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Church Officers' General Instruction Department

Responsibilities of Ministers to the Church and Its Officers

THE church is the base of supplies for the advancement of the great and important movement known as the third angel's message. It is the church that furnishes students for our schools, doctors and nurses for our sanitariums, helpers in our publishing houses, and colporteurs to sell our publications in the field.

The church, through the tithing system, keeps the treasury supplied with means for the support of the gospel ministry. Through the Sabbath school offerings, Midsummer offerings, Week of Prayer offerings, and the Harvest Ingathering fund, it enables the Mission Board to send new recruits to foreign fields and to build up and establish the work in these dark countries.

Destroy the church, and the base of supplies will cease to exist. Weaken the church, and the flow of supplies will decrease and there will be a corresponding weakness in the Sabbath school, the church school, the Missionary Volunteer Society, and the home missionary society; the prayer meeting will cease to exist. A church in a strong, healthy condition is a guaranty that the flow of supplies will increase as the days go by, and will never cease until the work is finished. All the different branches of church work will be in a prosperous condition. An interest will be taken in the spiritual welfare of the children and youth. New members will be added to the church, and all will be faithful in the payment of tithes and offerings, and in attending the Sabbath school and the prayer and missionary meetings. The *Review and Herald*, and our other church papers, will be regular visitors in the homes of the people.

In order to have a strong church, keeping abreast with the progress of the message, there must be strong leadership. The leaders must be filled with the Holy Spirit, and be in full sympathy with all branches of this great work. Those who are nearest the base of supplies, the officers in our churches, occupy a very important and responsible position, and can do more to build up the work of God and to keep a steady stream of supplies, both in laborers and means, flowing in, than those who are farther away. If the elder, the deacon, the treasurer, the Sabbath school superintendent, and the leaders of the Missionary Volunteer and Home Missionary Departments are filled with the Spirit and love of Christ and are well instructed in regard to their duties and responsibilities and faithful in the performance of them, then the church will grow and flourish.

Some of the responsibilities which rest upon the church officers are:

1. To look after the spiritual welfare of the church members.
2. To look after the unconverted, and the cold and indifferent members.
3. To encourage all lines of church work:
 - a. Church school work.
 - b. Canvassing work.
 - c. Missionary Volunteer work.
 - d. Home Missionary work.
 - e. Sabbath school work.
 - f. Special campaign work, such as Harvest Ingathering.
4. To create an interest in, and faithful attendance at, the weekly prayer meeting.
5. To present the importance of being faithful in the payment of tithes and offerings.
6. To see that every family has the *Review* and other church papers.

When a minister visits the church, he should be prepared to assist the officers and the church members in every good work, and, if necessary, to give counsel and instruction. When Jethro visited the church in the wilderness, under the leadership of Moses, he gave good counsel to Moses by suggesting that it would be better for him and for the church if the burdens and responsibilities were divided. The record does not state that Jethro preached any sermon at the time of this visit, but it does state that he gave counsel which Moses accepted and which worked for the general good of the church.

In "Testimonies for the Church" we read:

"The best help that ministers can give the members of our churches is not sermonizing, but planning work for them. Give each one something to do for others. . . . In some of our conferences, the leaders have hesitated to introduce these practical methods of instruction. Some are naturally inclined to sermonize rather than to teach."—Vol. IX, p. 82.

In carrying out this instruction, the minister when visiting a church would naturally counsel and plan with the officers of the church, and give such instruction as is needed. Most church officers are willing to receive instruction for the advancement of the Lord's work. It will be impossible for a minister to give instruction unless he himself is well informed and is faithful in carrying out in his own life the principles he advocates.

One of the best ways in which a minister can impart instruction which will be helpful to the officers of the church and the Sabbath school is by example as well as by precept. A minister cannot be much help to the Sabbath school superintendent unless he attends the Sabbath school. His suggestions to the church officers as to the best method of raising means for foreign missions, will not have much weight unless he is willing to practice what he teaches. In order successfully to give instruction to church officers for conducting a Harvest Ingathering campaign, he himself must be willing to go out and solicit funds. Gideon said to his army of three hundred men,

"Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do. When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp." Judges 7: 17, 18.

After Jesus had washed the feet of his disciples, he said: "I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." Paul says, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." Our example and our actions speak louder than our words, and it would be well for us to remember this when visiting churches.

I do not wish to be understood as advocating that a minister should not preach when visiting a church. But aside from his preaching, he should be interested in all branches of the message and give help and counsel when needed. If he finds there are church members who are not faithful in the payment of tithe, he should visit them and help them to see the importance of returning to the Lord his own. If there are families who are not taking the *Review* and the local union paper, he should make an effort in some manner to get their subscriptions. If there are cold and indifferent members, they should receive personal labor.

As never before, let us labor to keep the base of supplies in a healthy condition. This can be accomplished by well-instructed, consecrated, and Spirit-filled church officers,—men and women who are in full sympathy with all departments of this great work, and who foster and support them.

DAVID VOTH.

Duties of the Church Missionary Secretary

THE church is a representation of the complete plan of the gospel. It is the body upon which God has bestowed the highest authority on earth. Each church has its officers to perform the several duties connected with a well-organized church. Each officer has his duties very definitely outlined; and while, to a certain extent, one is dependent upon the other, yet their duties are so definitely specified that there need be no friction in their performance. No one need infringe upon the jurisdiction of the other.

Perhaps the duties of those who have to do with the financial affairs are the least understood. It is often very noticeable that the members of the church, and occasionally the officers, do not quite understand the duties of the missionary secretary of the church, and then confusion results.

The church treasurer is the one who handles the greater part of the church funds, but there are some funds of which he does not have charge. It is a safe rule to follow that the tithe and offerings for missions and any funds except those for the local church missionary activities, pass through the hands of the church treasurer. He also has charge of all money raised for church expense and the care of the poor. To put the matter in another way, the church treasurer handles all funds that pass from the church to the conference treasurer. The church treasurer has no dealings with the conference tract society.

Funds used for local missionary work and money for subscriptions for periodicals, tracts, and books used by the members of the church, are collected by the missionary secretary. The reason for this arrangement is a reasonable and logical one. The conference tract society looks to the church missionary secretary to order all supplies for the church, and naturally holds this officer of the church responsible for payment of all bills incurred. And since the periodical and missionary supplies are ordered of the missionary secretary, this officer is most naturally the one who should collect for the same. Thus the church missionary secretary deals with the tract society office in one line of church work, and the church treasurer deals with the conference treasurer in another line of work, each as separate and distinct as though they were in no sense allied.

The following quotation on this point from one of the General Conference officials dealing with matters of this kind, is clear:

"No missionary secretary should be held responsible for the debts of the society unless he or she has the matter in hand for the handling of the funds and the collecting of unpaid pledges or accounts."

Speaking of pledges made for local missionary operations, we quote again from one who for years has been intrusted with these matters at the headquarters of our work:

"If funds are pledged to be paid in at a later time, they should go to the church missionary secretary when paid, if they are for local missionary work."

The fact that it is recommended that the church treasurer have a complete record of all the finances of the church,

does not in any way interfere with such plan; for the missionary secretary may, and doubtless should, report periodically to the church treasurer, so that his record may include every item of finance of the church for the year. But for the church treasurer to act as treasurer for the missionary society, instead of these funds being handled by the missionary secretary, does not work out satisfactorily.

If this simple plan is followed there need be no occasion for friction. Each line of work is clearly defined though running side by side. When this plan is explained to the members, they readily comprehend it.

C. H. CASTLE.

Faithfulness of the Church Clerk in Mailing the Return Letter

Question: "In the case of a letter's being granted by vote of the church, recommending one of its members to another church, the usual form of letter being used, should the clerk enter on the record the date on which the church took action to grant the letter, as the time when the member was dismissed; or should he wait until the return of the certificate from the other church saying that the party had been received by them? In not a few cases, the certificate never comes from the other church. In such case, what is the status of the member whose letter was voted? In nearly all such instances, the church to which the member was recommended took action to receive the party, but no voucher is mailed to the church granting the letter of transfer."

Answer: The clerk of the church granting the letter of transfer of church membership to an outgoing member should not, under any circumstances, mark his name from the church roll, until word is received from the church receiving him, of his acceptance. Receiving church clerks should know it to be their sacred duty to return *immediately* the attached return letter, or to write one of their own, to the clerk of the church from which the letter was received, promptly after action is taken by the church receiving the member. If clerks are found remiss in this important matter, officers of the church should see to it that it be remedied, even if it means the choosing of another clerk. It is not to be taken for granted that the first church will know that the member has been received into another church. He is to be considered a member of the original church until that church is notified that he has been accepted elsewhere. And it should not be necessary for the first clerk to write again. The status of the member is that he is to consider himself a member of his former church; and he may, if not should, remit his tithe and offerings there, until that church has been notified that he has been accepted elsewhere. Otherwise he would be a member of no church while his letter is in transition.

T. E. B.

Notice to Home Missionary Secretaries

SPECIAL attention is called to the "Exchange of Plans and Suggestions," found on page 7. It is desired that some space in the GAZETTE be devoted to an exchange of ideas among home missionary workers, and it is hoped that there will be a general response. Send in at once, to the Home Missionary department of the GAZETTE, plans which you have found successful, suggestions for improvement in any line of work, or questions concerning the work. We believe that such an exchange will prove of mutual benefit.

C. S. L.

Bible Handbook

A NEAT little volume of 190 pages, bearing the above title, has reached our desk and deserves commendation. The author, Elder S. N. Haskell, furnishes over 220 Bible studies and groups of texts, which represent the "cream" of his work along this line for the past seventeen years. It is sent forth as an aid to soul-winners, and can be secured from the Bible Training School, South Lancaster, Mass.

Home Missionary Department

THE BIBLE WORK

Suggestive Program for Fourth Sabbath Home Missionary Service

(To be held July 26)

OPENING SONG: Hymns and Tunes, No. 1261; Christ in Song, No. 477.

Scripture Reading: John 4: 1-43 (Model method of teaching).

Prayer.

Song: Hymns and Tunes, No. 1252; Christ in Song, No. 520.

Report by Home Missionary Secretary.

Reading: Every Church Member a Worker.

Reading: The Importance of the Bible Work.

Testimony Study.

Suggestions Given to a Laymen's Bible Class.

Eight Rules for the Preparation of Bible Readings.

Special Music.

Reading: Winning a Spiritualist. See Missionary Volunteer department, p. 14.

Organize Bible Workers' Band.

Collection.

Closing Song: Hymns and Tunes, No. 1214; Christ in Song, No. 206.

Note to the Leaders

One of the most important lines of Home Missionary work is the giving of Bible readings. We are told that the "plan of holding Bible readings is a heaven-born idea." Everywhere there are open doors for the giving of Bible readings, and every church should have a class in training for this work. If you are so fortunate as to have in your church a conference employee giving his entire time to Bible work, secure his special help in making this service effective. The program is merely suggestive, and is designed to create an interest and simplify the subject, so that all may have a part in the work. The answers in the "Testimony Study" might be passed to persons before the service begins, to be read in response to the questions asked. The blackboard may serve to good advantage in helping to present the rules and suggestions in preparing Bible readings. It would be well to write to your tract society secretary for a supply of Home Missionary Series Leaflets No. 16, entitled "Bible Work," and distribute these at the close of the service. Enlist new members in your Bible workers' band, or if you do not have such a band in your church, make this the time for organizing one.

Every Church Member a Worker

THE work of the future in winning souls will be chiefly of a personal nature, a work in which all the members of the church will have a part. Every one will stand in his lot and place, doing his appointed work. Ministers and leaders will act as generals and captains. Upon them will rest the responsibility of leading and directing the armies of Israel.

In the past the church has been regarded by many as a huge omnibus to convey passengers to the eternal city. The ministers were regarded as the motor power of this vehicle. Upon them rested the burden of caring for all on board and carrying them through into the kingdom. This has been a wrong idea. There are no passengers in the church. The church is not an omnibus. All who become members of the church pledge themselves to be workers. The church is not organized for church *goers*, it is organized for church *workers*. It contains only one class, that of workers. It is, in fact, a training school for Christian workers, and in becoming members of the church, persons enter a training school to learn how to work in the most successful manner for those about them.

Years ago the following instruction came to us:

"Just as soon as a church is organized, let the minister set the members at work. They will need to be taught how to labor 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."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. VII, p. 20.

This is the way Christ worked. He enlisted the service of every convert he made. When the demoniac was healed, Jesus said to him, "Go home to thy demons, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath

had compassion on thee." The record tells us, "He departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel." Mark 5: 19, 20. When Jesus again returned to that city, the people were anxiously waiting for him. Such faith had they in him, through the words of this new convert, that the ruler of the synagogue, Jairus by name, came "saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, . . . and she shall live." The woman with the issue of blood said, "If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole." Mark 5: 21-28.

We are told that—

"some of the new converts will be so filled with the power of God that they will at once enter the work."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. VII, p. 20.

The impressions of the past as to how the work was to be carried on, were wrong. Then ministers were expected to do the work chiefly. But we are told:

"It is not the Lord's purpose that ministers should be left to do the greatest part of the work of sowing the seeds of truth. . . . Hundreds of men and women now idle could do acceptable service. By carrying the truth into the homes of their friends and neighbors, they could do a great work for the Master."—*Id.*, p. 21.

That this work should be well organized, we know from the following instruction:

"The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for church members, but for unbelievers. If in one place there are only two or three who know the truth, let them form themselves into a band of workers. . . . As they work and pray in Christ's name, their numbers will increase."—*Id.*, pp. 21, 22.

Distribution of responsibility brings success. When Moses, burdened with the responsibility of the entire people, said, "I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me" (Num. 11: 14), the Lord told him to share the responsibility with others. Through Jethro, God had outlined to him just what to do. He said to him, "The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt surely wear away, *both thou, and this people* that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone." Then the instruction came: "Thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. . . . If thou shalt do *this thing*, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace." Ex. 18: 17-23.

Here God has outlined the plan for his church for all time. There is to be thorough organization. In the past we have had rulers of thousands and of hundreds and of fifties, but the rulers of tens have been strangely omitted. This is what we are now aiming to have in every church.

If there is a large number in a church, the members are being organized into small companies, with a leader over each company of ten. To every man is given his work. The plan extends into the home. True Christian endeavor begins with those nearest us. Instead of mothers regarding their children as hindrances to doing work for neighbors and friends, they should look upon them as helps. Children can be taught from infancy up to show a tender regard for the aged and infirm. There are many little acts of courtesy and kindness they can show. To train up her child as a missionary should be the aim of every mother. Those who do this have the promise that "when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Why do we encourage the use of literature? Chiefly because it affords an opportunity to enter homes. If the proceeds from the sale of the books and magazines are used for the spread of the gospel at home and abroad, we can tell the people that we are engaged in a missionary endeavor, and that all the money received from the sale of literature goes to advance the gospel. This at once places the worker above an ordinary canvasser, and opens in a natural way the opportunity for conversation along mis-

sonary lines. It brings him in touch with the needs of the people, and he can improve any opportunity for service. It will open the way for ministering to the sick, for prayer, or for Bible readings. Women, especially, can do a great work in the homes of the people. To those who labor under the influence of the Spirit of God, we are told—

“the Saviour will reflect . . . the light of his countenance, and this will give them a power that will exceed that of men. They can do in families a work that men cannot do, a work that reaches the inner life.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. IX, p. 128.

“In the closing controversy now waging between the forces for good and the hosts of evil, he [Christ] expects all, laymen as well as ministers, to take a part. . . . The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers.”—*Id.*, pp. 116, 117.

This being so, there is but one thing to be done, and that is so to plan the work that every one will have some active part in it.

D. H. KRESS.

The Importance of the Bible Work

THE plan of giving Bible readings was brought to the attention of our people by the Spirit of God. In 1882, while Elder S. N. Haskell was preaching at a camp-meeting held in California, a storm came up which made so much noise that the service had to be discontinued. Elder Haskell gathered a group of people around him in the center of the tent, gave out texts of Scripture to different ones to read, and began asking questions. The Spirit of the Lord seemed to impress the truths on the minds of the people, and Elder Haskell conceived the idea that this would be a good way to present the truth in families and companies. He began to arrange different subjects in the form of Bible readings. At the service mentioned, Sister White was present, and the next day she told Elder Haskell and others that what he had done was in harmony with the light she had received. She related having seen many young people going from house to house with Bibles under their arms, teaching the people the truth.

At another time Sister White was shown honest souls in the homes of both rich and poor, who were agonizing for light. She also saw messengers going from home to home. Some had a living connection with heaven, which was represented by a cord of light reaching from the messenger to heaven. Others did not have this light. As the messengers who had the light reached the homes of the seeking ones, a mutual understanding would spring up, and the longing souls would receive the help needed. But as the other messengers went from home to home, they could accomplish nothing, even though they met those who were really looking for the truth. From this it is apparent that those who are successful home missionaries must have a vital connection with heaven.

Testimony Study

Question.—Is there need of more Bible work being done by church members?

Answer.—“Among the members of our churches there should be more house-to-house labor, in giving Bible readings and distributing literature.”—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. IX, p. 127.

Ques.—Should this work be confined to a few?

Ans.—“Many workers are to act their part, doing house-to-house work, and giving Bible readings in families. They are to show their growth in grace by submission to the will of Christ.”—*Id.*, p. 141.

Ques.—What will be the result to those who faithfully do this work?

Ans.—“Thus they will gain a rich experience. As in faith they receive, believe, and obey Christ's word, the efficiency of the Holy Spirit will be seen in their life-work. There will be seen an intensity of earnest effort. There will be cherished a faith that works by love and purifies the soul. The fruits of the Spirit will be seen in the life.”—*Ibid.*

Ques.—What work is of special importance in connection with public efforts in the cities?

Ans.—“Of equal importance with special public efforts is house-to-house work in the homes of the people. In large cities there are certain classes that cannot be reached by public meetings. These must be searched out as the shepherd searches for his lost sheep. Diligent, personal effort must be put forth in their behalf. When personal work is neglected, many precious opportunities are lost, which, were they improved, would advance the work decidedly.

“As the result of the presentation of the truth in large congregations, a spirit of inquiry is awakened, and it is especially important that this interest be followed up by personal labor. Those who desire to investigate the truth, need to be taught to study diligently the Word of God. Some one must help them to build on the sure foundation. At this critical time in their religious experience, how important it is that wisely directed Bible workers come to their help, and open to their understanding the treasure house of God's Word.”—*Id.*, p. 111.

Ques.—How should the truth be proclaimed in rural districts?

Ans.—“In many States there are settlements of industrious, well-to-do farmers, who have never had the truth for this time. Such places should be worked. Let our lay members take up this line of service. By lending or selling books, by distributing papers, and by holding Bible readings, our lay members could do much in their own neighborhoods. Filled with love for souls, they could proclaim the message with such power that many would be converted.

“Two Bible workers were seated in a family. With the open Bible before them, they presented the Lord Jesus Christ as the sin-pardoning Saviour. Earnest prayer was offered to God, and hearts were softened and subdued by the influence of the Spirit of God. Their prayers were uttered with freshness and power. As the Word of God was explained, I saw that a soft, radiant light illumined the Scriptures, and I said, softly, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.’ Luke 14: 23. The precious light was communicated from neighbor to neighbor. Family altars which had been broken down were again erected, and many were converted.”—*Id.*, pp. 35, 36.

Suggestions Given to a Laymen's Bible Class by Mrs. S. N. Haskell

ACCESS to Homes for Bible Study May be Secured

1. By giving aid in sickness.
2. By lending literature.
3. By sharing early vegetables, flowers, etc.
4. By being friendly. Friendliness is cheap and effective.

Object of Bible Studies:

The salvation of souls.

Essentials:

Prayer.

Consecration.

Passion for souls.

Simplicity.

Confidence in God.

The three essentials spoken of by Nehemiah should also be considered (See Neh. 8: 8):

1. Read and speak “distinctly.” Pronounce the last syllable of every word distinctly. Do not speak or read rapidly.

2. Give the correct “sense” of the text. Do not try to make a text say or mean what it does not plainly indicate.

3. Cause “them to understand the reading.” Master a subject before you present it to another. If you do not understand a text, it is better to admit it frankly than to stagger at it and display your ignorance; your reader will have more respect for you.

The Saviour's Method of Teaching:

Jesus gave a model method of teaching truth, as recorded in John 4. He tactfully diverted attempts at argument. Lessons were varied to suit his audience. He overcame

prejudice by simple illustrations. Truth should be presented in the most attractive form. Christ used illustrations from everyday life. We should study the Bible with reference to the illustrations used in it.

General Principles:

Make an outline of the reading. Have a good starting-point, and also a good stopping-point. Stop while the interest is good, although your readers urge you to continue. Make the subject into a complete story. Connect texts. See that the subjects are connected. Don't use complicated subjects at first, such as the Sabbath and the Nature of Man. Don't "pound in" the lessons. Use scriptures in a gentle way: it is the gentle rain that refreshes the earth. If a reader is especially burdened over a particular subject, it may be well to present that first, if you are able to do so.

After the study is outlined, look it over and see how many texts you can eliminate and yet have a good connection and give the sense and understanding. "All Scripture is given by inspiration," and one clear text to the point is as true as a hundred. Eight to twelve texts for a Bible study should be the average. "The end of all things is at hand." The world is tense, eager. There is a spirit of inquiry abroad in the land. It is in our power to answer these inquiries. Let us be brief and to the point in answering them. Others are waiting for us.

Eight Rules for the Preparation of Bible Readings *

EXPERIENCE and study have brought proficiency in the preparation of Bible readings, so that there are today hundreds of well-constructed Bible readings in print, which are simple and easily adapted to the needs of the personal worker. For the aid of those who wish to prepare Bible readings, however, we are pleased to pass on the eight rules included in the course in Bible readings given by the Fireside Correspondence School: *

Rule 1. Use the most convincing text first.—A first impression is always the strongest; and the most likely to become permanent. Prove your point at the start, and the battle is more than half won. A strong statement in beginning a study carries conviction to the minds of your hearers—as to your ability to prove what you assert. It makes you master of the situation.

Rule 2. Use no expression or text hard of comprehension.—Truth shines, and its rays shining into the heart darkened by sin, convert. But in spiritual things the natural heart is slow of comprehension; so in presenting truth, use simple forms of speech, and select texts that, on their face, clearly state just what you claim. At least, avoid more obscure texts until your listeners have become wise in spiritual research and able to digest the strong meat of the word.

Rule 3. Use as few questions as possible.—Six or seven questions are usually all that is necessary. It is better to restrict the study to less than half an hour, leaving another half-hour for conversation and for questions from the readers. Let the people have a chance to talk and ask questions.

Rule 4. In answering your own questions, use few words.—The questions here meant are, of course, those found in the reading, which are to be answered by texts from the Bible. Be brief in all that you present to your hearers. The power is in the Word of God. Use just sufficient words to make the principles of truth shine out clearly; then let the convicting power of the Spirit do the rest.

Rule 5. To end the reading, use a text that clinches the points made in the study.—Leave nothing for the people to guess at, and about which possibly to come to wrong conclusions. Finish the subject before you leave it, so that the hearers may be able to trace it out for themselves. Prove fully what you set out to prove at the beginning. Awaken interest in the next reading by announcing the subject.

Rule 6. Let every question be so stated that the chosen text will answer it.—Ask no question that requires a reply in your own words. Always let the Bible answer the ques-

tion; otherwise the people will begin to say, "That's what you say, not what the Bible teaches." Your statement will not carry conviction; that power is in the Word.

Rule 7. Use, preferably, but one text to answer a question.—Avoid all complications. The aim should be to help the listener store up the statements of truth presented. A superfluity of evidence tends to mental confusion. Usually one text is sufficient to answer a question.

Rule 8. Make but one point with each question; prove but one proposition.—An error in many otherwise good Bible readings is the grouping of two or more subjects into one reading. It is true that the study may thus be made more interesting, but the meat thus presented is too strong to be digested, and the readers are not benefited spiritually.

SUGGESTIONS FOR MISSIONARY MEETINGS

First Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Prayer; Minutes; Song.
Topic for Consideration: Joy in Service.
Special Opportunities for Missionary Work During Summer Season.

Reports of Work Done.
Prayer for Special Cases.
Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

It is the design of this service to give courage and strength to the workers, and no doubt you will find there is need of spiritual refreshing by the way. Emphasize that the joy of the Lord is strength, and that Christian service is a joyous task. Fear or reticence may threaten to bar the way to the realization of this experience, but the assurance is, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Joy in Service

God desires his children to be joyful: Ps. 5: 11; Ps. 68: 3; Ps. 97: 11, 12.

The joy of the Lord is strength: Neh. 8: 10; Ps. 28: 7.
Service to be rendered with gladness: Ps. 100: 2.

"Those who go forth in the spirit of the Master, seeking to reach souls with the truth, will not find the work of drawing souls to Christ a dull, uninteresting drudgery. They are charged with a work as God's husbandmen, and they will become more and more vitalized as they give themselves to the service of God. It is a joyous work to open the Scriptures to others."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. IX, p. 118.

Special Opportunities for Missionary Work During the Summer Season

At this season of the year, thousands of tired, nerve-racked men and women seek rest and recreation in the quiet of rural life or at the popular health resorts throughout the country. Many new avenues of access to the people are on every hand, and literature placed in the hands of thinking men and women with leisure at their command, will receive most favorable consideration. Watch for the summer opportunities to distribute literature and to form acquaintances which can be followed up in a helpful way. An effort should be made to place a neat receptacle for literature in an appropriate place. If kept properly filled, it will silently scatter the seeds of truth broadcast. The following instruction should also be heeded:

"In the world-renowned health resorts and centers of tourist traffic, crowded with many thousands of seekers after health and pleasure, there should be stationed ministers and canvassers capable of arresting the attention of the multitudes. Let these workers watch their chance for presenting the message for this time, and hold meetings as they have opportunity. Let them be quick to seize opportunities to speak to the people. Accompanied by the power of the Holy Spirit, let them meet the people with the message borne by John the Baptist, 'Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Matt. 3: 2. The Word of God is to be presented with clearness and power, that those who have ears to hear may hear the truth. Thus the gospel of present truth will be placed in the way of those who know it not, and it will be accepted by not a few, and carried by them to their own homes in all parts of the world."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. IX, p. 122.

* This excellent course of ten lessons is to be commended to all taking up the Bible work. For full particulars address Fireside Correspondence School, Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.

Second Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Prayer; Minutes; Song.
 Preaching the Message Through the Circulation of *Present Truth*.

Experiences in Missionary Work.
 Plans for larger work with *Present Truth*.

Note to the Leaders

Lead out in relating experiences, and encourage all present to tell of their work. Lay plans for extensive work with the *Present Truth* Series. Secure from your tract society names of people to whom the papers should be sent, accompanied by correspondence. Your members may have lists of such names in hand which are preferable for your use. This is one of the most simple and yet most effective lines of work, and every church should put it into operation.

Preaching the Message Through the Circulation of "Present Truth"

PRESENT TRUTH is a great economical and effective gospel pathfinder. Its use in pioneer missionary work is rapidly increasing. It contains the fundamentals of the message, and when used in the suggested order, it gives these essentials in the most natural, interrelated, and convincing way. It enables our members, at a small cost, to deliver successfully to a large number of people the foundation principles of the complete message of the gospel.

To illustrate the way this is working out, we refer to the case of one of our sisters who, on account of the death of her husband, was forced to earn her support by means of washing. She had on her list of customers ten of the best families in her home town. Often she felt a keen desire to do missionary work, but she thought it was impossible for her to do anything in the way of giving the message to others. The work with *Present Truth* came to her attention, however, and she ordered ten copies each of Nos. 1, 2, 3, 29, and 30,—50 copies in all, for thirty-five cents. When her little boy took the washings home that week, each basket of clothes contained a copy of *Present Truth*, No. 1. The next week *Present Truth*, No. 2, was sent, and each week another number, in its order, was sent. All these ten families became interested in the truth, and in a short time their laundress became their Bible instructor on Sunday evenings. *Present Truth* not only enabled this sister to do effective missionary work, but resulted in her developing into a good Bible worker and enabled her to become a successful "preacher" of the truth for this time.

Another member, in a quiet way, simply sent *Present Truth* through the mail, in its natural order, to a selected list of names. One of these persons became so much interested that he sent a thousand dollars to the publishers to pay for the free circulation of 200,000 copies of *Present Truth*, No. 38. If letters had accompanied the first papers mailed, the one sending them would have had the satisfaction of coming in personal contact with this man.

A brother, working full time six days a week, uses fifty copies of *Present Truth* every Sabbath afternoon, placing them systematically in as many selected homes. Usually, out of the fifty homes he first selects, he secures forty who readily accept the papers and read them. Many become interested. This brother considers that he is "preaching" through the week to two hundred fifty interested people, and that during the year his efforts result in as many believers as the labor of a regular minister.

One of our churches took up the systematic circulation of *Present Truth* in the community immediately surrounding the church. After all the seriate numbers had been placed, a minister was called to bind off the work done by the members, and twenty new members were added to the church as the direct result of the circulation of this literature by the members.

As there is nothing difficult or expensive in connection with the systematic circulation of *Present Truth*, it is well within the possibilities of any and all of our members to become strong factors in "preaching" the message. All the power of the message itself and the special blessings of heaven added, accompanies the consecrated members as they deliver the printed, connected, burning messages contained in *Present Truth*.

D. W. REAVIS.

Third Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Season of Prayer (including special requests); Minutes; Song.

Topic for Consideration: Companionship in Service.
 Reading: From Savages to Preachers in Three Years.
 Reports of Work Done.
 Secure Recruits for Definite Service.
 Distribute Blanks for Reporting.
 Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

Aim to enlarge your field of activities and lines of work, and get new workers to help. Note the column, "Exchange of Plans and Suggestions" and adapt these to suit your situation. You are earnestly asked to co-operate by sending to the Home Missionary department of the GAZETTE, plans and suggestions which you have found practical, and also reports as to the result of any new plans adopted.

Companionship in Service

"Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."—*Jesus*.

"In working for perishing souls, you have the companionship of angels. Thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand angels are waiting to co-operate with members of our churches in communicating the light that God has generously given, that a people may be prepared for the coming of Christ."—"*Testimonies for the Church*," Vol. IX, p. 129.

"At every work of mercy, every work of love, angels of God are present."—*Id.*, p. 31.

From Savages to Preachers in Three Years

ONE of our missionaries in the South Sea Islands sends a most encouraging report of the progress of the work in that interesting field. In referring to the natives of the Solomon Islands, he says:

"Men who three years ago were naked savages, with absolutely no knowledge of literature or of God, are today able to read the English Bible, and are preaching its truths to their own people in darkness."

What excuse can there be for believers in Christian lands, with every advantage of education and environment, claiming that they are not competent, or are not prepared, to explain the truths of the third angel's message to friends and neighbors? The enemy of souls is leading many to make the fatal mistake of hiding behind a false humility in the matter of Christian activity. To wait until you feel prepared and competent to explain the truth, would mean eternal delay. God wants a ready response from consecrated hearts. "He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth." And today we find the babes in Christ from heathendom stepping into the ranks of workers and spreading a knowledge of the truth with power.

A sense of stewardship needs to be created among those possessing a knowledge of saving truth. The apostle Paul recognized this stewardship when he wrote to Timothy concerning "the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust." It is no small matter to be put in trust with the gospel; and a faithful reckoning will be required in this as well as in the stewardship of money, time, strength, and influence.

"The sense of stewardship is a great awakener of power. There was no power in Moses while he thought of his slow and stuttering tongue and forgot the intrusted message. But when he thought of the intrusted message, and put his tongue, such as it was, at God's disposition, and tried to deliver the message of Israel's release, Moses emerged from weakness into power, and became a force that Pharaoh and the world could not push aside. Paul Revere, feeling that he was charged by General Warren with a truth that must be told for the welfare of others, made his midnight ride and warned Concord and Lexington of the approach of the enemy, the sense of stewardship putting bravery and energy into the rider."

And so it is that all Christian activity takes on a new significance when viewed in the light of stewardship.

G. D. M.

Fourth Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Scripture Reading; Prayer; Minutes.

Reading: Articles on Field Day Experiences.

Reports of Work in Your Community.

Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

Plan for a Field Day, to precede this meeting, if possible. Read the article, "Every Church Member a Worker" (page 3), for further suggestions as to organizing for this work. If your field day is still in the future, make definite plans for it. Field day experiences bring life and enthusiasm into the missionary societies, and as a result the entire church is strengthened.

Field Day Experiences in the Atlantic Union

"EXPECT great things from God; attempt great things for God," said William Carey, the father of modern missions. Forty years' labor as missionary, professor, and translator, which resulted in the printing and distributing of nearly a quarter of a million copies of the Scriptures, in forty different languages, proved to the world that Dr. Carey's slogan was a good one for a missionary to have. Why would it not be as good for every church member? If, like Dr. Carey, every church member would *expect* and *attempt*, what wonderful results would be seen. If one man, with a clear vision, a true purpose of heart, and an unyielding perseverance, could do so much, under such trying circumstances, what might not be accomplished by a church, a conference, or a denomination whose members believe God and work for him?

Not all can go to foreign lands as did Dr. Carey, but all can do personal soul-saving work right where they are. If this principle of aggressive personal work is established in the soul of each individual member of a church, new life will come into that church and be manifested in all its activities. No church trials will be necessary, and fewer apostasies will be recorded.

One successful way to bring this about is to have a "field day" occasionally, by which is meant a day when every member of the church will spend a few hours visiting his friends and neighbors, talking and praying with them in their homes, and leaving with them some of our truth-filled literature. Hundreds have done their first hour's personal work under the inspiration of a field-day service, and found therein a blessed experience.

A plan which is being followed with uniformly good results is for all to meet for a short service, where bands of workers are organized, leaders chosen, and an assignment of territory made. The literature to be used is distributed, and after earnest prayer all start out for work. Announcement is made of the hour when all are expected to return to the church, to compare experiences and recount the day's blessings. Usually the worker can make but a brief call at each home in his territory in the short time allotted; but the purpose is to introduce himself, state the object of his call, offer to give, lend, or sell literature, extend an invitation to public meetings (if such are being held), and if possible, make an appointment to return for Bible study, or to give a treatment, or meet any special need which is apparent. Our workers are seldom turned away, and are often asked to have prayer with the family before leaving. The most aristocratic centers, as well as the poorest sections, are reached in this way.

In one church of fifty members, in the Atlantic Union Conference, all were successful in their first hour's work, and when reassembled for the experience meeting were unanimous in witnessing to the fact that God had given them favor with the people and had greatly blessed their ministry. Another church was ninety-eight per cent successful in its first field day, and no church has failed to achieve encouraging results when a missionary campaign of this sort has been carried on. At the Lancaster Junior College, one day in every six weeks' period is devoted to field work. The students enter heartily into the spirit of this work, and on their last field day they sold nearly two thousand copies of the World's Crisis Series. Two thousand copies were also sold in a two days' campaign in Greater New York.

From the very first these special field days have been a source of encouragement to all taking part in them. Surely, if we will expect more from God, and attempt more for God, he will do wonders for us, and enable us to do more for those who are yet groping in sin.

J. D. SNIDER.

Field Day Experiences in the Central Union

IN writing of the home missionary convention held at Boulder, Colo., Elder J. S. James, the union conference home missionary secretary, states:

"The meetings on Sunday were devoted to special instruction pertaining to the work of the Home Missionary Department, and Sunday night we organized for our field day, which was to be Monday. Companies were formed with leaders, and the territory in the city was divided, and a certain portion allotted to each. We found it difficult to have the church members come together early Monday morning, because of their duties in the home and in the sanitarium, so it was agreed that those who could not come would go out during the day at their first opportunity. Those of us who could, gathered in the church vestry at 9 o'clock, and after prayer and brief instruction, started out. Some were a little doubtful, some trembled, and some were sure they could not do it; but all went forth.

"One girl, a timid child, who had never done such a thing in her life, and who could hardly get her feet to obey her, started out with ten books and returned with none. You can imagine the story she told, and what the experience meant to her. The manager of the sanitarium was busy among the patients and disposed of ten books in ten minutes, besides more at other times. His wife and daughter went out in the city during the morning and came back with their faces beaming. And so it was with all. Monday evening I had talked with nearly all of those who had gone out during the day, and all were happy and glad because of their experiences, and wanted to go out again."

EXCHANGE OF PLANS AND SUGGESTIONS

We find it is a good plan to get each one to pledge to give so much time each week to missionary work. All can do this, and we know that God requires a strict account of the way our time is used. If all would devote an hour each morning to prayer and Bible study, it would be very easy to get our church members to reach out after the lost.—*E. A. Manry, home Missionary secretary, West Pennsylvania Conference.*

"MANY of our people maintain reading racks in stations and in other public places. This is a most commendable method, especially if the rack is kept well supplied with fresh, up-to-date papers, and some responsible brother or sister keeps it free from other papers and of advertising matter. We have heard of many whose interest was first awakened through reading a paper taken from one of these racks."

IN our Field Day campaign, the leaders took the lead, and the people followed. We could not get together for an experience meeting following the campaign, as we did in our conventions, but the church will have that in their prayer meeting Wednesday evening. Also the next Sabbath being the day for the Fourth Sabbath Missionary Service, they are going to get up a rousing program.—*J. S. James, home missionary secretary, Central Union Conference.*

"FOR the stay-at-homes: Be prepared for the grocer, the baker, or other tradesmen who call at the rear door. It is well to have a nice little rack, handily located and filled with literature. Give a paper or a tract each week to those who call regularly. This method, like all others where readers are met face to face, is ideal."

"THE home missionary and medical work are so closely interwoven that they cannot be separated. The medical phase becomes apparent as soon as the members take up house-to-house work. This increases a demand for practical instruction along health lines."

Missionary Volunteer Department

Programs for Week Ending July 5

Senior

Subject: World Conditions.

Helpful Thought: "The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly." Zeph. 1: 14.

1. Opening Song. Christ in Song, No. 734.
2. Prayer.
3. Scripture Lesson: Mark 13: 7-13; Luke 21: 25-28.
4. Song. Christ in Song, No. 586.
5. Symposium: World Conditions.
6. Reading: How Missionary Volunteers Can Help Meet the Present Crisis.
7. Round Table: Our Duty as Christians.
8. Song. Christ in Song, No. 42
9. Close by repeating the Pledge in concert.

Junior Notes

Subject: Good Citizens.

Motto: Loyalty to God and Man.

1. Opening Exercises: Song and Prayer.
2. Secretary's Report, including Report of Work.
3. Responsive Scripture Lesson: Rom. 13: 1-8.
4. Talk by Superintendent: True Patriotism.
5. Recitation: God Bless Our Land.
6. Reading: What Roosevelt Said to the Boys of America.
7. Special Song: My Country 'Tis of Thee.
8. Reading: Our Neighbors.
9. Round Table: How We Can Help.
10. Close with song and prayer.

Senior Notes

The subject announced for today was "Christian Citizenship;" but it has seemed best to enlarge it and consider world conditions. However, whatever material has been gathered for the program announced can be used very profitably today. Study our duty as Christians in the light of present conditions in the world. Where can we find words to emphasize adequately the importance of the subject before us?

Our duty as Christians is more important than our daily food, and surely every Missionary Volunteer should be wide-awake! Startling things have ceased to be startling; accounts of heart-rending disasters are read without a shudder. When we really stop to consider, is it not astonishing to think that people are not more frightened over conditions in the world? Is it not because they do not know what these things mean? What a solemn responsibility this places upon the young people in your society, for they know what is the meaning of all these things. The whirlwind of trouble and disaster in all parts of the world declares in no uncertain terms that the end of all things is at hand. Soon our last chance for saving others will be gone, gone forever.

Symposium: World Conditions.—Have six five-minute talks. The following subjects are good: "The Nations Fulfilling Prophecy," "The Eastern Question and Armageddon," "Signs of Christ's Soon Coming," "Bolshevism a Sign of Christ's Coming," "The Blessed Hope of Our Saviour's Return," and "The Next Universal Kingdom." It would be well if each person taking part in this Symposium would spend several hours with his topic. Urge him to gather a great deal of material and then boil it down. Urge him to live with his subject until he appreciates its importance, and finds a burden to tell others about it. For special helps in preparing these talks, see the new book in the World's Crisis Series, known as "World Peace," and The Present Truth Series, No. 41, which contains an excellent article by Elder C. B. Haynes on Bolshevism.

Round Table: Our Duty as Christians.—The subject for today should be announced one or two weeks before, and the young people should be asked to keep it in mind as they read. If they do this, they will take hold more enthusiastically in the Round Table discussion. This discussion should be a consecration service. Surely a subject such as we are considering today calls upon each one of us to examine himself to know wherein he is failing. Two great, important duties lie before every young person in your society. The first is, Prepare to meet God; the second is, Help others to prepare to meet him. May the Master count on you?

This is the day for reports from the band leaders. Be sure to have them, and also the secretary's report of work.

Junior Notes

General.—Can you not decorate the room for today with a few flags and some pictures of favorite rulers? Emphasize the thought that we are subject to the laws of the land in so far as they do not conflict with the laws of God.

Round Table: How We Can Help.—After you have made suggestions as to how Juniors can be good citizens, ask them to tell how they think they can become better citizens at home and among their friends. It may be well for you to introduce the Round Table by a few remarks drawn from No. 6 in the Senior program.

True Patriotism

(Suggestions for the Superintendent's Talk)

As clearly shown by the Scripture lesson for today, government is necessary for our welfare, and it is God's plan that all should be faithful to the government.

Patriotism is "love and devotion to one's country, which prompts obedience and loyalty to its government."

Love of country includes a great deal. We have a duty to our comrades and to ourselves, but we truly have a duty to everybody about us. To be good citizens, we should think of those less fortunate than we,—the foreign people, the poor, and those in need.

There are many seemingly small things concerning which a patriotic boy or girl will be careful. Good citizenship forbids leaving banana peelings, paper, and litter of any kind in the public parks or on the streets. It prohibits the breaking of shrubbery, fences, and railings. It also forbids writing or carving on seats, walls, and public places. Such property belongs to the public, not to one person, and no individual has a right to deface it.

One may show patriotism by giving respect to the country's ruler, and to others in authority.

The child who fails to contribute his share of service and cheerfulness in the school and the home is lacking in patriotism. By striving every day to learn the lessons assigned, doing the little tasks that fall to us, yielding cheerful obedience to the rules, and making sunshine wherever we are, we may be truly patriotic.

There was placed on the tombstone of a little girl this epitaph: "One of whom her playmates said, 'It was easier to be good when she was with us.'" A boy or girl can show his patriotism to God in no better way than by making it easier for others to be good.

In these days of turmoil and uncertainty, what do you think God wants and expects of our boys and girls? Does it not seem that the thing which would please God most and help him most would be for us all to hold fast to this truth and be loyal Christian boys and girls? Just to do every day what he would have us do, to work for our country, pray for our country, and live the finest loyal Christian lives we can—this is God's plan for us.

E. I.

God Bless Our Land

God bless our native land!
May Heaven's protecting hand
Still guard our shore.
May peace her power extend,
Foe be transformed to friend,
And all our rights depend
On war no more.

May just and righteous laws
Uphold the public cause,
And bless our name;
Home of the brave and free,
Stronghold of liberty,
We pray that still on thee
May rest no stain.

And not this land alone;
But be thy mercies known
From shore to shore;
O that all men would see
That they should brothers be,
And form one family,
The wide world o'er!

— Selected.

To the Boys of America

(To be recited or read by a Junior)

OF course, what we have a right to expect from the American boy is that he shall turn out to be a good American man. Now the chances are strong that he won't be much of a man unless he is a good deal of a boy. He must not be a coward or a weakling, a bully, a shirk, or a prig. He must work hard and play hard. He must be clean-minded and clean-lived, and able to hold his own under all circumstances. . . . It is only on these conditions that he will grow into the kind of man of whom America can be really proud.—Theodore Roosevelt.

Have every member take some part in the meeting each week.

Our Neighbors

"DAGO — just plain Dago, that's all she is," said the boys in the school yard, watching the small stranger.

Rachel Oblonsky, nine years old, turned and faced them defiantly. "Ain't," she said, "I go to be an American."

She just wished she could show the boys and girls in this school how she could count — she almost knew she could beat them.

"Anyway," called out one little boy, "we're going to have a big Fourth of July celebration, and you can't be in it, because it's only for Americans, and you're just a plain heathen."

Rachel's eyes fairly blazed. "Ain't go to be a heathen. Go to be a Hebrew Christian."

"Well," answered the other children, "that's nothing but a Jew, and you can't be a Christian and a Jew, too."

Rachel turned and faced the children proudly. "The Christ himself — he was a Jew."

The boys and girls kept very quiet for a minute — they hadn't thought of just that before.

Just then the bell rang, and they all marched to their rooms. Here Rachel had an opportunity to show these boys and girls that she could equal any of them when arithmetic time came. The teacher was much pleased with her work, and Rachel thought that after all this was going to be a beautiful school.

After a while the teacher unfolded a beautiful silk flag, and talked to the children about the big celebration they were going to have on the morrow. As the teacher was speaking, suddenly there rang out the deep tones of the gong; the children started to their feet, crying, "Fire drill."

But the teacher's face was white; she could smell the smoke, and she knew this was no ordinary fire drill. "Quickly, children! Stand! March! See how quickly you can march out of the building."

Out they marched into the yard which was now rapidly filling with frightened children. Down the street came the fire engine, and frightened teachers worked to keep the little ones out of the path of the galloping horses.

Rachel was with the rest in the yard. Suddenly she thought of the beautiful flag, the flag the teacher said they must guard. Through the crowd she darted — in at the door, and up the stairs. At the top, however, the smoke was thick and Rachel could scarcely breathe. Crawling along on the floor, she reached the flag and slowly groped toward the window; and then the frightened crowd outside saw a little dark-eyed girl at the window with a beautiful silk flag which floated on the breeze. A cry went up from the yard, and firemen hoisted a ladder and carried the little girl to safety. She opened her eyes. "The flag! I got to get it! It my country, too!"

"You remembered and saved the flag, when all the rest forgot," said the teacher.

"I American now?" Rachel asked pleadingly.

"A really truly American," answered the teacher.

Next day, in spite of the burned schoolhouse, they had their patriotic celebration, and at the head of the procession, carrying the flag, marched a little dark-eyed girl Rachel, a loyal and true American.—*Adapted.*

Do the home folks see Christ in your daily life?

How Missionary Volunteers Can Help Meet the Present Crisis

THE world is facing a great crisis. Men's hearts are failing them for fear. The seeds of discontent and revolution are being sown in all lands, and the troubles are arising from within rather than from without. Those in authority are becoming suspicious of intrigue, and will inaugurate drastic measures to hold disturbing elements in check. As a result, there is danger that the liberties of all will be restricted, and there will probably be a greater abridgment of rights and privileges than this country has ever experienced in the past.

Reformers of every description are coming to the front with all kinds of remedies but the right kind. The religious reformers are urging a legal recognition of the Christian religion, an acknowledgment of God and Christ in national and international jurisprudence, a more rigid enactment and enforcement of Sunday laws as the true remedy for present-day ills.

The religious organizations have been very active this year introducing Sunday bills in the different State legislatures. We have an incomplete record of more than one hundred Sunday bills that have been introduced into the different State legislatures so far since the first of January. In every instance, where religious liberty literature has been placed in the hands of the legislators and they have become enlightened regarding the danger of religious legislation, they have reported adversely upon these Sunday bills or defeated them before the legislative bodies.

The best way to meet the present crisis and to set people right is by the process of education. The present generation is a reading public. Nearly everybody reads papers and magazines. This habit has become almost a fad. If we are wise, we shall take advantage of it, and through these channels present the truth to the people. It is about the only way to reach the masses.

There never was a time when things that are of fundamental value were being questioned and subjected to the acid test as now. Great changes are taking place during this reconstruction period. More is being accomplished in a single day now than formerly it took decades to achieve. The advocates of every ism imaginable are stalking through every land, sowing the seeds of their destructive cults. If we do not help to expose and check the nefarious teachings of radical Socialism and Bolshevism in our land, we shall witness a reign of infidelity and anarchy such as the world has never seen. The fifth chapter of James will soon become a living reality in this country, as it has already in European countries.

We are endeavoring to make each issue of the *Liberty* magazine proclaim in no uncertain tones the warning message concerning all these disintegrating elements which are bringing on the coming crisis. God in his own providence has established this important medium through which to speak to the world. The magazine is doing a wonderful work in molding and educating the public mind. It makes its regular visits to nearly 10,000 lawmakers in the United States. It visits regularly more than 10,000 lawyers and judges. It calls regularly upon thousands of editors. It visits the palaces of sovereign rulers in many countries.

The Young People's Missionary Volunteer Society of your church can help us greatly in getting these great principles of freedom before the public. Each member of the society should personally study each issue. Each society ought to order a club for home missionary work. Fifty copies, sent to one address, can be obtained for \$2 a quarter issue. A few dollars will supply a large number with this great advocate of human liberty.

Now, as never before, is the time to carry on a campaign of education along religious liberty lines. The public mind was never so receptive and so stirred upon this subject as at the present. The opportunity is ours. Shall we embrace it, and make the most of it? There are still tens of thousands of lawyers and newspaper editors who are not getting the *Liberty* magazine. If the society desires to raise a fund to help us send the magazine to these prominent men, we will gladly mail it to single addresses at five cents a copy. We have the names and addresses of all lawyers and editors in every State in the Union.

Let us do all we can to educate the public in these glorious principles which mean so much to us. Now is the time to uphold the true standard of freedom, because now, as never before, "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

C. S. LONGACRE,

Sec. Religious Liberty Department.

THE weakest society will become a strong soul-winning agency if God has full control of the officers. How is it in your society? Will you let him have HIS way with you?

Programs for Week Ending July 12

Senior

Subject: A Preacher of Righteousness.

Helpful Thought: "Behold your God!" Isa. 40:9.

1. Song and Prayer.
2. Secretary's Report, including Report of Work.
3. Scripture Lesson.
4. Talk: National and Spiritual Problems.
5. Symposium: Isaiah and His Message.
6. Monthly Survey of Missions.
7. Social Meeting: What Isaiah Means to Me.
8. Close by repeating Mizpah in concert.

Junior

Subject: Honesty.

Golden Text: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Phil. 4:8.

1. Cheery Song Service.
2. Scripture lesson: Repeat Psalm 1 in concert.
3. Monthly Survey of Missions.
4. Talk by the Superintendent: What Is Honesty?
5. Blackboard Talk: Honesty.
6. Talk: I Promised Mother.
7. Reading: Jim Was Ready.
8. Talk: The Lord's Money Box.
9. Close by repeating the Junior Pledge.

Senior Notes

Scripture Lesson.—The week before, ask that all come prepared to recite choice verses from Isaiah. This wonderful book is full of precious thoughts that we should be storing away. In 1913 the Morning Watch Calendar was made up of choice promises, and Missionary Volunteer workers were asked to send in lists of favorite Bible promises. Of course there were many duplicates. But the text which was found in almost every list was Isaiah 41: 10, and there are others just as good. Let each person give several. Have a rapid fire. Spend ten minutes repeating choice verses from the great "preacher of righteousness." This will make an intensely interesting Scripture lesson.

National and Spiritual Problems.—Let this be a five-minute talk on conditions as they existed at the time the Lord called Isaiah to carry his message to Judah. If this talk is thoroughly prepared it will help all to appreciate Isaiah more and understand him better. For help study Section III, and especially chapter 25, of "The Story of Prophets and Kings."

Symposium: Isaiah and His Message.—It would be well if all who take part would read all of Section III of "The Story of Prophets and Kings." Have two-minute talks on such topics as these: "The Call of Isaiah," "Isaiah's Message," "The Failure of Ahaz," "The King That Lost a Great Opportunity," "A Wonderful Answer to Prayer," and "The Blessed Hope." Ask that each person bear in mind the relation of his topic to Isaiah. "No Hebrew prophet ever lived whose political horizon, domestic and foreign, was wider or more extended than that of Isaiah of the eighth century, b. c. Syria, Assyria, Babylonia, Egypt, Philistia, Ammon, Moab, and Edom were all actors upon the ever-changing stage of history." Study Isaiah's character—his courage, his conviction, his keen appreciation of God's holiness, his loyalty, his singleness of purpose.

Monthly Survey of Missions.—This fits in nicely with the rest of the program. The June GAZETTE suggested that you have a Mission Quiz and appoint some one the second week of June to make out a list of questions based on mission news found in the issues of the Review up to the time for this meeting. This ought to make a most interesting exercise. Be sure to announce your plans for the August Survey before the meeting closes. Why not ask all to collect news items concerning our work, and see who gets most?

Social Meeting.—In the social meeting, ask each to tell how Isaiah has helped him. Surely every one will have something to say.

Junior Notes

This program, with its suggestions, has little need of notes. This is the second lesson in the series begun last month. For suggestions for the Monthly Survey of Missions see Senior note. The secretary's report and the social meeting should be inserted in the program wherever you think best.

What Is Honesty?

(Suggestions for Superintendent's Talk)

"HONESTY is that sense of right which prevents us from taking or using anything that does not rightly belong to us."

Honesty and truthfulness are very much alike; in fact in one sense they mean the same thing. Enlarge upon this thought.

There are many kinds of dishonesty. All bad work is stealing. It is dishonest to slight one's work.

If we borrow what we cannot repay, we are dishonest. Condemn the practice of borrowing with no intention of returning.

Boys and girls may become dishonest by getting in the way of temptation. Illustrate. Caution the children about entering into temptation themselves or placing others where they will be tempted.

Teach the boys and girls that honesty with God's money is of the greatest importance. One cent out of every dime belongs to God. One little fellow has thought out a good plan which enables him to keep strict account of the Lord's money. He has three boxes in which to keep his money,—one for money not yet tithed, one for tithe, and one for money that has been tithed. (Sketch three boxes on blackboard and label each.) When he gets two cents, for instance, he drops it into the first box, and leaves it there until there are ten cents in the box; then he tithes this dime, putting one cent into the tithe box and the other nine cents into the "tithed money" box. This helps him to be strictly honest with the Lord.

E. I.

Blackboard Talk: Honesty

(By a Junior)

Honor the rights of others.

Owe no man anything.

Never take what does not belong to you.

Even in little things be particular.

Slight no known duty.

Tell the truth always.

Yield not to temptation.

A Junior may print this acrostic, using a different color for the initial letters. Let him also explain to the society that honesty is one of the most important foundation stones in our characters. The boy of whom his associates can say, "I can trust him," is the kind of boy needed today. Abraham Lincoln was called "Honest Abe" because of the uprightness of his daily life and his honesty of soul.

We must be strictly honest in our work, never stooping to "copy," or cheat in any way. A boy was advised to do a wrong thing because "nobody would see him." But instead of yielding to temptation, he replied, "I should see myself, and God would see me, and I should have cause to be ashamed." Keeping the Junior Missionary Volunteer Pledge includes strict honesty and truthfulness. It reads as follows:

"Loving the Lord Jesus and trusting him to help me, I will try to read my Bible and to pray every day; to be pure, honest, kind, cheerful, obedient, and reverent always; and to take some active part in the work or meetings of our society every week."

E. I.

Jim Was Ready

HE wasn't just the best boy who ever lived, Jim with his blue eyes and sandy hair, but he was true blue and didn't mean wrong if he did get into a lot of mischief.

One day Jim was ready, just like a minuteman for Jesus. He knew it was wrong to tell an untruth and he never did. But here was a case which for one moment seemed different.

Mrs. Brown had said that Jim, who was ten years old, could go with Harry Jones and some other boys into the woods near their home for the afternoon. But she said, "Jim, you mustn't go wading with Harry. The water is too cold this early in June." And Jim had sung out, "All right, mother," as he ran off to meet the crowd.

Now John had heard Jim and his mother talking at their front door and he remembered exactly what had been said.

The boys had a great time, especially finding good forked pieces for their sling shots. Of course the brook was a temptation, and soon some one proposed wading. Jim said nothing, but John came over to him. "Say, Jim," he began, "come on, go wading with me. Your mother said you mustn't go wading with Harry. You promised not to go in with him, but you didn't say you wouldn't go wading with me. I heard you talking with your mother. She'll never ask you did you go wading with me. Come on, that'll be a smart one," he called, laughing.

Jim looked up from his whittling on his sling shot. He would enjoy the wading, and for a moment he was puzzled. This did seem different from his promise to his mother. Then it came to him in a flash that what he should obey was his mother's known wish, not just the words she had used.

He flushed to think how nearly he had agreed, and he felt angry all over with John. "No, I won't" he said hotly, "that would be a lie and I should be ashamed to sneak around that way." Then he turned away from John completely and played by preference with the other fellows.

Jim was ready for that sneaky suggestion because he had his mind made up that he would be true. He didn't say anything to his mother at supper time, but he was happy as he stooped to kiss her on his way to his place at the table.—*Selected.*

I Promised Mother

(To be told by a Junior)

A MERCHANT required an additional clerk, and advertised for a boy. The first boy that answered was ushered into a vacant room, and told to sit in a particular chair and wait. Looking around, he saw upon the floor, just by the chair, a one-dollar bill, folded closely, as if it had been inadvertently dropped. He picked up the bill, and satisfying his conscience that "Finding is having," even though on another's premises, he put it into his pocket. Almost immediately the merchant came in, and after a few questions, dismissed the boy as not satisfactory.

The next boy was seated in the same chair, and he also saw a one-dollar bill lying in the same manner beside him; but he picked it up and laid it on the table. The merchant entered, and after some questions, pointed to the bill and asked where it came from. The boy said he saw it on the floor and put it where it would be safe. The merchant said, "As it did not appear to belong to any one, why did you not keep it?" The boy replied, "Because it did not belong to me." "My boy," said the merchant, "you have chosen the road that inevitably leads to business success. The boy before you chose the *wrong* one. But how did you learn that this was the *right* path?" The boy answered, "My mother made me promise never, under any circumstances, to take what did not belong to me; and I promised." Later in life this boy became Secretary of the Treasury.—*Character Lessons.*

The Lord's Money Box

MOTHER was busy mending stockings, when in rushed the children. "Do I have to put a tenth of my money I earn this week in the Lord's money box?" asked Robbie. "If I do," he added, "I won't have enough to get my air gun."

"No," said mother, "you don't *have* to pay the Lord unless you wish to. You remember I have told you that we really owe him one tenth of all we earn, and that if we are faithful in bringing our tithes, he will bless us. So I want you to learn to give willingly to him."

"Well, I want to give to him, but I want my air gun too—awful bad," said Robbie.

"So do I," added Howard, "and if you'll let us take the money out of our tithe boxes, along with what we've got we'd have enough."

"Will a man rob God?" quoted mother. "And would my lads do so, too?"

"Did God ever especially bless you for tithing, mother?" asked the children:

"Yes, many times. Let's talk it over before you rob the Lord's money box."

A few months earlier, grandpa had promised the older lad five per cent of the milk check for doing the milking. Howard was to receive five cents a week for gathering eggs. Mother had tithed her small earnings for several years, but this was the boys' first chance to learn both to earn and to give. They had each hunted up a box for the Lord's money, and had proudly placed them by mother's. All had gone smoothly until now. Satan was tempting the boys to spend this part of their money.

"Before you decide whether to take your tithe money or not, I will tell you a true story," said mother. "It will prove to you how Satan tempts us, and it will also prove that God gives us greater blessings than we can think of, if we are true to him. You all remember the thirty dollars I earned last Christmas? You knew, too, how hard it was

for grandpa to feed and clothe all of us, with debts to meet. When that thirty dollars came, I must tell you, boys, I almost hated to put three dollars in my tithe box. You all needed shoes and underwear, and the three dollars looked pretty big. But I sent Harold to town with the thirty-dollar check to get a money order. When he came home I counted the change and found the postmaster had made a mistake of a dollar, and I was a dollar short. Now listen, boys. Right away a voice said to me, "Just call that lost dollar the Lord's. He can afford to lose that better than you can. Just think of the things you need, and Christmas coming, too. What's a dollar to the Lord?"

"Who do you suppose said that to me?" said mother. "The old devil," solemnly answered Robbie.

"Yes," replied mother. "And do you remember, Robbie, how I took the money and sent you with it to Mrs. Harris, who collects the money for our church. I wanted to pay the Lord quick, so Satan couldn't tempt me to spend it for something else. You see he tries big folks, too, and I am telling you this so you will be on the watch.

"I was so glad when the money was safe in the Lord's work, that I asked him to make the rest of the money go far enough to make up what we lost at the post office. Now comes the precious story of God's love and care. Three months after, when mother was sick and could not earn anything, one day there came a letter. It was from a stranger, but one who belonged to Christ, and who had heard of us, and a check for twenty-five dollars was inclosed in His name to be used for our needs.

"I know you remember how I cried, and praised God for his thought of us, and now you understand how he rewarded my little faithfulness. Wasn't that a high rate of interest—twenty-five dollars for one dollar? 'God is faithful' if we will be faithful. Think it over, boys."

They went slowly out to play. In a short time both came in again. "Mother, can't we hurry and send our money away, too, so the old devil will stop bothering us?" said Howard. They emptied the Lord's money in mother's lap, and sent it away. A few days later a "junk" man drove along and the boys sold their old iron and rags for enough to buy an air gun, after they had tithed the money.

"You got your reward soon," smiled mother.

"I'm sure God made him give us good weight," said Howard. "We never got so much before for old iron."—*Mrs. Grace S. Swanger.*

Programs for Week Ending July 19

Subject: The Christian and His Bible.

Helpful Thought: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Ps. 119:11.

Senior

1. Opening Exercises.
2. Scripture Lesson: Selections from Psalm 119.
3. Roll Call: Great Men on the Greatest Book.
4. Reading: Why You Need It.
5. Talk: Knowing God.
6. Symposium: The Christian and His Bible. (See *Instructor* for June 24.)
7. Recitation: My Bible and I.
8. Words of Appreciation.
9. Close by repeating the Helpful Thought in concert.

Junior

1. Opening Exercises.
2. Bible Roll Call.
3. Recitation: The Bible in Rhyme.
4. Reading: Mary and Her Bible.
5. Talk: Kept Them from Wrong.
6. Talk: The Bible Helped Charlotte.
7. Blackboard Talk: The Juniors and Their Bible.
8. Why I Love the Bible.
9. Close by repeating the Helpful Thought in concert.

Notes to the Leaders

The Book of Books.—Today think what God's Book has done for individuals, for nations, for the world. If you have time, you might speak of the work of the great Bible houses in the world. While America was in the great World War the American Bible Society issued more than 2,000,000 copies of the Scriptures. Most of these were distributed by the Y. M. C. A. Voltaire prophesied that the Bible would soon be a dead book, but the very room in which he penned his obituary of the Christian religion later became a Bible

depository. God's Word cannot fail—even if we refuse to obey it.

Think what it will mean to live in the atmosphere of the Book of books, to demonstrate its principles in our everyday lives. But to do this we must love it, and loving it will lead us to study it and obey it. Do your young people love the Bible? Do you love it? Perhaps you, as officers, need to set a better example. Do you fully appreciate that "a fair knowledge of the Bible," as Charles Dudley Warner says, "is in itself almost a liberal education"? Let us learn to appreciate this fact more fully, that we may inspire our young friends with a love for the Book of books—the Book that is able to make them "wise unto salvation." That is the great purpose of our meeting today.

Opening Exercises.—Have several songs on the Bible. There are some good ones in Christ in Song. Follow the song service with a few earnest prayers.

Scripture Lesson.—Some time before the meeting select about twenty choice verses on the word of God or the law of God, from psalm 119. Have them read without comment.

Do not omit the secretary's report even if the program does not call for it.

Senior

Roll Call: Great Men on the Greatest Book.—This list will supply only twelve persons; but announce the Roll Call one week before the meeting, and ask all to come prepared to give quotations on the Bible. Use those given in this paper to supply persons who need help in finding good ones. See that all are provided with quotations before the meeting opens, that your Roll Call may be an unbroken chain of precious thoughts about the most precious Book.

Talk: Knowing God.—Helps for preparing this talk will be found in "Steps to Christ." See chapter "A Knowledge of God."

Symposium: The Christian and His Bible.—Assign the sections in Brother L. A. Hansen's article in the *Instructor* for June 24, to different members to be given in two-minute talks. Ask each speaker to draw additional thoughts from other sources.

Words of Appreciation.—Allow about fifteen minutes for this exercise. Ask that each one tell how the Bible has helped him. Introduce this social meeting with a two-minute talk on the cartoon showing what the law of God does for the Christian. All God's commands are laws, and his promises remind us that his strength is sufficient.

Junior

Bible Roll Call.—Ask that each Junior come prepared to repeat a verse about the Bible in the Roll Call. Psalm 119 is full of gems. John 5: 39; 2 Tim. 2: 15 and 3: 15-17 are also good ones.

Blackboard Talk: The Juniors and Their Bibles.—This should be given by the superintendent. Helps given in the Senior program may be adapted for the Juniors. Be sure to use the cartoon. Make this talk introductory to the social meeting.

Why I Love the Bible.—Ask all Juniors to take part. Do they love it? How do they prove their love for it? Do they read it and try to obey it? If we do not read it and try to obey it, do we really love it? If thought best, have a short season of prayer for a deeper love of God's Book.

Great Men on the Greatest Book

A MAN has deprived himself of the best there is in the world who has deprived himself of this [a knowledge of the Bible]. . . . There are a good many problems before the American people today, and before me as President, but I expect to find the solution of those problems just in the proportion that I am faithful in the study of the Word of God.

It is very difficult indeed for a man or for a boy who knows the Scripture, ever to get away from it. It haunts him like an old song. It follows him like the memory of his mother. *It forms a part of the warp and woof of his life.*—Woodrow Wilson.

I have known ninety-five great men of the world in my time, and of these, eighty-seven were all followers of the Bible. . . .

Talk about questions of the day, there is but one question and that is the gospel. It can and will correct anything that needs correction. My only hope for the world is in bringing the human mind into contact with divine revelation.

Though assailed by camp, by battery, and by mine, the Holy Scriptures are nevertheless a house builded upon a rock, and that rock is impregnable.—Wm. E. Gladstone, England's "Grand Old Man."

You will find in this little book [the Bible], guidance when you are in health, comfort when you are in sickness, and strength when you are in adversity.—Lord Roberts.

If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper, but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man

can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury our glory in profound obscurity.—Daniel Webster.

The Bible is peerless because of its intrinsic excellence. It is itself the sure way to the attainment of all the greatest human ideals—truth, kindness, and beauty.—Orvaldo Mag-nasco, Argentine Minister of Public Instruction.

Read your Bible—make it your daily business to obey it in all you understand. To my early knowledge of the Bible I owe the best part of my taste in literature.—John Ruskin.

I see that the Bible fits into every fold of the human heart. I am a man, and I believe it to be God's book because it is man's book.—Arthur Henry Hallam.

I do not know a book which gives in such compact and poetic form every phase of human ideas as the Bible. Without the Bible, the education of the child in the present state of society is impossible.—Lyoff A. Tolstoy, Russian Count.

Of all books, the most indispensable and the most useful, the one whose knowledge is most effective, is the Bible. There is no book from which more valuable lessons can be learned.—Charles A. Dana.

The existence of the Bible as a book for the people is the greatest benefit which the human race has ever experienced.—Immanuel Kant.

I want to know one thing—the way to heaven, how to land on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach the way; for this very end he came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book! O give me that book! At any price give me that book of God! I have it; here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be a man of one book.—John Wesley.

Whatever good there is in me, I attribute to the influence of the Bible, and of my Christian college president, upon my life. Even when I am in the presence of the family idol, I think not of the idol, but of the Bible and its teaching.—A Brahman Lawyer, Punganur, S. India.

Why You Need It

"It is the Spirit's Bible, copyright every word; Only his thoughts are uttered, only his voice is heard."

It is indeed the "Spirit's Bible," and through it the Spirit does his appointed work. It bears to every heart a message for every time and place. Is a word of comfort and assurance needed? It is in the Bible. A word of warning or reproof? It is all written in the blessed Book, and it will be revealed to the one who desires to be taught of God; for "the Bible is the medium of communication between earth and heaven."

"The one sure and never-falling method of living the victorious life is daily study of the Bible,—study, not hasty reading; daily, not at fitful intervals. That study must be with prayer and faith and a single-eyed desire to know the will of God. Such a use of the Bible leads to a full experience of God's love, of Christ's saving power, of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit." "The Bible in the hand won't do, the Bible in the head won't do; but the Bible in the heart, . . . made a living thing by God's Spirit, . . . means eternal life." It means living such a life as Jesus lived; it means Jesus living his life in the one who accords to him first place in the heart. When "the law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide." Ps. 37: 31.

In the article "Back to the Bible," in the *Missionary Review of the World* for February, 1919, is the following incident, illustrative of the power that comes from an earnest study of the life and work of Christ and his apostles as recorded in the New Testament.

"A group of leaders at a conference last summer were talking about the lectures of one of the speakers who was one of the greatest professors in one of our greatest universities. For years they had recognized him as a forceful speaker, but this year he was speaking with compelling power and irresistible appeal. One day one of the leaders lingered in the classroom and when he commented on this fact, the professor made answer:

"My university realized that I was rapidly approaching the state of a squeezed lemon, so they granted me a year's leave of absence for study and research. I had planned to spend this year in the universities of England. When war conditions made that impossible, I would not give up my year of research. I stayed at home, but I spent

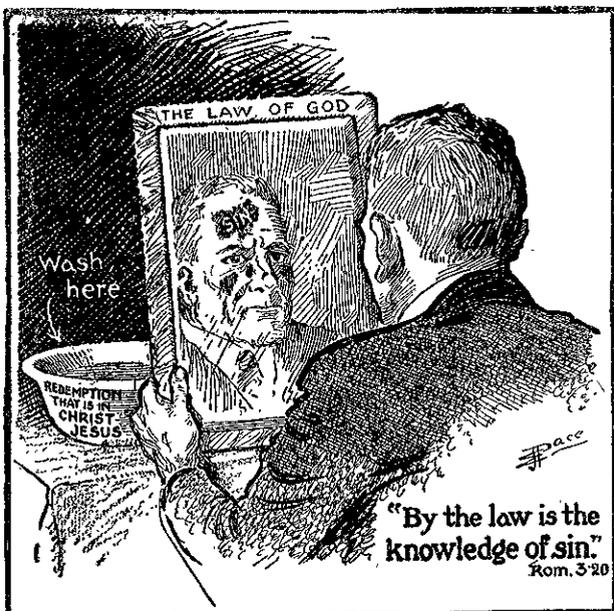
the year in research in my own study, and have discovered the New Testament."

This professor "was speaking with compelling power and irresistible appeal," and he had gained it by a year with the New Testament! And what this year of study and research—not mere reading—of the Word had done for him, it will do for any earnest seeker for light and truth.

Too many Christians, like this leader, are approaching "the state of a squeezed lemon." Once they fed upon the Word, but in the rush and hurry of life, yes, even in the Lord's work, they do not find time to read the Bible, to delve deep into its hidden treasures, to receive the strength that comes from daily feeding on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. "A neglected Bible," says F. H. Meyer, "means a starved and strengthless spirit, a comfortless heart, a barren life, and a grieved Holy Spirit."

Only as we are "taught of God," can we do efficient service for him. As we go forth, "ambassadors for Christ," beseeching men "in Christ's stead," to be reconciled to God, we need "compelling power and irresistible appeal." Let us search the Word to know how to follow in Jesus' steps as we seek to win others to him.

EDYTHE A. AYERS.



From Sunday School Times

My Bible and I

"We've traveled together, my Bible and I,
Through all kinds of weather, with smile or with sigh,
In sorrow or sunshine, in tempest or calm.
Thy friendship unchanging, my lamp and my psalm.

"We've traveled together, my Bible and I,
When life had grown weary, and death e'en was nigh,
But all through the darkness of mist and of wrong
I found thee a solace, a prayer, or a song.

"So now who shall part us, my Bible and I,
Shall ism or schism, or new lights who try?
Shall shadow for substance, or stone for good bread,
Supplant its sound wisdom, give folly instead?

"Ah, no, my dear Bible, revealer of light,
Thou sword of the Spirit, put error to flight,
And still, through life's journey, until my last sigh,
We'll travel together, my Bible and I."

Mary and Her Bible

MARY JONES lived in Wales with her father and mother who were poor weavers. She knew something about the Bible, and decided to earn money to buy one, although Bibles were very scarce then and very expensive. "But I must have one of those dear books," said Mary to herself.

And what do you think she did? She was only ten years old, but she began to save her pennies. One year went by; she had worked hard and saved faithfully. Still there was not enough money to buy the much-longed-for book. Two years went by. Three! Four! Five! No, the little bank account was not big enough yet. She must still keep on

saving. And she did. What a happy girl she must have been when at the end of six years she counted her pennies again and found that she had just enough money to buy the cheapest Bible then printed!

Mary could not sit down and order her Bible from the tract society, as you and I may do. Then how did she get it? Well, she had heard that a minister living in Bala, twenty-five miles from her home, had a few copies. So she took her savings of six years and trapped over the mountains and through the valleys to his home.

Finally she reached Bala, and told the minister why she had come. "But the Bibles are all gone," said the minister. Mary never dreamed of their being gone. She was bitterly disappointed, and she burst into tears. She had worked hard for six years and saved her pennies, and now she had come twenty-five long miles to buy the Book for which she had waited so long. Would she have to go home without it? No wonder Mary cried.

Mr. Charles, the minister, felt very sorry for Mary, and finally he found a copy of the Bible somewhere in Bala. This he gave to the girl who was willing to save her money for six years and then walk fifty miles to have a Bible.

Later Mr. Charles told some Christian friends in London how Mary got her Bible. Others heard about it, and finally Mary's story persuaded Christian workers to form Bible societies for distributing the Book of books. The beginning of the great British and Foreign Bible Society can be traced back to Mary's Bible. Other large Bible societies can trace their origin, at least in part, to the British and Foreign Bible Society, and through that back to Mary.

M. E.

Kept Them from Wrong

Two young men were one day looking earnestly at a large factory in a certain town. They had come hundreds of miles to see it, and to get into it. There was a secret there which they wanted to find out—a machine which a clever man had invented which was doing work nothing else could do so well. And these young men had resolved to obtain a sight of this machine, find out its secret, and make drawings of it, and then come home and make a similar machine for themselves. And their plan was this: to put aside their fine clothes and put on the clothes of mechanics, and in that dress to ask for work at this factory, and work until they found out the secret. But they had just arrived, and they did not mean to apply until next day.

One of the young men had the habit of reading a chapter of the Bible every morning. And next day the chapter happened to be that one in Exodus where the ten commandments are. He had read it many times, and always to the end; but this morning, when he got to the eighth commandment, he could not go farther. A great light flashed up from it and smote his conscience. Right up it came out of the words, "Thou shalt not steal!" He read them again, and every word seemed to kindle into fire—"Thou shalt not steal." He laid the Bible on his knee and took himself to task: "Is it not stealing I have come here to do?" he asked himself. "I have come all this weary way to search out a clever man's invention, and make it my own by stealing it." His agitation was very great. But he turned to his companion and said: "What we have come here to do, if we do it, will be a theft—theft of another man's thought, and skill, and honor, and bread." Then he took up the Bible again and opened it at the Gospel of Matthew and read: "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." And he said, "If this machine were ours, if we had spent years inventing it, and had succeeded in getting it to work, would we think it right if some stranger were to steal into our factory on a false pretense and rob us of the fruits of our labor?"

His companion was angry at first. But by and by he acknowledged that it would be wrong. And they came back to their home without the secret. God's Word was a lamp to their feet to help them to depart from that evil.—*Alexander McLeod.*

The Bible in Rhyme

THE great Jehovah speaks to us
 In Genesis and Exodus.
 Leviticus and Numbers see,
 Followed by Deuteronomy.
 Joshua and Judges sway the land.
 Ruth glean the sheaves with trembling hand.
 Samuel with numerous Kings appear,
 Whose Chronicles we wondering hear.
 Ezra and Nehemiah now;
 Esther the beautiful mourner shows.
 Job speaks in sighs, David in Psalms;
 The Proverbs teach to scatter alms.
 Ecclesiastes then comes on,
 With the sweet Song of Solomon.
 Isaiah, Jeremiah then
 With Lamentations take the pen.
 Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, lyrics swell,
 Joel, Amos, Obadiah, tell.
 Next Jonah, Micah, Nahum come;
 And lofty Habakkuk finds room.
 While Zephaniah, Haggai call;
 Rapt Zechariah builds his wall;
 And Malachi, with garments rent,
 Concludes the ancient Testament.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
 Tell what by Christ was said and done;
 Acts both of the apostles tell
 And how the Holy Spirit fell.
 Romans, Corinthians, and Galatians
 Hard by Ephesians take their stations;
 Then the Philippians, hand in hand
 With the Colossians, take their stand
 By Thessalonians; each and all
 Claim for their author great St. Paul,
 Who next writes to Timothy;
 Then Titus and Philemon see,
 While Hebrews the last letter claims.
 Next comes the epistle of St. James,
 While Peter, John, and good St. Jude
 With Revelation both conclude.

—The Herald.

The Bible Helped Charlotte

CHARLOTTE went about her work so quietly that you would not know she was moving at all. If any one was sick, she was kind and helpful. If anybody was cross, she knew how to speak and how to be silent, so as to put the crossness away. If anybody was discontented, Charlotte's content made him ashamed of himself. The children loved her, and well they might. She had good words and kind words for them all. And withal she was tidy, and thoughtful, and true.

It was a perfect delight to hear Charlotte speaking about her father and mother. Why, you would think they must have been of the blood royal—a prince and princess at least. She spoke of them with such love and admiration,—not as if she were boasting of them, of their wealth, or such things. Not at all! She never hid the fact that her father was just a porter on a railway, and her mother the hard-working wife of a railway porter; but somehow all that went out of sight when she was speaking of them, and you were made to see only the beauty and goodness and love which Charlotte saw in them both. You thought of them as royal people, and of Charlotte as their royal child.

She had good things to say also about her Sabbath school class, and the lady who taught her there, and indeed about everybody. Everybody had been good to her. There were so many good people in the world. God was so good.

There never was a girl of her age—and she was only fourteen—who walked more habitually and truly in the way of Christian life. And this was the secret of it, she walked by the light of God's lamp. Day by day she consulted her lamp, and hid the light of it in her heart, and from thence it would stream out and show her paths of meekness, goodness, and gentleness to travel in.

Charlotte is in London now. And she is grown to be a young woman. I try sometimes to look into the future, and I see her old, and feeble, and dying, and buried out of view. But always I think, when that sad vision comes up, that her lamp will never be old—never be buried.—
Alexander McLeod.

Programs for Week Ending July 26

Senior

Subject: Bible Readings and Cottage Meetings.

Helpful Thought: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings." Isa. 52:7.

1. Song Service.
2. Prayer.
3. Secretary's Report, including Report of Work.
4. Scripture Lesson: Isa. 52: 7-10; 54: 2, 3; 55: 10-13; 60: 1-5; 61: 1-3.
5. Talk: Importance of Bible Readings.
6. Talk: Rules for Preparing Bible Readings.
7. Talk: Giving Bible Readings.
8. Reading: Winning a Spiritualist.
9. Reading: Home Missionaries in Korea.
10. Reports from Missionary Volunteers.
11. Close by repeating Pledge in concert.

Junior

Subject: Unselfishness.

Helpful Thought: Unselfishness places the needs of others before our own wants.

1. Opening Exercises; Song and Prayer.
2. Secretary's Report, including Report of Work.
3. Scripture Lesson: Read in concert 1 Cor. 13: 1-13.
4. Talk by Superintendent: How to Be Unselfish.
5. Recitation: A Good Creed.
6. Reading: Mary Merry.
7. Recitation: "Others." See *Instructor* of July 15.
8. Social Meeting.
9. Close by repeating the Junior Pledge in concert.

Senior Notes

Song Service.—Sing several stirring songs. Christ in Song, Nos. 479, 480, 513, 531, 570, 622, 641, are good. Sing enthusiastically.

Prayer.—Have a few short, earnest prayers. Remember the persons for whom you are working, the letters you write, the papers you send out, etc.

Importance of Bible Readings, and Rules for Preparing Bible Readings.—For helps in preparing these talks, see material given for Fourth Sabbath program, in Home Missionary department of this issue of the GAZETTE.

Reports from Missionary Volunteers.—The appeal found in "Winning a Spiritualist" comes from one of our successful Bible workers in Washington, D. C. It should receive a hearty response from the Missionary Volunteers in your society. With the article came a note in which Miss Morris said, "My heart is in this work, even if I cannot make my pen tell it." But her article does prove that her heart is in it, doesn't it? Why should not many more young people be doing a similar work? What may the Master count on your doing in his great plan? Urge all to tell how the Master has blessed them in the past, and what they plan to do during the coming month.

Winning a Spiritualist

A FEW weeks ago, a sister living in an apartment house here in the city asked me to come and give Bible readings in her home. She was especially anxious for a niece who was visiting her at the time, and for her husband, who had never listened to the truth.

Sister B— invited every family in the apartment house to attend these studies, and to our surprise two sisters in the apartment below came, also a lady living on the first floor. This lady, I learned later, was a Spiritualist, and the two sisters who came were also inclined to have great faith in that belief.

I never shall forget the spirit that was present in those meetings. The niece became bitter and took issue with every point presented. The husband finally would not come at all. The two sisters in their apartment below dropped out, and finally I changed the place of meeting to the home of the Spiritualist lady on the first floor. Her husband became interested, and we are still studying the Bible with him.

This lady now has been baptized and taken into the church. What a struggle we all went through! It seemed as if all the evil spirits were present at those meetings. Our hearts were lifted constantly in prayer to God for help. Often before time for the study to begin, I would be impressed to pray for help for this study; and praise be to Him who has never lost a battle! By his grace another soul is saved from the hand of the enemy!

You ask, Did it pay? Could you have seen the tears in that woman's eyes as we came to study with her husband, you would know it did. Could you see how her face has changed, you would know. It has changed so that you would scarcely recognize it. Her expression is no longer sad and distressed, but beaming with the soft light and peace which alone come from heaven. O it is a blessed privilege to be coworkers with the Master! It makes our hearts rejoice, and somehow helps us to realize that we are a part of God's great plan.

For about six weeks I have been studying with a woman who belonged to the Dunkard Church. Her husband is a Catholic, and we were not allowed to meet at their home, so a sister in our church near by opened her home to us. This lady attended the meetings conducted by Elder Carlyle B. Haynes in the theater as often as possible; and when the call was made for those who wished to be baptized, she asked me if I thought she might be. We went over all points of doctrine, and she and several others with whom I have been studying, have taken their stand and have united with us in giving this message to the world.

Could the young people of this denomination somehow understand the great joy that has come into the lives of these people, they would bend every energy to fill their minds with the message for this time. Then with their hearts truly open for the Spirit to guide, what a harvest of fruit there would be in their own lives and what precious souls would be saved by their labors! As we come in close touch with those who are struggling, we forget our own trials, and our hearts go out to them.

May God bless our young people with an unselfish spirit of service.

I cannot say just how the openings come for giving these studies; but I know that as soon as my own heart is ready for the Spirit's guiding, the calls have come.

Will the young people help to fill these calls today?

JANET MORRIS.

Home Missionaries in Korea

A MISSIONARY of Seoul, on the way home from a service outside the East Gate, overtook two women with their Bibles and hymn books tied about their waists, climbing one of the hills. On asking one of them whom he recognized, where they had been, she replied, "Over to that village," pointing to a cluster of houses in the valley below. Although the hill was rather steep, the women did not seem to notice it. When we stopped, after some puffing on my part, I asked their ages. One said sixty-six, the other sixty!

"Does not this walking tire you?" I asked.

"Oh, no," they replied, "for we go so often, and much farther than this."

"Oh, you are Bible women?"

"No; we go to read and pray with the women, for we want them all to know of our happy faith," was the answer, with faces so bright as to carry conviction of their joy.

With such home missionaries, is it any wonder Korea is becoming a land of Christians? — *Missionary Herald*.

Giving Bible Readings

(Suggestions for a talk)

COTTAGE meetings and Bible readings are usually a kind of follow-up work. Opportunities to hold these meetings usually come as a result of Christian help work, or of house-to-house work done by the Literature and Correspondence Band. It is very probable that, in every community where the young people do faithful Christian help work, at least several opportunities will arise for giving Bible readings. And surely Missionary Volunteers in every society should be prepared to give them. What a privilege it is that the young people are called to share in the sacred work of studying the Word of God with others and helping them to understand its teachings!

The cottage meetings and Bible readings, as a rule, should be very informal. If only one or two go to give a Bible reading, gather in a family circle and just have a round-table discussion. Have your subject well in hand. See that all present are provided with Bibles. Each time, ask your question first, and then give out the reference. This gives time to think and stimulates interest. Be careful not to embarrass those who are slow in turning to the ref-

erence. When it is found by all, repeat the question. Have different ones read. Do not make the Bible reading too long. It is a good rule to close within the hour even if the interest is growing, and to close with an earnest prayer.

If a number of young people go to conduct the meeting, there may be regular opening and closing exercises. Have good singing, and good earnest prayers. Perhaps a short reading or talk may be included also, but be sure to make the Bible study informal so all will feel free to ask questions that puzzle them. Before the meeting closes, announce the subject of the next study in the series. Pray earnestly, and work faithfully, while you wait patiently for persons to accept their Saviour.

The topics for these meetings should be thoroughly prepared. The Family Bible Teacher, "Bible Readings for the Home Circle," or the Bible studies in the Senior Standard of Attainment Manual, and other good books of this kind, can be used by the band in this work. A series of studies should, as a rule, begin with subjects that will not cause prejudice. The New Earth, The Love of God, and others are good for opening a series.

M. E.

A Good Creed

If any little word of ours
Can make one life the brighter;
If any little song of ours
Can make one heart the lighter;
God help us speak that little word,
And take our bit of singing
And drop it in some lonely vale
To set the echoes ringing.

If any little love of ours
Can make one life the sweeter;
If any little care of ours
Can make one step the feeter;
If any little help may ease
The burden of another;
God give us love and care and strength
To help along each other.

If any little thought of ours
Can make one life the stronger;
If any cheery smile of ours
Can make its brightness longer;
Then let us speak that thought today,
With tender eyes aglowing,
So God may grant some weary one
Shall reap from our glad sowing.

— Selected.

Mary Merry

MARY HAMMOND skimmed up the stairs like a bird, humming the new song they had just been practicing.

"If I were a bird I would fly, and fly."

Miss Armstrong was the dearest teacher! How perfectly sweet it was of her to invite their double quartet to take "five-o'clock ice cream" with her that afternoon! Mary giggled over the new phrase, instead of the usual "five-o'clock tea," and wondered what kind of cake Miss Armstrong would have to go with the cream. Then came the sound of her father's voice, each word distinct:

"It's of no use, Nannie; I must insist on your lying down at once and keeping absolutely quiet for the next two hours at least. I wish I could be at home to see that you do it, but I must trust that to Mary."

Here the listening Mary uttered a dismayed exclamation, and was on the point of rushing to her father, when her mother's voice arrested her.

"But, Robert, I can't think of keeping Mary at home this afternoon. She was perfectly happy this morning over the wonderful time she is to have."

Mary's troubled face cleared. "Father doesn't understand," she told herself happily, "but mother always does."

Then her father's voice. "That can't be helped, my dear. Mary must stay at home and keep the house quiet, and you must lie still and try to rest."

"O dear!" This was Mary. Was she going to miss that lovely time? Couldn't mother fix it?

"But, Robert, let me explain. I must get down to put your waiting-room in order, at least. There isn't even a vacant chair for a patient to sit on. As for Mary, she is only a child; and the hardest part of my day would be to hear her cry and see her swollen face. She hasn't learned self-control, and such a disappointment would crush her."

By the sound Mary knew that her hurried father strode over to the bed on which her mother was lying, his voice tender but firm. "Nannie, I don't often interfere with your arrangements; but I am very much in earnest now. Promise me that you will not leave this room for the next two hours; never mind the waiting-room or anything else. Now I must go this minute."

Mary heard him rush down the stairs, and the next moment stood listening, like one dazed, to the whirl of his departing machine. Mother, who always understood, and always managed somehow, had failed her; she actually was not to go to that "five-o'clock ice cream"! What dreadful words mother had spoken! "The hardest part of my day would be to hear her cry and see her swollen face." Did she always make a fuss when things did not go to suit her? Mother said she hadn't learned self-control; was that true? She thought it over for several minutes, and then, being an honest girl, admitted that it was.

The sun at that moment reached a point in his travels that made him flash a beam of light on her hand-painted wall motto that Aunt Mary Ann had given her on her birthday almost a year ago.

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

Mary suddenly dropped on her knees. The words she said were few, but they were to the point. She frankly confessed that she had "not a single speck of merry" in her heart, and did not know how to get it there; but she would like, oh, *very* much! to be like a medicine to her mother if she only could.

Soon after that she went softly down to her father's waiting-room, and gave a little dismayed exclamation over its condition. No wonder mother's head ached in thinking of that room! In a little while it would begin to fill up for her father's office hour. She began to pick up books and return them to their places. She worked steadily, and very soon found herself growing interested in the changing appearance of the room. It was amazing how many things needed to be done, and how fast the clock on the mantel traveled. But at a quarter to four she uttered a triumphant "There!" and stood for a satisfied moment surveying her completed work.

Only for a moment; the next, she spied two women, a man, and a boy all moving toward the office doorbell; in another minute it would clang through the house. No, it wouldn't. Mary was there before the hutton could be pushed; mother was not to be disturbed by that old bell. Having seated her guests in the immaculate room, she went to the family sitting-room; it was almost worse than the other had been. Here was mother's workbasket, overturned, and spools and stockings strewn around. Poor mother! What a lot of things she must have to do every day! Throughout the next busy hour Mary kept a watchful eye on the walk leading to the side door, and not once did that bell clang, although the room filled steadily. At last it was five o'clock, then a quarter after. Mary was just wondering if she ought not to go softly up and see if mother needed her, when the hall door opened and mother appeared.

"O dear child!" she said. "Are you here? Havs you been here long?"

"I haven't been out," said Mary. "Mother, are you better? You look better."

"I am, dear; I dropped asleep, and must have slept quite a while. How late is it? Is it office hour?"

"I should think it was, and an hour after! Father hasn't come yet; but the room is all right, mother; I fixed it up before any one came; it's full now; I had to take in chairs."

"You dear child!" said her mother. "And the afternoon is gone? Why, I must have slept three hours! I didn't hear the office bell."

"I didn't mean you should," chuckled Mary. "Father said you were to be kept quiet, and there isn't anything quiet about the bell."

"Well, *really!*" said the astonished mother. "I didn't know I could sleep like that. And you have put this room in order, too? You are a jewel; and you look like a

new-blown rosebud! I thought I should find you broken-hearted."

Before Mary could reply, there was a rush up the front steps, a hurried dash into the sitting-room, and Dr. Hammond began, "Here is —" and stopped, and began again. "Why, Nannie, you are downstairs. And your head is better?"

"Indeed it is; it doesn't feel like the same head. I have had such a long, quiet sleep that I feel made over. I don't believe I need that medicine, after all. This dear child has been a medicine to me; she put your waiting-room in nice order before any one came, and watched for every caller so the bell should not ring to disturb me."

"O mother, do you really mean that? Did it act like medicine?"

"It certainly did," said her mother, smiling. "Since seeing your cheerful face and discovering all the kind things you have done, I feel as if I had taken a strong tonic."

"Then it did come true," said Mary happily. "A merry heart really does do good like a medicine. I'm so glad!"—*Adapted.*

How to Be Unselfish

(Suggestions for Superintendent's Talk)

We live in a world full of other people, with interests and rights. The seeking to fulfil our desires, without regard to the rights and interests of others, is selfishness. One might say that this is the great crying evil of the world, for from it spring much of the crime and weakness which fill the world with unhappiness.

The selfish man *wants* money; he does not care that other people need money; *he* wants it, and to get it he robs and commits murder. It is selfishness which makes men stingy and mean, until they neglect those who are dependent upon them. It is selfish love of ease and personal gratification that make one eccentric and disagreeable at home, and cause him to speak harsh and cruel words to his family and associates. Selfishness seeks to get the utmost amount of good out of the world with the least possible return.

The aim of an unselfish person is to think, feel, speak, and act as one would wish others to do to him. The unselfish life is the loving life. The Master said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

It is told of Hillel that a heathen came to him seeking to be taught "all the laws of the Hebrews while he would stand on one foot." Hillel, taking the scoffer by the hand, said: "My son, to be a good Jew thou needst to know but one principle, and that I can teach thee in less time than thou requirest: That which is hateful unto thee do not unto thy neighbor. This is the fundamental principle of the Mosaic religion, all the rest is mere commentary. Go and live up to that."

Courage calls for a stout heart; but unselfishness calls for a large heart. There is a great distinction between thinking about oneself, which is necessary to self-development, and what is ordinarily meant by selfishness.

We must devote careful and painstaking thought to ourselves, to our conduct, to our attitude toward others; but it must be the thought that includes the other's welfare, and considers his rights and interests—in a word, that holds him in affection. Whyte-Melville says, "You may talk of self as the motive to exertion, but I tell you it is *abnegation* of self which has brought out all that is noble, all that is good, all that is useful and nearly all that is ornamental in the world."

The three necessary helps to unselfishness are: a sense of justice, to know what is right toward others; a quick sympathy, to feel what would help or harm them; and above all, good will to exercise justice and sympathy.

True happiness comes only when one forgets himself in his search for truth, and when one loses this thought of self in the joy of giving.—"*Character Lessons.*"

"No man will naturally grow better. Trimming or pruning a tree does not change its character."