

THE WEST MICHIGAN HERALD

HE THAT REAPETH GATHERETH FRUIT UNTO LIFE ETERNAL

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E. L. Richmond, Editor.

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Morning Reflections.

The question is asked, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Can you say this morning, I believe in the Lord Jesus; I live by the faith of the Son of God, by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God?

The Saviour is calling souls to him. The bells of heaven are ringing out the blessed invitation, "Come." The Spirit of God is pleading, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink." These are precious words of encouragement and hope.

It is the privilege and duty of every church-member to consecrate heart and soul to God. At your baptism you pledge yourself to believe in God, to obey his word, to receive his grace. You pledge yourselves to live the principles of the gospel, and labor together with Christ with all the ability God has

given you. None are excused for living idle lives. None can refuse to represent him in word and deed, and be guiltless.

The presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the three highest powers in the universe, and those in whose name the believer is baptized, is pledged to be with every striving soul. They will impart grace and strength to all who will purify the soul by obedience to the truth. And they will make the believer instrumental in leading other souls to accept Christ by faith.

The duty to reflect light rests upon every church-member. "Ye are the light of the world," Christ declared to his followers. "A city that is set on a hill can not be hid. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." If the believer fails of drawing light from the Sun of Righteousness he can not reflect the light.

"He that is not with me," Christ declared, "is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." Those who do not cast their influence on the side of Christ, Satan imbues with his spirit to act in unison with the enemy of good. We can not afford to do this, and thus violate the pledge we made at our baptism. When we give to the cause of evil the influence and ability which belongs to the cause of truth, angels are disappointed, and Christ is dishonored. Those who are true to the baptismal pledge can not be indifferent to the work of saving souls. To those who by their influence gather with Christ, angels

will give ability to labor successfully for him.

How precious to every soul should be the thought that his name upon the church books is the pledge that he is engaged in the service of Christ! The servant of God is to be learning constantly how he may reflect light to the world. By his earnest devotion to the cause of the coming King, he is to be a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. He has become dead to worldly inducements, and lives unto God; and the words of his mouth, the modest dress, the humble spirit, unflinchingly testify that he is a laborer together with God.

Spiritual indolence brings discouragement to the church. The example of one indolent soul may do much harm, for it will be copied by others just according to the possibilities of its influence. The Lord calls upon all who profess his name to exalt his character before men, by words and works revealing their faith in him. In response to our desire to labor for Christ, heavenly angels will place opportunities before us by which we may make known the salvation of God.

ELLEN G. WHITE.

The Thanksgiving Ingathering.

The General Conference Committee at its council in April recommended that Thanksgiving week, Nov. 22-28, be set apart as a time for a special ingathering of funds for foreign mission work. Since that time the officers of the General Conference and other members of the General Conference Committee have been developing a plan whereby this ingathering

may be made as successful as possible. After much thought and prayer, the following plan has been arranged, accepted, and is now recommended to our people everywhere.

THE PLAN.

That Thanksgiving week, Nov. 22-28, 1908, be set apart by our people, and consecrated to an active effort throughout the week in gathering a thanksgiving offering for foreign missions, from friends and neighbors, and indeed from all who can be reached during that season.

That a foreign mission number of the REVIEW be issued as the medium for communicating the most interesting and attractive features of our foreign mission work to the people solicited.

That this number of the REVIEW be filled with descriptions of our mission work; incidents showing the providence of God in the mission field in bringing souls to Christ, and containing numerous illustrations showing the schools, mission houses, and photographs of missionaries.

That as large a number of these papers as can be used to advantage be furnished free to everyone who will enter heartily into the work of collecting donations.

That copies of this mission number of the REVIEW be given freely to friends and neighbors, relatives and trades-people; and that in presenting the papers, a brief and interesting statement be made of the great work being done in heathen lands, especially in China, Japan, India, Africa, and the islands of the sea; then with confidence let everyone be asked by the solicitor to make a liberal thanksgiving offering to help carry the gospel light to those who are less favored than we are.

That these funds, when collected, be sent to the conference treasurer, the same as all other mission funds collected and donated by individuals and children.

That the publishers of our evangelical papers lay plans for their periodicals, so that they will not bring out any special numbers during the last six months of 1908, thus leaving the field free for a great undivided movement in circulating this free mission number of the REVIEW, and in collecting funds for missions.

That this plan be clearly presented in detail at all general gatherings, such as camp-meetings, conferences, and conventions, also in all the churches.

That the various features of this plan be frequently presented from now until Thanksgiving week in the columns of the REVIEW, SIGNS, WATCHMAN, and in all our union conference and state papers.

That local conferences so arrange their work as to give as much attention as consistent to the preparation of this plan, and organization of the work in the local churches, and among the isolated members in each conference.

That each conference, in addition place its laborers during Thanksgiving week so that each one may act as an organizer and leader in this special work.

That we talk liberality, and appeal for large gifts, and believe that God will work upon the hearts of the people and incline them to give of their abundance for foreign missions; and that by every means within our power, we unite in making this effort an epoch in the history of our efforts to raise money for the advancement of the cause of God.

WHY THIS PLAN WAS ADOPTED.

The calls which come to the Mission Board every day are so imperative, that our brethren are in duty bound to put forth every possible effort to supply the most urgent needs. As the urgency of the situation has been pressed more and more upon the General Conference, several of our leading men have been under the conviction that the time has come when the

denomination should and can consistently appeal to the outside world for assistance in carrying forward the missionary work in foreign fields.

In the past our funds for aggressive work have been raised almost entirely by our own people. Our doctrines have been in some respects so unpopular that it has seemed necessary that we should support our own enterprises, and indeed at the beginning of this work, it was supposed that the truth of the third angel's message was so unpopular that it would always be necessary to give away our literature; but finally when the Lord impressed some of our leaders that the time had come to sell this literature, they undertook to do it, and great results have followed. The sale of our literature has become a great strength to the general work. May it not be so, to some extent, in the raising of funds by donations from those outside of our ranks? There seems to be, both in the Scriptures and in the spirit of prophecy, intimations that the time would come when the Gentiles would bring their gifts for the proclamation of the gospel. For many years other denominations have gone outside of their membership to secure funds for foreign missions and their various institutions. The Salvation Army has raised some magnificent sums of money during their annual self-denial week. We are informed that they have raised in Great Britain about \$1,000,000 for their relief and charitable enterprises during that one week. The Methodists during the past two years have succeeded in raising something over \$4,000,000 through their efforts in soliciting all people for contributions for their foreign work.

There is wealth in the world which belongs to God's cause, and not only would this wealth be a help in supporting the great work of the Lord today, but the people would themselves be blessed in the

giving; and we, who know the Lord's message for today, and what the duty of the people is, have a responsibility in urging upon them their obligation to God and to his gospel work.

STATEMENTS FAVORING THE PLAN.

The spirit of prophecy has very clearly pointed out our duty in this respect. From a testimony written Feb. 28, 1900, we quote the following:—

"There are true worshipers, and there are false worshipers. In the fallen churches of today the Lord God recognizes every soul that is drawing nigh unto him, but there are many who are indulging a false hope. At the very time when they are loudest in its praise, the commandment goes forth, 'Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches.' Many claim to be Christians, when their hearts are set on worldly pleasure and worldly gain. A witness is present in all the scenes of mirth and revelry, and in a moment he can change the features of the scene, even as he did on the night of Belshazzar's sacrilegious feast.

"There are Christian churches that are standing in defense of the principles of temperance. We want them to stand shoulder to shoulder with us. There are many of every nationality who have wealth and intellectual powers. It is the Lord Jesus who has given them their ability and wealth. These gifts are a trust wherewith the Lord's vineyard is to be worked. Now the teaching of our workers is to be such as to awaken in these souls a sense of their responsibility to be co-laborers, and Christ wants them. He says, 'Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

"There is a world to be warned and we have been very delicate about calling upon rich men, either church-members or worldlings, to

aid us in the work. We would that all professed Christians stood with us. We would that their souls might be drawn out in liberality to aid us in building up the kingdom of God in our world. We should call upon great and good men to help us in our Christian endeavor work. They should be invited to second our efforts in seeking to save that which is lost."

"With all our power we must urge souls to look unto Jesus. It will do no harm to let them know that you expect them to co-operate with you, that you expect them to give joy to the heart of Christ by using every one of his gifts in honoring his name."

In referring to the obligations that the people of the world are under to return to the Lord a portion of that which he had given, we quote again from the same testimony; "The people of the world have had the use of the Lord's vineyard and have brought in little in return."

Thus it would appear that the people of the world upon whom he has lavished his gifts in abundance are not relieved from responsibility to God and his cause because of lack of recognition of his claims upon them, and it would appear that our duty toward the world in giving the message does not consist simply in preaching the precepts of the gospel. We should also urge upon the people their obligations to God, and invite them to share in the support of his work.

The Lord is stirring up the hearts of our strong young men and women, and they are volunteering for the front. It seems that while the Lord is opening up the great heathen lands of the earth, and each year is making the conditions more favorable for the closing work of the gospel, at the same time he is preparing workers to enter these open doors. The great problem now is how shall we secure the necessary funds to pay the wages and traveling ex-

penses of this continual stream of missionaries which is flowing toward foreign lands? The promise is, "Ask, . . . and ye shall receive."

The constituency of our denomination is comparatively small, and the amount our people can give is limited. However, we would not underestimate or show a lack of appreciation of the splendid effort made by our Sabbath-schools, our young people, and indeed, by our people as a body, in raising funds for foreign missions. The recent plans which have been laid and adopted for raising an average of ten cents a week throughout the denomination, together with the constantly increasing liberality of union and local conferences in appropriating from their tithes in behalf of the foreign work, is very materially increasing the foreign mission funds, and yet, the needs are increasing altogether out of proportion to the increase of these funds; therefore, the ingathering of funds during Thanksgiving week from the outside people should be made the greatest event in our financial history. It should bring into the treasury of the Mission Board a large sum of money with which to help on the work in foreign fields. A united army of sixty thousand Seventh-day Adventists filled with the Holy Spirit ought to do much for good in a week's consecrated effort. We ask the hearty co-operation of all our workers in the execution of this plan above outlined. Through this plan we not only desire to free our Mission Board from debt, but in addition to give them a liberal balance for aggressive work. Through it we hope to reach millions of people in other lands, and bring to them the good news of the soon-coming Saviour.

MISSIONARY DEPT. OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

A Remarkable Record.

Fifty thousand copies of the first edition of the August number of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES month-

ly were sold within two weeks after they came from the press, and another edition had to be printed. One agent ordered 3,000 copies; another, 2,000; another, 1,100; and several 500 to 1,000 copies each. And so the Magazine is going.

The second edition will be off from the press in time to fill all orders promptly. Send for special terms to agents. Address this office.

Who Has a Better Business?

During the "hard times" without capital invested, who has a business that will net him \$70.00 profits per week? We answer: our good hustling LIFE AND HEALTH agents. \$70.00 a week was received as profits by one individual during July, and it can be done during August just as well. Who wants to try it?

The Review & Herald Publishing Association, Washington, D. C., is now sending out EACH WEEK 50,000 copies of our various periodicals. This is a gain of more than 25,000 copies since the removal to Washington. In three weeks' time the July edition of 45,000 copies of LIFE AND HEALTH was ordered out. A large edition of the August number is being run.

The largest single order received for the July number of LIFE AND HEALTH was for 3000 copies. The largest number ordered in one mail was 4,250 copies. The largest number sold by one person in three weeks was 3000 copies, making a net profit to the worker of \$210.00. Many of those who work only as they have time and opportunity report 25 copies per hour, making a net profit of \$1.50 per hour.

In view of the good that LIFE AND HEALTH accomplishes wherever it goes and the liberal remuneration it furnishes the worker, who can find a better business than soliciting for it?

Write for particulars. Address this office.

"Little strokes fell large oaks."

Correspondence Solicited.

We have reached the time when a definite, progressive work must be carried forward in the South. The Spirit of God is moving upon the hearts of men and women to give themselves to this work. We want to correspond with young people who after a brief course of instruction will be prepared to teach, and with young married people with small families who want a preparation for work in a needy field. A special six weeks course of instruction begins September 2, 1908. This will be of interest to you.

We have also some interesting propositions to make to men who have means to use in the South, and who will be glad to associate with teachers and medical missionaries in gospel work. Address E. A. Sutherland, Madison, Tenn.

Mission Notes.

Since the beginning of the present year, over fifty persons, including missionaries, and their families, have been sent on to the waiting fields. Approximately this will mean \$25,000 additional outlay in getting these people to the fields and supporting them the first year.

One brother, in writing to the Mission Board requested a copy of the second Sabbath readings sent to him, says: "Our church is taking hold of the ten-cent-a-week plan in earnest, and I believe will carry it out faithfully." This sounds good, coming, as it does from one of the officials of a local church.

A missionary says of Changsha, the principal city of Hunans, Province, China: "Unlike many Chinese cities, Changsha is quite prepossessing. Its clean, broad, and very busy streets, with their well-equipped stores; its well-dressed people; its well-built and substantial houses; its numerous heathen temples, many of them works of

art—all these things appeal to visitors as expressing comparative luxury, wealth and ease." But as one who knows the third angel's message, views such a city in the heart of China, very different feelings surge through the mind than are experienced by the common visitor. He thinks of reaching these unwarned souls with the light of this glorious truth. In this city five laborers have their headquarters, with millions of people in the province all around them outside this city with its vast population for whom they are also expected to labor. But the Sabbath-message truth must reach all these in some way, and we have the sure word of the Lord that it shall.

News and Notes.

No paper next week.

Wanted.—Home for a middle aged widow and a child. An S. D. A. family desiring help will do well to write Mrs. M., 35 Shepard St., Battle Creek, Mich.

Married, August 5, 1908, Mabel L. Haughey and Fred Green, at the home of the bride's parents in Berrien Springs. They spent a few days in Otsego, on their way to the camp-meeting in Grand Rapids.

One of our periodical salesmen writes: "Last week in four days, working eight hours a day, I sold 531 papers at 10 cents. I started work this afternoon at 3 p. m. and at 7 p. m. I had sold 132 ten cent papers. This is the best I have done yet in the same length of time."

All orders sent us up to August 21 will be filled from the camp ground. Mail will reach us more promptly if addressed to "S. D. A. Camp Ground, Reed's Lake Station, Grand Rapids, Mich." Do not address us there after that date, but write to Otsego as usual.