

THE WEST MICHIGAN HERALD

HE THAT REAPETH GATHERETH FRUIT UNTO LIFE ETERNAL

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WHO WILL ENLIST?

Gideon's Three Hundred.

The situation was critical; for the Midianites, swooping down in great numbers, were ravaging Israel's land, and destroying the fine fields of grain. The country must be liberated from the intruders. The call for volunteers echoed throughout the land.

Some leaned on their hoes, saying "It was a good work, and someone ought to do it; but, no, THEY could not go." Large numbers, however, volunteered. This army of volunteers marched up where the enemy could be seen across the valley. Such tremendous odds! Some began to tremble. The scene stabbed their courage. Their willingness retreated, and soon they left the field. But three hundred stood with eager eyes riveted upon the enemy. With cords of faith they bound the sandals of God's promises under their feet. They had enough "red iron" in the will to stick to it. God blessed them, and the land of Israel was freed from the enemy.

Today, in earth's ripened fields, the dripping faces of the enemy's reapers are seen. The scythes swing like pendulums. The hands that bind the sheaves heed no weariness. Thousands of splendid young people are being reaped for utter destruction. Many are being snatched from the ranks of Israel. A painful scene is this to the Christian, and how can we thwart the enemy's plans?

To save every youth from the hand of the enemy, will demand earnest, ceaseless effort, in seizing every opportunity presented. Just now, the "Truth" number of the

Instructor gives the worker a chance to thrust in the sickle and reap for the garner of heaven.

SUGGESTIVE PLANS.

Some already have well-laid plans for circulating this number of the Instructor, but others have not. We therefore make the following suggestions for the planning and carrying forward of this work:—

A. Order large quantities for distribution.

1. Find persons who will take large numbers.

2. Take it up in the Society or church meeting, and ascertain how many each will take.

3. See how many older people will pay for copies for young people to use.

4. Appoint a committee to see all who were not at the meeting.

B. Distribution of the Paper.

1. Appoint the officers of the society or other members as a periodical committee to plan for and direct the work.

2. Each member should study this Special Number; and let the Society prepare a program from it.

3. District the town and country, and assign to workers according to their adaptability to work in the various localities.

4. Give copies to all libraries, reading rooms, schools, other institutions and public places where they will be received.

5. Supply waitingroom racks.

6. Make a special effort to place the paper in the hands of the leaders and members of other Young People's Societies.

7. Mail copies to friends and acquaintances, and follow by faith-

ful correspondence.

8. With such a preparation as can be obtained, let certain ones sell the papers on the streets and in business houses, observing propriety and Christian courtesy in all the work.

9. Nothing of value was ever done for God without prayer. Let every individual and the entire society pray earnestly for success in planning and executing the work.

C. Follow-up Work.

Carefully note the interested ones; take to them other literature and give Bible Readings as opportunity offers.

Let none say, "It is a good work, but I cannot help." Let none order a supply, and then, repulsed at the first door, turn about and lay the papers on the shelf. Let each Missionary Volunteer be a member of Gideon's three hundred,—ready to seize the opportunity, ready to lift the responsibility, and then ready to stick to it in the spirit of earnest prayer, until the work is done.

M. E. KERN.

Missionary Volunteer Lesson Dec. 7, 1907.—Reverence For the House of God.

(This Bible reading was printed in the Herald October 10, 1907. We believe it will do our young people good to study this subject so we reprint it. We would suggest that after you have this lesson you read the chapter entitled "Behaviour in the House of God" in Testimony Vol. 5. Editor.)

1. Where is God's throne? Where is his footstool? Isa. 66:1, first clause.

2. What kind of a throne does the prophet call it? Jer. 17:12.

3. What did the Seer of Patmos hear "round about the throne?" Rev. 5:11.

4. What were they saying? Rev. 5:12, 4:8.

5. What does the Lord behold as he looks down from the height of his sanctuary? Ps. 102:19; Ps. 33:13, 14.

6. How are we to serve God? Heb. 12:28.

7. Where are we to worship him? Ps. 132:7. "To the humble, believing soul, the house of God on earth is the gate of heaven. The song of praise, the prayer, the words spoken by Christ's representatives, are God's appointed agencies to prepare a people for the church above, for the loftier worship into which there can enter nothing that defileth." Test. Vol. 5, p 491.

8. What else are we told to do? Ps. 99:5.

9. In what place is God especially to be feared? Ps. 89:7. "The house is the sanctuary for the family, and the closet or the grove the most retired place for individual worship; but the church is the sanctuary for the congregation. There should be rules in regard to the time, the place, and the manner of worship. Nothing that is sacred, nothing that pertains to the worship of God, should be treated with carelessness or indifference." Vol. 5, p 491.

10. Will he meet with his saints? Matt. 18:20.

11. How shall we regard his earthly sanctuary? Lev. 19:30. "If when the people come into the house of worship, they have genuine reverence for the Lord, and bear in mind that they are in his presence, there will be a sweet eloquence in silence. The whispering and laughing and talking which might be without sin in a common place, should find no sanction in the house where God is worshiped. The mind should be prepared to hear the word of God, that it may

have due weight, and suitably impress the heart." Vol. 5, p 492.

12. What caution has the wise man given us? Eccl. 5:1. "When the worshipers enter the place of meeting, they should do so with decorum, passing quietly to their seats. If there is a stove in the room, it is not proper to crowd about it in an indolent, careless attitude. Common talking, whispering, and laughing should not be permitted in the house of worship, either before or after the service. Ardent, active piety should characterize the worshipers." Vol. 5, p 492.

13. What were the people doing when Zacharias was burning incense in the temple? Luke 1:8-10.

14. What should we do while the minister is communing with God? "When the minister enters, it should be with dignified, solemn mien. He should bow down in silent prayer as soon as he steps into the pulpit, and earnestly ask help of God. What an impression this will make! There will be solemnity and awe upon the people. Their minister is communing with God; he is committing himself to God before he dares to stand before the people. Solemnity rests upon all, and angels of God are brought very near. Every one of the congregation also, who fears God, should with bowed head unite in silent prayer with him, that God may grace the meeting with his presence, and give power to his truth proclaimed from human lips." Vol. 5, pp. 492, 493.

15. What should we do when the meeting is opened? Ps. 95:6. "When the meeting is opened by prayer, every knee should bow in the presence of the Holy One, and every heart should ascend to God in silent devotion. The prayers of the faithful worshipers will be heard, and the ministry of the Word will prove effectual." Vol. 5, p 493.

16. How should we listen during services? "When the word is spoken, you should remember, brethren, that you are listening to

the voice of God through his delegated servant. Listen attentively."

17. What should we do after the benediction is pronounced? "When the benediction is pronounced, all should still be quiet, as if fearful of losing the peace of Christ. Let all pass out without jostling or loud talking, feeling that they are in the presence of God, that his eye is resting upon them, and they must act as in his visible presence. Let there be no stopping in the aisles to visit or gossip, thus blocking them up so that others cannot pass out. The precincts for the church should be invested with a sacred reverence. It should not be made a place to meet old friends, and visit and introduce common thoughts and worldly business transactions. These should be left outside the church. God and angels have been dishonored by the careless, noisy laughing and shuffling of feet heard in some places." Vol. 5, p 494.

This week's lesson closes the series of lessons for our Missionary Volunteer Societies. We would suggest that where the societies do not study the Instructor lessons they prepare Bible readings on different subjects, and thus get an experience in this line of work.

PRAYER.

R. C. HORTON.

Christ disputed the claim of the Jews who said that God was their father; and told them if God were their father, they would love him, for he proceeded forth and came from God. He then told them that they were of their father the devil and the lust of their father they were doing. John 8:44. Thus there is a being whom the Saviour calls a father, and that he has children who are of darkness and unbelief, and they are walking with their father in the broad road that leads to death. But the Lord has had mercy upon them and sent them the gospel of his dear Son that they might be "turned from darkness to light, and from the

power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me." Acts 26:18.

Cain was of that wicked one and belonged to his father the devil; therefore he slew his brother. Such are strangers to God, "being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenant of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world. Eph. 2:12. Such is the condition of this lost and fallen world in the darkness of sin and unbelief. "But now in Christ Jesus ye who some times were far off, are made nigh by the blood of Christ." Verse 13.

God calls his people out of the darkness of sin and unbelief into the light, liberty, and faith of the Son of God. He asks them to change leaders; to remain no longer under the dark banner of the father of lies. "Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters saith the Lord Almighty. Then we are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord. In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Eph. 2:19-22.

This building or household is called the household of faith. Gal. 6:10; because those who belong to it are children of faith. They believe God and trust in his power to save, both from sin and disease. They have passed from death unto life, even the new life in Christ. They are children of the heavenly King.

"Their father is rich in houses and land, He holdeth the wealth of the world in his hands.

Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,
His coffers are full, he has riches untold."

Now that they belong to the household of faith they are entitled by virtue of sonship and as children of one common family to all the blessings and privileges that God ever gave to his dear children in any age of the world.

Oh let us "see and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Jer. 6:16. God is no respecter of persons. He will do for his people now, all that he ever did for any people if they will put away their unbelief and trust in his power to save. Oh, let us become wrestling Jacobs, and prevailing Israels, and so may we lay hold of the Lord by faith, saying I will not let thee go except thou bless me. Gen. 32:26.

(the end.)

Among the Schools.

These are busy days for the Educational Superintendent. We now have twenty schools in the conference, and all but two of these have been visited.

There are many evidences that the Lord is blessing the work, and we may confidently expect a continual blessing when we are willing to perform our part. As I go from school to school, I am forcibly reminded of the fact that our workers must have much more than human wisdom that they may guide, and not mar the sacred work of character-building.

"Habit is a cable," says Horace Mann. "We weave a thread of it every day, and at last we cannot break it." Let us, as instructors of the young, see that habits of truthfulness and honesty; of kindness and helpfulness; of patience and industry be inculcated by our lives, as well as by our teaching. Let there be a spirit of enthusiasm manifested by the teacher, and a tactfulness which will bring into every recitation some interesting or instructive bit of information which will lead the pupil to look forward with glad anticipation to

the next recitation. But most of all, we need in our schools the tender, melting, converting power of the Spirit of God. Without this, all our efforts along the line of intellectual attainment will come to naught.

I have just returned from a three days visit at Cedar Lake Academy. The enrollment at present numbers seventy-three, twenty-four being pupils in the church school department. This is a larger number of students than has ever been enrolled at the institution at this season of the year. There are twelve or more who expect to graduate from the intermediate department next spring. I visited nearly every class in each grade, and was much pleased with the good thorough work being done. An excellent spirit prevades the home. Meals are furnished on the European plan and, judging from my short visit, are all that could be desired. There are many manifest tokens of the Lord's guidance, and that He may continue to richly bless both faculty and students is my prayer.

Let no one make the mistake of thinking that our schools will have all clear sailing, and no trials or perplexities. It is with schools as with individuals; the more determined we are to do the right, the fiercer will be the assaults of the enemy. He is determined to overthrow our school work; but thanks be to God, help is laid upon One who is mighty to save.

Every one of our educational workers will feel a deep personal loss in the death of our efficient and much esteemed Educational Secretary, Elder W. D. Curtis. He was a most indefatigable and methodical worker, and it has been largely through his efforts that the educational work has made systematic progress during the last three years. During my intimate association with him I learned to respect him as a safe counselor; to regard him as an esteemed friend; and to love him as a devoted Christian brother. In be-

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Margaret Haughey, Editor.

half of our corps of teachers, I desire to express to the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy in this their hour of affliction.

Dear brethren and sisters, remember, morning and evening, our educational work at the throne of grace, that the mind of God's Spirit may be fully met in each of our schools.

CLIFFORD A. RUSSELL.

Berrien Springs, Mich.

Our church school opened Monday, September 23, 1907, with fourteen pupils. Two months of the first term have quickly passed, and during that time six other pupils have been enrolled among us. The work includes all grades to the ninth, except the fourth.

One pupil, a girl of seventeen, has been buried in baptism, for which we praise God. We have distributed some well-preserved copies of "Little Friend" among those not of our faith, and have agreed to sell fifty copies of the "Missions" number of the Signs.

A class in sewing has been organized in which all are very much interested. After some preliminary work upon stitches, etc., we expect to begin our missionary quilt, for which many of the blocks are already cut.

Thursday, November 7, 1907, was set apart as "Parents' Day." The pupils made invitations, each carrying one to his own parents. They were little booklets, pumpkin shaped, colored without and tied with yellow ribbon, while within, the invitation was written. On that day, all available chairs were taken by visiting parents and others. In order that they might see the work being done, the reg-

ular classes recited until three o'clock, when a short program was rendered, consisting of reading, recitation and song. Two solos were especially appreciated, one little girl being accompanied by her brother upon the violin.

A spirit of kindness to all, prevails among the pupils, who seem conscientious in their work. Pray for us that we may invite God's presence with us more and more.

EDNA S. DECKER.

Rules For Spoiling a Child.

1. Begin young by giving him whatever he cries for.
2. Talk freely before the child about his smartness as incomparable.
3. Tell him he is too much for you, that you can do nothing with him.
4. Have divided counsels as between father and mother.
5. Let him learn to regard his father as a creature of unlimited power, capricious and tyrannical; or as a mere whipping machine.
6. Let him learn, from his father's example, to despise his mother.
7. Do not know or care who his companions may be.
8. Let him read whatever he likes.
9. Let the child, whether boy or girl, rove the streets in the evenings—a school for both sexes.
10. Devote yourself to making money, remembering always that wealth is a better legacy for your child than principles in the heart and habits in the life; and let him have plenty of money to spend.
11. Be not with him in hours of recreation.
12. Strain at a gnat and swallow a camel; chastise severely for a foible, and laugh at vice.
13. Let him run about from church to church. Eclecticism in religion is the order of the day.
14. Whatever burdens of virtuous requirements you may lay on his shoulders, touch not one with one of your own fingers.

These rules are not untried.

Many parents have proved them, with substantial uniformity of result. The warning is given in all sadness; we only wish there were reasons to hope it might reach those for whom it is intended.—Selected.

Notice.

Our teachers and others interested, will be glad to know that True Education Reader Series, No. 5 is now ready for delivery; and orders for the same will receive prompt attention. Order through the West Michigan Tract Society, CLIFFORD RUSSELL.

News and Notes.

Have you read the report of the Sabbath School and Young People's Convention? If not send ten cents to the West Michigan Tract Society and get one and read it.

We have a few extra copies of the week of prayer readings and if any of our church leaders have failed to receive a copy, send to the West Michigan Tract Society, Otsego, Mich.

Battle Creek Notes.

Elder M. N. Campbell spent Sunday at Potterville attending the general meeting held there.

Our young people meet for a most interesting Bible study each Monday evening, conducted by Elder Campbell.

A study of the book of Revelation is conducted each Sunday evening at the Academy chapel by Brother Amadon.

Elder Slade of East Michigan occupied the pulpit last Sabbath and gave us a very interesting sermon on the subject of "The Throne of God."

Elder F. C. Gilbert of Boston made us a flying visit the last of the week, and will return to Battle Creek to spend the Sabbath with us this week.

For the last three Sabbaths the Battle Creek congregation has been occupying the Baptist church downtown, because the heating plant in the Tabernacle is not yet completed. We hope to have it ready by next Sabbath.