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God's Love

A Sermon by Pastor Meade MacGuire

TEXT: "The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." Jer. 31:3.

The more one meditates upon this beautiful verse the more it appeals to his heart. We all desire to be loved, and we all enjoy being told that we are loved; but it seems a wonderful thing that the everlasting God should send a message to you and me saying, "I love you." It sends a thrill through our hearts when even our human friends say those words, "I love you." I have seen it.

I have walked along arm in arm with a young Japanese in Tokyo and told him I loved him, and seen tears spring into his eyes. I remember two years ago when we were in Manchuria, there was a little Chinese boy about ten years of age who seemed to take a great liking to the foreigners, and whenever we were in the chapel, he was standing near, gazing up into our faces as if he were fascinated. We really did love the little fellow, and tried to communicate with him by our few Chinese sentences. One day I stood looking over the shoulder of one of the workers while he wrote a note to the boy, who was leaning against his knee. The child hastened away to find some one who could translate it. The note said, "You are a good little boy. I love you." And in a few minutes the boy came running back with his face just radiant, and after that it was very hard to separate him from that worker.

God's Love Everlasting

"I love you." What magic words! God says, "I love you." As I came through Japan last spring and stopped at the school at Tokyo, I said to the students,

"Some one stand and tell me how long God has loved you." And one young man said, "Ever since I became a Christian." "Has any one another answer?" And another said, "Ever since I was born." God says, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love," and that, dear friends, is literally true. Here in First Peter, the first chapter, beginning with the eighteenth verse, we read:

"Knowing, as you do, that it was not with a ransom, of perishable wealth, such as silver or gold, that you were set free from your frivolous habits of life which had been handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ—as of an unblemished and spotless lamb. He was predestined indeed to this work, even before the creation of the world."—Weymouth.

You were redeemed, it says, from your lost condition by the precious blood of the Lamb. He was pre-

destined to do this for you even before the creation of the world. I can remember quite distinctly, when I was a child, how I used to think over these things by myself and wonder whether God knew man would sin. I concluded that surely God did not know it, or He would not have created the world and placed man here. Later I learned that God knew when He created this world that man would sin. He knew just what would take

A Prayer

Lord, let me patient be with those whose ways
Are not my own, when we perchance shall meet;
Let not one single glance throughout my days
Be otherwise than tolerant and sweet;
Help me to sense the bitterness they bear,
The undercurrents pulling at their hearts,
That I may somehow touch their souls, and share,
Through sympathy unworded, all their smarts.

Lord, place each day within my soul a seed
That shall unfold in broadest charity,
And bloom in tenderness for some one's need,
Exhaling perfume, giving clarity
To see into lives of those who planned
A different way, but failing, drifted low;
Help me my human kin to understand,
That I may justly speak where'er I go.

My creed is kindness. Help me to be kind!
A touch of love between each mortal here
Would greater be in power upon the mind
Than wealth of all the Incas, birthing cheer;
Help me to live in fellowship so broad
That it shall ring in every word I speak;
Help me to be kind, just kind, please, God,
That I may mould the character I seek.

—Grace E. Hall.

place, and it says that He predestined His Son to redeem us before the creation of the world. God knew not only that He was going to create the world and that He was going to have man here, but He knew you and me, and loved us before the world existed. He knew each one of us personally. He tells us in the Spirit of Prophecy that had God known that only one member of the human race would accept Christ, He would have given Him in sacrifice for that one. God has been loving us a long time. He says, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love," and that is literally true. In the thirteenth chapter of Revelation, verse 8, we read:

"All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

Eternal Life Assured Through Christ Before the Creation

We read in Peter that at the very creation of the world God offered His Son in sacrifice to redeem man, and He had been "predestined" to do that before the creation of the world.

"Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; in hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." Titus 1:1, 2.

This is a remarkable statement. God promised eternal life to some one before this world began. Did not every one have eternal life? Yes, surely. But God knew that there would be men and women in this world who would forfeit eternal life, and so He offered His Son in sacrifice to redeem them and restore to them eternal life. We might perhaps put it in this way: The Father said to His Son, "Those people that are to live in the world are very dear to Me, though they will wander away, and be lost." And Jesus said, "Father, if You will let Me, I will die for them to redeem them." And the Father said, "My Son, if You will do that, I will now promise You eternal life for them." Let me read here from "The Desire of Ages," page 22:

"The plan for our redemption was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall of Adam. It was a revelation of 'the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal.' It was an unfolding of the principles that from eternal ages have been the foundation of God's throne. From the beginning, God and Christ knew of the apostasy of Satan, and of the fall of man through the deceptive power of the apostate."

From the beginning of what? Not from the beginning of this world. Surely there would be no meaning in that, because apostasy began before the beginning of this world. Far back in the eternal ages God knew of the apostasy of Satan, and of the fall of man through his deceptive power.

"God did not ordain that sin should exist, but He foresaw its existence, and made provision to meet the terrible emergency. So great was His love for the world, that He covenanted to give His only begotten Son, 'that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'"—*Ibid.*

What is covenanted? Why, He promised! That is what it says here in Titus, that God, who cannot lie, promised eternal life "before the world began." Titus 1:2.

Chosen from the Beginning

I think God loved you a great deal. He entered into a covenant before He ever created this world, that this man living in 1927, a lost sinner, should be redeemed by the sacrifice of His Son. He has been loving us a long time.

"Even as, in His love, He chose us as His own in Christ before the creation of the world that we might be holy and without blemish in His presence." Eph. 1:4 (Weymouth).

What blessed encouragement there is in this verse! God in His love chose us as His own before the creation of the world. That explains to me why God created the world, knowing that sin would enter, that man would fall. Notwithstanding all that, He went right on and created it, because He not only foresaw the great apostasy, the fall of man, and the awful cost of his redemption, but He foresaw the redeemed living through all eternity to magnify His matchless love. He foresaw all those who were the purchase of His blood and who would respond to His love, that they would be holy and without blemish in His presence. He chose them before the foundation of the world.

"The inhabitants of the earth will be filled with amazement—all whose names are not in the book of life, having been recorded there ever since the creation of the world." Rev. 17:8 (Weymouth).

So God loved us. He gave His Son in sacrifice for us. He "predestined" Him to redeem us. He chose us. These thousands of years you and I have been a part of His plan of love. What a pity it would be to disappoint Him!

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." 2 Tim. 1:9.

It was given us. When? Before the world began. God said, "I love those people; I have been thinking about them for ages. I have a great gift, and I cannot wait until they come to give it to them." "Here," He said to Jesus, "I will give it to You for them right now." I get a faint conception of that love when I consider the mother thinking of her babe before it ever sees the light of day, loving it and working and planning for it. It lies nearer to her heart than anything else. So it was with God. He loved us so much He could not wait, and said to Christ, "Here is this glorious gift of grace which You are to keep for those earthly children of Mine."

The Most Wonderful Science

So while God did not plan for sin, and was in no sense responsible for it, yet in His omnipotent power and wisdom He designed a plan by which He would out of the tragedy of sin bring the most glorious result. The great God, who from eternity in the past saw into the eternity of the future, said, "It is worth while, worth all it will cost, because of what I am going to work out of this thing. I have a plan

to meet this emergency that will bring eternal joy to the universe." And what that plan is, dear friends, it seems to me is the most wonderful science man could know. I used to read how the study of the Word of God would develop the brain, the intellect, the reasoning faculties, more than any other study known to man; but I knew that a little superficial reading of the Bible was not doing it. I know now that the study of the science of redemption will develop the mind. Let me read again in "The Desire of Ages," pages 25, 26:

"By His life and His death, Christ has achieved even more than recovery from the ruin wrought through sin. It was Satan's purpose to bring about an eternal separation between God and man; but in Christ we become more closely united to God than if we had never fallen. In taking our nature, the Saviour has bound Himself to humanity by a tie that is never to be broken. Through the eternal ages He is linked with us. 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.' He gave Him not only to bear our sins, and to die as our sacrifice; He gave Him to the fallen race. To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only begotten Son to become one of the human family, forever to retain His human nature."

"The work of redemption will be complete. In the place where sin abounded, God's grace much more abounds. The earth itself, the very field that Satan claims as his, is to be not only ransomed, but exalted. Our little world under the curse of sin, the one dark blot in His glorious creation, will be honoured above all other worlds in the universe of God."

God says, "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love." And that is literally true. Now let us turn to Ephesians 3, reading verses 8-11. There are some wonderful things here:

"To me who am less than the least of all God's people has this work been graciously intrusted,—to proclaim to the Gentiles the good news of the exhaustless wealth of Christ, and to show all men in a clear light what my stewardship is. It is the stewardship of the truth which from all the ages lay concealed in the mind of God" (Weymouth), "who created all things by Jesus Christ: to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

(To be concluded.)

WILL any who are sending mail to Brother and Sister A. J. Campbell, our missionaries on Bougainville, kindly note that "Solomon Islands" should not be mentioned as part of their address. To do so causes confusion in mail delivery and months of delay, as Bougainville belongs to the "Mandated Territory" and is served by an entirely separate line of steamers direct from Sydney by way of Rabaul. Although being a part of our Solomon Island Mission, it is not geographically a part of the British Solomons. Their address is as follows: S.D.A. Mission, Lavilai, via Kieta, Bougainville, via Rabaul, M.T.

Education Department

Graduating Exercises of the Sydney Sanitarium

IT was a happy, expectant company that gathered at the Wahroonga church on the evening of April 6. Dainty decorations, carried out in lemon and mauve, reminded all that this was a time of real joy.

faithful in their service for suffering humanity, and that through their labours the "Healer of Diseases" might be glorified.

When after the prayer the congregation was quietly seated, two of the lady graduates, Nurses Delaney and Chandler, stepped forward, and in song sweetly reminded us that—



Front row (left to right): Nurses Myrtle M. Speck, Pearl Speck, Dorothy E. Chapman, Cecil J. Howell, Vera Lyndon, Mae E. Chandler, Florence M. Delaney. Back row: Nurses Leila E. Boehm, Albert V. Mitchell, Clare V. Russell, I. Joyce Hampton, Herbert E. Hodder, Myrtle M. Palmateer.

As the congregation waited the organist took her place and played a march while the company of nurses filed in. The first year nurses led the way, next came the second year, then the third or graduate nurses, followed by the doctors, matrons, and sisters, and lastly the members of the new class who have just come to the Sanitarium. Clad in their simple uniforms, the nurses stood while the last strains of the music died away, and then quietly took their seats in the front, the first and second year nurses occupying the choir seats.

Brother C. H. Pretzman, the business manager of the Sanitarium, welcomed the audience and announced the opening hymn, "O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end."

Pastor G. G. Stewart, president of the South N.S.W. Conference, read the Scripture reading in which the thought of ministry was emphasised, for "the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister."

Pastor C. H. Watson led the congregation in prayer, especially asking that the graduate nurses might be efficient and

"Somebody needs you, needs you today,
Needs the sweet comfort your heart
can give;
Somebody needs you to show them the
Christ,
Tell the sweet story that they too
may live."

Pastor A. W. Knight, in delivering the graduating address, commended the graduates on the choice of their motto, "As He Ministered," and pointed out that in their endeavour to live up to this motto the nurses must be prepared to be cheerful, self-sacrificing, Christlike, and impartial in their service. He further drew attention to the example of the Master as He "went about all the cities and villages . . . healing every sickness and every disease among the people."

"There was never a time," stated Dr. C. W. Harrison, as he arose to present the diplomas, "when nurses were more needed than now." He hoped that the graduates would be as Dorcas, full of good works; as the good Samaritan, ready to help; that the eyes of their souls might be enlightened, and the range of their sym-

pathies widened. Wishing the graduates a "happy and busy life," and stating that in the absence of Drs. Sherwin and Freeman the honour fell on him, Dr. Harrison then presented the diplomas.

As one by one these nurses received their certificates, they took their seats behind the ministers on the rostrum, and their spokesman, Brother C. J. Howell, told of the determination of the class to rightly represent their Saviour, and to do whatever work their God might place before them. He stated that they went forth as representatives of a world-wide movement, and as such would seek to win lost, sin-sick souls.

Nurse Pearl Speck then arose, and in lines composed for the occasion by Pastor Robert Hare, told of the ministrations of the gentle, gospel nurse.

The programme for the evening having been completed, the congregation joined in singing the hymn, "O Master, let me walk with Thee in lowly paths of service free," and then remained standing while Pastor Stewart commended all to the care of God.

In the church grounds the friends of the graduates congratulated them on their success, and wishing them God's blessing, returned to their homes in the village, having gained a deeper insight into the ministry of the missionary nurse.

M. EIRENE HADFIELD.

New Nurses' Class

NINETEEN young people have recently entered upon the Nurses' Training Course at the Sydney Sanitarium. Seven of the conferences and the island field are represented as follows: NORTH NEW SOUTH

WALES: Misses D. Felsh, D. Martin, M. Stace, G. Tiedeman, and Mr. Mervyn S. Ball; SOUTH NEW SOUTH WALES: Miss Marjorie Mills; NORTH NEW ZEALAND: Mr. D. Whisker; SOUTH NEW ZEALAND: Miss Edna Wadman; QUEENSLAND: Misses V. M. Eardley and V. Phillips, and Mr. E. Scheuber; VICTORIA: Misses L. Brumby and J. McKean; WEST AUSTRALIA: Misses E. Reynolds, E. M. Short, and R. van Wyke, and Messrs. G. Lang and A. Younger; LORD HOWE ISLAND: Mr. David A. Ferris.

"It is a mistake to invest all of one's treasures on this side of the river called Death.

"It is a mistake to believe that capacity for happiness accompanies the deed to great possessions.

"It is a mistake to think that the sweetness of life can be extracted from things material. All the joys worth seeking are of the spirit."



Answers to Prayer in Connection with Medical Work

I HAVE had several interesting cases of answer to prayer on behalf of the sick that I thought I would like to pass on to others.

One evening I had a call to go to another village, the chief's wife being ill. On inquiry we concluded she was possessed with an evil spirit, so Brother Lee and Brother Barham, accompanied by several boys, went to see her. They found her out in the bush very angry. She had been destroying food. After some persuasion she permitted Brother Lee to help her down the hill to her home. They prayed with her, but she seemed to take no interest at all. Then Jimuru talked with her about her need of a Saviour, and asked her if she were willing for them to pray for her deliverance. She consented, and after another season of prayer the spirits left her. She said there were two spirits controlling all her actions, and making her do wrong things.

The following day they came for us again; the spirits had returned. So after a season of prayer here at Batuna, with two boys the brethren again went out to visit her. They talked and prayed with her, and the spirits were cast out once more. This time they brought her back to Batuna with them. She had caught cold through exposure, so remained here for treatment.

We had several good talks with her, and before leaving she promised me she would not forget to pray, and would try to overcome her angry nature. So far she has kept her promise, and is now quite fat and happy. But the saddest part is, she has lost several children, who died under the influence of the spirits, the last one dying only two weeks before her own experience related here. The devil is watching every chance to gain an entry, and when a person allows anger to come in, the devil walks in with it; but we are glad that through Jesus, Satan is a conquered foe.

Little Children Helped

Several months ago a little boy who had had so much malaria that he was left almost an invalid, came here for treatment. His name is James, and his parents are missionaries up on the island of Bougainville, so James lives at Gatukai with his grandmother, Guasaba. Guasaba is a very earnest Christian, and a faithful nurse. After several weeks of treatment, they returned to Gatukai. James was somewhat improved, but still fairly helpless. We had several seasons of prayer with them while here, but Guasaba was very persistent in her petitions on James's behalf and always remembered to thank God for sparing his life. Today James is growing and is well, has the use of all his limbs again, and can run and play with all the other children. His hearing has not returned, but we are thankful that God

has seen fit to answer the prayers of the faithful grandmother.

Then again a few weeks ago, I was called out of evening worship to go to a child who they said had fainted, but whom I found in convulsions, with a high malarial fever. After treatment she seemed easier and much cooler, but several hours later another worse attack of convulsions came on, and we thought she would not pull through. Treatment prevailed, and once more she was calm and quiet. We had a season of prayer, followed by several twinges of convulsions. We then had another season of prayer, for we felt only God could save her, and that we should not let go of the hand of God too soon. Half way through the last prayer she began to improve, breathing became more natural, then she began to sing her favourite little hymn of which she knew only two words in English, "Happy Songs." So she sang "appy songs" in her little baby voice, which was so pathetic that it filled our eyes with tears, and we were glad to know that Jesus still loves the little children. Her temperature went down, and soon she was fast asleep. Next morning found her well again, for which we all praised God.

Would Have Died if He Had Not Come

A man who used to be a great devil-worshipper, and who opposed our work very much in days gone by, came here very low in health, but after several weeks' treatment and prayer he became quite well again. We had some splendid talks with him, and we are sure the Holy Spirit is helping him in many ways. He speaks very well of our work now, and says he would have died if he had not come here. He is very happy when he can come and visit us.

I thank God for "the right arm of the message," and that it can be used to the saving of souls. I pray that many may be saved in His kingdom through this means. I know you will not forget us in your prayers.

EVELYN R. TOTENHOFER.

Batuna, Solomon Islands.

Natives' Christian Help Work Won Their Hearts

I WANT to pass on a little story I've heard from the boys, concerning two of our teachers, Tauku and Vughere, and the people on their missions at Hepa and Tusa Mine respectively.

About six weeks ago on Sabbath morning, just as the people were going to service, three natives in a dinghy pulled into the Hepa harbour. Tauku sent one of the boys to meet the strangers, and went on with the meeting. The meeting over, all went to see the visitors. They were thirsty, hungry, and exhausted. Food and drink were given them, and then the following story related:

Three days before arriving at Hepa, they had been sent ashore from their ship in the dinghy to find water, as the water had been used up three days prior to their leaving the ship. These three men had landed farther down the coast, but had met with a poor reception from the natives of that place. They were directed to water, but received no other help. Then when they reached Hepa, and were

refreshed, they did not know where to go as their ship had drifted out of sight. However, with their dinghy well provisioned the three men left for the Government port, Gizo, to secure help. Another three days later, Tauku descried a sail in the distance, and surmising it to be the drifting ship, jumped into a canoe and paddled out to it. As he had not returned by evening worship, the people at Hepa held their meeting, and then all got into two canoes and went out after Tauku, reaching the ship as darkness set in.

The white man on the ship (his name we've not yet ascertained) had told Tauku his experiences. He was a planter from Choiseul, and was going to another island to get a disabled engine repaired. There was no wind and he was at the mercy of the currents, so drifted helplessly about. After some time at sea, their drinking water was consumed, and three days later he sent the dinghy with the three boys to search for water. The trader was close to the coast at Tusa Mine, and his experience was similar to that of the boys in the dinghy. Natives on the shore belonging to another mission failed to render assistance. Our teacher, Vughere, at Tusa Mine, went out and helped the ship into a good anchorage and supplied those aboard with food and water. Later the travellers essayed to proceed, only to be carried away again by the currents.

It was just dark when the two canoes from Hepa reached the drifting ship, and after a short consultation, Tauku's and the other two canoes took the ship in tow, and with the aid of men aboard rowing, reached the Hepa harbour at midnight.

Two days the ship remained at Hepa. The trader expressed his gratitude to the people there for their help and kindness, also for the consideration of Vughere, the teacher at Tusa Mine, who went out to him and helped him to a safe anchorage. He also spoke of the splendid work of Jughu, our native worker on the island of Choiseul, and said he was very glad that it was a Seventh-day Adventist mission he had come to. For the help and food he offered payment, which was refused; but the kerosene that he offered for church use was gladly accepted.

It warms our hearts with gladness when we hear of these kindly acts done by these dark-skinned people who are walking in the way of the Lord; and when we hear words of appreciation, quite unsolicited, from outsiders who are just "looking on" we feel certain that the Lord is fulfilling His Word in gathering out a people for His name.

We thank you for your prayers on our behalf, and ask you all to continue praying for us.

A. R. BARRETT.

SOME time ago there appeared in a leading religious magazine of America the following statement: "When a minister has shared his prayer life with his 'twelve,' as Christ did; when he has trained his disciples, making them 'fishers of men,' as Christ did; and when he has sent them out two by two to love and pray men into the kingdom of God, as Christ did,—he will make of every flock he shepherds a bulwark that overcomes the world, and when he leaves each pastorate, the good work goes right along. Surely it is men, not methods, the church needs."

Canvassing

Monthly Summary of Australasian Canvassing Work

Victoria

MARCH, 1927

Home Nursing—	Hrs.	Ord.	Value
Miss M. Collins	56½	52	60 19 0
R. A. Caldwell		26	39 0 0
Mrs. L. E. Martin	5½	7	7 16 0
E. M. Martin		5	5 16 0
S. H. Gander ...	30	55	62 15 0

Our Day—

E. Fitzclarence	166½	29	31 3 6
N. C. Harker	45	8	10 0 6
Mrs. L. E. Martin	55	6	6 1 6
E. M. Martin	148	20	20 17 0
L. T. Young	31½	11	14 5 0

Coming King—

Mrs. E. Barron	124½	29	19 16 0
Miss E. Hodgetts	11	5	4 2 6
Miss A. Vogt	85	31	21 2 6

Bible Readings—

J. T. Young	131½	60	88 18 6
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Ladies' Handbook—

Mrs. S. E. Coulsell	12	1	1 7 6
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Helps Sold by Colporteurs

	902½	345	£431 10 6
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Periodicals—

Miss C. Cameron		18	17 6
Mrs. H. Devine	2½		11 3 0
	23½	18	£12 0 6

North New South Wales

MARCH, 1927

Coming King—	Hrs.	Ord.	Value
S. C. Pennington	56½	2	1 13 0

Our Day—

State Agent		1	1 3 6
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Home Nursing—

F. E. Harrington	14	7	8 12 0
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Ladies' Handbook—

State Agent	1	1	1 17 6
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Helps Sold by Colporteurs

	71½	11	£13 13 0
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West Australia

MARCH, 1927

Home Nursing—	Hrs.	Ord.	Value
M. Dadd	24½	13	£15 17 0
E. R. Dadd	56½	17	20 0 6
B. Bailey	23½	10	11 16 0
E. M. Sethbridge	22	6	7 3 6
A. P. House (Del)	16½	8	10 13 0

Our Day—

T. O. Dear	82	27	36 4 6
A. Cooper	25	4	5 13 6
J. S. Donald (Del)	1		

Helps Sold by Colporteurs

	233½	85	£115 11 0
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South New South Wales

MARCH, 1927

Our Day—	Hrs.	Orders	Value
L. C. Byrne	86	15	£17 2 0
R. Peare	24½	44	53 13 6
F. Nicholson	95	45	53 10 6
H. N. Moore	31½	99	117 11 6
S. Greive	86½	38	42 18 0
A. G. Augustinson	61	19	22 2 6
Miss Murphy		2	2 2 0

Coming King—

Miss N. Murphy	114	71	57 12 6
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Ladies' Handbook—

C. J. de la Mothe	67½	59	85 0 0
B. Waldrom	65½	78	111 4 0
Mrs. de la Mothe	20	19	28 12 6

Helps Sold by Colporteurs

	851½	489	£622 17 0
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North New Zealand

MARCH, 1927

Our Day—	Hrs.	Ord.	Value
A. H. Kubit	96	16	18 6 0
W. Jebb	35½	6	6 6 0
C. A. Hardyment	99½	19	20 2 0
W. Waterhouse	41½	10	10 17 6

Bible Readings—

Miss A. E. Baensch	20½	5	5 10 0
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Ladies' Handbook—

H. E. Whitford	103½	21	37 2 6
G. Bailey	91	47	67 17 3
Mrs. Thompson	24	8	12 10 0

Helps Sold by Colporteurs

	511½	132	£218 13 9
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South Australia

MARCH, 1927

Ladies' Handbook—	Hrs.	Ord.	Value
Mrs. M. Badcock	17	21	£29 17 6

Home Nursing—

Miss M. Luke	26½	13	15 14 0
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Our Day—

Mr. V. Reye	32	16	18 6 0
Mr. J. T. C. Jones	57	22	22 14 0
Mr. W. Ferris	33½	10	10 17 6

Helps Sold by Colporteurs

	166	82	£102 17 6
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Queensland

MARCH, 1927

Home Nursing—	Hrs.	Ord.	Value
C. L. Rowland	59	42	54 12 0

Our Day—

G. Weslake	79	28	29 19 0
Miss A. Kram	29	3	3 1 6
W. O. Broad	61	20	31 10 6
F. M. Secretary	7½	3	4 2 6
Mrs. K. M. Newley	18½	5	5 6 6

Ladies' Handbook—

H. J. Cooper	23	44	70 15 6
Mr. & Mrs. Hodgkinson	88	41	67 7 6

Practical Guide—

C. W. Phillips	95½	32	46 15 0
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Helps Sold by Colporteurs

	460½	218	£317 15 3
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South New Zealand

MARCH, 1927

Home Nursing—	Hrs.	Ord.	Value
J. Shin	126	85	£107 4 0
R. Barber	116	62	74 14 6
A. E. Woodley	106½	41	50 16 6
Miss Hossack	4½	2	2 5 0
Miss Ward	17½	6	7 10 0
Mrs. Wells	33½	18	21 10 6

Our Day—

Miss McLennan	14	2	1 19 0
T. Chick	95½	20	22 2 6
Miss Ibbetson	75½	32	33 17 6

Bible Readings—

A. E. Woodley	1	1	1 1 0
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Christ's Object Lessons—

Miss Ward	27	8	3 8 0
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Helps Sold by Colporteurs

	705½	277	£326 8 6
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Book Totals for March, 1927

	Hrs.	Ord.	Value
North New Zealand	511½	132	218 13 9
South New South Wales	851½	489	622 17 0
Victoria	902½	345	431 10 6
North New South Wales	71½	11	13 13 0
South New Zealand	705½	277	326 8 6
South Australia	166	82	102 17 6
Queensland	460½	218	317 15 3
West Australia	233½	85	115 11 0
Total	3903½	1639	£2149 9 6

The Influence of Small Agencies

THE other day I read about a bitter infidel who was converted by a tract wrapped around a bar of soap he had bought of a poor woman. She had mixed her religion with her business. So we ought to make the most of our opportunities, in the store, on the street, on the trains, everywhere. What a mighty impetus would be given this movement if every Adventist home and place of business became a publishing centre! The passing of a tract has resulted in the conversion of those who might never have been reached in any other manner. Oh, you who would be soul-winners, try every method! *Use all good means. "Be instant in season, out of season." Don't hesitate. Do something—now.*

"We have turned our tool-chest into a tract-chest," said an earnest brother in one of our missionary meetings. When the tool-chest goes out on a job, a supply of tracts goes along, and these are passed out to working men by this missionary carpenter. Instead of wishing that we had a bit of reading matter to give when a good opportunity comes along, we can, like the ready carpenter, be prepared by getting into the splendid habit of carrying a few pages with us. It is this habitual practice that makes the witnessing easy.

The work must be done in faith. The indefatigable tract distributor and anti-infidel writer, Dr. H. L. Hastings, truthfully said of such service: "It will not show off like a new church spire, sound like a bell, nor stare at you like a town clock; it will simply pass out of sight, like rice cast on the water, or wheat buried in the soil, which after many days will come back thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold. The seed may be sown with tears, but, oh, how glorious will the harvest be!"

We shall never know all the good that

is growing out of this kind of silent preaching, and some one has well said, "But we know enough to make it almost criminal for us to neglect it." Become enthusiastic as a tract distributor and you will find it difficult to abandon the habit. Let us engage more and more in the ministry of tracts. ERNEST LLOYD.

VICTORIA

PRESIDENT: W. G. TURNER
SECRETARY: E. H. GUILLIARD

Bairnsdale News

WE are interested in the reports of the progress of the work in different places as given through the RECORD, and believe some of the readers will be interested in news from Bairnsdale.

It is four years since Brethren Patching and Stafford conducted a tent effort in the town and worked the surrounding districts. Some honest souls were gathered out, and these, with a few scattered believers, were organised into a church, and efforts were put forth to erect a monument to God's glory in the town.

In September, 1924, a neat little church building, built by the two brethren before mentioned, was dedicated, and Sabbath by Sabbath ever since, the services in the little church have been a witness to the truth of this message.

Regularly one family drives eleven miles from the south-east, another double-seated buggy load comes nine miles from the north-west, and two families in loaded buggies drive ten miles from the north-east. One family lives eighteen miles distant and they come in sometimes in their car, while still another family has a journey of about thirteen miles to come, but a car soon makes the journey short.

April 10 was a memorable day for our church. Pastor Turner, our president, came down for the week-end, and his time was filled with meetings and visiting. The believers in the town enjoyed the Friday evening meeting, and the country brethren and sisters made sure of getting all they could on the Sabbath day. Pastor Turner spoke at 11 a.m., and again after the Sabbath school in the afternoon.

Sunday dawned a beautiful day. The shire council had kindly granted us the use of the ladies' bathing sheds for the day, and from 10.30 on, vehicles lined up on the bank of the Mitchell River and little knots of people gathered. At 11 o'clock all assembled under the shade of the trees and Pastor Turner led our minds back to the time when our great Example came to John at the Jordan and was baptised. In meeting there that day, we were fulfilling the divine command. After a short study, we entered the bathing shed, and while the congregation sang that beautiful hymn, "I will follow Thee, my Saviour," eight precious souls followed their Lord through the watery grave. There were two husbands with their wives, and four young people. In fact, one whole family of father, mother, son, and daughter were among the candidates. In the afternoon all assembled in the church and these dear souls were welcomed into church fellowship by Pastor Turner and the two elders. The ordinances of the Lord's house were then cele-

brated and all felt it was good to be there. Several strangers were present at the baptism, and we pray that their hearts will be touched as they think on the scene.

In the evening Pastor Turner spoke on the "Power of Rome" to a full church—mostly our own believers, but the visitors enjoyed the service too. Most of the new members have already tasted the joy of service during the Appeal for Missions campaign, when our church went well over its goal. We pray that God will bless them, with us all, and help us to shine for Him. M. STAFFORD,
Church Clerk.

NORTH NEW SOUTH WALES

PRESIDENT: H. A. HILL
SECRETARY: R. E. G. BLAIR

An Answer to Prayer

WHILE a patient in hospital just now, under medical treatment, I have a good experience to relate in regard to an answer to prayer. As I lay in my bed on the night of April 15, hearing the down-pour of heavy rain, I became anxious about my mother, whether she would be quite safe amidst it all. I knew that if the rain continued all night it would mean a flood in Cessnock. However, I fell asleep, and later in the night the nurse came running out to me calling, "Wake up and hear the excitement!" The nurse informed me that all the low-lying parts of Cessnock were flooded, and distress whistles were blowing at one mine for help to keep the flood waters out.

Going to a window I could see that the whole heart of Cessnock was under water. Then I thought of the poor children and the homes which were being flooded out, and I began to worry over it, remembering that my own home was in a dangerous place. The rain was still pouring down, so I decided to ask God to cause the rain to cease. After a very earnest and lengthy prayer, to my joy, the rain had stopped. Had it continued a few more hours it would have inundated all the homes on the estate of which I have spoken. It would have meant ruin to hundreds of people. But I thank God that He has again answered prayer.

Reader, prayer is the most important thing. When trouble comes our way we should take it all before God, as He is the One who will stand by us all through. May God bless all who read this, and may we remember that there is nothing too great for God to do. A. J. MOIR.

WEDDING BELLS

PRINGLE-HITCHINS.—It was the writer's pleasant privilege to unite in the sacred bonds of marriage at Warburton, on January 2, Brother Mark Pringle and Sister Elizabeth Stella Hitchins, both of Cooranbong, N.S.W. The ceremony was performed in the Warburton S.D.A. church, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion by the friends of the young couple. Following the marriage, the guests repaired to the home of the bride's father, Brother John K. Hitchins. There were many friends and relatives present

to wish the young people Godspeed on their journey of life. Mr. and Mrs. Pringle returned to Cooranbong, where Brother Pringle is employed in the Health Food Factory. We feel sure that the blessing of the Lord will attend these young people, and that they will be a blessing in their association with fellow workers wherever they may go. C. M. SNOW.

DYASON-COLE.—At the Seventh-day Adventist church in Warburton, on January 9, Brother Milton W. Dyason and Sister Dorothy Lilian Cole were united in marriage by the writer. The church was beautifully decorated by the friends in Warburton, who have known both these young people for years. The wedding was followed by a social gathering in the church school hall attended by many of the relatives and friends of the two families. Brother Dyason had worked for some time in the Health Food Factory in Warburton, and Sister Cole had been one of our most faithful Signs Office clerks for several years. They have many friends to wish them well in their new relation in life. C. M. SNOW.

MCMAHON-HOWSE.—A very bright and pleasant wedding ceremony took place at the Warburton S.D.A. church on March 27, when Brother Benjamin Hamilton McMahon and Sister Hilda May Howse were united in marriage. The many local friends of the two young people concerned worked industriously in decorating the church for the occasion, and their efforts succeeded in making the church a bower of beauty. Brother McMahon has been filling the position of head teacher in the Warburton church school for several years, and Sister Howse for some years has been one of our most dependable and cheery department clerks in the Circulation Department of the Signs Office. Brother McMahon continues here in the position he has previously held. We wish these young people much of God's blessing and a life of useful service for Him. C. M. SNOW.

A HOME missions secretary of the South British Conference passes on this report of how a sister reached her goal for the Harvest Ingathering: "One of our members planned £2 for her goal, but after visiting her friends just managed to collect a little over £1. She was not satisfied as this was only half the amount she wanted. She has a brother just seventeen years of age, in the British Army, now stationed in India; so she felt it would be as well to see what he could do for her, and sent him a collecting card and a letter asking him to do his best for her as she was hoping to reach the £2. And so he did, for he collected rupees to the amount of £1 0s. 5d. in English money, and this amount was received by our sister last week."

For Sale.—House and five acres of land, fenced and ready for plough. Best locality in district for poultry farm. Suitable for a family desirous of attending College. Owner must sell, would take small deposit, the remainder as rent. Also a building allotment for sale adjoining the College property. For particulars apply MRS. F. E. ALLEN, c/o A.M.C. Store, Cooranbong, N.S.W.

Reports from Conferences to April 23

Conferences	Wks.	Amt.	Per cent of Goal
South N.Z.	5	£1,030	114
West Aust.	2	1,120	106
North N.S.W.	4	1,214	101
South N.S.W.	7	2,502	100
Victoria	5	2,450	100
Tasmania	7	550	100
North N.Z.	7	2,650	100
South Aust.	3	864	75
Island Missions		46	13
Union Conference		£12,426	88

It is very pleasing to note that three more conferences have reached their goals,—North New South Wales, and Tasmania, and North New Zealand. At the rate South Australia has been going, in one more week it also will have finished its task, and will be able to rejoice over a work completed in only four weeks—less than half the time required last year.

SOUTHERN Queensland launched its Appeal on April 24. Watch for its first report next week! The leaders in that conference also are planning for a quick work. They hope to have the goal reached in four weeks, and then be able to concentrate their efforts on a big city mission to be opened in Brisbane shortly.

PASTOR REUBEN E. HARE, who is assisting in the Union Conference Home Missions Department, passed through Sydney recently on his way from Tasmania to Queensland, where his help has been requested in the Appeal campaign. Brother Hare brought the good word that Tasmania has reached its goal.

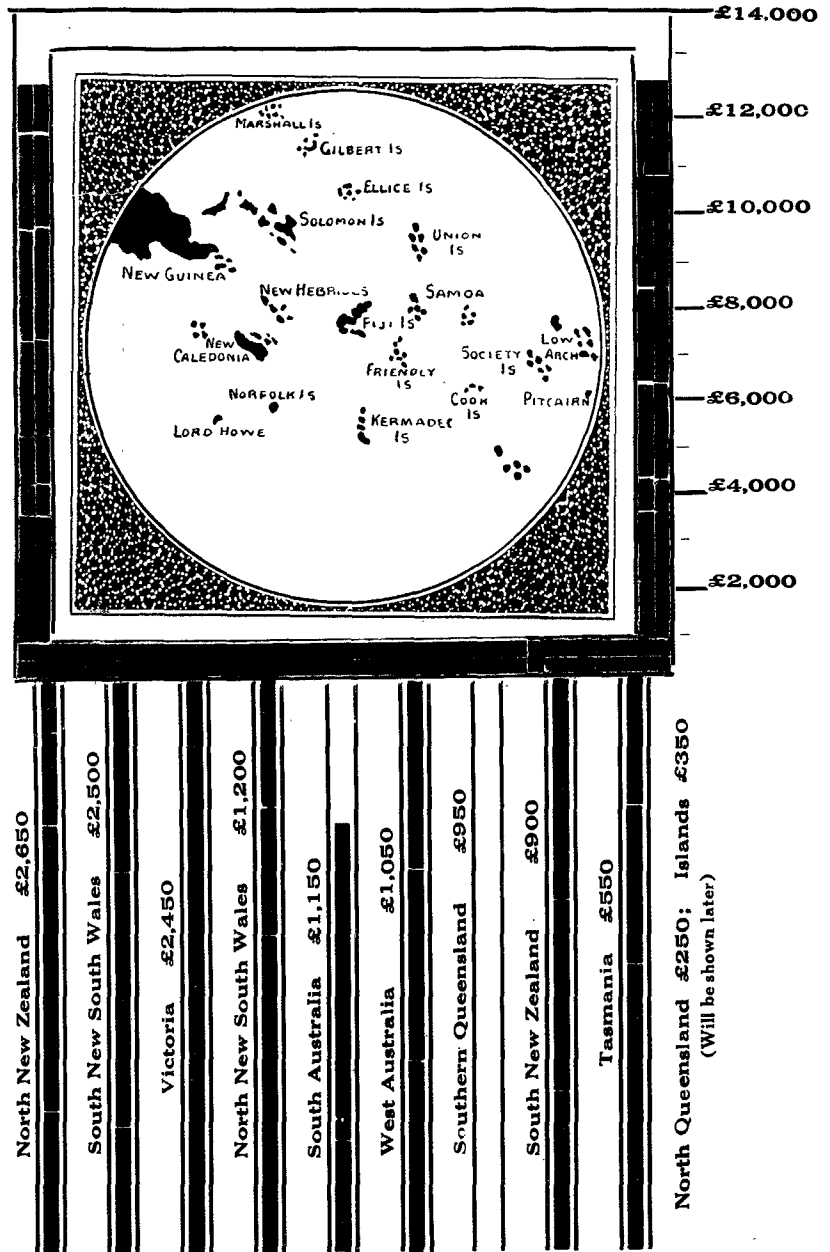
SISTER A. H. FERRIS writes from Lord Howe Island: "I am pleased to tell you our young people gathered £1 2s. 6d. over our aim in the Appeal for Missions, the total amount being £6 2s. 6d. Of course it seems a very small sum compared with what is needed for our advancing work, yet it is good when we consider the smallness of this island. This money has been given freely and willingly. Our young people all had a part in collecting."

THE missionary secretary of one of our small churches in the South New South Wales Conference speaks thus of the Ingathering work: "With a young baby I am not able to do as much as in former years; but I have really experienced the 'joy of service' in the little opportunities that have come to me in the Appeal work. As a result I have five more *Signs* customers, and I am expecting a few more this week when I call again. One home is also open for Bible studies." We pray that God will water the seed sown by the printed page, and bless the money collected to the saving of souls.

"Give me, O God, a vision of the world's Great need. Help me to sense the sin and woe

Of poor lost men, the fateful end to which Their ways do lead. To stay their hastening steps, To move their hearts, and lead them to accept The riches of Thy grace, give me Thy power."

"The King's Business Demands Haste"
Our Tenth Appeal for Missions
Union Conference Goal, £14,000



"THE WEALTH OF THE NATIONS' SHALL COME UNTO THEE"

Australasian Record

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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THE time of our annual Week of Prayer is almost here. Remember the date, June 4 to 11.

THIS good word concerning the Solomon Islands Training School has been sent to us by Brother A. R. Barrett: "Interest in the school is splendid; I think I have never known it to be better. We are planning to strengthen the work here. We have seventy students and many more are wanting to come in. Our great difficulty is the food question, as more land will have to be cleared before extra gardens can be planted. The boys are working well, and I have not heard anything in the way of discouragement."

REPRESENTATIVES of four missionary families sailed for Fiji by the *Ventura* on April 30: Pastor and Mrs. C. H. Parker, who are going out to labour in the Lau Group of the Fiji Islands; Mrs. E. B. Rudge and her three little boys, who have been visiting Sister Rudge's two daughters and her mother (Sister Faulkhead) at Avondale; Mrs. George Masters with her infant son, who is going to Fiji where Brother Masters is already working; and Mrs. A. G. Stewart who will spend several months in her former mission field, Pastor Stewart following later to attend the annual general meeting. Pastor Parker has written a letter to RECORD readers, which will be published next week.

"We have been having a very busy time here of late," writes Brother R. W. Lane of Fiji. "I held a three days' convention with the teachers and lay preachers of my district. We commenced the meeting on March 6 and continued till the 9th. Brother Martin was unable to come up at the time, so the work of all the meetings fell on my shoulders. We had a good time together. The Spirit of the Lord came very near to us, and we all pledged ourselves again to His service. They all showed the greatest interest in the studies. Some of them were to be found in the church for days after, explaining the charts to each other. The people of this town are all busy at present in their spare moments building a schoolroom for the children, as they are very anxious to have their children attend school. I find them just as willing to volunteer their services in church work as the folk are at home. Some of them pole their little rafts as much as ten and twelve miles to go and hold a meeting in the outlying towns."

SISTER N. A. FERRIS, one of the party of missionaries who sailed for the Solomon Islands on the *Mataram*, writing on March 29 concerning the voyage says: "To-

morrow we hope to land in the Marovo, after a very interesting trip. We have enjoyed the time spent in travelling, as none of our party have been sick. The voyage has tended to make us fit for the work which lies before us, and we shall be glad to be back in active service. On Sabbaths we met in Brother Peacock's cabin for the study of the lesson, which was conducted by Pastor Stewart. We were thankful that even in a worldly atmosphere we had the assurance of our Father's presence. We were met at Telagi by Pastor Wicks, Brother and Sister Barham, Brother Tutty, and some of the school boys. They all looked well and were pleased to see us. Then our happy party was broken up. As the *Melanesia* was on her way to Malaita, Brother and Sister Anderson were taken to Uru, Brethren Stewart and Peacock accompanying them on the trip. We know you will remember us before the throne of grace as we seek to labour for these sons of Ham."

The Need of Prayer

"ONE thing that impresses me deeply," one of our colporteurs writes from his field of labour, "is that God has provided me with an ideal place for secret prayer. In every way it admits of all one desires to do in audible prayer, any time from dark till midnight, especially from midnight till break of day. This is an exceedingly great privilege, and the place has become very precious to me. Here I uphold in prayer the precious work of God that calls for travail of soul,—an imperative and indispensable need which is so minutely presented to us in the Spirit of Prophecy. While praying and greatly desiring and needing the help of God, in view of the hardness of this town, God has given me a deep sense of His goodness, and a realisation of His presence."

Picture this canvasser, probably one of many such faithful workers, pleading with God and claiming this promise found in Volume VIII of the "Testimonies," page 178: "As we approach God through the virtue of the Redeemer's merits, Christ places us close by His side, encircling us with His human arm, while with His divine arm He grasps the throne of the Infinite. He puts His merits, as sweet incense, in the censer in our hands, in order to encourage our petitions. He promises to hear and answer our supplications."

Do we not need more of the spirit of prayer, both as workers and lay members? Christ has shown us how we may overcome on our own account as He overcame. (Vol. III, page 380.) "It was on our account that He poured out His prayers to His Father with strong crying and tears. It was to save us from the very pride and love of vanity and pleasure which we now indulge, and which crowds out the love of Jesus, that those tears were shed, and that our Saviour's visage was marred with sorrow and anguish more than any of the sons of men."—Vol. III, p. 379, 380.

Notice this searching statement: "Jesus declares to us that there is a greater sin than that which caused the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. It is the sin of those who have the great light of truth in these days, and who are not moved to repentance. . . . It is the sin of those who

see Jesus in the wilderness of temptation, bowed down as with mortal agony because of the sins of the world, and yet are not moved to thorough repentance."

"Much prayer, and the most vigorous exercise of the mind, are necessary if we would be prepared to do the work which God would entrust to us."—Vol. IV, p. 611. "The work that lies before us is one that will put to the stretch every power of the human being. It will call for the exercise of strong faith and constant vigilance. At times the difficulties that we shall meet will be most disheartening. The very greatness of the task will appall us."—*"Life Sketches,"* p. 439.

Yet how encouraging is this statement the Lord has made: "I will raise up agents who will carry out My will to prepare a people to stand before Me in the time of the end. . . . The Lord will work upon human minds in unexpected quarters."—Vol. VII, pp. 101, 102.

"Look unto Jesus in simplicity and faith. Gaze upon Jesus until the spirit faints under the excess of light. We do not half pray. We do not half believe. . . . Pray as you never before prayed that the Lord will lay His hand upon you, that you may be able to comprehend . . . the love of Christ, . . . that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."—*Id.*, p. 214.

In "Gospel Workers," pages 292, 293, we read: "His [Christ's] time, His heart, His soul and strength, were given to labour for the benefit of humanity. Through weary days He toiled, and through long nights He bent in prayer for grace and endurance that He might do a larger work. With strong crying and tears He sent His petitions to heaven, that His human nature might be strengthened, that He might be braced to meet the wily foe in all his deceptive workings, and fortified to fulfil His mission of uplifting humanity. To His workers He says, "I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done."

"Persevering prayers will bring souls to the cross." "We are to find our strength where the early disciples found theirs."—Vol. VII, p. 213. "By earnest, persevering prayer they obtained the endowment of the Holy Spirit. . . . Shall we be less earnest than the apostles? What the Lord did for His people in that time, it is just as essential, and more so, that He do for His people today. All that the apostles did, every church member today, is to do. And we are to work with as much more fervor, to be accompanied by the Holy Spirit in as much greater measure, as the increase of wickedness demands a more decided call to repentance.

"Every one on whom is shining the light of present truth is to be stirred with compassion for those who are in darkness. . . . A work similar to that which the Lord did through His delegated messengers after the day of Pentecost He is waiting to do today."—Vol. VII, pp. 32, 33.

Shall we not all prepare for, and make the very most of, the time set apart for our forthcoming special prayer season?

CULTIVATE the habit of talking with the Saviour when you are alone, when you are walking, and when you are busy with your daily labour.—"Ministry of Healing."