" bandits, and to his joy they did not molest him. Another time he was passing through a very dangerous place infested with fearful robbers, but he and the men who wheeled his papers and books, knelt down on the road and prayed earnestly for the Lord's protection. They went forward in faith and passed through without being harmed.

We have had many such instances during the past two years. The more dangerous the experience, the more genuine is the faith, and by our having faith in God, He is able to show us His power and love. Our brethren are scattered all over Honan, and not one of them has lost either property or life during these two awful years. We daily praise God for His protecting care.

"IT is the privilege of every soul to make advancement. No one is to be an idler in the vineyard."

"I WISH to tell how much I appreciate the *Signs of the Times*. I can scarcely wait for its coming. I give it to my neighbours and friends, and copies that are left I put into the reading rack in the railway station. Sometimes I find it very hard to renew my subscription, but the Lord has always helped me."