



VOL. XVII

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"COUNSELS ON STEWARDSHIP"

Before the close of time, God's people will have come into full harmony with God's requirements as set forth in the Bible and Spirit of prophecy.

Our message of reform is for the very purpose of bringing about this harmony between man and his Maker.

There are many phases of life which are included in the reforms required in the instruction given to us. Among the most prominent of them, are reforms in Sabbath-keeping and in tithing. Both of these reforms are intended to exalt our heavenly Father as the Creator and Owner of all that which man enjoys, whether it be his time or his physical blessings of common and uncommon things.

As a people, we have exalted Jesus as the Saviour of mankind, and have presented to the world the message of reform along many lines. We have set forth the Sabbath reform especially, and by this message we have gathered into our ranks many tens of thousands of souls; but concerning man's obligation to God in his property holdings and increases, as set forth in the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy about the tithe and offerings, it seems that there has been a timidity, or fearfulness, or neglect in setting before men this greatly needed reform.

Surely the time has fully come for this to be done. As a first step toward this, the General Conference is preparing from the published volumes and from unpublished letters of Sister White, a new book, which will be entitled "Counsels on Stewardship." We expect this book to be off the press and to be ready soon for distribution. Every leader in our cause should secure a copy and prayerfully read all the messages contained in this new book. The whole

By G. A. ROBERTS

picture of man's stewardship is set forth in the book, and it is so arranged as to enable leaders to use readily portions for duplication and distribution to the churches or workers under their care. The study of this book certainly will prepare us to set forth the great reform along this important matter. No robber shall inherit the kingdom of heaven, and neither shall any shepherd who neglectfully permits his members to continue in robbing God, although their robbing God be done ignorantly or maliciously. All have a tremendous responsibility within the church, and all the church has the responsibility of presenting this last-day reform before

the people of the world round about us.

We have some churches which have a one-hundred-percent tithe paying membership, but there are many churches that do not have this excellent record.

There are some churches in our division which have only fifty percent of their members paying tithe. If God is so particular that He withheld His blessing from the entire camp of Israel because of one man's sin, as when Achan hid the consecrated things in his tent, how can God look with any favor upon any church whose members are unfaithful today in that same way? We trust that the messages of this new book may reach the hearts and minds of all our people, and that we may go forth conquering and to conquer.

BE THOU AN EXAMPLE

The Sabbath School of Fundamental Importance

By ALFRED R. OGDEN

No successful work or campaign—whether military, business, economic, social or religious—can be successfully carried on unless those charged with directing it have determined beforehand upon a definite objective. This is true of our ministers and all other workers in their relation to building up all of the interests and activities of the church. Every minister should be an active advocate of, and an earnest worker in, the building up and the strengthening of every department of our regular, organized church work: the home missionary, missionary volunteer, Sabbath school, and all of the other departments of our church work. The work of the church is strong only

as every department of its work is strong. One weak link weakens the whole chain, for it is only as strong as its weakest link.

Therefore it is of fundamental importance that our leaders and workers especially interest themselves in a definite and active way in every phase of our church work. I wish to speak particularly of the Sabbath school, which lays the foundation of all of our church life and activities. Its value as a spiritualizing factor can not be over estimated. The study of God's word, as we conduct our Sabbath school lesson, directly from the Bible, is one of the most spiritualizing agencies in our church work. The members can better

afford to miss the preaching service than to be absent from the Sabbath school. (Perhaps all of my ministering brethren do not agree with me in this statement, but I am speaking after more than forty years of experience and observation.)

Since the Sabbath school is basic and lies at the foundation of our denominational growth and progress (for we always organize the Sabbath school in advance of a church organization), it is important that every minister charged with the responsibility of leadership demonstrate his ability as a leader by taking an active and personal interest in the Sabbath school work. By both *precept* and *example* he should continually stress the importance of this fundamental department of our church work.

The Sabbath school has been described as "the church at study." It is all this and more, for in our Sabbath schools there are many children and visitors who are not as yet church members. These all need the vitalizing influence of the minister's presence. No pastor, no minister, no evangelist, and no church officer ought to think that his "preaching," however good and important it be, can take the place of the individual study of the Book of God. Our Sabbath school methods and program lead each individual both old and young to this personal study of the Bible.

It is only, or at least largely, as the minister urges and influences those under his charge with the importance of the Sabbath school that its work will be made to function as strongly as it ought. The writer believes that if all our ministers, whether evangelists, conference officers, departmental secretaries or local pastors, shall stress the importance of the Sabbath school as they ought, there will not be so many "missing members" as we find now in some of our schools. When members, and especially new adherents to the faith, see slackness or an apparent lack of interest on the part of evangelists, officers and pastors, is it to be wondered at that many new believers do not become members of the Sabbath school? We fear that in some parts this tendency is increasing. When new believers are brought to the acceptance of the message, and they are not properly instructed about the importance and sacredness of the Sabbath school hour, it is no wonder that some who come into the

church never come to the Sabbath school. This should not be so. Quoting from "Testimonies on Sabbath School Work," we read:

"The Sabbath school work is important, and all who are interested in the truth should endeavor to make it prosperous."—*Page 109.*

Every new believer, even before he is baptized and becomes a church member, should be introduced to the spiritual blessings and joys of the Sabbath school. To do this is as much a part of the minister's work as is teaching Sabbath observance, tithing, or any other religious duty.

Too often the minister announces and urges the importance of the preaching service, but says little or nothing regarding attendance at the Sabbath school. If people are present at Sabbath school, they are usually also in attendance at the regular church service. What a spiritual loss is sustained by those who do not avail themselves of the privilege of the Sabbath school!

Our Sabbath schools ought not to be compared with the Sunday schools of other denominations. These are generally regarded as for the children and youth. With this idea prevalent in many churches, a special effort on the part of our evangelists and pastors is necessary to bring into the Sabbath school all the new believers who come to us from other churches. Our time honored slogan, "All the Church in the Sabbath School and All the Sabbath School in the Church," is as good and important now as when it was coined

I MAY NOT SEE

LOUISE C. KLEUSER

I may not see the way entire
Beyond the winding stretch;
Around the juts, and up the hills,
The lane I cannot sketch;
But this I know, that just ahead,
My Father's love and care
Point out the way, as they do now,
For God is everywhere.

Quite unawares, my path of bliss
May change to rougher plain,
While I may fail to comprehend
A road of fear and pain;
Of this I feel—yes, reassured—
My God, Jehovah true,
Has chiseled out this very path;
No other way would do.

May I not bravely tread the road
The Father points as mine,
And though I fear, lean hard upon
His strength and love divine?
It matters not what turns or twists,
How dark the way may be;
Mine is the joy of trusting Him
Who planned it all for me.

many years ago. Let us, as conference officials and ministers, join in a renewed endeavor to promote the interests of our Sabbath school work and make 1940 our banner year in Sabbath school activities.

"If all the members of our Sabbath school were just like you (and me), what kind of a Sabbath school would our Sabbath school be?" may be a pertinent question for any and every absent worker and member to ask himself when tempted to remain at home. Again we emphasize the importance of *all* of our ministers, *all* of our pastors, and *every* other worker and member, to stress continually by precept and example the importance of the Sabbath school. Its importance in all of our church life and activities can not be over-estimated. The worker or believer who, for any cause, fails to attend and help to make the Sabbath school all that it ought to be, is truly sustaining a loss that neither time nor eternity can efface.



A MEXICAN YOUTH TESTED . . .

(Continued from page 3)

saw Francisco, and it was with great emotion in his voice that he related his experience to me. Elder Max Fuss told me of the care that they had given the boy and how they followed the doctor's counsel in his behalf. They were still taking special pains to provide proper food for him in order that he might regain his strength. He was delighted with the loving interest that our missionaries showed to him in his condition. This young man had remained firm in his convictions and was determined not to break the Sabbath. He seemed thrilled to be able to give his testimony in regard to God's mercies toward him. Or mission was in need of an office boy, and when he had made rapid progress in regaining his health, this opportunity was offered to Francisco.

With a big smile on his face, he said to me at the close of our conversation: "And, Brother House, I was even able to get back my typewriter which I had pawned away." He is proving to be a very efficient worker and is one of our most consecrated young men in the Tehuantepec Mission. His uncle has since tried to induce him to return, by making attractive offers to him, but Francisco says that he is very happy to be where he can keep the Sabbath and be true to his faith. H. F. HOUSE

MEXICAN UNION MISSION

A MEXICAN YOUTH IS TESTED

While on a recent missionary tour in the southern part of Mexico, I met a young man whom I had known several years ago in Mexico City. I had an opportunity to visit him, and learned of an experience of his which convinced me that we do have young people in Mexico who know what it means to be a Seventh-day Adventist. His uncle, who is not an Adventist, was paying the youth's tuition and expenses in a private commercial school in Mexico City when I had last heard of him. His mother had died when he was very young, and his father was not able to take care of him. I was much interested in the boy when he was in Mexico City, because I had learned that he was attending our Sabbath school and young people's services there, contrary to the wishes of his uncle.

He had been sent from a town called Matías Romero, in the State of Oaxaca, to Mexico City and was living there with an aunt. His uncle had given him specific instructions not to have anything to do with the Adventists, but to concentrate all his time on his studies. The plan was for him to finish his course in the city, with the idea of returning to the town just mentioned, where he was to work in his uncle's establishment. He has a store and some other business concerns in the town, and was greatly in need of obtaining the services of a young man well trained in such lines. Some of his relatives had been Adventists for several years, but this uncle was very much opposed to any religion, because he felt that it interfered with his business ambitions.

Classes are conducted on the Sabbath in the school where Francisco Jiménez was attending. To his aunt he would pretend to be going to school, but instead would come to our Sabbath school. This went on for a number of weeks; and in view of his faithfulness, the nominating committee in the Mexico City church suggested his name for secretary of the Young People's Society. He willingly served in that capacity during the following quarter until the time that his uncle called him back to the little town. For some reason his uncle did not allow him to finish his course, but insisted that it was time for the young man to begin to work for him. Disappointed in not being

able to finish his course and lonesome for his Christian friends in our church in Mexico City, the boy felt very dissatisfied in the little town where his uncle lives. Besides his uncle tried to force him to work on the Sabbath. He offered to send him back to Mexico City to finish his course, if he would only give up the idea of religion.

Francisco was determined not to yield to the orders of his uncle in the matter of the Sabbath and his devotion. The situation grew worse, and he was mistreated in many ways on account of his faith. He finally decided that he would have to leave and reject all his uncle's offers to give him an education and a good job. He got in touch with our mission office in the city of Puebla and ordered some copies of our Spanish paper *El Centinela*. After obtaining those, he left his work and went to the

city of Oaxaca to struggle for himself. He is a very timid boy, and he had a hard time in his canvassing experience. He had rented the cheapest room that he could find and was not able to live very favorable on the money that he earned. Evidently he was not getting the proper food for a growing boy, and in a few weeks he became very sick.

In a state of despair he finally decided to pawn the portable typewriter which his uncle had given him, and with that money he left on the train for the City of Puebla, where our mission office is located. He was hardly able to rise and walk, but he finally reached the mission headquarters. Brother Max Fuss, the superintendent, received him and began investigating at once the cause of his illness. The doctor found that he was in a serious condition, suffering from pellagra.

Several years had passed since I last

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CENTRAL AMERICAN UNION MISSION

ITINERATING IN THE REPUBLICS OF CENTRAL AMERICA

During the months of September and October, it was the privilege of the writer to visit five of the seven fields of the Central American Union. Starting in Nicaragua, we found the work progressing in each of the fields.

Pastor Librado Concepción, who had begun a good work in the interior of Nicaragua, was called to Panama; and Brother Donaldo Thomann, recently graduated from Pacific Union College, was called to labor in this field. Having been born and raised in the Argentine, he of course is fluent in the Spanish. He, together with Brother Eduardo Revelo, form our little band of Spanish workers in Nicaragua.

On the East Coast, Elder Andrean is laboring for the English-speaking people, and has recently held an effort in Corn Island, where we hope to baptize soon a few believers.

From Nicaragua, we went to Honduras, spending nearly two weeks visiting the Bay Islands, in company with Elder C. E. Westphal and family. It was our privilege to participate in the dedication of a humble church building in Mangrove Bight, on the Island of Bonacca.

We have many faithful believers in the Bay Islands, some having been in the Message for forty years.

Our next visit was to British Honduras, where Elder Astleford is laboring with one other worker, Brother L. L. Garbutt, to assist him. We held a short, general meeting in Belize, and also one for the Spanish-speaking people in the north section at Pembroke Hall.

From here we turned back, stopping at Barrios, Guatemala, where a fine church building has just been completed. A short stop of a few days in Guatemala City (in Guatemala) and San Salvador (in Salvador), counseling with Elders Orley Ford and Peter Nygaard, and another brief stop in Managua (in Nicaragua), and back to San José (in Costa Rica), completed the round.

Because of better facilities in travel, both by land and by air, it was possible to make this trip in a shorter time than ever before.

In each of the fields visited, it was gratifying to see the earnest, hard-working spirit manifested by the workers, following the example of the God-fearing men in charge of the several fields.

C. P. CRAGER

LET US STUDY THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

The remnant church has been honored by the presence of the Spirit of prophecy. The messages of the servant of God have been given to this people as a guide in character-building and in preparation for translation at the coming of the Lord. The instruction they contain has been studied earnestly by many members and is highly prized. Others have neglected them. To neglect them is dangerous to one's spiritual condition. These writings have a definite place in the experiences of the Adventist Movement. They have a place in the experience of each and every member of the movement. Of them the messenger herself declared years ago:

"The volumes of 'Spirit of prophecy' should be in every family, and should be read aloud in the family circle. More than one-half of our people know little or nothing of the contents of these books, and they are losing much by their neglect.

"The Testimonies contain instruction which meets the case of all, both parents and children. Should these be read aloud to the entire family, the children as well as the parents would be benefited by their counsels, warnings, and reproofs. While these are placed out of sight and neglected for the reading of fictitious, sensational literature, both yourselves and your children will be retrograding mentally and spiritually."—*Mrs. E. G. White, in "Review and Herald," Dec. 26, 1882.*

We are now presenting to the field a plan for the systematic reading of the books of the Spirit of prophecy. There is encouragement in the consciousness of studying these books systematically and in the fact that we are reading them along with believers throughout the churches.

Years ago, in college, each day a ten-minute quiet period, following evening worship, was observed, when each student had a few minutes alone in his room. During that time I read several volumes of the Spirit of prophecy, a few pages a day, marking the books as I read. These same books I find of great value to me at the present time, for whenever I pick them up, the sentences and passages which I marked years ago come back to me with renewed impressions of the influence and help they brought to me as a student.

The first book suggested for our reading during 1940 is "The Great Controversy." This book, with its interpretation of the events to take place just before the coming of Christ, is a very fitting choice for our study at this time. The world situation will be better understood by those who have carefully studied the messages of the book "Great Controversy."

The plan will be more fully explained in other articles and notices from time to time. Personally I encourage our members far and wide to study the books of the Spirit of prophecy, for I believe it will bring much spiritual help to the members individually and to the church as a whole.

H. T. ELLIOTT

*Associate Secretary of the
General Conference*



1939 AUTUMN COUNCIL ACTION REGARDING "SYSTEMATIC SPIRIT OF PROPHECY PROGRAM"

"Recognizing the seriousness of the times in which we are living and Seventh-day Adventists' need of having a better knowledge of the information, instruction and counsel which God has given through the Spirit of prophecy, and with a view of promoting among our people a systematic reading of these books,

"We recommend, 1. The inauguration of a reading plan for our members, to be designated as 'A Systematic, Spirit-of-Prophecy Reading Program.'

"2. That this plan call for the reading of approximately twenty pages a week from the Ellen G. White books.

"3. That the volumes for 1940 be 'The Great Controversy' and 'Ministry of Healing.'"



GOD'S GIFT TO HIS PEOPLE

The Spirit of prophecy is God's gift to His people, and through its messages He speaks to direct, keep and save those who give them heed.

The General Conference, in the last Autumn Council, arranged a plan for all of our people around the world to join in reading the inspired instruction found in the books of the Spirit of prophecy.

We urge everyone to show a deep interest in this matter and take part in the readings as suggested and arranged.

What could give greater spiritual strength to God's people than a concerted reading of God's own messages for these very times?

The book "Great Controversy" is chosen to be the first in our reading. We thank God for the "Great Controversy Chapters" that we have studied already in our churches, and for the chapters we now have in our homes. We thank God for the many thousands of chapters we have scattered among our neighbors, for these leaflets will bear fruit in souls warned and won.

Now, let us all take up anew the reading of this good book in all our homes. God will surely bless us as we do this thing.

If you do not own a copy of "Great Controversy," secure one if possible. If it is impossible to secure one, then take up a systematic reading of the chapters you have in your home. If you do not have these chapters in your home, secure a set from the Bible House of your field. In some way make available to yourself the full book, or obtain the chapters and study the messages in them.

We should fill our hearts and minds with the good things of God, in order that when we are deprived of Bibles and our good books, we shall still have comfort and strength in our souls.

Let there be no delay. Let all take part in this new plan. There is a great blessing in it. G. A. ROBERTS



"Not all the wisdom and skill of man can produce life in the smallest object in nature."—"Steps to Christ," p. 71.



"The less we see to esteem in ourselves, the more we shall see to esteem in the infinite purity and loveliness of our Saviour."—"Steps to Christ," p. 70.

HOW ONE MAN MIGHT HAVE SAVED A NATION

By F. C. GILBERT

General Conference Field Secretary

To King Zedekiah came the message from the Lord, through the prophet Jeremiah, that if the monarch would heed the counsel of God delivered through the prophet, he would save his own soul, the city of Jerusalem, and the people of God from becoming captives of the king of Babylon.

What an unusual opportunity came to this man Zedekiah! To him was offered the blessing of being a deliverer, if only he would hearken to the voice of the messenger of God. However, he failed to do this, with the result that Zedekiah was destroyed, his family also was killed, and the city was reduced to ashes.

It was King Jehosaphat who gave the people such good counsel in regard to heeding the voice of the prophets, when it was said: "Believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper." 2 Chron. 20:20.

God's Present-Day Counsel

Through the gift of prophecy the Lord is counseling His people today to heed the messages which in love and mercy He has sent to them, in order that by His grace they might save themselves, their families, and many others. The instruction given to His people is:

"The volumes of 'Spirit of Prophecy' and also the Testimonies should be introduced into every Sabbath-keeping family, and the brethren should know their value, and be urged to read them.

"They should be in the library of every family, and be read again and again."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 681.

Why have the people of God been advised to place these writings in every home, in every family? Why has the messenger of the Lord said repeatedly that the people of God should be urged to read these writings? Here is the answer:

"I said further, As the word of God is walled in with these books and pamphlets, so has God walled you in with reproofs, counsel, warnings, and encouragements. . . . The Lord has walled you about with light."—*Ibid*, p. 666.

In these days of confusion, error, peculiar perplexity, and worldliness, the Lord has looked down upon His people and has seen their great need of in-

struction, exhortation, admonition, and special help. The Lord is anxious to save us, our families, and through us many others; hence, in mercy, God, through His messenger, has provided the particular help the people of God need in these last days, in order that we may understand His requirements, and prepare ourselves for the coming of the Saviour.

Had Zedekiah heeded the messages sent to him through the prophet Jeremiah, what a different record would have been left to us! Satan told the Lord that the reason why he could not harm Job was because Heaven had made a hedge about this man of Uz. So in these last days the Lord, in kindness, has given to us a rich provision of knowledge and good counsel, in order that He may hedge us in from the snares and deceptions of the enemy, and enable us to understand clearly what is necessary on our part to make full preparation to be saved in the kingdom of God.

In the "Testimonies" and other Spirit-of-prophecy volumes, the Lord has omitted no item of instruction we need for our upbuilding in the cause of God. The principles given to us in the word of God are amplified, enlarged, simplified, so that no person in the day of God may have an excuse. How grateful we ought to be for such kindness on the Lord's part! What earnestness we ought to manifest to secure these writings and know what they contain!

Fundamental Instruction

It was Moses who wrote this fundamental instruction: "And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day." Deut. 6:24.

If Israel only had recognized this precious advice, how valuable it would have been to them! The Lord is now endeavoring to do everything in His power to prepare a people for His coming. How grateful we ought to be that it is our privilege to cooperate with the Lord in making this preparation!

For more than fifty years the writer has studied these instructions. The help

he has received from their study and investigation, is to him most invaluable. He has received wonderful information from their study, and much added light from the Scriptures has come to him as a result of the precious truths contained in those writings.

It should be the studied plan of every family that a complete set of these valuable books shall be found in the library of every home. If necessary, the people of God should put forth a special effort to secure these writings, for when they read them and discover their contents, their hearts will rejoice for the goodness of the Lord in offering such valuable counsel for the remnant church.



"LOVE THOSE BEST WHO LOVE CHRIST MOST" . . .

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marriage. She was deeply concerned. For about three years she had been keeping company with a young man who had been reared in a Seventh-day Adventist home. He was now twenty-seven years of age, and while he had attended church and Sabbath school much of his life, he followed the ways of the world. He was a habitual smoker, and indulged in many other practices which were contrary to the teachings of the Bible.

This young woman had influenced her friend to make the promise that before their marriage he would give up these evil practices and would join the church. But now the wedding day was approaching—only two months away—and as she contemplated the whole situation she felt that she was being drawn into a position that would mean compromise.

After she had told me her problem, I asked her if she had talked this over as frankly with the youth as she had with me. She had not, because she felt that to do so would lead to irritation and possible break in their friendship. After we had prayed and counseled further regarding the matter, she decided to go to him and have a candid talk about the whole question.

A few days later she came to me again, crushed and heartbroken, yet with a sense of victory in her heart. When she approached her friend regarding the matter, he became very angry and said the only reason he had made the promise was to win her affection

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AN APPEAL FOR LAY PREACHERS

By MRS. E. G. WHITE

"The Holy Spirit, Christ's representative, arms the weakest with might to press forward unto victory. God has organized His instrumentalities to draw all men unto Him. He sends forth to His work many who have not been dedicated by the laying on of hands. He answers objections that may arise against this method of labor, even before they arise. God sees the end from the beginning. He knows and anticipates every want, and provides for every emergency. If finite man to whom He commits His work, do not bar the way, God will send forth laborers into His vineyard. To every converted soul He says: 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.'

"It is not necessary that the Lord should first sit in earthly legislative councils, and inquire of those who think they must plan for His work, 'Will you permit men whom I have chosen, to unite with you in working in some part of my moral vineyard?' Christ was standing only a few steps from His heavenly throne when He gave His commission to His disciples, and included as missionaries all who would believe on His name. Jesus wants every minister to whom He has committed a sacred trust, to remember His injunctions, to consider the vastness of His work, and to place the obligations of preaching the gospel to the world upon the large number to whom it belongs. . . . If those who claim to have a living experience in the things of God, and had done their appointed duty as God ordained, the whole world would have been warned and the Lord Jesus would have come to our world with power and great glory."—*E. G. White, in "The Home Missionary," August 1896, p. 181, 182, (in the article entitled "There is Work for All").*

"I have spoken to people upon the camp ground, and have told them that the work cannot be done by the ordained minister alone. God will accept of any of those who love and serve Him, in their efforts to educate those who are in the darkness of error, and thus win souls for Christ. Hundreds and thousands who profess the truth, who are now idlers in the market places, might be engaged in the work of

the Lord. The voice of Christ speaks to them asking, 'Why stand ye all the day idle?' and adds, 'Go work today in my vineyard.' Why is it that many more do not respond to this call? Is it because they think themselves excused in that they do stand in the pulpit? Let them understand there is a large work to be done outside the pulpit."—*Mrs. E. G. White, in "The Home in "The Home Missionary," November 1897, p. 223.*

"Men and women will understand thoroughly their personal responsibilities, and the important results of personal effort. Nothing in the way of barriers will be erected to keep men from their fellowmen. The work of soul-saving will be the first great work. The individual believer will reach the individual sinner."—*Mrs. E. G. White, in "The Home Missionary," November 1897, p. 223.*

"There are many who with the proper encouragement would begin in out-of-the-way places to make efforts to seek and save that which is lost. The Lord blesses these self-sacrificing ones, who have such a hunger for souls that they are willing to go anywhere to work. But in the past how much encouragement has been given to such workers by their brethren? Many of them have waited long for something to do, but no attention has been given to them. If the ministers had given help and encouragement to these men and women, they would have been doing the work appointed them by the Lord."—*Quoted from "An Appeal for Self-Supporting Laborers," p. 44.*

"With genuine faith in the message of truth, such workers could settle in our cities as missionaries, letting their light shine forth to others. It is not ordained ministers upon whom we must depend for this work, but laymen who love and fear God, and who feel the burden for the salvation of souls. They can be agents and co-workers with divine Providence in seeking to save the lost. We want those who have sanctified energy, moral and intellectual. Let these put to use the talents they have, and by exercise they will grow."—*Quoted in "An Appeal for Self-Supporting Laborers," pp. 20, 21.*

"In the common walks of life there

is many a man patiently treading the round of daily toil, unconscious that he possesses power which, if called into action, would raise him to an equality with the world's most honored men. The touch of a skillful hand is needed to arouse those dormant faculties."—*"Desire of Ages," p. 250.*

"As churches are established, it should be set before them that it is even from among them that men must be taken to carry the truth to others, and raise new churches; therefore they must all work, and cultivate to the utmost the talents that God has given them, and be training their minds to engage in the service of their Master."—*"Testimonies," Vol. 3, p. 205.*

"Shall men go to the regular lines to see whether they will be permitted to labor, or shall they go out and work the best they can, depending on their own abilities and on the help of the Lord, beginning in a humble way and creating an interest in the truth in places where nothing has been done to give the warning message."—*Quoted from "An appeal for Self-Supporting Laborers," p. 44.*

"God will inspire men who do not occupy responsible positions to work for Him. If ministers and men in authority will get out of the way, and let the Holy Spirit move upon the minds of the lay brethren, God will direct them what to do for the honor of His name."—*"Remove the Barriers," p. 5.*

"God will do the work if we will furnish Him the instruments."—*"Testimonies," Vol. 9, p. 107.*



Defeat should never be a source of discouragement, but rather a fresh stimulus.

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**"LOVE THOSE BEST WHO
LOVE CHRIST MOST" . . .**

(Continued from page 5)

and confidence, but that he had no intention of giving up these habits or of joining the church. After hearing his reaction, she replied, "Then in order to be true to God and follow His way, I must break our engagement."

Breaking a Promise

This is a hard experience for any young person to go through, and yet one had better break his engagement than to enter into a relationship for life which would lead to disaster.

"You may say, 'But I have given my promise, and shall I now retract it?' I answer, If you have made a promise contrary to the Scripture, by all means retract it without delay, and in humility before God repent of the infatuation that led you to make so rash a pledge. Far better take back such a promise, in the fear of God, than keep it, and thereby dishonor your Maker."—*"Messages to Young People," p. 441.*

Some young people think this matter of religious difference is unimportant, and many tragic experiences result from such an attitude. One day a friend of ours came to me, saying, "Lester, when I married Jim, I made the saddest mistake of my life. I would not have you misunderstand me, for Jim is a good provider. He has provided us with a fine house, lovely furniture, and every year he gives me an expensive automobile for my own. In spite of all these things we have no home. When our children came, I used to take them with me to Sabbath school and church, and to the children's meetings on Sabbath afternoon, and they learned to delight in these things of God. One Sabbath when we were having luncheon, Jim turned to me and said, 'During all these years you have had the children with you on Saturday. You may continue to have them on Sabbath morning, but from now on I am going to have them in the afternoon.' That afternoon he took them to the theater, and the next week to the ball game. Every Sabbath after that he took them to some place of amusement. Of course, this ruined the children. Our daughter, twenty-two years of age, has deserted her own little babe and is now in the movie colony in Hollywood. Our son, twenty years of age, comes home two or three times a week so intoxicated that we have to help him remove his clothing and put

him to bed. Oh, that I had listened to my father and mother and friends in the church who advised me not to marry Jim!"

Shadows Never Lifted

In the book "Messages to Young People," page 440, we are told that the one who marries an unbeliever enters a home where the shadows are never lifted. You young people do not want to enter a home of that kind. You want a home where there are no shadows; so may God help you indeed to "love those best who love Christ most."



Cheerfulness is what greases the axles of the world.

OUR RELATION TO OTHERS

There are no two whose experience is alike in every particular. The trials of one are not the trials of another. The duties that one finds light, are to another most difficult and perplexing. So frail, so ignorant, so liable to misconception is human nature, that each should be careful in the estimate one places upon another. We little know the bearing of our acts upon the experience of others. What we do or say may seem to us of little moment, when, could our eyes be opened, we should see that upon it depend the most important results for good or for evil."—*"Gospel Workers," p. 473.*



**READING COURSES
FOR 1940**

MINISTERIAL:

- "The Divine Art of Preaching"—Carlyle B. Haynes.
- "Public Evangelism"—J. L. Shuler.
- "The Faith of Jesus"—M. L. Andreassen.
- "Counsels on Stewardship"—Mrs. E. G. White.
- "The Origin of Sunday Observance"—W. E. Straw.

SENIOR Y. P. M. V.:

- "Our Wonderful Bible"—A. S. Maxwell.
- "Your Bible Says"—Gwynne Dalrymple.
- "Blessed Be Drudgery"—W. C. Gannett.
- "A Cup of Cold Water"—W. C. Gannett.

JUNIOR M. V.:

- "Bedtime Stories," No. 15—A. S. Maxwell.
- "With Our Missionaries in China"—Mrs. Emma Anderson.
- "The Slave Boy Who Became Governor"—Ella M. Robinson.

Order from your Book and Bible House, which can also give information about the prices in national currency.

"LOVE THOSE BEST WHO LOVE CHRIST MOST"

By C. LESTER BOND

*Associate Secretary of the Young People's Department
of the General Conference*

The person who professes to know God's truth but who makes little or no effort to live it out in his life often exercises a more harmful influence upon his friends and associates than the person who does not know God. Many persons observing the professed Christian expect him to be exemplary at all times, and when they see carelessness in him, they lose confidence in religion. This is well illustrated in the following incident.

A Wrong Example

Two Seventh-day Adventist girls who generally were extremely careful of their conduct went to the beach for their vacation. One of the girls was the secretary of the Sabbath school and the other was an officer of the missionary volunteer society. They had made reservations at the hotel beforehand, so that all was in readiness when they arrived. On the train going down to the beach, the girl who was the secretary of the Sabbath school said to her chum, "While we're on our vacation I'm just going to let down a little bit. No one will be there who knows us, and I'm going to do some things I would not do at home." While riding along they observed in a newspaper some advertisements of the places of amusements down at the beach. One of these was a so-called outstanding movie. This girl said, "Let's go!" But her chum answered, "No, I do not think we ought to do that." The girl urged, "Oh, come on! It won't hurt us to go this once." The chum finally said, "All right, I'll go with you."

That evening they went to the theater. The next day they went to a cabaret where there was dancing and a floor show. Later in the afternoon they were sitting on the veranda of the hotel, drinking lemonade and watching the crowds on the beach, when two girls from their home town approached them. After greetings were over, chairs were drawn up and they all began to chat. One of these girls said to the Adventist girls, "We saw you at the theater last night. We didn't know you went to places like that." And the other said,

"Yes, and we were surprised to see you at the cabaret."

Immediately the girl who was Sabbath school secretary began to make excuses for their conduct. But just then one of the visiting girls looked at her watch and said they must leave, for they had promised to meet a friend in ten minutes. When their accusers were out of hearing, the girl who had suggested going to the theater and cabaret turned to her chum and, with tears in her eyes, said, "I'm so sorry. One of those girls has been interested in our message, and has come to Sabbath school on my invitation. Why, I have even had some Bible studies with her. But now I'm afraid she'll never come to church again."

Because of the wrong influence of two Christian girls, a soul was turned away. We do well to think of our influence and make sure that our conduct and words are always on the side of right.

Effect of Wrong Friendships

While we are thinking of the example before others, we should also consider what their influence may do to our own lives and the effect it will have on our own hearts. We ought to be sure that we form no friendships that will draw us away from God.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have. I must stand by anybody who is right; stand with him while he is right; and part with him when he goes wrong."

This practice in the life of Mr. Lincoln enabled him to become the man that he was. To pursue such a course in our lives will be a blessing to ourselves as well as to others.

"Your associates, those whose company you have chosen, have been a hindrance to you. Come out from among them, and be separate. Draw near to God, and come into closer union with His people. Let your interest and your affections center in Christ and His followers. Love those best who

love Christ most."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. 2, p. 48.

The last seven words of this paragraph constitute one of the best rules on the choice of friends that has ever appeared in print. Do you know, young people, that if we follow that admonition, and practice it every day in our friendships, it will prove a great influence for good and be a blessing to us? "Love those best who love Christ most."

The Bible brings the same thought to us. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 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." 2 Cor. 6:14-18.

God is very positive in the instruction He has given us. There is no excuse for young people's going astray if they will open their hearts to God and invite Him to rule their lives.

Carefulness in First Step

Courtship grows out of friendship. When we choose intimate friends who are not loyal followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is only natural for us to be drawn into courtship with one of this class. Courtship ripens into engagement, and engagement meets its fruition in marriage. Our safety lies in not taking the first step in the wrong direction. Oftentimes young people, through the deceitfulness of sin, are led to believe that through this intimate association the friend will be led to accept the Saviour. This is only a snare of the devil. He knows that in the great majority of cases the Christian is led into discouragement and oftentimes turns from God's truth entirely. Many young people, by following such a course, have been brought into grave perplexity.

A young woman came to me one day for consultation regarding plans for her
(Continued on page 5)