

## SUPPLEMENT

# AUSTRALASIAN SIGNS OF THE TIMES

*"And who then is willing to consecrate  
:::his service this day to the Lord.":::*

MARCH 30, 1903.

### SILENT PARTNERS.

We have read of a man who had been a member of the church forty years, but his absence from its services, his lack of missionary zeal, and his daily life led an earnest young Christian to think he was unconverted, and to talk to him about his spiritual welfare. The thought that his life had not borne witness for the Master he professed to serve, so impressed him that he said to himself,

"To think that some of the young folks didn't know I was a church member, and were concerned for the old man! I've been a silent partner long enough. It is time I woke up and worked for the Lord; time to let my light shine so the young folks can see it."

There may be others who have been "silent partners" in the church long enough to be an occasion for stumbling to its younger members. They listen complacently to reports of labour performed, literature distributed, missionary visits made, and congratulate themselves on the good work done by the church, and settle down again for "a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep."

But, good friend, while reading the encouraging reports in this "Supplement," how much of the work did you do? How many books have you loaned? How many tracts distributed? How many of your neighbours have you visited? How many copies of the "Australasian Signs of the Times" are YOU selling? How many? Are you an active or a "silent" partner in the King's business? If all the church members had done the

same amount of work as yourself, what would the record be?

There will be no "silent partners" in heaven.

### LETTERS RECEIVED.

Since the last Supplement was issued we have received many encouraging letters, which show how the Lord is working on the hearts of our brethren and sisters, the young people and children, inspiring them to give themselves to Him in service, and making their efforts fruitful in bringing a knowledge of the truth to the people through the "Australasian Signs of the Times."

We believe that in our large cities especially, papers will be purchased and read where it would be impossible to sell books. Many very poor people are found in these centres of population. Many are out of employment, but most persons can buy a penny paper, who would not think of spending a larger sum for literature. Some article may attract their attention and create an interest to read more. We believe by this means many will hear the truth. The experience of the past few months has proved that the papers can be sold successfully the evening after the Sabbath. We have a little time left which may be used in this service, but no doubt obstacles will arise not easily surmounted. That this is true is shown by a letter received from the Librarian of the church at Napier, N.Z., who writes:—

Just now as we were thinking of making an effort in selling the "Signs," our City Council decided to change the weekly half holiday to Saturday, thereby

giving the long night to Friday. For the present we are cut out of this plan.

However, we do some work through corresponding missionary work, and have reached some hearts through this means. Through this plan one person has subscribed for the paper yearly, and she now writes to say that she enjoys it very much, loans it to her neighbours, then sends it to some relatives in Scotland who, in turn, loan it to others. Since writing this she has sent to me for books which she treats in the same way as the paper.

One little girl living in a village near by has six weekly subscribers. Am sure God will bless her efforts with great success.

Our society has also a "Distributor" at our railway station, which is filled once a week with papers, tracts, etc. Many of the country people have borne testimony to their usefulness, and their disappointment when finding the "Distributor" empty.

In most places the way is yet open to go out with the papers on the evening mentioned, and we hope all will improve this opportunity so faithfully that they will have no cause for regret when it is past.

We call attention also to the ever-increasing influence which even one paper may have. When people who have not yet seen their way clear to obey the truth loan and post them as in the instance cited above, how much more should we engage in the same work! In many cases only an invitation is needed to induce people to subscribe for the paper themselves. A brother employed in the Echo Office sent a sample copy and a letter to a stranger from whom he received this reply:—

We like the "Australasian Signs of the Times" very much, and will take it. We send the enclosed postal note, 4/6, in payment for twelve months' subscription.

Someone sent a gentleman a few copies of the "Signs;" he became interested in them, sent in

his own subscription, paid for two additional copies to be sent to a hospital, and he also subscribed for "Good Health" and "Children's Friend." With his order came this letter:—

Would you kindly send by return mail all the information you can regarding the New South Wales Sanitarium. I have a friend who has had a bad leg for ten or twelve years, and has become worse and worse till now he seems to have given up hope. His surroundings are not very bright, and he is afraid to die, which he believes he would if he had his leg taken off. Knowing that one's mind is the main source of health or disease, I shall try to persuade him to go for a change to New South Wales for six months, where he would have, I am sure, a complete change among a people who, while glorying in that promise which is yet to be fulfilled, are doing all in their power to brighten the lives of the depressed while on this sin-afflicted earth.

Please give me what you know of the charges, etc. So far as I am aware this man has no money whatever, but we will meet that. The information need not be binding, but approximate, and we can get correct figures from you later.

As we read such letters we cannot forbear giving the word of exhortation found in that good old hymn,

"Hold up thy light with steady hand,  
Though it be faint! Who does not  
know  
Where darkness reigns, how far and clear  
Even a little light will show?"

While our missionary paper may not give a great light, yet a single copy may come as a sun-beam in the dungeon to bring hope and blessing, which may be reflected to many other hearts, and its influence may react on other departments of the cause we love.

A dear sister in West Australia writes thus of her experience in working with the "Signs":

You will be glad to know that the paper conveys blessings to those who are reading it. In the country the people like to read it. It has done good in nearly every home. I can see that the mothers are more patient with their children. One lady said to me, "The reading concerning the training of children has been helpful to me as a mother." Another said who had been very ill, "If you had brought the "Signs" before I should have been better, for I should not have loved the things of this world as I have." Another said, "It has led me to think about Jesus and to pray and to teach my children."

One dear lady is keeping the Sabbath only through reading the "Signs." She is a great age, being eighty-two years old.

The past six months I have been able to go in nearly every home. At one place I was asked to go and visit a sick child. I had not called at this home before. The mother was in great trouble,

for she felt she could not give up her boy. We knelt and prayed that God would help her to say, "Thy will be done." Two days later I called after the death of the child, and the mother said to me, "I am so glad you called to see me. You did me good. If you had not come I could not have given up my dear boy. You must come every week and leave the "Signs."

The change in the name of the paper has been for the best. I love the work. I am unworthy to have a part in taking the truth to the people, for it brings to every home life or death.

It is with this spirit of labour for the people, and a sense of our responsibility that we must go, and we have the sure promise, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. Though he goeth on his way weeping, bearing forth the seed, he shall come again with joy, bringing his sheaves with him."

A sister in Adelaide writes:—

I am going to tell you if I can a few of the many blessings I am receiving in selling the "Signs of the Times." We can sell the paper in its present form and with its new name quite readily. The people are quite fascinated with its title, and in many instances take it on that alone.

Sister — and I are still increasing our sales on Saturday night. We now sell nearly four dozen in an evening. We sell them to young and old, mothers and fathers, drunkards,—in fact all classes in the community. We often have opportunity to drop some seed for the Master, and to comfort those in despair, trouble, or unbelief, and point them to Christ, hoping ever that the seed may fall into good ground and bring forth abundantly.

Last Saturday night I tried to sell one to a young man, but he said "No," so I went on and was selling a paper when he came up to me and said, "Please let me have one." It often happens like this.

A sister sold one to a young man, and the next Saturday night she saw him again, and asked him if he would have a paper again. He said, "I haven't a penny with me, else I would take one. The other one you sold me cut me all to bits."

One evening I went to the Botanical Gardens and wandered about for some time, until I came to one of the summer houses, in which I found a poor creature almost in despair because she had lost a situation she was trying to obtain. She had walked a long distance in the rain, was wet through, and could see no way out of the darkness surrounding her. Well, the Lord told me what to say to her, and you should have seen how her face changed from despair to hope. It was quite a revelation to me of the power of God, how He can work in us if we will let Him.

This afternoon I went out for not quite two hours and had to walk some little distance. I had rheumatism badly in my feet, each ankle felt as if it were sprained, so I felt it would be very nice to stay at home. But I had a dozen

"Signs of the Times" to dispose of, so I thought, "That is probably a little dodge of Satan to keep me home, but I am going if it takes me five minutes to do each step." Well, I went; and the Lord blessed me greatly, for I sold the dozen in an hour, and I am rejoiced to think that many persons have some of the truth. The people bought them quite readily, and said, "That is just what we want for these times, for we have not the time to read books, and we can pick these up at any time." My only regret is that, after all, I do so little, and the time is so short. I hope the little that is done can be made great by the Master."

You will remember in our last "Supplement" a letter was given from a gentleman in Victoria who, with his wife, had begun keeping the Sabbath by reading "Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation" and the "Bible Echo." In a recent letter he says:—

I feel myself obliged to address you again, for since we have begun to keep the Sabbath we find ourselves in a different position than before; not that we regret having taken the step, but we rather rejoice. In fact the more we read and study the Bible, the more we feel convinced and rejoice in the truth.

I must tell you since we started keeping the Sabbath we have been working on Sunday. Of course we did this as quietly as possible about the house, as I do not mean to offend anyone more than I can help. I have an orchard, and have only done such work as would make no noise. One Sunday I picked some fruit, and to-day a friend of mine gave me warning that it is the intention of someone to give information against me if I did not desist from Sunday labour.

Well, it has not alarmed me,—in fact I expected that before I began keeping the Sabbath. My wife and I decided to place the matter before the Lord, which we have done in prayer, and then write to you for advice. We do not care what we have to go through for the truth's sake, as we believe it would all be for our good.

And now to conclude, I would ask you to kindly advise us a little, as we are only beginners, and I believe have still much to learn. The truth is plain enough, but while we are on earth we depend a little on our fellow-men. We have had much ridicule. At first it hurt us, but now we do not mind it.

This brother and his wife now wish to be baptised, and they have already begun to scatter the light which has become so precious to them. He has sent for two dozen copies of "Australasian Signs of the Times," which he will sell each week.

Another letter received from a gentleman in New South Wales made us glad for the good news it brought. It reads as follows:—

We feel constrained by the Spirit of God to inform you that during the past twelve months, we have been much enlightened through reading many of your

publications. New truths have been revealed which have brought us into closer study of the word of God, and through obedience we have been led to the acceptance of the Seventh-day Adventist faith and doctrine.

In reflecting over the past number of years which have been spent in travelling as teachers and preachers of the Bible, it seems a mystery which we cannot explain that our eyes were dimmed to the truth.

How we rejoice to know that God, in such a wonderful way, has led us to accept these truths, and in obedience to the divine command we have been led to strictly observe the Seventh-day Sabbath, and at our earliest opportunity (D.V.) we propose being baptised into the Advent faith, and our prayers are that God will bless the Seventh-day Adventist cause.

This gentleman and his wife have fully accepted the truth, and we expect to hear of many more brought to the light through our literature.

We have given these good letters with scarcely any comment, for it is unnecessary. How do you feel as you read them? Can you restrain the desire to have some part in this message which shall lighten the earth with its glory? It seems to us the easiest way to commence work is with the "Australasian Signs of the Times." The copy accompanying this Supplement will furnish a beginning. Do not delay. The Lord is urging, impelling us to take hold in His work, and to do it now.

Hold up thy light, O child of grace!  
Be not afraid to let it shine  
all around, but rather fear  
To hide this precious light divine.

Hold up thy light! Thou canst not tell,  
However feeble be its ray,  
But some poor soul may catch its beam,  
And by it find the narrow way.

Hold up thy light! 'Tis God's command,  
And till with thee time cease to roll,  
His voice thou canst not disobey,  
But at the peril of thy soul.

### GOING ALONE.

"I don't want to go to heaven alone," said an elderly brother who called at the Echo Office a few days ago. "I should feel lonesome unless I could take someone with me, and I want to go leading someone with each hand." Too many, we fear, do not take thought as to whether they will go to heaven "alone" or not. Their only anxiety, if they have

any, is to get there themselves. This spirit of selfishness may be the very thing that will close the door against them. Who are you working for, and planning to have as your companions, saved through your efforts, in your heavenly home? "Here am I and the children whom thou hast given me," may refer to others than children of natural birth. God help us to work so we may not go to heaven alone.

### THE SIGNAL OF ADVANCE.

(Selected paragraphs from "Testimonies," Vol. 7.)

"Slowly but surely the wheel of Providence is turning. We know not how soon our Lord will say, 'It is done.' His coming is drawing nigh. Soon our opportunities for work will be forever past. Only a little while longer shall we be permitted to labour."

"God is waiting for men and women to awake to their responsibilities. He is waiting for them to link themselves with Him. Let them mark the signal of advance, and no longer be laggards in working out the will of the Lord."

"Do we realise how large a number in the world are watching our movements? From quarters where we least expect will come voices urging us forward in the work of giving to the world the last message of mercy. Ministers and people, wake up! Be quick to recognise and seize every opportunity and advantage offered in the turning of the wheel of Providence. God and Christ and the heavenly angels are working with intense activity to hold in check the fierceness of Satan's wrath, that God's plans may not be thwarted. God lives and reigns. He is conducting the affairs of the universe. Let His soldiers move forward to victory. Let there be perfect unity in their ranks. Let them press the battle to the gates. As a mighty Conqueror, the Lord will work for them."

"Let the gospel message ring through our churches summoning them to universal action. . . . Those who place themselves under

God's control, to be led and guided by Him, will catch the steady tread of the events ordained by Him to take place."

"The Lord will fit men and women—yes, and children, as He did Samuel—for His work, making them His messengers. He who never slumbers nor sleeps watches over each worker, choosing his sphere of labour. All heaven is watching the warfare which, under apparently discouraging circumstances, God's servants are carrying on. . . . All the heavenly angels are at the service of the humble, believing people of God, and as the Lord's army of workers below sing their songs of praise, the choir above join with them in thanksgiving, ascribing praise to God and to His Son."

### REPORT OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY, NORTH FITZROY.

BY W. W. FLETCHER.

We are glad to be able to tell our friends that our work with the "Signs of the Times" is still growing. One by one individuals are joining the band of workers, and we hope to see the movement continue until every church member is doing something to help circulate our missionary paper.

Since the issue of the Supplement in February, we have been able to partly develop a plan by which we hope to place the "Signs" in hundreds of homes in Melbourne. Our plan is to push the sale of the paper by getting each individual member enlisted in the work. Each worker is asked to pay in the full amount received on their sales, and the profit is used to help buy a club of "Signs" to be sold by one of our number who gives the whole of her time to this work. At present the balance of the money required to purchase this club is made up by weekly donations. We hope to so increase the club taken by church members that we will be able to purchase the club for our worker without the assistance of donations.

Our "Signs" worker is devoting the whole of her time to a district that is being systematically worked with tracts by the young people of our company. About 400 tracts are loaned in this district every week, and we trust that this work, combined with the efforts of our "Signs" worker, will result in bringing many souls to a knowledge of the truth.

The following figures will best illustrate the progress of the "Signs" work since our last report.

Date.	Sold by members.	Sold by "Signs" worker.	Total sold.
Feb. 16	151	—	151
Feb. 23	173	108	281
Mar. 2	190	126	316
Mar. 9	163	144	307
Mar. 16	240	156	396

## HOW TO SELL THE "SIGNS."

BY W. W. FLETCHER.

There is no doubt that there are great possibilities for us in the work of circulating our periodicals. In the past we have done practically nothing in this line. How little we have valued our opportunities! At the present time there seems to be an awakening amongst us, and many are now taking up this line of work. Each person that goes out and makes a success of selling the "Signs of the Times" will be, by their example, a means of encouraging others to do the same work. Let us trust that the burden for this work will run from heart to heart until the whole church shoulders its responsibility, and takes advantage of present opportunities.

As I see more of our periodical work I am the more convinced that it is one of the best means we have for giving the warning message to the masses of the people in our towns and cities. It is a fact that the majority of townspeople do not read books to the extent that country people do. It is also a fact that these same people do buy and read periodicals very freely. When we consider also that "Signs" selling is primarily the work of church members, and that nearly all of our large churches are situated in the towns and cities, it is very evident that the Lord has placed in the hands of our churches the means by which these thousands are to be warned.

Recently quite an interest has been manifested in the work of selling the "Signs of the Times" on Saturday nights. I am firmly convinced that this is the best time for selling our paper. A great number of people make a practice of buying a stock of periodicals on Saturday night to read the following Sunday. This is our opportunity.

In going out to do this work, it is not essential that we should stop people in the streets to ask them to buy our paper, although doubtless many of them could be sold in that way. The best plan is to go into every shop and speak to the person who seems to be in charge. Go from shop to shop, missing none, and you will find that your papers will sell like the proverbial "hot cakes." Do not be afraid to speak to a shopkeeper in the presence of a customer, because oftentimes you will sell a paper to each. As you pass along the street you will see people standing waiting, or looking in the shop windows. This is your opportunity to sell them a "Signs."

The question is often asked, "What do you say to the people" and "How do you canvass them." My dear friends, do not say a great deal, but what you do say, say it earnestly. It is always well to let the people know that the paper tells about the second coming of Christ; this is the feature that distinguishes it from all other papers.

As you go into a shop have a paper ready in your hand and lay it right down on the counter in front of your customer. After showing that the paper

deals with the second advent of Christ, and kindred subjects, draw attention briefly to the departments on Home and Health, and for the children. Some good points to conclude with are that the "Signs" is a "splendid paper for Sunday reading" and that the articles are "short and to the point." Don't forget to state the price.

Remember that the people will form an opinion of the literature you carry from what they can see of yourself, so let your dress be quiet and neat, and your manner that of a simple, earnest Christian, and these things will tell more loudly than all your words that what you are offering is a thing to be

### SPECIAL NOTICE.

The "Australasian Signs of the Times," bearing date of May 3, 1903, will be a special number of sixteen pages, and will contain a large amount of matter on religious liberty, and religion in the State Schools. It will be a religious liberty number, and should have a wide circulation. Special articles are in hand, and others will be prepared, setting forth in a clear manner the principles of this important subject.

We make this announcement that our churches and tract societies may send in their orders so the paper may reach them in time. Though we print an extra number of pages, the price will be as usual, and the paper will be sold for a penny per copy. How many copies will you use? Send all orders through your tract society, or direct to the Echo Publishing Co.

desired something different from what the world offers.

Do not go out until you have sought the Lord earnestly in prayer. All of our skill and courage will be of no avail unless we "take the trustiest weapon; prayer."

We hope to hear frequently from those who are working with the "Signs" in any way. Please tell us your experience.

If there are those who are unable financially or on account of feeble health are unable to leave home to do missionary work with the "Signs," but have a mind to work, will such please send their addresses to this office.

The Secretary of the New Zealand Tract Society writes: "You will be pleased to hear that last evening here in Wellington we sold seventy-five copies of the "Signs" for this week. Two persons sold twenty-three copies each."

In order to send the Supplement by post it is necessary to post it with the "Signs." None will be asked to pay for these extra papers, and they can be used as a beginning in missionary work. Please use them this way.

We call special attention to the article on this page by Brother W. W. Fletcher on "How to Sell the Signs." If you have not had success in the past this article may help you. Please read it carefully and profit by its suggestions, for they are the result of practical experience.

A number of copies of this Supplement will be sent to the librarians of churches whose addresses we have obtained. We request that they will kindly see that each family in the church receives a copy. The Supplement is intended for our own people, and, as far as we know, is sent to them only. We wish every Seventh-day Adventist in Australasia to have a copy and read

The Secretary of the New South Wales Tract Society sends these cheerful words: "We were interested in the last Supplement, and think it calculated to do much good. We are so glad for the words of cheer and appreciation from all parts of the field. We are also very thankful for the way our workers here have taken hold to sell the paper on the streets and in the shops. We trust the good work will go steadily forward. It is a grand work, one in which we have all confidence."

From South Australia we receive an encouraging report from the Secretary of the Tract Society. She says: "Last Sabbath I told our brethren and sisters in the church that we had some 'Signs' left over, and asked those who would try to sell them without taking any financial risk to come and get them and pay when they had sold them. Several took them, and one sister took six and sold them all on Saturday night, and sold her own as well. Next Sabbath we had a missionary meeting, and we hope to have good reports from those who are trying for the first time to do work in this line.

To show how the Lord sometimes works to bring our literature to the attention of the people, we quote the following letter recently received by a worker who had been posting the "Signs" to an individual:

"I thank you for your reply to my letter to the Editor of the "Signs of the Times." I like the paper very much indeed, and thank you for your kindness in sending it to me. You will understand why I wanted to know who sent it, when I tell you that my name is Miss F. M. Hickox and not Mr. F. M. Stickon, but as there is no other person in the town whose name is anything like mine, the postman delivered them to me, and I was pleased to receive them, but wanted to know to whom I was indebted for the kindness. After reading them I have passed the copies on to my friends. Again thanking you, I remain, yours truly."