



Free Will and Salvation—1

GOD'S GREAT DILEMMA

F. D. NICHOL

WHEN God decided to make man He was confronted with a great dilemma. Should He create us robots—mechanical men—or as beings with free will? If He created us robots, creatures who responded with mechanical and automatic promptness to His every command, how then would He have any genuine fellowship with us? Our response to Him would be an arbitrary, predetermined one and not an expression of our own desire. Furthermore, if He had made us robots, what chance would there be for us to develop either character or personality? And without these, how would we be better than mere machines? On the other hand, to create us with free will would be to run the risk that we might exercise that will in such a way as to create rebellion in the universe.

God, who alone could make the choice as to the nature of the beings He was about to create on the earth, decided to give man free will. In other words, He decided to run the risk of rebellion against the government of heaven. It is in the setting of that fact that we must understand the whole record of Bible history and the mysterious ways of God toward man.

Here is the record of man's creation: "And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness:

and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them." Gen. 1:26, 27. What an awesome fact that man was made "in the image of God."

Every day every one of us makes endless decisions, which are but a display of our power of free will. We decide at what time we will rise, what we will eat, where we will go, what we will read, whom we will see—to mention only a few of the evident decisions we constantly make. But someone may remark, "The beasts of the field can also make such decisions."

THE RANGE OF OUR FREE WILL

True, but though the beasts of the field were created with free will, only man was created "in the image of God." Thus only man possesses a moral and spiritual nature, the capacity to understand that one path in life leads to heaven and the other to hell. Only man has the capacity for awareness of God and the devil. Thus it is only man who can exercise his free will to decide to serve either God

or the devil. It is this moral and spiritual nature of man that gives to his power of choice its limitless possibilities for weal or for woe. There is both dignity and danger in the will power that God has given to us. Rightly exercised, it can lift a man far above the beasts of the field. Wrongly exercised, it can cast him down lower than the beasts.

That is why the devil has consistently sought through all the ages to prevent men from realizing the vast possibilities that reside in the power of decision. Indeed the devil has ever sought to spread the evil doctrine that man really does not have the power of decision. Satan has long promoted the lie that blind fate controls man's destiny. Or, if not blind fate, then his environment, or his hormones. The evil one has found multitudes willing to accept this idea, because by accepting it they thus find release from a sense of obligation to make moral decisions. This false teaching that man is not really responsible for his conduct, that he really cannot be expected to make decisions, or at least that he should not be held responsible if his decisions are wrong, is a kind of anaesthesia that relieves men of the pain set up by moral tension within them. It is an anaesthesia inhaled by those who dwell in mind and thought

in proximity to the bottomless pit, from which constantly roll forth the morally benumbing gases of hell.

Yes, men find a release from the pain of moral tension thereby, but what a price to pay for release from such pain. No longer can they consider themselves competent to make decisions for eternity. Instead of their being as God intended them to be upright and resolute, with their steps steadily taking them toward heaven, they become like corks, bobbing and drifting on a restless sea of ever-changing emotions and desires.

But, strangely enough, virtually all who would thus excuse their moral and spiritual irresoluteness, would quickly repudiate the idea that a next-door neighbour should be excused if he were to violate the code of society. They would agree wholly with the statement that the very stability of society and the significance of our courts of law rest on the premise that men are accountable for their deeds, that they do have the power of decision and the ability to carry out the decision.

AN UNREASONABLE PICTURE

In other words, many men present this unreasonable picture: They agree that every man is responsible for his actions in relation to his fellow men, but not in relation to his God. Perhaps few would state the matter this bluntly, but in actual practice how else can it be stated? What else is a man doing but contending that he is not responsible for his acts and plans in relation to God, when he declares that it is impossible for him to walk in the good way, impossible for him to follow the Christian path? Either we have free will, the power of decision, or we do not.

Strangely enough, there has crept into the Christian church the false idea that men do not have the power of choice in the realm of ultimate moral and spiritual values; in other words, that men do not have the power of deciding whether or not they will spend eternity in fellowship with God. That false idea goes by the impressive theological term *predestination*. The doctrine of predestination teaches that man's eternal destiny is predetermined, and

that the predetermining is done, not by the free will of man, but by the will of God. That doctrine would really force us to believe that when the Bible speaks of divine "election," we should think of a stuffed ballot box—an election decided in advance, because man's ballot cannot affect the outcome.

The true Bible view, as has been well and graphically stated, is that in the divine election God votes for

us, the devil votes against us, and we cast the deciding vote by the exercise of our free will. If we would think straightly and face rightly the matter of eternal salvation, we must ever keep clearly before us the fact that we move in the midst of a world where God and the devil carry on a fight, and that our decision of will determines our destiny in relation to that great controversy.—*Review and Herald*.

EVANGELISM—MORE POWER TO YOU!

D. S. JOHNSON

A SEVENTEENTH century adventurer stood with his men on board their sailing ship. The last of their fresh water had been exhausted. Their eyes were glassy, their tongues parched, and their bodies fevered. For days they had sailed westward and southward in desperate search of land and fresh, sweet water. Those south Atlantic seas were uncharted, and the captain could not tell for sure when land would be reached. Unsatisfying salt water met their gaze as they prayed for rain or land. Suddenly the captain was impressed by a voice which seemed to say clearly, "Let down your bucket where you are!" He hesitated, and again the impression came to him, "Let down your bucket where you are!" He ordered one of the men to lower a bucket into the calm water beside the ship, who reluctantly used fast waning energy to comply with the order. The men looked on with alternating doubt and hope as the captain raised the bucket to his lips. As he drank deeply of the water a shout went up from the men for they knew it was fresh! Though out of sight of the coast they were really near South America, and as one of the large rivers flows out to sea the fresh water mixes slowly with the salty water of the ocean. Into such a fresh stream they had come. They were praying for fresh water when the ship was floating on it!

Could it be the same with us in our quest for souls? The Lord's messenger writes, "Men and women show much interest in foreign missions.

They give liberally to them and thus seek to satisfy their conscience, thinking that giving to the cause of God will atone for their neglect to set a right example in the home. But the home is their *special field*, and no excuse is accepted by God for neglecting this field."—*The Adventist Home*, p. 318. (Italics supplied.)

It has been my privilege to visit in many of the homes of our workers and laymen throughout the Division. Our church membership now numbers over 16,000 baptized believers. One is impressed that the greatest asset of the church and our homes are these thousands of children and young people. Here then is one of our greatest fields for evangelism. How is it with the youth of our homes and churches today? Certainly every parent and every worker could pause and thoughtfully ponder that question.

There is a tremendous emphasis now on evangelism, and rightly so. Some are not enjoying the success they desire. It seems possible, even probable, that an opportunity is going unheeded. Through inspiration Mrs. White points out that

"We need missionary fervour in our homes, that we may bring the Word of life before the members of our families and lead them to seek a home in the kingdom of God.

"The management and instruction of children is the noblest missionary work that any man or woman can undertake."—*Child Guidance*, p. 476.

I take it that in our homes, and in the church, which is really the home

of all of us as members, a great new emphasis is needed on soul winning. Startling results could be obtained, and they would be permanent results.

Mrs. White conducted a campaign like that in her own home and the results were notable. Though she spent long hours in writing, in travelling, and in counselling, she spent as much time as possible working for her own. She often took in other young people of school age. One such young lady went out to take the medical course in Loma Linda, and later became Dr. Mary McReynolds. Though she had studied medicine she never forgot the burden the servant of God had carried for the youth, and Dr. McReynolds devoted many of her most profitable years to teaching and working for youth. Those who were fortunate enough to sit in her classes know the powerful appeal of her life and her words. She never passed by an opportunity to capture the will of the youth for Christ.

This is really putting first things first for in *The Adventist Home*, p. 324 we read, "You may think, parents, that you have not time to do all this, but you must take time to do your work in your family, else Satan will supply the deficiency. Cut out everything else from your life that prevents this work from being done, and train your children after His order. Neglect anything of a temporal nature, be satisfied to live economically, bind about your wants, but for Christ's sake do not neglect the religious training of yourselves and your children."

Our Missionary Volunteer department is devoted to the task of winning the youth to Christ and to instruct them so that they may believe the truth and be blessed of God in their individual experiences. The current average membership of our MV Societies is 5,064, and over 6,000 students are studying in our schools—all of these are youth in close contact with the church family. Many of these young people are in our own homes. During the last Division-wide Week of Prayer an estimated 1,000 young people surrendered their hearts to Jesus for the first time. The secretary of the MV department asks the question in his recent report to the Quadrennial Council: "Should we not expect at least 1,200 baptisms

from among the youth this present year?" It seems reasonable to expect that. The year 1957 will be the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Y. P. M. V. Department. Our secretary has challenged us with the goal of 2,000 youth for Christ during the 1957 MV Week.

A touching experience is recorded in Mark 10:13, 14 (R.S.V.). It reads, "And they were bringing children to Him, that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it He was indignant, and said to them, 'Let the children come to Me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.'" Jesus would doubtless manifest displeasure at the way youth are kept back from following Jesus. In some homes there is wanton criticism of the church and her leaders; in some churches there is no programme for the youth; often the work of God is

depreciated; and in still others materialism is made to stand out above spirituality. Thus life's true values are minimized, and the eternal and spiritual values are lost.

The apostle Paul charged the elders from Ephesus, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers. . . ." Acts 20:28. The young people are a great and important share of "all the flock." Jesus is coming soon, and when He views the saved He will ask the piercing question, "Where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?" Jeremiah 13:20. What answer will we give to that question? By throwing our best into this special work just now we may save our youth. We may respond in that day with the words of Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I and the children whom the Lord has given me."

HOW IS YOUR TEMPER ?

O. A. SKAU

TEMPER is a very necessary quality when properly employed.

Years ago in the blacksmith shop I learned the value of proper temper. I saw the blacksmith take a badly worn cold chisel and look at it critically. As though speaking to himself he said, "Too soft." He picked another. The second one looked worse than the first. It had big chips broken off from its edge. The third one he picked up had broken off completely across the width of the cold chisel. As he dropped these into the fire on the forge, he said, "Too hard."

As I pulled the bellows, I asked him how he could tell which was too hard and which was too soft. Carefully and patiently he explained to me how to tell what kind of temper was found in the steel. After heating the old worn cold chisels good and hot, he hammered them out. While the cold chisels were still hot he filed a good edge on each one. Once more the chisels went into the fire. When they were properly heated he took one out, rubbed its pointed end in the sand, put just the edge into the water and then watched it carefully.

As he explained what was going

on, I saw different shades creep down towards the edge of the cold chisel. For one shade—yellow—he said, "Sonny, that is too hard." For the purple shade he said, "For this steel, this shade is the correct temper." He quickly plunged the cold chisel into water. That fixed the temper at that place. The next cold chisel he cooled off when the yellow had reached the edge. The third one he let the blue colour reach the edge before cooling it off. "Now, Sonny, look here, this one with the yellow shade is too hard. It will break. It is too brittle. It won't stand the hammer blow." As he said this he hit the cold chisel a hard blow. The edge made a nice cut in the iron, but the cold chisel broke off clear across its width. Taking the one with the blue edge he hit it a good blow. The cold chisel barely made a mark on the iron, but its edge blunted. It was too soft; it folded up, as it were.

The other cold chisel with the proper temper when hit, made a clean cut in the iron without the slightest damage to its edge. Isn't that the way it is with people also? Some are too hard, they break easily, even with a

slight blow. They quickly go to pieces. Chips will fly off under the slightest provocation.

A young man I knew in school had a temper that was too hard. Chips flew off from him at the least provocation. He was short-tempered, or we may say he had a bad temper, and because of this he left school. "*Bad temper*," says Charles Buxton, "is its own scourge. Few things are more bitter than to feel bitter. *A man's venom poisons himself* more than his victims." Truly converted men should be able "to preserve a Christ-like temper when tempted to become imperious and impatient."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 247. Think of Christ's attitude while in the presence of Pilate and before His accusers. "He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth." Isa. 53:7. "If religion," says Clayton, "does nothing for your temper, it has done nothing for your soul." It was John Angell James who said, "Too many have no idea of the subjection of their temper to the influence of religion, and yet what is changed if temper is not? If a man is as passionate, malicious, resentful, sullen, moody, or morose after his conversion as before it, what is he converted from or to?" The Lord says, "I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction." Isa. 48:10. "For by fire and by His sword will the Lord plead with all flesh." Isa. 66:16.

Remember we are "a brand plucked out of the fire." Zech. 3:2. And we are told not to be surprised at the trials that come our way. "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." 1 Peter 4:12, 13. We have been put in the furnace of affliction for a definite purpose. Our tempers, dispositions, must be softened and then properly hardened so as to meet the buffeting that may come to us. "In the world ye shall have tribulations: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33. We must have the right

temper to stand up to the blows that will fall on us. Not easily provoked, says the Bible. "Men with fiery passions have a constant conflict with self; but the harder the battle, the more glorious will be the victory and the eternal reward."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, p. 367. "You'll have to excuse me, Sir, I just lost my temper." Have you heard such a statement before? An uncontrollable temper lessens our influence, while a pleasant and amiable temper, blended with a firm principle of justice and honesty will make you a man of influence." "No one else can lessen your influence as we ourselves can lessen it through the indulgence of uncontrollable temper."—*Ibid.*, p. 367. "A well regulated temper exerts a good influence on all around; but he that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, p. 368.

Is our temper hard, brittle, easily broken, easily provoked? Then we must pray for a change of heart, for "temper, if ungoverned, governs the whole man."—*Shaftesbury*.

As Christians we should be new creatures in Christ Jesus. Bad disposition, hasty tempers and a suspicious mind, should all have been left below the surface of the water at the time of our baptism. Did we not then arise to newness of life. If we continue as before, may we not ask, what was baptized? "The Lord is coming. Oh, the time is short and who in the Bible view are labourers with God? Shall we not be filled with fear and awe lest we are still in our own natural tempers, lest we are unconverted and unholy, and seeking to pass off a counterfeit experience for a genuine one. *Awake*, brethren, before it shall be forever too late."—*Counsel to Ministers*, p. 187.

THE "WHERE" AND "WHY" OF DAILY STUDY

O. W. LANGE

Acting Secretary, S. S. and H. M. Departments.

WHERE are you going? You seem to be in a great haste. Were you too busy to study the Sabbath school lesson with your family? Can one afford not to enjoy the privilege God offers of communion at the family altar each morning? Where *are* you going? Some say they want to go to heaven when Jesus comes but they seem to be rushing through life in the opposite direction ever hoping to catch a late bus back.

WHAT will you get out of it? I mean all this rush—postponing appointments with God to meet small crises arranged by Satan due to this neglect. God's work requires haste but the strange part of it all is that greatest and quickest results come through earnest, fervent prayer. But what are you expecting as payment for the moments snatched away from the quiet time of prayer and Bible study? Do you expect in those few minutes to change your fortune? Can you do in that brief time more than God has so willingly offered to do?

WHEN will you be satisfied? While passing the Lord hastily by each day the thought has lurked—I

really will take time for sweet communion with Him when I finish this. I am just in such a hurry now. He will understand. When I finish this task,—when I attain this goal,—when . . . , when . . . , when . . . ! Just think that through a minute. When will you be satisfied to let the Lord have His rightful place in your life? Someday when perhaps you least expect it, it will be too late. Don't wait until you have satisfied some petty desire, some cherished ambition, some urgent call. It may cost too much. You may not be satisfied until too late.

HOW much will it cost to postpone the opportunity of a deeper fellowship with the Master—the daily meeting at the family altar with God? "You go ahead, I can't stop just now." How often have you said words like that? Too often, sadly enough, both you and I, and it has not been worth it. It has cost so much, so much sorrow, so much loss of power—so much loss, besides, so much less accomplished in the day; and maybe souls in the balance have been turned away from God.

WHY study the Sabbath school lesson and have family worship together morning and evening? It brings peace. It gives power. It makes time accomplish more. It gives God His opportunity in our lives each day. During the periods of real communion with God Jesus comes into our hearts to dwell.

"Parents plead trifling excuses for not interesting themselves in the lessons with their children, and they fail to become conversant with the Scriptures. Fathers as well as mothers excuse themselves from disciplining their own minds. They do not seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, but exalt the temporal above the spiritual and eternal. This forgetfulness of God and neglect of His word is the example they give their children, which moulds their minds after the worldly standard and not after the exalted standard erected by Christ.

"Some fathers will while away hours in their own amusement, in conversation upon worldly things, and put God out of their thoughts and hearts. How much more profitable to be faithful disciples of Christ, engaged in searching the Scriptures that they may be thoroughly furnished to all good works, and be able to give an intelligent explanation of the word given of God to guide our footsteps to the eternal shores.

"Mothers are heard to deplore that they have no time to teach their children, no time to instruct them in the Word of God. But these same mothers find time for outward adorning, time to ornament with tucks and ruffles and needless stitching. Needless trimming is seen upon their own dresses and their children's. The inward adorning of the mind and the culture of the soul are neglected as though inferior to the adornment of the apparel. The minds of mothers and children are starved in order to follow custom and fashion.

"Fathers and mothers, we entreat you to take up your long-neglected duties. Search the Scriptures yourselves; assist your children in the study of the Sacred Word. Make diligent work because of past neglect.

"Many of the youth say, I have no time to study my lesson. But what are they doing? Some are crowding in every moment to earn a few cents

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT FAVOURS CALENDAR REVISION!

The Missionary Volunteer Department of Southern Asia favours the revision of all school, church, section, and union calendars that do not at present have special dates for MV Week of Prayer and MV Youth Camps.

Though this revision has nothing to do with the international clamour for the revision of the Gregorian Calendar for business purposes, this proposed revision does have an important part in the lives of Advent Youth throughout India, Burma, Pakistan, and Ceylon. Let's check our calendars and revise them if necessary!

more, when this time pressed into work, if given to the study of the Bible, would, if they practised its lessons, save them more than the amount gained by overwork. It would save much that is expended in needless ornaments, and preserve vigour of mind to understand the mystery of godliness."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, pp. 19-21.

"Every day some portion of time should be appropriated to the study of the lessons. . . ."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 53.

Knee-action-comfort was developed long before it was used in modern motor cars. It was first discovered by penitent sinners kneeling in prayer before the loving Saviour.

WINGS . . . BUT NO ROOTS

D. A. DELAFIELD

SEVERAL businessmen were flying to a common destination. As the motors of the air-liner pulled them through the sky, the great steel fuselage vibrated with a steady, even tremor. The men began to discuss speed. One suggested that the air-liner was flying three hundred miles an hour. "I wonder how fast we will be flying ten years from now," he

said. "Six hundred miles an hour," replied another traveller. A third party thought it would be at least one thousand, while still another ventured fifteen hundred miles an hour. As they were thinking a sober little man asked a short but thought-provoking question—"Why?" In other words, "What is the purpose of all this speed?" This question gives us something to think about.

"None can be sure," remarks an editorial writer in a trade magazine, "that flying higher and faster and farther actually would bring any real benefit. . . ."

What happens when men have wings . . . but no roots? . . . The prophet Daniel spoke of the time when men should run to and fro and knowledge should be increased.

"He said it would come close to the time of the end."—*Paul Harvey News*.

People today have big wings but tiny roots. We should take time to dig deep and lay our foundations sure in the reality of personal religion and faith in God. If we must race along with the world, let us at least stop long enough to get our bearings. It is so easy to be caught in the whirl of fast-moving events and allow no time for the culture of holy thoughts and the checking of the compass. Meditation, prayer, and a knowledge of the truths of God's Word and the inspired writings of the Spirit of prophecy would give depth and meaning to lives that now are tossed about and driven with the winds of the world.—*Review and Herald*.

“WHY do you want to be a Christian?” Missionary Bompard asked a Mohammedan.

“Because of one text in the Bible.”

“What is it?”

“Matthew 11:28 and 29. ‘Come unto me . . . and I will give you rest . . . and ye shall find rest unto your souls.’ I know the books of Islam, but there is no promise of rest in them. I want that rest.”

Truly, this reference is a gospel gem. The Mohammedan gave expression to a universal longing in the human heart, a longing that can find complete and full satisfaction only in Jesus Christ, the world’s Saviour.

Listen to the holy call, “Come unto Me.” Jesus, as it were, erected His booth in the big vanity fair of this world. On one side of Him was a fisherman calling to passers-by to purchase his fish, gems of the sea; on the other was a baker presenting his rolls, the riches of his oven.

To gain attention, Christ sounded forth His holy call—a unique invitation to all. That call was so loud that it penetrated the underworld of vice and wickedness, and the woman who was a sinner heard and came to His feet in tears. It was so loud that it pierced the music and revelry of the upper class and Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews, was led to respond. It was so loud that despite colour and creed it still travels to the uttermost parts of the earth—to the Indian in the bazaar, to the Eskimo amid the silent snows, to the Australian bushman in the sunny south.

A UNIQUE CALL

It is a unique call, “Come unto Me.” The fisherman calls attention to his fish, the baker to his bread, the husbandman to his fruit, the merchant to his wares. But Jesus Christ calls people to Himself.

I wonder whether we fully understand this. Having a knowledge of a creed or belonging to a church does not mean that we are Christians. No, it all centres in a whole-hearted response to this unique call, “Come unto Me.” There is no such thing as second-hand salvation. Every sinner who is saved must come first to Christ Himself—not to His servants, His service, or the church, good as they are. It is important to come to these,

HAVE YOU HEARD THE CALL?

E. L. MINCHIN

but first and foremost we must come to Jesus Christ Himself.

“Are you a Christian?” a friend of mine in Australia once asked a fashionable woman who attended his meetings.

“Oh, yes, of course I am. I was born in Melbourne,” was the quick reply. She regarded herself as a Christian because she was born in a so-called Christian country or city.

“Why were you baptized?” was the question recently asked of a young woman who had revealed an indifferent attitude to the claims of Christ in her life.

“I thought one had to be baptized to become a member of the church and I wanted to belong to the church,” she answered. This is the great tragedy in the lives of many whose names are on the church roll. To be a Christian is to come to *Christ*, not merely to belong to a *church*. The temptation is to go to something other than Christ—to a church, a doctrine, a feeling, a theory, religious activity—but He alone is the goal. Forgiveness and life eternal can only be obtained from Him who said: “Come unto Me.”

Notice the classes He mentions—“All ye that labour and are heavy laden.”

“Whether they know it or not, all are weary and heavy-laden. All are

weighed down with burdens that only Christ can remove. The heaviest burden that we bear is the burden of sin.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 328.

He was just a lad of seventeen. He came to me at the close of a meeting at a youth camp. “Please, may I talk with you?” he asked.

We went for a walk together in a field nearby. “What is the trouble, my boy?” I inquired.

“I’ve slipped, I’ve sinned, I need help.”

“Would you like me to pray with you?”

“But I must tell you my story first, I will go mad if I do not tell someone.”

“All right, you tell me, if it will help you.”

“If I tell you, you will not tell Mother, will you? It would break her heart if she knew.”

“No, I will not tell your mother, but you might some day.”

“If I tell you, you will not tell Dad, will you? He would turn me out of the house if he knew.”

“No, I will not tell your father.”

Then the lad sobbed out his confession of sin and failure. Together we kneeled and locked arms in that field, and with bitter tears of repentance and words of confession he came to Jesus Christ, His Saviour. His burden was lifted and he found his way back to pardon and peace once more. The “rest” that Christ had promised became his again.

A kind-hearted officer visited a dying soldier and asked what he could do for him. The sinking man whispered, “Could you say a bit of a prayer for a fellow?” For a moment the officer was silent, then memories of home and of childhood flooded his mind.

He began softly, “Gentle Jesus, meek and mild. . . .”

Suddenly memories stirred the heart of the dying man and he faintly whispered, “Pity my simplicity, suffer me to come to Thee.” And he entered into rest.

Can you say with others who have found their way to the only peace worth having, to the only Saviour worth knowing—

“I hear Thy welcome voice that calls me, Lord to Thee.

For cleansing in Thy precious blood that flowed on Calvary?”



HOW many Bible instructors would you like to have in your church, leading souls into present truth, and bringing them into church membership? Two? Five? Twenty-five? Some may think, "You are simply beside yourself to talk about having twenty-five Bible instructors in one church."

But have you considered the statement made by Ellen G. White, found in General Conference Bulletin, Vol. 3, No. 2, dated April 11, 1899? Here it is: "*Every Christian is bound to be a Bible worker*, to do something in imparting to others the great present truth for this time. Communicate what you do know." (Italics supplied.)

Does your church have twenty-five or more members? Then you ought to have twenty-five or more Bible workers. "Every Christian is bound to be a Bible worker."

This means that among all our evangelistic methods we need some simplified plan by which every member can give Bible readings. Some help along this line is offered in the little book known as *Helps to Bible Study*. It presents a simple plan for making chains of reference in one's Bible on various subjects of present truth. By this method any person may give a Bible reading on these subjects on the spot anywhere, anytime, without any notebook, with nothing in his hand but an open Bible.

Some laymen are blessed with more ability than others. They can make pertinent comments, and effective applications of the words of the Scriptures as they bring forth the chain of texts. But, let this not be overlooked—the humblest layman, who can read, can at least take a marked Bible and read a list of six or eight texts to a person. Mrs. White says, "*A great work can be done by presenting to the people the Bible just as it reads.*"—*The Review and Herald*, July 10, 1883, p. 434. (Italics supplied.) "The words of the speaker bringing the form of sound doctrine into actual contact with the hearers, will result in saving of souls."—Ellen G. White, Letter 4, 1910. (Italics supplied.)

This plan of marking the Bible is based on three, easy-to-follow rules.

1. Select two or three key letters to represent the various subjects that

OPEN-BIBLE EVANGELISM

J. L. SHULER

(This is the second of three talks given at a layman's congress.—Editors.)

you desire to use as a series of Bible readings. To illustrate: New Jerusalem=N. J. New Earth=N. E. Second Coming of Christ=2C. Signs of the Times=S. T.

2. On the flyleaf of your Bible, list these key letters with the first reference dealing with this particular subject. To illustrate: Second Coming of Christ=2C. Begin—Heb. 9:28.

3. On the margin of your Bible by the first text, list the second reference on this subject, and just above the reference place the figure 2, in parentheses, followed by the key letters that represent this subject. Then on the margin where this second text is found, list the third reference, and above it write the figure 3 in parentheses, followed by the key letters of this subject. Continue this procedure until you come to the second text from the end in the chain. On the margin list the last reference and above it write "End," followed by the key letters of this subject.

The Southern New England Book and Bible House has printed gummed sheets for fifty cents a set, which list

MERCY TO THE FALLEN

Wouldst thou an erring soul redeem,
And lead a lost one back to God?
Wouldst thou a guardian angel seem
To one who long in guilt has trod?
Go kindly to him, take his hand,
With gentle words, within thine
own,
And by his side a brother stand
Till thou the demon sin dethrone.
Scorn not the guilty then, but plead
With him in kindest, gentlest mood,
And back the lost one thou mayest lead
To God, humanity, and good.
Thou art thyself but man, and thou
Art weak, perchance to fall as he;
Then mercy to the fallen show,
That mercy may be shown to thee.

—Author Unknown.

the subjects of the Home Bible course with key letters to represent them; also the chain of references on each subject, with the progressive key letters and text arrangement, and a key thought of what is found in the next text. In this case, one simply cuts out with a pair of scissors and pastes them on the margin of one's Bible. This makes for a better, neater, more readable system than handwriting. It is almost a must for India-paper Bibles.

With a Bible thus marked it is possible for every Adventist who can read to be a Bible worker within the limits of his ability. With a Bible thus marked anyone can obey the command: "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you the reason of the hope that is within you." 1 Peter 3:15. Every member is prepared to carry out the injunction, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season." 2 Tim. 4:2.

God has made a blessed promise to those who will give Bible readings: "If the teachers of His Word are willing, the Lord will bring them into close relation with the people. He will guide them into the homes of those who need and desire the truth, bringing them into situations best suited to their talents."—Ellen G. White, *Welfare Ministry*, p. 101.

One of the main items in all evangelism is to have God working at both ends of the line. Then you will see results comparable to those in the case of Philip and the Ethiopian treasurer (see Acts. 8), and in the case of Peter and Cornelius (see Acts 10).

It would be good for a Bible-marking class to be conducted in every church. Membership in the class should be based on adherence to three rules.

1. I agree to take time before each class to study the assigned subject and to have my Bible marked with the assigned chain of references before I come to the class session where this subject will be presented.

2. I will, if given notice one week in advance, present this subject in a Bible reading to another person in the presence of the class.

3. After each subject is presented in the class, I will before the next class session present this Bible reading to at least one non-Adventist.

PAKISTAN UNION*President: C. H. Hamel**Secretary-Treasurer: N. R. Fouts**Office Address: 32 Mozang Road, Lahore***VISITING CHURCHES IN EAST PAKISTAN**

R. S. FERNANDO

The Garo Hills

Mrs. Fernando and the writer spent three weeks visiting churches in the Mymensingh District. Workers' meetings, lay evangelistic institutes and Sabbath school conventions were held at Birisiri, Mansapara and Lengurah. A six-standard school is being conducted at Lengurah by Brethren Pranesh and Upendra Rema. Two of the six precious souls baptized were parents of the Lengurah school children. The three village schools that are conducted in this area are real evangelistic centres. A worker's house is now erected at Mansapara and a second house is to be erected at Birodikuni. When the fifty-eight candidates awaiting baptism are baptized we have plans to organize three new churches. In preparing these candidates, Brethren Ibrahim Rema and R. Chambungong are happy to use the new Garo tracts and Bengali "Baptismal Manual" recently printed at our school press.

The Amtola church members have set a good example in tithe payments and uplift collections. At the close of a service conducted in this church a brother came forward and placed the tithe in the tithe box. After giving a first fruit offering he gave a brief testimony and placed the Sabbath school and church offerings on the

table. When the worker offered the benediction we thought the service had come to an end but our farmer brother thrilled us again by presenting two souls for baptism. A faithful tithe payer is bound to be a fruitful soul winner.

In the Water-logged Areas

Brother S. C. Madhu, formerly of the Jalirpar school but now located at Buruabari, looks after four churches. Three were baptized at Buruabari. Four more were baptized at Chourkhuli bringing the total baptisms in this village to twenty-three. At Betkachia, where extensive damage was caused by the flood, one was added to the church by baptism. The damaged church building was removed to re-erect at Chourkhuli and the worker's empty house was converted into a chapel for Betkachia believers.

Brother S. K. Somoddar is now stationed at Suagram and Brother Profulla Haldar has taken charge of the Sonapur school near Hili. Two were baptized at Suagram by Pastor I. B. Bairagi. Public meetings were conducted at Askor for twenty-one days and a baptismal class of twenty-five was organized. A Home Commission class was conducted in this village by Mrs. Fernando while the

effort was going on and forty certificates were issued. Pastor G. C. Baroya toured the Barisal District and baptized two at Dharabasail, one at Bisharkandi and another at Sitpur. Brother S. C. Deuri is looking after these churches.

The baptismal class conducted by Pastor S. K. Haldar at Jalirpar yielded a harvest of twelve souls from the school family and four from the Kaligram village where the teachers conduct branch Sabbath schools under the leadership of Brother N. D. Roy.

Another victory was won at Gopalganj by the baptism of Sister P. A. Poddar by Pastor T. C. Bairagi.

The Sundarbans

Once each year when rivers are not too dangerous for small boats we visit our believers in the Sundarbans. Great improvements have been made in this area as the second largest seaport in East Pakistan is now located near our mission station. Travel to this area will no longer be a problem. Numerous tugs, flats, barges and ocean-going steamers stood glistening in the morning sun as we reached the place. The mission motor boat took us into the interior where the population has decreased to one man per acre. The normal tide waves sweep this area twice a day at a speed varying from two to thirty miles per hour. Wells do not yield sweet water and crops are damaged by the sea water. Farmers take a chance in sowing their fields due to unexpected tidal waves. At the present time there is much suffering and want due to crop failure and after-effects of the flood. But our



Left: A small group of the many who received gifts of garments and food sent from overseas. Right: Boats ready to leave to the flood stricken areas carrying packages of relief goods.

people are busy preaching the everlasting gospel using very effectively the current events as signs of Christ's soon return. As there is no permanent worker in this area Brother N. N. Bannerji will look after the interests of these believers from Chuadanga. The blind elder of this seaport church sets the right example to his flock in the matter of tithing not only on his meagre coast income but also on produce of his garden including the juice of the date palm. His faithfulness in this small matter which was commented upon at the communion service caught the attention of others present and when the tithing covenants were taken up we were glad to note several back tithing pledges. Here again as in other instances we were happy to note that it is the faithful tithing payer who is a successful soul winner. The blind brother presented two souls for baptism. At Khulna we celebrated communion with the aged brother, B. N. Sarkar, and others who have recently migrated from the villages in search of work. It is in this town two of our pioneer workers, Pastor J. C. Little and Brother K. D. Poddar, are buried and Brother Sarkar re-told his experiences of those early days as we pledged to follow the Master even unto death. We are now investigating the possibilities of relocating the East Pakistan High School in this area.

Relief Work

While making these various trips it was our privilege with the assistance of resident workers to distribute over 3,000 lbs. of "Meals for Millions" food and over 10,000 garments besides making cash grants for the purchase of seed, replacement of lost cattle and repair of damaged houses and other rehabilitation activities. We are thankful to those responsible for making these gifts which have made it possible for us to preach the gospel as set forth in Isaiah 58.

The Seventh-day Adventist hospital in Karachi as it was just nearing completion.

KARACHI, PAKISTAN, HOSPITAL SERVES MANY NATIONALITIES

MRS. N. R. FOUTS

FIVE years ago the Seventh-day Adventist hospital in Karachi was only a mass of reinforced steel and concrete. We watched with interest as *bhistis* ("water carriers") filled their goatskin bags from a water hole under the only tree between the hospital building and the staff quarters and carried the water to where the concrete was being mixed. Then a never-ending circle of coolie women, who had hung their nursing babies from the limbs of the trees, gracefully ascended and descended the bamboo ladders, transporting on the top of their heads pans of concrete to construct the walls and floors.

Today, as we again visit Karachi, nothing remains of the clutter characteristic of construction. A compact, three-storey hospital building with a basement, simply yet adequately furnished and equipped, extends an opportunity for restoration of soul and body. A commodious chapel (where worship is daily conducted for the staff members and where church members and interested persons worship regularly) stands beside the tree that once shaded the water hole.

HOSPITAL IS FILLED

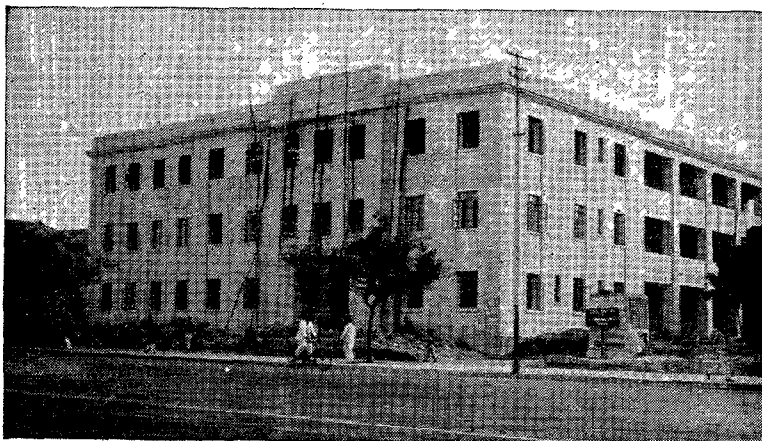
Every room and ward is filled, and nurses re-arrange rooms in an effort to add another bed here and there. Patients of all creeds and rank

are received and treated, and in this strategic city in Southern Asia the influence of the hospital surmounts national boundaries. This morning a German woman was admitted; yesterday an Englishman who was injured at sea; last Saturday night a Frenchman, taken seriously ill aboard an air liner.

Up on the third floor the wife of a Japanese Embassy staff member, smiling proudly, indicates by motions that she can only speak Japanese, but that the little bundle with the shock of black hair beside her is her second child. The plump twins next to the nursery door are the sons of a member of the Hashemite-Jordan Embassy staff.

In the hydrotherapy room one of the patients is a bright-eyed, nine-month-old baby receiving fomentations and remedial exercises for polio. His mother said she brought him eight hundred miles from a village in the Punjab "to see if anything could be done for him. And he is getting much stronger and better." On the second-floor verandah six-year-old Fatima, whose crooked little legs are being straightened, greets everyone with "Hello, Sister." Then because she doesn't understand English she smilingly repeats after the speaker everything that is said to her. A double line of patients across the ground-floor verandah and out into the walkway awaits the opening of the various clinics held day by day.

Sabbath afternoon the singing band moves through the corridors from ward to ward. Patients cease their visiting or other pursuits and listen with respect and interest, occasionally asking that the words be



read to them so that they may understand them more fully. Some express appreciation for the music and for the literature that is left with them. The hospital's tasty food, healthfully prepared, serves to acquaint the patients with another phase of God's plan for His people.

Throughout past years the administrators and staff have prayed fervently and earnestly that the work might be established and carried forward as God would have it. They have planned and worked unstintingly to represent the attributes of God as they serve the people of Karachi. Now with humility they rejoice that God has blessed their efforts and beseech His continued guidance over the "right arm of the message" in this large Pakistan metropolis.—*Review and Herald*.

PUNJAB VILLAGE ITINERARY

A. M. AKBAR

I HAVE just finished visiting Manchar where Pastor Prem Masih and Mr. Moghal Khan are holding meetings. This is a new village and we have never had any work there before. It is located near Mansurwali where we had our MV camp on the Wazirabad-Lyallpur line. There are twenty-three families here who have expressed their desire to join the church of God and fifteen of these are almost ready for baptism. One family has started paying their tithes. I was pleased to see how these people who had never had this light before have accepted the Message.

At another village we had a good meeting and at the close the people begged us to send them a worker to teach them more of these truths. I felt sad and I had to tell them that they must wait. I do not know how long it will be before we will be able to send a worker there. The whole area is awakened and the people are waiting. Akalgark is another town where the people have asked me for a worker. What can I say?

In Shorkot and Kuralki Brethren I. M. Khokar, Abdul Aziz, Garib Dass and Faquir Masih are holding meetings. The attendance has been exceptionally good and they report that about twenty people are waiting for baptism. Similar news is reaching me from many different places.

Surely the Lord is with us and is working wonderfully.

I have never seen such an awakening in my life as I see it today. The people of Gujranwala, where we plan to establish our Punjab section headquarters, are asking for a worker. I see that we are faced with a

tremendous challenge of giving the people the last warning message in these days. I also see the dearth and shortage of workers. How can we face the situation? We need at least eight more workers to cope with the situation at the present time. Please pray for the work.

NORTHWESTERN INDIA UNION

President: T. R. Torkelson

Secretary-Treasurer: L. E. Allen

Office Address: 27 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi

ANOTHER MILESTONE PASSED

O. A. SKAU

CAMP meetings are something we look forward to from year to year. Here in our Division we at times call them annual meetings or constituency meetings. These meetings are just as enjoyable out in the Orient as they are at home. The arrangements may be different, but the purpose and the results are very much the same. It is true we do not have kitchens and dining rooms where we may enjoy our food. Here we have a common kitchen at times with open fires and for a dining room we may sit on the ground and eat our rice and curry with our fingers from banana leaves.

In speaking about the general arrangements for the meetings Pastor A. R. Appel, the president of the Bombay State section said, "We have arranged for some very good meetings while together; we have with us representatives from the Division and from our Bombay office. The day's programme has been arranged in such a way that we have 6 hours set aside for our meals and rest periods and 6 hours for our spiritual food." As we went through the daily programme we frequently heard the people say that these were the best meetings they had ever attended. At Hatkanagale, south of Poona, there were about 300 present. This was double the attendance they had in 1955. These meetings were held on the school site. A large tent had been pitched and in this tabernacle God's

people stored their minds with much spiritual food. Aside from the usual camp services, special meetings were conducted for the children, women, and the men. It is good to get together to discuss problems peculiar to each group.

At the Nevasa meeting there were 150 in attendance daily. Here, too, the people felt fully repaid for coming. We did not have the school buildings in this place but people lived in tents and bamboo mat enclosures. They all slept on the ground. The visitors from Division headquarters and Bombay city slept on the stone-floor in the government inspection bungalow. On the verandah of this place, Pastors Appel, Christo, Wolfe (our new missionary from New Zealand), Israel and wife and the writer, crowded together on the floor where we slept under our nets. Our cooking was done on kerosine and gasoline camp stoves. Our diet was simple, but good. All chipped in with the cooking, setting of the table and washing up. God was good to us and we believe all left with the feeling that it had been good for us to be present. In each place the meetings closed at about 7:15, Saturday night. We, as visitors, quickly packed our things into Brother Wolfe's "Wanguard" and headed for Poona. In each case we reached headquarters about one in the morning. We caught a few winks and then went to another crowded programme in our various offices. The Bombay State folks had yet another 125 miles to drive to get back to their work.

In the communion service at Nevasa, 76 members took part. To

me it was a real joy to wash the hard, deep-skin-cracked feet of one of the oldest church members in the Nevasa church. At first he remonstrated with me as Peter did in days of old, but finally we washed each others feet and finished with a brotherly kiss.

FOUR SOULS WON TO CHRIST

N. G. MOOKERJEE

THE baptism of four precious souls on Sabbath, April 21, 1956, at the Salisbury Memorial Church, Poona, was witnessed by a large gathering of church members. Two of the candidates joined the Marathi church, and two are now members of the Poona English church.

Pastor A. E. Rawson delivered an appropriate sermon on the need for baptism, after which he examined the young people and accepted them into church fellowship.

As the strains of organ music filled the church hightening the solemnity of the occasion, it was the writer's privilege to lead the candidates into the watery grave.

Two of the group were from among the young people that were prepared for baptism by Mrs. M. E. Kemmerer and Mrs. O. A. Skau who spent many hours instructing the juniors, some of whom are to be baptized in a few weeks from now.

Inasmuch as it was the last Sabbath that Pastor and Mrs. Rawson spent in Poona, it gave them much pleasure to be present at the baptismal service.

We wish the four newly-baptized members of the church much of God's blessings as they enter into a new life of service for the Master.

There never was found in any age of the world, either philosopher or sect, or law or discipline, which did so highly exalt the public good as the Christian faith.—*Bacon.*

* * *

No one else can furnish you with will power. No one else can take your place if you are displaying originality. No one else can make up your mind for you. No one else can save you from the consequences of all your follies. No one else can supply you with a substitute for initiative. No one else can tell you what your conscience ought to.—*Roy L. Smith.*

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NEWS FROM

THE WORLD FIELD

HOPE FOR SALE IN BAGHDAD

CHARLES C. CRIDER

IN ancient days the city of Baghdad won fame as a commercial centre. Its merchants were rich and powerful. Its bazaars were filled with strange and marvellous merchandise gathered from all over the world. It was filled with men who were ready to start on quests of adventure, and their journey took them to faraway places over the uncharted seas. Always they were seeking for some new and valuable commodity.

During the past few weeks the local church here in Baghdad has started on a new venture. Now, among the shops of this Eastern city, is one which bears the odd name, Hope Shop. It is situated just off the street along the banks of the Tigris River, and every evening thousands of people stroll past. Many drop in to satisfy their curiosity, and to browse about among the wares displayed. They are only books and magazines, some free and others for sale.

Hope for sale! Surely a strange commodity to be offered for sale; yet surely nothing is so much needed, not only here in Baghdad, but in all parts of the world. One cannot buy it already packaged. Nor is it available in bulk to be weighed or measured out on the odd scales and with the strange measures and weights still in use here. But indeed each book and periodical published by our people in the Middle East contains a message of hope for the one who will read and accept it.

The whole project was started as a venture of faith. It is supported largely by private members. The shop is in an unused garage that belongs to one of our church members. Abdul Azziz Essa, one of our faithful lay brethren here in Baghdad, is the manager of the shop, and he is there

many hours of the day and early in the evening ready to meet those who are interested and who shop to find hope. The project is really a test to see whether this method will succeed as a form of lay evangelism. Thus far results have been encouraging. Many have come for special Bible study and discussion, and several have attended meetings.—*Review and Herald.*

HISTORIC LIBIA IN ADVENTIST NEWS

IT WAS a Libian, Simon of Cyrene, who was compelled to carry the cross of Jesus. Other citizens of that Roman province of North Africa were in the audience that heard those sermons on the day of Pentecost and were converted.

Today, more than nineteen hundred years later, the Libians are again hearing the gospel of the second coming of Jesus through the witness of our new hospital in Bengasi. Dr. Roy Cornell and associates have been planning to open the doors of the new thirty-bed hospital to receive patients early this year.

Throughout history this mostly desert province has been almost constantly under the domination of neighbouring powers—Egypt, Phœnicia, Rome, Byzantium, Turkey, Italy. Now a United Nations protectorate controls its destinies and is in the process of establishing a liberal monarchy with a family chosen from among the most important desert chieftains. There are two principal population centres—the coastal cities of Tripoli, in the west, and Bengasi, further east. During World War II Bengasi changed hands several times among the Italians, Germans, and British. The harbour and city still show the effects of the conflict.

A building hard hit by shelling or bombing is being restored and re-modelled to serve as our hospital. It is well situated, to the east of the main bazaar, or commercial section, of Bengasi. Officials of the city and the country have been very cordial in their offer of this opportunity for medical ministry. It is only through our medical work that we are allowed in Libia. No other form of Christian ministry is permitted.

The nomadic bedouin-type people of the Fezzan, the area composing the northern portion of the Sahara, have probably had no Christian influence brought to bear upon them since before the coming of the Moslems to these parts in the eighth century. They are an intensely independent people, never really subdued by any outside power. They still acknowledge no power superior to their own tribal chieftains and are tied to the new Libian administration on a rather tenuous basis.

The fine Moslem people of this area are of a sect that places much emphasis on the prophecy in the Koran that Christ is to return, and they recognize in events now transpiring in the world last-day signs of the Advent.

It is cause for rejoicing that through Seventh-day Adventist medical ministry these people are to have in their midst a clear witness to the imminence of our Lord's return.—*Review and Herald.*

THE PRAYER OF FAITH

ANTONIO NOGUEIRA, JR.

IN A certain part of my district in Brazil there lived a large family of Adventists, very poor in this world's goods but rich in faith. One day the good wife in this home said to her husband, "Husband, since we are so very poor and do not have money to pay for making the clothes for our family, I have thought of ploughing the land we rented for pasture and seeding it to flax, so that from the proceeds of the harvest I might purchase a sewing machine."

It did not take long to obtain the consent of her husband, who was a hard-working blacksmith. Soon he had the walking plough ready, and with the help of the other children, the field was ploughed and planted to flax. The Lord gave the necessary

rain and sunshine, and the prospects for a good crop were excellent. But one day when our sister went out to look at her flax field, to her amazement she saw that nearly every plant had a hungry green caterpillar on it.

Almost dismayed and very unhappy, she quickly returned to her husband's shop and told him about it. He immediately replied, "Dear wife, don't worry. We have been faithful in the Lord's tithe in spite of our poverty. We love the Lord with all our hearts and have tried to be sincere and faithful. The Lord will surely hear our prayers. You have prayed to Him many times, and He has always heard and answered. While I work and pray, why don't you go out to the flax field, kneel down in it, and ask God to save the crop?"

So our sister, Nécý Machado Trindade, returned to the field. Again she looked at all the worms that were carrying on the work of destruction. Reverently she knelt down and presented the whole matter to the Lord in prayer. She mentioned how they had tried to serve the Lord with their whole hearts and how much they needed this harvest of flax. She also told the Lord that all the income above the cost of the sewing machine and the tithe she would return to the Lord as a thank offering.

The next morning the family went out to the flax field. What a happy sight! Only God could have done what they saw. Every plant was standing as vigorous as ever. During the night every one of the caterpillars had died, and now, instead of being green, they looked like black pieces of straw.

Soon after this experience Sister Nécý threshed and sold her flax, and after paying her tithe and buying her sewing machine, she brought the Lord a thank offering of Cr \$500 (\$8 U. S.).—*Review and Herald.*

Moderate labour of the body conduces to the preservation of health, and cures many initial diseases.—*W. Harvey.*

* * *

We are more heavily taxed by our idleness, pride and folly than we are taxed by government.—*Franklin.*

* * *

There are three things that ought to be considered before some things are spoken—the manner, the place, and the time.—*Southey.*

LAYMAN IN BRAZIL WINS FORTY-FIVE CONVERTS

N. W. DUNN

TEONESTO MIRANDA, a layman in Brazil, has recently built a chapel at personal expense to accommodate the new believers he has helped to win to the truth through the influence of the Sabbath school.

Having observed how effective the Sabbath school is in winning souls, he decided not to designate his new chapel as a church or temple, according to the custom in Brazil, but rather to place a sign on the front of the building indicating that it was a Sabbath school. This attracted considerable attention. Soon the place was filled to capacity each week with interested children and adults.

During the past three years this consecrated brother has won forty-five persons to the truth. Recently he sold his only burro to get money for the down payment on a lot adjoining his "Sabbath School" on which to erect a church school for the children of these new believers. Thus he will utilize two very effective agencies for winning souls to the truth and for holding them after they are won.—*Review and Herald.*

HOW IRMGARD FOUND CHRIST?

W. RAECKER, M. V. Secretary
Central European Division

THIS is a story of Germany. It is the story of Peter, who wanted to go to the Youth camp. But poor boy! No one seemed to want to go with him. In his enthusiasm he invited neighbour youth in his home town to enrol for the camp, but to his great surprise no one was minded to go. Peter was not disappointed, however. One of the young women in the neighbourhood, a girl of his own age, decided to go although she had had no contact with Adventist youth.

It just happened that Irmgard was on vacation, and she had twelve days—all for herself. So she joined the ministers, the workers, and one hundred Adventist youth in a beautiful mountain hotel especially set aside for youth camps.

She liked the company of these pure young people, the worship hours, and the instruction she received. One seed after another of the precious truth fell into her young heart, and when the time to separate finally came, the decision to be true to the Advent message was made.

When she returned to her home town she expressed to Peter and to others the desire to receive Bible lessons from the minister. Before one year had elapsed, Irmgard was baptized and joined the church—*Review and Herald*.

SILVESTRE HOSPITAL RIO de JANEIRO, BRAZIL

MANCEL PORTO

Physical Therapy Technician

“THANK you, my friend,” was the grateful expression I heard from the feverish lips of a patient in our Silvestre Hospital, Rio de Janeiro, after I had offered a prayer in his behalf, asking the Lord to be his Physician.

Without doubt our hospitals are being used by God to break down prejudice against the truth. Hundreds of patients in these institutions are undergoing a radical change in their thinking about Seventh-day Adventists.

An industrialist from Belem, Brazil, who is also the head of the Jewish community in that city, came to our Rio de Janeiro hospital, where he remained for five months. As we became friends he told me that formerly when an Adventist would visit him about Ingathering he would give something to get rid of the “intruder.” “Now,” he said, “I know what your work is all about; it is well deserving.”

Not long ago a man of Russian nationality came to our hospital to have surgery. He claimed to be an atheist. Before taking him to the operating room I told him that we had the custom of praying with our patients, and I asked him if he would like me to pray for him. He answered in the affirmative. In my prayer I asked the Lord to guide and bless the surgeon's hand. After finishing, I was very happy to see that the Spirit of the Lord had touched his heart; he was wiping away the tears. Later I

talked with him many times about the love of God.

The medical work has been used by God to save souls, and how blessed are those who dedicate their lives to this work!

As I entered a patient's room she asked me, “Are you also an Adventist?” “Yes, we all are,” I answered. “How different you are!” she continued. “The nurses are so dedicated, the aides so respectful!”

Another patient, whom I massaged daily, asked me, “Why are all of you this way—is it your religion?” I explained to him that it is, and that our people do not work with an interest in earthly rewards, but with the objective of serving the Lord and their neighbours.

A woman who came to our hospital had taken an injection containing twenty capsules of a hypnotic, with the object of ending her life. Disappointed in love, she felt life had

nothing more to offer her. She is still living, thanks to the skilful medical care she received, and is making steady improvement. More important, through the nurses' influence she has learned the blessing of prayer, and has asked for our literature.

A man from Maceio, Alagoas, was admitted to our Silvestre Hospital. As I came in contact with him a few days later, he expressed his desire to study the Word of God. Every night I gave him a study on the principles of our belief and prayed with him. When he left our hospital he took several of our books with him, including *Bible Readings for the Home*. This is typical of what our doctors and nurses are doing in behalf of those who suffer without hope. Thousands of others around us perish daily in desperation, without faith and hope. May we become more conscious of our great responsibility for their souls.—*Review and Herald*.

FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH

D. A. DELAFIELD

HAVE you ever heard of eight-year-old Cheryl Ann Creech of Inglewood, California? Perhaps not, but when I tell you about her experience, you will never forget her. Someone has said that Cheryl is allergic to holidays. You see, in 1948 when the Fourth of July came around, she came down with whooping cough. On New Year's Day in 1951 she had her tonsils out. May 1 is her birthday. She had measles on her birthday in 1951 and pneumonia on Christmas Day of the same year. Poor girl—that wasn't the end of it. On Valentine's Day of last year she had the flu, also on Lincoln's birthday; and to top it all, she had her appendix out on Washington's birthday. Her mother was so worried about it that she gave her a big basket of Easter eggs several days before Easter just in case she got sick on that Sunday.

Now I don't know what you think about it, but personally I believe that Cheryl's troubles and the holiday idea were just a coincidence, even as Friday falling on the thirteenth and black cats crossing the path in

front of you just happen that way.

When I was a young boy I was told that when a bird flew in the window, that was a sure sign of sickness and even death. And when a dog howled under the bed at night, that was a sign that somebody was going to die in the family. And somewhere I heard that rings around the moon were omens of trouble.

SURE SIGNS IN THE BIBLE

Now these things are not really signs at all—don't pay any attention to them. But there are sure signs in the Bible—signs that Jesus gave us of His coming. These we should carefully heed, for they are tokens that His appearing is near, “even at the door.” Read Matthew 24, Luke 21, Mark 13, and carefully study these signs.

Perhaps you have heard of preachers who pray over a handkerchief, then they mail the handkerchief to the sick, who think they can be healed by it. Some people think that their dead relatives can return and talk with them in person. Sometimes

this happens, at least it seems so. But the ghosts who appear are Satan and his angels or, perhaps, mere trickery. Remember, that the dead *never* return. They sleep until the resurrection morning. As the wise man said: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Eccl. 9:10.

ASTROLOGY AND ASTRONOMY

Some people think that certain events will take place in our world, depending upon the position of the planets in the heavens at a certain time. This is called astrology. Now the genuine science of the heavenly bodies is not astrology but astronomy. Most of what the astronomers tell you is true, but even they can be wrong when they attempt to guess the age of the planets, particularly this planet called Earth.

Train yourselves to think. When your reason has carried you so far, check your thoughts with the Bible. This blessed Book will keep you straight—in all your thinking. Remember too, we have the writings of Mrs. E. G. White. These books are dependable—perfectly dependable. Count on them to give you the answer to many things. Remember this—there aren't any superstitions or fairy tales or wrong ideas promoted in the inspired Word of God, our Bible.—*Review and Herald*.

RIVER OF LIVING WATER

K. H. WOOD

WE stood on the brink of the Castalia Blue Hole in northern Ohio recently, surveying the mysterious, deep water, and sketching extracts from the descriptive tourist folder: "The most extraordinary artesian spring in the continent. The depth of the Blue Hole is unknown. The visible depth is 50 or 60 feet. It finds its source in an underground river and maintains a temperature of 48 degrees, winter and summer. It is not affected by floods or drought."

Without pausing to evaluate these claims, we were impressed that some Christians are like that. Because they draw from sources of spiritual power far beneath the surface, they possess an experience with God that is affected neither by the heat of difficulty and persecution nor by the frigid blasts of sorrow and poverty. In both good times and bad their faith in God is always strong.

Such an experience is not due to accident or chance. Nor is it restricted to a select few. Instead it is available to all who will take sufficient time in this busy age to study

thoughtfully God's Word, meditate upon its meaning, and commune with the Unseen through prayer.

Around such lives will be cast a spiritual atmosphere that will attract even the careless seeker for truth. As with the Blue Hole, men will pause to observe a present-day fulfillment of Christ's statement, "He who believes in Me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" (John 7:38, R.S.V.).

The powerful influence of such Christians is sorely needed today both inside and outside the church.—*Review and Herald*.

HOME STUDY INSTITUTE

P. O. Box 15, Poona 1

ARE YOU AMBITIOUS?

WM. SHARALAYA

SOMEONE said, "The man who has no ambition has a brain full of cinders. His fires have died out."

Are you ambitious? Have you the average measure of ability? Are you prepared to concentrate that ability on the attainment of success in your career? If so the Home Study Institute, Southern Asia Branch, is ready to answer your questions, to help you realize your ambitions, to turn your ideas into action, your doubts into decisions and your hopes into actualities.

Just a little application during leisure hours, and with the aid of the specialized Home Study postal training, you can, like scores of others before you, move directly and swiftly forward to success.

Proficiency means progress. No one should be content with "near enough." That is a deadly mistake. It prevents a man from learning and improving and climbing up to a higher position. That is why the Home Study training is a sound investment; it means an improved position, better prospects. It equips you not only to see opportunity, but to grasp it when it comes your way.

From the pen of Inspiration comes the following admonition: "Many

whom God has qualified to do excellent work accomplish very little, because they attempt little. . . . Remember that you will never reach a higher standard than you yourself set. Then set your mark high, and step by step, even though it be by painful effort, by self-denial and sacrifice ascend the whole length of the ladder of progress."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 331.

Ambitious men, here before you is your first opportunity to train for success. Make your decision now and send at once for a free copy of the Home Study prospectus. Courses of study are offered in Bible, Business and Secretarial Training, Education, English, Health, History and Sociology, Mathematics, Science, Languages, Speech, et cetera. Use your spare time to improve yourself!

FROM START TO FINISH

THE section president sat thinking. He knew both the boys who had been suggested to fill the vacancy in his office; that is, he had known them before they went away to school. They stood an equal chance of making good. Which should he choose? Then a happy thought struck him. He knew that after they were compelled to leave school for financial reasons, both had enrolled for a course with the Home Study Institute, in order

that they might take up secretarial work. They were both to come to his office in half an hour at his request. When he talked with them, he would endeavour to ascertain what progress they had made in their studies, for he always believed in encouraging the young man who could map out a programme for himself, and then carry it through to completion.

When the hour arrived, John promptly presented himself at the office. After a few minutes' conversation, the president learned, upon inquiry, that John had completed one course with great profit to himself, and had enrolled for another which he expected would be of still greater benefit to him. He was very enthusiastic about his correspondence work and expressed his intentions of going right on to continue his education through this medium. "The beauty of this Home Study plan," explained John enthusiastically, "is that one can make his study hours fit in with his other duties. I have set aside a regular hour each evening for the study of my lessons, and do not let anything else interfere with this time."

The section president was impressed with John's clear eye and honest mien and the fact that he had set for himself a definite goal toward which he was striving. He put these observations down in a mental note book as he bade John good-bye.

Just as he turned to the window, he caught sight of Joseph racing across the street toward the office, and this young man very shortly presented himself before the older man, shame-faced and out of breath. "You see, my clock stopped, and I did not know what time it was," apologized Joseph, as he seated himself in a chair. On being questioned concerning his educational qualifications, he soon recovered his composure and assurance, and became quite voluble in explaining his superior ability and high standing in certain classes. The president tactfully directed the conversation round to the subject of Home Study courses, and asked Joseph how far he had progressed in the course. He hesitatingly replied that he had finished only two or three lessons, and said that it was hard to find the time for systematic study unless one were attending a regular school.

So Joseph had dropped out by the way. He had grown weary in well-doing. Needless to say the section president decided to give John the position in his office as his secretary. And, alert with ideas gleaned from his recent Home Study course, and appreciating the opportunity of making a living in a position which in itself would prove of great educational value to him, John applied himself to his new task with energy and conscientiousness. He continued to develop and grow "in favour with God and man," until he became a real leader in our denomination. Joseph, who dropped out by the way, never accomplished anything worth while. After reaching middle life, he was heard to say, "I never had a chance in life; had to stop school early, and go to work to support the family. Now there was John Blank—he was just plain lucky. . . ."

Was it luck, or was it pluck? The boys had equal chances.

Here's the secret—Perseverance. Joseph did not become a leader because, when he was his own boss, he did not succeed in making himself study. John believed that whatever his hands (or head) found to do, he should do with his might. The renowned Greek runners have been admired all down through the ages because of their singleness of purpose—because they were FINISHERS in the race.

So it is with those who take Home Study courses today. It is the Finishers who accomplish things. Anyone can be a Beginner, but it takes perseverance, stick-to-it-iveness, —yes, character,—to be a Finisher.—*Selected and Adapted.*

"THE LORD LOOKETH UPON HEART"

FREDERICK LEE

A LEADING American clergyman nearly a century ago was led to remark: "Half the work that is done in this world is to make things appear what they are not." Artificiality and pretence have not lessened

with the passing years. However, we need constantly to be reminded that although man may be influenced by appearances, God looks beneath the surface of things. It is not what a man appears to be, but what he is, that weighs with God.

Even the wise may be deceived by the outward form, as was Samuel long ago, but God taught him a lesson that applies to all time. When the prophet was sent down to Bethlehem to select one of the sons of Jesse to be the future king of Israel, he did what many another man had done—judged by appearance.

Thus it was that when Samuel looked upon the stalwart, manly form of Eliab, the first-born of Jesse, he said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him." 1 Sam. 16:6.

But God said: "Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." Verse 7.

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Six others had to be passed over before David was brought in, and the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him: for this is he." Verse 12.

At that time there was no superficiality or pretence about David. He was a lad of nature, who, while feeding the flocks communed with God, and there had been wrought within him a spiritual nature that was reflected upon his countenance. He had not yet come in touch with the world of sham. Thus in these early days he was known as a man after God's heart.

We are told: "No outward beauty can recommend the soul to God. The wisdom and excellence revealed in the character and deportment, express the true beauty of the man; and it is the inner worth, the excellency of the heart, that determines our acceptance with the Lord of hosts. How deeply should we feel this truth in the judgment of ourselves and others."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 638.—*Review and Herald*.

Miscellany

● ELDER W. A. Scharffenberg of the General Conference has arrived in Southern Asia and will be spending most of his time in Bombay at the Institute of Scientific Studies for the Prevention of Alcoholism. We welcome Elder Scharffenberg again to Southern Asia.

● PAULSON David is connecting with the Elementary School at Salisbury Park in July, 1956.

● SEVERAL of the workers of long experience from the Salisbury Park family are now on long leave including Brethren O. Israel, Wm. Sharylana, and C. I. John.

● PASTOR O. W. Lange, who for the past year had been the Dean of Men at Spicer College, has now moved to the Salisbury Park Estate locating in No. 8 Bungalow. Brother Lange is the Acting Sabbath School and Home Missionary Secretary of the Southern Asia Division.

● THE Lasalgaon High School will be welcoming Brother and Sister

Robinson Koilpillai and their family in just a few days. Mr. Robinson Koilpillai will be the Principal of the Lasalgaon School. His work in Bangalore has been much appreciated.

● MEDICAL students, now on vacation and visiting Salisbury Park from the Christian Medical College, Vellore, are Ninan Abraham, John Abraham, Noel Fernando, Merle Fernando, Moses Christian, and Susan Abraham.

● THE Northwestern India Union reports of the relief which has been given in the churches, schools and homes, as a result of the provision of funds from the Rehabilitation and Flood Relief money provided by the General Conference.

● THIRTY-ONE students are now being sponsored by our organization in the various stages of pre-medical and medical training. Six of these students are in the first year at Wadia College; five are in the second year at Wadia College; nine students have been sponsored for the preliminary examinations for entrance to the Christian Medical College, Vellore; five are in the second year in Vellore; two are in the third year; two are in the fourth year; and two are in the fifth year. The preliminary examinations for the nine students sponsored for Vellore will be held on the 15th of May. Most of these students are sitting for the examination in Bombay.

● MR. and Mrs. N. R. Fouts and family and Pastor & Mrs. H. C. Alexander and family sailed from Karachi on the 11th of May for the U. S. A. Brother Fouts has been the Secretary-Treasurer of the West Pakistan Union for the past five and half years. Brother Alexander has been connected with our educational work in North India and Pakistan for over 20 years. We wish our friends a healthful rest and a happy reunion with their people in the homeland. The Alexanders have Irvella and Arolene in College in Canada.

● PASTOR E. R. Streeter, Division Builder, is on an extended tour in South India, Ceylon and Pakistan. While in Ceylon he will study the construction of the new office build-

ing, and in South India a contract is being left for the construction of a bungalow at Vellore. In Pakistan, Elder Streeter will make preliminary arrangements for the addition to the hospital in Karachi.

THE HOUSE BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

J. B. Bailey

"THIS is just what I have been praying for," answered the lady to a fine, Christian-looking young man. "Will you leave them today?"

It was mid-afternoon, one hot spring day, when one of our good colporteurs was driving down the road to start his afternoon's work. As he was going along, an impression came to his mind as plainly as could be to turn at this point, but thinking that he should go back where he left off the day before, he went on. A few moments passed and the impression came again, much stronger, almost like a voice. This time, not only the impression but it seemed that the car almost turned by itself down a road to the right.

Going along the road, he wondered where God wanted him to go. It then appeared, just over the hill: a white cottage standing by the side of the road. It seemed to shine or be illuminated. Yes, here was the place where God wanted this colporteur to go.

The lady had been praying for just such books, and now she was thanking him and telling him it was a direct answer to prayer.

Friends, God still walks and talks with His people and directs them to the ones who need a kind word or look. There are many ways that we can witness for our Lord. It may be in an office or on the farm. God calls us to preach this gospel to all the world, and part of that world is our friends and neighbours. Let us go forward in God's name and He will direct us to "The House by the Side of the Road."—*Central Union Reaper*.