

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

October 3, 1963

REVIEW

and Herald

★ Readings for the

WEEK OF PRAYER



“Never feel that Christ is far away. He is always near. His loving presence surrounds you. Seek Him as One who desires to be found of you. He desires you not only to touch His garments, but to walk with Him in constant communion.”— *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 85.

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MEL. CRAIR, ARTIST © 1959

Crair

Week of Prayer Appeal

THE finest art of communication is prayer. What a wonderful privilege it is to talk to God! Prayer is the supreme resource of the soul and the first business of the church. Through prayer we learn to reason with God. Without prayer one can accomplish little; with it one can do the impossible. When we have reached the limit of our material resources we can always lift our heart to God in prayer.

When Jesus was upon earth He spoke approvingly of what the prophet Isaiah had said concerning the relationship of prayer and His church. "Even them will I bring to my holy mountain," He said, "and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people" (Isa. 56:7; Matt. 21:13).

In times such as these when the world faces crises of such great magnitude, how eager every member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church should be to participate in another Week of Prayer—a week that is dedicated solely to the idea of prayer, a time when every member of the church is given opportunity to meet together in seasons of earnest prayer and Christian fellowship. There is no time in the year when the entire church is called together solely for heart searching and power seeking other than during this week that is so familiarly known to us as the Week of Prayer.

There is great power in united prayer. "We sustain a loss when we neglect the privilege of associating together to strengthen and encourage one another in the service of God."—*Steps to Christ*, p. 101. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20).

The daily newspapers and weekly magazine reports indicate clearly and distinctly to Seventh-day Adventists that Bible prophecy concerning the last days is rapidly being fulfilled. The coming of the Lord is right upon us. The chief concern of the people of God today should be the preparation of body, mind, and spirit for the finishing of the work of God in the earth so that Jesus can come.

The messenger of the Lord has solemnly stated that "could the curtain be rolled back, could you discern the purposes of God and the judgments that are about to fall upon a doomed world, could you see your own attitude, you would fear and tremble for your own souls and for the souls of your fellow men. Earnest prayers of heart-rending anguish would go up to heaven. You

would weep between the porch and the altar, confessing your spiritual blindness and backsliding."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 408.

Come, let us all heed the summons to united prayer during this week. Let us give thoughtful attention to the readings that have been especially prepared. And let us present to the Lord a sacrificial offering for the advancement of His work.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OFFICERS

Meet the Writers . . .

[The Week of Prayer messages are prepared many months in advance, to provide ample time for translation around the world. At the time these messages were released for publication, the various writers were serving the church as here indicated.—Eds.]

SABBATH, November 9—R. R. Figueroa is president of the General Conference. First elected to this heavy responsibility in 1954, he is now in his tenth year of service in this capacity. He appeals to the membership to claim Christ's power for victorious living.

SUNDAY, November 10—Robert H. Pierson is president of the Southern African Division. He has served in this post since 1958. The Southern African Division, with about 200,000 members, is the second largest division in the world, being exceeded only by North America. Elder Pierson sketches a few of the signs in the world that point to the soon coming of Christ.

MONDAY, November 11—P. W. Woo, who would be addressed as Woo Pil Won in the Far East, is Korean Union Mission evangelist. His message was written in the Korean language. His home field has produced a rich harvest of souls for the Advent message during the past few years. Evangelist Woo makes a strong appeal for earnest study of the Word.

TUESDAY, November 12—Arthur H. Roth is secretary to the president of the General Conference. He came to this post in 1962 after many years of service in the Inter-American Division, the last eight as president. In his message he addresses the church on a subject of major importance, "Strong Homes for a Strong Church."

WEDNESDAY, November 13—Wadie Farag, of Alexandria, Egypt, is editor of the *Ellen G. White* manuscripts translated into Arabic. A second-generation Adventist whose father's first contact with the church was at a meeting where the minister preached on tithing, he makes a good case for the importance of giving in his message, "The Bank of Heaven."

THURSDAY, November 14—F. R. Millard is an associate secretary of the General Conference. He was elected to this responsibility at the 1958 General Con-

ference session after being president of the Japan Union Mission for 13 years. Elder Millard emphasizes the importance of prayer and personal intercession in winning souls for Christ.

FRIDAY, November 15—Odd Jordal is secretary of the Sabbath school department and ministerial association of the Northern European Division. This large division, with headquarters not far from London, includes not only the British Isles and Scandinavian countries but Finland, Iceland, Greenland, the Netherlands, Poland, and mission fields in Africa. Elder Jordal confronts youth with a mighty challenge.

SABBATH, November 16—Ellen G. White is recognized by Seventh-day Adventists as God's special messenger to the remnant church. The reading, "Christ and His Church," was prepared from her writings by the E. G. White Publications office at denominational headquarters, Washington, D.C.

Church Calendar

Neighborhood Evangelism	October 5
Church Missionary Offering	October 5
Voice of Prophecy Offering	October 12
Sabbath School Visitors' Day	October 12
Community Relations Day	October 19
Temperance Day Offering	October 26
Witnessing Laymen	November 2
Church Missionary Offering	November 2
Week of Prayer	November 9-16
Week of Sacrifice Offering	November 16
Ingathering Campaign	Nov. 23-Jan. 4, 1964
Church Missionary Offering	December 7

REVIEW and HERALD

In 1849 a company of Sabbathkeeping Adventists whose background was the Millerite movement began to publish a paper called *The Present Truth*. In 1850 they also published five issues of *The Advent Review*. In November, 1850, these two papers merged under the name, *Second Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, now titled simply *REVIEW and HERALD*. Its editorial objective remains unchanged—to preach "the everlasting gospel" in the context of the Sabbath, the Second Advent, and other truths distinctive of the Advent Movement.

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(Reading, Sabbath, November 9, 1963)

Victorious Living

By R. R. FIGUHR

THE new earth will be peopled by overcomers. We hope and sing of that great day when the heavenly gates will open to admit the redeemed of earth:

"Throw open wide the pearly gates
And let the victors in."

The victorious will enter in through the gates and possess the city.

Victory means "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:1-5). *The New English Bible* translation of this verse is: "We compel every human thought to surrender in obedience to Christ." *

"Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation."—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 187.

The battlefield of this decisive warfare is the human heart. It is a war not against others but against evil in the heart, against natural inclinations to sin, against wrong habits and practices, against attachments to and love for unholy things. Inherent propensities to evil as well as acquired tendencies firmly established through long practice must be brought into subjection. All sin must be overcome.

In a deeply penitential psalm, David refers to his innate bent to evil: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Ps. 51:5). Millenniums of sinning by our forebears have transmitted the same urge to us. As we have yielded to these inner urges, habits have become fixed until we are hopelessly and helplessly under the power of evil. It is imperative that we comprehend the seriousness of our situation and the need of divine assistance for deliverance. The issue facing each one is eternal life or eternal death. Which it shall be is determined by each individual. "It remains for us to choose whether we will be set free from the bondage of sin, to share the glorious liberty of the sons of God."—*Steps to Christ*, p. 44.

This choice each must make. No one else can make it for us, not even the angels of heaven. But to make the right choice and to continue in that choice brings certain victory. While the choice between right and wrong is ours, when

once it is made for right, divine aid is at our command. "Through the grace given us we may achieve victories that because of our own erroneous and preconceived opinions, our defects of character, our smallness of faith, have seemed impossible."—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 159.

Speaking of Peter's spiritual ladder, in 2 Peter 1:5-8, the messenger of the Lord says: "These words are full of instruction, and strike the key-note of victory."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 530. We are familiar with the apostle's admonition to add continually to what we already possess. We start with faith. To it we must add in increasing measure, virtue, spiritual knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, kindness, and love. "The apostle presents before the believers the ladder of Christian progress, every step of which represents advancement in the knowledge of God, and in the climbing of which there is to be no standstill."—*Ibid.* Victory means advance. A victorious army does not stand still. It moves forward. So it is with the Christian—only he advances upward.

In seeking to overcome and to live a life of obedience to Christ, it is essential that we understand the office and ministry of the Holy Spirit in Christian living.

"In describing to His disciples the office work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart. . . . The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 671.

Satan, the Accuser

We have an astute enemy who stands ready to utilize every weapon, honorable and dishonorable, to bring about our defeat. If he can bring discouragement to the struggling Christian, he gains a great advantage. He delights to call up the failures of the past, to point out that our efforts have proved futile, that we still err, that we come short.

"The tempter stands by to accuse them [God's people], as he stood by to resist Joshua. He points to their filthy garments, their defective characters. He presents their weakness and folly, their sins of ingratitude, their unlikeness to Christ, which has dishonored their Redeemer. He endeavors to affright them with the thought that their case is hopeless, that the stain of their defilement will never be washed away. He hopes so to destroy their faith that they will yield to his temptations, and turn from their allegiance to God. . . .

"But while the followers of Christ have sinned, they have not given themselves up to be controlled by the satanic agencies. They have repented of their sins, and have sought the Lord in humility and contrition; and the divine Advocate pleads in their behalf. . . . "They may

DEVOTIONAL MESSAGES for the WEEK OF PRAYER

To Be Read in All
Seventh-day Adventist
Churches

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have imperfections of character; they may have failed in their endeavors; but they have repented, and I have forgiven and accepted them.'

"The assaults of Satan are strong, his delusions are subtle; but the Lord's eye is upon His people. Their affliction is great, the flames of the furnace seem about to consume them; but Jesus will bring them forth as gold tried in the fire. Their earthliness will be removed, that through them the image of Christ may be perfectly revealed."—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 588, 589.

The Overcomers

In chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation, the triumphant Christian living of God's faithful people down through the centuries from apostolic times to ours is briefly but graphically pictured. The problems these loyal followers of the Lord met through these nineteen centuries, the conditions under which they were forced to live and labor, the temptations that assailed them on the right hand and on the left, the hardships and sufferings they were called upon to bear, all are portrayed. Yet in every age of these many centuries and under all the varying circumstances and conditions that obtained, God's people lived victoriously. Note the blessings and rich promises reserved for them and also for us if we follow in their train:

"To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God" (Rev. 2:7). That tree, the leaves of which are for the healing of the nations, shall bear its life-giving fruit for the redeemed. They shall eat thereof and live. Again we read: "He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death" (verse 11). He may have passed through the portals of the tomb once, but he shall never again be compelled to pass that way. Endless life will be his. The overcomer shall eat of the "hidden manna" and bear a new and meaningful name, the full significance of which only he and God will know. The overcomer will "have power over the nations." His name will not be blotted out of the book of life, but Christ will confess his name before the heavenly Father and the holy angels.

How glorious is the prospect for the overcomer. Even in this life he is blessed with assurance and peace. How surpassingly glorious it is to contemplate the endless life of the hereafter. We must resolve by God's grace to be among those who have "gotten the victory," and who "stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God."

There is a wonderful record of victorious living of Old Testament people recorded in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. Here noble men and women are

held up as examples for the encouragement of God's people in all ages. We seldom read the chapter without wondering about some whose names appear there. Had we been assigned the task of writing that chapter the record probably would be very different from what it is. It is doubtful that we would have included some whose names are there. We have read of their shortcomings and, based upon this information, have formed human opinions of them.

There is, for example, Abraham, the man of faith, who did not hesitate to tell a shameful lie and risk the future happiness of his wife and home when his own life appeared in danger. There too is Jacob, the supplanter and deceiver, parts of whose record do him no credit. Rahab the harlot is mentioned. The names of Gideon and Samson appear, bringing to our minds their shortcomings.

How did these with such frailties find places among the worthies of Hebrews 11? There is but one answer—they overcame. By the grace of God defeat was turned into victory. Jacob the supplanter became Israel, a prince who prevailed with God. Abraham became the friend of God. Rahab, wonderfully transformed and victorious in subsequent life, found a place among the honored ancestors of our Lord.

Notice what the Inspired Record witnesses to their victorious living. It says they "wrought righteousness." What a change! Where before they did evil now they did right. They "obtained promises" and "out of weakness were made strong"; that is, through faith they obtained the fulfillment of divine promises and through God's grace became strong. This is the record of those who appear in Hebrews 11, and the true account of what the grace of God can do for weak, erring mortals.

So God had the names of the overcomers recorded in that great chapter of faith and victory. I am glad they are there. It is encouraging to know that out

of weaknesses men and women such as we are were made strong. It is reassuring to us who battle on, to know that we too can overcome and finally join in the great song of victory. It is God's plan that "they without us should not be made perfect." That is, in God's great plan of salvation we too may be included with the victors.

"More Than Conquerors"

The apostle Paul grasped the greatness and completeness of victory when in Romans 8, after delineating his own struggles and, at times, feelings of well-nigh despair, he triumphantly exclaimed, "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (verse 37). We are not simply conquerors, Paul says, barely gaining the victory; we are, through Christ, overwhelmingly victorious.

When Lord Nelson reported his triumph over the French fleet in the battle of the Nile, he said that the word *victory* was not a large enough word to describe what had taken place. That is what the apostle means when he states that in all our encounters with temptations and evil, through Christ who loves us we are more than conquerors. Our besetting temptations, our inherited and acquired propensities to evil, are to be completely vanquished. In our warfare against evil we are to be more than conquerors.

In 1 Corinthians 15:57 Paul says that deliverance and victory came to him through Jesus Christ our Lord. And in his second letter to the Corinthian believers, he writes: "Now thanks be unto God, which always causes us to triumph in Christ" (2 Cor. 2:14). In another translation the statement is even more personal and forceful: "Wherever I go, thank God, he makes my life a constant pageant of triumph in Christ" (Moffatt).† This brings to mind that statement by the messenger of the Lord to which we often allude: "The life of Christ's disciples is to be like His, a series of uninterrupted victories—not seen to

Autumn Tide

By Myrle Tabler

The autumn tide is rising on the hills
On waves of scarlet, migrant wings in flight,
And fields that mirror frosty stars at night.
On every hand the gathered grain fulfills
The hope of spring in sowing. Little rills
Of splendor join to make the flood tide bright.
But harvest days are brief—claim now the
right

To gather all the blessings that He wills!

Lord of harvest, Thy church's autumn years
Are here—from all the world how rich a tide
Flows in to Thee! For never earthly yield
So precious is. But end of harvest nears—
O reapers hasten, search earth far and wide;
Leave no fair sheaf upon a barren field!

be such here, but recognized as such in the great hereafter."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 515.

Does Paul in his statement to the Corinthians claim to be perfect, above error? Does the quotation from the messenger of the Lord signify that Christians never make mistakes? Not at all. Paul, even as a Christian today, was an erring, struggling human being. But when momentarily overcome he did not yield the battle to the enemy. Paul did what every Christian today may do—he turned defeat into victory. "If you have made mistakes, you certainly gain a victory if you see these mistakes and regard them as beacons of warning. Thus you can turn defeat into victory, disappointing the enemy and honoring your Redeemer."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 332.

In Christ's encounter with the evil one immediately after His baptism, we see the formula for victorious living:

"Many look on this conflict between Christ and Satan as having no special bearing on their own life; and for them it has little interest. But within the domain of every human heart this controversy is repeated."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 116. Satan attacked Christ where humanity is most vulnerable—on appetite, on pride, and on absolute loyalty to God. But Christ overcame fully on every point. He was completely victorious because He prayed without ceasing and was thoroughly acquainted with the Scriptures. The enemy could not confuse Him by misquoting or misapplying God's Word. Jesus knew the Scriptures too well to be led astray. "It is written" was the bulwark behind which He took His stand. By His earthly life He has marked out the way of victory for us.

Our warfare on earth will soon be ended. We must make sure that it ends victoriously. With the apostle Paul we must be able to exclaim: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness" (2 Tim. 4:7, 8).

The messenger of the Lord was shown that indescribably glorious scene when the crowns are bestowed upon the overcomers:

"Upon the heads of the overcomers, Jesus with His own right hand places the crown of glory. For each there is a crown, bearing his own 'new name.' . . . In every hand are placed the victor's palm and the shining harp. . . . Then that voice, richer than any music that ever fell on mortal ear, is heard, saying, 'Your conflict is ended.' 'Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"—*The Great Controversy*, p. 646.

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(Reading, Sunday, November 10, 1963)

"When Ye See These Things . . . Know"

By ROBERT H. PIERSON

SOME months ago I was on a missionary trip in South West Africa. With brethren from the South African Union we were prospecting in unentered territory for suitable places to open new work. We traveled up through the Etosha Game Reserve en route to Ovamboland on the southern border of Angola. Our base for the last stage of the journey was an old German fort at Namutoni, now a ranger station.

Each evening at sundown the gates of the stockade are closed and locked. Returning from Ondangua, tiny capital of the Ovambos, we found ourselves in danger of being locked out. The sun was setting rapidly. We had no illusions about the safety of spending a night out in the open with lions, elephants, and other predatory beasts on the prowl. With less than five minutes to go we came in sight of our destination.

What a breathtaking scene lay just ahead! Unfolding before us, bathed in the gorgeous hues of a tropical sunset, stood snow-white Namutoni, etched against a crimson sky. Minutes later we drove into the stockade as the watchman was preparing to close and lock the gate. We had made it just in time. The sun had set but we were safe inside.

Today the sun is about to set for the last time on this old world. Pilgrims traveling toward eternal safety in the city of God are within sight of home. The shades of night are falling fast around us. Events point unmistakably to the end of all things. Soon the gates of probation will forever close.

As children of God, members of His remnant church, are we fully aware of the solemn times in which we live? Do we recognize in the tremendous events reported in the daily press and blaring from our radios the warnings of a setting sun?

"Black Friday Air Horrors," proclaimed the bold headlines of a recent issue of the *Salisbury Rhodesia Herald*. There followed a sickening account of three major air crashes, in France, Portugal, and the United States. In a few moments, without warning, 52 lives were snuffed out. Scores were badly injured.

A few months ago a large passenger plane burst into flames 25 miles from Milan, Italy. An airline official declared,

"Theoretically . . . the accident was impossible." It may have been theoretically impossible but death without notice claimed 68 victims.

We could go on and on with stories of death without a moment's warning. Not only in the air but on railways, and on sea lanes, confusion and collisions have occurred.

What do these things mean? They mean the sun is setting! They mean we are almost home!

Seventy-three years ago the servant of the Lord foretold such disasters. She also interpreted them for God's church today. On April 21, 1890, Ellen G. White wrote: "The Lord will arise to shake terribly the earth. We shall see troubles on all sides. . . . Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; confusion, collision, and death without a moment's warning will occur on the great lines of travel."—*Messages to Young People*, pp. 89, 90.

This is the sort of thing our papers are full of these days!

What does it all mean? The same author declares, "The end is near, probation is closing."—*Ibid.*, p. 90.

"When ye see these things come to pass," said Jesus, "know." Know what? "Know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand" (Luke 21:31). The sun is setting!

"The great controversy is nearing its end. Every report of calamity by sea or land [or air] is a testimony to the fact that the end of all things is at hand."—*Our High Calling*, p. 346. "Now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Rom. 13:11).

Floods and Earthquakes

In 1960 a series of earthquakes in Chile sent seismic waves across the Pacific at about 500 miles an hour, forming tidal waves in Japan. The same quakes caused small mountains to sink out of sight and high ground to drop hundreds of feet, forming new lakes. Geological surveys revealed that the ground tremors caused water levels to fluctuate in faraway Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and continental United States. Worse still, an estimated 10,000 people perished in the tragedy. Many thousands more lost everything they possessed.

"There shall be signs," Jesus warned us, ". . . the sea and the waves roaring" (Luke 21:25). "When ye see these things . . . , know"—know that the end of all things is at hand!

In May, 1960, a terrific earthquake rocked the Moroccan seaport town of Agadir. The tremors lasted only 12 seconds. Most of the damage was done in the two "center" seconds. *Time* magazine reported: "In that catastrophic moment, the earth under Agadir moved 4 feet and then wrenched back again, bringing down 70% of the city and burying its citizens in the rubble in their homes. A tidal wave from the Atlantic swept 300 yards from the shore." Estimates placed the dead at 12,000.

"Great earthquakes shall be in divers places," Jesus said (Luke 21:11).

In her book *The Great Controversy* the messenger of the Lord speaks of Satan exercising his powers through "tidal waves, and earthquakes" in the last days (page 590). "Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls."—*Ibid.*, p. 589. "These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous."—*Ibid.*, p. 590.

"When ye see these things come to pass, *know*," Jesus admonishes us. "Know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." The sun is setting!

The Insoluble Woes of the Human Race

Our daily papers are filled with the insoluble woes of the human race. The headlines scream violence, murder, and crime "so cold-blooded and causeless that it seems as though every instinct of humanity were blotted out" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 102).

"The world over, cities are becoming hotbeds of vice. On every hand are the sights and sounds of evil. Everywhere are enticements to sensuality and dissipation. The tide of corruption and crime is continually swelling. Every day brings the record of violence—robberies, murders, suicides, and crimes unnamable." These words were written by one whose pen was guided by the Spirit of God. They are found in *The Ministry of Healing*, page 363.

"In the last days the times will be full of danger" (2 Tim. 3:1, Phillips).* Men will be brutal.

In Noah's day "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. . . . The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence" (Gen. 6:5, 11).

Is this not true of our world today?

Jesus said, "As the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt. 24:37).

What diligent student of prophecy and current events would gainsay that we are living in such a time today?

"When ye see these things come to pass, *know*," we are reminded. The sun is setting!

So we could go on, faithfully comparing events of our times with the inspired prophecies of God's Word. They all tell the same story. The radio waves crackle out reports of personal hatred, national hatred, and racial hatred. "The spirit of war is stirring the nations from one end of the earth to the other."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 17.

The world of science has suddenly catapulted the human family from the atomic age into the space age. Today the human mind restlessly probes the cosmic forces of God's distant heavens. Man has flung all sorts of satellites into orbit around the earth and is busy probing the mysteries of Venus, Mars, and the moon. Today's achievements are outdated tomorrow.

Though the outlook for the world is dark, the uplook for God's people is bright. The Advent message is a message of glad fruition. We may see beyond today's blackening horizons and by faith catch a glimpse of the golden morning so fast approaching. In this age of doubt and fear the Advent message offers hope and certainty. While millions are downhearted our God bids us: "Look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28). This is no time for frustration or defeat. This is a day of jubilation and glorious victory for the true child of God. The Word of God declares it! The Advent message proclaims it!

The events transpiring about us are the very things Seventh-day Adventists, upon the authority of prophecy, have foretold. We should rejoice to see them. C. H. Spurgeon described the Second Advent as a "dear and precious doctrine." To every child of God the anticipation of the Saviour's imminent return should be indeed a "dear and precious doctrine."

"Is there a Christian whose pulse does not beat with quickened action as he anticipates the great events opening before

Does Nobody Care?

By M. E. BROOKS

Does nobody care when your heart aches
With pain that you scarcely can bear?
Will nobody place an arm around you
And try your sore trial to share?

Yes, One who is stronger than men
Can soften your trials today.
Only look up, and trust and believe Him—
It is Jesus to whom you can pray.

You never will be disappointed,
For Jesus is faithful and true.
He will stay by your side and protect you
Till the journey of life is through.

us? The Lord is coming. We hear the footsteps of an approaching God."—*Our High Calling*, p. 346.

The second advent of Christ must be more than a doctrine to us! "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (1 John 3:3). Jesus will return for "those who are (eagerly, constantly and patiently) waiting for and expecting Him" (Heb. 9:28, *The Amplified New Testament*). †

Paul admonishes us, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12). "Intense earnestness should now take possession of us."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 44. "At this time—a time of overwhelming iniquity—a new life, coming from the Source of all life, is to take possession of those who have the love of God in their hearts."—*Ibid.*

"Unless those who claim to believe the truth for this time submit to the training of God on earth for the future life, they will never see the King in His beauty. . . . They must cultivate patience, kindness, meekness, goodness, sympathy, and tender compassion for one another. All their rough, uncourteous, un-Christlike disposition must be purged away, for none of these unkind attributes are of Christ, but after the satanic order. The pure, heavenly graces are received and flourish in mind, heart, and character only as man becomes a partaker of the divine nature. . . . Heaven must begin on earth for every soul who will enter the heavenly mansions above."—*Our High Calling*, p. 368.

"The sunset burns across the sky;
Upon the air its warning cry
The curfew tolls, from tower to tower.
O children, 'tis the last, last hour!"
—CLARA THWAITES

"When ye see these things come to pass, *know ye* that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand" (Luke 21:31). The sun is setting! Earth's long night of sin is nearly ended. The eternal day is at hand. Will you be inside the fold of God when the gates are finally closed and locked forever?

"Jesus stands knocking—knocking at the door of your hearts,—and yet, for all this, some say continually, 'I cannot find Him.' . . . Why do you not open the door, and say, 'Come in, dear Lord'? I am so glad for these simple directions as to the way to find Jesus. . . . Open the door now, and empty the soul temple of the buyers and sellers, and invite the Lord to come in. Say to Him, 'I will love Thee with all my soul. I will work the works of righteousness. I will obey the law of God.' Then you will feel the peaceful presence of Jesus."—*Review and Herald*, Aug. 28, 1888, p. 546.

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The Importance of Bible Study

By P. W. WOO

IN THE beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, peace and happiness reigned supreme. But alas! As a result of man's transgression strife and violence have filled the earth. As the seasons come and go, and one day follows another, wickedness increases and frightful weapons of destruction multiply.

One year ago, during the crisis over nuclear missiles in Cuba, I was in Pusan, ready to launch a three-week evangelistic campaign. The day that the naval blockade was announced by the President of the United States, the eyes of the world were focused on the Caribbean Sea. As warfare appeared on the horizon and the news reports outlined hour by hour the danger of nuclear war, I reviewed the Bible prophecies and was convinced that probationary time would soon close.

The threat of nuclear war caused me to give serious thought to what was taking place throughout the world. I noticed a report in the newspaper that gave an estimate of the number of atomic weapons available to the United States forces. It stated that they had a stockpile of atomic weapons equal to hundreds of megatons, in addition to hundreds of nuclear missiles, and that by 1964 this stockpile would be more than doubled.

What a terrifying picture! No one knows how many atomic bombs, nuclear missiles, and offensive weapons Soviet Russia, England, France, and other nations have. Verily, this globe has become a vast storehouse of atomic weapons. No man can foresee the ultimate outcome.

The world faces continued crises in Berlin, on India's northeast and northwest frontiers, on the coast of Formosa, in Laos, Korea, Cuba, Iran, Turkey, in the Congo, Angola, Kashmir, Yemen, and South Vietnam. And there are other danger spots around the world. Hardly a day passes but a new crisis confronts us.

Strength for the Future

Where can man find peace of mind and strength to face the future? Where can he find help that will prevent him from giving way to despair or panic?

The answer is in the Bible. In God's Word alone is found strength for today, hope for the future, and courage to meet the crisis. The Word of God contains promises of peace and happiness; it casts out all fear.

During 1961, 12,736,706 copies of the Bible, or portions of the Bible, were dis-

tributed in America; 2,666,000 in India; 2,499,000 in Japan, a stronghold of Buddhism and Shintoism; and 1,036,000 in Korea. More than 30 million copies or portions of the Scriptures are distributed yearly throughout the world.

Why is it that this Book is in such demand today? Because the Word of God brings hope and comfort!

Year by year thousands of books written by men, containing human experiences and human wisdom, flood the land. The experiences recorded often move us to tears, but they offer no permanent help in solving our problems. However, the Bible is different. It brings permanent help. Only God could have written such a Book. It contains God's message for men.

The Bible occupies a unique place in life because it deals with the problems of everyday living. The Word of God promises everlasting life to those who love God and obey Him. It also contains promises of a new earth where God shall wipe away all tears—where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, no more war or poverty. Jesus said: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

Promise of Life

Although Chin Shih Huang Ti, the first emperor of China, sought diligently for immortality, and others have sought for the Fountain of Eternal Youth, all their efforts to escape death have been in vain. The Bible is the only book that points the way to everlasting life. God assures us that although man may die, he will live again. Jesus declared: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:25, 26). The Bible is the only book that contains such a message.

Where do we find a promise that wars will cease? The Word of God assures us that God "maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth" (Ps. 46:9). God promises further: "I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth" (Hosea 2:18). When Jesus comes in the clouds of heaven He will break the weapons and cause all wars to cease. "And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. . . . Write: for these words are true and faithful" (Rev. 21:5).

Jesus our Redeemer will destroy sin, cleanse this sin-cursed earth, and re-create a new earth. This cannot be accomplished through human effort. Jesus alone, the One who has promised "there shall be no more curse" (Rev. 22:3), is able to do this. How full of hope and comfort is this promise!

Men of the world put forth tremendous effort to gain the praise and applause of men in authority. But when Jesus appears in the clouds of heaven He will give praise and honor and glory to the redeemed. We read: "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:7). In that glad day joy and happiness shall reign supreme.

Where do we find a promise that death, man's greatest enemy, shall be conquered? In the Bible we have this promise: "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor. 15:54).

Praise God! He has made it possible for man to obtain eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Let us give thanks to God for His Word—for the chart and compass that point the way to everlasting life.

During this Week of Prayer shall not we, the Advent believers around the circle of the earth, strive to be among those who shall be heirs of the promises?

The Value of Bible Study

Job, the grand old patriarch from the East, expressed his regard for the Word of God when he said: "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips: I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12).

To sustain life man must partake of food daily, and continue to do so year by year. However, eventually all men will die. Emphasizing the necessity of spiritual food Jesus said: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).

Man cannot by his own effort change his heart. This can be accomplished only through the Word of God. Jesus prayed

for His disciples and said: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). The Word of God alone contains sanctifying power.

God's children will diligently study His Word. As they study to gain the victory over sin they will cling to the Bible and use it to overcome the forces of evil. The psalmist expressed his high esteem for the Word in this way: "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb" (Ps. 19:10).

King Solomon placed a high value on the Sacred Scriptures, which make one "wise unto salvation through faith . . . in Christ Jesus." He said that wisdom "is more precious than rubies; and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her" (Prov. 3:15).

Verily, the wisdom obtained from studying the Word of God is more precious than rubies or diamonds. Nothing that mankind strives to obtain can be compared in value to this treasure. The prophet Jeremiah testified to this from personal experience. "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart" (Jer. 15:16).

The Bible is the most precious treasure given to man. From it he may draw inspiration and guidance for his life. In it he can hear the voice of God speaking to him. The Bible helps man not only to make right choices but also gives power to make them effective. Through the study of the Bible the despondent may gain hope and courage; the sorrowing may obtain strength and comfort; the wayward may find help to change his way of life and power to be transformed into a new creature in Christ Jesus.

The Word Is Eternal

Through the centuries men of superior intellect have written great books. But as time passed and knowledge increased, their works become outdated. To bring them up to date they have been revised and rewritten. The Bible has never become an outdated book; revisions have been unnecessary, for the Word of God is eternal. It is perfect. It is changeless.

The Bible is a living book. Nothing has ever been added to this wonderful, life-giving Book. In the very beginning God said to Moses: "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you" (Deut. 4:2). "What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it" (chap. 12:32).

King Solomon declared: "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him" (Eccl. 3:14).

In the last book of the Bible we have a warning against tampering with the Word of God. "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Rev. 22:18, 19).

The Bible Is a Lamp

The condition of the world just before the coming of the Lord is pictured in Isaiah 60:2: "For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people." We may ask, Is there no light available to penetrate this darkness and enable the multitudes to see?

The psalmist assures us that light is available. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps. 119:105). Peter added: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the

day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" (2 Peter 1:19).

The entrance of sin has plunged this world into darkness. Is there no hope of escape? Is there no light available to pierce this darkness? Is there no light to guide us on our way to the Promised Land? Ah, yes! God has made ample provision by giving us the Bible and the sure word of prophecy. "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Ps. 119:130). As we choose to walk in God's path we will find that "the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Prov. 4:18).

God's children, whose faith is based on His Word and established on the sure word of prophecy, will face the future with confidence. As darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people God's children will understand that the glad morning is fast approaching, when the King of kings shall come.

Let us therefore prepare to be among those who shall say in that glad day, "Lo, this is our God: . . . we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation" (Isa. 25:9).

(Reading, Tuesday, November 12, 1963)

Strong Homes for a Strong Church

By ARTHUR H. ROTH

YOU and I live in a time of danger. Our ideals of home and life are being challenged. How vital it is in this hour, prior to the coming of Jesus, that Adventist homes be arsenals of faith and power. What a tragedy it would be if in these last days our homes should fall to pieces and disintegrate.

The home is divine in its origin. It is the product of heavenly wisdom. No other institution can match its worth. It is the keynote of life. Pull it out and man's social life collapses. No nation or people has been able to survive its loss. It is possible for nations to survive defeat in battle, economic depression, invasion, flood, fire, earthquake, and famine, but once the homes of a people disintegrate, that nation will fall apart. Likewise a church can survive mockery, derision, discrimination, hatred, and persecution, but when Christian homes teeter, the church becomes weak and ineffective. When the home breaks, everything breaks—integrity, unity, service, power.

Let us not be deceived. If the family

were to be swept away, our world would be filled with chaos, heartbreak, and desolation. Satan knows this, and so he has launched a determined attack against the home. He would undermine the father's position of authority, leadership, and priesthood. He would discredit the mother as a guide, teacher, and counselor. He would bring bickering and fussing between parents and children, jealousy and quarreling between brothers and sisters.

Modern-Day Tendencies

In our modern day the ideal of democracy is sometimes distorted and misapplied. Equality among individuals is carried to such an extreme that the position of fathers and mothers in the home is greatly weakened. The virtues of cooperation and obedience are too readily exchanged for exaggerated notions of independence and freedom.

Thinking people are disturbed over the present state of the home. Something is happening to its permanence, unity,

and character. It would almost seem that some of the basic qualities of the home are going into reverse. Increasing numbers of men and women are discovering that they are unfit for the great adventure in comradeship and mutual help that family life affords. Disillusioned and unhappy parents are controlled by their complexes and impulses. Fidelity is surrendered, reverence is discarded, and the romance element is dying. The harmony of the home is broken, its unity dissolved, and homes once alive and glad have become dead and sad.

In the midst of these conditions the Adventist home must stand unshaken in its devotion and loyalty to Christian ideals. The Holy Scriptures provide the surest formula for solidly established homes. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. . . . Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:1, 4, R.S.V.).

In the Christian home all members of the family must accept a balanced responsibility. Too frequently one parent carries a disproportionate share of the home load. Usually this is the mother. Often the father excuses himself by saying, "I earn the living; my wife runs the house and the family." The children seldom sense the responsibility of contributing to the smooth running of the home.

But the home should be a united effort, entered into by all. Let us look at the responsibilities of both parents and children.

Responsibility of Parents

Adventist parents have the privilege of teaching their children how to live Christian lives in the church community and in society. As much as parents may desire to keep their children with them always, the day will come when the children will go out into the world of play, education, marriage, and business. Into this world they will take the principles that their parents have taught them. It is the parents' undeniable privilege and duty to give their children the right instruction regarding faith, morals, culture, and behavior. No hired person, no church, no school, no organization, can substitute for this duty of the parents.

How nicely God's messenger expressed the exalted position of the home as a place of learning: "In His wisdom the Lord has decreed that the family shall be the greatest of all educational agencies. It is in the home that the education of the child is to begin. Here is his first school. Here, with his *parents as instructors*, he is to learn the lessons that are to guide him throughout life—lessons of respect, obedience, reverence, self-control. . . . Parents should in a special sense regard themselves as agents of God to instruct their children."—*The Adventist Home*, pp. 182, 184. (Italics supplied.)

Closely linked with the responsibility of teaching their children how to live is the parents' privilege of setting before them an example of right living. So often we hear a parent say, "What I tell my child seems to go into one ear and out the other." Character is not so much taught as assimilated by example. Our children do not become cheerful, obedient, moral, and industrious simply because we tell them to be cheerful, obedient, moral, and industrious; but they are more likely to acquire these qualities if their parents are cheerful, obedient, moral, and industrious.

Is it any wonder that parents frequently exclaim, "I see myself all over again in my son (or in my daughter)!" The children have become what they have seen. Our words become as "sounding brass, and a tinkling cymbal" if our example does not support our instruction in honesty, fidelity, truthfulness, purity, sobriety, sacrifice, church attendance, tithing, and religious belief. Our children know and understand us. They are specialists in "seeing through" us. They are quick to discern whether we are sincere or whether we are a sham. They come to conclusions about their parents that may seem harsh but often are correct.

In this seventh decade of the twentieth century it has become somewhat popular to wave aside misbehavior in children with the puny excuse, "My children are such little monsters; they must have been born that way." But there can be only one right conclusion: They probably learned their ways at home. Practically everything children know, at least until they go to school, they learn at home. What they learn by example at home is acquired at a time when their perceptive skills are at their finest, when their memories store relentlessly for the future.

Parents owe their children an example of genuine Christian living. How important this is! In a real sense the instruction of Jesus to the man He healed is suited to parents. "Return to thine own house, and *shew* how great things God hath done unto thee" (Luke 8:39).

Parents also owe their children discipline. Let us clearly understand the difference between discipline and punishment. Good discipline may never require punishment. Every child is entitled to and requires discipline. The urge for self-expression in the home and in education seems to have gone rather far in our day. It has gone so far as to cause some people to think that discipline is obsolete. This is not true. Horticulturists are careful about disciplining their plants, flowers, and trees. Why should parents think that young, inexperienced minds can grow up without careful training? Should they do less for their children than they do for the shrubbery around their houses?

The heart of a child may be good, but his head has little knowledge. The child's feelings may be laudable, but his judgment errs. In the sphere of principle parents need to be firm and strong. There should be no compromise or yielding to wheedling and sulking when principle is at issue. Parents owe their little ones so much love and discipline that the welfare of their children should never be in doubt. The children's candidacy for the kingdom of heaven should be their uppermost consideration.

How fine it would be if Seventh-day Adventist fathers and mothers could always remember that "the angels look with intense interest upon every family, to see how the children are treated by parents, guardians, or friends."—*Ibid.*, p. 315.

Duties of Sons and Daughters

Earlier we stated, "All members of the family must accept a balanced responsibility." What, then, shall we say about the children? Better yet, what message do we want to share with the children and youth?

Sons and daughters ought to understand that the most exacting job in the world is that of being a real parent. It is a staggering task to maintain family unity in an age of transition, division, and license.

There are many influences, most of them good in varying degrees, that compete with parents—sports, radio, television, automobiles, clubs, music, recreation, record players, books, telephones. But none of these have hearts of love nor can they take the place of parents. Young people should recognize that parents' duties are not easy and that the counsel or discipline given by parents comes out of honest-hearted concern and experience. Parents usually are so desirous for the well-being of their children that they will do almost anything to keep them from being hurt in body, soul, or mind. Since parents have gone through most experiences that their children must go through, they have acquired some knowledge that is worth passing along.

A few years ago a New York youth was imprisoned for the murder of his sweetheart. He wrote from his prison cell:

"I realize now that the trouble with most youngsters is that they think their parents know much less than they know! Our parents know. Our parents know more than we do—no matter what the problem is. A child should realize that his parents can help him, and he should confide in them. . . . I wish now I'd done what I'm advising the other kids to do."

In the home and everywhere so much depends on the eyes with which children and young people look at father and mother. Young people today, in general, are better off than the young people of any other time. They have more clothes,

better food, greater educational opportunities, broader chances of success, than did the young people of any other era. Most parents strive to give these things to their children and often sacrifice to provide these blessings so that their children can be spared the hard and bitter experiences through which they passed. This may be a wrong thing to do, but the motives that prompt parents to such action are worthy of praise. What joy comes to the home when children recognize these motives and show appreciation for the efforts of their parents. It was divine thought which ordered that the first commandment touching relationships between human beings should begin with the words, "Honour thy father and thy mother" (Ex. 20:12).

Children can do much to bring joy and happiness to the home. The home is one place where their influence really counts. They can make it a place of peace or turmoil. They can fill their parents with joy, or they can knock the heart right out of them. How can children help make the home happy and successful? By recognizing that each member of the household shares the burden of all. "Cooperation" is the keyword.

Young people in the home can cooperate with their parents by being thoughtful, offering reasonable obedience, providing creative suggestions, manifesting outgoing friendliness, and by showing cheerful happiness as they go about their duties in the home.

Children, speak an appreciative word to your parents now and then. They take pride in you, why not return the compliment? Parents are human, and enjoy a gracious remark equally as much as do young people. Look at the total picture of your parents. True, parents have their weaknesses, but they also have many virtues. When their good qualities are weighed against their shortcomings, the good far outweighs their frailties.

Remember, your parents loved you when you were born; they love you now; they will love you till they die. They have worked for you with their two hands. Put your two hands to work with them. Your home can be a place where everyone has a song in his heart.

Christ a Partner

In all that we might say about families—about both parents and children—one fact keeps knocking on our consciousness: Unless there is true religion in our homes, they will be overwhelmed. Unless Jesus lives in our lives it will not be possible, for long, to be patient, kind, and forbearing. These traits reign only when Jesus dwells in our hearts. When the Lord is a full partner in the family, "religion will lead the parents to do the very work God designed should be done in the home. Children will be brought up in the fear and admonition of the Lord."—*Ibid.*, p. 318.

Without strong homes the church cannot be strong. Without the church in the home, the home will founder. The home and the church cannot get along without each other. If either is to prosper, they must never be separated. In 1898 God's messenger spoke thus of the relationship of the home to the church:

"In the home the foundation is laid for the prosperity of the church. The influences that rule in the home life are car-

ried into the church life; therefore church duties should first begin in the home."—*Ibid.*

For our happiness, for the sake of God's church on earth, and for our readiness to receive the Lord at His coming, let us build and maintain God-filled homes.

God bless our Adventist homes! May He be merciful to our fathers and mothers, to our children and our youth.

(Reading, Wednesday, November 13, 1963)

The Bank of Heaven

By WADIE FARAG

GOD'S people have business to accomplish on this rebellious planet, a tremendous business that keeps them ever aware of Paul's inspired injunction, "Be . . . not slothful in business" (Rom. 12:10, 11).

God "has provided His people with a surplus of means"¹ to do His work. All the money that you and I have is God's money. It is good Adventist money. "God has left us in charge of His goods in His absence."² He has great confidence in us. We are His stewards and "the position of a steward is one of dignity, because his master trusts him."³ "It is God's property that we are handling. Not one dollar or one shilling is our own."⁴

God's business is a great and solemn business. It is a business that engages heaven and earth. God and the angels are in it. They keep accounts, for "the recording angel makes a faithful record of every offering dedicated to God, and put into the treasury, and also of the final result of the means thus bestowed."⁵ God "keeps a strict account with every son and daughter of Adam, that He may know how they are appropriating His means."⁶

God's records are perfect. Heaven owns the biggest bank in the universe. It is called "the bank of heaven."⁷ This bank employs none but perfect accountants, beings that can handle limitless treasures, that are authorities on exchange. They know the value of everything and of all currencies. They handle drachmas, dollars, pounds, piasters, liras, rupees, marks, dinars, rubles, guineas, and all other kinds of currencies. They also accept produce, metal, houses, and lands. The treasurers of the bank of heaven are custodians of infinite treasures.

Jesus has full confidence in His treasurers, and when He was here on earth He

urged men to place their goods in the bank of heaven. He bade all men, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, . . . where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matt. 6:20).

There is one thing unique about the bank of heaven. It is the rate of interest given there. Sometimes this bank gives infinite "revenue from the inexhaustible treasures"⁸ of heaven for only a few cents. The entire system of interest in the bank of heaven is determined by two factors—the cheerfulness of the giver, and the self-denial manifested in the gift.

"The smallest sum given cheerfully as the result of self-denial is of more value in the sight of God than the offerings of those who could give thousands and yet feel no lack."⁹

Those who have thousands must give until they feel it, and those who give must be grateful for the privilege of giving. This is the only way to lay up treasures above, for with heaven "no one can practice real benevolence without practicing genuine self-denial."¹⁰ In God's sight it would be "better not to give at all than to give grudgingly."¹¹

Because of the great importance that Heaven places on the means loaned to man, Seventh-day Adventists of necessity must be able businessmen and women. They are ever "letting go the lesser, the more worthless, for the greater, the more valuable."¹² They are meticulous in their expenditures. "They are always careful to keep their outgoes within their income,"¹³ and are masters in the art of making "a little go the longest way."¹⁴ They believe that "God's people should practice strict economy in their outlay of means."¹⁵ To them "it is a poor, wretched policy to go into debt."¹⁶ These wonderful people are skilled in the ability to "guard against supposed wants that re-

quire an expenditure of means."²⁷ Their business motto is: "Let us fitly represent our faith by-restricting our wants."²⁸

The business philosophy of Seventh-day Adventists is sound. While Adventists practice strict economy in their outlay of means they never stretch their economy to meanness or penuriousness. They believe that one "cannot make the heart purer or holier by clothing the body in sackcloth, or depriving the home of all that ministers to comfort, taste, or convenience."²⁹ This, however, does not mean that they have any budget for "gay or expensive clothing."³⁰

Adventists do not "spend considerable sums for photographs to give to their friends"³¹; none in buying "costly furniture . . . or in providing luxurious food."³² They regard birthdays and holidays as occasions when they can express their gratitude to the Lord by giving. In short, dedicated Adventists are never "at a loss to devise ways and means for denying self."³³ They want to give much to Him who gave all for them. To them "to be a Christian is to be Christlike."³⁴

Saving to Give

But why all this economy? Why this carefulness in expenditure? Because Adventists like to save. They enjoy saving money. Not to hoard it—no, never! "They feel it their duty to save, that they may have something to give."³⁵ Their business principles differ from the practices of the world. But they are principles that work, for they originate in heaven. On these business laws the bank of heaven operates.

You have undoubtedly heard your pastor extol the stability of the bank of heaven. You must often have heard him say that the "work of transferring your possessions to the world above, is worthy of all your best energies. It is of the highest importance, and involves your eternal interests. . . . In giving to the work of God, you are laying up for yourselves treasures in heaven. All that you lay up above is secure from disaster and loss, and is increasing to an eternal, and enduring substance."³⁶

What a delightful sight to see the response of the Seventh-day Adventist people to appeals. What a joyous spectacle it is to watch church members transfer their treasures to the bank of heaven. Oh, it is true that there are found those who "show by their works that they dare not trust the bank of heaven."³⁷ Nevertheless, there are thousands who show by their works that they dare not trust themselves. No sooner do they save their money than they are seen speeding to their church treasurers to transfer their funds to the bank of heaven. Their money may go to heaven via Sydney, Berlin, Washington, Singapore, Hong Kong, Moscow, Miami, Beirut, London, Montevideo, Salisbury, Poona, or Berne, but

it always collects interest on its way to heaven, the interest of precious souls who will live and reign forever and ever.

Here is a little story about what Adventist money did one day. This time it went to heaven via Cairo to pay a missionary who left his home to preach the third angel's message in Egypt. The missionary learned to preach in the intricate Arabic language. That was back in 1929 when there was a world financial depression. The missionary rented a little apartment on a busy street in Cairo and began to preach the wonderful Advent message.

One day a forty-year-old Egyptian government employee chanced to pass that meeting place and decided to go in and listen. The subject was a favorite with Adventists. It was about tithes and offerings. That man, who is still living, sat and listened earnestly to the first sermon he ever heard from any Adventist. He heard it all. All the truth about money, whose it is and who claims its ownership. That day he decided to give God His own. He was spellbound as he listened to the sermon, and said to himself, "If God gave so much for me, I will give Him all I have and am."

When the meeting was over and the preacher took his place at the exit to shake hands with the people, the listener reached into his pocket, pulled out all the money he had with him, and placed it in the hands of the preacher. As he placed his money in the minister's hand, the Lord spoke to his heart, "You want to give Me money? I will give you all the truth for this day. A truth that will enrich you forever. I will adopt you into my family, you and your children, and all will be mine." As a result, this Egyptian, his wife, his nine children (I am one of them), and his twelve grandchildren, all are in the truth.

What started this series of conversions? Giving. Not only giving by the government worker in 1929 but the giving of those who provided for the earnest preacher. It started with a sermon on tithe. The Lord wanted to orientate my father into Adventist thinking from the very start. He knew that "the very first lesson to be learned of Christ is the lesson of self-denial."³⁸

This little story, a testimony of an experience that influenced my life, is, in effect, the testimony of each of us. It was the sacrifice of others that, under God's blessing, helped to reach us with this glorious message. So also will our sacrifice help to bring this message to those in darkness. God ordained it thus to exalt and uplift man.

The tithe is only the beginning of a list of things that a faithful Adventist delights to give. Indeed, no one *gives* anything to the Lord when he returns his tithe—he *returns* it. The tithe is the Lord's and retaining it is nothing but robbery. God's people of old gave a second tithe and a third. Their contribu-

tions amounted to fully one fourth of their income. "God requires no less of us than he required of His people anciently."³⁹

It takes nothing less than the Advent message to give the subject of stewardship its rightful place. Adventists talk a lot about money; so did Jesus. One sixth of the Synoptic Gospels speak about money, as do also sixteen of Christ's major parables. The Lord knows that Satan falsely claims the world and its riches. Thus the three angels' messages remind the people that God is the owner of everything, and that we are but stewards. Indeed, stewardship lies at the heart of the everlasting gospel.

Giving and Taking

Man who lost Eden because he reached out and *took* what was not his must learn to be trustworthy. He must learn to be a faithful steward of God's goods. This is the way God ordained it. Man lost Eden when he "took" of the fruit, and he will regain Eden because God "gave" His Son. Taking what belongs to God always results in loss, and giving Him what is His always results in gain. It is a spiritual law just as sure in its results as any physical law. As with life, so it is with means. He that saves wealth will lose it, and he that gives it for Christ's sake will find more wealth.

One might think that so much giving would reduce the Advent people to poverty. On a recent Sabbath the church that I attend in Alexandria, Egypt, launched a special appeal. Every member gave from two to four weeks' income. How can Adventists do that? Doesn't heavy giving make them poor? No, never. Giving in response to the promptings of the Holy Spirit enriches the giver. Christ said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you" (Luke 6:38). "The more we give, the more we shall receive."⁴⁰ "The giving that is the fruit of self-denial, is a wonderful help to the giver."⁴¹

Listen to this spiritual law: "Would you increase your possessions? Honor the Lord with thy substance." "Retain all in your possession, and it will be to your eternal loss."⁴² "Divine wisdom has appointed, in the plan of salvation, the law of action and reaction, making the work of benevolence, in all its branches, twice blessed."⁴³ Giving will not result in poverty. "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts" (Haggai 2:8). It is He who "has provided His people with a surplus of means, that when He calls for help, they may cheerfully respond."⁴⁴

More Giving Expected

There will be far more giving from now until probation closes than has ever been previously witnessed among us as a people. Many will realize for themselves that "nine tenths are worth more to them than ten tenths."⁴⁵ Many more will realize

the wisdom in the counsel given to us not "to bury in houses and lands" or "in some money-making scheme"³⁶ the talents that the Lord has given His people to be used in these closing days to rescue the perishing.

There are two other factors that will keep God's stewards increasingly busy in the little time that remains in this world's history. "The time is coming when we cannot sell at any price. The decree will soon go forth prohibiting men to buy or sell of any man save he that hath the mark of the beast."³⁷

God's people are about to move to a better country, even a heavenly, and "it is now that our brethren should be cutting down their possessions instead of increasing them."³⁸ One after another of these dear people will dispose of their property and turn in the price to help reap this world's final harvest. No one can determine for his brother the time when he should sell his property. All should inquire of the Lord who alone "will teach them when to dispose of these things."³⁹

There is another factor that should command the thinking of God's stewards. This is the matter of wills and legacies that are to be bequeathed to God's cause. Children will see the wisdom of heeding the instruction to God's people and will not influence their parents to retain means for their use "instead of appropriating it to the cause of God."⁴⁰

They will heed God's counsel in this matter not only because "Money left to children frequently becomes a root of bitterness,"⁴¹ and because they realize that "neither parents nor children are made happier by this transfer of property,"⁴² but because they know that in God's program "children were not to become responsible for the talents of the father."⁴³

Because of this, while the parents are still in good health they will make their wills, remembering the needs of their dependent children and the ever-growing necessities of God's church. Many will make their wills today knowing that "death will not come one day sooner"⁴⁴ because they have made their wills.

Very soon God will tell His stewards, "Close your books; I have closed mine. I accept no more transfers. Heaven's bank is closed." This announcement will cause no concern. At that time the work of God's church will have come to an end.

Dear reader, let us look heavenward. Our Redeemer is there. Our mansions are there. We too shall be there soon. Are our treasures there now?

Quotations are from pages in the book *Counsels on Stewardship*, 1940 edition, as follows:

1 45	10 288, 289	19 138	28 252	37 59
2 116	11 199	20 301	29 71	38 59
3 113	12 300	21 295	30 90	39 59, 60
4 299	13 251	22 298	31 293	40 331
5 196	14 250	23 55	32 49	41 331
6 224	15 300	24 54	33 346	42 332
7 309	16 259	25 251	34 45	43 330
8 244	17 267	26 342	35 68	44 328
9 178	18 38	27 151	36 314	

(Reading, Thursday, November 14, 1963)

"Intercessions...for All Men"

By F. R. MILLARD

WE ARE living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 11.

The events mentioned in this inspired statement are now upon us. The world that so long scoffed at our preaching of the end now echoes the very words of inspiration to warn civilization of its impending doom. A sense of urgency grips all lands as mankind races against time to save itself from destruction. That same urgency presses upon us in this Week of Prayer, for we have but little time in which to prepare to meet God and to make ready the world for the coming of the Lord.

God so loved the world that He gave His own Son to redeem and restore it. Jesus came as Immanuel—God with mankind—and from Bethlehem's manger to Joseph's new tomb he fought and conquered the great usurper in order to become the second Adam, the founder of a new family, the rightful ruler of the world. But Jesus left the major conquest of the world to those who, believing on Him, should become sons of God, partakers of the divine nature, those who were to witness for Him beginning in Jerusalem and Judea, and finally to the uttermost parts of the earth. He would win the world, not by force or coercion but by the power of love. The story of this strategy, this winning of the world by winning the hearts of men, forms the great central theme of the Bible.

The Light of the World

God chose Abraham, counted his faith for righteousness, and set him on a course to bring blessing to all nations. Isaiah, the gospel prophet, pointed out Israel's glorious role in making the knowledge of God to cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. He saw the glory of the Lord risen upon His chosen people to draw all nations, even kings and rulers,

to the light. Christ came as the promised seed, and from the time He was presented as the Lamb taking away the sins of the world, He repeatedly impressed on His disciples the worldwide scope of His mission. "Ye are the light of the world," He told His followers at the beginning of His ministry, and in His final moment with them He commissioned them to go to all the world and make disciples of all men.

As Christ stood on the Mount of Olives in that last solemn and brief hour with His disciples, He could look to the uplands of Bethlehem, where He had been born to become a part of the creation He had come to save. Below lay the Jordan River, where John the Baptist had proclaimed Him the Lamb that takes away the sins of the world. On the horizon stretched the wilderness, where He had met the tempter and won His great victory over the flesh, the world, and the devil. Nearby stood the Garden of Gethsemane, where He had drunk the bitter cup that meant taking upon Himself the guilt of the world. In the distance rose Golgotha, where He had paid the price for man's redemption, with the tomb nearby where He had won His final conflict and had triumphed over death, the last great enemy.

Christ did not suggest to His disciples that they erect shrines on these sacred spots to commemorate His work for mankind. Instead He pointed beyond and commanded them to go and teach all nations. He sent them out to the ends of a world that was far beyond their imagination. He would not have them linger in Jerusalem except to wait for the promise of the Father and receive that power which would make them witnesses to all mankind.

Ten days of heart searching and righting of wrongs readied the early believers for the fulfillment of the promise, and God poured out His Spirit upon them. From Pentecost they went everywhere witnessing to the power of the gospel. But as the message of Jesus spread to the then-known world and millions accepted His teachings, the evil one set about with all the means at his command to thwart that work. When persecution failed to stop the spread of the gospel, he sought more subtle measures. The sad record is that the early church left its first love and

eventually lost its power. The light that had shone so gloriously throughout the world was swallowed up in the gloom of the Dark Ages.

But God's plan, hindered for a time, was not to end in failure. Jesus Himself in His own personal message through the revelator promised that with the approach of the hour of judgment a special message would go to all the world as an angel flying in the midst of heaven. He saw, as did Isaiah, a people with the glory of the Lord risen upon them. He saw nations drawn to the light.

Today we witness the worldwide spread of the third angel's message, but we see also the strategy of the enemy of truth as he seeks once more to frustrate the work of God and those who witness for Him. Persecution, political barriers, and counterattacks through false religions and spurious philosophies continue to be his weapons against the gospel.

A Faithful Minority

But Satan's greatest attempt is, no doubt, within the church itself, where he seeks, as he did in the days of the early Christians, to draw men away from their first love. Christ Himself foretold that because iniquity would abound the love of many would grow cold. But He hastened to add that this would not mean defeat. He pointed to a minority who would endure to the end, who would hold fast their love, and because of that love, would preach the gospel of the kingdom to all the world for a witness to all nations.

God has always depended on a faithful few to carry out His purpose. In every time of apostasy He has had His Elijahs; in every period of darkness, His Isaiahs; in every crisis, His Daniels. In every age He has had those who have not bowed the knee to Baal. There have always been those who, like Gideon's three hundred, have put the call of God above personal convenience, and His cause above their own interests, those who have stayed by, "faint yet pursuing," and have won great victories for God.

Surely God looks upon the relatively small group observing this Week of Prayer and sees in them that faithful minority upon whom He must depend to finish His work. "Upon us rests the weighty responsibility of warning the world of its coming doom. From every direction, from far and near, are coming calls for help. God calls upon His church to arise and clothe herself with power. Immortal crowns are to be won; the kingdom of heaven is to be gained; the world, perishing in ignorance, is to be enlightened."—*Ibid.*, vol. 7, p. 16.

The greatest demand upon us is not that we should be more sacrificial in our giving, nor that we should leave homes and loved ones to go out into the far places of the world, nor even that we should set in motion more plans for mis-

sionary work around us. There is a more primary experience for us, a more fundamental concept. We need to share God's love for fallen men, to sense the urgency of time and see our individual part in God's great program.

Looking upon the church, the servant of the Lord declared: "Ministers are asleep; the lay members are asleep; and a world is perishing in sin. May God help His people to arouse and walk and work as men and women on the borders of the eternal world. Soon an awful surprise is coming upon the inhabitants of the world. Suddenly, with power and great glory, Christ will come. Then there will be no time to prepare to meet Him. Now is the time for us to give the warning message."—*Ibid.*, vol. 8, p. 37.

God's messenger, as if viewing the great barriers that stand against the giving of the gospel, declared: "The church of Christ is God's agency for the proclamation of truth. She is empowered by Him to do a special work; and if she is loyal to God, obedient to His commandments, there will dwell within her the excellence of divine power. If she will honor the Lord God of Israel, there is no power that can stand against her. If she will be true to her allegiance, the forces of the enemy will be no more able to overpower her than is the chaff to resist the whirlwind."—*Ibid.*, p. 11.

Obstacles Not to Be Feared

Again comes the word: "Obstacles to the advancement of the work of God will appear; but fear not. . . . He can remove all obstructions to the advancement of His work. He has means for the removal of every difficulty, that those who serve Him and respect the means He employs may be delivered. . . . The plans of the enemies of His work may seem to be firm and well established, but He can overthrow the strongest of these plans, and in His own time and way He will do this, when He sees that our faith has

been sufficiently tested and that we are drawing near to Him and making Him our counselor."—*Ibid.*, p. 10.

"God has made amazing sacrifices for human beings. He has expended mighty energy to reclaim man from transgression and sin to loyalty and obedience, but I have been shown that He does nothing without the co-operation of human agencies."—*Ibid.*, p. 54.

The omnipotent God has waited for centuries to pour His Spirit upon the earth in a great repetition of Pentecost that will lighten the world with His glory, and usher in His kingdom. But He chooses to wait for cooperation from human agencies. He sends His Spirit to strive with the hearts of men when their fellow men intercede with Him in their behalf.

Heaven calls us to stand as intercessors between lost men and their God. Said Paul to Timothy: "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men. . . . This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:1, 3, 4, R.S.V.).

Intercessors Needed

As we seek God during this season no greater incentive to prayer can come to us than the realization that we are to intercede with God in behalf of men. "A vast responsibility is devolving upon men and women of prayer throughout the land to petition that God will sweep back the cloud of evil and give a few more years of grace in which to work for the Master. Let us cry to God that the angels may hold the four winds until missionaries shall be sent to all parts of the world and shall proclaim the warning against disobeying the law of Jehovah."—*Ibid.*, vol. 5, pp. 717, 718.

In recent years we have seen mighty victories for God resulting from the united prayers of His people around the world. We have seen the hand of persecution lifted and the way opened for the gospel to go as never before. We have seen the threat of war removed, and whatever peace the world enjoys today may well be credited to the prayers of the people of God.

We know that the time is upon us when a breakthrough must come in many lands that have long resisted the message. God has given us a foretaste of this experience in some areas of the world. Thirty years ago our work entered the island of Mussau, near the Solomons, then rated as one of the most degraded areas of earth. Today every one of the 2,500 people on the island has accepted Jesus, is obedient to His great law of righteousness, and is waiting and watching for His coming. Eighty-five persons from that island have gone out as missionaries to the islands around them.

Into His Presence

By Mrs. C. R. Brown

**Into His presence—His love is mine!
Looking in silence at love divine!
Lifting my face to His searching gaze—
Seeking His guidance in all my ways.**

**Into His presence—He really lives!
Quiet and freedom from care He gives!
Leaving my heartaches on Jesus' breast—
Taking the courage and calm and rest.**

**Into His presence—a bliss so sweet!
Adoringly there at Jesus' feet!
And as I whisper out my prayer,
He gives for ashes, roses rare.**

**Into His presence—oh, how He longs
To soothe our souls and heal our wrongs!
There's wisdom rich and strength and
power
In Christ, our Fortress and our Tower.**

From Korea come amazing reports of the spread of our work. If coming events cast their shadows before, then in Korea we see a type of the great triumph that will attend the gospel just before the end. C. A. Williams writes: "This summer more than 4,000 laymen and young people went out holding Vacation Bible Schools and evangelistic meetings. Every place we held a Vacation Bible School we held an evangelistic meeting, and really we have had wonderful results. Just last month the people on three entire islands began keeping the Sabbath, more than 2,300 people in all. New companies and groups have sprung up everywhere." We learn, too, of prominent, well-educated Koreans who have been moved to study the Scriptures for themselves and have discovered the great truths that make us a people. These men, even before they have been baptized, have gone out to preach the message to others, and whole churches have been raised up as a result.

Spirit Being Poured Out

From other parts of the world come similar reports that can be explained only by the fact that God is pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh. This means that earnest people are petitioning God in behalf of their fellow men. If God could send one message directly to us today, might it not be that we lift up our eyes unto the fields that are already white to harvest, and would we not hear Him say, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest"? Should we not enter into a new covenant relation with God, that will put into our hearts that love that led Him to give His own Son to save a fallen world? Shall we not unite as a church in a great universal intercession that will break down barriers, that will move the hearts of men, and prepare the way for God to do a mighty work? This will prove the quickest and surest way to bring about a revival within the church and lead us into that deep spiritual experience we long have sought.

"It may be that in lifting up your eyes to see afar off the fields white unto the harvest, you will receive into your own hearts the abundant grace of God. . . . When you begin to realize how destitute of means the laborers are to carry forward the work in foreign fields, you will do what you can to help, and your souls will begin to revive, your spiritual appetite will become healthy, and your mind will be refreshed with the word of God, which is a leaf from the tree of life for the healing of the nations."—*Ibid.*, vol. 8, pp. 32, 33.

What opportunities are ours! What a day in which to live! What grand and glorious things we soon shall see! God help us to rise and shine, for truly it is time for the light of truth to go to all the world.

(Reading, Friday, November 15, 1963)

The Challenge to Adventist Youth

By ODD JORDAL

I HAVE a deep interest in the youth, and I greatly desire to see them striving to perfect Christian characters, seeking by diligent study and earnest prayer to gain the training essential for acceptable service in the cause of God. I long to see them helping one another to reach a higher plane of Christian experience."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 15.

In these momentous words from the pen of Ellen G. White is defined the main purpose of life for young people—to strive for perfection of character, to acquire training essential to acceptable service for God, and to reach a higher level of Christian experience. Each of these objectives must be considered and planned for or none of them will be reached.

The development of Christian character is the first goal we shall consider in this reading. In doing so I would like to draw your attention to Genesis 27:34, 35, where we read: "When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father."

This text depicts the desperate feelings of a man who discovers what he has lost through neglect in life. The birthright belonged to Esau by virtue of his birth. It was an inheritance that he took very much for granted, just as there are things in life today that we take for granted. Esau did not believe that he could lose his birthright, and therefore he rashly bargained with it. He traded it for a mess of pottage, and seemed not to understand what he had done until it could no longer be reclaimed. When he realized his mistake, the feeling of despair that overtook him was akin to the anguish that overtook Judas Iscariot. Judas, like Esau, never properly evaluated his treasures. He esteemed lightly the friendship of Jesus, and bargained with the Master's life. Only after he had sold Jesus did he realize the full import of what he had done. Then, having set in motion forces that could not be reversed, forces that took his Master's life, his life became intolerable, and he chose to end it with a rope.

Thousands of young people have had a bitter experience such as that of Esau. They have wasted in the most careless manner the Christian values once bestowed upon them. Their intentions might not at first have been to give up

their Christian principles, but, like the prodigal son, they have gradually frittered away their inheritance. Perhaps without even noticing it, they have drifted away from the ideals upon which true happiness is based.

Every young person who wishes to grow in strength and Christian character will have to put himself under discipline. Christian growth and character can only be achieved when a person is willing to accept Christian principles as the guiding rule for everyday life.

We are living in an age when the human race utters loud cries for liberty. Self-rule and self-determination have become an obsession, not only with nations but with individuals. It is the fashion of our time to throw away the so-called yokes of bondage—taboos, customs, and, not the least, principles, particularly Christian principles. The Ten Commandments have been deemed antiquated. Give the individual freedom, and let him develop naturally without restraint. Such is the battle cry of today's social educators.

The results are evident in confused, uprooted young men and women who frequent the entertainment houses and dance halls, or simply hang around on street corners, too often ending up in courtrooms where their irresponsible behavior results in fines or prison sentences.

At such a time as this we in the Seventh-day Adventist Church lift our voices to proclaim true liberty and freedom in Christ. This liberty is no invitation to throw away principles and step across the dividing line between right and wrong. We still believe and maintain that there is great protection against misery and tragedy in the command, "Thou shalt not." Now, more than ever, the world needs to see a demonstration of young people who are willing, and also happy, to answer with a definite No! when invitations are extended to them to participate in what may be sinful or even doubtful. We need young people like Joseph who when tempted to sin will answer, "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9).

We need men like Daniel and his companions who will stand firm and straight even if the whole community bows in acceptance of a philosophy and a mode of conduct that is contrary to the Word of

God. We also need women of high ideals who, like Ruth, would never think of returning to Moab once they have started on the road to Canaan.

We are happy to count such young people among our ranks today, young people whose social behavior is so different that the spotlight of the community where they live falls upon them. I remember with pride and joy one instance of this kind at the close of a summer camp held at the head of a beautiful fjord in western Norway. Four hundred of our campers filled the platform of the railroad station, waiting to board the train for the homeward journey. At the same time another group of about five hundred youngsters jammed in to board a train on the adjoining track. They were heading for a football match somewhere on the other side of the mountain divide.

The difference struck me immediately. The order and impression of purity of our group was a striking contrast to the shouting, bottle-swinging, cigarette-smoking herd of worldly youth that stampeded down the platform alongside our young people. I tarried on the platform until the sound of the choruses sung by our Missionary Volunteers died away as the train gained distance.

As I stood there the stationmaster walked over for a chat. "What a difference," was his introductory remark. "A fine group of young people you have there, sir. Tell me, what organization do they represent?" It was a pleasure to answer. The behavior of our young people had been a mighty sermon preached to this official.

Training for Service

The second essential set forth in Sister White's introductory statement is for young people to acquire training for acceptable service for God. The vastness of the task of preaching the gospel to the millions of people on this globe is almost beyond comprehension, yet the task will be done. According to our Lord's great prophecy in Matthew 24:14, the gospel of the kingdom shall reach every nation. It is evident, however, that this will be accomplished through a limited number of gospel workers, for Jesus said, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2).

As the work of the church expands and branches into specialized fields such as medicine, education, and dentistry, the staffing of our institutions, missions, and ministerial posts becomes increasingly difficult. Oftentimes urgent calls go unfilled for long periods of time, particularly in areas where advanced education and professional experience are required. Our educational institutions and our schools year after year are turning out larger and ever larger groups of men

and women with degrees, but still the number of workers is insufficient.

In the Master's parable the thought is expressed that those servants who received the greater number of talents faithfully employed them for their Master's benefit, whereas he who received but one talent, withdrew it from circulation. However, when it comes to serving the Lord with our talents today, one gets the impression that the picture has been reversed. Many of our young people who have undergone the discipline of specialized training, who are most needed, and could be of greatest blessing to the church, are using their talents in non-denominational organizations.

We realize that we are living in an age of great opportunities for young men and women with education and professional training, and attractive salaries and benefits are offered them. But should not the needs of the Lord's work be given first consideration? We sincerely appeal to our youth to fix their eyes on the goal that is everlasting, and to channel their energy and talents into the service of our Lord.

"Possessions" Also Mean Talents

A certain story in the Bible used to cause me some difficulty to explain. It is the story of the rich young man who came to Jesus and asked what he should do to gain life eternal (Matt. 19:16-22). After Jesus had counseled with him and learned something about the young man, He asked him to give his possessions to the poor, and serve Him. The Master's way of using that which was of value to him seemed too hard, and he went away sorrowful. After I arrived in the mission field, however, I came to realize that "possessions" are not only valuables in land, property, and money, but also talents, such as skills, education, and training for service. Jesus wants us to invest these for the good of others. Through this story God is appealing to the youth of our church to be ready to pull up their roots and offer themselves in service wherever they may be needed. God forbid that any, like the rich young man in the Bible, should turn away sorrowful when Christ calls.

I challenge our youth to plan and to train for a place in God's work. I challenge our young people to join forces with our missionary pioneers such as I have met in the mission field of Ethiopia. They left their homeland and opened new territories for the gospel in Africa. They sacrificed, but they have also gained. They have seen the changes the gospel effects in the lives of the people around them. They have seen men and women who were ridden with fear, pain, and disease returned to health and happiness. They work far from home, but near to God. That is what counts in the end.

Some of our missionaries have given

their lives for the cause they loved. Early this morning, on the day I write these words, I went to the cemetery on the hillside above the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa and prayed as the rising sun created a pattern in gold on the graves of some of these dear missionaries. Here they rest. They answered Yes when the Lord asked, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" (Isa. 6:8). They expended their talents for Ethiopia. One day the Lord will say to each of them, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Sister White pleads with our young people to help one another reach a higher level of Christian experience. It is through such an experience that the desire to serve is planted in our hearts. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:14: "For the love of Christ constraineth us." We need to experience this love. We need to have a close relationship with our Lord. To many of our young people Jesus is almost a stranger. Some have merely heard about Him. Only occasionally have they listened to Him or spoken with Him. I am here talking about our daily devotions. It is through prayer and by the reading of His Word, by association with others of His children, and by going to His house of worship that we become more closely acquainted with Jesus.

As Seventh-day Adventist young people most of us are members of our local Missionary Volunteer Society, where we engage in a number of activities. But let us remember that though it is necessary and helpful for young people to have a balanced program of social, physical, and spiritual activities, the main purpose of our organization is to help one another reach a higher level of Christian experience, and to win friends for the gospel. Therefore, the main energy of our activities should be directed toward achieving this.

Nothing strengthens our own spiritual life so much as bringing others to Jesus. Let us by the grace of God endeavor to be personal soul winners like the apostle Andrew. We read that his personal contact with Jesus made such an impression upon his heart that he went and found his brother Peter and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (John 1:41).

My appeal to you today is to make the discovery that Andrew made. Discover Jesus as your personal friend, helper, and Saviour from sin. Accept His principles for your life, and use them in building a solid Christian character. I appeal to you to plan and train for service in God's cause. The experience, the joy, and the happiness that will come through bringing souls into contact with Jesus will more than repay you for your effort. As you do this, I know that you will one day hear the blessed words from our Saviour's lips, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Christ and His Church

By ELLEN G. WHITE

THE Lord has a people, a chosen people, His church, to be His own, His own fortress, which He holds in a sin-stricken, revolted world; and He intended that no authority should be known in it, no laws be acknowledged by it, but His own.

Satan has a large confederacy, his church. Christ calls them the synagogue of Satan because the members are the children of sin. The members of Satan's church have been constantly working to cast off the divine law, and confuse the distinction between good and evil. Satan is working with great power in and through the children of disobedience to exalt treason and apostasy as truth and loyalty. . . .

At this time the church is to put on her beautiful garments—"Christ our righteousness." There are clear, decided distinctions to be restored and exemplified to the world in holding aloft the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.¹ There is but one church in the world who are at the present time standing in the breach, and making up the hedge, building up the old waste places.²

How Heaven Views the Church

Although there are evils existing in the church, and will be until the end of the world, the church in these last days is to be the light of the world that is polluted and demoralized by sin. The church, enfeebled and defective, needing to be reformed, warned, and counseled, is the only object upon earth upon which Christ bestows His supreme regard. The world is a workshop in which, through the co-operation of human and divine agencies, Jesus is making experiments by His grace and divine mercy upon human hearts. Angels are amazed as they behold the transformation of character brought about in those who yield themselves to God, and they express their joy in songs of rapturous praise to God and to the Lamb. They see those who are by nature the children of wrath, converted and becoming laborers together with Christ in drawing souls to God. They see those who were in darkness becoming lights to shine amid the moral night of this wicked and perverse generation. They see them becoming prepared by a Christlike experience to suffer with their Lord, and afterward to be partakers with Him in His glory in heaven above.

God has a church on earth who are lifting up the downtrodden law, and pre-

senting to the world the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. The church is the depository of the wealth of the riches of the grace of Christ, and through the church eventually will be made manifest the final and full display of the love of God to the world that is to be lightened with its glory.³

God wants His people to be united in the closest bonds of Christian fellowship; confidence in our brethren is essential to the prosperity of the church; union of action is important in a religious crisis. One imprudent step, one careless action, may plunge the church into difficulties and trials from which it may not recover for years. . . .

As Jesus was about to leave His disciples, He prayed for them in a most touching, solemn manner that they all might be one "as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us. . . ." The apostle Paul in his first epistle to the Corinthians exhorts them to unity: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

God is leading a people out from the world upon the exalted platform of eternal truth, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. He will discipline and fit up His people. They will not be at variance, one believing one thing, and another having faith and views entirely opposite, each moving independently of the body. Through the diversity of the gifts and governments that He has placed in the church, they will all come to the unity of the faith.

If one man takes his views of Bible truth without regard to the opinions of his brethren, and justifies his course, alleging that he has a right to his own peculiar views, and then presses them upon others, how can he be fulfilling the prayer of Christ? And if another and still another arises, each asserting his right to believe and talk what he pleases without reference to the faith of the body, where will be that harmony which existed between Christ and His Father, and which Christ prayed might exist among His brethren?

God is leading out a people and establishing them upon the one great platform of faith, the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus. He has given

His people a straight chain of Bible truth, clear and connected. This truth is of heavenly origin and has been searched for as for hidden treasure. It has been dug out through careful searching of the Scriptures and through much prayer.⁴

"He [God] is leading, not stray offshoots, not one here and one there, but a people. The truth is a sanctifying power; but the church militant is not the church triumphant. There are tares among the wheat. 'Wilt thou then that we . . . gather them up?' was the question of the servant; but the master answered, 'Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.' The gospel net draws not only good fish, but bad ones as well, and the Lord only knows who are His."⁵

I know that the Lord loves His church. It is not to be disorganized or broken up into independent atoms. There is not the least inconsistency in this; there is not the least evidence that such a thing will be. . . .

I warn the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be careful how you receive every new notion and those who claim to have great light. The character of their work seems to be to accuse and to tear down.⁶

Some Will Fall—Others Will Stand

Brethren and sisters, I appeal to you as Seventh-day Adventists to be all that this name signifies. There is danger of departing from the spirit of the message. . . .

It is difficult to hold fast the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end; and the difficulty increases when there are hidden influences constantly at work to bring in another spirit, a counterworking element, on Satan's side of the question. In the absence of persecution, there have drifted into our ranks some who appear sound, and their Christianity unquestionable, but who, if persecution should arise, would go out from us. In the crisis, they would see force in specious reasoning that has had an influence on their minds.

Satan has prepared various snares to meet varied minds. When the law of God is made void the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and a larger proportion than we now anticipate, will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Instead of being strengthened when brought into strait places, many prove that they are not living branches of the True Vine; they bore not fruit, and the husbandman taketh them away.

But when the world makes void the law of God, what will be the effect upon the truly obedient and righteous? Will they be carried away by the strong current of evil? Because so many rank themselves under the banner of the prince of darkness, will God's commandment-keeping people swerve from their allegiance? Never! Not one who is abiding in Christ

will fail or fall. His followers will bow in obedience to a higher authority than that of any earthly potentate. While the contempt placed upon God's commandments leads many to suppress the truth and show less reverence for it, the faithful ones will with greater earnestness hold aloft its distinguishing truths.⁷

The Church Ever on Gaining Ground

The church is to increase in activity and to enlarge her bounds. Our missionary efforts are to be expansive; we must enlarge our borders. . . . While there have been fierce contentions in the effort to maintain our distinctive character, yet we have as Bible Christians ever been on gaining ground.⁸

We are now a strong people, if we will put our trust in the Lord; for we are handling the mighty truths of the word of God. We have everything to be thankful for. If we walk in the light as it shines upon us from the living oracles of God, we shall have large responsibilities, corresponding to the great light given us of God. We have many duties to perform, because we have been made the depositories of sacred truth to be given to the world in all its beauty and glory. We are debtors to God to use every advantage He has entrusted to us to beautify the truth of holiness of character, and to send the message of warning, and of comfort, of hope and love, to those who are in the darkness of error and sin.⁹

Filled With the Holy Spirit

When the churches become living, working churches, the Holy Spirit will be given in answer to their sincere request. Then the truth of God's word will be regarded with new interest, and will be explored as if it were a revelation just from the courts above. Every declaration of inspiration concerning Christ will take hold of the inmost soul of those who love Him. Envy, jealousy, evil surmising, will cease. The Bible will be regarded as a charter from heaven. Its study will absorb the mind, and its truths will feast the soul. The promises of God now repeated as if the soul had never tasted of His love, will then glow upon the altar of the heart, and fall in burning words from the lips of the messengers of God. They will then plead with souls with an earnestness that cannot be repulsed. Then the windows of heaven will be open for the showers of the latter rain. The followers of Christ will be united in love.

The only way the truth can be presented to the world, in its pure and holy character, is for those who claim to believe it, to be exponents of its power.

The Bible requires the sons and daughters of God to stand on an elevated platform; for God calls upon them to represent Christ to the world. As they represent Christ, they represent the Father. Unity of believers testifies of their oneness with Christ, and this unity is required by the accumulated light which now shines upon the pathway of the children of God.

It is not the want of knowledge, or of spiritual understanding, that will separate us from the divine presence, and witness against us in the last day, but the truth that has reached the understanding, the light that has shone upon the soul and has not been appreciated, will judge and condemn us before God. My brethren, if we were blind, we would not sin, but we have been privileged to look upon great light. The treasures of truth and knowledge have been bestowed upon us without limit, and we are guilty in proportion to our failure to live up to the truth that has been placed within our reach.

The character and work of many of the professed followers of Christ will not bear the test of God's holy law. The Spirit of God is not in their worship, and the worship is not acceptable to God. There is no excuse for their present coldness. They have the riches of the truth, and make a boast of their knowledge, but they are content to make no advancement.¹⁰

To us as a people God has given great light, and He calls upon us to let it shine forth to those in darkness. By us the light, the power, of a living truth is to be given to the world. From us there is to shine forth to those in darkness a clear, steady light, kept alive by the power of God. We are charged to use the light given us to create other lights, that our fellow men may rejoice in the truth. Let us not disregard the charge. . . .

As the end draws near, the work of God is to increase in full strength and purity and holiness. The workers are to be filled with love for God and for one another. They are to cherish principles of the strictest integrity. When the true keynote is struck, God will reveal Himself as a God of mercy and love. Angels of heaven will draw near to the members of the church on earth to aid them in their necessity.

Let us ever remember that we are laborers together with God. In this heavenly union we shall carry forward His work with completeness, with singing and rejoicing. In every soul will be kindled the fire of holy zeal. Company after company will leave the dark standard of the foe to come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.

God's workers must gain a far deeper experience. If they will surrender all to Him, He will work mightily for them. They will plant the standard of truth upon fortresses till then held by Satan, and with shouts of victory take possession of them. They bear the scars of battle, but there comes to them the comforting message that the Lord will lead them on, conquering and to conquer.¹¹

The Church Victorious

Now the church is militant, now we are confronted with a world in midnight darkness, almost wholly given over to idolatry. But the day is coming in which the battle will have been fought, the victory won. The will of God is to be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. Then the nations will own no other law than the law of heaven. All will be a happy, united family, clothed with the garments of praise and thanksgiving,—the robe of Christ's righteousness. All nature in its surpassing loveliness will offer to God a constant tribute of praise and adoration. The world will be bathed in the light of heaven. The years will move on in gladness. The light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold greater than it is now. Over the scene the morning stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy, while Christ and God will unite in proclaiming, "There shall be no more sin, neither shall there be any more death." . . .

We must have a view of the future, and of the blessedness of heaven. Stand on the threshold of eternity, and hear the gracious welcome given to those who in this life have co-operated with Christ, regarding it as a privilege and an honor to suffer for His sake. As they unite with the angels, they cast their crowns at the feet of their Redeemer, exclaiming, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing. . . . Honor and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever." . . .

Will you catch the inspiration of the vision? Will you let your mind dwell upon the picture?¹²

SOURCES

- ¹ *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 16.
- ² *Ibid.*, p. 50.
- ³ *Ibid.*, pp. 49, 50.
- ⁴ *Testimonies*, vol. 3, pp. 446, 447.
- ⁵ *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 61.
- ⁶ *Selected Messages*, book 2, pp. 68, 69.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 367-369.
- ⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 396, 397.
- ⁹ *General Conference Bulletin*, 1893, p. 24.
- ¹⁰ *Review and Herald*, Feb. 25, 1890.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*, Sept. 17, 1903.
- ¹² *Review and Herald*, Dec. 17, 1908.

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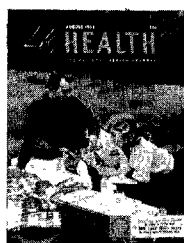
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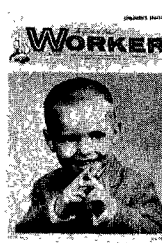
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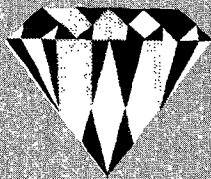
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Children's Lessons for the Week of Prayer, 1963

By EUGENE SAMPLE

General Suggestions to Leaders

A Week of Prayer in the lives of boys and girls can well be a turning point in their experience that will mean much throughout their lives. A brief survey of the following lessons will show that there is no narrowed theme in this series of studies. In preparing them we have tried to cover what we feel are the most essential phases of the Christian life.

May we suggest that a build-up of the topic titles be made and added to each day. This may be done on the blackboard or on a large card. If the series is confined to only the five days of the school week, then one of the topics will have to be omitted. But at the end of the week the listing should look something like this:

God LOVES You
God TALKS to You
God LISTENS to You
God OFFERS to You
God HELPS You
God CALLS You

Throughout the week emphasis should be laid on the theme of "God and You," making the application to the individual as direct as possible. The more we can help the boys and girls understand the real relationship that they can have with God, the more they will appreciate and value their religious faith.

If as leaders we can be sure that our own consecration is complete, then the influence of our lives will make its impress on the pliable minds of the children and give emphasis to what we say.

May God richly bless and direct, that this may prove a fruitful week for our boys and girls.

LESSON 1

God LOVES You

Jimmy lived near one of the banks of a big river. How he loved to go and play in some of the shallow places where he knew it was safe! Sometimes he would throw sticks out as far as he could and watch them float down with the current.

Then one day Jimmy decided to make a special little boat that he could attach to a string and let sail out on the big river. With the string he could pull it back.

From the day he first thought of it Jimmy dreamed of his boat. As soon as he could he started work on it. With real effort he carved

and whittled. Days went by, and finally Jimmy had one of the finest handmade toy boats any boy ever owned. Even his daddy was proud of the job Jimmy had done.

Then one day Jimmy happily took his boat to the river for its trial run. What a thrill Jimmy felt as he let out the string and the wind caught the sails of the little vessel and carried it smoothly out across the water! For days afterward it was hard to get Jimmy to think of anything else but sailing his boat. Sailing it was especially fun because he had made it himself.

One day the wind was stronger than usual, so his daddy told Jimmy that he'd better not try to sail his boat that day. But Jimmy was sure everything would be all right, so, down to the river he went. He put his precious boat on the water, set the sails, held tightly to the string, and watched eagerly as the brisk wind quickly carried the boat out over the choppy waters.

At first Jimmy was more careful than usual. He didn't let it out very far. But as he got braver he let out more and more string. Finally the boat was out so far that every now and then Jimmy couldn't even see it as it bobbed up and down on the waves.

Then Jimmy decided he had better pull the boat back in. He started winding up the string.

But something was wrong! The string was coming in, but there was no boat tied to it. Frantically Jimmy pulled in all the string, then ran along the riverbank as he watched his precious boat sail farther and farther away.

What a terrible day that was! He was sure his boat was gone forever. Slowly he trudged back home to tell his parents about his heartbreaking experience. For days he was sad over the loss of his boat.

A number of weeks later Jimmy and his father went to town several miles away down river from their home. While father was doing some shopping, Jimmy thought he would enjoy looking in the store windows. From one store to another he went, looking at many things.

Then he came to a special store that had more things to interest a boy. In the window were model cars, trains, boats, and—boats! His eyes stared. Jimmy froze to the spot. What was that he saw? He couldn't believe it!

He dashed through the store entrance and up to the owner of the store. "Please give me that special sailboat you have on the stand in the window," he blurted out. "That's my boat! I made it, and it belongs to me."

"Wait a minute," said the man. "That isn't your boat. You can't have it unless you pay the selling price for it." The man went to get the boat from the window. "A right fine boat this is," said the man, "and whoever made it did a mighty fine job on it. But I can't let you have it unless you buy it."

Then Jimmy told how he had lost his precious boat. The man felt sorry, but he said Jimmy would have to pay eight dollars for the boat, because he had bought the boat from the finder. Even father, when he came, agreed that the man was right. But eight dollars was a lot more money than Jimmy had. The storeman agreed to set the boat aside for a time so Jimmy could get the money he needed.

It wasn't easily done. Jimmy worked hard at odd jobs to earn a few dimes. He saved every penny he got. Finally the day came when Jimmy had enough. He could hardly wait to go and buy back his boat. After paying the man, Jimmy hugged his boat to him as he said, "Now you are twice mine! First I made you and you belonged to me. Then I lost you; but now I have bought you back, so you are twice mine!" And tears of joy filled Jimmy's eyes as he hurried out of the store. He loved and treasured his boat even more after that.

This story helps us to understand how much we mean to God. He made the world and all the wonderful things in it. It all belonged to Him. He loved Adam and Eve, for they were His children in a special way. But then Satan tempted them, and they fell. How sad Jesus and His Father were. But because God loved the world and its fallen people He would redeem them. What a price had to be paid! Only the life of Jesus was enough. This is what it cost for Heaven to redeem even one soul from the earth. What deep love it shows. Yes, and the price would have been paid if you were the only one to be saved. Do you think God and Jesus love you? Ah, yes, far more than we can tell.

God speaks to us in the Bible and says, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee" (Jer. 31:3). John tells us that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Paul adds to this and says that we "are bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:20). And the apostle Peter says that this price was "the precious blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:19).

It wasn't easy for God to give His Son to this world, and it wasn't easy for Jesus to turn away from the glory He had with His Father and come to this world of sin where He had to suffer and die for us. It took the strongest and truest love in the universe.

Have you ever thought of what it would be like to give your life so that someone else could live? That's what Danny thought he was doing one day.

Danny's little sister was very sick in the hospital. The doctor was afraid she might die. There was only one hope to save her—they must find someone who would be willing to give some of his blood that the doctor could transfer to the little girl's body. It was

in the days before there were blood banks where the doctor could get just what he needed, as he would be able to do today.

After a number of tests it was found that Danny had just the right kind of blood for his sister. The doctor sat down and talked to Danny and told him what they needed, and just how they would take some of his blood and give it to his sister so she could get well again.

Danny thought about it for a few minutes. He really loved his sister, so he told the doctor Yes. He was taken into a special room where they put into a vein in his arm a hollow needle attached to a tube, and in a moment that wonderful colored fluid started flowing into a special bottle. After a time the doctor felt he had enough, so he carefully took the blood in the bottle and let it flow into a vein in Danny's sister's arm. How thankful everyone was when sister soon was getting better.

But one of the nurses went back to the room where Danny was resting. She found him crying as if his heart would break. She tried to comfort and cheer him as she told him what a brave boy he had been to help his little sister. Finally the doctor came too, and after a bit Danny looked up through his tears as he asked, "When will I die?"

A look of astonishment came over the doctor's face, and a moment later he put his arm around Danny. "My boy," he said, "you aren't going to die. Soon you'll be as good as new, and your body will make more blood to take the place of what you gave for your sister."

Danny had thought he was giving his life so his sister could get well. He loved her that much, even though it hadn't been easy. Would you be willing to do as much?

Jesus loved you enough to die for you, and because He had never sinned He arose from the grave and is alive today. His love for you never changes. He wants to be your truest Friend. He says, "My son, give me thine heart" (Prov. 23:26). Do you hear His voice today? Won't you say, "Here I am, Lord Jesus; take me and make me a true child of Thine?"

(An appropriate close would be to sing the songs "Give Your Heart to Jesus" and "Into My Heart.")

LESSON 2

God TALKS to You

All of us enjoy talking to our friends, don't we? And we like to have them talk to us too.

In our friendship with God and Jesus there should be a lot of conversation. We should talk to God, and we should also let Him talk to us. Did you ever think that maybe we would learn more if we let Him do more than half of the talking?

How does God talk to us? Back in the beginning of this world before Adam and Eve sinned they had the wonderful privilege of talking face to face with God. There in the Garden of Eden, God came and visited with them. He must have told them all about the great worlds out in space, about the heaven where God's home is, and about all the things that Adam and Eve should do if they wanted always to be happy. But when sin came in,

man could no longer talk directly with God, for no sinner can live in God's presence.

So God had to plan for some other ways that He could give His messages to the people of this world. He wanted so much for everyone to have a chance to know that He loves them and wants to help them find the way to heaven. This has been the great longing of His heart through all the years since Adam sinned.

What are the ways God talks to man? How does He talk to you? Are you listening for His voice as you live each passing day?

One of the nicest ways God talks is through the beautiful things of nature. Here we may learn of His great creative power, of how He can take a tiny seed and make it into a mighty tree. We see His love of beauty as He paints the glowing sunsets and puts the delicate colors on the velvet rosebuds. On every hand, from the smallest insect to the largest mountain, are the most wonderful things in nature's book that speak to us of God and His love. Are you listening to His voice?

And then we have the Bible, written by holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). Here God speaks directly to our hearts. Here is His special letter that tells us how we should live. Here we find His rules that point the way for winning in the game of life. Here is told the wonderful story of Jesus and how He gained the victory over sin and left an example for us to follow. Are you listening to God's voice through the Bible each day?

A third and very important way that God talks to us is by His Holy Spirit as He speaks through each conscience. It is the still small voice that guides us and turns us away from wrong. Isaiah called it "a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it" (Isa. 30:21). Sometimes we don't like to hear God's voice because we want to do the evil things Satan shows us. An old Indian who had learned to love the white man's God said that his conscience was "a three-cornered something" that pricked him whenever he turned from the Jesus way. Actually it is God's voice that speaks to our soul and helps us to avoid wrong.

Marjorie found it that way when she discovered mother's beautiful cake on the kitchen table. She had just come home from school and she felt sure she was starving to death. Oh, how good that cake looked! If she could only have a piece! Though she knew she shouldn't eat it without permission, Marjorie wanted some of that cake. The more she stood and looked at it the more she wanted it. A little voice seemed to tell her that she should get away where she wouldn't see the cake and be tempted by it. But she couldn't make herself leave. Then she reached out her finger to scrape up a bit of frosting on the edge of the plate.

"Mm-m-m, that really is good," she said to herself. So she went even closer to the cake. She started to dig her finger into the side of the cake, when she was startled by what sounded to her like a voice. "Marjorie, leave mother's cake alone," it said. It seemed so real that Marjorie turned around to see if someone was there. And then she knew it was God's still small voice speaking to her. Later that evening she was glad she had listened and obeyed, for she found that the cake was for some special company mother was having for dinner.

Have you ever heard God's voice speaking

to you when you were tempted to do wrong? You will be happy if you always listen for it and do what it says.

Ellen G. White and Elder White were starting a journey to some meetings where Mrs. White was to preach to the people. They had packed their things, gone to the train station, and then found some seats in one of the cars of the train. Since it was nighttime and they were tired from a busy day, Elder White settled down and was going to rest while they traveled.

But a voice seemed to speak to Mrs. White and tell her that they shouldn't stay where they were. Finally she turned to her husband and said, "We must not stay in this car." So they took their things and went to the last car of the train. They had traveled only about three miles when there was a terrible wreck. The engine and most of the cars were twisted and broken. The only car of the train that was safe was the last one, the one to which Elder and Mrs. White had moved. The car they were in first was broken and wrecked. You can be sure that the Whites were glad they had listened to the voice of God that spoke to them that night.

A number of years ago a young preacher and his wife were pastoring a small church in eastern Idaho. They lived in a little apartment in the back part of the church. One Friday evening this man had built a good fire in the special stove that was used to heat the water for the baptistry. The next day there was to be a baptism of some people who had accepted Jesus and His way. All evening the fire was kept hot. Even after the young man and his wife had gone to bed it was necessary to keep the fire going, so during the night he got up every hour to put more coal in the stove.

About three o'clock he awoke with a start. It seemed as if someone had called him. He sat up in the darkness and wondered if he had been dreaming. Then he smelled smoke. Quickly he jumped out of bed and dashed down the stairway to the basement, where the water heater stove was installed. When he got there he found the wall behind the stove was afire. He quickly filled a dishpan with water and after several hasty trips to the kitchen he put the fire out.

After things cooled down and he stood and looked the situation over, he realized who had called him. It surely was God's voice, probably through an angel. If it had come only a moment or two later it would have been too late to save the church from burning on that cold winter night. (I was that young man twenty-one years ago.)

Yes, God does talk to His children in many ways—through nature, through the Bible, through His Holy Spirit, and by His angels. Are you listening for His voice? "Today if you will hear his voice, harden not your heart."

LESSON 3

God LISTENS to You

Yesterday we learned about how God talks to us. Today we want to remember that He also *listens* to us. Our part of the conversation with God is called prayer.

Many people have tried to tell us what prayer is. I'm not sure that any definition is

really complete. Here is what some have said about prayer:

"Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend." "Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse." "Prayer is the most powerful force in the world." "Prayer is the secret of the victorious life, and there is no other." "The darkness of the evil one incloses those who neglect to pray." "Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him."

How wonderful it is that we can talk to God our Father in heaven, and to Jesus our Saviour. And the promise of Jesus is that "whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you receive it, and you will" (Mark 11:24, R.S.V.).

Have you ever wished you had a key to the big vault in the bank? And that you had been told when you received the key that you could help yourself to any of the riches that were kept in that vault? Of course this would never happen, for only robbers help themselves to the treasures kept in bank vaults. But think of having the key to the storehouse of God's wonderful treasures! That is exactly what prayer is. By it you have access to all the riches of heaven.

Have you ever heard about Herkimer? He was a poor man who lived with his family near a large lake. Things had not been going well for his family for some time. Their home was poor, and quite often his family did not even have enough to eat.

One day Herkimer was feeling especially bad, so he thought he would go for a walk down by the lake. Sometimes a long look out over the lake made him feel better.

He was plodding along with his hands in his pockets as he neared the water. Suddenly he was startled by a desperate cry for help. He looked quickly across the lake and his eyes searched its surface so he would know where the cry came from. Finally he saw a young man that was in trouble. Herkimer pulled off his shoes and extra clothes and dived into the cold lake waters. It was a good thing he was a good swimmer. He got to the drowning youth none too soon, and after a desperate struggle he pulled him out onto the beach, where he gave him artificial respiration, which resulted in saving the young man's life.

After a while the young man was able to tell Herkimer who he was and where he lived, so Herkimer took him to his home. There Herkimer learned that he had saved David Jackson, the son of a very rich man. The boy's family were most thankful for what Herkimer had done. They wanted to pay him much money. But Herkimer didn't want pay for doing what he well knew was only his duty.

So Mr. Jackson decided to do something special for Herkimer. He went to a friend of his who made beautiful hand-carved chests. Mr. Jackson ordered one of the best chests the man had. It was large like a cedar chest, and most beautifully made.

One day he had the chest delivered to Herkimer's home. The little house had never contained such a lovely piece of furniture. When the deliveryman left the chest, he also left an envelope containing a key to the chest and a letter of thanks from the Jacksons.

Herkimer and his family put the chest in the nicest spot they had in their living room. They carefully took the key and put it in a special drawer for safekeeping. They wouldn't open the chest. Oh no! It was too

precious and beautiful for that. They kept it dusted and scarcely dared set anything on it for fear something might scratch or damage it.

Days and weeks and months went by. Finally Herkimer's family became so poor they were really desperate. Mrs. Herkimer got sick and had to be taken to the hospital, where she had to stay for several weeks. Herkimer was greatly worried how he could possibly pay all his bills and feed his family.

One day after she was back home Mrs. Herkimer turned to her husband and said, "My dear, have you ever opened the chest that Mr. Jackson sent you? It might be that there is something in it that would help us."

Herkimer thought about it. He agreed that maybe Mr. Jackson had put something in the chest. But should they open it? He wasn't sure. It was such a beautiful and precious thing. At last Herkimer decided it wouldn't hurt to look. But where was the key? No one could remember where they had put it. They searched and searched, and finally found it. Then the family gathered around as Herkimer put the key into the lock, turned it, and opened the lid.

A gasp went up from the children, and even from Herkimer and his wife, for there before them, some in bundles and some in boxes, were hundreds of bills, some \$5, and some \$10, and even more. And to think that all that money had been there waiting for them all that time! How Herkimer wished they had used the key to the chest long before!

Do I hear you saying, "What foolish people! Why didn't they use the key earlier and open the chest?"

But what about the key God has given you to His storehouse? How much are you using it? It can bring you riches too. Of course, it doesn't exactly mean money. But money isn't what we need most. We need God's blessings of love, of happiness, of peace, of help in our fight against sin, and of forgiveness for sin.

Aren't you glad that God is willing to listen to you? If you pray with a sincere heart, He will answer in the way He knows is best for you.

Ellen G. White says: "To every sincere prayer an answer will come. It may not come just as you desire, or at the time you look for it; but it will come in the way and at the time that will best meet your need."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 250.

"Jesus would have the children and the youth come to Him with the same confidence with which they go to their parents. As a child asks his mother or father for bread when he is hungry, so the Lord would have you ask Him for the things which you need. . . .

"Jesus knows the needs of children, and He loves to listen to their prayers. . . .

"Then, children, ask God to do for you those things that you cannot do for yourselves. Tell Jesus everything. Lay open before Him the secrets of your heart; for His eye searches the inmost recesses of the soul, and He reads your thoughts as an open book. When you have asked for the things that are necessary for your soul's good, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them."—*The Adventist Home*, p. 299.

God is listening for your prayers to Him. Don't fail to have some special times each day when you talk to Him, for only in this way can He give you His blessing and make you His child.

LESSON 4

God OFFERS to You

Little John stood facing his teacher in front of the class. He had a real problem. She was holding out to him two small boxes. They both looked exactly alike, were the same size, and were wrapped in the same kind of paper. But the teacher had said there was quite a difference in the two boxes, for inside one box was a bright, shiny penny; inside the other was a crisp, new, one-dollar bill. John could have whichever he wanted.

That was John's problem. He would much rather have the one with the dollar bill in it, but how could he know? He had to choose one and hope it was right. I was very glad when he opened the little box he had picked and out popped the crisp new bill. You can imagine that his classmates were glad too.

As I thought about John I couldn't help remembering that God offers us some choices too. He doesn't force us to go His way. He leaves it to us to choose. He says, "See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil" (Deut. 30:15). Then He adds, "Therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" (verse 19).

Quite often I have traveled by train. One day I had some extra time before the train was due to leave, so I walked down the tracks to where the great Diesel engines stood waiting to pull that long passenger train on our trip to Chicago. I was peeking around trying to learn what I could, but there wasn't really much to see for the engines were mostly enclosed and protected. As I stood around and looked, one of the engineers came along and noticed that I was interested in those engines.

"Have you ever seen the inside of one of these?" he asked me. When I told him No, he invited me to climb up inside with him. There he showed me those huge engines that have such great strength they can easily pull a passenger train half a mile long at speeds up to 100 miles an hour.

When I went back to my seat in the train I did some thinking about those engines. How marvelous they were. What power and ability they had. Look at little me; I sweat and tug to pull a toy wagon loaded with a couple of sacks of sand. How I wish I had the power of one of those engines. What great things I could do!

But then I thought some more. Would I really change places with the engine? Though it has great power and ability, yet it has to be told exactly what to do. It can do nothing without the engineer directing it and pulling the levers and pushing the buttons that make the engine do what he wants it to do, not what the engine wants to do.

Then I was glad that God made me as He did, not a mere machine that has to do only what God wants me to do, but one that can choose and be free to select all along the way of life. Like John, I find myself wanting to choose the best, even better than the dollar that he chose.

When God made Adam and Eve He could have made them so they would never have sinned. But had He done so, no one in this world would ever have had the freedom and power of choosing to serve God.

Without question it would have saved a lot

of trouble. All of the sin and the terrible results it has brought would never have been. But God didn't want that kind of people on this earth or in His universe. He wants only those who choose to love Him and who want to follow His way.

Some young people think they can drift along with the crowd and follow their wishes and desires wherever they lead, without taking any strong stand for right and truth. Believe what you want to, do whatever your feelings tell you to do, and don't worry about what will happen afterward—this seems to be the teaching of some of these freethinkers. If only they could come to understand and believe that there are two great powers in the world, each one offering a way of life to all living persons.

On one side is the God of love, the Creator of the universe and the One who planned this earth to be a place of supreme happiness for everyone. On the other side is Satan, the devil who rebelled against God and who is determined to get every human being he possibly can to turn against God and join his side in the battle between good and evil. Each of these powers wants every boy and girl and man and woman to join the battle on his side.

Satan comes to us with the most alluring and enticing offers for good times and thrills, with promises of riches and honor. He holds out a picture of all the wonderful things that he says will be ours if only we will follow his way. But he carefully keeps us from seeing the other side of the picture until after he gets us in his trap. Then we find that the wages of sin is death, and even before death comes we must pass through all the terrible feeling of unhappiness, trouble, heartache, and guilt that always go with sin. Yes, Satan wraps the package he offers us as nearly like the package that God has for us as is possible. But oh, how he lies, for the package contains nothing but worthless imitations of the real.

On the other hand, Jesus came to this earth so He could help us really know what is in the package that God is holding out to us. He says: "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (John 15:11). "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life" (Matt. 19:29). "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

Jesus did not say we would never have any troubles if we follow Him, but He made it clear that He would not only help us through our troubles but also give us a rich reward in His kingdom. This reward includes eternal life in a land where sin will never enter. In this beautiful world made new we may ever enjoy the wonders of God's creative power. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Cor. 2:9).

There isn't any question about which package I want to choose. And God has promised to help us know which are the right choices if we will only surrender our lives to Him and ask for His guidance.

Many people have visited a special place far up in the Canadian Rockies where the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia come

together on a high summit. There a large sign has been put up that says, "The Great Divide."

From the distant peaks high up in the mountains a little rippling stream comes flowing down. It is fed by the rains and melting snows and soon becomes a sparkling creek, and finally a small river. As it comes to this spot where the sign has been placed, it separates, making two streams. One goes westward and becomes the mighty Columbia River that flows down across the lovely valleys of the West. Its wonderful waters are used to help millions of people live better lives. The other part of this stream flows east and north to form the Saskatchewan and then the Nelson rivers, ending at last in the Arctic Ocean where it is cold and useless. Men must constantly be on guard against its crushing ice packs, which can bring death and destruction.

What an illustration this is of our lives. Like the little stream that danced and sang along over the pebbles and stones, we too laugh and play through our childhood days. Then suddenly we come to a great divide, a special time in life when we must choose which way we will go. Unlike the water, we are given the chance to choose. No one can do it for us; in our own hearts we must decide which way we will go.

There are only two ways to travel, the right way or the wrong, the narrow road or the broad, the way that leads to life and heaven or the path to death and destruction. Which will it be for you?

Just before he died Joshua stood before the children of Israel to give them his farewell sermon. He had led God's people into the Promised Land and had helped each of the tribes find their homes in that fruitful country. As Joshua reminded them of how God had helped them and led them, he also mentioned how many of their people had gone after heathen gods and what trouble it had brought. Then Joshua begged his people to stay true to the God of heaven. He said, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . : but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

"Wouldn't you like to choose God's side too? (At this point make a consecration call for surrender and a willingness to follow the Master.)

LESSON 5

God HELPS You

Have you ever gone fishing? I wouldn't suggest it as one of the better ways to spend our time, though there are many people who get much pleasure from fishing. And, of course, there are people who earn their living this way. Today I would like to mention one big lesson we may learn from fishing.

Most people who go fishing like to make sure they have exactly the right kind of equipment and the very best bait. Then they choose the places that they feel will give them the best chance to catch something. They may go to a hidden lake in some far-away mountain area, or find a lovely river where they think some fish may be hiding. There they put some tempting bait on a hook, cast the line out over the water, and wait and hope that some unsuspecting and

hungry fish will come along and grab it. And usually some fish are caught.

Have you ever stopped to think about the devil as a fisherman? He dangles his baited hooks out in front of boys and girls, and older ones too. He doesn't give up easily, either. The bait that he holds out to us often fools us. He makes sure the hook is hidden, just as the fisherman hides his hook. I'm sure if a fish knew a hook was hiding in the bait, it would never bite and of course would never get caught.

I have seen boys and girls who thought they could nibble and nibble at Satan's bait and not get caught. It is dangerous business, for if we play around with sin, sooner or later we will get caught.

A showman once had a large boa constrictor that he had trained to obey him. It was a huge monster and at his bidding it would glide out of its cage and wind itself around the man's body and head, finally stretching its big head out over the audience. Everyone thought it was really great for a man to have such control over an animal, and they cheered heartily.

One evening at a given signal the snake slid along the floor and wound itself around the man's body. The people applauded, and then after a bit the man gave the command for the snake to return to its cage. But it paid no attention. The man spoke again, but still the snake didn't obey. Then the man shook his shoulders in an effort to get the snake to do as he was told. As he did this the boa constrictor tightened its grip on the man's body, and then, before the eyes of the horrified audience, the snake crushed the man to death.

So it is with sin; we cannot play with it and expect to be able to shake off at will the evil habits we have learned. Sin and Satan may get a grip on us that is almost impossible for us to break. In fact, it cannot be broken without the help of Jesus.

I am glad that God has provided a way of safety for us. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13). The apostle Peter says, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations" (2 Peter 2:9).

We must surrender our lives to Jesus and let Him take over. We cannot gain the victory by ourselves. "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil" (Jer. 13:23). It is just as impossible for us to do good of our own selves as it is for a man to change the color of his skin.

"There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness. That power is Christ. His grace alone can quicken the lifeless faculties of the soul, and attract it to God."—*Steps to Christ*, p. 18.

Some may have "an idea that they must do some part of the work alone. They have trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sin, but now they seek by their own efforts to live aright. But every such effort must fail" (*ibid.*, p. 69). "The only hope for us if we would overcome is to unite our will to God's will and work in co-operation with Him, hour by hour and day by day."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 143.

How wonderful it is that we don't have to

try to overcome alone. Jesus is our helper. When Satan or some of his angels come to us with their temptations, we can have the same victory Jesus had. All we have to do is to pray for it in faith, and help will come from the great legions of heaven. Once when Jesus was in danger He said that if He asked His Father He could immediately have more than twelve legions of angels to come to His aid. And Jesus will do just as much for us if we need help and ask for it.

One of the stories of the Bible that always gives me real faith in what God can and will do for His children is that of Elisha and his servant when they were trapped by their enemies in the city of Dothan. The Syrians were at war with Israel and were causing a lot of trouble to God's people. But God helped Elisha to know the plans of the Syrians, and each time the Syrians planned some new battle strategy, Elisha would tell the king of Israel about it. Finally the king of Syria got terribly upset. He demanded to know who it was among his officers that was the traitor who was helping the king of Israel. One of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber" (2 Kings 6:12).

So the king of Syria made up his mind to get rid of Elisha. He sent spies to find him. After a time they reported that Elisha was in the city of Dothan. Then the king of Syria sent horses and chariots and a great host of soldiers and surrounded the city by night. In the early morning when Elisha's servant got up, behold "an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots" (verse 15).

The servant was terrified. "Alas, my master! how shall we do?" he cried out. But Elisha knew God better than the servant did. He was sure that God hadn't forsaken them, and he was confident that God would help them. Elisha turned to his servant and calmly said, "Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them." Then Elisha prayed and asked God to open the servant's eyes. "And, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha" (verse 17).

The rest of the story is one great victory. Elisha asked God to smite the enemy with blindness, which He did, and then Elisha and his servant went out to the leaders of the enemy host and led them all the way to Samaria and presented them as captives to the king of Israel.

We may not be in a battle where enemy soldiers are seeking our lives, but we do fight an enemy that is just as real. The legions of Heaven's host stand ready to help us. "He [God] would sooner send every angel out of heaven to protect His people, than leave one soul that trusts in Him to be overcome by Satan."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 560.

The apostle Paul said, "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:57). And Mrs. White says again, "If you will leave yourself in His hands, He will bring you off more than conqueror through Him that has loved you."—*Steps to Christ*, p. 72.

But all this does not mean that we can sit back, quietly fold our hands, and let Christ fight the battle for us. We must "resist the devil, and he will flee from" us (James 4:7). The secret of success for us is the same as it was for Jesus, for He had no power that is

not available to us. You will remember the story of His three great temptations soon after His baptism. Every time Satan tried to get Him to do wrong Jesus met him with a portion of Scripture.

God's Word is all powerful; it is sharper than a two-edged sword; it is the weapon of our defense. David said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Ps. 119:11). As we study our Bibles with a prayer in our heart, the converting power of God takes possession of the life and gives us the strength we need for victory.

Yes, God is ready to *help* us. Will you let Him have His way in your heart?

LESSON 6

God CALLS You

One wonderful morning Jesus went walking by the Sea of Galilee. It was probably a year or so after He had returned from His terrible experience with Satan and his three great temptations. Jesus was now ready to begin His actual ministry, but He knew He needed some helpers. As He walked along the lakeside that day He found two brothers getting ready to go fishing. It must have been early morning.

Jesus may have watched the two young men for a time; then He went over to them and said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Peter probably stared at his brother Andrew with a puzzled look on his

Not to Lead, But Pray

By Eleanor E. Howe Marston

Not Miriam's hand to weave the tiny ark
Nor on the river's breast to place the bark
That held the baby Moses, called to be
Deliverer of Israel; but she
Could wait beside the river.

Not Miriam's hand to hold the shepherd's
rod,
Nor hers to lead a nation called of God,
Or part the mighty sea at His command,
That Israel's host might cross upon dry land;
But she could follow on.

Not hers to hold the rod of God, but she
Could lead the glorious song of victory,
How that tired host who'd marched the
whole night long
Must have been cheered by her inspired song!
Ah—she could sing!

Not Aaron's hands nor Hur's upheld
Brought victory one day to Israel,
But they upheld the hands of Moses, so
That Israel routed Amalek, their foe—
They did their part.

Not mine to lead, but to uphold the hand
Of him God calls to lead into the land
Of promise, Israel, in this our day;
Not mine to lead along the heavenward way,
But I can pray.

face. He may even have whispered something under his breath. But the wonderful part of it is that both of those young men were so captivated by the manner and speech of this Man who was talking to them that they immediately left their nets and followed Him. A little later He came to two other brothers, James and John, and the same thing happened. They followed Jesus too.

And from that day forward the lives of these men were never again the same. For three and a half years they spent most of their time with the Master. They probably were hungry and tired at times and almost wished they were back in their fishing business instead of following this Teacher around, trying to control the crowds and help Him do His work. The Bible tells of only one time when some of the disciples were a little worried about how much they were going to get from their service for Jesus. And then in His own loving way Jesus promised them all that they needed for this life, and eternal life afterward.

Peter and Andrew were only two of the men that Jesus called to follow Him and help get things started in the new church He was planning, this church that would carry the gospel story to all the world. Others also accepted the call of Jesus and began their work with Him. Each in his turn seemed glad and eager to leave whatever he was doing and follow the young Teacher of Galilee.

How would you have answered Jesus if you had lived back then and He had come to you with the call to follow Him?

This week we have been learning anew some of the things that help us to know how God feels toward us. We have noted that God *loves* us, that He *talks* to us, that He *listens* to us, that He *helps* us, and that He *offers* us all that our hearts can desire if we surrender to His way of life. After we accept this and choose to obey His Word, then God *calls* us into the pathway of service for Him.

Did you notice that when Jesus called Peter and Andrew, He didn't promise them a life of ease and luxury? He said He would make them fishers of men. He called them because He needed them to help Him in His work for others. So His call to us today is for service. He wants us to tell others the story of His love that can change hearts and set them free from the chains of sin. He needs teachers, preachers, physicians, nurses, colporteurs, missionaries, dentists, and a host of others that are willing to give their lives to help finish the work of the gospel. Thousands are dying every day without having learned to follow Jesus. God is calling us to go and help save them.

Jim was a man who was passing along a city road one day. He looked ahead and noticed a crowd of people gathering. Everyone was excited because only a few minutes earlier a terrible thing had happened. A work crew had been digging a big trench for a new pipe line, and while some of the workers were down in the trench the side caved in and buried them alive. Eagerly men grabbed shovels and worked hard and fast in an effort to dig out the workers before they should die under the fallen dirt.

Jim stood and watched for a time. How he hoped those poor fellows could be reached in time. Then a shout of joy went up from the crowd as one of the workers was uncovered and brought out on top. A life had been saved, and everyone was glad.

The diggers continued harder than ever,

hoping to reach the others before it was too late. Jim walked over to where he could see better, and suddenly a friend of his saw him. "Oh, Jim," she gasped, "Can't you help? Your brother is there, buried in the trench!"

"My brother?" questioned Jim in unbelief, as he threw off his coat, dashed into the trench, and took the shovel from one of the tired workmen. How he worked and dug, carefully but fast! He didn't stop a moment, though the sweat poured down his face. Finally they found his brother and carried him out. How glad Jim was that he was still alive. But Jim broke down and cried when he thought of how he had been standing there on top doing nothing while his brother was in danger of dying so nearby.

This story is much like the story of the world about us. So many people are buried by the landslide of sin that has caught them. They are doomed to die unless they receive help, unless they learn of Jesus. Can we stand idly by and do nothing to save them?

If we have really found Jesus and learned to love Him, we will want to answer His call. Here is a statement from a lovely little book, *Steps to Christ*: "No sooner does one come to Christ, than there is born in his heart a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus."—Page 78. Another statement by Mrs. White says, "Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 327. This means that God has a spe-

cial work for each of us to do for Him. His call is for us to be willing to let Him lead us into that special place He has in mind.

"Christ has no hands but our hands
To do His work today;
He has no feet but our feet
To lead men in His way;
He has no tongue but our tongues
To tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help
To bring them to His side.

"We are the only Bible
The careless world will read;
We are the sinner's gospel,
We are the scoffer's creed;
We are the Lord's last message,
Given in deed and word—
What if the type is crooked?
What if the print is blurred?"

"What if our hands are busy
With other work than His?
What if our feet are walking
Where sin's allurements is?
What if our tongues are speaking
Of things His lips would spurn?
How can we hope to help Him
Unless from Him we learn?"

—ANNIE JOHNSON FLINT

I will never forget a little fellow by the name of Larry that I met one day. He was standing down the street not far from where a house was on fire. Before the firemen and their trucks had arrived the fire had made a good start and one little boy had been

trapped in his bedroom on the second floor. The fire was getting close to him and the smoke was pouring out of the window as the boy leaned out as far as he could and cried for someone to save him. It didn't take one of those brave firemen long to run up a ladder and carry the boy to safety.

Larry looked up at me with a happy and satisfied smile. How glad he was that the boy was rescued. Then Larry said, "I'm going to be a fireman when I grow up."

"Why?" I asked.

"Because I want to save people," he answered. Now wasn't that a noble ambition?

But there is something greater and better than that. The work of firemen is only to save people from burning in this life, but God's call to us is to save people for eternal life. Unless someone tells them of Jesus and His love they will die in their sins and will have to be destroyed in the fire that will burn Satan and all his followers.

Will you answer God's call to you? Will you give your heart and life in service for the Master? Will you join the throng of faithful ones who have found their greatest joy and happiness in working for Jesus? The hour is late, time is short, and we must hurry. Soon it will be too late.

God needs every boy and girl to help. Are you willing to be one of His workers?

(Here give an opportunity to the children to respond to God's call. If time permits, a testimony service will help to seal their purposes. Then close with a special prayer of dedication.)



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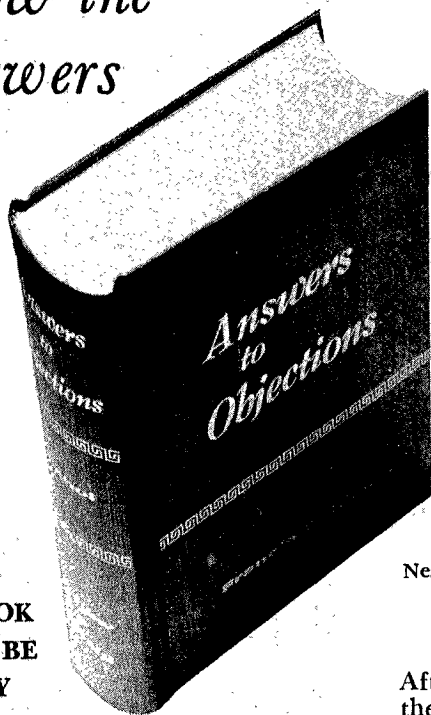
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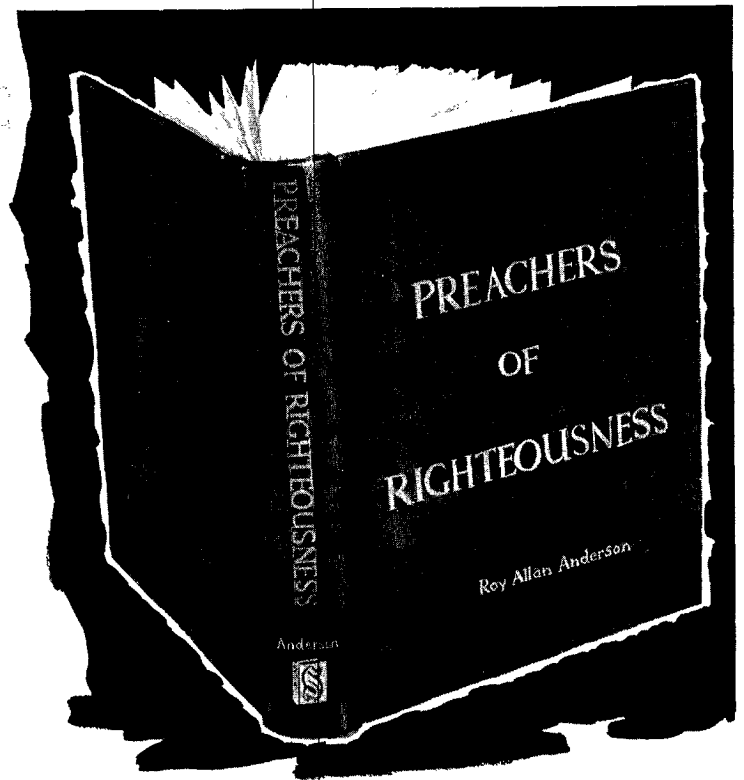
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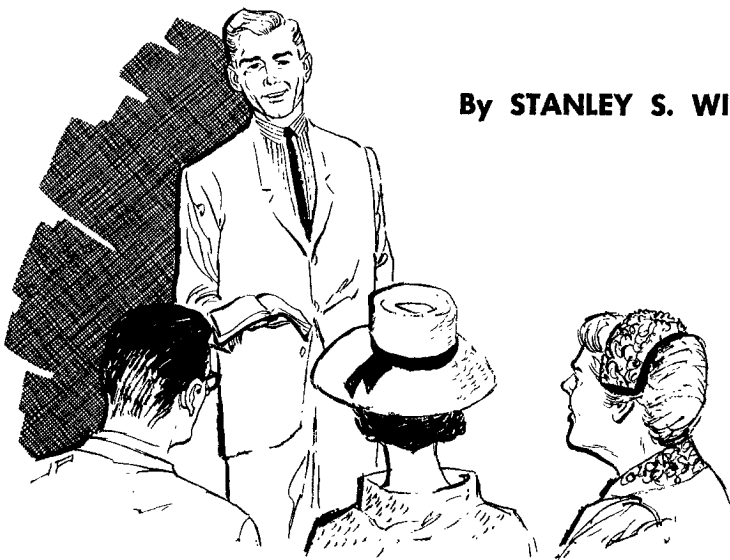
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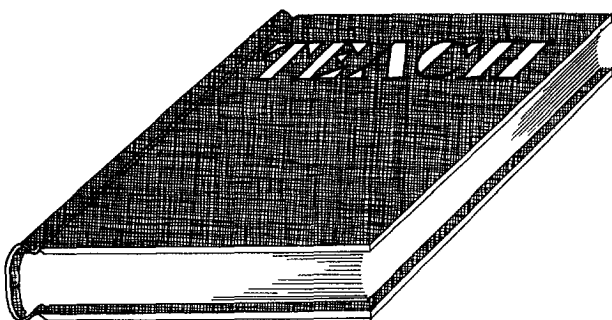
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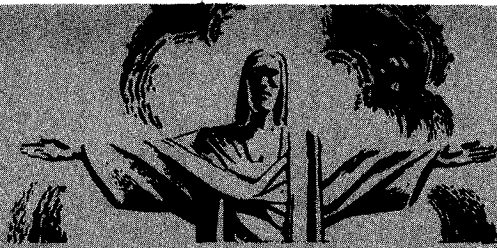
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A Special Message

THIS ISSUE of our church paper comes to you with the carefully prepared readings for the Week of Prayer. The importance of this week cannot be overemphasized. The following statement from the pen of the servant of the Lord graphically describes the days in which we live and should urge us to earnest prayer:

"The agencies of evil are combining. . . . They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 11.

This Week of Prayer is a call to unreserved consecration to God. It is our hope that there will be a ready response to this call in every Adventist heart. Dedicated spiritual living must be more than a brief, passing experience of a week or two. Those who finally stand with that resplendent and glorious throng of overcomers on the sea of glass will be those who have daily advanced in the exemplification of the Christian virtues. Their earthly lives will have been lives of steady and continual spiritual advancement.

One of the important agencies of our church, dedicated to the guidance and encouragement of our members in spiritual living, is our church paper, the REVIEW AND HERALD. We earnestly hope that every Adventist home will have it. Very special efforts have been put forth to provide the REVIEW at the lowest possible cost, recognizing that it means so much to our people. From all parts of the world, Adventist news flows into the REVIEW, keeping its readers well informed of the progress of our world work. In addition to this priceless feature, every issue brings solid and nourishing spiritual food so greatly needed just now. That this week, dedicated to prayer and heart-searching, may prove a great blessing to every believer in every land is our sincere wish and fervent prayer.

R. R. Finken