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# THE MISSIONARY LEADER



HOME MISSIONS DAY, SABBATH, MAY 13, 1944

## EARLY HISTORY of the Home Missions Department

THE first church in Australia was organized in the year 1886 with twenty-eight members. These members were filled with enthusiasm, and through their home missions activities, including the distribution of the printed page, increased their membership to fifty-one in a little over one month.

Our ministers and workers today here have lesson for the present in the best method of founding new believers in the message.

Two years after this, the Australian Conference was organized with five churches and 266 members. A year later, when reporting the work of the conference, Pastor Tenny wrote: "In different parts of the colonies quite a number of people have embraced the message from reading." Thus is recorded the encouraging fact that the scattering of our literature was bearing fruit.

During those early days the workers were few and the field was very large, and so naturally the progress of the work was due to a large extent to the distribution of literature by the new converts among their neighbours and friends. The early record of the work in New Zealand, too, provides equal evidence of the activities of the first believers in Home Missions work.

After the American workers came to this field, they ordered 1,000 copies of the *Signs* each week to be distributed gratuitously. The folk back home wondered what they would do with 4,000 *Signs* each month, but experience proved this to be one of their best investments.

Reporting is no new venture in the Home Missions Department, for as far back as 1887, one year after the first church was organized, regular quarterly reports were made. At that time the reports mostly were composed of subscriptions taken for books, tracts given away or lent, and missionary visits.

In the year 1893 missionary correspondence was encouraged and introduced into the Home Missions activities—papers and tracts along with letters were sent to folk living in out-of-the-way places in country areas. About this time also another feature of Home Missions work was organized—that of visiting the sick in hospitals, and visiting the ships that came into port and leaving literature for the sailors. In writing of the hospital work one person wrote: "As we go down the long wards with our flowers and papers, the smile of recognition and the warm hand-clasp tell of grateful appreciation." The records of the history of the early days in connection with ship mission work are filled with many interesting experiences.

These two very important activities seem to have been forgotten during recent years, but why leave them to the records of the past? We still have hospitals filled with the sick, and the ships still ply the high seas and every little while come to port! While we realize that circumstances are not as favourable to this form of mission work as they were a few years ago, because of war-time regulations, yet ships do come to port every little while and the sailors come to and fro. If some of our brethren would only get a real burden for these men, plans could be made to contact them and hand our truth-filled literature to them while their ships remain in port. What a wonderful work! Only the records of heaven could tell of the souls saved as a result.

After the organization of the Australasian Union Conference in the year 1894, resolutions were passed to bring Christian help work and

the circulation of health journals under the notice of the church members. Again, in 1895 resolutions were passed on the subjects of greater faithfulness in missionary work, and the education of church members for more efficient service. Statistics under date of 1896 showed that the circulation of periodicals bearing on present truth had reached 185,324 copies for the year. The circulation of *Bible Echo* had reached 4,722 copies per week. Just by way of comparison to show how the literature work has grown, we would say that during 1943 one of our largest conferences circulated over 129,000 pieces of literature during one quarter, and the number reported for the Union Conference for the same quarter was 380,357 pieces, while the *Signs* circulation at the end of 1943 was over 30,000 per week.

In the year 1899 it was felt that more attention should be given to the activities of the Home Missions Department, and so the assistant editor of the *Record* was assigned the duty of caring for the Department and its activities. Prior to this time the work had been fostered by the Tract Society secretary of each conference. Now, missionary visiting, Bible studies, missionary correspondence, and the distribution of books and tracts—in short, all that would pertain to successful missionary work—would be dealt with, and pertinent questions on these lines of work would be asked and answered, through the pages of the *Record* from time to time.

In the year 1900 a very decided step toward the creation of a distinct department in the

### Note to Ministers, Workers, and Church Leaders

MAY 13 is the day set apart for the consideration of Home Missions activities, and we would appreciate it if all would do their part in making the church service on that day bright and interesting. Two articles have been prepared, and appear in this issue of the *LEADER*, which will be helpful in planning a Home Missions Day programme. We would ask you to make the topic for the day Home Missions activities, encouraging our church members in working for the souls of their neighbours and friends in and around their own communities. The offering for the day is for the purchasing of Free Literature, and we would suggest that this be announced the previous week so that all will come prepared to give a liberal offering.

A.U.C. HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT.

Union Conference for the care of Home Missions work was taken. The department was called the Missionary Department of the Union Conference, and the idea in creating it seemed to be a translation of the local Tract Society organization into the Union Conference. This first Missionary Department had for its superintendent Pastor A. T. Robinson. The correspondence secretaries were Pastor A. W. Anderson, in Victoria; Mrs. A. L. Hindson, in New South Wales; and Miss Hattie Andre, at the Avondale School, Cooranbong. Pastor E. H. Gates was the treasurer of the department. The plan of work for this department seemed to be largely the obtaining of means from the church members for the creation of a mis-

sionary fund that would provide literature for the use of the department. The members provided the means, and the department officers did the work. This method did not prove very satisfactory, for from that time onward the matter of reports from the churches seemed to lapse, and the task of directing the work gradually drifted to the publishing house until in 1906, during a Union Conference session, Brother J. M. Johanson spoke of the need of organizing the churches for service. He said: "We read there are many in our churches who are rusting because of inactivity. We should plan our work so that every individual will have a part and a place in this work." This appeal bore fruit, for in 1907 the work of organizing the churches for service began in earnest. From this time on regular reports have been compiled, and the work has had systematic direction.

At the above-mentioned conference Brother J. M. Johanson also suggested the employment of an additional worker in each state to look after the interests of the Home Missions activities and enable the department to do more aggressive missionary work. The appointment of field missionary secretaries grew out of this suggestion; but these officers worked largely under the direction of the publishing house, and in many cases the office was coupled with that of colporteur leader. This combination did not work very satisfactorily, as the colporteur leader had his hands more than full with the book work and the needs of the canvassers.

Following the reorganization of the churches for active missionary endeavour in 1907, the plan of conventions was freely tried. The city churches and country centres throughout the Union Conference were more or less visited by convention organizers. The work as a result began to grow, and it became more or less imperative to move toward the creation of a Home Missions department in the Union Conference, and so today we have organized throughout the Union Conference, Home Missions departments in each local conference with loyal secretaries and hundreds of loyal lay members who from week to week, month to month, year by year untiringly work for their neighbours and friends at home, and for the extension of the third angel's message in the islands of the sea. Each year through the activities of the Home Missions Department thousands upon thousands of pieces of truth-filled literature are circulated, and thousands of pounds are gathered into the treasury from those not of our faith for the spread of the gospel in all lands.

A.U.C. HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT.

### Why Should We Be Home Missionaries?

R. E. CASH

LET us give you six reasons why we should be home missionaries:—

1. All must appear in the judgment. "In the visions of the night a very impressive scene passed before me. I saw an immense ball of fire fall among some beautiful mansions, causing their instant destruction. I heard someone say, 'We knew that the judgments of God were coming upon the earth, but we did not know that they were coming so soon.' Others, with agonized voices, said, 'You knew! Why did you not tell us? We did not know.' On every side I heard similar words of reproach spoken."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, page 28.

2. Cures despondency. "It is in working for others that they will keep their own souls alive."—*Christian Service*, page 22. "It is those who are not engaged in this unselfish labour who have a sickly experience, and become worn out with struggling, doubting, murmuring, sinning, and repenting, until they lose all sense as to what constitutes genuine religion."—*Id.*, page 107.



3. The way to grow. "The only way to grow in grace is to be interestedly doing the very work Christ has enjoined upon us to do."—*Id.*, page 107.

"Those who reject the privilege of fellowship with Christ in service, reject the only training that imparts a fitness for participation with Him in His glory."—"Education," page 204.

4. To receive the reflex blessing. "The effort to bless others will react in blessings upon ourselves. This was the purpose of God in giving us a part to act in the plan of redemption. . . . Those who thus become participants in labours of love are brought nearest to their Saviour."—"Steps to Christ," page 79.

5. Condition of receiving the Holy Spirit. "The Holy Spirit will come to all who are begging for the bread of life to give to their neighbours."—"Testimonies," Vol. VI, page 90.

"The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be labourers together with God."—"Christian Service," page 253.

6. To save our own souls. "Everyone is to do to the very utmost of his ability. My brother, you endanger your own salvation if you hold back now. God will call you to account if you fail in the work He has assigned you."—"Testimonies," Vol. V, page 461.

With great reason, therefore, does the Spirit of God say to us: "This subject is to be considered as involving the most serious results. Our future for eternity is at stake."—*Id.*, Vol. VI, page 431.

## The Word of God

"The Word of God is the seed. Every seed has in itself a germinating principle. In it the life of the plant is enfolded. So there is life in God's Word. Christ says, 'The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.' 'He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life.' In every command and in every promise of the Word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the Word is receiving the very life and character of God."—"Christ's Object Lessons," page 38.

"The Bible is an unerring guide. It demands perfect purity in word, in thought, and in action. Only virtuous and spotless characters will be permitted to enter the presence of a pure and holy God. The Word of God, if studied and obeyed, would lead the children of men, as the Israelites were led by a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day. The Bible is God's will expressed to man. It is the only perfect standard of character, and marks out the duty of man in every circumstance of life."—"Testimonies," Vol. IV, page 312.

## SUGGESTIVE TALKS for Ten-Minute Exercises

MAY 6

### Brighten the Corner Where You Are

#### Key Thought for Leaders

"Your light may be small, but remember that it is what God has given you, and that He holds you responsible to let it shine forth. Someone may light his taper from yours, and his light may be the means of leading others out from the darkness."—"Testimonies," Vol. IX, page 171.

ONCE upon a time a brief conversation between two Christian workers was overheard as follows: "Where have you been lately? Haven't seen you or heard of you, and have not once seen your name in the papers." "No," was the reply, "I have not been doing much in a public way during the past year, but I have been working the corners." "What do you mean?" asked his friend. "Well, I found there were plenty of missionary workers in the city where I live, but in the outlying districts there was no missionary work being carried on; so I left the city work, and have been going from

house to house, gathering people in little groups in farmhouses and schoolhouses, preaching to them and teaching them there. There seemed to be nobody to do that work, and so I took it up. I call it working the corners, and I suppose my name has not been in the papers for a year."

All about us everywhere are dark corners, which are being overlooked by the many busy workers seeing the needs in larger fields. If we would be successful in service for the Master, we must "brighten the corner" right where we are; and from that illuminated corner the light will shine brighter, clearer, and farther.

J. R. Miller, D.D., in his "Glimpses Through Life's Windows," emphasizes the need of keeping our lighthouse lenses focused for shining near and far, as follows:—

"Did you ever stand at the foot of a great lighthouse at night? Through brilliant lenses splendid floods of light were poured out to sea; but not one tiny little gleam of radiance did that great lamp pour on the bit of sand close around the base of its tower. Do not be like lighthouses in this regard. Wherever else, far away or near, you pour the beams of your Christian life, be sure you brighten the space close about you in your own home. Let the light of gentleness, forbearance, kindness, unselfishness, and thoughtful ministry fall on the life next to yours, on your weary mother, your burdened father, your tempted brother; upon the children in your family, on the guests who drop in, on servants who help in domestic duties."

"Brighten the corner where you are"—in the home, in the neighbourhood, in the ever-widening community. Comfort the sorrowing, cheer the lonely, be ever ready to "give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope" which fills your life with courage and confidence in these days of darkness and despair.—*General Conference Gazette, December, 1943.*

MAY 13

### Crusade for Lay Evangelism

#### Key Thought for Leaders

"The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into His harvest."

—Jesus (Luke 10: 2).

As we draw nearer to the end of the world, the Lord would have His people enter into an even greater ministry of lay evangelism. He would have the voices of laymen heard all over the world, uniting with the ordained ministry in giving the warning message. Note the following statements penned by the servant of the Lord: "Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The labourers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. . . . By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these."—"The Great Controversy," page 606.

Amazing are the results attending the efforts put forth by the lay members of our churches in holding up the torch of truth in city, town, and community. Laymen are engaged in conducting public efforts and cottage meetings, and not a few of the sisters in the churches are conducting Bible studies, and carrying the printed page of truth from door to door. All this is lay evangelism. On every hand there are open doors for the entrance of the messenger of truth, and the crusade for more labourers is being diligently advanced at this particular time, when special opportunities exist for gaining the attention of people in search of an answer to the meaning of what is transpiring about us.

Now is the time for all to plan for larger service as lay preachers and lay Bible teachers. Conference presidents and district leaders stand ready to give counsel and advice; pastors and home missionary leaders are also ready to help in getting started in real lay evangelism without delay. The call is sounding through our

churches today. There are some in every church who should respond to the call. There is no time to lose. Maintain the attitude of prayer and listening, and be quick to follow as God may open the way.

"The Lord would have the people warned; for a great work will be done in a short time. I have heard the Word of God proclaimed in many localities. . . . There are many voices proclaiming the truth with great power. . . . Among those who were engaged in the work were young men taken from the plough and from the fields, and sent forth to preach the truth as it is in Jesus. Unquestioning faith in the Lord God of heaven was imparted to those who were called and chosen."—"Medical Ministry," page 305.

Who will this day unite in the "Crusade for Lay Evangelism"?—*General Conference Gazette, 1943.*

MAY 20

### No Hopeless Cases in God's Sight

#### Key Thought for Leaders

"Jesus knows the circumstances of every soul. The greater the sinner's guilt, the more he needs the Saviour. His heart of divine love and sympathy is drawn out most of all for the one who is the most hopelessly entangled in the snares of the enemy. With His own blood He has signed the emancipation papers of the race."—"Ministry of Healing," pages 89, 90.

ONE of the enemy's most effective implements in hindering the soul-winner is *discouragement*. He binds his victims with strong chains, and is determined that they shall remain in his prison-house. As Christians and as ambassadors of reconciliation, we are to "proclaim liberty" to the captives, and lead them to rejoice in the glorious provisions of the gospel which is able "to save to the uttermost" all who will accept the pardon offered. But it is so easy to become discouraged when our efforts seem to be in vain; and many times we are tempted to conclude that the soul is beyond help, having deliberately plunged into the depths of sin.

Let us never forget, however, the admonition that has been given to us, as follows: "We become too easily discouraged over the souls who do not at once respond to our efforts. Never should we cease to labour for a soul while there is one gleam of hope. Precious souls cost our self-sacrificing Redeemer too dear a price to be lightly given up to the tempter's power. . . . By the miracle of divine grace, many may be fitted for lives of usefulness. Despised and forsaken, they have become utterly discouraged; they may appear stoical and stolid. But under the ministration of the Holy Spirit, the stupidity that makes their uplifting appear so hopeless will pass away. . . . The slave of sin will be set free."—"Ministry of Healing," pages 168, 169.

Christ "delights to reveal His power to transform hearts," and He makes His children the channels of transforming power. Surely the "channel" should not become discouraged when the "power" is so abundant. "The Lord Jesus is making experiments on human hearts through the exhibition of His mercy and abundant grace. He is effecting transformations so amazing that Satan, with all his triumphant boasting. . . . stands viewing them as a fortress impregnable; . . . they are to him an incomprehensible mystery."—"Testimonies to Ministers," page 18.

There are also others beholding the "experiments on human hearts" which are constantly taking place through the ministry of God's ambassadors. "The angels of God, seraphim and cherubim, the powers commissioned to co-operate with human agencies, look on with astonishment and joy, that fallen men, once children of wrath, are . . . developing characters after the divine similitude."—*Ibid.*

How often, in our efforts to win souls, we "let go the arm of the Lord too soon"! We must never lose faith in the value of a soul nor in the unfathomable Love which embraces all mankind. Man's worth is measured by the price God was willing to pay for his rescue. "Unto the uttermost" is a phrase of deep significance. It means that God stands ready to go to the depths to save the worst. Every human soul, to Him, is a jewel of surpassing beauty, and no gutter is too foul, no filth too great to divert Him from the offer of salvation.—*General Conference Gazette, December, 1943.*



MAY 27

## Missionary Letter Writing

JENNIE THAYER

THE fact that so small a portion of our members are engaged to any extent in sending our literature through the mails, and calling the attention of others to the glorious truths for this age, is often mentioned with regret by our earnest workers who see the great need of labourers at the present time.

I believe you all want to help in this work, but probably it is not possible for you to leave home to give Bible readings, or to sell books, or even to distribute tracts. There is one thing, however, that you can do if you will. Our papers are very inexpensive, and you can send these out with a good letter to some poor soul who will be glad to read them.

While going about your regular work, consider what you will write to these persons; think what kind of letter you would like to

receive in similar circumstances, all the while seeking wisdom from the unfailing Source. Never write a letter without asking God to direct you to say just what He would have said to the particular individual to whom you are writing. Do not try to copy any human being, but be natural, first, last, always. Write naturally, not in a studied style, but begin as you will be able to continue. Imagine that you have the individual before you, and write as you would talk, while you thus avoid all the embarrassment of a personal interview. Be courteous, but be earnest, and be brief.

Do not become discouraged though your work appears to be of no avail, but "try again." There were ten lepers cleansed; "But where are the nine?" is a question yet unanswered. Do your duty by all, and leave the "nine" or the "ninety and nine" with Him who judges righteously. "One soul is of infinite value." If you should be the instrument in God's hands of saving one, though having warned a thousand, you would be amply repaid for all your effort.

## Missionary Volunteer Department

### "The Key in the Hand of Faith"

#### Note to Leaders

THIS programme could be given during the week of Prayer in order that the spirit of prayer might be kept before the young people.

#### Talk: WHAT IS PRAYER?

(Enlarge upon the following quotations.)

It has been said that—

1. "Prayer is the fine art of getting acquainted with God."
2. "Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence."
3. "Prayer is communion. It is more than conversation; it is intimate fellowship."
4. "Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend."
5. "Prayer is simply faith claiming its natural, yet marvellous prerogatives, faith taking possession of its illimitable inheritance."
6. "Prayer is the breath of the soul."
7. "Prayer is Heaven's ordained means of success in the conflict of sin and the development of Christian character."
8. "Prayer is in very deed the pulse of the spiritual life."

"Prayer is the swiftest cable known,  
The longest, reaching to God's throne.  
Prayer is the Christian's telescope  
To scan the star-strewn way of hope.  
Prayer is the prism through which we view  
God's colour schemes for me and you.

"Prayer is the lever of the hour  
To move the arm of mighty power.  
The drift of all the wealth we take  
Bears o'er the soul 'for Jesus' sake.'  
How oft we lose, unarmed by prayer!  
No battle wanes when God is there."

#### Talk: WHY PRAY?

The captain of a vessel was one night taken seriously ill, and although the cure might be in his own ship's medicine-chest, he had no skill to choose or compound it. Only one hope came to his mind—to find a doctor. He set the wireless to work. North, south, east, and west, went the call for a doctor, and lo, across hundreds of miles came the answer. The physician had been found, the prescription given, and the captain's life was saved. The newspapers called it a parable of prayer. So on the sea of life, when there is any kind of emergency, we may send up a prayer to God and know that He will hear and answer.

Prayer is not intended to work any change in God; it brings us into harmony with God. It puts us in a frame of mind to receive His blessings, and prepares us to be used of Him. Prayer brings us power. While engaged in our daily work, we may lift the soul to heaven in prayer. The Christian whose heart is set upon God cannot be overcome. "At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan's whole host trembles.

And when angels, all-powerful, clothed with the armoury of heaven, come to the help of the fainting, pursued soul, Satan and his host fall back, well knowing that their battle is lost." ("Messages to Young People," page 53.) It is at the very moment when you feel weak that you may become strong, for "nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness, and relies wholly on the merits of the Saviour. God would send every angel in heaven to the aid of such an one, rather than allow him to be overcome."—"Testimonies," Vol. VII, page 17.

Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. "If you feel in no danger, and if you offer no prayer for help and strength to resist temptations, you will be sure to go astray; your neglect of duty will be marked in the book of God in heaven, and you will be found wanting in the trying day." (Id., Vol. III, page 364.) As young people, we may neglect Bible study or missionary work, and still struggle along for a time, but if we cease praying, we shall die spiritually just as surely as we should die if we ceased to breathe. "Every prayer offered in faith lifts the suppliant above discouraging doubts and human passions. Prayer gives strength to renew the conflict with the powers of darkness, to bear trials patiently, and to endure hardness as good soldiers of Christ."—"Gospel Workers," page 320.

Every temptation is a call to immediate prayer. Beside kneeling in the act of audible prayer, we may pray silently while walking about. Pray while at work, while studying, while waiting for an Ingathering offering, or when facing danger. "These silent petitions rise like incense before the throne of grace; and the enemy is baffled. . . . It was thus that Enoch walked with God."—Id., page 254.

"In the midst of a life of active labour, Enoch steadfastly maintained his communion with God. The greater and more pressing his labours, the more constant and earnest were his prayers." (Id., page 52.) Sometimes the studies at school may press hard, and it seems that you haven't an ounce of energy left. You can't even think. Then you need to rest and seek the Lord in prayer. When your work becomes strenuous, you must go up in the mount with God to be refreshed and get renewed strength.

Phillips Brooks said: "Do not pray for easy lives! Pray to be stronger men! Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle. But you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come in you by the grace of God."

We should be definite in our prayers. Pray straight from the heart. Do we have secret sins in our lives? Let us ask God to forgive these sins, and also give us the grace and power from heaven to put them away and out of our lives. Do we need a deeper love and consecration to Christ's cause? Ask Him to help. Let us pray for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to

do His will. Let us pray for our missionaries in far-away countries surrounded with dangers and hazards of every sort. Remember our unconverted loved ones who are wandering in the paths of sin. Christ said, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11: 24. For any gift He has promised, we may ask. As soon as the conditions are met, the promise is certain, and we may believe that we have received, and may return thanks to God. Whatever we receive should be used in doing His will.

#### Poem: BEGIN THE DAY WITH GOD

I met God in the morning,  
When my day was at its best,  
And His presence came like sunrise—  
Like a glory in my breast.

All day long this presence lingered,  
All day long He stayed with me;  
And I sailed in perfect calmness  
O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were torn and battered,  
Other ships were sore distressed;  
But the winds that seemed to drive them,  
Brought to me, a peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings,  
With a keen remorse of mind,  
When I, too, had loosed the moorings  
With this Presence left behind.

So I think I've found the secret,  
Learned through many a troubled way:  
You must meet God in the morning  
If you want Him through the day.

—Author Unknown.

#### Talk: PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

(See Junior programme. Enlarge on this.)

#### Experiences: ANSWERED PRAYER

(After the following have been given, ask for personal experiences.)

##### 1. The Money by Post

Out of the war-stricken regions of Eastern Europe, in the days following the war, came stories of many a struggle of Protestant believers to keep going in the midst of universal distress, and with the hostility of feeling against Protestants in some sections. One such family had run out of food. Work had seemed unobtainable. The parents and children were actually in extremity of need. The story was told by President L. H. Christian of the European Division:—

"The father was praying one morning, with his wife and children. They were suffering the pangs of starvation, and they turned to God in prayer as their only hope.

"As the father prayed this morning, he seemed to hear a voice saying, 'If you have faith, you will be saved.'

"He took it as an assurance of deliverance, and the family thanked God that He had heard their cry.

"Just a little later the mail-carrier came to their door with a letter. The letter was opened, and it was found that only money was enclosed. Whom it was from they knew not. But there was money for their immediate need. It saved them from threatened starvation, and tided them over until they were able to find ways of earning a livelihood again amidst the desolations that the war had left in its wake. I know the facts, for I saw the family only a few weeks ago.

"Some time later the father attended a meeting held near his home. He there told of his experience, to the glory of God, and added, 'I should like to meet the one who sent me that money.'

"There was a man present who then stood up and said, 'I sent that letter. I sent it before I became an Adventist believer. One night in a dream an envelope, addressed with name and place, was held before me, and a voice commanded, "Put so much money in this envelope, and send it to that man!" I did not know who the man was,' he continued, 'and I never had heard of the place. But it was so clear and commanding an experience that next morning, as I awoke, I felt I must obey. I addressed an envelope as I had seen it in the dream, put the money in it, and dropped it into the post.



After I had done it, it seemed so unreasonable a thing for me to do that I feared I might really be losing my mind. But it was done, and I could not recall it."

Soon afterward the man who sent the money was visited by a colporteur, who sold him a book that led him into the light. Hearing of the meeting to be held, he had come to thank God for the light that the open Bible had brought into his life; and there he heard the story of the man to whom he had sent the money, not knowing what he was doing, save that God called him to do it. It was a happy meeting between the two men.—"Miracles of Modern Missions," Spicer, pages 114, 115.

## 2. A Train Is Delayed

"As a minister of the gospel," says A. J. Nichols, bearing testimony to God's regard for the prayers of His children, "I had some preaching obligations at a certain New England campground. On the afternoon of the day when I should reach the camp, I started out on foot to take the train. It was nearer for me to cover part of the distance by walking alongside the railway line, which I did. My watch must have been a few minutes behind time, because before I reached the station my train rushed past me and went out of sight around a curve.

"I was disappointed and distressed. Suddenly it came to me that I was on the service of the One who has all authority and power in heaven and on earth. He could help me get that train if it were His will that I should go that day. As I began to run, I sent up a prayer to God that if it were His will to do so, He would delay that train.

"Beyond the curve the locomotive bell was ringing the signal that the train was about to pull out. I heard it, but did not slacken my speed. I did not hear the engine starting. When I rounded the curve, there stood the train waiting at the station. Still I kept up my pace, and finally I climbed, panting, up one side of the rear platform of the last car while the bewildered conductor climbed the other side just as the wheels began to turn.

"'Did you understand that telegram?' a train man who was standing there asked the conductor as he tucked his watch back into his pocket.

"'No, I didn't understand it. I don't understand it now,' the conductor answered. 'That was the strangest order I have received since I went into railroading.'

"As we gathered speed, the two men exchanged glances that were full of wonder, then turned to leave the platform and go up ahead. The conductor looked at his watch again, remarking as he did so, 'It's strange. We lost three minutes.'

"Neither of the uniformed officials paid the least attention to me. I do not know to this day the details of that mysterious telegram. But I knew what it meant. Too many people, when they have asked God for something and have received it, begin to think that it was all a coincidence. I know better than that. I know that my all-wise Father held that train for me!"—*Youth's Instructor, 1942.*

## Mother's Day

### Talk: ORIGIN OF MOTHER'S DAY

Of human memorial days, the one that may be appropriately celebrated by all is Mother's Day. All have mothers, and mothers as a group are truly worthy of loving appreciation and tender memory.

The custom of remembering loved ones, mothers included, extends, of course, back through history to the one mother who had no mother—Mother Eve. Job remembered the "days" of his sons, their times of family gatherings for joyous feasts. This attention to loved ones is natural and right, typical of men and nations, especially those dominated by moral and Christian principles.

A touching custom was long observed in England and other countries of Europe, possibly in early American days, we are told. There the boys and girls of the poorer families were often bound out as apprentices and maids. Each spring, a certain Sunday was set for these youth to visit their mothers, to whom they carried little gifts. One making such a visit

was said to be going a-mothering. This day became known as "Mothering Sunday."

More recently, various customs honouring mothers grew up. There are reports of churches, classes, and other groups which set aside certain days on which the mothers of the groups were honoured. In Philadelphia lived a lady known for her practical aid to war mothers and veterans, Mrs. Anna Jarvis. After her death, her daughter, Miss Anna Jarvis, regularly laid flowers on her mother's grave. As she took white carnations to the grave, she thought of a plan to foster the memory of all mothers who had passed away, as well as to show appreciation for living mothers—the wearing of white carnations on a certain day each year.

Miss Jarvis suggested the plan to the people of her own city, and the response was general and effective. On the day named, the people of the city wore white carnations, held family gatherings, and in the churches publicly remembered mothers. The people of Boston and other cities throughout the country took up the idea, and by 1910 the custom had taken firm hold. In May, 1913, Congress commended the idea, and in 1914, at the request of Miss Jarvis, who had been presenting the matter as widely as she could, a joint resolution was introduced whereby the President should designate, by annual proclamation, the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. The bill was passed, and in May, 1914, President Wilson issued the first Mother's Day proclamation.

To typify the beauty, truth, and fidelity of mother-love, the white carnation was suggested as the fitting emblem to be worn. Some have followed the plan of wearing the white carnation for the mothers who have passed away and the red for mothers still living. Though the Mother's Day Association has not adopted the plan, it has become more or less the common custom. Other flowers are, of course, appropriate.

Mother's Day has taken hold of the hearts of people in many lands. Mothers are remembered in the homes. Many send messages and letters and gifts to mothers from whom they are separated. One day in the year for mother is splendid! One day?—let us make it many, many more for the one who has given to every one of us, not days, but months and years of loving care and service.

### Reading: THE MOTHERS OF MEN

From the days of Mother Eve to your own mother, there have been days and years of joy and grief for the mothers of men. Much beautiful sentiment has been associated with these important members of families and society. Too often sentiment has covered the cold facts of toil and worry and sorrow. But ever the story has been that Mother was the bearer of comfort and calm, often when the heart of the mother has borne, silently and alone, the grief that could not be shared by any but a mother.

Back a moment to that first mother—tempted, tried, smitten with grief, the woe of doom upon her, she was the mother of the son who, she fondly hoped, was to be the redeemer of the race, the one to win back the lost Eden. But her task was to aid in the burial of another son slain by the hand of the first-born. Her course was to guide loved ones in the way of truth. She was the wife of a pioneer in a wide, wide world, the courageous mother of countless millions who like her stood by their men and braved unknown lands and seas to build homes, to rear families, to bear full share in the struggle of humanity for existence and sustenance and comfort. She made the home, as have her daughters through the ages, as do her daughters today.

Mother is therefore a word to treasure, the indefinite name of one who is definitely an essential part of every home. Her place is gained through toil and pain, for every son and daughter of every home since the dawn of human history.

How fitting it is that youth take time to honour with a special day and a special service these mothers of ours! And how increasingly important and fitting it would be if everyone who participates in these services would take solemn account of the words of merited praise which we say today, and would then follow up with a definite and loving and loyal purpose to repay in every possible way the price paid by these loyal ones who bear the name of Mother!

Literature is replete with accounts of men and women who after years of struggle and

ultimate success have come back to the scenes of childhood and at Mother's knee have acknowledged the part she has had in their accomplishments. Many a famous man has treasured the presence and counsel of able mothers through life.

Literature and life have revealed far too many examples of children and youth who have felt themselves superior to the one who gave them birth. Accepting the sacrifice and toil that gave them educational and other advantages, they have shamelessly slighted the privilege of loving care and appreciation they owed so much to Mother. Oh, the shame of it! May none of us take such a course!

Feeling the love due to your mother, conscious of the debt you owe to her, may the life and words of every son and daughter make that mother know in tangible, definite forms that love and that debt. Cold words will not convey the thought. Mere gifts or beautiful sentiments will not reveal it. Only true companionship, deeds of spontaneous love and kindness, words of sincere praise and cheer will demonstrate true appreciation of Mother.

### Talk: YOUR MOTHER STILL LIVES

(By one who wears a red carnation on Mother's Day.)

What a treasure you have! What a privilege is yours! What a responsibility rests upon you!

The average mother, if there were such a mother, will not claim any distinction for herself. She may be too busy being that average to think it out to her own advantage. She may be overshadowed by "superior" children and thus not recognize her rightful place in the family group. She may be so unselfishly devoted to you that she has been virtually swallowed up in the family, and has thus been denied the throne that is her due.

How about a quiet, dispassionate evaluation of that mother of yours? Just what is her position in your group? Does she deserve the place you have given her? Now I know these questions may apply to mothers who reign queens of their homes as well as to those who do not enjoy that position. And I know that the one on the highest throne will not claim it as her due, though she does hold the place by sheer merit. And I know, too, that the one who is not given the treasured seat will probably not lay claim to it. But you, son or daughter, can know. You may not have sat down and thought it out in a clear, factual search for the truth in the matter. But the challenge is to you, now, today—do you give your mother the place of mother in your heart and home?

Here is one simple test: Can you, and do you, sit down with your mother and "talk things over"? Do you plan together the matters that make life, the everyday problems, the social questions, the personal, spiritual phases of life? Mother has been over the road you are travelling. She may not have had all the advantages she has toiled to give you, but she has the experience of years and of observation. She might surprise you with the sound counsel she can give.

Next step: Having talked problems over, can you take the counsel given? Mother is older than you, however wise you feel yourself to be! Her simplest logic, you know, has often been impossible to gainsay.

It is trite, but it needs saying again and again—now is the time to give your mother flowers. You know what "bouquets" are. You know they do not always grow on trees or bushes. You know their fragrance does not always appeal to the olfactory nerves. They may be a word of praise or thanks, a polite word, a kind word, a bit of courtly flattery sincerely put, the sharing of an hour of time for unhurried visiting, laughter over some experience or task, a story or a poem together. Again, there may be some long-neglected task that could be done—repairs, or making, or cleaning up. And oh, young people, the kindnesses of life! Never to speak the harsh word, never to neglect an opportunity to help those dear feet over the hard places, never to stoop to the untrue in any form.

You have your mother still. Wear the red carnation with evident pride and appreciation! Parade it. Then follow up the parade with such true devotion that mother will grow young again in the consciousness of your love and devotion.

Does your mother have strong likes, in flowers, in foods, in books—in anything? What



an opportunity that is for you to encourage her and positively help her in her life of service for you and the other members of the family! Try doing something every day that is for the inner purpose of giving her pleasure, and you will find life sweeter for yourself; but do it for her, not for yourself. And when she does things for you, let her know you are grateful. Why, I can name an animal that shows appreciation for the slightest attention. What of sons and daughters of mothers?

#### Poem: MY MOTHER'S HANDS

My mother's hands are lovelier than any hands I know.  
Although they bear some scars and cuts, I am still thinking so.  
There may be whiter skin than theirs, and fingers shaped more fine,  
But of all hands on earth, give me the hands of Mother mine.

They do for me what none would do of all the hands on earth;  
They soothe me in my sufferings and guide me in my mirth.  
They've worked for me full many a day and many a lonely night;  
They show me things that I should see—yea, all that's true and right.

They tuck me in my bed at night in such a tender way!  
They've taught me how to fold my hands when we together pray.  
What mother's hands do mean to me can never half be told,  
But this I know, they're lovelier than diamonds and gold!

—F. Steinmann.

#### Talk: YOUR MOTHER IS NO LONGER WITH YOU

(By one who wears a white carnation on Mother's Day)

You, too, have a treasure! You have a memory!

You have in your home the vacant chair where your mother sat. You miss her, however long the years since you saw her folded hands laid to rest. But you have the memory, and you may treasure it, not in demonstrative sorrow, but in service for others, in carrying on where she left off the burden. Are you doing it?

Yes, youth may thus carry on. The lessons Mother taught to you may be put into practice now as well as in the days when she did all in her power to lead her family in the way of right. The ideals she held, you may build upon. The plans she had for you, the castles you built together—what would it not mean to her if she could see you working them out to success!

If there are experiences you would forget, mistakes that cannot now be corrected, seek the heavenly Father for forgiveness, and in His power and wisdom make straight the path from today. Mother does not know, cannot know, but there will come a day when all the good things of life may be added up with her, when she and you can forget the unhappy things of this life in the victory of heaven.

Treasure the things Mother treasured. Did she love yellow flowers? Keep the spot of sunshine glowing. Did she enjoy certain errands of mercy and helpfulness? Why not go on those errands yourself? Did she love the Sabbath and the services of God's house? Find new joy in seeking her Father and yours in the way she knew. Make them real, and you will thus hold the love and devotion of the mother you miss so much.

So wear the white carnation, bravely, loyally, and treasure the memory of the one whom you honour by doing so. Make Mother the link with heaven, and find constant joy in the treasure of memories of her.

#### Quotations: MOTHERS

"The mother's work is a solemn and important one—to mould the minds and fashion the characters of her children, to train them for usefulness here, and to fit them for the future immortal life."—*Gospel Workers*, page 203.

"Jochebed was a woman and a slave. Her lot in life was humble, her burden heavy. But through no other woman, save Mary of Nazareth, has the world received greater blessing. Knowing that her child must soon pass beyond

her care, to the guardianship of those who knew not God, she the more earnestly endeavoured to link his soul with heaven. She sought to implant in his heart love and loyalty to God. And faithfully was the work accomplished. Those principles of truth that were the burden of his mother's teaching and the lesson of her life, no after-influence could induce Moses to renounce."—*Education*, page 61.

"Though the results of her work are not apparent, angels of God are watching the careworn mother, noting the burdens she carries from day to day. Her name may never appear upon the records of history, or receive the honour and applause of the world, as may that of the husband and father, but it is immortalized in the Book of God. She is doing what she can, and her position in God's sight is more exalted than that of a king upon his throne; for she is dealing with character, she is fashioning minds."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pages 158, 159.

"The mother is the queen of the home, and the children are her subjects. She is to rule her household wisely, in the dignity of her motherhood. Her influence in the home is to be paramount; her word, law."—*Counsels to Teachers*, page 111.

"Let every mother feel that her moments are priceless; her work will be tested in the solemn day of accounts. Then it will be found that many of the failures and crimes of men and women have resulted from the ignorance and neglect of those whose duty it was to guide their childish feet in the right way. Then it will be found that many who have blessed the world with the light of genius and truth and holiness, owe the principles that were the mainspring of their influence and success to a praying, Christian mother."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 244.

"What a reward was Hannah's! and what an encouragement to faithfulness is her example! There are opportunities of inestimable worth, interests infinitely precious, committed to every mother. The humble round of duties which women have come to regard as a wearisome task, should be looked upon as a grand and noble work. It is the mother's privilege to bless the world by her influence, and in doing this she will bring joy to her own heart. She may make straight paths for the feet of her children, through sunshine and shadow, to the glorious heights above."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 572.

"There is a God above, and the light and glory from His throne rests upon the faithful mother as she tries to educate her children to resist the influence of evil. No other work can equal hers in importance. She has not, like the artist, to paint a form of beauty upon canvas, nor, like the sculptor, to chisel it from marble. She has not, like the author, to embody a noble thought in words of power, nor, like the musician, to express a beautiful sentiment in melody. It is hers, with the help of God, to develop in a human soul the likeness of the divine."—*Ministry of Healing*, pages 377, 378.

#### Poem: TO MOTHER

(The speaker may carry a bouquet.)

Oh, here's to Mother young and gay,  
And here's to her when old and grey.  
We'd give her all good things because  
We love her.

Homemaker, helper, friend is she,  
A guide to watch o'er you and me,  
The best pal that we've ever had;  
Our Mother!

And so I bring a fine bouquet  
Of wishes kind for her today:  
A lily white, a pink, a rose—  
Another.

Here's hoping she'll have untold wealth,  
Long life, and joy, and best of health—  
A great big bunch of wishes kind  
For Mother!

Then here's to her when young and gay,  
And here's to her when old and grey.  
Let's give her all good things because  
We love her.

Homemaker, helper, friend is she,  
A guide to watch o'er you and me,  
The best pal that we've ever had:  
Our Mother!

—Ronald Gordon.

## His Precious Promises

Opening Praise: No. 68, "Advent Hymnal"  
Prayer

Scripture Responses:

### HIS PROMISE OF PROVISION

LEADER:

Our needs are daily multiplied;  
Have we God's promise to provide?

BOYS: "My God shall supply all your need."  
Phil. 4: 19.

GIRLS: "He giveth to all [men] life, and breath, and all things." Acts 17: 25.

LEADER: "For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." Matt. 6: 32.

BOYS: "They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing." Ps. 34: 10.

GIRLS: "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Rom. 8: 32.

LEADER: "Hath He said, and shall He not do it?" Num. 23: 19.

BOYS: "He will ever be mindful of His covenant." Ps. 111: 5.

GIRLS: "For He is faithful that promised." Heb. 10: 23.

### Hymn: No. 14, "Advent Hymnal"

#### HE WILL ALL OUR NEED PROVIDE

Precious is the promise given  
By our Father God in heaven,  
Who doth know His children's need,  
And hath pledged His word indeed,  
From His treasures on high  
That He will our need supply.

No good thing will He withhold  
From His loved ones, we are told.  
Richly doth He give each day  
More than earthly parents may.  
On His promise we rely,  
That He will our need supply.

He who gives the birds their food,  
Gives His children all things good;  
In fair raiment clothes the flowers,  
Will Himself provide for ours.  
'Tis His word that cannot lie,  
That He will our need supply.

He who spared not His own Son,  
Gave Him for a world undone,  
Will give all good things beside  
With the Christ who for us died.  
In the Saviour from the sky,  
God doth all our need supply.

#### Exercise: THE RAINBOW PROMISE

(All those taking part are dressed in white, with shoulder sashes of the different rainbow colours, and each carries an armful of varicoloured flowers with ripe grain.)

##### 1. (With violet sash)—

Within God's Holy Word for us  
So many a promise lies;  
But one great promise He has placed  
Across the vaulted skies.  
And when the sun shines through the rain,  
We see with hearts athrill  
God's radiant rainbow in the cloud,  
And read that promise still.

##### 2. (With dark blue sash)—

"God said, . . . I do set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between Me and the earth." Gen. 9: 12, 13.

##### 3. (With blue sash)—

When springtime comes, the farmer  
strews  
The seed across his field,  
Believing that God's word is sure,  
And so 'twill fruitage yield.  
And all who in the seedtime sow,  
Upon God's word depend;  
He never breaks His promises,  
And harvest sure will send.

##### 4. (With green sash)—

Now blossom-filled, the gardens gleam  
In colours like God's bow,  
And fields of green and tasselled corn  
Are waving to and fro.  
And every field of ripening grain,  
And flowers of every hue,  
Speak of the seed and harvest time,  
To prove God's promise true.



5. (With yellow sash)—

"The Lord said, . . . While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." Gen. 8: 21, 22.

6. (With orange sash)—

In summer's warmth, the earth is green,  
And skies are blue o'erhead;  
For, as God promised long ago,  
The winter's cold has fled.  
The brightness of this summer day  
Now brings its joy to all;  
But God His covenant keeps for aye,  
And night ere long will fall.

7. (With red sash)—

"For He is faithful that promised." Heb. 10: 23.

Scripture Responses:

**HIS PROMISE OF PROTECTION**

LEADER:

We walk through dangers manifold;  
Have we God's pledge to guard and hold?

BOYS: "Thus saith God the Lord, . . . I the Lord . . . will hold thine hand, and will keep thee." Isa. 42: 5, 6.

GIRLS: "The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: He shall preserve thy soul." Ps. 121: 7.

LEADER: "For He careth for you." 1 Peter 5: 7. "He knoweth what is in the darkness." Dan. 2: 22.

BOYS: "He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him." Prov. 30: 5.

GIRLS: "Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee." Ps. 91: 9, 10.

LEADER: "Doth His promise fail for evermore?" Ps. 77: 8.

BOYS: Thus saith the Lord, "I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass." Isa. 46: 11.

GIRLS: "The Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil." 2 Thess. 3: 3.

**Poem: AS GOD PROMISED**

When God would send him, Moses thought  
He could not say the things he ought.  
"I made thy mouth," God said that day,  
"And I will teach thee what to say."  
And God Himself will teach you, too,  
To always say kind things and true.

When Joshua faced hard tasks ahead,  
"Be brave, and fear not," God then said;  
"As I helped Moses, I will be  
Thy Helper, never failing thee."  
And God will help and strengthen you  
In all the hard things you must do.

When Solomon would rule aright,  
But knew not how, God said one night,  
"I'll make you wise of heart, that so  
Right ways to live and rule you'll know."  
And God will give you wisdom, too,  
To know the right things you should do.

When Paul was in a storm at sea,  
God said, "Fear not: I promise thee  
I'll bring thee and the other men  
All safely to the shore again."  
And when you are in danger, too,  
God promises to bring you through.

Scripture Responses:

**HIS PROMISE OF PARDON**

LEADER:

We sin against God's holy will;  
And does He promise pardon still?

BOYS: Thus saith the Lord, "I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned." Jer. 33: 8.

GIRLS: "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions." Isa. 43: 25.

LEADER: "The Lord looketh on the heart." 1 Sam. 16: 7. "Beholding the evil and the good." Prov. 15: 3. "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree." 1 Peter 2: 24.

BOYS: "Let the wicked forsake his way, . . . and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." Isa. 55: 7.

GIRLS: "He hath made us accepted in the Beloved. In whom we have . . . the forgiveness of sins." Eph. 1: 6, 7.

LEADER: "Is His mercy clean gone for ever?" Ps. 77: 8.

BOYS: "His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations." Ps. 100: 5.

GIRLS: The Lord said, "My covenant will I not break." Ps. 89: 34.

**Quartette: "Pardon, Peace, and Power."  
(No. 195, "Christ in Song")**

**Exercise: THE GREAT PROMISE**

The greatest of God's promises  
To all the sons of men  
Is that He made down through the years  
Again and yet again.  
God's pledge to Eve and Adam first,  
Whom Satan lured to sin—  
That of her seed, One o'er that foe  
Would final triumph win.

LEADER: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel." Gen. 3: 15.

To Abraham God gave it next,  
And said that in his seed  
All families of the earth should be  
Most fully blest indeed.  
And once again the pledge He made  
To Isaac, Abraham's son,  
To Jacob, too, that through their line  
Should come that mighty One.

LEADER: "And thou shalt be a blessing: . . . and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Gen. 12: 2, 3.

And God once more that promise spoke  
To David, the great king,  
That of his family, One should come  
Who should salvation bring.  
And through His prophets, too, the Lord  
His wondrous promise gave.  
Of Him whom He should send to earth,  
The mighty One to save.

LEADER: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, . . . and this is His name whereby He shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." Jer. 23: 5, 6.

And when, of Abraham's chosen seed,  
Of David's line, was born  
The Christ in Bethlehem, God's pledge  
Was kept that Christmas morn.  
And songs and praises to His name  
Were raised by many a voice;  
And in God's promise, thus fulfilled,  
All people should rejoice.

LEADER: "David the son of Jesse, . . . of this man's seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus." Acts 13: 22, 23.

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David; as He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, . . . to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant; the oath which He sware to our father Abraham." Luke 1: 68-73.

Scripture Responses:

**HIS PROMISE OF POWER**

LEADER:

We fall and fail, for we are weak;  
Will God give strength we need and seek?

BOYS: "I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee." Isa. 41: 10.

GIRLS: "He giveth power to the faint." Isa. 40: 29.

LEADER: "For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust." Ps. 103: 14.

BOYS: "He would put strength in me." Job 23: 6.

GIRLS: "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Acts 1: 8. "Whom the Father will send in My name." John 14: 26.

LEADER: "Hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?" Num. 23: 19.

BOYS: "He abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself." 2 Tim. 2: 13.

GIRLS: Thus saith the Lord, "I have purposed it, I will also do it." Isa. 46: 11.

**Poem: "AS OUR DAYS, OUR STRENGTH  
SHALL BE"**

Great tasks to us does God assign,  
In His all-loving wise design;  
And though we are but weak and frail,  
We need not falter, need not fail.

God bids us heavenly heights attain,  
Far o'er this low and earthly plane.  
We weakly stumble oftentime,  
Yet God empowers for the climb.

All power and might is in God's hands,  
And still His wondrous promise stands,  
His Holy Spirit He will give  
That men in power and triumph live.

'Tis strength God promises to all  
Who on His mighty name shall call;  
And, though no power or might have we,  
Yet, as our days, our strength shall be.

Scripture Responses:

**HIS PROMISE OF HIS PRESENCE**

LEADER:

We often feel alone, and fear;  
Can we be sure that God is near?

BOYS: "He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13: 5.

GIRLS: "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him." Ps. 145: 18.

LEADER: Jesus said, "Without Me ye can do nothing." "But with God all things are possible." John 15: 5; Matt. 19: 26.

BOYS: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: . . . saith the Lord." Isa. 41: 10, 14.

GIRLS: "Jesus . . . spake . . . saying, . . . Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28: 18-20.

LEADER: "But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth?" 2 Chron. 6: 18.

BOYS: "God, that cannot lie, promised." Titus 1: 2.

GIRLS: "The word which I have spoken shall be done, saith the Lord God." Eze. 12: 28. "Certainly I will be with thee." Ex. 3: 12.

**Hymn: "O How Precious Is His Promise"  
(Tune: No. 418, "Advent Hymnal")**

O how precious is His promise,  
Standing sure eternally,  
"I, thy God, will ne'er forsake thee,  
I will ever go with thee."

**Chorus:**

Though life's road be smooth or rugged,  
Fair or dreary day by day,  
He has promised, He has promised  
To go with us all the way.

We may trust that gracious promise,  
His pledged word He cannot break;  
And though unknown paths we travel,  
Ne'er one step alone we take.

Fearless then through life we journey,  
Knowing He is at our side,  
With His comfort, strength, protection,  
Whatsoever may betide.

LEADER: "There hath not failed one word of all His good promise." 1 Kings 8: 56. "For all the promises of God in Him [Christ] are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." 2 Cor. 1: 20.

**Benediction**

**JUNIOR M.V. DEPARTMENT**

**A Year-Around Mother's Day**

JEWEL A. HATCHER

**Note to Leaders**

THIS programme is to honour mothers, but still it includes more. It intends to make Mother's Day continue through the year by securing a better understanding between Juniors and their parents, and by showing that Juniors honour their mothers by living Christian lives. The entire family is concerned in this day, and therefore should be included in the discussion. The mothers, of course, will be invited to this society meeting, and appropriate invitations may be given at the previous meeting to the Juniors to be handed to their mothers.

Since the words, "Honour thy father and thy mother," or "Honour thy father and mother"



occur eight times in the Bible, for the Scripture reading have eight of the smaller Juniors stand together and recite the words in turn, each one giving a different reference.

**For the discussion period:** At the previous society meeting a slip of paper may be distributed to each boy and girl, on which he would write down some point on which he feels he is misunderstood in his home, some home problem, or a suggestion that would make his home life happier. These slips are collected and several handed to various mothers who would be present. At the meeting, they are asked to read them and tell how they feel concerning them, and how they would try to solve these problems. Be sure that no mother receives her own child's problem. The boys and girls will also take part in the discussion, and their slips of paper will probably bring up such problems as: My mother seems to love my baby brother more than me. What can I do? Shouldn't I have some of the money that I earn, instead of having to save it or put it all in the collection? Do mothers always have to look over the books you read and decide whether you can read them? I have to do dishes and empty rubbish, and other things, while other fellows don't have to. It isn't fair. Etc.

It will take several hours on the part of the leader in talking with the mothers and arranging this programme, but the results of this practical Mother's Day programme in making for real progress in the understanding between the boys and girls and their mothers will be well worth the effort.

### Story: WHOSE HARD LUCK?

Fred Oliver stood at the edge of a wide pasture on the outskirts of the city where he lived. He drew in a deep breath. The spring sun was beating down warmly, making the grass greener.

Fred let his gaze travel slowly along the ground. Ahead of him he saw a tiny patch of purple. It was a wild flower—one of the first of the season. Very carefully Fred picked it and placed it in an envelope he drew from his pocket. Then, as he started to continue his search, he heard a familiar voice behind him.

"Lo, Fred. What are you doing?" Turning, he saw Walter Marks leave his bicycle at the side of the road and come into the pasture.

"I'm getting some flowers for botany class," Fred replied. "I have to write a paper on spring flowers, and winter lasted so long this year that I haven't had a chance until now."

Walter paused beside Fred. Through a line of trees ahead of them the boys could see the glint of water.

"Let's take a look at the swimming-pool," Walter suggested.

They walked on until they could kneel at the bank where the stream widened into a quiet pool. Fred reached out an exploring finger. The water was warm against his hand.

"It's as warm as dish-water," he exclaimed. Walter nodded excitedly. "Are you game?" he demanded.

"You mean—go swimming?" Fred asked. "Sure! We'll be the first ones in the pool this year."

Fred slowly shook his head. "Not for me," he said.

"What's the matter? Are you afraid it'll freeze your delicate constitution?"

"It's not that," Fred answered. "The water's warm enough, but the wind's chilly and we might catch cold."

"I'll take a chance," Walter announced. "If I get sick it's my hard luck."

"It's more than that. It's your parents' hard luck, too."

"What do you mean?" Walter questioned.

"Who takes care of you when you're sick?" Fred demanded. "Who gets up in the night to give you your medicine? Your mother, of course. Who pays the doctor's bills and buys the special foods you need? Your dad, of course."

Walter nodded slowly. "I wonder why I never thought of that," he said. "I sort of had an idea that if I were willing to run the risk that was all that counted."

"I used to feel that way, too," Fred said; "but I remember how badly my folks felt that time I got in trouble at school, and since then I've always tried to think of them when I start to do something."

"It's a good idea," Walter agreed.—*Young People's Leader.*

### Poem: A GIRL'S MOTHER

Mother is a little girl who trod my path before me;  
Just a bigger, wiser little girl who ran ahead—  
Bigger, wiser, stronger girl who always watches o'er me,  
One who knows the pitfalls in the rugged road I tread.  
Mother is an older little playmate who'll be-friend me.  
Yesteryear she travelled in the path that's mine today!  
Never need I fear a foe from which she might defend me.  
Faithful little pal who ran ahead and learned the way.

—Strickland Gillilan.

### Poem: A FELLOW'S MOTHER

"A fellow's mother," said Fred the wise,  
With his rosy cheeks and merry blue eyes,  
"Knows what to do if a fellow gets hurt  
By a thump or bruise, or a fall in the dirt."  
"A fellow's mother has bags and strings,  
Threads and buttons, and lots of things:  
No matter how busy she is, she'll stop  
To see how well you can spin your top."  
"She doesn't care—not much, I mean—  
If a fellow's face is not quite clean;  
And if your trousers are torn at the knee,  
She can put in a patch you'd never see!"  
"A fellow's mean who could never try  
To keep the tear from her loving eye;  
And the fellow's worse who sees it not  
That his mother's the truest friend he's got!"  
—Margaret E. Sangster.

### MOTHER AND MATHEMATICS

"James, suppose your mother made a peach pie, and there were ten of you at the table—your mother and father and eight children—how much of the pie would you get?" That was the question which the teacher put to young Jim in the arithmetic class.

"A ninth, ma'am," was the prompt answer. "No, no, James. Now pay attention," said the teacher. "There are ten of you. Ten, remember. Don't you know your fractions?"

"Yes, ma'am," was the swift reply of little James. "I know my fractions; but I know my mother, too. She'd say that she didn't want any pie."

The answer indicated how thoroughly James understood his mother. Her spirit of ready sacrifice had impressed him at an early age. He had suggested a characteristic of true motherhood—the willingness with which she denied herself for the sake of the other members of the family.—*The Expositor.*

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### Prayer

#### Story: TOMMY'S UNSEEN COMPANION

TOMMY had just come home from Sabbath school. He ran up to his mother, and after he had caught his breath, he said: "You know, mother, our teacher said today that we must come to Jesus if we want to be saved; but how can we come to Him when we can't see Him?" Of course, the teacher could have explained this to Tommy, but he hadn't thought about asking this question until he was on the way home. Anyway, mother knew a lot about the Bible, too.

"Did you ask me to give you a drink of cold water last night?" asked his mother.

"Yes, mother."

"Did you see me, my boy?"

"No, mother, but I knew that you would hear me, and get it for me."

"Well," she replied, "that is just the way to come to Jesus. We cannot see Him, but we know that He sees us and hears every word we speak and even our secret thoughts, and He will give us whatever we need."

A short time after this, Tommy was out on an errand on a dark, stormy night. It wasn't dark when he had left home, but before he could get started back home, a terrible storm came up, dark clouds covered the sky, and he couldn't even see the moon. Soon he realized he was lost, and even when he tried to be brave, big tears came into his eyes and trickled down his cheeks. Realizing his helplessness, he began to cry aloud.

A policeman found Tommy, and asked him where he lived. The boy told him the name of his father, and the name of his street, and the number of the house in which he lived.

So the policeman started to give him directions. He said: "Just go down this street five blocks, turn and cross the big iron bridge, then turn to your right and follow the river road down a little way, and you'll soon see then where you are." But even before the policeman was finished speaking, Tommy heard a kindly voice behind him say, "Just come with me, I'm going your way." The little hand was clasped in a stronger hand, the corner of a warm cloak was thrown over the shoulder of the shivering boy, and the way home was made easy.

Tommy didn't know who it was that had led him home, nor had he ever seen him before. God must have sent the stranger to direct Tommy home. So although Tommy couldn't see God, God had seen him, and sent help when Tommy needed help most. It was so much better when someone walked with him, and not merely told him the way.

And Jesus, after He hears our prayers, Juniors, not only tells us what to do, but He promises to come and walk with us, and show us how to live for Him. Then, too, He expects that when we find someone who has lost his way, that we will be just as willing to help such a one, as Jesus is to help us.

"Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend."—*Steps to Christ,* page 93, pocket edition.

### Talk: PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

Prayer doesn't change God; it changes us. God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and for ever. His purpose for us, His plan for our life, is always the same. But He never forces us to do anything against our will, or our choice. God never made anyone do anything. He points out the right way, and warns against the wrong way, and then we must choose. No, prayer doesn't change God, but it does place us in such a position of heart and mind that He can do for us just what He longs to do.

The Bible is filled with stories of the most wonderful answers to prayer. We think of some of them; you will think of many more. There was a crisis in the battle. Joshua needed more time that the enemies of God might be defeated. He prayed; the sun stood still, and the day was lengthened until God's enemies were destroyed.

Daniel prayed in the lions' den, and God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths.

Jonah prayed from inside the great fish which had swallowed him, and he was thrown out on the shore.

Daniel prayed for light, and while he was still praying an angel came to give him skill and understanding.

Elijah prayed from Mount Carmel, and fire came down from heaven and consumed his offering, melted the stones of the altar, and tongues of flame drank up the water from the ditch surrounding it.

Jesus prayed as He stood before the sealed tomb of Lazarus. Then they took away the stone. Jesus cried out, "Lazarus, come forth." He came.

Yes, prayer, our most wonderful and precious privilege, does change things. God always hears, and He always answers if we are sincere. "Sometimes He says 'Yes,' and sometimes He says 'No,' but He always answers."

### Experiences: ANSWERED PRAYER

(See Senior programme. After these have been related, give the Juniors opportunity to relate any experiences they have had of answered prayer or experiences they have heard.)

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"As the miner discovers veins of precious metal concealed beneath the surface of the earth, so will he who perseveringly searches the Word of God as for hid treasure, find truths of the greatest value, which are concealed from the view of the careless seeker. . . . Never should the Bible be studied without prayer."—*Steps to Christ,* pages 95, 96.

"God speaks to us in His Word. Here we have in clearer lines the revelation of His character, of His dealings with men, and the great work of redemption. Here is opened before us the history of patriarchs and prophets and other holy men of old. They were men 'subject to like passions as we are.' . . . As we read of the precious experiences granted them, of the light and love and blessing it was theirs to enjoy, and of the work they wrought through the grace given them, the spirit that inspired them kindles a flame of holy emulation in our hearts, and a desire to be like them in character—like them to walk with God."—*Steps to Christ,* page 92.



## Sabbath School Mission News

MAY 6

### God's Call for Men

C. E. MITCHELL

GOD'S greatest gifts to this world have been men. Somehow, in His wisdom, He has chosen the right man at the right time, to do a special work for Him, at a special time. It is true He chooses workmen from men of all classes, but mostly from the lowly walks of life. You remember the fishermen of Galilee, John the Baptist, Luther, Whitefield, Wesley, Spurgeon, and so we could go on and enumerate scores of men whom God has used to deliver a special message at a special time.

My friends, God has called you and me today to do a special work for Him in this late hour. What is our reply? Is it, "Here am I, Lord," or "Go Thy way, Lord, for this time." Here in Papua the need for the Christian missionary has been greatly multiplied of recent years. The calls are coming from mountains high and steep, also jungles dark and damp, for teachers. Just a few days ago a call came from the slopes of Mount Brown for a teacher. The message said, "We have put up a house and have cleared a garden. We want a teacher." Their faith was strong and the plea earnest. Could I turn them away, friends, because there was no budget provision for a teacher? I just could not. In looking for a suitable man, I finally decided to send a young couple who had had only one year's schooling. I wish you could have seen the look of satisfaction on the face of that old bushman as it was made known to him that a teacher had been chosen; and now calls are coming from further inland. We need trained teachers and preachers to fill the calls.

This emphasizes the importance of re-establishing a training school, but, when they are trained, how shall they go except they be sent? I feel sure that God does not only have men to send to the front line of mission endeavour, but also has a faithful army on the home front keeping vigil over the needs of His great work, as it speeds on to completion, gathering in men and women from the highways and hedges, and nooks and corners in the darkest parts of earth.

May God place stars in your crowns as He speaks those beautiful words to you at last, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," in recognition of the part you have done, just in the corner where you are.

MAY 13

### A Dream Interpreted

So many times we have seen the providential workings of God to bring people to the truth, or make them favourable to this message in some marvellous way. For instance, up in Nyasaland, a chief said to one of our native evangelists that he was not much interested in the gospel; but he added, "I have had a peculiar experience; I have dreamed a dream, and this dream has greatly troubled me. If you can interpret my dream, then I will believe that God has sent you here, and that you have a message for my people, and I will raise no further objection to your work."

Our native evangelist asked that the dream be told him, and so the chief said: "A few days ago, in my dream, as I was sleeping, I saw an angel flying across the sky, flying swiftly. This angel had something in his hand, waving it up and down like a scroll that was unrolled, and I saw on this scroll certain words, but they were in a strange language and I could not read them. The angel came near where I was, and sat down on a stump, and I began to speak to him, and I said to the angel, 'What is this in your hand?' And he said, 'This is the everlasting gospel, that you have been opposing, but that I have come to bring to your people.' The angel disappeared, and I was never able to know what he meant by the everlasting gospel that he had come to preach to my people. I feel that it was a message that my people must hear. I have been greatly troubled, and if you interpret what that dream means, then I will be glad for my people to hear your message."

"Well, Chief," our native pastor said, "that angel has sent me here for the very purpose of interpreting your dream." He turned to Revelation 14, and began to read to the chief how that John saw an angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, to every nation, kindred, and tongue, and people. The chief stopped him and said, "This was what was on the scroll. Those are the words. He said it was the everlasting gospel." Our brother replied, "I have come to preach that gospel to you. Call your people together, and we shall begin the service."

So the chief called his people, and our brother began his series of meetings; and today that chief, with many of his councillors, and a large number of the people in that village and tribe are preparing to be baptized.

We believe that God has set His hand to finish His great work, and it is our privilege to help in this task by the giving of our offerings. Let us give of our best—prayerfully and consistently.—"Review and Herald."

MAY 20

### God Calls the Humblest Men

C. E. MOON

FROM one of our east coast mission stations comes this interesting experience of how God called a boy who was faithful in trials to be a worker in His cause. Pastor Rafael Arroyo relates this experience:—

"During the year 1933 I arrived at the charming little port of Tuxpan, state of Veracruz, the centre of our work in this district, which belongs to the Central Mexican Mission.

"It is a great pleasure for a worker to enter a new district and meet new brethren, whose faces are lighted up with the blessed hope, and whose hearts are full of joy of a new-found faith.

"In this seaport town there was a Sabbath school of about forty members. I was glad to meet them and to get acquainted with the children and youth, realizing that the young people require as much help as the adults, or more. I noticed that among the children there was one who came alone, as his parents did not attend the Sabbath school. He was a lively boy of fourteen, whose skin was bronzed by the tropical sun, for he spent much time swimming and diving in the beautiful river that passed near the port and emptied into the Gulf.

"I became interested in this boy, whose parents were of another faith. Because of his change of religion, difficulties arose, and he received harsh treatment. But this was not all; his parents soon closed their doors on him, and let him sleep wherever he could find a place. He had a very fine dog that had not imbibed the enmity which his parents felt toward him because of his new way of life. Night after night this boy slept with his dog in a wooden trough that served as his bed.

"All this punishment did not discourage Eustano Hernandez, but he continued to come to the Sabbath school and young people's meetings, where he always took some part. The time came for his baptism, and he became a member of our church. Then I took him out to give him his first introduction to our work, in the Ingathering campaign. He soon entered the colporteur work, and later was invited to attend the Union school, where he began his preparation for the ministry. This boy is now a regular worker in one of the Mexican missions, and has been an instrument in God's hands of winning other young men and women to the path of life from the paths that lead to the world's folly and sin."

So the Lord is looking over this great country and finding precious souls in the most remote places, and is preparing them to sit with Him upon His throne as trophies of His grace and love. Let us pray that many such honest souls may be found in this needy land in the days to come.

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MAY 27

### Back in the Mission Field

L. I. HOWELL

OUR trip up the coast was quiet and uneventful. We had calm seas all the way, a comfortable cabin, and little more could we desire for a sea trip.

Arriving in Port Moresby one morning, we waited some time before arrangements were made for our landing. Finally we got safely off with our baggage, and were transported to the ANGAU, where we were to stay. Here we met several former acquaintances from the business world of Papua. On going to the offices we met many more whom we knew from previous associations during peace time.

With little time to prepare for Sabbath, we set about making ourselves comfortable, putting up mosquito nets, etc. Sabbath we spent resting and reading during the heat of the day, later walking around to view our mission cottage, which we found occupied and in fair order.

On Sunday morning word reached us that a boat was leaving immediately for our part of the field. As it was an unusual opportunity, we requested that the sailing be delayed an hour while we hastily packed our goods and divided our few supplies. All too soon the truck arrived, and Brother Brennan and I were away, leaving Pastors Campbell and Mitchell in Port. The ship moved off as soon as we were aboard. It was an old copra boat of peace times, with a native skipper, and no passenger accommodation, so we had to do the best we could on the hatch top. The trip was a leisurely one, taking five days to do what is usually done in twenty-four hours. No lights were allowed aboard, so we anchored each night.

Imagine our thoughts as we neared the river bar entrance, and home. How would we find the people and the place? How many faces would be missing, and who would be there? These and many other thoughts raced through our minds as we entered. Securing a large canoe at the river mouth, we loaded our goods aboard and set off up the creek toward home. As soon as we arrived at the landing, we sent a runner to the mission to herald our coming. The village folk seemed pleased to see us, and loaded us with oranges. Soon Tauku, the leading teacher, and the boys came, and we were as pleased to see them as they were to see us. Poor Tauku seemed almost speechless for some minutes!

Over the old familiar track we trudged in the hot sun, every bend bringing to view sights that filled the memory, until at last the mission came into view. Here we were greeted by the women led by Jesi, also by the "rising generation," which seemed to have increased during our absence.

Greetings over, we pushed on up to the house, where we found all the shutters open to give it an airing, and two boys tidying up; but soon our boxes and goods were scattered all around the place. Being close to Sabbath we had no time to put things away, but got out our bedding and prepared for the night. We found the house in fair order, considering it had been unoccupied for nearly two years. Some of our furniture and supplies had been impressed by the Army, so we had to make-shift for a day or two.

We were pleased to meet the village folks at Sabbath school next day, although there were many faces we looked for in vain. Almost the whole of the male population of this district has been recruited for the labour lines. They have gone to join the "Fuzzy-Wuzzies." About all that were left to Tauku were a couple of older men and several small boys who were too young to go. Several of our teachers were in the call-up—in fact, they called them all up, but later released several, who were left to carry on. These have manned the out-stations as best they could, and at the close of the year they came in, gave their reports, and received the few supplies we were able to give them. Now they have gone back to carry on. We hope in the near future to send them further supplies of medicines and school requisites, as they come to us.

We look forward to the time when things will be more normal and we shall be able to carry on our training-school work. Our greatest need is for more teachers to answer the calls which come.

We solicit an interest in your prayers as we endeavour to take up the threads and plan for the advancement, and, we hope, the triumphal finish of the work in this needy field.