

AUSTRALASIAN . . .

Supplement.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

"The work is great and large, and we are separated . . . one far from another. In what place, therefore, ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us. Our God shall fight for us."

MAY 18, 1903.

A TRUMPET CALL.

Please read carefully the text printed above as the message of God to His people this month. We hope its words may burn their way into the heart of every member in our churches.

Like Nehemiah, we are repairing a wall. "And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in, if thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on My holy day." Isa. 58: 12, 13.

Many of us have had our feet on the Sabbath of the Lord, but we have taken them off from His holy day, and those who are doing this are known in heaven as "Repairers of the breach," the "Restorers of paths to dwell in." The enemy has made a breach in the wall,—the commandments,—and it is our work in spite of difficulties and persecution greater than Nehemiah and his little band endured, to build and repair, to call attention to present truth and present duty, and with the unselfish spirit he manifested, to work and pray till the breach is rebuilt, and the final work accomplished.

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah contain many important lessons for us concerning the sacrifice of personal interests and whole-hearted devotion to God's service. They should be studied and practised by the people who have a greater reformation and a

mightier work to accomplish than the captive Jews and their leader in the time of Nehemiah.

As stated in our "Supplement," issued at the beginning of the year, there will come sudden calls for advance movements, sharp turns in our work, special calls for service; and, as trained soldiers, we must be ready for instant action; we must watch the leading of God's providence, and be prepared to improve every opportunity to the best advantage.

But "the work is great and large, and we are separated . . . one far from another." This is why we send out "Supplements" from time to time, that all may be intelligent concerning the work of the "Australasian Signs of the Times." "In what place, therefore, ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us." This is just what our readers have done, and it is that which we ask them still to do. In this "Supplement" we present a plan for increasing our circulation, which we trust, may come as a trumpet call to each tract society, church, and individual Sabbath keeper in Australasia. If you hear this call, then "resort ye thither unto us," that unitedly we may carry the message of present truth to every soul in all the land.

Will you do it? Can we depend on you each one to do that work which will cause the whole country to ring with the loud cry of the third angel's message? We believe you will, and when there is true individual consecration "God shall fight for us," His work will soon be finished, and the end will come.

PRESENT PLANS AND PROSPECTS.

We hope every member in every church will consider that the "Australasian Signs of the Times" is their paper, that they are responsible for its success, that its prosperity is their own. We are all members of one family, and this paper is one of the means we believe God will use to bring a knowledge of His truth to the people. We do not think it is the only agency God will use. We do not propose to do anything to pull down other instrumentalities to build up this one. We rejoice in the prosperity of any, and we do not want a monopoly of the time or money that may be given to spread the truth.

But the fact remains that the "Signs" is one means the Lord is using to proclaim the truth. We are exceedingly grateful for the interest manifested in its circulation, for the words of encouragement that come to us. At the same time we know the paper ought to be read by thousands of people who do not know of its existence. We believe our circulation ought to be double what it is. Many would receive a great blessing in selling it. Many others could post and give it away. No branch of work would suffer, and all would be gainers if this were done.

Our present circulation is about 7,500. We feel very anxious that it should reach 10,000 before the next Union Conference, which will probably be held in August. This means that we should receive 2,500 new subscriptions before that time. We believe we shall have

them. The Lord has said, "Ask, and ye shall receive." We are asking, and we know we shall receive, for "He is faithful that promised."

HOW TO DO IT.

For will this be at all difficult if we take hold of the work in faith and confidence. We have over 2,000 Sabbath keepers in Australasia. We will ask each Conference to send us as many new yearly subscriptions as they have church members. This will be one new subscription for each member. That is not hard, is it? A yearly subscription will cost 4/6, a little over a shilling a quarter, a penny a week. Do you believe there is anyone who cannot do this much? There may be a few, but they are very few indeed. There are many more who will wish to take more than one copy above the number they take now. Quite a number will subscribe for five copies, which will be sent post-paid for £1, which means 5/- per quarter, or a little over 4½d. per week. If subscribers wish us to send to their friends direct, we will do this, changing the address every three months or as often as you may wish, thus saving all expense for postage. The person who sends one subscription, can send the paper to four individuals, three months to each. The one who subscribes for five copies can send the "Signs" to twenty persons, three months to each. How could you do a larger amount of work for as little money or effort?

But very many can do this work at no expense at all except a little extra effort. Those who feel too poor to pay for the paper can sell it, and thus incur no expense whatever. Who is there who could not sell at least one copy a week? The children would do this and more if you will give them opportunity.

SHALL WE HAVE THEM?

What do you say to this plan, brethren and sisters? The time to work is short, so we ask each tract society, each church elder, each Sabbath-school superintendent, each one who now takes the "Signs," or who is selling it, to begin at once. We will not limit you to any number above that of your church membership, but we earnestly hope the list of new subscribers will not fall below that number.

RECENT EXPERIENCES.

Our letters have been very encouraging the past few weeks, and extracts from them will be of interest to our readers. As we read them we thank God for such loyal, loving fellowship as they bring. It makes our work easy and our labour light.

A faithful brother who is selling the "Signs" in New South Wales says:—

I believe the enemy is more opposed to the work of the "Signs" than any other. The paper finds its way into many homes where it would be impossible for the living preacher to go. Labourers would need to be greatly multiplied before as much good could be accomplished in any other way.

The librarian of the Stanmore, N.S.W., missionary society writes an encouraging report of work done. She says:—

We have placed "Supplements" in the hands of all our church members, and I believe it has been the means of encouraging them to go out and sell the "Signs." Some are doing good work selling them on the streets and in the parks. Others are posting them to friends, and giving them away. The children also are taking an interest in the sale of the paper, and my club is now three times as large as it was a few weeks ago. A good work is also being done in loaning and selling tracts and distributing literature.

The Secretary of the Tasmanian Tract Society writes:—

We are doing what we can here with the "Signs." There are four different ones selling the papers, and I am placing them in the reading rooms.

The Secretary of the Queensland Tract Society writes thus of her experience:

Last Monday I was out all day with "Good Health" and "Signs," leaving home at 7:15 a.m., and returning about the same time at night. During the day I sold thirty-one "Good Healths," obtained one subscription, and sold six "Signs." In the morning I had a rather trying experience, but in the afternoon some took two and three copies each. When I came to the last five papers it was hard again. So many say they cannot sell these papers. Perhaps it is because they work a few hours and sell but few, but if they would continue all day as they do at any regular employment, the tide might turn as it did with me. I hope to soon begin work with the "Signs" evening after the Sabbath. One sister is trying it, and she sold six in about five minutes, and wished she had a dozen with her.

No doubt other Tract Society secretaries might profit by this experience.

A later letter bears this testimony:—

I have received a letter from a sister who has recently lost her husband in which she says: "I must send for some papers, and the children may be able to sell a few. I have a shop to attend to, and am trying to train my children for the Lord, so you see my duty lies at home. I would so much like to be useful in the Master's service, but those who have no children and are in good health must push the work, and God will bless every one of us in doing the work He has assigned us."

Another sister who is a great sufferer sets aside Monday afternoon to sell her dozen copies of the "Signs," and will let nothing hinder her though she is sometimes so ill that others have to assist her to bed. But she is of such good courage, and hopes soon to double the number of papers she is taking. Another lady sends every spare penny she gets for some branch of missionary work. She loves the "Signs," and is continually sending the paper for three months to her neighbours, unknown to them, and tries to supply every one in the neighbourhood with a copy. I don't think she was ever in an Adventist church, has seen but one or two of our people, and is yearning to have them visit her.

I am endeavouring to get our members to circulate the paper, and some are doing it. It does pain me to hear people say they have no time for this work, and in the same breath tell how many they used to sell in the past. It brings to mind the Saviour's words that we have left our first love and our first works. I disposed of eight copies on my way to work this morning, to four people. Suppose it took about twelve minutes house-to-house work, and I thought how it must grieve Christ when He hears us say we have no time for this work. It seems to me that even a mother with a family has no excuse for not selling a paper or two a week. So many here are being dismissed from their employment on account of the Sabbath. One of our brethren is passing through this crisis this week. It seems to me a call for many to get right out in the work, and thus hasten our Lord's return.

The Librarian of the church at Wellington, New Zealand, gives this concise statement concerning the missionary work of that church:

We are just a small company here, but we have our weekly missionary meeting. We have lately taken up the study of the "Rights of Man," as suggested, and have also, for some time back, been engaged in the sale of the "Signs." We sell about seventy-five every Saturday night, and enjoy this part of the work very much. We feel very thankful to the Lord for opening this way for us to work for Him. Last Saturday evening we took up the "Signs" to read before going out with it, and when we had read it through we longed to leave one in every house in Wellington. I need hardly say that we sold our papers more quickly than we ever have. The people like the paper, and look for it every week. One lady to whom one of our number had sold a "Signs" the previous week, said that she had read every word in that paper,

and went immediately for a penny to purchase the one for this week also.

One of our church members, who had been supplying her customers for some time, said that they were getting interested in the Sabbath question, and kept her so long answering their inquiries that she feared she would not sell her usual number of papers.

Others of our church members who can not come out with us on Saturday nights take a number to sell during the week. We are hoping to have each of our church members take hold of this work, and to have some interesting experiences to write you about. We have had a blessing from engaging in this work, and sincerely wish for the success of the paper.

We hope one point in this report will be carefully noted and put into practice by every one who undertakes selling the "Signs" or any other literature. The statement to which we would call attention is this: "We took up the 'Signs' to read before going out with it. I need hardly say we sold our papers more quickly than we ever have." The last sentence gives the consequence of carrying out the course of action mentioned in the first. Never try to sell a paper or tract till you have mastered its contents, and let the enthusiasm and importance of the truth it teaches fill your soul. Then you will have a message to bear to the people, and you will have success in carrying it.

A sister writes from Wollongong, N.S.W. :-

I have been thinking for several weeks of sending a few things that have come as pleasant experiences in my daily round of service. The first I will mention is that of a lady who has been taking the papers for some time. She said to me quite suddenly one day, "Do you know, I think you are quite right in respect to the Sabbath question." I said, "What makes you think so?" Her reply was, "I have been reading the paper, and it has come quite clear to me." We then had a good time together, and I am happy to say that with her children she is observing the Sabbath of the Lord. She gathers her children together each Sabbath, and has quite a little Sabbath-school of her own.

Another case is that of a young lady who is at service in the home of a bank manager. She and her mother have been taking the "Signs." She is a bright Christian, has become much interested, and is now attending our meetings. She tries to influence her friends to come also. Her sister is also deeply interested. She told one of the members of the church she will become an Adventist when she has studied a little more. I have no doubt that these two will take their stand on the side of right and truth, and win others for God. My heart rejoices to think that God has permitted even me to be a co-worker together with Him.

The Secretary of the New Zealand Tract Society says :-

Our work with the papers on Saturday nights is going on well, only we want to get it more general among all the members. Last week we were wishing for more papers of that particular number, for it seemed to sell so readily. If we had the workers, or if the members that are already here would put their whole heart into the work, I do not doubt in the least but that 200 papers could be sold here in the city of Wellington every Saturday night. We hope to do it sometime.

A letter which touched our hearts came from South Australia. The writer requested us to send a copy of the paper she had not received, and adds :-

I think it must have been mislaid coming up, as it is the only number I have missed. I like the paper very much indeed, and always look forward to its coming every week. I would not like to miss them at all, so am sending for a copy if you have a spare one. I am so thankful to the one that sent it to me whoever it is. I would very much like to keep the Sabbath, but there is no way to do so at present. I wish there were some Seventh-day Adventists here, because I am longing to go to some of their meetings. I wish I had something to give to help you in the great work you are doing, but perhaps I will be able to do something by and by. The people here would laugh at me if they knew I was writing for a copy of the "Signs" because I missed one.

And this is not the only one who has been convinced of the duty of Sabbath keeping, as we have already seen. Another lady writing from Queensland expresses her feelings in this way :-

If you have three more copies of the "Signs" of April 6, I should be glad to receive them. I have decided to become a Sabbath keeper, and if you would send me a few leaflets to help me I should be thankful.

Pastor J. Pallant, President of the West Australian Conference, writes :-

I am delighted to hear that the circulation of the "Signs" is increasing. Brother Shapscott and his little band of "Signs" sellers are meeting with success in their Saturday night efforts. The first night they sold between fifty and sixty, and since then I understand that the number has been increasing. His band consists of four young boys. They also sell "Good Health."

An inspiring letter comes from the Librarian of the church at Broken Hill, N.S.W. It is of such general interest that we give it almost entire :-

We have received a letter from you requesting a word from us to know what God is doing for us, and what we are doing for God. Well, I only have about one hundred and fifty sheets of paper here, and I'm afraid if I start to tell you what God is doing for me and the

rest of the members of our church, I won't have enough to finish. He is doing all He can do for us, and if we don't gain the kingdom it will be none of His fault. I know that is the situation in my case, and, praise the Lord, as the message is going ahead I am going with it, and so are the majority of the other members.

Now for what we are doing for the Lord, I can manage to get that on less than one hundred and fifty pages. It is insignificant beside what God is doing for us. No matter how much more we do for Him, or suffer for His sake, we can truly say "Heaven is cheap enough." John says, "The time is at hand," and knowing this we have taken the advice of Paul, "To awake out of sleep, for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

Hitherto we have been taking twenty-four copies of the "Signs;" then we increased it to eighty-four about three weeks ago, and now we have ordered twenty-four more this week, making 108, and we expect to raise our number still higher.

One brother has built a little cart and a stall, and he stands in the street Saturday nights with his "Signs," and a variety of tracts and books, and you can hear him singing out, "Signs of the Times," a great religious journal dealing with the times in which we live, one penny; also tracts and books from one half-penny to one shilling!" He sold ten "Signs" last Saturday night and 2/- worth of other literature. The message is going ahead, and we are going with it. God is blessing us and helping us so, and we will not lag behind where the devil can pounce upon us.

We have varied experiences going out with the "Signs." There are three or four members out Saturday nights with it. The first night I was out I had a dozen, and disposed of six without one refusal, and then three more without another refusal. God is helping us all to be courageous, especially when we realise that it is for Jesus, and that "The time is at hand." Three of the brethren are taking twelve copies each, one of the Sabbath-school boys eight, two sisters seven copies each, another sister thirty-two, and myself eighteen.

One of our sisters was going out in the tram to sell "Signs." Two gentlemen who are M.L.A.'s, and three others were in the car with her, and she had quite an interesting time with them. One of the gentlemen, before he became a Member of Parliament, was interested in present truth, and was acquainted with our sister, and shook hands with her. She got up, and gave the other occupants of the car a "Signs" each, and while doing so, the gentleman before mentioned said, "Serve us all alike," and she did so. Then the other Member of Parliament said to his associate, "Now, don't put it away for a more convenient season," and then, turning to our sister, he said, "Madam, mine shall have a careful reading." We don't know what good may be done; God giveth the increase. I have posted the pamphlet "Religion and State Schools" to most of our leading citizens, and I have more to send out yet. God is goodness, God is love.

Such letters as those we have quoted bring joy and cour-

age to us, and we feel sure they will impress others the same way. We were amused that the brother in Broken Hill should designate our little missionary paper as a "great religious journal." We know that there is nothing great or remarkable about it except the truth and message it bears to the people. **THIS IS THE GREATEST THING IN THE WORLD.**

We have no space for comment on the foregoing letters. They speak for themselves. They tell the interest the Lord is creating in many places and in many hearts to circulate this messenger of truth. They show that it is reaching the people far and near, occupying all positions in society, from the serving girl to the Member of Parliament. Let the good work go on. Let the light shine out in clear, distinct rays. Let those who have not yet experienced the blessings received go to work that they may experience them.

" 'Tis he who labours wins the prize,
No idler ever gains the skies."

Will you not be one who will redouble your efforts if you have already begun work, and if you have been hesitating, delaying, do so no longer,

"Lest others bear thy sheaves away,
Lest someone wear eternally
The crown of life that was for thee."

TRY ONCE MORE.

Did you ever picture in your mind that scene in the fifth chapter of Luke? The disciples were discouraged, for they had toiled all night in vain. The poet represents one of them as saying:—

"I have toiled all night and for many a day;

They say there are fish in the sea,
Yet I've caught nothing, my labour is vain,

There cometh no increase to me.
I will wash out my net, I will hang it away,

And my fishing boat draw to the shore,
It is useless to me, I will cast out my net

In these barren sea waters no more.

"And he bent o'er the labour of washing his net,

While Jesus walked down to the sea,
And entered the ship at the mooring and said,

"Thrust the boat out a little for Me.
Launch out into the deep, and let down the net."

And the fisherman answered, 'In vain
We have laboured all night, and yet at Thy word

I will cast in my net once again.'

There may be those who are discouraged at the results of their missionary efforts, as the disciples were in fishing. They think there is no use trying. Others may have success, but it is not for them. They have not succeeded in selling papers as they would like. They receive no encouraging replies to their letters. They have no heart to try again.

To such the Lord is saying, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your net for a draught." Expect a big haul. Take the Master at His word. See that He is on board with you. Don't stay in shallow water. Have your net in good condition. Provide the best bait you can obtain. When all is ready, let down the net in prayer and faith and courage. The experience of the disciples will be yours.

"And how it was done the Lord only knows,

But the net was so filled that it brake;
For they launched out the ship, and they cast in the net,

At the Master's word, just for His sake.

And so, tho' thy labour is vain until now,

Lo, Jesus is saying to thee:
'Launch out into the deep now and cast in the net,

There are fish in the depths of the sea.'

In this manner Jesus revealed Himself to the disciples. He will show Himself to you in the same way. "Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find."

30,000

This is the number of copies printed of the "Religious Liberty" number of the "Signs." We praise God who so wonderfully helped us. The credit is due to Him alone, not to any individual. This is the largest issue ever printed of the "Signs," and we feel so thankful to God and our brethren for their help in sending it out to the people. It seems miraculous to us, and we know it is a miracle.

Up to the time when we were to decide how many copies to print but few orders had come in. We did not want a stack of papers left on hand that could not be used. Some thought 500 or 1,000 above our regular edition would be an ample supply. We feel ashamed that our faith was so small. Then the brethren and the churches began to wake up, and send in their orders, and when the time came to go to press we had orders for 13,500, including our regular list. Still they kept coming in till the forms had been replaced on the presses twice and we

had 23,500 subscribed for. At this juncture, in the Monday morning meeting of the Echo Publishing Company's employees, the matter was brought up, and 5,000 additional copies were taken by those present. The blessing of the Lord was experienced in this meeting in a marked degree. The presses were again set in motion to print the extra 5,000, making 30,000 in all.

We ask the special prayers of all our brethren and sisters upon this number of the paper. It has been sent to editors, magistrates, school teachers, Members of Parliament, and other leading men. We believe fruit will result from this effort.

In a few weeks we expect to prepare another special number on "Labour and Capital." We should circulate not less than 50,000 copies of this important number. It will be furnished at 30/- per thousand to churches and individuals for missionary work. There is no church but what can take at least 1,000. It is time to get ready now. Begin in time. We will let you know in future the date of issue and further particulars. Let us repent of our neglect and lack of faith in reference to the "Religious Liberty" number, and not be caught napping when the next special issue comes.

We are obliged to leave out many interesting letters, which were already in type, on account of lack of room. Our "Supplement" ought to be larger.

On account of the large edition of the Religious Liberty number of the "Signs," we were delayed in sending out the papers for the following week. We will try to not let this happen again.

Please read carefully the article on "Present Plans and Prospects." We are sure the plan presented will meet the approval of all. Write us what you think of it. If you have a better plan, give us the benefit of it.

Is there not someone who would like to invest from £1 to £5 in paying for copies of the "Signs" to be sent to hospitals, libraries, and reading rooms? For £1 we will send copies of the "Signs," post paid, to five hospitals or to any other five addresses you may furnish us.

We earnestly request each church librarian to see that every family and individual are supplied with a copy of this "Supplement," and others which may be issued in future. If members are not present when they are handed out, please send or post them a copy, in some way see that they are supplied. We regret that many have not received the "Supplement" in the past, and ask those to whom they are posted to help us to circulate them in every church.