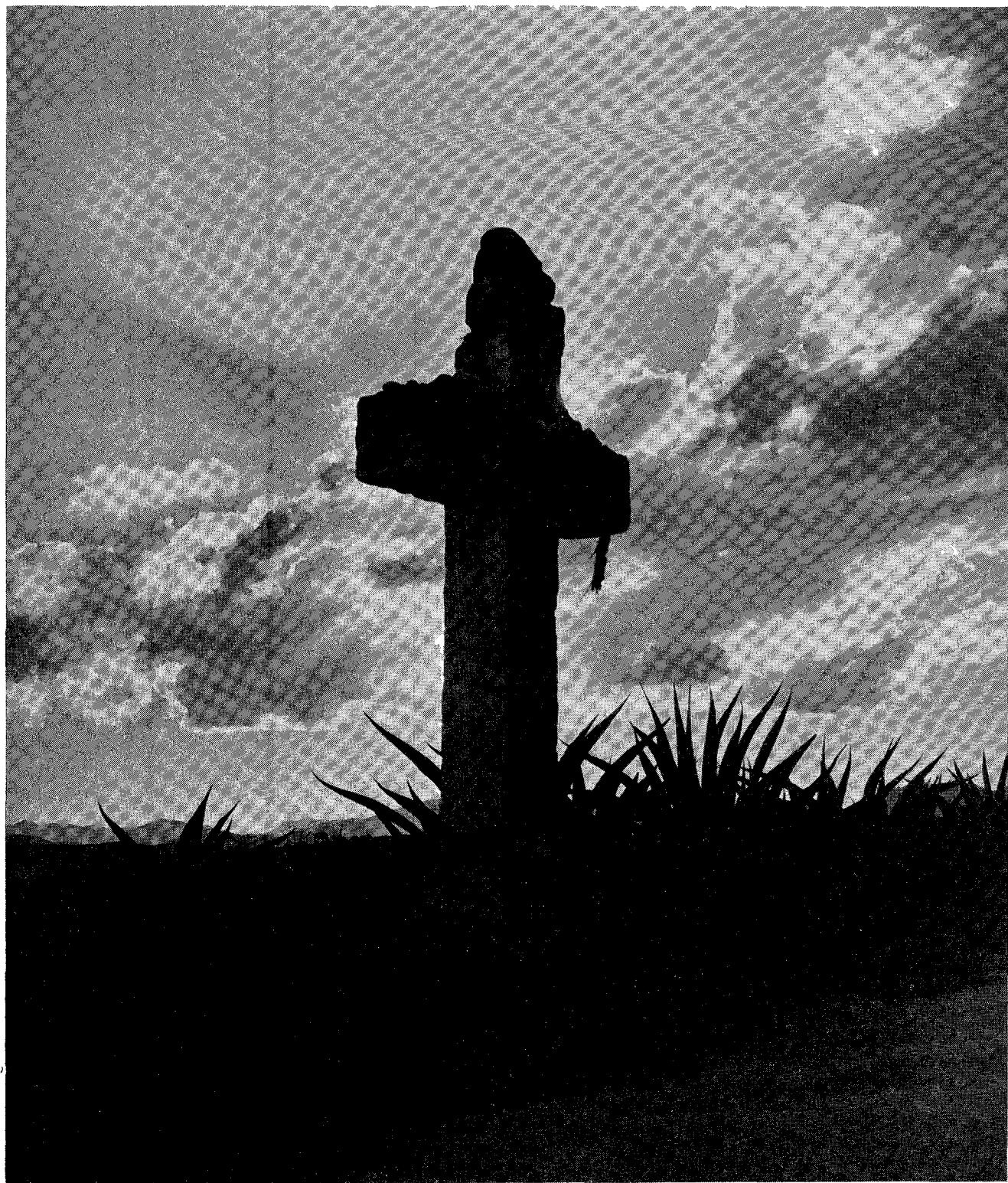


THE ADVENT S A B B A T H

REVIEW AND HERALD

GENERAL CHURCH PAPER OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION OF THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL



H. A. ROBERTS

"God Forbid That I Should Glory, Save in the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ"

HEART-to-HEART TALKS by the Editor

Standing Before God

AS the Lord of hosts liveth, before whom I stand." With this introduction Elijah the prophet announces His holy mission to Israel of old. The record is that he was a Tishbite and one of the inhabitants of Gilead, but aside from this we know nothing of his origin. He proclaimed himself the Lord's messenger, and declared that he did his work standing in the presence of the Most High.

Elijah lived and labored as in the sight of a holy God. He knew that the eyes of the Lord were upon him, and that he must render account to Him for the manner in which he acted his part as the messenger of Heaven. This consciousness of God's presence was ever before this prophet. It gave him courage for the mighty conflict in which he was engaged. It filled him with high and holy courage, with lofty purpose, with complete consecration. It took away his fear of Ahab and the royal court. He spoke to the wicked king, not as a vassal, but as a messenger of One greater than he, even the messenger of Heaven.

In Elijah's experience there is no place for boast and flattery. His was an integrity that could not be bought or sold. His character was incorruptible, and he was as true in the quietude of his own personal life as he was when he stood as the cynosure of all eyes.

After delivering the message to Ahab, proclaiming years of famine, Elijah retired into a mountain retreat. There he was cared for by God's special provision. Later he went to abide with a widow and her son. And in this home the barrel of meal and the cruse of oil did not fail until the day of the famine had passed. Then Elijah, at the risk of his life, again appeared before the monarch of Israel, and with the command which Ahab dared not disobey, ordered him to assemble the people to Mt. Carmel.

The prophets of Baal were included in the assembled throng. And here by the supreme test of fire falling from heaven and consuming the sacrifice offered by Elijah, God demonstrated to all Israel His superiority over the false gods they were worshiping, and the hearts of thousands were turned back again to the worship of the true God. The prophet of the Lord became the divine executor, visiting the wrath of God upon the false prophets. And then, descending from his high pinnacle of power and glory, Elijah girded up his loins, and as a loyal subject of the king acted as a guide in conveying Ahab through the storm and rain back to the capital city.

Following the law of compensation, depression follows great exultation. The reaction which

followed the experience of Elijah left him unguarded, and in an evil hour he fled before the threat of Jezebel. For long days he pursued his journey to Horeb, the mount of God, being sustained on the way by angelic care. And here in the fortresses of the mountains he stood before the God he served. "A great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: and after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice."

As Elijah intently listened, he heard the voice of God speaking to him, and here in conversation with his Maker he saw his mistake in going from his position of duty, in doubting the overruling providence of God, His care for His people, and was assured, contrary to his belief, that he was not the only one who had refused to worship Baal, but that God had seven thousand loyal ones who were still faithful to His requirements.

The experience of Elijah affords many beautiful lessons for us. It is our privilege to live and labor and do our work as in the presence of the Majesty of heaven, as did Elijah. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him." The Master takes account of the motives and purposes that possess our lives. He understandeth our thoughts afar off. He sees us in the darkness as well as in the light. He never misjudges; He never misunderstands. He is our Friend in every time of need. The more we realize this close and intimate relationship, the more carefully we will walk before Him.

Men backslide from God because they lose this sense of accountability, this pleasure of companionship, this guidance of the Holy Spirit in their lives. When men fall into great and grievous sins, it is not because they have backslidden in a day. The work of disintegration in their Christian experience has been going forward for many days.

We see a mighty oak go down from the pressure of a great storm. We wonder how its strong and mighty fibers could have succumbed in this fateful hour. Upon closer examination we find that the heart was rotten. The strength of the tree had decayed. Little by little this weakening process had been going forward, and finally, when its strength was put to the test, it was unable to stand.

Thus it is with the human agent when men neglect to pray except as they do it for show or to be seen of men. When they put God out of their consciousness and lose their sense of accountability, they are preparing themselves day by day, little by little, for the onslaught of the enemy which will entirely sweep them from their moorings. Such men have failed to stand before the Lord as did Elijah in days of old. May God make us true to convictions which are born of the Holy Spirit.

THE ADVENT **REVIEW** AND SABBATH **HERALD**

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God's Blessed Book

By A. V. OLSON

WHEN man was first created and placed in the Garden of Eden, he was permitted to meet his Maker face to face. Often God came to Adam and Eve to commune with them, "with no obscuring veil between." As they sat in His visible presence, He unfolded to them His plans and purposes for them.

When sin entered the world, it separated man from his Creator. No longer could he come into the visible presence of God and live. No longer could he behold the face of his blessed Lord. Sin had cast a dark veil between him and his God. No more could he as before hold sweet communion with his Maker face to face as friend with friend.

Since the day that Adam was driven away from his home in Eden, God has employed various means and methods for communicating His will to man. Sometimes, though unseen, He has spoken audibly to men and women. Often He has sent angels, divested of their heavenly glory, with messages for His children. Again He has revealed Himself to His prophets in visions and dreams. The plans and purposes, the light and truth, thus revealed to His chosen instruments, they have been asked to make known both by word of mouth and by pen to their fellow men. In this way, the whole plan of salvation has been unfolded to the human family.

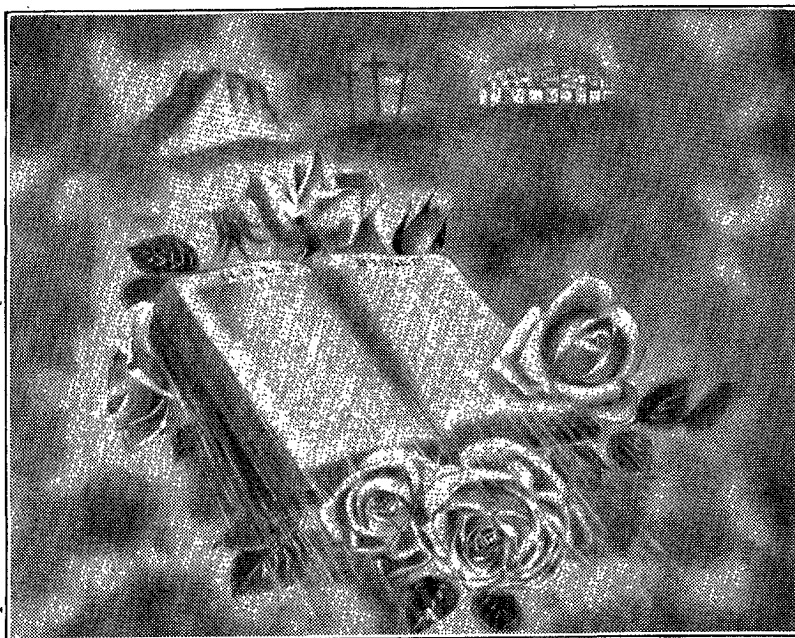
Through the influence and guidance of the Holy Spirit, the writings of ancient seers, prophets and apostles, were gathered together and preserved for future generations. This collection of sacred writings has come down to us in the form of the Bible. Here in this one volume,

we have focused the light of the ages.

This book is different from other books. It is not the product of man's mind. It is of divine origin. It "came not . . . by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." Though penned mostly by humble, uneducated men, this book contains more light and wisdom than the combined writings of the world's most learned writers of all ages. It reveals to us a living God. It gives us a true account of the origin of man and of the world on which he lives. It unfolds to doomed and dying man a way of salvation. Yes, it acquaints man with his Maker and with his Redeemer. And it can bring light, and joy, and hope into the human heart.

If this book, together with all books that have drawn their messages from its sacred pages, should be suddenly destroyed, and its message blotted from the memory of man, the human family would be plunged into indescribable darkness and utter hopelessness. Not one ray of light would penetrate the darkness. There would not be one divine promise to cheer the human heart; not the faintest hope to comfort the dying and the bereaved. Death and the grave would be man's ultimate and eternal destiny. Life thus lived would be joyless.

O what a wonderful book is the Bible! It is God's most precious visible gift to us. From its first introductory word to its final "Amen," it is filled with divine knowledge and heavenly wisdom. From its sacred pages there shines a light more glorious than the sun. To the old and the young, to the rich and the poor, to the high and the low, to



the free and the bond, it brings a message of love and salvation. Here is strength for the weary, courage for the despondent, relief for the suffering, guidance for the pilgrims, counsel for the perplexed, comfort for the sorrowing, and hope for the dying. It is a living book. It speaks to my soul, it enlarges my vision, and it teaches me wisdom and understanding. It has transformed my life, and it has put a new song in my mouth.

O blessed book! God's precious book! What an inestimable treasure it is! More valuable than all the gold and the silver, the rubies and the diamonds of earth. It is more than life to me. "O how love I Thy law!" It is "sweeter than honey and the honeycomb" to my soul.

O my Father in heaven, Thou who in Thy great love hast given me this living book, Thou who hast made Thyself and Thy boundless love known to me through its cherished pages, help me to hide its sacred precepts in my heart, and by Thy grace to walk in its glorious light until that blessed day when, with the dark veil forever drawn apart, I shall see Thee as Thou art, and commune with Thee face to face forevermore!

Proper Attitudes in Prayer

By A. R. OGDEN

○ COME, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." Ps. 95:6.

In this text it is clearly taught that we should "kneel" when we come into the presence of our Maker. Kneeling—bowing down—is therefore the proper attitude when we come into the audience chamber of our God.

The writings of the Spirit of prophecy clearly corroborate this as the proper attitude in prayer. In "Gospel Workers," page 178, we read:

"Both in public and in private worship, it is our privilege to bow on our knees before the Lord when we offer our petitions to Him. Jesus, our example, 'kneeled down, and prayed.' Of His disciples it is recorded that they, too, 'kneeled down, and prayed.' Paul declared, 'I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.' In confessing before God the sins of Israel, Ezra knelt. Daniel 'kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God.'"

We have been definitely counseled that when the minister or ministers enter the pulpit and bow, as is our world-wide custom, all the congregation should bow the head, joining in silent prayer for God's special blessing upon the service. For this reason the writer always prefers that when the ministers enter the pulpit, there shall be no singing, so that the members of the congregation may bow their heads while the ministers bow the knee in silent prayer in the pulpit. These are only suggestions along the line of the well-established and customary practices of the church.

"Come, . . . let us kneel," sounds much more pleasing to the writer's ear, and I believe is more in accord with heaven's plan, than the altogether too familiar, "Let us stand while prayer is offered," which is heard from some of our pulpits. I have

heard some Sabbath school superintendents say, "Let us remain standing in prayer." Let us in all of our churches endeavor to harmonize with God's ways and the denominational standards. Uniformity of plans and customs is always preferable.

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14:12.

Denominational Standards

(Continued from page 9)

Sabbath hour of worship for the purpose of preaching the word and imparting spiritual strength to the believers.

4. That a conscious effort be made to leave a spiritual impression upon every service; and though it may be necessary to use a little of the regular service hour for announcements and campaign instructions, that this time be reduced to a minimum, and that preliminary exercises of all kinds be not permitted to encroach upon the time given to the preaching of the word.

5. That we ask all departments of the General Conference to continue to make their specific campaigns and "days" contribute to spiritual life, and that we commend and support the Sabbath School Department in its effort to conserve the lesson teaching time without encroachment or curtailment of any kind.

Social Gatherings for Our Young People

Recognizing the strength which comes through Christian fellowship in social intercourse and the need for proper recreation among our young people,

We recommend, 1. That all social gatherings be carefully planned in harmony with the principles set forth in our book, "Social Plans for Missionary Volunteers;" and that, wherever possible, these social gatherings be held in appropriate homes of the church and under the chaperonage of responsible parents; that in large centers where social gatherings cannot be held in homes, a proper place, free from influences destructive to Christian standards, be secured, and not a place that is ordinarily used for commercialized amusements and sports, such as social halls, theaters, skating rinks, and other places of such character, which suggest an atmosphere contrary to Christian standards; for we believe the places ordinarily devoted to commercialized sports and amusements will familiarize our young people with the spirit of those amusements, and tend to lead them into the current of the pleasure-loving world.

2. That our young people and their elders study again and place a new emphasis upon the principles set forth in that excellent book, "Messages to Young People," by Mrs. E. G. White, and in the leaflet, "Standards of Christian Living," which was published by the Missionary Volunteer Department at the direction of the General Conference Autumn Council held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1927.

THOSE who are brought in controversy with the enemies of truth have to meet, not only men, but Satan and his agents. Let them remember the Saviour's words, "Behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves." Let them rest in the love of God, and the spirit will be kept calm, even under personal abuse. The Lord will clothe them with a divine panoply. His Holy Spirit will influence the mind and heart, so that their voices shall not catch the notes of the baying of the wolves.—"The Desire of Ages," p. 353.

THE BIBLE STUDENT

Spiritual Signs for this Generation

The Drift Away From God

CHRIST, the "teacher come from God," asked the most telling questions ever heard. One of these that has awakened much thought today is, "When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:8. The Saviour Himself did not answer the question, but He indicated clearly that in the latter days there would be seen a great departure from the truth. This flight of faith in our day is often referred to in the Scriptures. We are told that "there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them." 2 Peter 2:1. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Tim. 4:1. The present-day drift away from religion is one of the outstanding spiritual signs of the latter days. We see this especially in two factors which strongly mold the present thinking of mankind.

The first of these is skeptical science and history. Today we are "living in an age in which all fundamental beliefs are challenged." One of the alarming trends of thought in modern life is the drift away from religion. There is an undercurrent hard to explain which seems to lead men and women toward material things. Some so-called learned men hold that modern science makes the old faith in God impossible. They either completely give up their faith in God, or they declare that "science requires a new conception of God."

This denial of God even begins with the children in school. In some cities thousands of children from six to fourteen years of age, and right out of the primary grades, have paraded the streets carrying such inscriptions as these: "Away with God from the schools," "Down with the God superstition," "Religion is an opiate." It is well, in this connection, to ponder the following weighty words:

"Too many are treating religion today as though it were an incidental of life, rather than an essential; a luxury, rather than a necessity; a mere external form of life, rather than a vital principle in life. Men are not asking in our day, what kind of religion is needed, but, 'Is religion needed?' The materialistic philosopher, the atheistic socialist, and the nominal religionist are answering this far-reaching question in the negative. The real denial of God in our day is not the denial of His existence, but of His reign. Over against this materialism and paganism, the followers of Christ are challenged to maintain that religion is essential to life, that it is not 'the cake of life,' but 'the bread of life;' and that no theory can be true to the facts of man's nature, which disregards religion as an internal, inalienable factor in his consciousness. 'There is no living without it.'"

The verdict of history is that religion is universal. The verdict of Scripture is that religion is essential, and the verdict of human experience is that religion is indispensable. Man may exist without religion, but he cannot live without it."—John McDowell, D.D., in *Record of Christian Work*.

Modern Pantheism

But the modern war on God goes way beyond mere negative indifference to the Christian religion. During the postwar years, efforts have been made in a number of countries to return to the old gods of heathen days. Prominent writers have pronounced themselves as pagans and as believing in the old Nordic deities. This modern paganism has grown into a mighty movement. Scores of writers and university professors openly avow their adherence to the ancient mythology, the gods of their heathen forefathers. Woden and his son, Thor, are again to be enthroned as racial and national deities. This modern paganism, very much akin to pantheism, is a militant attack on the God of the Bible. It is insidious, philosophical, and most deceptive. Let us state here what pantheism really implies and how it leads the multitudes to the dangerous man worship, the deification of some outstanding leader, so common today.

Pantheism holds that God not only is *in* everything, but *is* everything—that the entire universe is one great god. It rejects wholly the thought that God is a personal being. Professor Ernst Bergmann, of the Leipzig University, has published a "Catechism of Twenty-five Theses" on this new paganism. From these we quote as follows:

"Where Christianity stops, there our religion begins. Belief in a personal God, in revelation and salvation, is superstition, not religion."

"To God's Being belong will, understanding (*Verstand*), and personality. These are, however, unique in man. Hence man is the place (*Ort*) of God in the world. Man is not God. But he is God's birthplace. God exists and grows in man. If God does not come in man, He never comes."

"The feelings of union, holiness, and blessedness are the basic religious feelings. The Christian feelings of sin, guilt, and repentance are not religious feeling at all. They are artificially engendered complexes in man."

"Whoever forgives sin, sanctions sin. The forgiving of sins undermines religious ethics and destroys the morale of the people."

Thus, like pantheism, this paganism not only derides the personality of God, it denies the individual existence of man. It deadens conscience and poisons all thought of moral responsibility, and does away with the gospel.

Another mighty cause of the present irreligion is "the atheism of the modern press." The daily press of our day is a mighty factor for good. Modern civilization could not exist without it. It educates the masses; it defends the weak; it carries on a mighty work for hygiene and health. But, while we recognize that the press in so many ways is a strong power for good, and for the better-

ment of mankind, we cannot but deplore the present tendency to make the daily papers serve the ideas of false evolution and even of rank atheism.

An Atheistic Press

We see this first of all in Russia. Almost every city of any importance in that country, has journals that are out-and-out atheistic. Thus there are in Moscow alone at least five antireligious periodicals. In other parts of the Soviet Republic, and in other languages, there are numerous radical atheistic journals. Among the periodicals published are, *The Atheist*, in the Armenian language, an illustrated antireligious popular review; *The Militant Atheist*, in the Polish language; and a popular godless review for the Jews in their own language, which is printed in Moscow. There are many colonists in Russia, and to propagate atheism among them there is printed at Charkov the antireligious paper called *Neuland* (New Land). These printed attacks on religion, or at least some of them, have a very large circulation.

However, it is not alone in Russia and other lands of like ideals that the press is outspoken in favor of atheism and materialistic philosophy. We see the same in nearly every country of Europe and of North and South America. Many papers are published whose sole purpose is to undermine faith in the Bible and to make war on religion. But aside from this, there is a far more insidious press propaganda against the inspiration of the Scriptures and the Christian faith. We refer to the almost numberless articles appearing in many papers concerning the age of man, or the new discoveries of geology with reference to the origin of the human race, and the earth itself.

Some journals seem to delight in glibly telling what happened hundreds of millions of years ago. For a long time the papers reported, and it was popularly and confidently stated, that the Gobi desert, not the Garden of Eden, was the original home of man. But now recently the papers are reporting that these stories that the beginning of man occurred in Gobi were a mistake. It has now been discovered that man originated down in Africa. Even the Neanderthal man, or his ancestors, that is, if he had any, is said to have emigrated from Uganda to Europe. All these statements, of course, are the veriest guesswork.

Results of Irreligion

What will be the fruits of this seed sowing of irreligion and unbelief? How does it even now affect individual morality as well as the state of society in general? To ask these questions is to answer them. The old standards of right and wrong have been thrown down. One representative of the modern "literature of doubt" admits "that the whole moral organization of life is shattered when the faith around which it is built is destroyed." Another "is convinced that the modern scientific world view not only destroys God, but also destroys the basis of any kind of moral idealism."—*The Problem of God*, p. 27.

Men are losing the sense of the sinfulness of sin. The marriage relation is discarded, purity of life

is ridiculed, obedience to the law of God is spoken of as bondage. Says Sir Oliver Lodge: "As a matter of fact, the higher man of today is not worrying about his sins at all, still less about their punishment; his mission, if he is good for anything, is to be up and doing. . . . There is a tendency already noticed to weaken down the idea and sense of sin, to belittle it, to get rid of the elements of fear in connection with it, to assert liberty, and throw down the restraints by which moral conduct has hitherto been guarded. This tendency finds plenty of soil to work on in the secularism, and moral and religious indifference of the time."—*Sin as a Problem*, pp. 12, 14, 15.

The moral decay and fall of this generation is indeed appalling. Men and women stand aghast at the depravity revealed not only in the youth, but in those who are older as well. The drift away from God is becoming an avalanche away from morals. How earnestly should God's children love the right and hate evil. We must hold up the true standards, not alone in words, but in holy, honest living. We must guard well our own conscience in a keen, quick discernment of sin. We must guard our homes and our churches.

However, the chief attack on religion today is the blasphemous war on God by out-and-out atheists. We shall not quote the mocking words which these weak, deluded enemies of God dare to say or write in our day, but in view of the alarming inroads of atheism, especially among the youth, we would appeal to all parents and teachers that they do their utmost to establish in our young people a firm faith in a personal God. In doing this we have the hearty support of many writers and thinkers. More and more, recently, do we see men discarding the "theory that religious faith is impossible for the educated modern." The failure of atheism and the utter bankruptcy of Modernism and liberal theology proclaim in thundering tones that without faith in God and the Bible, morality succumbs and humanity itself cannot exist. Thus Miles H. Krumbine says:

"We have disinfected religion from superstition, only to discover that man cannot live on disinfectedants. Many have discovered also that a thin trickle of sociology is a poor substitute for God."

Says another writer concerning our strange, unsettled time:

"Amid all other trends and moods manifested, the interest in God, the wistful outreach for God, the quest for God, the 'experiment which becomes an experience,' has gone steadily on."

The appalling collapse of society leads many to search for the truth; thus many doors are opened to the advent message. An unshaken belief in the entire Bible as God's word, a clear understanding of the advent message, founded on careful study, and above all a daily experimental knowledge of God, is today of urgent necessity. Unless we have the personal guidance of Christ within, we never can overcome the world without. To live in the reality of Christianity is our only refuge.

L. H. CHRISTIAN.

EDITORIAL

Are Our Schools Worth the Price?

It is not without many hardships and heartaches that our church school system has been built up to its present dimensions, and it is only by the most diligent effort and the most constant sacrifice and devotion that our schools can be kept going. Are they worth the price? Are we justified in carrying this great and increasing burden year after year?

These are questions which many of our people ask from time to time, especially in a period of depression. Can clear-cut, satisfactory answers be given? Most unqualifiedly, yes. No feature of our denominational work is capable of clearer demonstration or more irrefutable proof than our educational work. And no feature of denominational activity is more vital to the stability of this denomination, or to its highest success, than our schools. These are sweeping declarations, we confess, but the evidence will support them.

Probably one of the most distinctive characteristics of our present age is the tremendous growth of the idea of universal schooling. The advantages of a school education are sounded everywhere. The uneducated individual is becoming the exception rather than the rule. Every endeavor is being made to give youth the fullest opportunity to obtain a fund of knowledge that will prepare them to make a success of life. Never before in the history of the world have young people had opened before them the opportunities for education that now are theirs.

But no less distinctive of our present time is the lawlessness and disregard of all standards and authority that characterize youth. In fact, it has become almost a commonplace to speak of lawless youth; but the fact remains, nevertheless, and is becoming increasingly acute as the days pass.

Criminality Related to Education

That a time of greatest opportunity for youth should be coupled with an era of greatest lawlessness, has caused many careful observers throughout the world to conclude that this criminal trend among the youth bears some definite relation to the training and education that they have received. Numerous articles have been written on this point by eminent educators, and no small amount of money has been spent by research organizations in an endeavor to discover the real heart of the trouble. Brief comment from time to time has been made in the columns of the REVIEW on the findings of these educational investigators, and probably our readers will recall that the virtually united testimony of all those who have given study to this matter, is that this deflection in morals is because education has dealt only with the intellect and not with the heart. For example, the youth have been instructed fully as to the

morals and standards of nations that lived two thousand years before Christ, but have received no tutoring as to what the morals and standards of Christian young people in the twentieth century should be. Eminent public men, such as judges, have not only indicted the school system for this lack of moral and religious training, but have also included the parents in their condemnation. But all alike stress the thought that it is the failure to teach the youth the basic truths of religion that explains the deplorable condition of our time.

Cannot Take Secondary Place

In view of all this—the great prominence that education holds in our modern world, and the alarming condition among the youth of today—the whole question of the training of our children takes on a very serious aspect. It cannot be placed in a secondary role, as might have been possible a generation ago, and as some who think in terms of those days would fain place it. Whether we will or no, this matter of the education of our children is rapidly becoming one of the most vital questions that confront not only the parents, but the community and the State.

Perhaps at this juncture some one may say that inasmuch as the lack of religious training, and the consequent loss of faith in God, is the difficulty, we can solve the whole problem, so far as our own children are concerned, by simply giving them faithful religious instruction morning and evening in family worship. At first blush this might seem to be a complete solution of the problem; but if simply the faithful conducting of morning and evening worship will solve the problem, then our denominational school system is superfluous.

But our church school system is *not* superfluous, it is a necessity. Morning and evening worship are excellent so far as they go, and Heaven's blessing be upon the home in which such exercises are faithfully carried out. But the difficulty is this, that the minutes spent in family worship are in grave danger of being neutralized by the hours spent in public school. And this brings us logically to an examination of what the youth are taught today in these public schools. There was a time when the State school system was symbolized by the little red schoolhouse, with its simple equipment and stern discipline, and where the course of study consisted chiefly of the three R's. In that day the prime objection that could be offered against sending our children to the public school was of a negative nature; namely, that the school failed to incorporate Biblical instruction. This objection, of course, is serious enough in itself.

But the public schools of today bear about as much relation to the little red schoolhouse of yesteryear as the horse and buggy of those times bears to our modern means of transportation. And it is this change in certain aspects of the public schools—a change not realized by many who received their education a generation ago and now have no personal contact with schoolwork—that brings us to the very heart of the problem, and makes most evident and imperative the need of our own schools.

First of all, the course of study in the public schools has been greatly enlarged until it incorporates many subjects that formerly received attention only in universities. For example, psychology and biology are now frequently taught in high schools. This fact in itself might have proved most fortunate had it not been that paralleling this increase in the number of subjects has been the growth of a baleful skepticism and infidelity on the part of many teachers. Skepticism, which so marks our age, has put its blight upon peoples in all walks of life and all professions, but tragically the teaching profession seems to have been most sadly affected. The result is that not only is the Bible and its philosophy of all knowledge not being taught in the schools, but a militant, anti-Biblical viewpoint is frequently presented to the students. And in the realms of psychology and biology, the teacher is afforded a choice opportunity to inject skepticism, if not obviously demoralizing thoughts, into the minds of the students.

A Most Serious Charge

We realize that this is a most serious charge to make, and we realize, furthermore, that there may be those in our ranks who will question the propriety of thus indicting the public-school system. In fact, it is sometimes the case that a minister, in speaking in behalf of our schools, will declare before the church that we have no charge to bring against the public school, that it is doing a good work, and that we want our own schools simply because we wish to give our children a religious training in addition to the other school subjects. Now while we may commend such an attempt to live peaceably and to speak well of all men and all institutions, we cannot but feel that when our schoolwork is viewed only from this angle, we have failed to sense the true magnitude of the dangers involved, or to realize in its fullness the real protection that our church schools may prove to our youth.

Of course, in bringing an indictment against the public schools, we should be careful not to give the appearance of making a blanket charge against the schools or the teachers, as such. Much can be said in praise of a system that offers free education to all, and much can be said of many teachers who faithfully strive to impart knowledge to the rising generation of the nation. But it is a false idea of patriotism that would lead us to remain silent on what we believe are evil trends in the present-day public-school system. The true friend of civil government hesitates not to view with alarm, in print as well as in private, any

condition he considers as undermining high standards.

And it does seem a rather unusual thing that we who have so much at stake in this matter of education, and who are so fearless in many other respects in speaking out against the evils of today, should be hesitant on this question of the trend in public education; while others not of our faith are bold both to speak and to write on this matter. There lie before us as we pen these words, numerous statements from various church papers of different denominations and from secular journals, in which the writers deal unmercifully with the tragic trend in present-day education. Veritably, instead of the present-day trend in education being a topic which we should hesitate to deal with, we should add it to our list of signs of the times, and give it appropriate attention, not only when dealing with the subject of education in our own churches, but when presenting the omens of the times in public discourses before the world.

The Testimony of Others

Says a writer in the *Presbyterian*:

"There is an educational peril connected with the work of the colleges, even some that call themselves Christian colleges. . . . False philosophy is pressing hard toward a serious condition, and education in the colleges is facing a grave situation."

He then discusses briefly some of the philosophical ideas that are being considered in the schools, and adds:

"These false philosophies which attempt to reach the supernatural by the natural, and which deny the existence of any standard of truth and right outside the mind itself, are the cause of the present intense crisis which exists in the education of today."

The *Moody Bible Institute Monthly* reprints an editorial from the *War Cry*, the organ of the Salvation Army, entitled, "The Morality of the High School." The editorial sets forth in characteristic fashion the evil trend among youth, and endeavors to find the explanation for this, asking the solemn questions,

"What about the schools themselves? How are biological mysteries explained? Is man reduced in the minds of the pupils to the level of the beast, via a so-called scientific evolutionary hypothesis?"

"It is certain that the atmosphere produced by too many high schools lowers idealism and unstrips the youth and maiden from the helpful imagery built up in the younger years, leaving them denuded of higher principle and responsive to the unbridled emotions of youth."

These citations are typical of many that might be presented, but surely we need not add more in order to prove the point. Next week we shall consider a second way in which the public schools have changed since the days of our fathers.

F. D. N.

(To be continued)

"MUSIC is a precious gift from God. It is designed to uplift the thoughts to high and noble themes, to inspire and elevate the soul."

DENOMINATIONAL STANDARDS

Appeal by Autumn Council

(Concluded)

Moral and Social Standards

WE are compelled to recognize that the prevailing and increasing laxity in social standards all about us has had some effect among us. Things are lightly smiled at in the world about us today which a few years ago would have justly received public condemnation. Among us, however, there should be no laxity in social and moral relationships. The Bible standards of morality should be maintained. Questionable associations, relationships that give rise to suspicion and evil surmising, and all appearance of evil, are not to be considered as of trifling consequence among those who profess to be followers of God and representatives of Jesus Christ.

Divorce is no light and trifling matter. A person who has passed through divorce proceedings has had a regrettable and unfortunate experience which will always leave a scar. If there should be any adequate reason for question about the Biblical cause for such divorce, or about guilt regarding the individual, such person should not be looked to for leadership in our churches.*

We deplore the sad abandonment of the family altar in any Adventist home. Nothing is so conducive to wholesome family life and consistent religious experience, as the old-fashioned and entirely Scriptural practice of daily family worship. We urgently appeal for its revival in every Seventh-day Adventist home where it has been permitted to lapse, and its faithful maintenance among all our members.

Sabbath Observance

We deplore any tendency to laxity in the observance of the Sabbath on the part of any of our people. Purchase of gasoline to operate cars, purchase of newspapers, purchase of food supplies, the holding of business conversations, the reading of newspapers or of anything worldly, pleasure riding, social visiting, and idle and worldly conversation, should all be excluded from this day. These sacred hours belong to God. They are to be used for Him. Our own pleasure, our own words, our own business, our own thoughts, should find no place in our observance of God's day. Isa. 58:13. Radios should be turned off before God's holy day arrives, and kept off during all this sacred time, unless it be for use in listening to a religious service or program. Greet the Sabbath with prayer and song. Close it with prayer and praise. Keep worldly reading, worldly music, worldly activities, worldly conversation, out of this day. Make a distinction between the holy and the profane, the precious and the vile, the clean and the unclean, the sacred and the common. In such observance God's Sabbath blessing of acceptance, of rest, and of peace, may be confidently expected.

We are glad to believe that the vast majority of our people are true to the great standards of this cause, and do not permit the violations which have been mentioned to manifest themselves in their lives and in their homes. We appreciate their loyalty. We admonish them to hold fast to their faithfulness. It is for the sake of correcting this laxity on the part of some and elevating the spiritual life of all, that we send out this statement and appeal. Abuses that go uncorrected and the lowering of standards that goes

* It is to be understood, of course, that this suggestion applies to the experience of the members after joining the church. Those who before joining the church may have had an unfortunate experience of this kind, but who after becoming members of the church have lived true to Christian ideals and standards of conduct, should not be excluded from holding office.

unrebuked, are oftentimes looked upon as endorsement of laxity. The time has come when the leadership of this cause should speak with a firm voice. This we have endeavored to do. At the same time we speak in love, and we appeal to all those who have permitted these failures to appear in their experience, to turn their backs now upon the world, to abandon its practices and pleasures, and wholeheartedly to live up to the standards of the faith which God has committed to this people.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Other actions of the Council on standards were adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, The Sabbath was given as one of God's greatest blessings to man, a day of "rest and gladness," a time of spiritual refreshing; and,

WHEREAS, The Sabbath is not only a sign of God's love to man, but also a sign of man's loyalty to God, and that in true Sabbath observance is evidenced our fidelity to our Creator, our fellowship with our beloved Redeemer; therefore be it resolved:

1. That we earnestly heed the admonition of the word of God to "remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy," not doing our own work, nor finding our own pleasure on God's holy day.

2. That we dedicate the Sabbath to the worship of God and the uplift of our fellow men by:

a. Faithfully attending the Sabbath school, the worship hour, and other divine services.

b. Gathering our children into the family pew, thus encouraging reverence for the house of God, the place of prayer.

c. Spending the other hours of the Sabbath in visiting the sick and afflicted, teaching the word of God, distributing our truth-filled literature, or otherwise ministering to sin-sick humanity.

d. Teaching our children the wonders of God's universe and His creative power by often "walking with them in the fields and groves," studying with them the lesson book of nature, and telling them of God's wondrous love, thus leading them to consider the Sabbath a blessing rather than a burden.

3. That we pledge ourselves to renewed consecration in the observance of God's holy day by:

a. Sacredly guarding the beginning and the ending of the Sabbath, especially having all the preparations fully made before the setting of the sun as the Sabbath approaches.

b. Welcoming the blessed day by worship around the family altar, and again at the setting of the sun at the close of the Sabbath, rededicating ourselves and our children to the Lord.

c. Putting aside all secular papers, and refraining from the use of the radio except for proper religious programs.

d. Refraining from unnecessary automobile journeys and pleasure trips.

e. Not engaging in idle conversation, nor in "thinking our own thoughts," nor in "speaking our own words."

4. That great carefulness be exercised in the manner of raising money and disposing of literature during our Sabbath services, so that we ever keep the spiritual purpose of the Sabbath before our churches.

5. That we consecrate ourselves and our children to God, seeking to enter into His glorious rest, of which the Sabbath is a type, thus giving to the world a testimony to the truth of the Sabbath in the lives of those who hallow it.

Fostering the Spiritual Life of the Church

We recommend, 1. That every minister make definite and continuous effort so to budget his working schedule that time every day may be set apart for communion, meditation, and study for the enrichment of his own soul.

2. That in his ministry he make definite plans to help and encourage the youth in their many trials and perplexities incident to modern conditions.

3. That he give special attention to conserving the

(Continued on page 4)

BEACON LIGHTS

Mother Earth Again Shrugs Her Shoulders

We are again reminded of the instability of what we call "terra firma." On the night of January 24, a terrific earthquake struck southwest Chile. In three minutes' time twenty cities and towns over a 450-mile-long segment of the country were a heap of ruins. According to the latest estimates appearing in *Time* (February 6), 50,000 were killed, 60,000 injured, and more than 700,000 were made homeless. "It was the highest casualty list in any South American disaster."

Great Britain Organizes for War

January 23 Prime Minister Chamberlain in a radio message explained a plan for the systematic enrollment of the country's man-power for "national service." This includes registration on a voluntary basis. Mr. Chamberlain stated, "We are confident we shall get all the volunteers we want without recourse to compulsion." On January 25 the first of 20,000,000 booklets explaining the plan and making an appeal for volunteers were sent out. A cable (February 2) states that the British government plans an armament expenditure of at least £500,000 in the coming financial year. A tragic touch in this message was the announcement that 1,200,000 gas masks for babies were being ordered. Thus must men plan in grim earnestness for the coming struggle.

Spanish Laboratory

Newsweek (February 6) remarks concerning the war in Spain: "For thirty months Spain has served foreign military experts as a laboratory for testing new developments in strategy, tactics, and weapons. As the war apparently entered its last stage, the major results added up as follows: The most obvious lesson has been that infantry is still the decisive arm. Neither planes nor tanks have been capable of winning a military decision without troops to complete actual occupation of the ground. . . . Only one major trial was made of the Douhet theory of terrorizing civilian populations by constant air raids. Last March squadrons of planes raided Barcelona for three successive days and nearly broke the city's spirit. Then the capital constructed an elaborate network of deep underground shelters—that cut losses to a minimum." Such is the grim story of experimentation on a helpless people.

War Complex Affects United States

Is the United States drifting toward war? That is what many are wondering as relations become strained with one nation and another, and as war talk abounds over broadcasting networks and fills the front pages of newspapers. There are many factors driving this nation into a situation such as has not been known in two decades. These may be enumerated as follows: Indiscriminate and extreme criticism of the totalitarian powers, particularly in reference to their leadership. The declaration by the United States of a revitalized Monroe Doctrine, which includes the practical defense of the two great American continents against external aggression of any kind. The President's emphasis on defense against any threat to our American institutions, which calls for "the largest appropriation for national defense ever recommended in time of peace." The very definite stand on the part of the President to aid the democracies in rearmament, most particularly by helping them build up their air forces with American planes. The definite suggestion that twelve great naval aviation and submarine bases be constructed, one on the island of Guam, which is far from our shores in the mid-Pacific. Such incidents as these, together with a subtle war propaganda that is being conducted, tend to increase the willingness of the people of the United States to enter upon a vast defense program. According to *Newsweek* (February 6) a recent poll by the Institute of Public Opinion revealed the amazing fact that Americans appear more resigned

to United States involvement in a foreign war than do their Congressmen. Speaking in regard to the apparent willingness of Americans to approve of a mammoth armament expansion, *Current History* (February) states, "Elements of fear, hysteria, and misapprehension have undoubtedly played a large part in this quick shift of public sentiment, and there is good ground for suspecting that they will carry the country to unreasonable extremes unless they are subordinated to clear thinking."

Road to Mandalay

Nelson T. Johnson, the United States ambassador to China, recently returned to America from the far western capital of distraught China. Much interest was created in the fact that the ambassador traversed a new route, the 650-mile road recently built from the capital of Yunnan Province to Burma. Mr. Johnson said of this, "To appreciate the extent of the Chinese feat, one must realize that the entire road was laid out, surveyed, and built by native labor without a single piece of road-building equipment. It was done with native labor, using bullock carts to take away material and stone rollers carved out of rock to smooth down the surface."—*New York Times*, January 15.

This achievement, which was accomplished in the short space of one year, is called "one of the greatest modern engineering feats." Rangoon is now the new port of entry for the Chinese government. Great stores of materials are piling up in the harbor, and these are being rushed to the China border, where great caravans of trucks are picking them up and carrying them into the rugged interior of West China. Thus the native ability and energy which produced the Great Wall and the Grand Canal in ancient times are united with modern invention and enterprise to aid China in her battle against aggression.

Editing the Bible

We have had many endeavors put forth to improve the Bible as it has come down to us through inspired writers. The latest effort is one put forth by Professor William Louis Bailey of Northwestern University, who announced recently that he had a New Testament ready for publication. The professor, being a sociologist who specializes in the study of cities, believes that a Bible written in the language of our modern cities will fill a great need. In *Time* (January 30) we read, "He paraphrases the word 'gospel' (good news) as 'You'd be surprised!' Doctor Bailey contends that the original 'You'd be surprised!' were written in slangy Hellenistic Greek and Aramaic, that they should be rendered today in journalese. Thus he translates 'Good Samaritan' as 'good sport,' 'wise virgins' as 'smart girls,' 'laying up a treasure' as 'making a pile,' 'repent' as 'get wise to yourself,' 'Give us our daily bread' as 'Give us good bread, fresh daily.' Doctor Bailey's Gospels variously call miracles 'the breaks,' 'doing wonders' and 'indications.'" When will men cease to handle sacred things? or are there no sacred things? Have we come to the place where everything appears common and nothing is sacred?

The Bible and Youth

The result of the 1938 Gallup survey of "The Favorite Books of Americans," published in the *New York Times Book Review* (January 15), reveals some very significant facts. The Bible, of course, topped the survey. The next in line was a popular work of fiction, as were most of the eighteen volumes that followed. George Gallup, director of the American Institute of Public Opinion, in writing of the poll, said, "Nearly one voter in five named the Bible, making it the leading choice. The Bible has probably occupied some such position for decades, but how long it will retain its place with Americans is problematical, for it is much less popular with young people, we found, than with their parents and grandparents." Thirty-seven per cent of those naming the Bible were over fifty years of age, 17 per cent were between thirty and forty-nine years of age, and only 6 per cent of

those under thirty years of age named the Bible. Mr. Gallup stated further, "One fact that is scored and underscored in these studies is the tremendous influence of Hollywood on reading tastes." What a picture of American life! A Bible-dominated generation has now become a Hollywood-dominated generation! The words of Kipling are most applicable today, "We are dropping down the ladder rung by rung."

Death of Pope Pius

A Vatican City dispatch announced the death of Pope Pius XI on February 10, at 5:31 A.M. As the Pope was 81 years of age and had been ailing for some time, this did not come as a surprise. He was elected to his high office on February 6, 1922. Sixty-two cardinals, twenty-seven of them from foreign lands, will meet in conclave about February 28 to elect a successor. American cardinals, of whom there are three, will participate for the first time in such an occasion. After taking office, Pope Pius promulgated a new decree which stated that the time elapsing between the death of a pope and the convening of a conclave to elect a new pope must be a minimum of fifteen days, and a maximum of eighteen days. This was done in order to permit cardinals from abroad to arrive in time for the election. Thus is shown the growing influence of the Roman Catholic Church in nations outside of Europe.

Gambling in America

A frank exposure of gambling as it is carried on in the United States is depicted in *Life* (February 6). Taking as its cue the attempted cleanup of the gambling situation in Kansas City in recent weeks, where gambling houses "garner an estimated \$10,000,000 a year," *Life* says, "Gambling is news; . . . Americans love to gamble. The Gallup polls find that more than half of the nation's adults admit to having bet money on some form of gambling during 1938, not including the stock market." The church was given a prominent place in this exposure. Pictures of a Jersey City church with its announcement, at the doorway, of a Bingo party and a large, "church-sponsored game in the Jersey City armory," with the statement that "by poll, more Americans risk money in church lotteries than in any other form of gambling," are shamefully significant. Verily is now fulfilled the word, "There shall be, like people, like priest." Soon we may see fulfilled the prophetic words that follow, "I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings."

Wonders Never Cease

Life (January 30) pictures the new talking robot called "Voder." It is the first machine ever to create human speech. We are told that this machine "though worked by electricity, uses the same principles to make words as does the human voice. An operator, by manipulating a series of keys, controls the quantity and quality of the vibrations which enter the mechanical 'throat' and thus causes Voder to speak. Twelve Voders have been constructed, and twenty-four telephone operators are endeavoring to become proficient in making them talk. The machines will be demonstrated at the New York and San Francisco world's fairs.

A remarkable new improvement in telephone operation was recently described to the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. As stated in the *Washington Star* (January 25), it is "a new telephone system in which thirty-two bare wires on poles will carry 256 conversations at one time, . . . which is accomplished by vastly widening the zone of 'frequencies'. . . carried by a single pair of wires." It is most difficult for a layman to understand the many marvels that he sees and uses, and few stop to consider the time and thought which have been expended in the creation of them. On the other hand, men must operate within certain laws that have been ordained and are now being upheld by One who is mighty in power. It would be well if both the scientist and the layman would pause more often to give credit to One who is the source of all wisdom.

"Catholic Action" Explained

The words "Catholic Action" are appearing quite frequently in the news these days. It is an organization within the Roman Catholic Church which seeks the "participation of the laity in the hierarchical apostolate of the church." The Catholic weekly, *America* (February 4) says of this movement, "The church would be untrue to its apostolic nature did it not seek by every means in its power to bring the teaching and the divine person of Jesus Christ into the lives of every man, woman, and child that it can possibly reach in the entire world." According to *Newsweek* (February 6) Catholic Action is strongly aggressive "in France, Belgium, Poland, the Netherlands, India, Ceylon, Japan, South Africa, and Uganda."

The first of February a special campaign was opened to make Catholic Action a force in the United States. There then appeared a new work entitled "A Guide to Catholic Action." At the same time Paul McGuire, an energetic Australian journalist beginning a four-month lecture tour, stated before a large audience under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus, that "the most powerful influence on the future exerted by any one movement in the world today is exerted by Catholic Action."—*America*, February 4.

The Plenty-to-Eat Paradox

From an editorial in the *New York Times* (January 16) we glean the following facts: "In 1898 Sir William Crooks predicted a world shortage of wheat by 1931." However, "in 1931 . . . there was a world wheat surplus of 400,000,000 bushels," and furthermore "this year, according to the estimate of the International Institute of Agriculture, there will be a surplus of 1,140,000,000 bushels by July 1." Commenting on this situation, the editorial states, "People are as hungry as ever—in myriads of cases tragically near starvation—but the purchasing power that might have gone for food has gone for less edible goods. There is no simple solution. What we can be sure of is that trade wars, real wars, and all other interferences with the natural flow of goods to and fro across the world are hideously opposed to any solution whatever, any world-wide plenty, any lasting peace."

Sickness Still a Cause for Concern

In the report of the interdepartmental committee, on health, to Congress on January 23 we find the following statements: "The need for a national health program is evidenced in a massive and unnecessary burden of sickness, death, and poverty. The costs and losses occasioned by sickness, disability, and premature death amount to about \$10,000,000,000 a year. . . . On the average day of the year about 5,000,000 persons are disabled by sickness. About half of these are permanently disabled. Nearly 2,000,000 permanently disabled persons are less than 65 years old."—*New York Times*, January 24. It is comforting to know that the Scriptures point us to a time "when the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick." Should we not seek to hasten the day when Christ shall come and wipe away all tears?

Flouting the Law

The *Christian Century* (February 1) calls our attention to the recent smuggling sensation which involved a number of prominent Americans. In this connection it states: "A great many otherwise intelligent and reasonably moral people seem to have no ideas of right and wrong when they approach the customs officers. There is a certain margin of unavoidable confusion between what the law literally requires and what its officers actually expect—as with speed limits on the highway. But, more than that, it is the disposition to evade a law which one does not like, or one which impinges upon one's personal interests. What is it in the nature of the citizen of a democracy that 'bids him flout the law he makes'? Whatever it is, he had better get it out if democracy is to be a success." And, we might add, *If personal Christianity is to be a success!*

F. L.

IN MISSION LANDS

Work Among the K'ado Tribespeople

By NENG DA-DEH

THE writer is the teacher of a primary school among the K'ado tribespeople in Mokiang hsien, on the border of Yunnan. For various reasons, one month of the ordinary three-month vacation was cut off this year. This left only two months for field work. During the first month, M. C. Warren, Milton Lee, and I together conducted a Bible class. When that ended, I was still pondering whether to conduct a summer Bible school or to itinerate in the field, when one of the local workers requested me to go with him to another village, in the hope of opening new work. Touched by his perseverance and zeal, I could only consent.

My friend and I set out on our journey on August 1, arriving the following day at a K'ado village called Yentzuchiaio. Though this place is called a village, the inhabitants are very few, the distance between any two families being over half a mile and sometimes even five to eight miles. And the roughness of the roads lying between is beyond words to describe.

As we studied the conditions and the prospects of working with any success here, the question was, Should we open a public meeting or do personal work from house to house? The discouraging circumstances, combined with the indifferent attitude of the villagers, and, moreover, the fact that I was inexperienced at this kind of work, left me with little heart to proceed; but when I was about to say, "Nothing can be done here," I seemed to hear a voice telling me to work from home to home. We decided to do this.

We started at once over a near-by small mountain—a walk of seven or eight miles—and at the foot entered a home, where we found the master smoking opium. As opportunity offered, I remarked that men should worship the true God, not idols. The man seemed surprised at this, and asked, "Don't you worship the heavens and the earth and the god of thunder?"

"No," I answered, "to worship the God who made the heavens and the earth is all that is necessary. It was He who made all creatures; and all are subject to His will. To worship God is enough."

"And is it true," asked the man, "that if we believe the truth you preach, we need not fear the spirits?"

"No, we need not fear them," I answered again.

Then the old man asked wonderingly, "Would you dare to take down the god of thunder from the case where I have placed him?" I asked him where he kept his god of thunder. He told me

that it was in the inner room. I had never heard of this god of thunder, and was eager to see it. I found it to be nothing more than a few branches of a peach tree, some shells of eggs, and a few rolls of women's hair. And this god of thunder was held so sacred and powerful that no one dared violate it!

I took the image down with an easy air that surprised the old man once more, explaining to him as I did so the hypocrisy of the god of thunder. At last the old man was convinced. "This is a precious truth," he said. "Three years ago, at the market place, I came across a missionary; but I did not pay any attention at that time to what he said. Since that time I have not heard a preacher of the gospel. Had I known how precious this truth is, I should have believed it all this time. Then I should not have been deceived by Paimu, the devil." (Paimu is a man who serves as the medium of spiritism or sorcery.)

At the request of this man we consigned the god of thunder and the ancestral tablets to the fire burning in the stove. The instruments of idol worship—the incense burners, wind cups, candlesticks—we pounded to pieces. Then we knelt and asked God's blessing on that cleansed home.

The light of the gospel is now shining in that home; and I am reminded of the words of the Saviour in the synagogue at Nazareth: "He hath sent Me . . . to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised."

Nine days later, thirty-nine families had thrown off these works of darkness, and had determined to walk in the light of truth. Now this number has increased to fifty. Some of the young people from this district have been sent to our mission school, and we have been able to send a young but experienced worker over there to instruct these new believers more thoroughly.



Left: K'ado Girls

Right: The Oldest Man in the District, and His Wife. He Is One Hundred Years Old

Pressing Forward Amid Trouble

By JOHN OSS

EFFORTS are being put forth to push forward the work in China, in spite of war and confusion. While it has been difficult to get reports from many places that are in the war areas, it cheers our hearts to learn of the persevering faithfulness of our believers amid perplexity and trial.

When communications open following protracted military activities in the different areas, we learn that wherever possible our brethren and sisters have continued to meet on the Sabbath, and that the workers have endeavored to shepherd their flocks as well as to hold evangelistic efforts. Many of our brethren and sisters have been forced to leave their homes and take up temporary residence elsewhere. Many have lost their earthly possessions, and are in need of the necessities of life. They greatly appreciate what our brethren and sisters in the more favored lands have done and are doing in sending out clothing, bedding, and medical supplies, and in helping in many other ways.

Our colporteurs are endeavoring to carry on their work, though in many places they are having great difficulty. We admire their zeal and courage as they go forward amid strife and commotion. We are glad to report that the *Signs of the Times* magazine subscription list now stands at 56,000, and that much other literature is also being distributed. Recently our publishing activities have been carried on from Hong Kong. During the last fourteen months more than fifty million pages of literature have been printed in this center. We admire the devotion and earnestness of the colporteurs who at this time are pushing forward the distribution of our literature so courageously.

Efforts have been put forth to do Harvest In-gathering work, but because of the existing conditions in many places the receipts have shown a falling off as compared with more normal times. Our medical and educational institutions have carried on wherever possible, but in some places, when the dangers of war came to the areas where they were operating, they had to suspend operations temporarily. As soon as possible, however, after the hostilities terminate and more peaceful conditions obtain, efforts are made to reopen and carry on work again.

From recent letters that have come to our desk we glean the following, that shows the progress that is being made in different places. F. M. Larsen, field missionary secretary of the Manchurian Union, writes:

"It is really wonderful how the Lord has blessed our colporteurs this year. We have averaged 2,600 new subscriptions a month for the *Signs of the Times* magazine since our institute last spring. We will need to average only 2,150 subscriptions a month for the remaining portion of the year to reach our 25,000 goal.

"Wang Fu Yuan, director of the Pinkiang Mission, has baptized 86 since January, and expects the baptisms for the year to exceed the 100 mark in

his mission. The tithe in the Pinkiang Mission for the first eight months of 1938 shows a gain of \$400 as compared with the same period a year ago. One colporteur has been instrumental in leading eight persons into the truth, and a Sabbath school has been organized. Two other colporteurs have created an interest, and four new believers have been baptized."

H. N. Brodersen, of the Fengtien Mission, writes very encouragingly of the soul-winning campaign that has been conducted in the city of Mukden. Three evangelistic efforts have been held in this church during the last fifteen months. As the result of the first six weeks' effort and the Bible classes that followed, thirty-nine were baptized. After a second effort of five weeks' duration sixty-one were baptized and joined the church. At the close of this second effort, the evangelist decided to take a short rest, but a delegation of the new believers called on him and earnestly pleaded with him to start a new series of meetings immediately. Pastor Brodersen writes that this new effort is now in full swing, and that more than 130 have already joined the Bible study class. It is thought that of this number at least 50 will be ready for the baptismal service which will be held during the month of December. There have been 231 baptisms in this mission this year, and it is expected that the total baptisms will be over 300. Members' tithe shows an increase of over \$1,000, national currency, as compared with the same period a year ago.

The hearts of our workers and believers in the China Division have been greatly cheered by receiving a telegraphic communication that our Tibetan worker, who is a converted lama, has succeeded in reaching Lhasa, the capital city of the closed land. This brother plans to labor in Lhasa and its vicinity until next spring, distributing literature and doing Bible work. We thank God and take courage as we see the work going forward into new areas during these times of strife and turmoil. We must pray, plan, and work as never before for the extension and finishing of our work in the China Division, where one fourth of the human family reside.

Hong Kong, Oct. 30, 1938.

You need not go to the ends of the earth for wisdom, for God is near. It is not the capabilities you now possess, or ever will have, that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you. We need to have far less confidence in what man can do, and far more confidence in what God can do for every believing soul. He longs to have you reach after Him by faith. He longs to have you expect great things from Him. He longs to give you understanding in temporal as well as in spiritual matters. He can sharpen the intellect. He can give tact and skill. Put your talents into the work, ask God for wisdom, and it will be given you.—"*Christ's Object Lessons*," p. 146.

LAYMAN'S EVANGELISM

Literature Circulation⁺

I AM very deeply interested in every means for the proclamation of the message that we love.

I have been much interested in the convention that has just been held, and in this constituency meeting, and tonight in the few moments that I shall speak to you, I wish to give utterance to my deep concern for a greatly increased circulation of our literature. I believe the time has come when we ought to enter into an entirely new experience in this field of our endeavor.

We look back over the past, and we recognize that wonderful things have been accomplished. We have seen miracles of divine grace accomplished through our literature ministry. But I am profoundly impressed that the time has come when we ought to do more than we are doing in this fruitful work. There ought to be a great awakening among us, it seems to me.

We all look forward to and pray for the coming of that day when a great spiritual revival will prepare the church for the outpouring of the latter rain of this message and for the finishing of this work. The revival will be a spiritual one, but I believe that such a revival will be accompanied by an intensification in the activity of every agency that God has created for the proclamation of this message. This will doubtless include a greatly increased use of our literature. For the coming of that day we ought to pray.

I shall read from the Spirit of prophecy a few brief statements that touch upon the need of such an awakening—an awakening in the circulation of our literature. In "Testimonies," Volume IX, page 62, we read:

"Our publications should go everywhere. Let them be issued in many languages. The third angel's message is to be given through this medium and through the living teacher. You who believe the truth for this time, wake up. It is your duty now to bring in all the means possible to help those who understand the truth to proclaim it. Part of the money that comes in from the sale of our publications should be used to increase our facilities for the production of more literature that will open blind eyes and break up the fallow ground of the heart."

We should not expect our publishing houses to use all their money in supporting enterprises outside of their work. They are glad to make donations as they are able; but this word from the messenger of the Lord calls upon us to use a part of the earnings in increasing our facilities for the production of more literature.

I am impressed with this statement: "You who believe the truth for this time, wake up." How many of you do? What are we admonished to do? "Wake up." These words are addressed to the church at this time. What is this awakening for?—for the increased circulation of our literature.

⁺Address of Elder J. L. McElhany at the constituency meeting of the Review and Herald Publishing Association, January 17, 1939.

It is our duty now to bring to the churches all the means possible to help those who understand the truth to proclaim it to others.

A Greater Work to Be Done

We know that there are members today who ought to be actively engaged in the work. They are not trained to be preachers; they are not trained to serve as Bible workers. But I thank God there is an avenue of service for which every soul is to be trained—the circulation of our literature. Here is another statement, from "Testimonies," Volume VII, pages 157, 158:

"Let all have more to teach, to write, and to publish in regard to those things that are now to be fulfilled, and that concern the eternal welfare of souls. Give meat in due season to the old and the young, to saints and to sinners. Let everything that can be said to awaken the church from its slumbers be brought forward without delay."

This instruction is all in the chapter entitled, "Our Denominational Literature." It is an appeal for our church to wake up in the matter of circulating the printed page. "Let no time be lost in dwelling on those things that are not essential, and that have no bearing upon the present necessities of the people." We ought by all means to heed that instruction.

Now here is one more passage, in "Counsels on Health," page 546:

"We need one hundred workers where now we have one. There is a great work to be done before satanic opposition shall close up the way, and our present opportunities for labor shall be lost. Time is rapidly passing. Our publications are numerous, but the Lord calls for men and women in our churches who have the light to engage in genuine missionary work."

My concern tonight is not so much the need of this awakening—for I think we all realize that—but how can we bring it about? Do you believe these words from the Spirit of prophecy? Is there a need for such an awakening? Then how can we bring it about? Something must be done. By the help of God, we ought to do something very definite to meet this need.

I recall attending a workers and church officers' meeting, at which a large part of the program consisted of giving plain, practical instruction to church officers on how to use literature. I thought it was one of the most successful meetings I had ever attended. There were no sermons preached about the need of the literature ministry, but it was just simple, plain, straightforward instruction on how to use tracts and papers and books and literature of all kinds, so that these church officers might go back to their churches and instruct their members in definite methods of carrying forward the work. There is great need for such instruction. We sometimes take it for granted that all our members are skilled, or ought to be skilled, in the circulation of literature; but they do need some instruction.

A Church Revived

I recall an experience that came to me years ago. I was asked to conduct an evangelistic effort in a

certain church. When I began to prepare for this effort, I found a rather discouraging situation in the church. The first Sabbath I was there I noticed that the back part of the church building was partitioned off by a heavy red curtain which was torn in places. The whole inside of the church was anything but presentable. It had not been painted for a good while. It seemed to me that the state of the church members was just about in keeping with the condition of the building, and I decided that we ought to do something about the whole situation. So we took down that old ragged curtain. The sisters volunteered to make a new one, which was very attractive. We called for a workers' bee, and the brethren and sisters came. The whole interior of the church was redecorated, and the church members felt happy over the improvement.

After the church building was put in order, I announced that the next Sabbath we would have a missionary meeting. Such a meeting had not been held for a long time. On the way home from the service that Sabbath, the church elder's wife said to him, "Look here; we are in a terrible fix. Why, Brother McElhany announced that next Sabbath there would be a missionary meeting. You are the elder of the church, and you know we haven't done any missionary work for a long time. What are you going to do about it?" He answered, "Well, wife, we ought to do something."

This man owned a beautiful farm, and had a fine automobile.

The next Sunday morning that church elder did a new thing. He cranked up the automobile for the Lord and loaded literature into it, and he and his wife started out to distribute the papers among the people. You would have been greatly stirred to hear that church elder contribute his part to the missionary meeting the next Sabbath. He had some wonderful experiences to relate, and I was so greatly encouraged that at the conclusion of the service, I announced that we would have another missionary meeting the next Sabbath. We did, and we had a wonderful time. I said to the brethren and sisters, "Really, this has done me good. It is so fine that I am going to announce a missionary meeting for next Sabbath." On the third Sabbath they all had something to say, and when we started the effort, the church members were ready to lend us their most hearty cooperation.

I stayed and labored in that church for about a year, and when I left, the church membership had doubled.

There are many churches in the same condition, but they could be revived by being put to work. These statements that I have read point the way. It is through the increased use of our literature that such churches may be revived.

Increased Use of Our Literature

I wish I could talk to all the conference presidents of North America. I would like to make an appeal to them. Brethren, why couldn't we go out to all our churches and hold church officers' conventions, or whatever you would like to call them, and teach these church elders how to use

literature, teach them how to use our papers and to engage in real literature work? We have our Harvest Ingathering campaign, our campaign for the *Signs*, and other campaigns. I am not talking about those. I wish we could have regularly fifty-two weeks a year for the use of our literature in all our churches. As a result we would bring many new members into the church, and those who are in the church would be revived.

I do not say that the distribution of literature is the only thing, but I think it is a very important matter. I want to appeal to every church leader and to every conference leader in the land to begin definitely to plan on a more effective use of our literature in all his activities. I believe that God will bless us and that we shall win many more souls as a result of such efforts.

How many of you present tonight are here as a result of our literature? [Many hands raised.] Look at that. I can say, as I have said publicly before, that the first knowledge my family ever had of this truth was brought to the door by a colporteur. I suppose that if it hadn't been for a godly colporteur's searching us out, I wouldn't be here tonight.

All through our ranks there are thousands of people who owe a knowledge of this truth to our literature. Brethren, let us wake up and make a larger use of our literature in evangelization of the world. May God help us with our literature ministry, and as we go, let us water it with our tears and our prayers, that God may make it a mighty agency in winning many souls for the kingdom.

"It Matters to Him"

BY MARY E. HYATT

THE Saviour is silently planning for thee,
Yes, He's planning for you and planning for me.
In love, He is planning for us each day
And tenderly whispering, Come ye this way!

Like our children so small, we may stumble and fall,
But the heavenly Father careth for all.
He watches the sparrow, and calms the wild sea,
And "it matters to Him" about you and me.

In this wonderful plan we may each have a part
If in faith we repent and surrender the heart.
Let the Spirit of God and the word there abide;
From the lusts of the flesh and the world turn aside.

Ye are bought with a price, says the Judge on the throne;
Our sins He'll forgive, but He'll never condone.
The books are now opened, each case to decide;
He is pleading for us, the One crucified.

The time is fast fleeting, He soon shall appear;
The world is in darkness, and sin everywhere.
Will we earnestly heed and now answer the call
When He asks for our time, our talents, our all?

There is joy in His service and peace from above,
If we live for the Master with motive of love.
O the joy that awaits us if souls we have won
And the Saviour can speak the approving "Well done."

BY THE FAMILY FIRESIDE

Let Us Build More Godly Homes

By LELA CHANG

A MINISTER who frequently visited prisons was one day accosted by an elderly woman, who said that she understood he was going to a prison to address the convicts. She then handed him a package neatly wrapped in tissue paper, and asked him to give it to her son, with her love. "Tell him," she said, as tears rolled down her cheeks, "that his mother is praying for him every hour of the day, and that she still loves him."

Two weeks later the minister visited the great penitentiary, and the young man was called in. He carefully unwrapped the package, and a picture of his mother slipped out.

He looked at it carefully. "This is mother, isn't it?" he asked.

The preacher nodded. "She has wrinkles and lines that were not there when I left home," he slowly murmured.

"Yes," the clergyman replied, seeking to drive home a lesson, "and you are probably responsible for them, my boy, for she has been eating her heart out with love for you, and this disgrace has nearly killed her."

The young man gazed at the picture for several minutes. Then he carefully rewrapped it, and handed it back to the minister. "Take it back," he said as the attending guard prepared to return him to his cell.

The minister showed his surprise.

"Take it back," the boy repeated, "and tell mother that I feel like cursing her, and that I never want to see her face again!"

Was this sheer heartlessness and depravity?

Let us not judge this young man too harshly. He had been reared by his mother to regard the dance as necessary to culture, and had been sent to a dancing school against his will. He had drifted into "society," and had learned to play cards. Then he had killed a man in a quarrel over a game of poker, and had been sent to prison for fifteen years. Naturally, he blamed his mother, who had started him on the downward road. A parent can lift a child up, or drag him down.

Many years ago there lived in England a woman who loved good books. Although she was not well

acquainted with literature in general, she knew her Bible well. Daily she would gather her children round her, talk to them about Christ, and breathe a word of prayer in their behalf. This woman was the mother of the Wesleys.

Today, alas, we find too many homes with no signs of a family altar. The members of the household are too busy to pray together. There is no reading of the Bible. To take its place are magazines and novels. The Saviour is crowded out by the love of this world. It is an unfortunate and dangerous trend.

Boy or Bridge?

One evening after a church service a lad of sixteen went up to his mother and said, "Mother, I have just made up my mind to be a Christian; but I thought I would wait until tomorrow to make my decision, when you could be with me." She said in return, "I am sorry, dearie, but I have an engagement tomorrow—I can't come with you." The lad later



LITTLE BROWN SHOES

BY FLORENCE JONES HADLEY

Two little brown shoes lie side by side
At the close of a busy day,
And I smile as I take them in my hand—
Such wee little shoes are they.
The sturdy brown toes are scarred and worn,
For they carried a soldier bold
Into the heart of many a fray—
A soldier just two years old.

They stormed the castle of mother's heart,
Such brave little shoes are they,
And bloodless battles were waged and won
In just the easiest way.
The colors they bore were two blue eyes
And the tangle of golden curls,
The victor's song was a gurgling laugh
That rippled o'er teeth like pearls.

No gold can buy these little brown shoes,
Such dear little shoes are they,
And my heart is full and my eyes grow dim,
And I kiss them, as I say,
"O life, be kind to the little feet,
Keep them from the paths that bruise;
Let them never stray from mother's heart—
Dear feet in the little brown shoes."

—*Watchman-Examiner.*

found out that the engagement was at a bridge party. He became bitter, and never attended religious services again. A year passed, and his indifference increased. He never again approached his mother on any topic of religion. Years later his interest in Christianity had ceased entirely and he was known as one of the most notorious characters in the town in which he lived. Needless to say, his mother's heart was broken; but there was nothing that could be done about it. Her efforts were too late.

In Kentucky, many years ago, there lived a sweet-tempered Christian woman. There were many things that she did not know, but she was one of those who knew the Bible. She used to tell her little boy Bible stories as she sat before the firelight in her log cabin. She did not know how to play cards, but she loved nature, and she would tell her boy of the glory of God as revealed in the world around him. She did not understand philosophy, but she told her boy that the meanest thing in all the world was to be a hypocrite, while the noblest thing in the world was to be a good and true man. Her boy was Abraham Lincoln, and he said that all the good there was in his life he owed to his mother.

We see again a picture of another boy—quite a different boy—who sat not long ago in a criminal court. He had been convicted of a crime, and when

the judge asked him if he had anything to say as to why the sentence should not be passed upon him, he rose tremblingly and with white, set face turned to the judge upon the bench, and after a few moments sobbed out, "Oh, Your Honor, if I had only had a mother, it would all have been different! But I have never known a mother's love. I have been kicked about the streets since infancy, and no one has ever cared for me; no one has ever taught me to pray, and I have never known what it is to read the Bible. If only I had had a mother, I would not be standing here."

A Swedish missionary who had returned home on furlough from her work in India, related this story: She had been teaching a group of children one day, telling them of Jesus, and explaining bit by bit incidents which showed His character. As she was talking, one of the children who was listening grew more and more excited. At last the child could restrain herself no longer, and she blurted out eagerly, "I know him; he lives near us."

Could your children give such a testimony of you? How wonderful it is to live so close to Christ, to follow Him in such a way, no matter what may be your everyday duties, that His character is seen in you! Let us strive to make our lives and our homes like this.—*Signs of the Times, Australia.*

GIRLS' PROBLEMS

Discussed by Mother Naomi

NOT all our girls are motherless and without a friend to advise and encourage them. Here is a wonderful mother's letter which will do many of us good to read:

"DEAR MOTHER NAOMI:

"I am just one of your girls, who has been teaching in church school for two years. I am not writing to you because I have no mother, for I have the dearest mother in the world. It is just this that has inspired me to write.

"I have had many trials and things too numerous to mention to discourage me, but of course they have all been for my own good. One week end mother visited me and found me actually in want. After going home, she sent me a few of the things I was desperately in need of, following which came this letter. I have chosen parts of it to send on to you, but it made such a deep impression on me that I am willing for you to pass this on to others if you wish.

"God is very good to me, and I wish that each one might have just such a wonderful mother as I."

Part of a Letter From My Mother

"The last two or three nights I have been wakeful, and have thought of you much. One night I dreamed about you (as I do quite often). It seemed your affections were too much on the

world, especially clothes, and I thought I would write to you as soon as I got up. One verse says: 'Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.' I felt my own need as never before—how I must pray for a deeper love for souls, and not be so busy with the cares of life! That made me feel that it is only prayer that will lead us to care for spiritual things, and that we must pray much, in order that we may be able to meet all the temptations right now that we have to meet. If we neglect meeting and overcoming the trials now, we can never hope to meet the awful trials later. Cannot we see that the end is right upon us? I am afraid I haven't been the mother I should have been. I feel that I have lacked too much for you to forgive me, but I do hope you will, and by the grace of God I want to and will try to be what the Lord wants me to be.

"I think of what a responsible position you have of molding character every day in the schoolroom. I hope you feel humble. I know the Lord will bless you, and although you have trials to bear, perhaps they are just what the Lord sees you need to prepare you for the time of trouble. No doubt we shall all be hungry during that time.

"Mother isn't hard. I have shed tears when I thought of the way you had to get up in such a cold room and dress and spend your time there for your morning devotions. I have thought of you when we had good things to eat. I think how you want to go out for a ride, and have no car. Mother cares! But then after all, it is these things borne patiently that fit us to live in the new earth, where all will be happiness and peace.

"I like to think of that visit with you the day Elder ——— was there. The Lord seemed so near.

Things like that make mother able to endure all these things. The Lord is our help in every time of need, and I know you trust in Him.

"Have you noticed that after rain comes the sunshine, always? And what would we take for the peace and joy we receive from patiently enduring every hardship, knowing the Lord cares, too?"

"Well, it is eight-thirty, and I have spent an hour reading the REVIEW. I just finished reading an article in the Family Fireside Department. I know that you will enjoy reading the articles that appear there, as well as others throughout the paper.

"You send your dress home, and I can finish it. I hope that you get your shoes fixed soon, so that they won't wear out your stockings so quickly. My, you have lost a lot of weight! I hope that you buy nourishing food to make up for what you lack in your regular meals.

"I am ordering a raincoat for you, because I am afraid you will need one for the young people's convention. You can expect it in a few days.

"Lovingly,

"MOTHER."

THINK IT OVER

By RUTH NERLUND

*"To write the love of God
Would drain the ocean dry,
Nor could the scroll
Contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky."*

How great is the love of God! Though storms may rage without and angry billows roar, we can have peace when our Master is on the shore. And when the sea of life is rough, if we but let Him, He will say to the waves, "Peace, be still."

It is said that two artists were once asked to paint a picture which would illustrate peace. One painted a beautiful evening scene which indeed looked very calm—trees, meadows, cattle, a little cottage, all of which represented perfect rest. The other painted a stormy scene. The clouds were heavy and black, and an immense waterfall was the central feature of the picture. One could almost hear the roar of that waterfall. But in gazing upon the latter, that which caught one's eye was a little bird in the cleft of a big rock; and there, sheltered from all danger, he was singing his song. Even so, you and I can have peace in the storms that come our way—and that is God's peace.

Have you heard the story of the infidel who, on meeting a Christian one day, inquired as to where he was going; and on learning that he was on his way to church, questioned, "What do you do there?"

"Worship God," was the response.

"What kind of God is He, great or small?"

And the Christian replied, "God is so great that the heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him, yet He is not so great that He cannot live by His Spirit in my heart."

Does He dwell in your heart? If not, why not let Him in? He is a wonderful Father. He will comfort you through all life's woes and make each burden lighter. And if you but let Him, He will put a song on your lips and flood your soul with joy. He is a God of love, but—

*"To write the love of God
Would drain the ocean dry,
Nor could the scroll
Contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky."*

Sabbath-day JOURNEYS With Uncle Ray

By RAYMOND MONTGOMERY

THE crabs are relatives of the lobsters and are more common, being sold everywhere in fish markets, alive or dead; cooked or canned. They are also served in restaurants and hotels. This is another case in which something not fit for food is eaten by millions of people, and thousands have paid for it with their lives either through acute indigestion or from such diseases as diphtheria, taken into the body from the crab or oyster caught in water polluted with these diseases.

These crabs are scavengers, or eaters of carrion, and the more decayed the better they like it. This reason alone should be enough to lead us to discard the crab as a food.

The crabs commonly seen in fish markets are known as blue or sea crabs, and like the lobsters, they shed their exoskeleton from time to time. Often they are caught after they have thrown off the hard outer shell and before the new one growing beneath has had time to harden; they are then known as soft-shelled crabs.

One interesting member of this great army of sea spiders is actually known as the spider crab. Those in this particular group are the "lazybones" of all the crab family, the drones in the hive. Their bodies are large and round and spiny, the legs long, and the claws weak. Not being very active, and being lazy besides, the spider crab must devise some way to lure its prey to its very door. This is done by actually gluing seaweeds to the shell on its back, in order to hide its presence. Disguised by the weeds, the crab slips up on the unsuspecting prey and gobbles it up.

While this crab is lazy, it is by no means dull of mind, for when it moves to a place in which the seaweeds are different in color or shape, the wily crab removes the old weeds and places on its back a new disguise, which looks so much like the surrounding sea bottom, that it can again sneak up on its food, as a cat steals upon a bird. Strange to say, this lazy crab is scattered all over the world and is of all sizes. The largest is the giant Japanese spider crab, with legs so long and body so big that together they measure twelve feet across. The smallest is found on the west coast of the United States, and is but one inch across.

Poet Laureate

MOST any one can write, sometime,
A poem, Limerick, or rhyme.
But poet laureate is he
Whose life each day is poetry
Of kindness, friendship, lovely thought—
A sweeter rhythm he has wrought
Through all the ages, for all men,
Than master lay from poet's pen.

—The Kiwanis Magazine.

WORLD-WIDE FIELD

Publishers' Meeting, Cristobal, Canal Zone

It was an inspiration to meet with our workers of the Inter-American Division, December 5-9, in the interest of the publishing work. Our hearts were made to rejoice as we listened to the wonderful reports rendered on what had taken place the past year. Every report given by our field missionary secretaries expressed courage, and brought new stories of converted men and women whose lives have been changed through reading the word of God. We were told that five young women colporteurs took twenty orders each in one week for large books, thus making 100 orders for the week. So the good news of ever-increasing success kept coming in during the week's session that we were together.

W. A. Bergherm, secretary of the publishing department for the Inter-American Division, stated that the report for the year 1938 showed the best year in the history of the work. The number of colporteurs working in 1937 was 203, whereas in 1938 the number increased to 264.

We were made to realize that truly the work of the colporteur is ordained of God, and as we listened to the providential experiences, it seemed that the very life of the colporteur flowed from the prospectus to the person canvassed. Sincerity and purity of purpose in the colporteur's heart causes his book to become alive, as it were, till it grips the heart of the prospect and makes an effective appeal to his soul. The only gospel many of the people canvassed ever receive is the story told by the colporteur evangelist as he gives his canvass in the homes and shops of the people.

As this message swells into the loud cry, our literature is to have a much wider circulation and is to exert a much more powerful influence than we have yet dreamed of. In the Colombia-Venezuela Union, our leaders have more than doubled the number of their colporteurs during the past year. We were told that many of their churches in that union were raised up through the work of the colporteur evangelists. In one place a company of thirty-five persons began to keep the Sabbath as a result of literature scattered by one of our colporteur evangelists. Word has

come that near Bogatá, the capital of Colombia, a live interest has sprung up as a result of literature distributed in the community.

I have been greatly impressed with the wonderful openings in the Inter-American Division. In some of these fields from which we were driven by officials just a year or so ago, the authorities are now inviting us to come back. One worker mentioned that he had been driven out by a mob, but that on his last

visit the officials of the city came out to welcome him. The brethren at the division council were so impressed with the mighty influence of the literature ministry that they made an appeal to the workers throughout the division to put forth a special effort to double our present colporteur force, bringing it up to 500. G. A. Roberts, president of the division, and his associates are doing all they possibly can to bring the last warning message to the peoples of their field through the distribution of our truth-filled literature.

J. J. STRAHLE.

Awakening Interest

OUR Franco-Belgian Union field, which numbers a population of fifty million souls, only 2,400 of which are members of our church, is a particularly hard field by reason of its predominantly Catholic population. Nevertheless, we are thankful to the Lord for the joys and encouragements that we are meeting in our work.

The evangelistic efforts that we are carrying on in different parts of the country are, as a rule, successful in drawing good audiences. At Paris, where I myself give the lectures, we are happy to be able to speak each week to about five or six hundred persons. In America that would perhaps not be thought of as a large audience, but in Paris it represents a real success.

A few months ago, our French publishing house at Melun received letters from people living in the vicinity of Vichy, the universally known watering place. These persons—unknown to us—wrote ordering several copies of the book "Vers Jésus" (the French translation of "Steps to Christ"), as well as a catalogue of our publications. This

first order was followed by a second, and then a third, and the number of books increased. I desired to come in contact with the authors of these letters, and therefore informed them that I would call on them. It was understood that I would merely pay them a visit, as I had only a few hours that I could spend that afternoon in visiting these people. But I had scarcely entered the home of this family when I was told that I just had to stay for the evening, as, after learning that I was coming, they had called a special meeting of friends interested in our publications.

I had various other plans and appointments, but I gave them up, feeling that it was my duty to remain with these people for the meeting they had arranged. To my great surprise, eighty persons came together that evening, asking me to speak to them as long as possible. This I did with pleasure, allowing myself just the time in which to reach my train. Thus the meeting lasted two hours. There was not one of my hearers, of whom a few



Delegates Present at the Publishers' Meeting, Cristobal, Canal Zone

were children, appeared in the least weary.

At the close of the meeting, about a dozen persons remained behind to talk with me. They observed that there was a train leaving for Paris around midnight that would get me into the capital by approximately seven in the morning, and that I could therefore spend one more hour with them. Needless to say, I complied with their wishes, and together we spent some blessed moments.

When the organizer of the meeting introduced me to his audience, being ignorant of my "title," inasmuch as he was not yet acquainted with our organization, he simply introduced me to his listeners as the "president of the Holy Scriptures"!

Present at this meeting was a certain woman who told me her little story—a very interesting one, as you shall see. Without having so designed, this woman is responsible for this general interest. She told me that about eighteen years before, she had purchased at Lyon, a city of about six hundred thousand inhabitants, a copy of the

book "Vers Jésus." She read it with a certain amount of interest, but afterward put it in the bottom of an old trunk, where it slept for a long, long time.

One day she attended a meeting organized by the above-mentioned man. He talked to his hearers about Jesus. This reminded her of her little book. She drew it out from the depths of the old trunk, and took it over to this man, whereupon he wished to read it. He found it so extraordinary that he recommended it to his friends, considering the contents of the little book as indispensable to the development of their spiritual life.

And this explains how it happens that up till now he has ordered for them and their friends more than two hundred and fifty copies. Besides this, he has ordered about a hundred large books. Now one of our evangelists has annexed Vichy and Roanne to his main field of labor, which is Lyon. In both of these towns the meetings continue to be well attended, and we trust that, with God's blessing, a good harvest will be reaped.

O. MEYER.

told him that he did not, because of the wonderful Seventh-day Adventist literature that Mr. Schaal's sister was sending him. He desired to receive more literature. He has also preached the second coming of Christ to his people from our Adventist literature."

Another interest has sprung up in the home of an organist for a popular church in Washington, D.C., as a result of the Harvest Ingathering. We have been sending him papers on our regular list, and from our personal *Signs* club. A recent visit disclosed that both this man and his wife greatly enjoy the papers, and never cease to commend in the highest terms the work of Doctor Hadley in the city clinic.

Space does not permit to tell of other very interesting reports in connection with this literature work. We do hope and pray the Lord that the work of spreading the gospel in this last hour may go on speedily before our liberties are restricted. Events on all sides point to closing events. Yet the Lord says, "My word . . . shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

CHARLES A. RENTFRO,
Missionary Leader.

A Church at Work!

THIS is the goal set for us in the Scripture: "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; for thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left." Isa. 54:2, 3.

Under the blessing and guidance of the Lord, we have been endeavoring to carry out this program in one of the phases of the missionary work of the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist church, in Takoma Park, Washington, D.C. This church of 1,250 members is composed of teachers and students of Washington Missionary College, the institutional workers of the Washington Sanitarium, and other resident members connected with the Potomac Conference, the Columbia Union, the General Conference, and the Review and Herald, as well as noninstitutional church members. The pastor of this church is Alger H. Johns, a strong church leader.

Over a year ago we began sending *Present Truth* to a nucleus of one hundred and eighty names. We followed the plan outlined as the Home Bible Study League. The names had been obtained by A. L. Hamm in the course of his book ministry in Virginia, which is in the territory of the Potomac Conference.

From time to time Mr. and Mrs. Hamm reported in our Sligo prayer meetings the wonderful results of sending *Present Truth* into many towns of their home State. Last summer an effort was held in Stanardsville, Virginia, where we had been sending fifty copies of *Present*

Truth. A church of eighteen members was organized.

Many of our local Sligo church members added to our mailing list the names of their neighbors and relatives here in Takoma Park, and of some elsewhere. Several pastors of churches in our conference also gave us names of interested persons in their districts. During 1938 our members gave away 37,419 periodicals.

At this time we already have 800 names on our growing mailing list of *Present Truth*, as well as 100 names in connection with our *Signs of the Times* club. The Sligo Missionary Volunteer Society has another mailing list of 400 names.

The following is a partial report of the results of sending our message-filled papers systematically to interested people:

"During the last year-end holidays Miss Dora Schaal visited friends and relatives in her home town. One of her dearest friends is a Bible instructor at — College. She requested Miss Schaal to tell those dear people down there in Takoma Park not to forget to send her more literature, as it is a great help to her in preparing her lessons for about 1,500 students."

Another interesting experience is that of a Protestant minister:

"About two months ago a Reformed minister was very badly injured at a funeral at which he had officiated. Miss Schaal requested that literature be sent to him. Mr. John Schaal, a trustee of that church, who was the only one permitted to see the minister, asked him if he did not get lonesome. He

East Pennsylvania Conference

THE Lord has blessed the work in the East Pennsylvania Conference in every way. Marked advancement has been made in every endeavor.

We are very happy indeed to report 488 baptisms during the year. This number, added to the constituency of our conference, has brought a great deal of courage and cheer to the older believers.

We received \$109,962.08 tithe, which is a gain of \$3,123.74 over the tithe for the previous year, and represents \$39.56 per capita. Our mission offerings amounted to \$54,094.47, which represents a gain of \$1,043.09 over the offerings received during the previous year.

It is our policy to operate the conference within its income, and we are happy to report that for the year 1938, we show an operating gain of \$5,301.10.

The entire working force and the entire constituency are all of good courage, and we are optimistically facing the future with renewed determination to achieve great things for God and to make the present year the best in every endeavor in the history of the conference.

G. F. EICHMAN, *President.*

I HAVE been a reader of the REVIEW AND HERALD since 1885, and I have missed but a few numbers. I prize it very highly and do not know how I could do without it. J. R. EYMAN.

Colorado

THE year 1938 has been one of progress for our work in the State of Colorado. We have tried to carry on an aggressive program in all lines of endeavor. A strong evangelistic program has been carried on throughout the year, and we are happy to report 516 persons baptized and taken in on profession of faith during 1938. That is 204 more new members than were reported for 1937.

Our membership at the close of 1938 stands at 4,452, whereas at the close of 1936 it stood at 4,024, which shows a net gain of 428 for two years. We are not able to judge the relation of economic conditions as compared with last year, but we do believe that the majority of our people in Colorado have been faithful in the matter of tithe and offerings.

Our total tithe for 1938 was \$117,048.79, or a gain of \$11,639.20 over the amount of tithe for 1937. Comparing the past biennial period with the previous two years, we have a gain in tithe of \$40,393.59. When the books were closed for the year, we were glad to report a gain in the conference association as well as in conference operating.

Our Sabbath school offerings show a total gain of \$2,600 over the offerings for 1937. The Investment came in for a share of this gain. We are glad to report Colorado as having a record for three years of 100 per cent of our Sabbath schools participating in the Investment program. The Sabbath school membership stands at 4,729, or 277 more than our church membership. The Harvest Ingathering for 1938 totaled over \$18,000, which shows a gain of \$1,126.30 over last year's record.

The steady progress which our colporteur work has been making, is shown in a gain of 36 per cent in

orders and a gain of 33 per cent in deliveries for the year. Eleven church officers' and home missionary conventions were conducted at the beginning of last year, at which we organized our lay forces for an aggressive soul-winning program. This work is being carried forward this year, and to date about 500 have enrolled in the Bible Service Training League. Our trade-book business with the Omaha branch of the Pacific Press was almost doubled, the gain over the record of the previous year being \$2,909.

A strong young people's program is being conducted. At our camp meeting in Boulder last spring, a class of thirty Master Comrades were invested. In the Colorado Conference we have a total of 26 church schools with 36 teachers and 606 pupils. This number has been steadily increasing year after year. At Campion Academy a strong faculty are doing their best to train about 140 academic students. A new boys' dormitory, on which construction was begun July 5, is ready

for occupancy. A total of \$27,600 has been spent, and the two floors have been fully completed. Some work remains to be done in the basement. As this dormitory has been built on a cash basis, there is no indebtedness.

An aggressive medical education program is being carried on by the two large sanitariums in our conference, the Colorado Sanitarium at Boulder, and the Porter Sanitarium at Denver. Various groups from the sanitariums visit our churches and conduct the Sabbath services. At the present time three cooking schools are in progress or about ready to be started. The sanitariums are also cooperating in conducting home-nursing classes in our churches.

Workers and church members in Colorado are of good courage. We desire first of all to lead sincere Christian lives ourselves and then to bring a knowledge of this truth to those who live in this great State. We have set ourselves to win as many souls in 1939 as possible, and to support the world mission program in a stronger way than ever.

V. G. ANDERSON.

Evangelism in Mississippi

IT is very encouraging to see how God is working today to bring many souls to the truth in these ultraconservative sections where it has been difficult heretofore to reach the people with the message. The accompanying photograph presents a fine group of people recently baptized as a result of a tabernacle effort in Jackson, the capital of Mississippi. About ten years ago an attempt was made to reach the people of that city with a tent meeting. The effort had to be abandoned because an attendance could not be secured. It is very evident

that God is going before us today to open the way for the truth to advance in these sections in which progress has heretofore been slow and difficult. While the location of the tabernacle effort was far from being first-class, and the effort was held at a time when the weather was more or less unfavorable, the attendance was so good that double sessions had to be conducted for a time.

Aside from the cost of the tabernacle, the operating cost of the meetings, for advertising, light, heat, etc., amounted to \$641.69.



Fruit of Evangelistic Effort in Jackson, Mississippi

The basket offerings in the meetings amounted to \$638.16, and the profit to the conference from the book sales amounted to \$50. Thus the total receipts were \$688.16, or \$46.47 above all operating costs of the effort.

Because the critical time of binding off the effort came at the holiday season, and because the every-night meetings could be conducted for only ten weeks, the potential results of the meetings were cut down somewhat.

Up until January 1, forty-three had been baptized from this effort, and by the time this appears in print at least twenty-five more will have been baptized.

We were glad to have in this effort, the help of L. A. Butterfield, the pastor of the church, F. H. De Vinney, the associate pastor, William Keith, Miss Rachel Lemon, and Mrs. Walleker.

We praise our heavenly Father for His special blessings on these meetings.
J. L. SHULER.

The Message by Radio

OCCASIONALLY some one raises the question as to the effectiveness of the radio as a means of spreading a knowledge of the gospel message. Those who are engaged in preaching the message through this means have no question in their minds, for the inquiries received from listeners remove all doubts which may have arisen. Then, too, our radio evangelists know of persons who have accepted the message through hearing it preached over the air. We have just received a letter from C. E. Moon, superintendent of the Gulf Mission, in Mexico, which we believe will be of interest to the readers of the REVIEW, since it tells of definite results from broadcasting the message in another country.

"SALTILLO, MEXICO,
January 9, 1939.

"Radio Commission,
Takoma Park, D.C.

"DEAR BRETHREN:

"Cuba has been sending out the message each Sunday at 9 A.M. by the *Voz Adventista* [The Adventist Voice], as their broadcast is called. Here are some of the results which we have come across by accident!

"1. At Fresnillo we found a Protestant who listens to the message each Sunday instead of going to church.

"2. At El Cercado a girl told us of a family who were interested in

the message through the *Voz Adventista*, Havana, Cuba.

"3. At Santa Barbara a Methodist group say they like the message from the *Voz Adventista*, but will have nothing to do with the local Seventh-day Adventist people.

"4. At Saltillo a Sunday school superintendent heard the broadcast from Cuba, and then went to church and gave it to his Methodist Sunday school.

"5. At Torreon a sister with her family has accepted the truth through hearing the message from *Voz Adventista*, and has joined the Sabbath school.

"6. A city coroner and professor of medicine in a university says this: 'I was in the grip of the tobacco habit for over a year until I received the message from *Voz Adventista*, which comes over the sea and land, floating in to us over here, and after I heard it, I surrendered to the Lord and gave up this vile habit.' He is now head of our medical work and clinic and is the local elder of the Monterey church.

"If these few cases have come to us by accident, as it were, what of the thousands of people who are 'listening in' each Sunday morn whom we know nothing about? May God bless those who are giving the message through *Voz Adventista* at Havana, Cuba, who see only small results, perhaps, from their effort. But surely this is a powerful means for reaching these millions who would listen to the message in no other way.

"Sincerely,
"C. E. MOON."

This good word from Elder Moon should be an encouragement not only to our brethren in Cuba who are using the radio so effectively, but also to all others who are employing this wonderful means of disseminating the truth.

H. H. COBBAN.

Words of Appreciation

THE Sabbath is not complete to me until I read the dear old REVIEW. I know it helps me to be more faithful.

MRS. A. E. TIPPINS.

We wouldn't trade a million dollars for the church paper's inspiring messages.
GEORGE E. OBLANDER.

I SHOULD like to tell you how much we over here on the dusty plains of Manchuria appreciate the REVIEW. The articles and experiences recorded in this church paper provide a never-failing source of encouragement to us. There is almost always something in each issue which seems to fit a special need.
J. E. MIRACLE, M.D.

I AM an isolated believer. I haven't heard a real sermon for thirty-five years, but my faith in the message grows stronger as I read of its progress in the REVIEW each week. I wish I might impress each believer in the third angel's message with the importance of reading the REVIEW.
MRS. MARY BOWDEN.

APPOINTMENTS and NOTICES

College of Medical Evangelists Constituency Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given to all whom it may concern, that the annual constituency meeting of the College of Medical Evangelists, a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California, is called to convene in Loma Linda, California, on Sunday, March 26, 1939, at 10 A.M.

The election of ten members of the Board of Trustees; the advisability of amending, repealing, or adopting new Bylaws; reports of the officers, and heads of departments; and such other business as may be necessary or proper to be transacted, will come before the constituency.

By order of the Board of Trustees.
FREDERICK GRIGGS, President.
G. S. LUTHER, Secretary.

THE ADVENT REVIEW AND HERALD

Dedicated to the Proclamation of the
Everlasting Gospel

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THE ADVENT REVIEW

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In renewing her subscription to the REVIEW for another year, Mrs. J. L. Davis, of Enid, Oklahoma, wrote:

"The REVIEW AND HERALD has been in our home most of the time for more than forty years. I can remember that when mother was an isolated member, and I was a very small child, the REVIEW would come; then mother would say, 'Oh, here is my preacher, teacher, and counselor.' She is gone to rest, but I find the dear old REVIEW to be all of that to me."

Many have learned through long experience that the REVIEW is the one paper published by this denomination that brings them world-wide news of the progress of God's work. Its timely messages keep them faithful. They regard its weekly visits as necessary to their spiritual development as is daily food for their physical well-being.

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OF SPECIAL INTEREST

DENOMINATIONAL literature is now prepared and circulated in 194 languages, the same number as reported for 1936. The total cost of one copy each of every piece of our literature would be \$2,397.95. In addition to the languages in which literature is printed, work is carried on orally in 520 other languages, so that the grand total of languages and dialects in which the work is conducted now stands at 714. This work is now carried on in 385 countries and islands, by 10,167 evangelistic and 17,862 institutional laborers, a total of 28,029 laborers, an increase of 1,476 during the year.

E. D. DICK.

A Delightful Surprise

THE advent message is going everywhere. We were reminded of this now again as we crossed the Pacific from California to Japan. Five days out, 2,230 miles southwest of San Francisco, we reached Honolulu. This place is beyond question the finest city in the United States, and has the most ideal climate. Switzerland, Ethiopia, some parts of Central America and South America are indeed beautiful, but in no place have we found nature such a marvel of loveliness as in the Hawaiian Islands. Lawrey Gardens, near Honolulu, are truly a valley of perfect beauty. They cannot be described.

However, here as elsewhere the greatest and best is the work of God. In these islands the advent church is well established. Our membership is now over eight hundred. Of these, 150 are Japanese.

We have several good-sized churches. The members are godly and full of mission zeal. Brother Bowers has a group of fifty colporteurs who are hard at work. In book sales, Hawaii leads all our conferences in North America. In Harvest Ingathering, too, according to population, our people there gather more for missions than any other field in all the world. We were happy to see our schoolwork a real credit to the advent name. The Hawaiian Mission Academy has an enrollment of 245. J. A. Simonson and his faculty are doing a fine work and have a well-planned school. Church schools are also being efficiently conducted in the islands.

The only Sunday-forenoon radio sermon that is broadcast in all Hawaii is preached by C. S. Prout, superintendent of the Hawaiian Mission. Even on the boat, hundreds of miles from the islands, we heard these sermons commended. In the evening of our stay a large

crowd gathered in our commodious church to hear mission reports from other lands. It was a joy to meet so many believers, and especially to see the blessing of God upon Elder Prout and his faithful fellow workers. The Hawaiian Mission is a part of the Pacific Union.

L. H. CHRISTIAN.

The spirit of evangelism is on in South America. Elder Neilsen reports:

"From the different parts of our South American field come these encouraging reports of progress that is being made and of new openings for the proclamation of the message. Recently I received a letter from Peru, stating that Brother Moran, one of our national workers, had recently started to hold a public effort at Jauja. This is a stronghold hitherto unchallenged. He had to change his meeting place three or four times, because of political influences. But the attendance has been good, and on several occasions Brother Moran has had to repeat his lecture to an equally large crowd that could not be accommodated at the advertised lecture. W. C. Goransson is holding an effort in Ascope, Peru, and about six or seven hundred are attending from night to night in this little place of three or four thousand people. Merardo Leon, secretary-treasurer of the Upper Amazon Mission, is holding a series of meetings in Iquitos. He writes that more than seven hundred sought entrance the first night of his effort."

A NEWSPAPER ridiculing a baptismal scene of Seventh-day Adventists in Switzerland fell into the hands of an Italian by the name of Pedro Peverini, a Catholic, who lived in the northern part of Argentina, in the year 1886. The article ridiculing the Adventists aroused the curiosity and interest of this man and his family. They sent for our paper published in Switzerland, with the result that after three years they accepted the third angel's message before they had ever seen a Seventh-day Adventist. So far as we know, they were the first to accept the truth in South America.

FROM a recent letter written by L. B. Halliwell, director of the Lower Amazon Mission, South America, are taken the following interesting words: "Last week a school teacher who came in from the interior, told us of a group of over twenty people in that region

who are keeping the Sabbath. They told her that some years ago a certain man passed through there and told the people that they should keep the Sabbath, and they have been keeping it ever since. I do not know who the man could have been.

"I do not know of one of our faith who has been out there. I received a letter from Theresina, Piahy, which stated that there are people there keeping the Sabbath, and I have never been there, nor any other Adventist worker that I know of.

"We have recently received several letters from the interior of the state of Maranhao, and just today I received a letter from the far interior of the state of Ceara, from a man who is keeping the Sabbath, asking for tithe envelopes. Everywhere doors are opening, and it seems as though the harvest is ripe. I am sure that if we could have more workers, we would soon have a good membership here in this union.

"Everywhere people are anxious for the message. . . . All these cities along the river are ripe for the harvest. In Parintins we held a meeting, and the whole town turned out to hear. There were hundreds of people present. On our last trip out on the coast, we held open-air meetings in several places. More than five hundred were present at every place we stopped. Surely the harvest is ripe, 'but the laborers are few.'"

THE many friends of Mrs. A. G. Daniells will be glad to learn that her courage in God is good and her hope bright. We received a most cheering letter from her, under date of January 22. She is now in her eighty-fifth year, and rejoices in the progress of the work of which she reads in our general church paper, and her prayers are ascending daily that God will bless the ministry of His servants in every part of the world. She still grieves for the noble man by whose side she stood for so many years, but rejoices in the hope of the coming of the Life-giver.

Missionary Sailings

MISS MABEL L. HEAD, returning to the Inter-American Division from furlough, sailed from New York for Puerto Colombia, on the S.S. "Santa Rosa," January 20. Before her furlough Miss Head was an assistant in the office of the Antillian Union Mission, in Havana, Cuba. She will now be connected with one of the offices in the Colombia-Venezuela field.

H. T. ELLIOTT.