

Australasian Signs of the Times

SUPPLEMENT

*"Consider one another to provoke
::: unto love and good works.":::*

FEBRUARY 23, 1903.

OUR MISSIONARY PAPER.

If we eat without restraint and take little or no exercise our bodies become diseased. So in our spiritual life, if we simply eat and do not work, we become weak, helpless, paralysed. Many Seventh-day Adventists are suffering because they are over-fed and under-worked. They may not know the name of their malady, but it is spiritual dyspepsia. Too much food and too little exercise results in worldliness, complaining, murmuring. Some fall by the way, and spiritual death follows.

This disease is extremely dangerous. It requires prompt and radical treatment. To one not accustomed to work the thought of it is unpleasant, especially in hot weather; but if by some means they can be induced to labour until they perspire freely it will tone up the whole system. The eye will brighten, the whole expression will change, they will require less food (not so much preaching), and they will find vigorous exercise (missionary effort) a medicine exactly adapted for their needs. They "will cry for more," instead of less, work, and the whole body (the church of Christ) "fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." There will be a call for less preaching, and more experience meetings, that each may tell what the Lord has done for

their souls, and for others through their efforts.

Since our God, who hears and answers prayer, has helped us to register the "Australasian Signs of the Times," many have seen in this an opportunity which will enable them to do a work resulting in spiritual health. Our missionary paper is so low in price that it can easily be sold, loaned, posted, or given away. Even the children can help, so it presents one of the most favourable methods of work, especially for those whose vitality is low, and for those who feel inadequate to undertake a heavier task.

The effect upon the churches who undertake this missionary work is very encouraging. Read the following letter in proof of this statement:—

From our busy corner we, the Palmerston North (N.Z.) church, wish you all a "Happy New Year." We were glad to get your letter of Dec. 23, and to hear of the changes to be made in the "Bible Echo." We think it a great improvement.

You mention Saturday night work with the "Australasian Signs of the Times." We have, as a church, taken hold of this work somewhat, and those who do so find it a great blessing. The papers do truly go "like hot cakes."

I have been impressed with the way the Salvation Army push the sale of the "War Cry." Now, why should not we as a people, who certainly have God-given truth, take hold in real earnest to push this work forward when we have such a paper as the "Signs," which no one need be ashamed to handle? We ought to praise God all the time for giving us the privilege of working for Him.

Nothing will bring unity to our churches more than work of this sort—real, earnest, progressive, trust-in-God work,—then meet together and talk of the experiences by the way from Sabbath to Sabbath.

May we as a people realise the importance of this work more and more from day to day, and also the privileges God has given us; and may the fact impress us that unless we do something for our Saviour who has done so much for us, He will raise up others to do our work, and they will take our crowns.

Please find enclosed 10/- for the missionary circulation of the "Signs," from our tract society,

Yours in behalf of the church,

Do we want unity in our churches instead of alienation, backsliding, complaining? Would we have meetings which will be refreshing seasons when Jesus Himself stands in the midst? The recipe is given above. Did you notice it? Try it.

FROM OUR POST-BAGS.

Since the Supplement was printed giving an account of our difficulty in registering the "Bible Echo," and since the paper has been published under a new name, we have received many encouraging letters from different parts of the field. Genuine interest has been manifested in its circulation, and we are encouraged by the earnest efforts of our brethren and sisters to utilise this missionary agency. At the Dunedin, N.Z., camp-meeting a special prayer service was held to pray that we might be enabled to register the "Australasian Signs of the Times." We believe many prayers were offered at that time which have since been answered. Through the

help of the Lord we were able to register the paper.

We are glad a disposition is manifested to work as well as to pray. Old and young are trying to increase our circulation. But without further introduction we give extracts from letters recently received. An isolated sister writes :—

I think selling the "Bible Echo" is truly a good work. I am unable to sell it on the streets, but when health permits I go from door to door. I am forwarding the money to pay for my papers, and also a half-yearly subscription. All who have been taking the paper have spoken with much warmth of the beautiful reading, and some have told me what a help it is to them. If I had money would take more papers, but my husband has little work now. The paper is a help and blessing to me every week, and every day of the week. I look for it as for a dear friend, and such it is to me. I am the only one here of our faith. Occasionally our canvassers visit me, and we have a glorious time talking and studying the Bible. I have such poor health, I am unable to get about much in the heat, the temperature being 112 to 116 in the shade for some time past. My children are simply prostrated with the heat. These troubles and anxieties cause us to long for the coming of the Lord. I feel I do not do half enough to bring it nearer. If we are faithful it surely will not be long till we see His blessed face.

A sister gives the following experience :—

While selling the "Bible Echo" in Woolongong, N.S.W., I came to a house where, as soon as the lady saw the paper, she exclaimed, "Oh! the 'Bible Echo!'" Her manner so impressed me that I made inquiries as to whether she had ever seen the paper, and she told me that she had accepted the truth, but had removed from her home church, and had become discouraged. She subscribed for the paper, and has renewed her consecration to the Lord. But this was not all; her husband began reading the paper, became interested, and has begun to keep the Sabbath.

I leave the "Bible Echo" with one family where the gentleman often inquires of his wife if "that little woman has been around with the 'Echo,'" and he once said to me, "You know I feel no interest in this Sabbath question, but I admire your health principles." I have many readers who are deeply interested in the paper and the truths it advocates.

A sister in South Australia says :—

Saturday night is by far the best time to sell the paper, for the ladies say, "My husband has no time to read, only on Sunday afternoons." Some refuse to take it, but, thank God, He opens the hearts of others to buy it.

A letter from Tasmania contains the following, which will be of interest to busy housewives :—

There is a lady who takes the "Bible Echo" from me, and has done so for years. She sends them to her son in Scotland, and there are others who send them to their friends and relatives, so we do not always know the full extent of the good we are doing by selling a few copies as I am doing. I sell eighteen copies each week, and eight copies of "Good Health," and I find when I have taken this number of papers round, and spend some time with the people giving gospel and health talks, besides attending to the washing, scrubbing, cooking, and mending for a family of seven, I have more sometimes than I know how to do; but I know the Lord blesses the little I am able to do. I like the work very much, and wish all the workers success.

The Lord wants scores of busy people to do work such as this sister is doing, in their own towns and neighbourhoods. It would make home cares lighter, and they would have a song of praise to God in their hearts while engaged in their daily toil. May God impress many to "go and do likewise."

One of our busy brethren in North Fitzroy found a gentleman who impressed him as being a Christian, and he became a subscriber to the "Signs," when it was shown to him. Not long after this a brother called on this gentleman when canvassing for "Christ's Object Lessons." He talked freely with the canvasser, and suddenly asked him what he thought about the Sabbath being changed. Said he had read "Great Controversy," and he was impressed that it declared the truth, and added, "I have been buying a paper called the 'Bible Echo,' and that contains articles about the change of the Sabbath," and he called his wife to bring a copy of the paper to show our canvasser. He manifested genuine interest, and seemed to be already convinced concerning the truth.

The paper is not difficult to sell. One of our state agents writes :—

I like the change of name in our missionary paper. One sister who is deaf, showed the new paper to eleven people, and ten out of that number took it.

A faithful worker in New South Wales sends us these words of faith and courage :—

When the enemy gets into the field it seems to me we ought to work all the harder to get the victory. "One shall chase a thousand, and two shall put

10,000 to flight." I found one lady who had been a subscriber four years, and others have been taking it for years, and are glad to take it again if opportunity is given, even where it has been taken only a short time. After conducting service last Sabbath I walked seven miles, and, though very tired, I went down the street after the Sabbath, and sold two dozen "Signs" in a very short time. We found two persons who had heard the truth at Lambton. We invited them to come with us to meeting, and they are keeping the Sabbath. They are now selling two dozen "Signs" each week to their neighbours, and they desire baptism.

The Secretary of the tract society in West Australia writes :—

I have a number of yearly subscriptions for the "Australasian Signs of the Times" to forward soon. I hope its circulation is increasing. An old gentleman came twelve miles this week, and hunted two hours to find us that he might renew his subscription. He is eighty years old.

As we copied the last line above a letter was laid on our desk from the Secretary of the Victorian Tract Society. It contained a letter from a sister in Windsor, from which we take the following :—

I know you are glad to hear about the work for "Australasian Signs of the Times." Am glad to tell you the Lord is blessing it. One woman has been keeping the Sabbath about a month. She has met great opposition in her family. Her husband destroyed all the papers and tracts he could find, but is now willing she should take the papers. This lady had a young lady from West Australia visiting her, and she gave her some papers and books to take home with her. She became interested in them, and gave them to her father and mother. They also became interested, and found our people in Perth, and now all three are keeping the Sabbath.

Another family keep a butcher's shop. They are much interested, and have read the paper a long time. They now say, "We will have to get out of this business, for we could not keep the Sabbath and have a butcher's shop. There are four other ladies who are on the point of keeping the Sabbath."

A dear sister who has but recently been baptised, and who is just beginning the work in Adelaide, writes :—

I am rejoiced that the work of selling the "Signs" is being pushed forward. I know this paper is a great blessing to those who read it, and it is eagerly looked for. I might mention here a little episode which happened to myself to verify this statement. At a house where I usually leave a "Signs" I generally see the wife; but on this occasion she was not at home, and the husband coming to the door instead, I gave him the paper which he at once opened, and began to read, leaving me standing in the doorway. Taking in the

situation I bade him "Good-afternoon," but it fell on unheeding ears, and I went on my way rejoicing.

You will be glad to hear that South Australia is falling into line in selling the paper on Saturday night. The week your letter came all arrangements had been made to start that week. The Lord had made it so clear to me to go and do this work that I felt I should have the necessary strength if I would do it. I prevailed on Sister — to go with me, and we have been greatly blessed, and the Lord truly fulfilled His promise. A gentleman to whom I sold one gave me sixpence, saying he did not want any change. We sold two dozen copies the first week, two and a half the second, and we have ordered three dozen for this week. We are going to exercise great faith in this work with the Lord's help, as we want to be workers to help gather up the sheaves, and spread this glorious message far and wide. I feel more and more thankful that the Lord helped me into the light, and it is now my desire to help others likewise.

Another, a sister in New South Wales, says:—

I am the only Adventist in the place, so there is plenty of work to do. I have managed to get a few subscriptions for the "Echo" and "Children's Friend," but I can sell them better by delivering them myself each week. I have three sent from the office every week, and have sold them readily. I must try to get more sent in that way. I think the "Echo" one of the best papers I ever read. I look for my paper each week as I would for a dear friend, and such it has proved to me. I have started sending it to my mother in Queensland, and she is delighted with it.

One of our ministers writes in this enthusiastic strain, at the same time ordering three copies sent to his address:—

We are greatly pleased with the new name, the new dress, and new make-up generally of the "Australasian Signs of the Times." We predict for it a rapid growth. We also like the plan of introducing a larger amount of new matter relating to the progress of the work. We believe readers are generally most interested in people, churches, institutions—concrete things, and their progress. We will try to help you by forwarding brief reports.

From a stranger in Victoria came these words which caused us "to thank God, and take courage." The letter contained a yearly subscription for the "Signs" and an order for tracts, and the writer adds:—

And now if you will kindly permit me, I will explain how I came to get hold of the "Bible Echo." Until quite recently I was not aware of its existence, nor of the advent movement, or its purposes. But I happened to get hold of a book written by one Uriah Smith entitled, "Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation." It has opened my eyes, and made me think, especially on

the Sabbath question and the nearness of the coming of our Lord. This book mentioned the "Bible Echo," and I tried to procure it, but could not, until a few days ago I, by chance, happened to get hold of a few copies of the "Echo," which have fully convinced me that our present Sunday is not only not the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, but that it is an institution of the church without the sanction of Scripture. Smith mentions a work in his book dealing exclusively with the Sabbath question, which I should very much like to read. If, perchance, you stock the book, or could give information as to where I could get it, together with the price, I should be much obliged to you. I hope to hear from you at an early date.

Comment on such letters is unnecessary. Has not your heart burned within you as they have unfolded how God is at work, how the workers are blessed, and how souls rejoice as they see the light of truth? Do we see the pillar of cloud rising, indicating an advance movement? Do we realise that angels of God wait impatiently to co-operate with the human agent in carrying truth to the people? It brings an agony of feeling we find no words to express as we think that only about 6,000 copies of our paper go out each week when we ought to send at least 10,000—one brother says 20,000. What do you say? What will YOU DO to bring it to that point?

Our good paper has no means of carrying itself to those who would gladly welcome it. It silently pleads with you to carry it to them. Many are waiting for your visit, and the Lord promises that His blessing will rest upon you as you go. Brethren, *wake up!* WAKE UP!!! WAKE UP!!! and have a part in this glorious work.

"O the King has sent a message,
A momentous startling presage
Of His coming, of His coming, for 'tis
near.

Let us speed it, brothers, hasten,
Hearts will throb and eyes will glisten
Loyal lips will laugh with welcome as
they hear.

"Tis an angel's message, brothers,
To be borne abroad to others;
Borne by humans who are servants of
the King.
Sell it, pray it, sing it, shout it;
Tell the peopled world about it,
Till the sunny dome above us with it
ring.

"Oh, our Father, hear us offer
All poor human souls can proffer,
Of our thought, our time, our work, our
all to Thee,

Fit us; and with feet swift hasting,
Courage, hope, and joyful trusting,
Till time's end shall come, we'll speed
Thy message free."

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE CAN DO.

A special interest has been manifested by the younger members of the North Fitzroy church in the circulation of the "Australasian Signs of the Times." If encouraged to do so we believe the young people and children in every church could do noble service for the Master by working with the "Signs." The leader of this movement in the North Fitzroy church, Brother W. W. Fletcher, gives this account of the beginning of their work:—

Three months ago a movement was started in the North Fitzroy church to increase the circulation of our missionary paper by selling it on Saturday nights. Several persons engaged in this effort, and were much encouraged with the success they met with. The matter was presented at one of the meetings of the young people's society, and a number of members volunteered to engage in this work, with the result that about one hundred and twenty-five copies of the "Bible Echo" were divided among the members for sale.

It was found afterward that some who were not accustomed to the work did not succeed very well; others paid for their papers themselves, and gave them away. It was then decided to appoint one person to go out with those who were inexperienced, and help them to sell their papers until they became used to meeting the people. This plan has worked admirably, and the number of workers and of papers sold has steadily increased.

It is found that many of the shopkeepers purchase the papers readily. As opportunity offers copies are sold to persons standing in the streets, but the greater number are sold to the shopkeepers themselves. One worker sells twenty-five copies every Saturday night, while two others sell twenty each. Some who could not go out at this time have commenced selling them at private places during the week, going out with them after their day's work is finished. The sales for the present year have been as follows:—

January 5	...	67
" 12	...	77
" 19	...	87
" 26	...	102
February 2	...	162
" 9	...	168

There is every prospect that the numbers sold will continue to increase.

Each worker pays in the full amount received for the "Signs" to the society, and the profit is used to purchase tracts for loaning, etc.

This work has been a blessing to those who have engaged in it, and will also be the means of bringing the truth before a large number of people who perhaps would not hear it in any other way.

Not satisfied with the amount of work done the young people have another plan in mind by which they expect to largely increase their sales; but they prefer that we say nothing about this till they have opportunity to "spy out the land," and further on they will report progress.

We say, God bless the young people who fill their hands with service for the Lord. If faithful and true they will enter the promised land. Come, young friends, take hold anywhere, everywhere, and you will find a joy you can never experience in worldly pleasure. We hope to hear from others who are engaged in this good work.

TO OUR MINISTERS AND ELDERS OF CHURCHES.

In the new Testimony, Vol. 7, pages 18, 19, we have these statements:—

God has not given His ministers the work of setting the churches right. No sooner is this work done, apparently, than it has to be done over again. Church members that are thus looked after and laboured for become religious weaklings. If nine-tenths of the effort that has been put forth for those who know the truth had been put forth for those who have never heard the truth, how much greater would have been the advancement made! God has withheld His blessings because His people have not worked in harmony with His directions.

It weakens those who know the truth for our ministers to expend on them the time and talent that should be given to the unconverted. In many of our churches in the cities the minister preaches Sabbath after Sabbath, and Sabbath after Sabbath the church-members come to the house of God with no words to tell of blessings received because of blessings imparted. They have not worked during the week to carry out the instruction given them on the Sabbath. So long as church-members make no effort to give to others the help given them, great spiritual feebleness must result.

Then what will help our brethren and sisters who seem so weak and faltering? Read the answer in the following paragraph:

The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for

God, and to depend on Him, not on the ministers. Let them learn to work as Christ worked. Let them join His army of workers.

What, then, is to be the work of the minister?

Just as soon as a church is organised, let the minister set the members at work. They will need to be taught how to labour successfully. Let the minister devote more of his time to educating than to preaching. Let him teach the people how to give to others the knowledge they have received.

But will not our Sabbath meetings be dry and uninteresting if we have no preaching? Read the answer:—

Let church-members, during the week, act their part faithfully, and on the Sabbath relate their experience. The meeting will then be as meat in due season, bringing to all present new life and fresh vigour. When God's people see the great need of working as Christ worked for the conversion of sinners, the testimonies borne by them in the Sabbath service will be filled with power. With joy they will tell of the precious experience they have gained in working for others.

Many mothers know by experience that if a new-born baby is continually nursed and tended he soon thinks it a cause for complaint if not constantly noticed and cared for. Unfortunately many babes in Christ have this experience in spiritual things. They do not grow in grace, and they abound in complaining and fault-finding. They are not altogether to blame, and they must have help, but it will not come by giving them more constant nursing. Try a little heroic treatment. By some means get them out to work, and we have the word of God to assure us that their hearts will be filled with joy, and their testimonies will be full of power.

What is the work of the minister and church elder?—To "set the members at work," to "teach them to work for God." Suppose we begin with the "Australasian Signs of the Times;" and, encouraged by the experience of others, put forth an earnest effort in behalf of our missionary paper. Talk to the brethren and sisters about it. Set them an example, and give them your experience in using it. Do not be disheartened if everyone does not succeed. In some way get the people to work, for in no other way can they be helped. If you are at a loss how

to begin, take this supplement as your text at your next Sabbath meeting. Plan together how to work, and then begin without delay.

Please write and let us know how you succeed.

Brother T. H. Craddock writes from Adelaide that a missionary society has been organised at Kensington, and an order has been sent for seventy-eight copies of the "Signs," and they also expect to use tracts, etc.

There was never so urgent a call for service as now. The eleventh hour has come, and to every soul the Master speaks, "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" To each He is saying, "Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive."

Brother A. W. Anderson has been requested to contribute most of the matter used in "The Outlook" department of the "Australasian Signs of the Times." We feel sure his help will be greatly appreciated by the readers of the paper, as it is by us. Brother Anderson is in a position to give us very interesting information concerning the world's happenings as related to prophecy and the signs of the times.

We have been informed by the postal authorities that articles written over the signature of an individual will not be counted as "news." This will explain why our contributors do not receive credit with their articles in some instances. We would much prefer to "render to all their dues;" but we feel sure that those who write for our paper do not do it simply to have their names appear in print. As far as possible, however, we shall give credit to those to whom it is due, and when this is not done, you will now understand the reason why.