

A. G. Daniells

THE WEST MICHIGAN HERALD

HE THAT REAPETH GATHERETH FRUIT UNTO LIFE ETERNAL

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Margaret Haughey, - Editor.

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PRAYER.

R. C. HORTON.

"Wherefore be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." Eph. 5:17. Then we are to have our minds renewed by the transforming grace of Christ, "that we may prove what is that good, and acceptable and perfect will of God." Rom. 12:2. But how can we prove a thing, unless we know that thing to be true? How can we prove what God's will is, unless we know what his will is. The Lord has revealed his will to us and it is for us to understand it and know it. It is God's will that we should pray, for he says so. "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation." Matt. 26:41.

God wants his people to be filled with the knowledge of his will in

all wisdom and spiritual understanding. Col. 1:9. It is not only his will that we should pray, pray often, pray always, but that our prayers should not always be answered immediately. It is often his will that the answer should be delayed for days, some times for months or even years. Daniel prayed three weeks before the answer came. Dan. 10:2,7. Elias prayed seven times before his request was granted. 1 Kings 18:42-45. The Lord says, when speaking of the unjust judge before whom the poor widow went to be avenged of her adversary, "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him tho he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh shall he find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:1-8. So according to the testimony given, it is no evidence that because the answer is delayed for a time, that the Lord does not hear, or is not willing to grant our request.

It is likewise God's will that our faith should be tried, for "it is much more precious than gold that perisheth, tho it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise, and honor, and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:7. What trial of faith would there be if all our requests were granted at once? But if delayed for a time that our faith may be tested, we can better appreciate the answer when it comes. It is right to make requests and to press them with earnestness, holding on by faith until the answer comes, be it longer or shorter. The Lord says, "but in everything by prayer and suppli-

cation, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6.

We will now consider some of the reasons why prayers are not answered. Asking amiss—"Ye have not, because ye ask not, ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss that ye may consume it upon your lusts." James 4:2,3. When a prayer is sent up to God in this way, it will never be answered. How could we expect the Lord to hear our prayers or grant our request if we ask amiss, or do not ask in faith? It would be impossible. God could not be glorified in so doing, and, besides, it would be an injury to us.

There are still other reasons why prayers are not answered. We read in Psalms 66:18, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Again, "behold the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save; neither is his ear heavy that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you that he will not hear." Isa. 59:1,2.

To regard iniquity is to love it. Iniquity is sin, and if we love our sins, of course, we will not give them up, but will cling to them and they to us, like "the body of death." Rom. 7:24. Sin must be hated, abandoned, given up, and forsaken. When this is done we will come to God as did the poor publican in the temple, and say, "God be merciful to me a sinner," and the Lord will hear our prayer and forgive our sins. Luke 18:13.

There is still another reason why prayer is not answered. The married man is commanded to

'dwell with his wife, giving honor unto her as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that our prayers be not hindered.' I Peter 3:7. Let any contention come into the family between the husband and wife and it will weaken our faith, and hinder our prayers from being answered; or if one has hardness in his heart toward any living being, his prayers will be hindered. We must forgive as we hope to be forgiven, and it must be from the heart prompted by love if we expect our prayers to be heard and answered. The Lord is willing to hear prayer and to bestow upon his dear people the very choicest of heaven's blessings when they stand right with him.

(To be continued.)

Bible Readings.

There are many persons who would like to give their friends and neighbors a series of Bible Readings on present truth who do not feel capable or cannot spare the time to do so.

The Bible Readings series of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES furnishes a splendid opportunity for all such to carry out their desires.

The next twenty-four numbers, beginning with November 13, will contain a course of Bible Readings covering all the main points of the message.

These studies will be taken up in the form of questions and answers. The answers in the main will be in the exact words of the Scripture,—a plain "Thus saith the Lord." The texts will be quoted and references given, thus making the subjects plain and impressive. We hear on every side what man says; let us now hear what God says.

These Bible Readings alone will be worth the price of the paper for six months, but in addition to these readings all the other departments of the paper will be kept up the same as usual.

All who subscribe now, or dur-

ing the month of November, will be entitled to the World's Missions Double Number which is really a part of the series.

Brother E. R. Palmer, Secretary of the General Conference Publishing Department, writes as follows:

"I fully believe that under the blessing of God this Missions Number and the Bible Readings series to follow will be the most effective means for spreading the Third Angel's Message ever yet devised by one of our periodicals. If our people only knew what this paper will really contain and what it might accomplish in bringing God's work for these days vividly before their friends and neighbors, they would surely awaken and would give this number such a circulation as no paper in the past has ever had. We have never issued such a paper as this before. Surely we must make this a mighty factor in God's work."

The long winter evenings are now right upon us and this series of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES will be just the thing to place in the hands of our friends and neighbors in order that they may become intelligent in regard to the times in which we live and the important events transpiring all around us.

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A Misleading Picture.

In about every ideal picture of the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve are made to appear naked, and conversing in blissful innocence with the angels. This conveys an entirely wrong impression.

Our first parents were, in their innocence, clothed in beautiful light such as that of God and angels. See Great Controversy, Vol. 1, p. 11; Psa. 104:2.

When they sinned this covering of light was taken away, and they, in their guilt, tried to hide away from God. Sentence was then pronounced upon them, and they were driven out; not, however, until the plan of salvation had been made known to them. When they enter the garden again they will be clothed in beautiful garments of light.

A. SMITH.

Thank God For Judas!

Why? Because he was one of the twelve, chosen by the Master Himself, who knowing the end from the beginning, knew that he would prove not merely a thief but a traitor.

Why then did He choose him?

Because, looking down the ages, He saw that many, many times as the years rolled by, poor, short-sighted mortals in authority, striving hard to discriminate wisely, would, nevertheless, most unwisely admit into the churches those who would bring shame and dishonor on their profession, and become stumbling-blocks to weak souls because the lives of these church members did not accord with their profession.

Brethren! Sisters! let us make stepping-stones of these stumbling-blocks.

Long years ago, God through His hand-maiden told us that not more than one in twenty of those same church members would remain faithful to the end, and win eternal life.

What then can we expect from the other nineteen out of each twenty? Dishonorable conduct, of course.

Shall we therefore give up in discouragement and lose our confidence in the S. D. A. denomination? By no manner of means. It but proves the truth of the testimonies. Let us instead, thanking God for Judas, make sure that we are among the twenties.

HELEN A. STEINHAEUER,
Battle Creek, Mich.

Missionary Volunteer Lesson Nov. 23.—Tithing.

1. To whom does the earth belong? Psa. 24:1.
2. Whose are the beasts and fowls in the earth? Psa. 50:10,11
3. Whose are products of the earth? Hosea 2:9.
4. To whom belongs the gold and silver? Haggai 2:8.
5. Into whose hands did the Lord once place all these? Gen. 1:26.
6. When Adam transgressed whose servant did he become? Rom. 6:16.
7. Did Adam retain his position after the transgression? Gen. 3:23. From the position of King, he became a "tiller of the soil" under another master.
8. How was God's ownership recognized by Abraham? Gen. 14:20.
9. Who was Melchisedec? Verse 18.
10. What rent did God ask? Lev. 27:30.
11. What did God say he knew Abraham would do? Gen. 18:19.
12. Was his posterity instructed in this particular? Gen. 28:20-22.

13. Later when Canaan was divided among the children of Israel (Jacob) which tribe received no part? Josh. 14:3,4.

14. To what service were the Levites called? Numbers 1:50,51. Deut. 18:1,2,5.

15. What provision was made for their maintenance? Neh. 10:37.

16. Then to whom do the tithes belong? Lev. 27:30.

17. What use does He make of them? Num. 18:24.

18. Then of what did those who ministered about holy things live? 1 Cor. 9:13.

19. What is still God's plan for supporting His workers? Verse 14.

20. Is the tithing system recognized in the New Testament? Matt. 23:23; Luke 18:12; Heb. 7:1-8.

21. How is one regarded who withholds it? Mal. 3:8.

S. D. HARTWELL.

Report of the Sabbath School Department of the West Michigan Conference for the Quarter Ending Sept. 30, 1907.

No. of school	-	86
Membership	-	2503
Average Attendance	-	1807
No. of classes	-	366
No. in Senior Division		1120
" " Junior " "		461
" " Intermediate " "		346
" " Primary " "		311
" " Kindergarten " "		185
" " Home Dept. of Schools		39
Total Donations	\$	694.77
Amount donated to missions		348.54

MARGARET HAUGHEY,
Secretary.

Notice to Canvassers.

As we are dependent upon our canvassers for material from which to make our reports to the UNION FIELD Secretary, also for filing in the office it is very desirable that each canvasser report to us the work done each week.

Each canvasser will be furnished with report blanks and stamped envelope for this purpose. If you

have not received such, drop us a card and they will be mailed to you promptly. We would be glad to hear from any who would like to enter the work either as beginners or as experienced hands. Let us get acquainted. Write us your desires and we will gladly give you all the assistance we can.

The better we become acquainted the more we can help each other. There are no doubt many who did good work in this line in former years who would be glad to do something again, but because they cannot devote all their time to the work have not re-enlisted. To such we would say there is a hearty welcome awaiting you, and you can help to fulfill the following statement, which surely will be done ere long:

"There should be one hundred canvassers where there are now one." This means in West Michigan. Reader, does this appeal to you? It should do so. Why not decide now to take part in this neglected but most fruitful field, and have a part with the eleventh-hour workers? And with them also share in the joy of our Lord? The writer or the Office Secretary would only be glad to help you as far as in their power lies. West Michigan must and will take her place in the front ranks again in this work. Come let us rally to her support. The battle is short, and all who help to win the victory must enlist soon.

Let us hear from you.

A. C. HAUGHEY,
Field Secretary.

The Joy of Giving.

Truly it is more blessed to give than to receive. No doubt all have read that remarkable scripture which illustrates the blessedness of giving. "Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly unto the Lord: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.....But who

am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee." I Chronicles 29:9, 14.

At the time when the \$100,000 Fund was being raised, the writer remembers several occasions, after a public appeal at the camp meetings had been given, that there came to him with tears of joy in their eyes, those who would express thanksgiving. The writer would say, "Why should you be thankful to me? I have just been calling for and receiving gifts from you for the work in Washington. Should not I rather be grateful to you?" "Oh!", the answer would be, "I am so thankful for a chance to give to this glorious advance movement." Truly there is a joy in giving to the Lord's work. It is the only safe investment and will bring everlasting reward. It is the best kind of a bank account.

Now dear brethren and sisters, the \$150,000 Fund has been before us for sometime. Shall we not joyfully and cheerfully close it up before the year is past, and, as in the previous Fund, bring in an overflow?

J. S. WASHBURN.

Mind Sickness.

There are two general classes of sick people,—those who THINK they are sick, and those who ARE sick. The November number of LIFE AND HEALTH will be a great help to both these classes. While it does not advocate the practice of hypnotism, or approve of such methods, it reveals the intimate relation of the mind and the body, demonstrates the power of the mind over the body, and directs in the rational, hygienic, and spiritual development of both.

Send for a sample copy, or order a good supply and sell them to your neighbors. Everybody likes LIFE AND HEALTH. It is a great public benefactor.

Report of Labor.

After returning home from the Battle Creek council meeting, at telephone call, I went, October 24, to Alaska, Michigan, to conduct funeral services of a deceased sister. The attendance was large and the interest in the word spoken was very manifest.

On the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth I visited at West Olive and Agaw and attended quarterly meeting. An excellent brotherly spirit prevailed.

November 1st I attended the Grandville meeting. On the eighth at Kent City. No minister had visited them except to attend funerals, for nearly two years. They have a leader but no elder. They appear united, and are of good courage. They have a small, neat church building.

Prior to the council meeting I visited different churches, and tried, when practicable, to become acquainted with Sabbath-keeping families at their homes. Visited and labored with outsiders as I had opportunity; and distributed much literature among the people in the country. I am of good courage and love the work.

A. SMITH.

Obituary.

Pierce—Mrs. Mary Pierce, daughter of John B. and Jane Budge, was born in England in the year 1844. Her parents came to America when she was but two years old. After a short sojourn in Milwaukee, they settled in Waukesha County, Wisconsin. At the age of thirteen her parents removed to Juneau County, where she was married to Wm. R. Pierce in her twentieth year. To them were born two sons and a daughter. The daughter died at the age of twenty-three. In the spring of 1903 the parents came to Michigan and settled on a farm near Bangor, where Mrs. Pierce died on the morning of November 6, at the age of 63 years, 10 months and 9 days. Thirteen years ago

she was baptized and united with the Seventh-day Adventist church of Pardeeville, Wisconsin, remaining a faithful member until she united with the same denomination in Bangor. She was placed to rest beside her daughter in Wyocena, Wisconsin. Words of consolation were spoken by Elder Dowsett of Madison, Wisconsin. Two sons and a husband are left to mourn their loss.

News and Notes.

The editor spent Sabbath, Nov. 16, at Buchanan.

How many of the "Signs of the Times Missions Special" are you going to distribute?

We did not hear from all of the Missionary Volunteer Societies for the quarter ending September 30.

E. A. Merriam spent last Thursday in Grand Rapids attending to some business for the conference.

Misses Edna Bellows and Calista Nelson, who are doing Bible work in Kalamazoo, are of good courage in their work.

The editor had the privilege of attending some of the sessions of the Michigan Annual State Sunday School Convention that was held at Kalamazoo last week.

Are you a Missionary Volunteer? How many of the "Our Truth Number" of the Instructor are you going to volunteer to sell? This issue will bear the date of December 3, 1907.

Do our readers want to know how they can do a good missionary work and be paid from \$3.50 to \$7.00 a day while doing it? All who want to know how this is to be done can receive an answer by writing to LIFE AND HEALTH, Takoma Park Sta., Washington, D. C.