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Character Building—

Parents' Responsibility

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Southern Asia Division*

LONG ago, Moses in his endeavour to establish Israel on right principles, recognized the importance of having a home built on character. If the nation was to survive, the homes comprising that nation were to be built on the principles of God's kingdom and upon His word. Therefore, He exhorted Israel in Deuteronomy 6:6-9: "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."

Here we find that God has given His divine commission to all parents who would have a Christian home. What better formula can be found for developing sterling characters in the lives of our children? Only by the grace of God can parents accomplish this task. But by patient and painstaking effort we can guide the minds of our children and develop in them beautiful characters.

The Bible refers to our children as "the plantings of the Lord." Therefore, our homes are gardens of God's planting. When plants are given into our care by God we have a grave responsibility to nurture them in every way possible. Just

Our Such Is Thy Kingdom

Oh! God of little children whom Thou on earth didst love,
Look down today and bless them from heaven high above,
Our orchards and our vineyards, we till with zealous care,
But child plants unprotected are drooping everywhere.
Oh! God of little children, teach us to know their worth.
Of such shall be Thy kingdom in heaven and on earth.
And in the great world garden, Thy labourers are we
To guard and keep the blossoms all eternity.
Oh! God of little children, we have no wealth beside,
Teach us to see and save them by effort nation wide,
To fight the foes that threaten, the weeds, and pests, and blight,
For every child-plant growing is precious in Thy sight.
Oh! God of little children, Thy garden shall be tilled
By us whose hearts are weakened, Thy prophecies fulfilled.
The desert, long neglected, shall blossom as the rose
With help and hope and freedom for every child that grows.

—Home and School

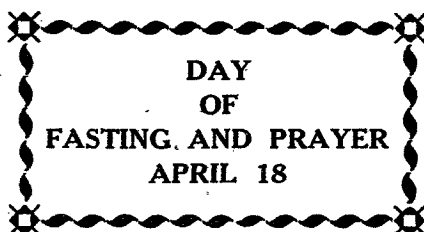
as soon as a plant comes up, the mali digs around it, waters it, pulls out the weeds that would harm the plant, and he watches carefully every day to see that nothing comes in to harm the plant. Under these conditions the plant flourishes and richly repays his care and labour.

We will need to be even much more diligent and careful than the mali is in caring for his plants if we would develop characters in our children that are pleasing to the Lord, and for which we will have to give an answer to Him in the day of judgement. On parents rests the sacred responsibility of nurturing and training our children for God and of developing characters in them in harmony with the precepts of the Word of God. I would plead with you as parents not to neglect this most important task which God has given to parents, that of moulding the character of our children for time and eternity. In order to do this we must deal honestly and faithfully with our children. We must work bravely and patiently, fearing nothing, and spare no time or labour or burden, even unto suffering, for the good of our children. The future of our children will testify as to the character that we have built into them by our faithful work as parents.

If we neglect our God-given work by an unwise course of discipline they will be among the class that will be lost. When we work for our children as God would have us do, and earnestly pray for them, He will hear our prayers and will unite His efforts with our efforts. God does not purpose to do the work that He has given us to do. In the January 30, 1958 issue of *Review*, in an article entitled "Home Religion" I find these beautiful statements. "Those who are Christians in the home will be Christians in the church and in the world. There are many who do not grow in grace because they fail to cultivate home religion."

The parent living closest to the children is the mother. Great is her responsibility in training her children for God as she is with them constantly when they are very small. It is during their very early years that they are pliable and

when we can teach them right habits. Remember, God will help you, mothers, in all your duties. In His strength you can lead your children to be overcomers. Teach them to look to God for strength. Tell them in their very early years that He hears their prayers and will answer them. Teach them to overcome evil with good habits. Help them to constantly realize that they have an influence for good or bad upon other children. You can-



not teach them too early to ask God to give them strength to resist every temptation that comes to them.

In *Child Guidance*, page 173, are the following comforting words: "Your compassionate Redeemer is watching you in love and sympathy, ready to hear your prayer, and render you assistance which you need in your life." Truly, we need His assistance in raising our children for Him. Quoting further from the same page, to those who feel they have neglected their children in the past, there is this comforting message: "Those who have been training their children in an improper way need not despair; let them be converted to God and seek for the true spirit of obedience, and they will be enabled to make decided reforms. In conforming your own customs to the saving principles of God's holy law, you will have an influence upon your children." "Kindly, but firmly, correct every inclination to wrong that may appear in the lives of your children."

Parents, it is your work to develop in your children patience, constancy, and genuine love. You are helping them to lay the foundation for a pure, well-balanced character. The first work of Christian parents is to be united in the home. Where there is disagreement between father and mother, the children will be the same. Make your home beautiful in tenderness

and thoughtfulness for each other. To a very large extent parents create the atmosphere of the home circle. Families that play together usually stay together. Parents cannot commit a greater sin than to allow their children to have nothing to do. Let every lesson that you teach be of an elevating and ennobling nature. Children who receive this kind of instruction will be prepared to fill places of responsibility when they grow into maturity.

Let us keep before our children the ideal of living to help others. I will long remember statements of two mothers. One was devoting her life to her children, and she said, "I would rather mend his clothes now than try to mend his character later. I am staying with my child." The other mother said, "I hate to leave him alone every day like this, but we need the money, and perhaps he will be all right when he grows up." As these children grow to manhood and womanhood, which of these mothers do you think will find the greatest joy and satisfaction in her children?

The vast majority of children who have grown into leaders or workers in the cause of God have been influenced by either a godly mother or father, or both, or godly teachers who show confidence in them, believing that they will become sterling men and women of character. May your home be all that God would have it to be, and may your children develop the kind of characters that God wishes them to have for time and for eternity.

You can do as much as you think you can,

But you'll never accomplish more;

And if you're afraid of yourself, young man,

There's little for you in store.

For failure comes from the inside first,

And it's there, if you only knew it,

But you can win, though you tackle the worst,

If you feel you are going to do it.

—Adapted.

Sabbath Afternoon and Family Worship

MRS. J. F. ASHLOCK

What Is Worship?

WORSHIP means to recognize, honour, adore God and to commune with Him. The family worship hour should be held at regular stated times and designed to draw the family closer to God. The programme should be interesting, inspiring and short; it should include lessons, songs, stories and prayers suited to the understanding of the age group taking part.

"Fathers and mothers should make it a rule that their children attend public worship on the Sabbath, and should enforce the rule by their own example."

"The Sabbath school and the meeting for worship occupy only a part of the Sabbath. The portion remaining to the family may be made the most sacred and precious season of all the Sabbath hours. Much of this time parents should spend with their children."

"Parents, above everything take care of your children upon the Sabbath."

"Take them out into the open air, under the noble trees, into the garden; and in all the wonderful works of creation teach them to see an expression of His love."

"The Sabbath should be made so interesting to our families that its weekly return will be hailed with joy."

How We Worship

Day by Day

The spirit of worship should be felt in the home at all times,—morning, noon, and night. It is nothing more than plain hypocrisy to go through the form of worship and then argue, slap, scold, and complain the rest of the day. Christ desires to live in the home.

There should be a regular time and place for the morning and evening worship period. Our children should learn that everything pertaining to God and religion is done reverently and in order. Family Worship should never be so long that the younger members become weary. Five to ten minutes as a rule is about right.

With Music

There should be plenty of worshipful music—instrumental and vocal. "It is one of the most effective means of impressing the heart with spiritual truth." *Education*, p. 168. Each member of the family should have his share in selecting the songs. It is well for children to have a number of hymns and songs they can sing from memory.

The Sabbath day is the time for special worship, a day when the family can be together at services, in the study of nature and in doing certain types of missionary work.

Why We Worship

The following excerpts from pages 514 to 536 of the book *Child Guidance* are illustrative of the specific instruction which has been given to the church regarding daily worship in the home and special worship on the Sabbath.

Family Worship

"In every family there should be a fixed time for morning and evening worship."

"Before leaving the house for labour, all the family should be called together; and the father, or the mother in the father's absence, should plead fervently with God to keep them through the day. . . . Ministering angels will guard children who are thus dedicated to God."

"Parents, let the instruction you give your children be simple, and be sure that it is clearly understood."

"It should be the special object of the heads of the family to make the hour of worship intensely interesting."

Children "should be taught to respect and reverence the hour of prayer."

"By your own example teach your children to pray with clear, distinct voice. Teach them to lift their heads from the chair and never to cover their faces with their hands."

"As a part of religious service singing is as much an act of worship as is prayer."

"Let the seasons of family worship be short and spirited."

Sabbath Worship

"Before the setting of the sun, let all secular work be laid aside, and all secular papers be put out of sight."

"Parents, you need to remember the Sabbath day yourselves to keep it holy. And if you do this, you are giving the proper instruction to your children; they will reverence God's holy day."

By Studying His Word

It is an ideal practice to devote one worship period to the Sabbath School lesson. The other worship period can also follow some line of thought or some Bible story. For example, one father decided to read the book of Revelation to his children, ages eight to twelve. In order to make it interesting he did much planning and gathering of pictures. As he began reading the first chapter the father pictured John on a bare, lonely island. It was Sabbath, but there was no Sabbath school to attend, no church to go to, no Christian family to visit. Then he described how Jesus talked to John, and what Jesus looked like. By visualizing each part the children understood the chapter and enjoyed the study.

By Praying

The children should not only hear the father and the mother raising their voices to God in prayer but they also should have part in this phase of worship. Parents should instruct them in the proper decorum in prayer. They should kneel with both knees on the floor, close the eyes, fold both hands in front, bow the head while listening to others pray and raise the face heavenward when praying themselves. In addressing God the common forms of you and yours are not advisable. It is reverential to use the polite forms of Thee, Thine, and Thy in speaking to Jesus for He is not an ordinary man. Once the Father has been ad-

dressed it is not necessary to call His name again and again.

What to Pray For: Our children should be taught to ask for those things that God has promised. We have a right to pray for these and to expect them to be fulfilled. They can pray for the angels of the Lord to encamp round about them in time of trouble. They can pray for courage to resist temptation, for wisdom in learning their lessons, for health and strength.

What Prayer Is: Prayer is communion with God who is just as much interested in children as their parents are. He wants them to be happy. Talk to the children in this manner. "Why not tell Jesus how delighted you are over your little kitten, or the good dinner you had or the beautiful rose that has blossomed or the nice papaya, mango or guavas that grow in your garden. Tell Jesus about your sorrows too. Tell Him if you have disobeyed and let Him know you are sorry and ask Him to help you keep your promise to never do it again." As the child grows older he will continue to thus commune with God as a friend, to ask for strength to overcome temptation, to seek enlightenment to know the right, to ask forgiveness for specific sins, and to praise God for His goodness and mercy.

Preparation for the Sabbath

In order to enjoy the Sabbath fully, certain preparations must be made. Earlier in the week the washing, the ironing, and the mending of garments should be cared for so that when Sabbath comes everyone's Sabbath clothes are in readiness. Each member of the family should be assigned a certain responsibility in getting the home ready for the Sabbath. The home should be so ordered that when the sun sets a Sabbath atmosphere settles over the place.

Welcoming the Sabbath: With all the preparations made, as the sun sets the family gathers around the altar to sing songs of praise and thanks-giving to their Lord, to read a portion of the Scriptures (or each one may quote his favourite text) and to each offer a prayer. The members of the family might

like to recall the blessings of the week and express thanks to God for them.

Sabbath Morning: On Sabbath morning the well-organized family allows ample time for breakfast, worship, dressing, and getting to church. In this way confusion and hasty words are avoided. On Sabbath the daily routine is different. The family enjoys, if possible, some special treat at meal time. Everyone helps with the serving of the simple meal so that it is not a burden to any one member.

Sabbath Afternoon: "In pleasant weather let parents walk with their children in the fields and groves. Amid the beautiful things of nature tell them the reason for the institution of the Sabbath. (Those who live in the city can enjoy the city parks.)" 6T, p. 358. In order to direct their children in the study of nature it is necessary for parents themselves to be acquainted with this second book of God.

Since the weather is not always sunshiny, provision must be made for the Sabbath activities of the children during inclement weather. This will require preparation on

the part of the parents but time spent in that way will be well rewarded. Bible and nature stories may be told, special Sabbath games played, while music may occupy some of the time. It is proper to do such things as making scrapbooks or preparing other things for cripples or other shut-ins. This is a good time also to "question as to what they have learned in the Sabbath school, and study with them the next Sabbath's lesson." 6T, p. 359.

Children who are old enough may join in with the MV bands in Share Your Faith activities.

"As the sun goes down, let the voice of prayer and the hymn of praise mark the close of the sacred hours and invite God's presence through the cares of the week of labour. Thus parents can make the Sabbath, as it should be, the most joyful day of the week. They can lead their children to regard it as a delight, the day of days, the holy of the Lord, honourable." 6T, p. 359.

—Condensed from "Sabbath Afternoon and Family Worship" Christian Home Series C-No. 2.

Housekeeping for Heaven

WE ARE all endeavouring to develop lives that will be ready to go home with Jesus when He comes. Just suppose that not only our lives but our homes were translated to heaven. If God should say to us that our homes should be in such a condition as to find a place in His kingdom when He comes, what would be our reaction? As we look around our homes, do we feel that it is perfect enough to be translated to that perfect land, and have a place in that perfect city that Jesus has gone to prepare for us? Would we be proud and happy with the home as we keep it from day to day, as one in which the Master would come and visit us? I fear that some of us would shudder at the idea.

According to the promise of Jesus, we know that He is prepar-

ing beautiful homes for us over there, but are we learning here now how to take care of those beautiful homes when that promise is fulfilled? If we have not learned how to take care of our homes here on earth, will we be changed to excellent housekeepers all at once and take care of our homes over there? Will we know how to keep the mansions in that beautiful city neat and orderly? Let us stop and think of this for a moment and scrutinize our homes closely.

Is my home and your home neat and clean enough for heaven? Our homes have a great influence upon our children. They learn neatness, order and system from us, and they learn these things early in life. It should be one of our first aims in life to make our homes clean and orderly. Orderliness is

one of heaven's first laws. "Far more powerful than any sermon that can be preached is the influence of a true home upon human hearts and lives."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 352.

If we desire a beautiful mansion above, then we will want our homes here to be a miniature sample of that home in heaven. Every wife and mother should take pride in her home. It is not necessary to have wealth to have a clean and orderly home. We should keep our homes in such a condition that our husbands will be proud to bring friends in at any time. Children should be taught to keep the home neat and tidy. In *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 345, we read "Parents cannot commit a greater sin than to allow their children to have nothing to do." They should be taught to have a part in the keeping of the home in order. Children need a place to play but it should not be our front room where we invite our guests. Children should be loved and well taken care of, but should not be the centre of attraction all the time when we have guests. They should be taught to be quiet while older people are talking. They should be taught to obey and respect their parents at all times.

In the training of our children we need to be consistent and not tell them "No" to something they desire to do, then at other times let them do that very thing. Let them know that "No" is final and that no begging will change you. Teach them that it is for their good that they cannot do certain things, and that they should form certain habits.

Do we as mothers carefully see to it that our families are fed a good wholesome diet, food prepared in an appetizing way and in a gracious manner? I have seen some mothers prepare the meal in such an appetizing way that we can hardly wait to start eating. At other times, I have seen tables set in a careless manner and the food unattractive. Let us take great care in the preparing of our meals and in the serving of them, so that they will be a joy and a pleasure to



REMEMBER

APRIL 18

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DAY

SUPPORT

OUR YOUTH

Be Liberal While You Can



all who partake of our food, simple though it may be.

The following counsel is given in *Ministry of Healing*, p. 302 which all of us as mothers should heed carefully: "Scanty, ill-cooked food depraves the blood by weakening the blood-making organs. It deranges the system and brings on disease, with its accompaniment of irritable nerves and bad tempers. The victims of poor cookery are numbered by the thousands and tens of thousands. Over many graves might be written, 'Died because of poor cooking,' or 'Died of an abused stomach.'"

It is a sacred duty for those who cook to learn how to prepare healthful food. Many souls are lost as a result of poor cookery. It takes thought and care to make good bread. There is more religion in a loaf of good bread than many think. There are really very few good cooks. Young women think that it is menial to cook and do other kinds of housework, and for this reason many girls who marry and have the care of families have little idea of the duties devolved upon a wife and mother. Good cooking is no mean science, and it is one of the most essential and

practical in life. It is a science that all women should learn. It should be taught in a way to benefit the poorer classes.

To make food appetizing, and at the same time simple and nourishing, requires a skill, but it can be done. Cooks should know how to prepare simple food in a simple and healthful manner, and so that it will be found more palatable, as well as more wholesome because of its simplicity. Every woman who is at the head of a family, and yet does not understand the art of healthful cookery, should determine to learn that which is so essential to the well-being of her household.

Here in India it is difficult at times to get together a good meal. It takes time, thought, and planning. We do not have the prepared foods and conveniences that are found in some other countries, but it can be done. I have seen many homes, some of them very simple, where most wholesome and appetizing food was prepared, and it was a joy to partake of it with the family. Many children are sickly because they are not fed properly and at regular times. Often it is because the mother does not take time and effort to learn what her children need, therefore the children suffer.

Not only should we teach our children how to make and keep the home tidy, but we should also teach them how to prepare wholesome, appetizing food. Often we see children who are very helpful in the home and are also very courteous, while others do not have the training that they should have. Sometimes mothers think their children are too young to learn how to work and to have good manners. You will be surprised what training can do for them in their early lives, and developing them into being helpful in the home and an honour to their parents.

So in our home-making, simple though it may be, let our homes be a little heaven here on earth for our companions and for our children, developing lives and characters to go to the heaven that Jesus has gone to prepare for us. —Mrs. O. O. Mattison.

BURMA UNION

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BURMA UNION BIENNIAL SESSION

W. L. MURRILL

THE Burma Union Biennial Session, which was held in Rangoon from January 23-29 was attended by 54 delegates from all parts of the Union. We were happy to have Pastor F. A. Mote, General Field Secretary of the General Conference and Pastor O. O. Mattison, our Division President, with us for these important meetings.

Pastor C. B. Guild, our Union President, gave the opening address of the Session on Friday evening, January 23. He reminded the delegates that we are living in a new age—the Space Age—and challenged all present to measure up to the task that God has given us for this time.

Pastor Mote spoke on Sabbath morning, and on Sabbath afternoon an evangelistic symposium was held, which featured evangelists who have been engaged in city efforts at Bassein, Pyapon, and Tahan during the past few months. It is very encouraging to see our national workers launching out into full scale city evangelism. On Sabbath evening Pastor Kalee Paw showed pictures of his trip to the General Conference which were very much appreciated.

The first business session convened on Sunday morning January 25. From then on the programme was very full and everyone had to work hard in order to complete the work of the Council in the five days that had been allotted. An excellent spirit prevailed throughout the meetings and God's presence was felt in a definite way as plans were made for strengthening the work of God in Burma. God has blessed His work during the past

biennial period and we look to Him for strength and wisdom for the future.

At biennial sessions the leaders of the work are called upon to give an account of their stewardship. The President's report gave an over-all picture of the progress that has been made during the years 1957-'58. 1958 marks the 40th anniversary of the organization of the Burma Union. Our hearts were cheered as we listened to the progress that has been made but we were also made conscious of the fact that there is much work that remains to be done.

The Secretary reported a total of 213 baptisms for the year 1958. This is the highest number that has been reached for several years. Total baptisms for the past two years came to 374. At the close of 1958 there were 36 organized churches in the Union with a membership of 2,137.

Another main feature of biennial sessions is the selection of leaders for the ensuing two years. Careful study was given to needs of the work and the Nominating Committee endeavoured to select strong leaders for the various departments and organizations of the Burma Union. Steps were taken to strengthen the staff of our High School at Kyauktaing.

Brother Tun Maung was ordained to the gospel ministry on the Sabbath following the Biennial Session.

All phases of the work received careful study during the Session and many good plans were voted. Goals were also set which should challenge us all to do more for the Master during the coming years. The important thing now is for us to implement the actions that have been taken and do all that we can to hasten the finishing of the work and coming of our Lord.

The theme of Pastor Mote's message at the closing meeting of the session on Thursday evening was "Go Forward." This should be the motto of every worker and believer as we enter upon another biennial period. Let us unite our talents and energies with the power of God that the work may go forward and may soon be finished throughout the Burma Union.

PAKISTAN UNION

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AFTER THREE YEARS

W. F. Storz

AFTER an absence of over three years it was a genuine pleasure to visit our high school in Jalirpar, East Pakistan, again. It was really going back to visit old friends as many of the old staff and students were still there.

Conducting the Week of Prayer was a good experience because of the spiritual atmosphere that reigned. The Week of Prayer was a fitting climax to the baptismal class that had been conducted throughout the school year. Nineteen students presented themselves for baptism. This service was held on the following Sabbath when the annual meetings were in session.

A great change had taken place in the school plant during those three years. The trees along the canal bank had grown very tall, making a nice approach to the school. Much land had been raised above flood level and papayas, bananas and garden vegetables were growing in abundance. Concrete walks had taken the place of most of the old mud walks. The open chapel had been transformed into a beautiful meeting hall. All the staff had moved into substantial new duplex homes. The boys were enjoying living in the new hostel that was almost completed. Plans were that a new girls' hostel would soon be started. Evenings were brighter because an electric plant had been installed. The school in all its aspects was one of which staff and students could justly be proud.

IN THE list of names of those taking part in the Lamp-lighting ceremony which was beside the picture in the Feb. 15, issue of the TIDINGS two names were omitted. Between Godavari Shinde and Gloria Eswara Rao should have been Ethel Eswara Rao—Narsapur High School and at the end should have been the name of M. George—Kottarakara High School.—Editor.



Left to right: S. Mall, Pastor I. M. Chand, Faqir Chand, and Sunder Dass in front of the tent at Bareilly.

V. O. P. Rally at Bareilly

N. G. MOOKERJEE.

Voice of Prophecy rally was held in Bareilly on February 4 and 5. Land was secured from a Christian brother who did not charge us any rent, and the contractors who put up the tent and supplied us with chairs were very reasonable in their prices, because quite a few of them had had previous contact with the Voice of Prophecy and had studied the lessons.

At the electric supply power station we met a lady who was very eager to ask us questions since she had completed the Voice of Prophecy course. Through her it was only a few hours until we received the temporary connection for the use of electricity.

At this meeting we had over 500 present each night, and more than 70% of these were Christians who expected us to remain there for two or three weeks at least, and quench their thirst for spiritual Truths.

Pastor I. M. Chand, President of the Upper Ganges Mission with Mr. Sunder Dass, the Voice of Prophecy Secretary of that section, Mr. S. Mull, Pastor of the Dehra Dun church, Pastor Faqir Chand,

Union Voice of Prophecy secretary, and the writer formed the team.

The plans are now to arrange to have someone visit Bareilly frequently and keep the interest going, since about 200 have been enrolled for the Voice of Prophecy school, and then at a later date we may hold an effort to gather in the souls.

We pray that the Lord will draw near to the people of Bareilly as they study God's word and turn to Him in a very special way.

SOUTH INDIA UNION

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Secretary: I. K. Moses

Treasurer: S. John

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DORCAS SALE

MRS. P. M. THOMAS

Before I say anything about the sale let me say a few words about our church and church members:

When we first came to South Kerala, we were located in Quilon where we had neither church members nor a place to worship the Lord; then one day we visited our church in Trivandrum. To our surprise and disappointment we found that the Sabbath service was conducted in a poor thatched shed in the capital city of Kerala. After some time the South Kerala Section Committee moved its headquarters to Kawdiar, Trivandrum. We workers here live in fairly good rented quarters, but we felt very sorry that we did not have a good church in which to worship the Lord on the Sabbath. We prayed about it and the Lord has answered our prayers. The Division committee has voted Rs. 14,000 for building a church here in Trivandrum. Now as we go to the office we are really happy to see the church building coming up and up day by day.

We were disappointed not only in the church building, but also in the size of the church membership. We had very few members hardly any of whom were educated and as a result there were no church activities except the Sabbath services. There again the Lord has heard our prayers and two efforts were conducted here one after the other, one by Pastor S. Thomas and the other by Pastor J. V. Jacob, and now a number of people of good social standing have been baptized and many others interested in the truth.

Recently a Dorcas Society was organized with Mrs. Cecily Enos, a newly baptized member, as the leader and Mrs. Jonan as the secretary. They are both really very enthusiastic, and are working hard for the progress of the Society here in Kawdiar.

Last Sunday, the 15th of February, we had a very good Dorcas sale inaugurated by Mrs. Nathaniel, the Local Mission Dorcas Secretary. It was suggested that each member make certain things (food) to sell and contribute only the profit to the Society, but the new members were so enthusiastic, they wanted not only to give the profit but to donate the whole cost to the Society. This was the first

Dorcas Society and the first sale in the Kawdiar church and the members are all eager to do more and more, and to have sales more often. Rs. 45/- was collected.

Mrs. Enos and Mrs. Jonan and some of the other members go from house to house and collect old clothes and distribute them to the poor members of the church in Kawdiar and in the nearby churches.

Dear readers, please pray for our Dorcas Society so that it may grow in membership and grace.

NORTHEAST INDIA UNION

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A BUSY WEEK-END

Miss M. V. Brodersen

IT IS Thursday evening at Assam Training School and time for worship. The girls take their places, the preceptress takes her place, but almost immediately two girls come forward and are seated back of the small table. It is Girls' Club night and these two girls are in charge of the worship period. Several have been asked to take part. Three girls sing a trio, a little girl recites a poem, one of the older girls tells a story and the closing item is a duet sung by two of the senior girls. All have enjoyed the programme and after the girls are dismissed, they go happily to the dining room, which now serves as the girls' study hall.

At six o' clock, Friday morning, we again find the girls in the workshop room ready to repeat the morning watch text. "Let us remember that this is Friday and the preparation day. Don't forget to be ready for the Sabbath," is the reminder given as the girls disperse. It has been a busy day of study, classes, work and preparation, but shortly before sundown, all gather again to sing choruses. This evening all repeat the fourth commandment. Seven-thirty brings vespers. After this, some stay for



These girls represent four of the language groups at A. T. S.: Khasi, Lushai, Naga, Garo.

choir practice, others go to the hostel, where some spend the time in reading, others in singing, while others may be discussing our doctrines with those who have questions to ask.

Sabbath morning the officers of the Sabbath school are busy preparing for the day's service. All enjoy the interesting Sabbath school and the sermon which follows. Is the day finished? No, it has only begun, for the afternoon brings new activities. First of all a large group comes together to wrap and address papers. Next comes the baptismal class. Besides those interested in studying our doctrines for the first time, others attend who wish to secure a greater knowledge

SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION

Calendar of Special Days and Offerings 1959

April 4	Home Visitation Day—with "Our Times" and H. M. Offering
April 18	Educational Day and Offering
May 2	H. M. Day and Offering
May 9	Disaster and Famine Relief Offering
May 16	Spirit of Prophecy Day
June 6	H. M. Day and Offering
June 27	Mid-summer Offering
July 1-31	Youth Evangelism
July 4	Medical Missionary Day and H. M. Offering
July 11	Bible Society Offering
July 18-25	MV Week of Prayer
July 25	MV Share Your Faith Day
August 1	H. M. Day and Offering

of the Bible, to encourage others to come and to help in interpreting what is said into the different languages. Later in the afternoon another bell rings and young men and women assemble to read *The Great Controversy*. How all enjoy reading this book! Some of the students have spent the afternoon in sharing their faith by visiting the people in the neighbouring villages and giving them literature.

The last meeting of the Sabbath is the Missionary Volunteer meeting. Thus another Sabbath has passed and all feel ready to begin a new week.

Your Opportunity

"The secret of our success in the work of God will be found in the harmonious working of our people. . . . Every member of the body of Christ must act his part according to the ability that God has given him . . . shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart." Christian Service, p. 75.

The full co-operation of every worker and every lay-member will ensure the success of the great

OUR TIMES

effort, April 5-17.

Let every member put his shoulder to the task!

—O. W. Lange.

Temperance Titters

SOME FRUIT FROM RAJAHMUNDY TEMPERANCE RALLY

One Mr. S....., a leading businessman of Rajahmundry, attended our temperance rally in that city. He was a heavy smoker; but was thrilled to see the film ONE IN 20,000. He took with him that evening a bound volume of the Indian ALERT and read it through during the whole night, returning it the next morning. Early in January, Pastor I. Subushanam—our church pastor at Rajahmundry—called on Mr. S.... for Uplift and received Rs. 100.00 in cash and a promise of better things in the future. He expressed his keen desire to quit smoking.

Also among those who attended the temperance meeting at Rajahmundry was a Brahmin gentleman, a senior deputy inspector of schools. After the meeting he met Pastor Subushanam and said: "There was a Mission called Seventh-day or something like that, which was publishing a health book." Our brother quickly suggested: "Could that be the Seventh-day Adventist Mission,

and the book 'Health & Longevity'?" "Yes, that is correct. I read the book in my training class some years ago; and in it I learned that only human beings use tobacco; that none of the animals use it. Do you still publish that book?" Our local colporteur was at hand and he took a cash order for a copy of "Health & Longevity" and a two-year subscription for "Marga Darsi", our Telugu health magazine. Two weeks later this gentleman visited our place again with orders for two copies of "Health & Longevity" and two two-year subscriptions for "Marga Darsi", and took back with him a supply of temperance tracts, Voice of Prophecy enrolment cards, and other literature for distribution. He came again after two weeks with money for still another copy of "Health & Longevity". He returned home saying that he would procure more subscriptions to our health literature. He is now a good friend of our work in Rajahmundry. —S. J.

witness God's blessings poured out on a faithful brother. His field was alongside other fields, some of which belonged to his relatives, and the country being rich, the crops on all the fields were doing well. Suddenly one morning it was noticed that while other fields were showing signs of wilt, our brother's crop was left untouched. As the devastation in other fields continued, it was all the more noticeable, that our Adventist brother's crops were absolutely healthy. The members of the community, along with our faithful brother visited the spot and tried with the help of the agriculture expert, to find out the reason for such peculiar behaviour. Was it the soil, was it because of the moisture or the location? No scientific reason could be deduced. Then our brother was questioned. Did he have an answer, did he know? Yes he did, it was one of the Lord's ways of pouring out His blessings on those who were faithful to return to him the portion that belonged to HIM. That was a practical study on TITHING and it helped some of the listeners to become followers of God and also join in the right way of acknowledging HIM as the owner of all things.

The Government of the land requires of the person who acquires and holds wealth to pay a WEALTH TAX. When he spends it, he is expected to pay an EXPENDITURE TAX. Then again, if he invests and earns an income, he has to pay an INCOME TAX. When he gives it away the GIFTS TAX is levied. When he dies and his estate is inherited by his heirs, the ESTATE DUTY becomes payable. Our Lord simply asks for a tenth, only to return it to us by way of manifold blessings.

In Testimonies V. 3 we read "Our Heavenly Father did not originate the plan of systematic benevolence to enrich himself, but to be a great blessing to man." P. 405.

Let us not forget that "The angel of God places benevolent acts close beside prayer." May the Lord bless us that we may not forget the plan of God, but follow it closely and thus receive from HIM the blessings He has in store for us.

Blessings in Store for Tithe Payers

N. G. MOOKERJEE

THE LORD longs to pour out His blessings upon His people. "Behold I set before you this day a blessing, . . . IF . . ." (Deut. 11: 26, 27). This blessing that He promises is on condition, as we see from the little word "if". The condition however is found in Malachi 3:10. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . and prove me now . . . if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing . . ."

How wonderful it is to be blessed by the Lord! When He blesses, not a single individual on earth can undo it. When He is on our side,

what care we how many there be on the other side? We want to receive His blessings even tho' there be a condition attached to it. What wonderful promises we have! The souls of the selfish shall be unblest, but "The liberal soul shall be made fat." Prov. 11:25, 2T 661. The eyes of the Lord are open and He notices and blesses us for keeping His commands.

Many of us have read often of the blessings received, and some of us have even experienced the mercies of the Lord. It was my happy privilege on one occasion, while labouring in one of the sections of the North East Union, to

Jerusalem to Joppa

D. K. DOWN.

NEW JERUSALEM in modern Israel did not interest us nearly as much as old Jerusalem in Jordan territory, and we were not sorry to say goodbye and once more wend our way down the Valley of Ajalon, through the Vale of Eshtaol, this time taking the north-east road to Ramla, the reputed burial place of St. George of the Dragon fame. A musty ancient church is dedicated to his memory and bears a painting of his exploits. Then on north to Lod where Israel's international airport is located. Lod is ancient Lydda where Peter healed Aeneas who had been sick of the palsy for 8 years. (Acts 9:32). But there is nothing of archaeological interest there today. We kept on northwards till we came to an old hill on which stands some Crusader ruins. This was once Antipatris where the soldiers took Paul by night on the way to Cæsarea when the Jewish plot against Paul's life was discovered. (Acts 23:31.) We then turned west towards the coast and ten miles brought us to Tel Aviv, Israel's fastest growing city.

We stayed in Tel Aviv several days attending to visas and while there visited the southern end of the city, Yaffo which is the Bible Joppa. Here Jonah took a boat for Tarshish and Peter raised Dorcas to life. A slight hill juts out into the sea here and as was the custom, the old city was built on the hill. There is a breakwater protecting the harbour and some rusty old boats were abandoned on the shore. Except for the fact that they had propellers I could almost believe they had plied the Mediterranean in Jonah's day.

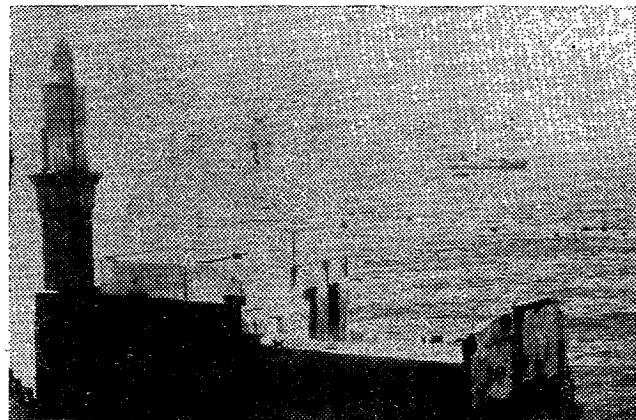
The old city area is totally out of keeping with the rest of twentieth-century Israel. Narrow jumbled lanes, old poverty stricken stone houses and poorly clad women sitting on the shadowed pavements—there would be plenty of demands on Dorcas if she still

plied her needle in Joppa today.

Of course the house of Simon the Tanner, where Peter saw his vision of unclean beasts, cannot be found today, but the flat-topped houses are built right down to the sea shore and I could visualize Peter going up to the roof of one such house and praying at the midday hour.

It was summer when we were there and we found Tel Aviv extremely hot and humid. A roof top with a sea breeze would be the most comfortable place for Peter to pray if the incident took place in summer and I presume it did. Incidentally, next day I visited Rehovot and just out of Tel Aviv my nose was assaulted by a most obnoxious odour. Having many times driven past tanneries in Australia it suddenly occurred to me that this might be a tannery, I swung the car into the compound and at last located someone who spoke English. I was rather chagrined to be told that this was one of the Tel Aviv rubbish dumps, hence the smell. However, I learned that Israel's industrial tan-

Mosque and flat-topped house beside the harbour at Joppa. It was on such a house top that Peter went to pray.



neries are located only a few miles out of Tel Aviv on the road to Antipatris and perhaps Simon's successors have simply moved their tanneries out of town a bit as the centuries have gone by.

One more place interested me in Tel Aviv. In the early days of our

work, fanatics endeavoured to sidetrack the message in different directions. These efforts of Satan were effectively brought to nothing by the Word of the Lord through His messenger, Mrs. E. G. White. One of the groups imagined that the Lord wanted them to go to Palestine to convert the Jews. Such a movement would have diverted attention from the vital work that needed to be done and would have absorbed valuable funds from our pioneer's meagre financial resources. So a message was given by the Lord to meet this new innovation of Satan. Sr. White wrote: "I was pointed to those who are in the great error of believing that it is their duty to go to old Jerusalem and think they have a work to do there before the Lord comes. . . . I saw that such a mission would accomplish no real good." E. W. 75.

But in spite of this Divine counsel, one group went ahead with their plans and sent out some believers from America. They gained very little sympathy from the Jews, but at last formed a settlement at Mount Hope in Tel Aviv. However, as usually happens with such fanatical movements, its sponsors soon lost their enthusiasm and the poor missionaries were left to battle with poverty and a hard-

hearted, unsympathetic people. They struggled on for five years, but in 1855 Mrs. C. S. Minor, the founder, died of malnutrition and was buried on Mt. Hope. Her tombstone bore the words "She hath done what she could."

After many enquiries we at last

located the station on Hamasger Street. There is a small college of the Hebrew university built on the site, but of the tombstone there is no trace. Nor could I find anyone who could give me any information on the subject. Sr. White said, "I saw that Satan had greatly deceived some in this thing." I could only feel pity for those who had perished under Satan's deception. But I was just as surely impressed with the certainty of the Lord's counsels. However, I am quite sure that just as surely as the devil tried to push the Lord's servants into evangelizing the Jews before the Lord's time had come, he is just as surely endeavouring to hold us back from this task now that the hour has struck. Now is our day of opportunity in Israel and God's people should do all in their power to reach Abraham's children with the message of Israel's soon coming King.



"NEW BOOK FOR MINISTERS"

From time to time we bring new books to the attention of readers of Southern Asia Tidings. Often these references give publicity to just another book.

"FEED MY SHEEP" by H. M. S. Richards is not in this class. In 1957, Elder Richards was invited to give a series of lectures to the Ministerial students of Washington Missionary College and the ordained ministers in the greater Washington area. These lectures are outstanding.

Lecture number one defines preaching. This chapter alone is worth more than the full volume. The other nine lectures are equally good. The closing chapter is entitled "The Tongue of Fire."

This 446 page book should be in the library of every ministerial student and minister of the Gospel. It will build up the minister and inspire him to build up the church.

Owing to licensing problems we shall not be able to stock this book, but orders will be processed for direct shipment to individual directly from the publishers.

This volume is one of the selections for 1959 Ministerial Reading Course. There may be some who desire to order the book separately. The price is \$5.00, approximately Rs. 24.00. Order through your local Book Depot or from the Oriental Watchman Publishing House.

L. C. SHEPARD.

Disaster and Famine Relief Offering May 9

GOD'S TEST OF CHARACTER

What does the *Famine Relief Offering* mean to us? What should motivate our giving? Should it be, "What will we (my family, or Southern Asia) get out of the offering?" No, rather, "It is our opportunity to help our neighbours." This is in harmony with Jesus' admonition to "Love thy neighbour." Counsel comes to the church, "We are to remember that our neighbour is one who needs our sympathy and help. Our neighbour is every soul who is wounded and bruised." C. S. pp. 39, 40.

Satan tempts us to withhold such gifts and offerings because they are precious to the Lord. Satan is against everything that pleases God. By yielding to him we cultivate the selfish, faithless spirit. God's servant says, "The reason why God's people are not more spiritually minded, and have more faith, I have been shown, is because they are narrowed up with selfishness." C. S. p. 40.

Let us yield to the whispering of the spirit of mercy as we respond to the call of the unfortunate and needy to whom this offering will bring hope and comfort.

"Angels of God are watching to see how we treat these persons who need our sympathy, love and disinterested benevolence. This is God's test of our character."—C. S. p. 191.

—O. W. Lange.



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Miscellany

● During the annual regional meetings in the Northeast Union Brother Prem Bazroy of the Garo Hills Circle, Brother Holiwell Dkhar of the Assam Section and Brother C. Saikhum of the Lushai Circle were ordained to the gospel ministry. These brethren have been blessed as soul winners.

● Pastor A. M. Akbar will lead out in annual regional meetings in the Punjab Section from March 18 to April 1, 1959. Pastor D. S. Johnson of the Division will be attending these meetings.

● Mr. and Mrs. Leland R. Shultz of Loma Linda arrived in Bombay on March 19, 1959. Brother Shultz will be the Superintendent of the Oriental Watchman Publishing House, Poona. Their son, Leland Charles, arrived earlier and is now attending the Vincent Hill School. We welcome this family to Southern Asia.

● Pastor and Mrs. A. H. Farthing and family arrived in Bombay on February 25, 1959. Brother Farthing will be the pastor of our church in Calcutta. We are pleased to have the Farthings come back to us.

● Pastor J. W. Nixon, Division Publishing Department Secretary, is itinerating through the North-western India and Pakistan Unions. He is conducting colporteur institutes at Roorkee and Chuharkana during this tour. A greater number of student colporteurs are expected to be in the field during this summer. The Division-wide sales goal for this year is Rs. 750,000.00.

● The total number of baptisms in the S. A. Division during 1958 is 2,057.

● In an impressive graduation week-end, March 13, 14, twenty-four young people graduated from Spicer Memorial College—10 from the B. R. E. course, 7 from the B. B. A. course and 7 from the two-year Bible Instructor's course.

● The Consecration service on "The Cross Our Guide" was con-

ducted by Pastor C. R. Bonney. "A Crown Our Goal" was the subject of Pastor M. D. Kodan's Baccalaureate sermon. Dr. R. S. Lowry addressed the seniors on "The Marks of Distinction" during the Commencement exercise.

● Pastor C. R. Bonney, Division Voice of Prophecy Radio Secretary, is making an extensive tour of the Northeast Union, Burma Union and the East Pakistan Section visiting the Voice of Prophecy Schools and making contacts in the interest of the Voice of Prophecy work.

● To date 452,653 students have been enrolled in the Voice of Prophecy and out of these 144,472 have graduated. During February, 1959 alone 5,729 were enrolled and 3,806 graduated. God has richly blessed the Voice of Prophecy work.

● On the night of March 21 Pastor D. K. Down and his team of workers opened an evangelistic effort in Ranchi. Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Burns of Spicer Memorial College are among those who are working with Brother Down in this effort.

● Pastor J. F. Ashlock spent the latter half of February with the Karachi church. During this time a very fine series of revival meet-

ings was held in the church with excellent attendance. He also conducted a Leadercraft course for those who wanted this requirement in order to become more efficient leaders and workers with the young people of the church. The Junior Missionary Volunteers appreciated Pastor Ashlock's help in their Pathfinder Club.

● Pastor O. W. Lange spent the first half of March in Laymen's Institutes in the South India Union. He went first to Madurai where Pastor G. W. Maywald is conducting an Evangelistic effort and here they held a Laymen's Institute. Then he went on to the North Telugu section where Pastor M. S. Prasada Rao had arranged Institutes and two regional meetings for the laymen.

● R. S. Lowry, Department of Education S. A. Division Secretary, M. G. Champion, Departmental Secretary for the Pakistan Union, E. R. Hutchinson from the Chuharkana staff and C. M. Robinson from the Vincent Hill staff are teaching in the Summer Session at Spicer Memorial College which began March 30.

● Pastor H. H. Mattison is conducting a Bible Institute for the workers of the Assam Section during the month of April.

APRIL 18 1959.

FASTING AND PRAYER

Dear Fellow-workers and Believers throughout Southern Asia: Greetings.

Word has recently come through from Washington, that in view of rapidly developing political and religious conditions which have a direct bearing on the promulgation of the Advent Message, the General Conference Committee has voted that a **SPECIAL DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER BE SET ASIDE ON APRIL 18, 1959.** Our work in China has reached a crisis hour and certainly this is a time when we should not only remember our fellow-workers and believers in China but earnestly petition God once again to hold the winds of strife among the nations so that the work of God may be finished in all the earth.

Let us unitedly join our brethren throughout the world on this day of Fasting and Prayer in earnestly praying that God may protect his children throughout the world and keep open the doors of all nations for the preaching of this message which we all love and to which we have dedicated our lives.

O. O. Mattison