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“CONQUERING CIRCUMSTANCES”

ROBERT H. PIERSON

IT WAS George Bernard Shaw who once said, “People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I don’t believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are the people who look for the circumstances they want, and if they can’t find them, make them.”

After reading these words from the pen of the great English writer I was reminded of similar words from the Spirit of prophecy:

“Man can shape circumstances, but circumstances should not be allowed to shape the man. We should seize upon circumstances as instruments by which to work. We are to master them, but should not permit them to master us.

“Men of power are those who have been opposed, baffled, and thwarted. By calling their energies into action, the obstacles they meet prove to be positive blessings. They gain self-reliance. Conflict and perplexity call for the exercise of trust in God, and for that firmness which develops power.”—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 500.

With George Bernard Shaw, I do not believe in circumstances. With the servant of the Lord, I believe that men should master circumstances and that circumstances should not be permitted to master men. This is strong doctrine in Southern Asia, where Satan is constantly conjuring up circumstances to impede the progress of God’s work. Nevertheless, I believe that this sort of philosophy should mould the thinking of every worker in our Division.

It is easy to shrink before the difficult—to believe that because there are many unfavourable circumstances conspiring against us, little can be done in building the interests of God’s cause in our difficult environment. It is easy to permit the fear of circumstances to become a way of life—a way of life that is satisfied with mediocrity, with small accomplishments for God. Unfortunately some workers accept such a philosophy and such a way of life, and their ministry bears but little fruit. How sad!

In these last thrilling hours of earth’s history God is looking for

men who do not know the meaning of the word “Can’t”—men who will find circumstances or make them—men who at all costs will shape circumstances but never allow circumstances to shape them. Such men have learned the true meaning of the apostle’s words when he boldly declared, “*I can do all things through Christ!*”

For Paul, in Christ, there were no impossible circumstances! The power of his Christ transcended all circumstances. With faith in the promised power of heaven he was willing to undertake and accomplish the impossible. In Christ’s strength Paul altered circumstances but refused to permit circumstances to master him. No greater task confronts the worker in any part of Southern Asia than confronted this apostle as he faced, practically alone, the hostile Gentile world. When Paul did not find the circumstances he wanted, through Christ he made his own circumstances. His planning, in Christ, knew no failure!

Brethren, we have come to the day
(Continued on p. 5.)

STUDIES ON THE HOLY SPIRIT—NO. 2

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

D. W. HUNTER

WHEN Jesus chose His twelve disciples He did not go to the schools of the Rabbis or to the Sanhedrin. His ambassadors were not from ruling Rome or from cultured Greece. They were humble, teachable craftsmen from the lowly walks of life. For three and a half years they had been taught by the Master Teacher. If training were the only requirement surely these men were prepared for service. Yet they were wholly unfitted for the great task before them. One thing was needed—power. The last command of Jesus was to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power. (Luke 24:49.) Yet another record states that Jesus' final command was to "Go." (Matt 28:18-20.) The world around them was perishing. The need was tremendous. Yet they were doomed to failure had they obeyed the command to go without fulfilling the other command to tarry until filled with enabling power. Knowledge in itself is not enough. Activity, good as it is, is not enough. The tarrying period may be hard, but it is necessary. Moses felt prepared to deliver Israel when forty years of age, but God had him wait another forty. Paul was sent to the Arabian desert for three years after his miraculous conversion. Jesus spent thirty years in preparation for three and half years of ministry. As workers we sometimes substitute many meetings, new methods, solemn resolutions for the one thing we need—divine power. Perpetual activity is our greatest peril. "Tarry until ye be endued with power."

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And

suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold are not all these which speak Galileans?" Acts 2:1-7.

As the wiring and the fixtures are of no value until the current is turned on, so are our talents and training until the current of divine power through the infilling of the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and lives. We need the power of conversion. We need power for personal spiritual Christian experience. We need the power of a new intellect and will. We need intellectual power to meet the challenge of the world today. We need power in service. There is no power without the Holy Spirit. With Him in control of our lives all power is available.

The power of the Holy Spirit convicts the sinner of his sins. It makes the sinner see himself as God sees him. Such preaching glorifies not the preacher but exalts Jesus Christ. It is not oratory, intellect, or psychology which leads man to repentance. Our preaching is not merely to explain a subject but to win a soul to the Saviour. The Holy Spirit leads men to make decisions.

The purpose of this power is for witnessing. A witness can tell only that which he has seen, heard, or experienced himself. An experimental religion is the only one that can be witnessed to. If we are saved men

and women we can witness to that fact. Such evidence has far more weight than any argument or logic the world can offer.

Pentecost was a marvellous experience. The disciples had been preparing for it. (Acts 1:12-14; 2:1.) They had been praying. They had been confessing their faults and begging forgiveness. There was no spirit of criticism. No one was seeking position or personal favour. They were all with one accord. When the Holy Spirit descended upon them the people in the city heard the sound as of a mighty wind. It swept through the streets and centred in that upper room. The one hundred and twenty saw as it were tongues of fire on the heads of their fellow believers. Not wind, not fire, but symbols of the mighty power of God. That day a transformation was wrought. The world was turned upside down. One sermon resulted in 3,000 conversions. What made the change? The power of the Holy Spirit. These were the same men and yet not the same. It was the same message and yet not the same. The men were changed. The message was now a personal testimony. What we need is not a new message, not a change of men, but changed men endued with the power of the Holy Spirit.

My Brother, my Sister, you may experience that same power today. God is waiting to send His Spirit upon you. Today may be your personal Pentecost. It can be. Do you really desire it to be? Then pray for His coming into your heart at this very moment.

True success in any line of work is not the result of chance or accident or destiny. It is the outworking of God's providences, the reward of faith and discretion, of virtue and perseverance. Fine mental qualities and a high moral tone are not the result of accident. God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them.—"Prophets and Kings," p. 486.

A PERSON'S life is very much like a fountain pen. There are a number of lessons that we can learn from this useful article, which most of us use every day. As youth of today these lessons will encourage and strengthen us in our Christian growth.

The modern fountain pen, which is so different from the old quill pen that our forefathers used to write with, has become a necessity because it saves so much effort and time. We as Seventh-day Adventist youth should be a necessary, efficient part of the denomination and a help to our associates and loved ones. Do you try to eliminate all unnecessary action as you carry on in God's service? Do your associates find you a necessity because you bring speed and efficiency to the never-ending task?

"If your example is Christ-like, that alone, . . . will be a help to many. Patient continuance in well-doing will help others to place their feet in the path of truth and righteousness—be careful to start right, and then keep quietly on."

The modern fountain pen has to be filled before it can be used. When it is filled with good ink, it is less likely to blot or miss a stroke. How true this is with us. If we wish to do the task before us in the giving of the gospel, in the winning of others for whom we are praying, we too must be filled. You may ask the question, Filled with what? The Bible gives us the answer in Ephesians 5:18, "Be filled with the Spirit." The Spirit-filled life operates instantly upon demand. It never blots the pages. "The Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou . . . shalt be turned into another man." 1 Sam. 10:6. The incoming of the Holy Spirit means mental and spiritual growth and a constantly enlarging life.

If we are not filled with the Holy Spirit, we are like pens that the more empty they become, the more freely they flow. The ink flows so rapidly, in fact, that unsightly blots spoil clean white sheets.

Verbosity is generally a sign that some human pen is nearly empty. The heart that is filled with God's great things maintains a more even flow. I had a colporteur working under my leadership in India at one time who demonstrated this type of pen. He never would learn his canvass, but he could talk and make no particular point. No orders were taken.

Fountain pens have a wide range of prices. Some can be purchased

(Especially for Youth)

The
PARABLE
of the
FOUNTAIN
PEN

J. M. HNATYSHYN

for as little as twenty-five cents, but others cost many dollars. I had an experience in San Francisco once when I came from India to attend the General Conference session. I drove into a service station to get some petrol. A stranger came up to me and told me a hard-luck story. He said that he had to go to a certain town to his mother's funeral. He had a "Parker" pen-and-pencil combination and was selling it to get money for his fare. He told me that it cost him eight dollars but he would let me have it for five dollars. It was a very attractive-looking pen-and-pencil set. Since I had a good pen I was not interested in buying it. This man continued to plead with me, and came down to four dollars.

As I was driving out he jumped on the running board of the car and offered the set to me for three dollars. I gave him the money, and I thought I had a wonderful bargain. I soon met a friend and showed it to him very proudly. He looked at it and asked whether I had tried to write with the pen. I informed him that I

had had no time to try it. So we filled it and tried to write, but what a disappointment! It scratched, and the ink flowed very freely. My friend turned to me and told me that these pens were being sold in the shops for much less than three dollars. At first I tried to prove to my friend that this pen was a very valuable one, but it was not long until I saw that he was right. I was deceived.

How true this experience is in the life of some youth. They are pens that look very valuable from outward appearance. They claim to have certain talents. We accept them and put them to the test. However, it doesn't take long to find what they are worth, and the results are most disappointing. Those who come to them for spiritual help find them empty and worthless. Such people are often self-assertive. In a cheap pen the nib is a good indicator. It wears out and becomes dull. It is most annoying to attempt to write with it. So with cheap and empty beings. They spoil everything they try to do.

The best fountain pens are guaranteed for a lifetime. Are you that type of pen? If you surrender your body to Christ, it becomes His dwelling place. There are no failures in life when His Spirit abides within you and is your guide. You then are guaranteed for eternal life. "In the great and measureless gift of the Holy Spirit are contained all of heaven's resources."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 419.

Some fountain pens need cleaning occasionally; so do Christian youth. David said, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Ps. 51:10. His Spirit is willing to help us in this cleansing. This is the time when God is to pour out upon Advent youth great spiritual power. Are you ready to receive this power? "Never before was there so much at stake; never were there results so mighty depending upon a generation as upon these now coming upon the stage of action."—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 536.

May our youth prove to be fountain pens that are a necessity, pens that are cleansed and filled daily with the Holy Spirit, pens that are guaranteed for a lifetime in His service. God is calling our youth for consecrated service. He expects them to do great things for Him. So hearken, dear youth, to this lesson of the fountain pen.—*Review and Herald*.





GOD'S WAY TO VICTORY

L. K. DICKSON

THE Seventh-day Adventist Church has for more than a century occupied a unique position among the forces of Christianity. Born in the heart of New England under circumstances of poverty and obscurity unduplicated since apostolic times, she has nonetheless grown until today her emissaries carry the truth to the very ends of the earth.

To this Remnant Church the "field is the world." Her commission to preach the gospel to the whole creation came not from man's devisings, but from the Master Himself. She makes no specialty of particular classes, races, or nationalities. Her field is the world, for Christ commanded, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

If the Remnant Church is to enjoy God's favour, she must ever hold that high sense of responsibility that requires that she carry the gospel of the kingdom to all the world in the shortest possible time. Our vision must be limited by no horizon until the whole world is reached.

We need now to be conscious more than ever before that the church is facing the greatest opportunity in its history. And the opportunity is increasing. The Lord, our great Leader, is moving out beyond us, opening many doors. We must follow hard after Him, for He has opened no door into which we cannot enter with His help. And shall it be that we who are facing these opportunities shall fail to recognize their vast possibilities?

The consideration of opportunities in the world field calls for an inventory of our resources in money and in young men and women to take up the tasks. We need also to think seriously about tapping the resources open to us through His mighty promises. Said Christ, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

God's power is promised only to those who are using well the power

that they possess, whether it be money, lands, talents, or whatever it may be. Though money is not the most important, still the silver and gold are the Lord's, and when He has placed them in the hands of His people, He means that they shall represent power in advancing His kingdom.

The days when the church could plead poverty are past. Our tithe for a single year amounts now to upward of 35 million dollars. Our people control amounts of material wealth larger than those in our possession at any other period in the history of our church. The remnant church, instead of being poor, has sufficient wealth among her people to meet all necessary demands of this fast-growing and expanding work of God.

If we were thoroughly in earnest in the work of the Lord, hundreds of our believers in other parts of the world would not need to worship on the Sabbath with no shelter over their heads. We could build a church every day in the year and gladden the missions and missionaries by generous support that would make these church buildings possible.

There are also hidden resources at the command of God, which He would open before us in answer to our united and importunate prayer of faith. All the wealth the cause of Christ needs today is available through faith and through prayer. There needs to come upon every one of us a great awakening to the power of prayer and faith.

We have vantage ground now, around the world, that is soon to slip from under our feet. This is the hour for action. What are we waiting for? The task yet to be accomplished is very great. From the human viewpoint it is impossible of completion. Everything God has put within our grasp by which His work can be finished must now be utilized.

The early Christians who went into Antioch, that wicked and luxurious city, and built a church

knew by the success they enjoyed that they could achieve the impossible. They were heartened for new mission expansion and certain they could overcome all difficulties.

"An incident which will become immortal took place at Messina, Italy, two days after the recent earthquake," according to a recent report. "The captain and crew of a Welsh steamboat were passing along the ruined streets of the town when they saw two children upon the balcony of a house, the front wall of which only remained. The captain of the boat pointed to the children, and turning to his men, said, 'Now, Smith!' In a moment Smith was clambering up the tottering pile. But he found the task too great for him. 'Now, Reid!' said the captain and without a moment's hesitation another man was climbing the ruins."

Our Captain points to the great task of bringing the gospel to the lost in this time of emergency and says, "Now, Smith! Now, Brown!" *And what is our answer?* Is it ready obedience? The only difference between our Captain and the captain of the Welsh vessel is that the latter said, "Now, Smith! Now, Reid!" while our Captain says, "Come on, Smith! Come on, Reid!" He is already on the tottering pile before us ready to help us rescue the lost.

What a tottering pile is this old world today! How precarious is the position of every individual before the onrushing and fast-changing events of our times! We have no time to lose.

There are three things we must not forget in this serious hour. First, to bring Christ's ministry for this lost world to a triumphant close is the responsibility of the remnant church.

Second, to do this requires unusual sacrifice and zeal. To finish the work of God will require unselfish men and women who are willing to walk away from sinful pleasure to obey God.

The work is great and our time is short. Whatever we do must be done soon! The harvest is ripe, but the labourers are few. In the ruins of Pompeii a little crippled child was found with nothing around him but the arm of a woman. The crippled child could not escape the fires of Vesuvius; so a woman picked up the little one under her arm, but both were overtaken, and the fires consumed all of the woman but the saving arm around the child. *The saving arm remained to testify to*

her love and zeal. Oh, let us be found saving others! God give us power for these final days of conquest for Christ!

May we now be seized by a mighty conviction from God, that in the white heat of that spirit, wrongs in our churches may be righted; that all injustice among us may be corrected, while truth and the love of Christ is enthroned; then the church will move upward as well as onward. Let us go on our knees and in an agony of spirit supplicate day and night that we may come into a higher and holier experience.

Let us pray that we may be lifted out of our indifference and sordidness, that we might for Christ's sake

counteract the slow poison of unbelief and discouragement in our midst, and that we may be rescued from those earthly things that hinder our faith. Let us get up into the high mountain and lift up our voices with strength, to bring glad tidings to every man everywhere, and do this quickly.

Let us cast out the black demon of selfishness and pharisaism and find healing for all our divisions by bathing our souls anew in the blood of our selfless Saviour as we hasten to answer the prayer of our Lord that "they all may be one." Let this be our battle cry; let it be sounded in every life, and we will see a new day dawn—the great day of the Lord. This is God's way to victory.

—*Review and Herald*

to great advantage. He therefore made him a *kapitao* (foreman) and placed him in charge of one of the gangs of workmen. He told him he could work only five days a week and be free on the Sabbath. In addition, he increased his wages by about 90 per cent which was nearly double what the others were being paid, and now Ncenga is holding a responsible position in the project.

So Ncenga came to the camp meeting, and with him he brought two other young men who were interested in the truth he had been teaching them.

Thank God for these faithful souls who are ready to stand firm for their faith. Let us remember to pray for them daily.—*Review and Herald*.

In the Dark Corners of Africa

W. R. VAIL

LAST year during the month of July it was my privilege to attend a camp meeting with A. V. Bambury on the plains in the southern tip of Nyasaland. It was one of the smaller camp meetings, and in the hottest, most tropical part of the country.

Among the group who gathered at the camp meeting place at Muona were three young men, well dressed and eagerly attentive to all the messages. One was obviously conducting the other two about from place to place, and upon inquiry the pastor learned their story.

Ncenga lived in Portuguese East Africa about fifty miles across the Shire River and near to the Zambezi River. He had heard the gospel story and had become a Seventh-day Adventist some time before the day we met him, living peacefully in his own village.

But one day a messenger from the government offices came to the village, and Ncenga, with a number of his young men-friends, was conscripted for labour on a government project some distance from his home. So he found himself alone, the only Sabbath-keeper in that whole district, as far as he knew, who had a regard for the Sabbath of the Lord, and certainly the only one in the group of labourers.

After quitting time the first Friday

evening he went to the European in charge of the labour gangs and explained that he was a Sabbath-keeper and therefore would be unable to work the following day. The master refused to listen to his story and told him that he must report for work as usual with the rest. Ncenga went back to his hut to pray and make his decision as to what he must do. After prayer and much meditation he decided that this was an opportunity to let his light shine and to bear witness for his faith before God and before his fellow men.

Sabbath morning came, and when the rest of the group went out to answer the roll call for work, Ncenga was not among them. When it was noticed that he was not at work, a messenger was sent to call him to the office. Here he was told again to go to work, but he replied that he could not go, and asked to be allowed to work on Sundays to make up for the time lost. The officer in charge would not hear of any such arrangement, and Ncenga was beaten, threatened with severe punishment, railed at and abused, but in it all he stood firm.

After a time the officer in charge realized that Ncenga was a brave, intelligent young man who was governed by principles rather than inclinations, and decided to use him

"CONQUERING CIRCUMSTANCES"

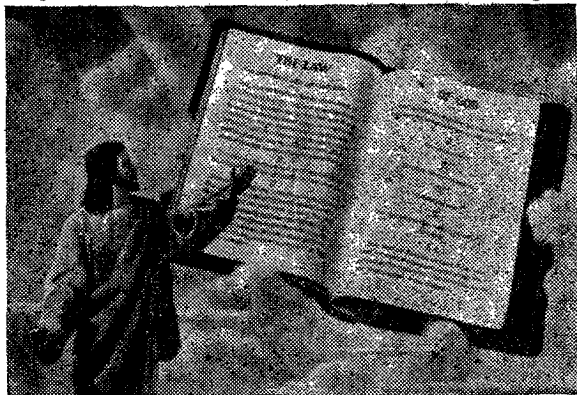
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in God's work in Southern Asia when we too must know no failure, yield to no circumstances. Our planning should never concede the possibility of failure in our endeavours for Him. We should plan so broadly, work so diligently, live so consistently, that no circumstances can prevent our accomplishing all that we undertake for God. La Rochefoucauld has this bit of sage observation as we meditate on this subject of conquering circumstances:

"There are no circumstances, no matter how unfortunate, that clever people do not extract some advantage from; and none, no matter how fortunate, that the unwise cannot turn to their own disadvantage."

Conquering circumstances is an individual challenge: If a Local Mission is to succeed in conquering circumstances in its field, every worker must catch the vision of total victory through Christ. Before a Union can conquer circumstances, each Local Mission must first be victorious in its own sphere.

My appeal in this message is to every individual worker and church member in Southern Asia to become conquerors of circumstances. Every goal that is set before you, whether it be for souls, sales, Uplift, or what it may be—*reach it!* Whatever the circumstances are, plan so broadly, work so diligently and persistently, and live so godly that you will break down every barrier, and victory will be yours. Find your circumstances or make them! In Christ *you, too*, can do *all things!*



GOD'S HOLY LAW

HARRY W. LOWE

standard by which the characters and the lives of men will be tested in the judgment."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 482. The approaching judgment of the world has called into prominence a people "which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Rev. 12:17. Pre-eminently, we should be known as a people saved by grace, and thereby enabled to live a grace-filled, obedient life before God and men. Thus we do not make void God's law, we establish it.

CHRIStIAN leaders are showing a deep concern over the lawlessness of this age, and not a few have attributed part of the blame to the unbalanced stress by many Christian churches on the words, "We are not under the law." Robert C. McQuilkin, of Columbia Bible College, told of a former missionary pioneer in Africa who said he felt like writing to every Bible college in America "to send them no more missionaries who made a boast of being 'under grace,' and having nothing to do with the law."

The giant preachers of yesterday would have none of such unbalanced teaching. For instance, Dwight L. Moody persuaded G. Campbell Morgan to publish a series of sermons entitled "The Ten Commandments," which carried a dedication to the great American preacher "who so perfectly understood and so graciously revealed in life and service the truth that with God LAW is the expression of LOVE." That is good Adventist teaching.

"The law given upon Sinai was the enunciation of the principle of love, a revelation to earth of the law of heaven."—*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 74.

"The law of God is as sacred as Himself. It is a revelation of His will, a transcript of His character, the expression of divine love and wisdom."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 52.

This lawless age presents a disconcerting picture of crime of every kind—personal, social, international, and inter-racial. Every type of crime that afflicts the world today is a violation of God's commandments, which control every relation between God and man. "There is power of life and death in them. They either quicken the sin and kill the sinner, or quicken the sinner and kill the sin."—H. E. Govan, *Ten Imperishable Words*, p. 15.

We merit criticism when we preach the necessity of obedience to the law without presenting the supremacy of divine grace. If "the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ" (Gal. 3:24), we must always preach Christ when we uphold the law. The law of God is perfect, sure, right, pure, holy, just, and good (see Ps. 19:7, 8; Rom. 7:12), which sevenfold standard is beyond man's unaided ability to reach. Nor is there power in the abstract terms of law to save us; but "what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son . . . condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk . . . after the Spirit." Rom. 8:3, 4. Such is the picture of a man saved by grace, enabled to obey God's holy law because he is no longer under its condemnation.

This holy "law of God is the

It is true that no one part of God's law is more important than any other, but the Sabbath is an important part, since it alone of the commandments keeps men conscious that God is their Creator. Thereby men are saved from the delusion of animal ancestry—and deprived of excuse for animal morality—as well as from agnosticism, atheism, materialism, and every form of modernism which removes God's personal presence from the individual. The Sabbath is thus a sign of allegiance to God, and as such is the great object of satanic attack in these last days. See *The Great Controversy*, p. 54.

We need to remember that observance of one part of the holy law of God does not justify neglect of some other part (James 2:10). A man saved by the grace of Christ lives a life perfectly governed by every word of God.—*Review and Herald*.



YOUR HOUSE OF HAPPINESS

B. V. WILLIAMS

Take what God gives, O heart of mine,
And build your house of happiness.
Perchance some have been given more,
But many have been given less.

The treasure lying at your feet,
Whose value you but faintly guess,
Another builder, looking on,
Would barter heaven to possess.

Have you found work that you can do?
Is there a heart that loves you best?
Is there a spot somewhere called home,
Where, spent and worn, your soul may rest?

A friendly tree? a book? a song?
A dog that loves your hand's caress?
A store of health to meet life's deeds?
Oh, build your house of happiness!

Trust not tomorrow's dawn to bring
The dreamed-of joy for which you wait;
You have enough of pleasant things
To house your soul in godly state.

Tomorrow, Time's relentless stream
May bear what you have away;
Take what God gives, O heart, and build
Your house of happiness today!



FILM SERVICE IN LONDON

Letter to the General Conference President from Pastor G. E. Vandeman, Leader of the London Evangelistic Team

“NEVER have I felt such convictions regarding the appropriateness and the timeliness of a move made in evangelism such as I have felt about this new centre here in London. Certainly other Hands than ours have guided in these plans, for the work is breaking through in a most unusual way, and through most unusual means. . . .

“We are following the plan of holding a film service three times a day. Before each service I step to the desk and give a word of introduction telling that the place is no longer a cinema but is now an evangelistic centre. We describe very briefly the work that is being done, and a word about the programme, and then all are invited to join in a hymn sung from the screen. Then for forty-five minutes the people view this moving story—perhaps the most significant film in the religious world of recent years—made by Dr. Friedrich of Cathedral Films on the last days of Christ’s life and the resurrection. At the close of the film, I step out and summarize the film and make a quiet appeal and close with prayer. In each book rack we have placed an inexpensive copy of *Steps to Christ*, which the publishing house here has been able to produce very cheaply. We suggest that any who desire may take the book with them. An offering is received at the exits.

“And would you believe it, Brother Branson, the very first week alone, over 15,000 people attended the film and the offerings for that week amounted to £580! We have all been absolutely amazed—and thrilled—at the number of people pouring into our building and the excellent offerings, which prove to us that the picture is touching hearts and also that people appreciate what we are doing.

“Approximately thirty-two thousand people—conservatively estimated—have been in this building to see this film, and I would say that, from all we are hearing and from all that the press has said and is still saying, eighty per cent of these people are at least deeply impressed with

what they have seen and heard. It is a long-range project to be sure. But, oh, how much something like this was needed, so desperately lacking in the work here in the past, to break prejudice and to reveal the bigness of this message.

“I would give anything if you brethren could stand in this beautiful foyer for just an hour one of these days. Tears would flow if you could see with what reverence the people leave each service—many of them weeping. I have been thrilled with the thousands of young people who are attending. I would say that eight thousand of the thirty thousand thus far are young people under twenty-five.

“We have had perhaps another two hundred or more ministers since our opening day, when five hundred ministers were present. They are urging their people to come to see this film. We are inviting one of the brigadier-generals of the Salvation Army to make one of the appeals after one of the sessions. And we are asking the same of the head of the Church Army which, as you may know, is the Church of England’s equivalent to the Salvation Army. I am inviting one of the Methodist pastors to give one of the appeals next week. These dear men cannot understand that we actually believe in the atoning blood of Christ. They have evidently read nothing but our antagonists’ literature for so long that they find what they are now witnessing very hard to believe. The national press, however, has given such unusual publicity that even the most conservative and reserved of these men are having to go along with the tide.

“I feel sure you will understand my enthusiasm, Brother Branson, for this is the very thing we have been praying for so long. As the people leave, and as they enter, they have five different opportunities to pick up the announcements of the Sunday night meetings, and thousands of these announcements are taken each day. After the first week’s showing of the film, our Sunday night attendance

increased by five hundred or more—we had between 2,200 and 2,300 people that night.

“Many of the press write-ups have told whose building it is, and we have a lovely plaque just inside the foyer, reading: ‘This Building and Its Service Has Been Dedicated to the People of London by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists with a Sincere Prayer That All Who Enter Its Doors Will Learn to Know Him Whom to Know Is Life Eternal.’ This will not be the permanent wording. A large committee is studying it, and we believe it can be strengthened before it is put into bronze, but many eyes scan it with deep interest and respect.

“Naturally, the many thousands who have come to the film will drop off when the film is completed, but the Regent Street Association has asked us to permit them to use our building for mass X-ray for T.B., and, to use their words, ‘It will be one way to get thousands of young people into your building. Perhaps they will want to come back.’ Well, if we can have people from the Westminster Health Department and the Regent Street Association talking like that, we can thank God.”

“P.S.—It has been several days since I started this letter. Each day brings its new developments. We can be thankful to God that this film mission has not yet reached its peak. In the past three days we have had 9,000 more people attend the services, over 50,000 since the opening. I do not know what today’s offerings amounted to, but Monday’s and Tuesday’s amounted to over £350. There was one twenty-pound gift and one seventeen-pound gift. Neither one with a name attached. What deeply pleases us, however, is the interest in the little book *Steps to Christ*. They are being taken at the rate of as many as 2,000 per day. Surely the Holy Spirit will use these pages to bring deep conviction and conversion to many of these thousands who read it.

“If anyone ever questioned the wisdom of buying this building, he should hear the repeated remarks by fine business men and others as to their appreciation of the work that is being done, and the fact that there is a building like this in the heart of London.”

PUBLISHERS’ NOTE.—The *British Weekly*, leading non-conformist religious journal in Great Britain, has spoken in the highest praise of the

film being shown in the New Gallery, London. The following report appeared in the issue for December 24, 1953:

"I BEHELD HIS GLORY" MAY BE SHOWN IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY

"A new religious film on the crucifixion, 'I Beheld His Glory,' may be shown in Westminster, according to the Dean, Dr. Don.

"Canon Bryan Green, rector of St. Martin's, Birmingham, is arranging

for the film to be shown in his church twice a day for a week.

"The Bishop of Liverpool, Dr. Clifford Martin, plans to show the film from cinema vans.

"The film, which will be reviewed in the *British Weekly* next week, is now showing at the New Gallery Centre, Regent Street, London."

We rejoice that the strong lead in evangelism thus given by Adventists in the heart of London, is known and appreciated by other religious leaders.—*Review and Herald*.

Exploring in the Laccadive Islands

ROBERT H. PIERSON

THE Laccadive Islands are about 250 miles off the west coast of South India. As far as we know, the only attempt ever made to Christianize these islands was carried out by Portuguese Catholics many years ago. A few of the Moslems on one of the islands did accept the form of Christianity presented to them but along with their Portuguese teachers were cruelly poisoned by their Moslem brothers.

This uncompromising spirit is typical of the Moslem population of the islands today. On one island alone there are forty mosques to care for the spiritual needs of two thousand inhabitants. Renowned even on the mainland for the zealous propagation of their religion, these fanatical followers of Islam claim, this duty is the only purpose of their existence, and that the sword can be legitimately and freely used to liquidate any proselytizing element.

In full knowledge of this, two of our brethren from South India, L. C. Charles and N. J. Chacko, recently paid an exploratory visit to the islands to find out just what could be done in opening our work in this challenging field. After an arduous voyage in a small native boat, called an *Odam*, which took five days to cover 123 miles, our brethren arrived at the island group.

They found that the islanders were generally kind and hospitable as long as no new religious faith was mentioned. Here, they discovered, were more than 15,000 people living together without a police force. Furthermore, there is very little currency in circulation on the islands—almost all local business transactions are carried out on the barter

system. There are a few schools, but very few children attend: Consequently, the standard of literacy is very low. Since there are no women teachers among them, girls are not permitted to attend school.

Before making the journey our brethren were warned by mainland officials that their lives might be in danger if they carried religious books with them to the Laccadives. For their first journey it was decided that it would be best to take books such as *Health and Longevity*, which has only one chapter on religion. A number of these books were sold on each of the larger islands. Later it was learned that at least two copies had been destroyed when the purchasers read the last chapter in the book.

On the return journey to the mainland Brethren Charles and Chacko had a thrilling experience. On the third day out a huge fish—the brethren say it was larger than their little *Odam*—spent half an hour cavorting about their craft. Swimming up close, the huge fish would flick the boat with its tail or dive underneath and brush the underpart of the boat with its back, coming up on the other side. It seemed for a time that the *Odam* would capsize, and all would be lost, but the Lord held His hands over His messengers, for finally the unwelcome visitor swam away and left them alone.

Despite the obstacles to be surmounted and the perils by sea to be encountered, our workers are planning another visit to the Laccadive Islands. They have further plans, which they hope will result in the establishment of our work in these islands.

"MISTAKEN

MAGNITUDES"

H. M. TIPPETT

"Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken Thou me in Thy way." Psalm 119:37.

MR. FREDERICK BROWN Harris, chaplain of the United States Senate, in one of his "Spires of the Spirit" editorials in a Washington paper, wrote recently on the topic "Mistaken Magnitudes." Among other things he made this pertinent observation:

"How easy it is because of hurt feelings to enlarge a speck into a spectre—to have one's eyes focussed upon the microscopic instead of the majestic! The fallacy of mistaken magnitudes is that it often magnifies the tiny into the titanic. Trifles which ought to pass unnoticed and uncounted are allowed to darken a whole day, to colour moods and to dictate decisions, to poison personal relationships and even to mar friendships."

We need the "mind of Christ" to see things in their proper perspective. Jesus never saw things with distorted vision, but in their proper related values. To Him the extravagant and showy gifts of the rich at the Temple door were insignificant compared with the two mites given by a poor working woman out of a full and devoted heart. The beautiful literary prayers uttered by the Pharisees in view of all the worshippers were not acceptable to Him, but the abject prayer of the publican, "God be merciful to me a sinner" was accepted. To Him, in the case of the woman taken in adultery, the grace of forgiveness was more persuasive in reforming a life than all the cries of "Shame" by self-righteous religionists.

There are thousands of things today in our complex civilization that are warped out of all relation to their importance. The loud and strident voice so often betrays the uninformed mind. The gilded gift too frequently screens the miserly soul. Cleverness passes for wisdom, and the judgments of mass hysteria set the standard for the public good.

Our chief concern should be to
(Continued on p. 12.)

NORTHEAST INDIA UNION MISSION*President: D. W. Hunter**Secretary-Treasurer: M. S. Prasada Rao**Office Address: Karmatar P. O., Santal Parganas, E. I. Ry.***CALCUTTA EVANGELISTS' HEADACHE**

MRS. GOLDIE DOWN

EVANGELISM in Calcutta presents many problems that evangelists in the homeland rarely have to face, not the least of which is "Where to hold meetings" and "How to keep the people from attending."

Calcutta has no public halls. The cinema hall we were negotiating with last year for this year's evangelical effort finally gave a decisively negative answer, so we began thinking about a tent effort. However, just at this time the school teachers went on strike, and the subsequent events in the city caused the enforcement of Section 144 which prohibits any meeting of more than four persons in a public place; so the city council would not hear of granting us land to erect a tent.

After much prayer and many discarded suggestions, the evangelist finally had the bright idea of holding an effort in his own backyard! Mission permission was forthcoming; so we hurriedly got to work. Contractors erected a bamboo and canvas shelter in the rear of the compound, decorated it with strips of red and white cloth in the usual pandal fashion; a stage was set up in the front, a projection box built high above the heads of the crowd, and seven hundred chairs were placed in neat rows, spotlights and an amplification set in place, and we were ready to begin.

Of course police permission had to be sought: we answered a multitude of official questions and then had to go ahead in faith as the written permit was not given until four days after the mission commenced.

Remembering the crowds and tumult of our opening meetings last year, the evangelist was hesitant to advertise heavily, finally deciding to send 1,000 invitation letters, and distribute 20,000 handbills, plus advertising posters on the compound walls. Then he spent the week prior to the opening meeting fretting for fear he had not done enough advertising and the pandal would not be half filled!

Sunday, March 14, finally arrived. The staff working frantically getting the last minute jobs done had to contend with the crowd who began arriving at 4 p.m. for the first meeting (in English) scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. Long before the great moment arrived every chair was filled. A major portion of the crowd had to stand. The gates were then locked and the audience watched and listened with rapt attention to "Screen Pictures of the Life of Christ." Four hundred names were handed in asking for a free copy of the gospel of Matthew.

At the end of the meeting the crowd left in an orderly procession by the front gate, but the crowd at the back gate, many of whom had been waiting for two hours, began to get restive and when the gate was opened they surged through knocking down women and children and even men who were in front of them. Our workers rushed in and dragged the fallen ones to safety; someone called the police; and we all had a bad few minutes when it was rumoured that a child had been trampled to death. However, that rumour was false; it was only unconscious. The next meeting began only a few minutes late. All standing room was occupied and many were turned away. The 8 p.m. service is translated into Bengalee.

One of our main problems last year was the children who insisted on attending the meetings, lured by free pictures, but who disturbed those who wished to enjoy the meeting. This year we stipulated that children under 16 would not be admitted unless accompanied by their parents, and that worked fairly well; however, we have been amazed at the enormous families some parents seem to have!

We are now in the middle of our second week of meetings held every night and only once has the attendance fallen below 1,000 a night. From the third night, at the end of the regular meetings, separate meetings have been held in the church which adjoins the compound, and over 100 have attended these. The English-speaking session is attended mainly by Christians, but the Bengalee session is by mostly those who understand the language.

Of course we are aware that many attend merely out of curiosity, but God has some precious gems among these people and His Spirit alone can save them. Our best efforts are futile without His blessing.

RANCHI MISSION HOSPITAL SHARES FAITH WITH NON-BELIEVERS

M. D. SPICER

LOCATED as we are, six miles out of Ranchi city, the second biggest city in the State of Behar, we at the hospital have many opportunities of sharing our faith with the non-believers around us, and with the many who come here for medical aid.

Our hospital is visited by people who are living as far as two hundred miles away. They have heard that the Ranchi hospital is a real missionary hospital, and this is really true in the full sense of the word as Dr. and Mrs. Buxton are really God-fearing people and are leading out not only in the medical line but spiritually as well. They are a blessing to many who come here for treatment. They are keeping up the good name that Dr. R. V. Shearer earned for the hospital while he was the medical director.

Each Friday evening, after the vespers is over, we are divided into groups and go to each patient and sing Christian songs to them. This brings a lot of comfort to the patients who are bed-ridden, may be for one or two months. At the time of writing our hospital is full to capacity and sometimes we have to accommodate patients on the verandah. A few days ago, a Brahmin gentleman, owner of a bus company, brought his wife for minor surgery and stayed here with her for about one week. At the time of discharge, this gentleman said he had never received such service nor enjoyed such friendly associations as he had experienced during his eight days' stay with us here. There are many hospitals in the city managed by other societies, but people stop to comment on our service to them and they are very appreciative. The Spirit of the Lord is with us all the time.

We are conducting two branch Sabbath schools in the city, which are led by Pastor R. N. Dass, our hospital chaplain. Brother Dass is also engaged every day in preaching to the patients and to their friends in the wards. His enthusiasm is

commendable. He has a shrewd way of arresting people's attention to his missionary talks and I find many times that a group numbering twenty to thirty are listening to his talks.

The other phase of our missionary work is done by the Home Missionary department of the church led by Brother P. C. Biswas, our hospital compounder. He is all out for evangelism. In addition to his heavy duty at the compounder's office, he is taking care of a branch Sabbath school in Hazaribagh, about sixty miles away from this place. He reports that the people at that place are really wanting to study more about the remnant church of God. We hope to win some of these souls for Christ.

A regular outflow of our truth-filled literature is sent to different ones. The names of some of the high officials of the State Government are on our mailing list. We are happy when we think of these people studying our literature. One day we shall witness a harvest of souls from among these men. India cannot escape Christ.

The "Home Visitation Day" was observed by the hospital as scheduled by the Church on March 6. It proved to be a successful way of telling the good news of salvation to many. Mr. P. C. Biswas was at the head of the group which went out. At 3 p.m. the ambulance was ready, waiting to carry the missionary-minded people on the compound to the city to proclaim the gospel.

When we reached our destination we were divided into groups of two's, according to the Gospel commission, to visit the people and tell them of Jesus and His salvation. Our children took part in this work and their presence was a great inspiration to the grown-ups. We did three hours of aggressive work for the Lord from one end to the other of the city, missing no house or shop. Many names were enrolled for the Voice of Prophecy Correspondence course.

Only eternity will reveal the fruits of our labours that day. The enthusiasm and earnestness manifested by our busy-bee hospital staff is marvellous, and many more such missionary activities are planned in the near future.

NORTHWESTERN INDIA UNION MISSION

President: A. F. Jessen

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THE BRAHMIN'S SACRED THREAD AND THE POWER OF GOD

CHOTABHAI RATHOD

*V. O. P. Secretary, W. Central
Mission*

ONE morning in the year 1928 the writer of this article was working in the garden at our old mission compound at Bhedwad near Surat City, Bombay State, when a Brahmin gentleman came to see Pastor Ludgate, who was then working in the Gujerat field. This gentleman, who was Mr. Madhavlal Kasanji Desai, a member of a high caste Hindu family, asked the writer, "Where do you come from and why are you here?"

"I come from a near-by village to study the Bible with the pastor," I replied. "Why have you come?" I questioned in return.

He said, "I came here to teach Gujerathi to Pastor Ludgate. If you stay with this missionary, he will make you a Christian one day."

After the year 1928 I went to Lasalgaon and did not meet Mr. M. K.



ADVANCE! THE BUGLE SOUNDS

Upon the air the challenge comes,
Louder than fife or roll of drums.
It rings out true the world around—
Advance! The bugle sounds!

Youth in the ranks of God's true
church,
Arise and arm—for souls we search.
Never retreat nor turn around.
Advance! The bugle sounds!

Christ, our Captain, gives us pow'r
To speed His work this closing hour.
No laggard in our army found.
Advance! The bugle sounds!

—M. PRISCILLA ALDEN



Desai again until 1945. A few years later the Voice of Prophecy school was started. I was able to give Mr. Desai an enrolment card for the Voice of Prophecy Bible course. By this time he seemed to be different. God's Spirit had evidently been working with him for many years.

He began to study the Voice of Prophecy lessons, finished the first and advanced courses, and requested baptism, but he was put on test for almost one and a half years. Even then he was not discouraged. He studied the Bible and was prepared for baptism. Many times he said that temptations came to him but Christ's love was keeping him. When the time came, he stood boldly in the church before the whole congregation and removed the Brahmin's sacred thread from his body. To perform the ceremony of wearing the thread his father had spent nearly Rs. 3,000. Now he has taken upon himself the cross of his new-found Saviour. No one knows how much trouble he will have to face in the future. Thank the Lord for the wonderful power that can bring such a change in a man's life.

Mr. M. K. Desai is the first convert from the high caste Desai Hindu family. He is well educated. He has passed the Bachelor of Commerce examination, is a member of the All-India Commercial Association, and is a first-class stenographer. He is also a close relative of the Chief Minister of Bombay, the Honourable Shri Morarji Desai.

The baptismal ceremony was performed on Sabbath afternoon, December 19, 1953, at the Surat church by Pastor P. R. Phasge. Mr. M. K. Desai and another new convert, Mr. Dulabhi, were taken into the watery grave with Christ and brought up to walk in newness of life. It was a very happy occasion for the members of the Surat church. Three more souls are preparing for the next baptismal service. People say that the Gujerat field is a hard place to win souls for the Lord, but we are thankful to God that we can already see the evidences of the working of His Holy Spirit upon the hearts of the people of Gujerat.



PHILIPPINE MISSION DOUBLES ITS MEMBERSHIP

A. Z. RODA

SOUTHERN Mindanao Mission is only a little over three years old. We had our first biennial session last April, at which time many reports of miracles of grace were recited. We are glad to report that in harmony with the General Conference plan we doubled our membership in less than three years. At the time of our organization the membership was 1,980, but during our business session in April, 1953, we reported 4,038 members, and we have baptized more than 500 persons since that time. We also received thirty-eight newly organized churches, so that today we have a total of eighty-one churches. And seventy-eight more companies are awaiting organization. Practically all churches and companies have chapels, and almost all have been built without mission aid.

The days of miracles are with us still, and we behold them with our very eyes. The healing of a paralytic at the time of his baptism is one miracle among many. An evangelistic effort was held in Mlang, Cotabato. It was a great success, and a goodly number were baptized. Among them was this paralytic, who was about to die. He was among the most vicious gamblers in town. But God loves the worst sinner, and His love was found lodging in the heart of this poor man. He gave the last days of his life to God and urged the minister to baptize him in spite of his critical condition. The minister objected but his insistence led the minister to bring him in a cradle to the place of immersion. So weak was he that many believed he would die on the spot. But our brother mustered all the faith he had, and his faith was rewarded. After the baptism he *walked* to his home healed! He is one of our lively lay preachers today.

Some time ago a Filipino with his family returned from America and settled in Sulop. Religion did not appeal to them, but they were honest people. God sent the message to them,

and they became deeply interested, but they halted in the valley of decision, for Saturday—the great test—was to them the biggest day of business. They thought they could not afford to close their rice and corn mill on that day. They were on the verge of giving up the studies when something strange happened. They opened their mill on Saturday, for many had brought their corn to be ground. Heretofore the mill had always run smoothly. But what could be the matter on that day—Saturday? They examined the mill, but could find no trouble. Yet the mill refused to run! Then evening came; they cranked the engine and it worked! And it worked nicely through the week until another Saturday came around. Again it refused to run! And the same thing

happened. They could find no fault with the machine!

It never dawned on their minds that God had a precious lesson for them, and He was clearing away their doubts about the sanctity of the Sabbath day. When this event was repeated several times they began to be serious, and saw that God was bringing them from "darkness into His marvellous light." They took this to be the challenge of a holy God, and they stepped over to God's side to obey His commandments. Today these people are faithful members of the church.

We of the Southern Mindanao Mission rejoice, for to us is fulfilled the prophecy of Joel, "Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things." Joel 2:21. —*Review and Herald.*

BURMA UNION MISSION

President: C. B. Guild

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WEEK OF PRAYER AT MYAUNGMYA TRAINING SCHOOL

E. C. BECK

IT WAS a real privilege to be in Myaungmya Training School the week of Feb. 13-20 for the Spring week of prayer. The theme for the week was, "God's Call to Modern Youth." As the young people responded to the various calls to repentance, service, fellowship, etc. many victories were won and decisions made for the future. Many of the students took advantage of the counsel periods conducted every day. It was very interesting to hear of their providential leadings. Some have lost parents, brothers, and sisters in insurrection uprisings; others have had to flee from their villages, and God directed them to this school.

Many of these young people come from non-Adventist homes and many from Buddhist homes. Some told of how they were the only Adventists in their respective villages. How often we heard the request, "Pray for me as I go home this summer that somehow, by my witnessing, I may be able to win my loved ones and others in my village to Christ." These youth are looking forward to a place in

God's great work. They take their training for this calling seriously.

Pastor Wyman and his staff are doing a good job in directing the youth of Myaungmya to the great purpose of true education, "To restore the image of God in man."

The week was fittingly closed by a baptism when six young people were buried by Pastor Wyman in the watery grave and one united with the church on profession of faith. Let us pray for the young men and women of Myaungmya Training School.

RANGOON DORCAS SOCIETY REPORTS

FREDDIE BA TIN

THE ladies of the Rangoon Dorcas society are busy finding ways and means to make 1954 a successful year in the history of their active society. Dorcas meetings are divided into two parts—the first, instructive; and the second, creative. The very practical Home Commission lessons are studied and thoroughly discussed as each member tries to learn how to be a better mother and homemaker. After these interesting lessons, busy fingers fly into action as each Dorcas lady tries to make her project a unique and saleable item which will

boost the finances of the society and thus enable it to do a good work among the needy of the church and neighbourhood.

Plans are being made to hold a food sale in connection with the closing school programme.

This is just the beginning of the year. Before the end of 1954 we hope to have a good report to give of the activities of our Rangoon Dorcas society.

AT REST

ARINDA—P. C. ARINDA of Kalikapur passed to his rest at the age of four score and six years. He accepted the message in 1915 under the preaching of Pastor L. G. Mookerjee and served the mission for ten years till his children were of age to engage in proclaiming the new-found faith. His eldest son, G. C. Arinda, is an ordained minister now serving at Calcutta. His second son, S. N. Arinda, is in charge of the Gopalganj dispensary. Two of his daughters are wives of mission workers. His youngest son is a lay preacher and is the leader of our church at Kalikapur. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor G. C. Baroya on Sunday, February 7, in the presence of a large gathering. Brother Arinda was laid to rest in his own compound by the side of his wife, who preceded him six years ago. We extend our Christian sympathy to the large circle of bereaved members of his family.

—R. S. FERNANDO

"MISTAKEN MAGNITUDES"

(Continued from p. 8.)

judge "righteous judgments" in our civic, church, and personal relationships. The mote in a brother's eye is usually magnified when we see it through the beam in our own eye. An anna held close enough to the vision can shut out the sun, whereas the unobstructed eye of faith can discern showers of blessing on the far horizon when the evidence is no greater than "a little cloud, . . . like a man's hand." We need to pray for corrected vision to see less of our own hurts, less intent in others to do evil, and more of the wonderful things God is waiting to reveal to His people.

The Peace of God

FREDERICK LEE

WHAT does one have in mind when he speaks of peace? He may be thinking of the hush in nature after a storm, or the harmony that follows the discord of an orchestra that has been tuning up. He may be referring to the state of amity that follows a war, or to the serenity of mind that comes when a difficult problem has been solved.

All of these aspects of peace have similar reactions on the soul of man. They bring rest, contentment, and a sense of security.

There is nothing perhaps that men long for more than peace. The world is in a constant state of suspense waiting for some storm to subside, some clash of arms to cease, or the anxieties and noise of the day's labours to come to an end. Modern life seems to bring too few and too brief interludes of calm and rest.

Each of these aspects of peace is transient, each is dependent on place or circumstance. It is no wonder that among the most popular books today are found those that offer some formula on how to be peaceful in a discordant and uncertain world. None, however, offer a better panacea than that found in the New Testament Scriptures.

A Free Gift of God

In the Bible we learn, that there are only two kinds of peace—that which the world offers and that which God offers. The one is something we work for and wait for and never fully or lastingly attain. The other is a free gift that nothing can take away.

Jesus spoke of this peace when He said:

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27.

This peace that Christ offers is called the peace of God.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Col. 3:15.

For us it is found in Christ Jesus.

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation:

but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

This peace is communicated to us by Christ's representative, the Holy Spirit.

"Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come. He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall shew it unto you." Verses 13, 14.

Peace is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Where it is manifested in the life it is a mighty witness to the power of Christ to make men and women peaceful in an unhappy world.

This gift of God is not for everyone. It comes only to the pardoned and obedient soul. The Bible states that there is no peace to the wicked. (Isa. 48:22.)

As Christ wept over Jerusalem He cried, "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes." Luke 19:42.

What were those things to which Christ referred? It was their lack of genuine repentance and faithful obedience to God's will. The prophet Isaiah, speaking of Israel in his day, lamented, "O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." Isa. 48:18.

This is in harmony with what the psalmist wrote, "Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them." Ps. 119:165.

One cannot have peace who is in a state of rebellion against God and His requirements. This is man's natural state. We are separated from God through disobedience and enmity. No wonder man has no lasting peace.

But a new relationship to God is brought to us through Christ. In writing to the Philippians, Paul said that Christ is our peace, for He has broken down the wall of separation between us and God by bringing us into conformity to the will of God. When this has been done, we "are

no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God." Eph. 2:19.

It is only in oneness with God that we can know the peace of God. Peace is an attribute of heaven, but it can be realized spiritually now by receiving Christ into the life through the operation of the Holy Spirit.

When we are justified by faith through Christ we have peace with God. (Rom. 5:1.) And again Paul states that to be spiritually-minded is peace. (Rom. 8:6.)

It is no wonder that so few Christians have the peace of God. We do not dwell enough in the atmosphere of heaven to cultivate this attribute. In order to have this peace we must "follow after the things which make for peace." Rom. 14:19.

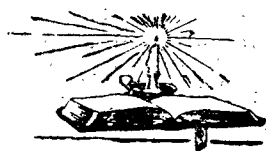
Such a peace comes not from conforming to the world. It is never purchased by compromise with evil. To have it, we must permit the Holy Spirit to work out God's will within our lives.

A Living Witness

The peace that God gives, we are told, is past understanding. (Phil. 4:7.) It is impossible for the people who love this world to comprehend how one dispossessed of most of the material comforts of life can be peaceful, or how one facing crushing sorrow can be calm. They cannot understand how one can bear up under injustice and misrepresentation and still be unperturbed.

This fruit of the Spirit identifies us with God when manifested in all of our personal relationships and in all the circumstances brought to bear upon us. There is no more convincing testimony of a true Christian than a state of peace and serenity at all times. No bad news, no dreary outlook, no threatening storms, no unhappy experience, can overthrow the steadfast faith and hope of one who has the peace of God within his soul.

The Christian who is quick to manifest ill will or express doubts or reveal resentment in a time of provocation loses much of his influence upon those who know not the truth or upon a weak member in the church. How careful we should be, as we go forth each day. We should see that the peace of God is dwelling within our hearts before we come into contact with men and women who perchance may be depending upon us to lead them into the way of truth and righteousness.—*Review and Herald*.



The Bible Serves Your Needs

THE Bible meets every need of man. One who reads its pages with a sincere and open heart will find his spirit strengthened, his mind enlightened, and his soul purified. No one can take up this Book without having some sin challenged or some virtue encouraged.

The Bible makes many declarations concerning itself, the chief one being that it is the Word of God. Along with this, there are other claims that should inspire one to diligent search of the Scriptures for the spiritual riches that are therein.

Here are some of the aids to Christian living that can be found in this sacred Word:

It is food for the hungry soul.

"But He answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matt. 4:4.

"I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:12.

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by Thy name, O Lord God of hosts." Jer. 15:16.

"As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the Word of God, and every soul is to receive life from God's Word for himself. As we must eat for ourselves in order to receive nourishment, so we must receive the Word for ourselves."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 390.

As the body must have a well-balanced regular diet to be in health, so the Christian must be nourished by the wide variety of teaching to be found in the Bible. It is not enough to read the Psalms and the Gospels. To be strong in faith and works one must find in the history of the patriarchs, the Children of Israel, the kings, the prophets, and the epistles, lessons that are important to his Christian experience.

It is light for the darkened mind.

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Ps. 119:105.

"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.

"If we would have the light that has been provided for us, we should show our desire for it by diligently searching the Word of God. . . . With humble hearts subdued by the grace of God, you should come to the task of searching the Scriptures, prepared to accept every ray of divine light, and to walk in the way of holiness."—*Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, p. 62.

It is a fire that purifies the sinful heart and a hammer that breaks the hardened heart.

"Is not my Word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" Jer. 23:29.

"In the Word of God the mind finds subject for the deepest thought, the loftiest aspirations. Here we may hold communion with patriarchs and prophets, and listen to the voice of the Eternal as He speaks to men. Here we behold the Majesty of heaven as He humbled Himself to become our Substitute and Surety to cope single-handed with the powers of darkness and to gain the victory in our behalf. A reverent contemplation of such themes as these cannot fail to soften, purify, and ennoble the heart, and, at the same time, to inspire the mind with new strength and vigour."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 25.

It is a living seed that brings forth fruit in the life to the glory of God.

"The Word of God is the seed. Every seed has in itself a germinating principle. In it the life of the plant is enfolded. So there is life in God's

Word. . . . He who by faith receives the Word is receiving the very life and character of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 38.

It is a probing sword, revealing the inner motives of the heart.

"For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a Discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Heb. 4:12.

"The study of the Bible will enable every thought, feeling, and aspiration as no other study can. It gives stability of purpose, patience, courage, and fortitude; it revives the character and sanctifies the soul."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 94.

As the Bible is read, its words probe innermost recesses of the mind and heart, and expose the sinful thoughts and purposes lodged therein. This should lead to repentance and confession of sin. As one studies the Word he should have this prayer upon his lips, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Ps. 139:23, 24.

It is a defensive sword against the wiles of the enemy.

"And take the Helmet of salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." Eph. 6:17.

"In the truths of His Word, God has given to man a revelation of Himself; and to all who accept them they are a shield against the deception of Satan."—*Ibid.*, p. 465.

"Those who are earnestly seeking a knowledge of the truth, and are striving to purify their souls through obedience, thus doing what they can to prepare for the conflict, will find, in the God of truth a sure defence. 'Because thou hast kept the Word of My patience, I also will keep thee,' is the Saviour's promise."—*Ibid.*, p. 560.

"The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their Safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every possible device to prevent man from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions. . . .

"None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict."—*Ibid.*, pp. 593, 594.

In view of all these blessings that the Word of God offers, how precious it should be to us. Should we not be studying it more and more, heeding its counsels and walking in its light?—*Review and Herald*.

A MAN SENT FROM GOD

HOWARD B. WEEKS

DO YOU have friends who think that religion is the enemy of all human happiness? At a suburban railway station near Chicago one morning I overheard a brief conversation that should give you a clue for successful relationships with those who make insinuations about religion—your religion, in particular.

Here was a woman reading one of Chicago's controversial newspapers as she stood waiting for the commuters' special. Her reading was rudely interrupted by a burly acquaintance who remarked scornfully, "Don't tell me you read *that* paper!"

The woman came back with confidence, "Of course I do. . . . Buy it every morning!" No hesitation, no apologies, no half-hearted explana-

I OPEN THE DOOR

I. A. CRANE

Who keeps knocking at my door,
Keeps on knocking more and more!
Is He a stranger from the street,
Only begging a bite to eat?

Why will He disturb my rest
When I am rich and fully blest?
Why keep pleading at my door
Like one of many who are always poor?

Speaks my Lord, the Witness true,
"I know thy works (they are so few),
You have no wealth, or robe, or sight,
O wretched one, how sad thy plight!"

"Come buy of Me the gold of wealth,
And robe of white to cover self.
Behold, I stand at the door and plead;
May I come in to supply your need?"

O Saviour, come in, I open the door!
I see myself now vile and poor.
Come in, my Lord, and abide with me,
And make me the Christian I ought to be.

tions that would have prolonged the conversation. Soon they were talking about other matters.

Now, if a person can be so confident about his choice of reading matter, can't he be the same way about his choice of religion? Certainly. A sanctified confidence in one's beliefs and actions will meet criticism much more effectively than weak, compromising statements.

"What's the matter; afraid to smoke a cigarette?" someone may ask. Now—what shall you reply? Why not something like this: "What's the matter, are you afraid to leave tobacco alone, afraid of what your friends will say? I think you're the one who is afraid."

That's it: seize the initiative! After all a Christian is one who should lead. He has a message to give, whether he is old or young. The stronger he is, the fewer reservations he has about his own actions, the more respect others will have for him, and the more they will listen to what he says.

Christian belief enjoins meekness and humility as personal virtues. A Christian as a person never boasts of *himself* or *his* righteousness. But we are also advised that when Christian *belief* is called into question, that is a time for boldness and decision.

The Bible is full of stories about Christian people who stood up to scornful men with a holy power that often made thrones tremble. One of these was John the Baptist. I like the way John is introduced to us in one of the gospels. "There was a man," begin the simple yet dramatic lines. "There was a man." A man indeed! A man known for humility, not boastful, not ambitious, but so strong in character that even Herod feared him.

Where was the strength of this man? The lines continue: "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John." Sent from God, that's the answer! He had a sense of divine mission. His life was not his own. He was God's man, doing God's work. And he was strong.

You can have the same strength, because you have the same mission. Every Seventh-day Adventist young person is "sent from God"—sent into a world wallowing in sordid, thoughtless self-gratification, sent with a ringing message and a brilliant outlook for the future.

So whatever you do, never develop an inferiority complex about your religion. It is a faith that, unalloyed with human pride, is demonstrably

superior in its standards of living to anything else by which people have been guided.

You can have all the strength that helped men like Paul to move men and nations if you are willing to declare with him, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation."—*Review and Herald*.

THE SAO PAULO CONFERENCE IN BRAZIL

A. V. OLSON

FIVE YEARS ago when I was in Brazil, the president of the Sao Paulo Conference took me in his car to see a farm the conference had purchased on which to establish a boarding academy. At that time there was not a sign of a building, except for the old farmhouse. Now there are three large brick buildings and several smaller structures on the place. Orange and mango groves, peach and pear orchards, vineyards, and banana, papaya, and pineapple plantations, large vegetable gardens, and fields of corn and waving grain adorn the land.

A new school has been born and is in full operation. Last year with only one dormitory finished, there were 210 students crowded together. Now with the boys' dormitory added, they can receive 300 or more when school opens shortly.

This institution is ideally situated. It is located out in the country, some one hundred miles from the great city of Sao Paulo, twelve miles from Campinas, a city of more than 100,000 and only a mile from Jacuba, a little village on Brazil's principal railway line running into the interior of this republic.

Because of its altitude of some 2,000 feet, this place has a favourable climate. Frost is seldom known in the winter, and the summers are not unbearably hot. We are now in the midst of summer here, but I have not experienced any day as hot as we often have in the north-central states in the summer-time.

Nature has been kind to this place. All around are the evergreen hills and the lovely valleys. The soil is fertile, and an abundance of good water gushes forth from a large spring on the school farm.

Here in this quiet retreat in the midst of the beauties of nature all

the labourers of the Sao Paulo Conference came together January 20-24 for a workers' meeting. It was a blessed privilege to meet with them for prayer and study. The burden of every heart was to become a better and more successful winner of souls.

As these lines are being written, the Sao Paulo Conference is holding its sixteenth biennial session. Delegates from many of the churches are present. How happy they are to be out here in the beauty and calm of this restful place, far removed from the distractions and attractions of a great city.

The territory of this conference consists of the province of Sao Paulo, with the large and fast-growing city by the same name as capital. Within this territory some eight million people make their homes, one-fourth of them in the capital.

According to the report of Joao Linhares, the president, the membership of this conference stood at 8,483 at the close of 1953, and the Sabbath school membership at 11,376. Baptisms for the two-year period totalled 1,411.

This conference is self-supporting, its income from tithe being sufficient to maintain and to expand its working force. Several other conferences in South America have likewise reached the place where they can provide for their own operating expenses. It is a satisfaction to see organizations out in the mission fields becoming self-sustaining, for this releases mission funds for the weaker and less developed fields.

The reports rendered by the department secretaries revealed healthy activity along all lines of church and mission endeavour. The colporteurs are doing real exploits for God in this conference. This summer there are more than two hundred of them busy selling our books. There are thirty-four church schools in the conference. Esther Maluf, a normal school graduate with several years of experience in teaching, was elected as secretary of the educational department.

Considerable progress was made during the last two years in erecting new church buildings and in remodeling, repairing, and enlarging old ones. A number of new chapels are now under construction.

Our medical institution in Sao Paulo is favourably known, both in the city and throughout the state. It is exerting a wholesome influence among the rich and the poor.

Sabbath afternoon, the last afternoon of the conference, five young

men were ordained to the gospel ministry.

The Sao Paulo Conference is today a strong, vigorous organization that can and will accomplish great things for God as workers and members consecrate their all to the Lord for service.—*Review and Herald*.

SOUTH INDIA UNION MISSION

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Secretary: I. K. Moses
Treasurer: D. O. Calkins
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Road, Bangalore

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

B. DANIEL VATHAMANIKAM

EVERY Sabbath afternoon a few of the missionary volunteers from the E. D. Thomas Memorial High School go to the surrounding villages and distribute truth-filled literature and tracts. Most of the

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villagers work on the farm as coolies. One Sabbath afternoon we went to a village called Malainatham and found an opening for a Bible study with a certain family who are greatly interested in the truth. At one time the neighbours also came over to this house and wished to know more about the true God. We told them about Jesus and His wonderful love and sacrifice for humanity and tried to show them the difference between the true God and false gods.

One Sabbath afternoon we all went to the village for an open air meeting. Pastor Kodan spoke to the people about sin and the plan of salvation. About eighty men and women were in attendance and listened to the message.

A real interest has been created in this village and about ten souls are asking for baptism. We are holding a branch Sabbath school at this place now and Mr. Ponniah, the Y. P. M. V. leader, is leading out. We are planning to conduct an effort in this village soon and we hope to reap a rich harvest of souls.

Five young men from another village who are taking the Voice of Prophecy Correspondence course are regularly attending our Y. P. M. V. meetings and they want us to open another branch Sabbath school in their village and have promised to arrange for a meeting place.

They, too, are ready for baptism.

We solicit an interest in your prayers for the work in these villages.

THE MISSIONARY INGATHERER

R. T. E. COLTHURST

WHILE ingathering in a certain village a policeman came up to the writer, and asked if he was the man collecting for missions. "That is what I am doing," was my reply. He then told me I was wanted at the police station. On arriving there the sergeant put many questions to me. After examining my soliciting card and the magazines I carried, he told me every thing was in order and I could continue my work.

It was now my opportunity so I said: "You have satisfied yourself that the cause I am collecting for is a good one. I am sure, therefore, that you would like to add your name to those on my card. When others see it they will feel safe in adding theirs too." He smiled and gave me his offering, then I said, "Mr. Sergeant,

here is something else that you may be glad to know about either for your family or for yourself." I showed him a Voice of Prophecy enrolment card and I got his signature for the lessons, which I pointed out would enable him to get more value from the Voice of Prophecy radio talks which were being broadcast and which I was sure he had listened to from time to time.

Miscellany

• MISS Ina White, Editor of the SOUTHERN ASIA TIDINGS, had to undergo surgery at the S. D. A. Hospital in Karachi. We are happy to state that Miss White is progressing well. We extend to her our sincere wishes for a speedy recovery.

• A very cordial welcome is extended to Pastor F. R. Scott and family who have arrived in Ceylon after what we hope has been a very profitable furlough. Pastor Scott, who has been appointed President of the Kerala Mission, is temporarily connecting with the work in that beautiful island field until arrangements can be made for his entrance into India.

• THE newly-completed church in Nagpur was dedicated on April 10 in the presence of a large gathering. Pastors O. O. Mattison and E. R. Streeter from the Division, and Pastor D. S. Harris from Vizagapatam, who was responsible for the first major effort in Nagpur, were present.

• Friends of Brother Robinson Koilpillai will be interested to know that he is getting along well in his course of study in America. We share with you the following from one of his recent letters:

"Yes, the Lord has richly blessed me thus far, in my stay here. I have had wonderful contact with people in and out of our churches. I have spoken many times in religious, political, and business organizations on various topics concerning India. My experiences so far have been thoroughly profitable and wonderfully enlightening. I am eagerly looking forward to the day when I shall return to India and serve God's cause more efficiently."

• THE evangelistic effort held in the Ahilya Ashram, Poona City, by the laymen of the Salisbury Memorial Church, was brought to a close on Thursday, April 8. The attendance has been very encouraging through-

out, and because of numerous requests Sunday night meetings will be continued for a few weeks. The interest is good and the laymen are kept busy visiting and studying with those who are on the verge of a decision.

• Two precious souls, the first fruits of the effort, were baptized by Pastor Barclay on Sabbath, April 10, in the Salisbury Memorial Church. Several others have signified their intention to be buried in the watery grave in the very near future.

• Pastor O. O. Mattison spent a few days in Poona during the week of April 4th, during which time the Division Committee cared for a number of items affecting the field. He brought the Division office group an encouraging report of his recent visits to the West Pakistan Constituency meeting, the Northwestern Union, and South India. After leaving Poona He will spend some time visiting the Northeast Union with Pastor D. W. Hunter.

—M. E. KEMMERER

SINNATHURAI—We regret to announce the death of Brother S. J. Sinnathurai of Colombo on February 8, 1954, at his residence in Colpetty, Colombo, at the age of sixty-two.

He was a member of the Colombo church for more than twenty-five years, and all those who worshipped with him during this time learned to love him and have the highest respect for him, for he was amiable and kind and always put service before self, and was loyal, true, and zealous for the truth of the Remnant Church.

His life was undoubtedly one of service in every sense of the word, because he trained thousands of students in his School of Commerce for service as citizens of Ceylon and did his best at all times to teach them to be citizens of the future world by giving them literature, enrolling them in the Bible Correspondence Course, and speaking personally to them of Christ and His salvation. The church in Ceylon is poorer for his passing away, but richer in the wonderful example of practical Christianity he has left behind.

Our hearts go out to Mrs. Sinnathurai and Mrs. Manonmani George, their daughter, and Edward Sinnathurai. May God comfort them and give them strength to bear their loss.

—MRS. PATRICIA LOBO