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## Why I Go to Sabbath School

By A. R. MAZAT

In this nuclear age the world is too much with us as well as within us. The things of sense are so readily at hand. The slopes of earthly living seem to lie so that they pour their drains into our mental reservoirs. The gravity of competitive life is toward self-centeredness. How refreshing it is to have one's faith lifted from self-centeredness to a world-wide mission crusade so vividly portrayed in the Sabbath school mission "reading." This weekly evangelistic challenge humbles, rather than humiliates me.

When one has become accustomed to being a star performer, it is hard to stay off the center of the stage. This weakness is to be seen not only in the consummate egotists who have been sported by public flattery, but also in miserable little creatures whose obscure stage of action may be on some side street. We need to get out of ourselves by getting into the lives of others. The Sabbath school offers me this opportunity. Allow me to say that the Sabbath school promotes spiritual culture.

As individuals, we need to be led where we can see the INVISIBLES. I have lived long enough to know that I never see all the factors in any situation. I have hiked the wooded trails of Hong Kong with my son. He saw subtle distinctions of species and niceties of cultivation which I missed entirely. Those items were visible to him, but invisible to me. The Sabbath school recitation period to me is a great source of strength; as I listen to the various observations made, I gather new thoughts, new inspirations, and new power. Actually, what was invisible in my daily study becomes visible in the class recitation period.

The Sabbath school leads me into the secret of His pavilion where He hides me from the pride of man and the strife of tongues; where I feel rich in those things which moth and rust do not consume; where I fellowship with my blood-bought brethren

who prize character rather than reputation.

The Sabbath school helps me build up spiritual reserves. It is common knowledge that living organisms need stored up energy at the beginning of life. Plants normally draw their substance through roots from the soil and through leaves from the air. But until their roots strike down and the leaves are spread, they need the reserve supply of bulbs or seed leaves to supply them. In like manner, parents and children need to store up spiritual reserves in their characters which will enable them to face life with the Master and bear fruit for His kingdom.

But some people say that they can worship God in the open air privately. Yes, we can pray and study God's Word in the open air, but very few do. We are creatures of habit, and habits are very useful, provided they

are the right kind. And when we make it a habit to meet God where His children are accustomed to meet Him, it helps us. It always helps me. Neither the church nor the community is helped by those "saints" who have to be kept sealed in solitude in order to keep them sweet. When we gather together in the name of Him in whom there is neither bond nor free, male nor female, east nor west, the blending makes for that brotherhood which is the essential basis for the true worship of God.

I go to Sabbath school because I want my example and influence to be helpful to others, both young and old.

I go to Sabbath school because I need to learn the lesson of sacrificial giving, and to have an opportunity to support God's program in all the world.

I go to Sabbath school because it is one of God's great instrumentalities of bringing souls to a knowledge of the truth.

Lastly, but of greatest importance, I go to Sabbath school to keep an appointment with the Master, whose custom it was to attend Sabbath school. In this appointment there is a promise never broken: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

## Investment Offerings

By P. I. NOSWORTHY

Webster says that the word 'investment' means to lay out money or capital in business with the view of obtaining an increase. This is exactly what takes place when we, as members of the Sabbath school, take on an investment project.

When one invests in a certain project or enterprise, he watches diligently to see whether or not the company, in which he is a part owner, is making progress. The Good Book says, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." If we take part in Sabbath school investment projects, we are showing by our actions that we are interested in the greatest and most important work which is being carried on in the world at this time. It is also shown that

we are investing in eternity, not only for ourselves but for others.

Everyone can have a part in the Sabbath school investment program. Those who are shut-ins often find it possible to knit and crochet. A lady in Maine grew African violets for investment, having as many as 500 plants at one time, and the yield was good and the offering amounted to several hundred dollars.

Sometimes people invest in worldly enterprises and things do not go as

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## "Missing" Members Become "Mission" Members

By W. G. LARSON

"Missing" members from Sabbath school really should alarm every church when we realize that the first step away from Sabbath school is a step toward apostasy. This is more than a superintendent's task. Every officer, every teacher, and every church member must cooperate in seeking for these wandering sheep. Those who do not attend the Sabbath school regularly show a weakness in their Christian experience. The hour is late to prepare for eternity and we must all be concerned about them. When this problem is solved in our Sabbath schools, we shall not unduly harass the faithful ones for offerings, for when we find the straying sheep, we can enlist them to share in the responsibilities of our ever-growing mission program. However, these sheep need first to be won back to the Sabbath school. Then, they must be well fed with the Word so they will feel the need of sending the gospel to the fields beyond. When happy and growing in the Sabbath school, they will have changed their status from "missing members" to "mission members." We earnestly appeal to every officer to lay definite plans during the first and second quarters of 1959 to enroll all church members either in the Sabbath school or in a branch Sabbath school. What a tragedy it is that so many of our church members are still unaccounted for! They are missing from the Sabbath school, and they are in danger of spiritual coldness unless they can be brought back to faithfulness in Bible study and fellowship in the Sabbath school.

May I outline a few steps to take in order to accomplish this task:

1. Let the church board and the Sabbath school be called together in joint session to check the church membership list. Make a special list of those who are not members of any class. Appeal to those present to visit the missing members and give them a special invitation to attend Sabbath school. A good

solution to the problem is to assign these missing members to various teachers who will select tactful members of their class to visit them.

2. The extension division secretary should be consulted to ascertain which of the missing names could be enrolled in the extension division. The reason for so many *missing* members (instead of *mission* members) in our Sabbath schools could be due to the fact that the parent Sabbath school has no extension division.
3. Your children and youth divisions should be made attractive. When our young people have proper Sabbath school atmosphere surrounding them as they mature, they will naturally be a member of the senior division.
4. The Sabbath school check-up plan helps you to know exactly who your missing members are. To make such a list possible, a plan has been laid with the cooperation of your Sabbath school department for the following index cards:

a: *White cards* for all who are

members of both Sabbath school and church.

- b: *Blue cards* for those who are members of the Sabbath school but not church members — these names will furnish fertile soil for future baptisms.
- c: *Pink cards* for those who are members of the church but not of the Sabbath school — these are the danger zone members who will soon leave the faith unless they are influenced to come back to the fold.
- d: *Green cards* for those who are neither church members nor Sabbath school members but who for one reason or another may be considered prospective members.

The card index should be continuously revised and kept up to date. There will be frequent changes in some schools. Every quarter should see the card index list checked over — addresses changed where needed, and names added or names dropped where indicated. Some will change from pink to white, from blue to white, and occasionally one from white to

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## Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings

By E. L. MOORE

It was the year 1912 that a plan was first adopted by the General Conference to have a special offering taken on the Thirteenth Sabbath of each quarter, and to dedicate the *overflow* from this offering to a particular mission project. What a harvest has resulted from this special Thirteenth Sabbath Offering! Mission stations, hospitals, clinics, training schools, homes for missionaries, church buildings, chapels, printing plants, evangelistic centers — all of these have come into existence, or have been greatly aided, by the over-

flow of this special offering given each Thirteenth Sabbath.

Some may have wondered just what is meant by the Thirteenth Sabbath Overflow, and how it is determined. The General Conference follows a plan that was adopted a number of years ago, which provides that \$2,000 from the first \$60,000 of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering be allocated to the overflow, and that 20% of all that is raised above \$60,000 be added to the previously deducted \$2,000, to make up the total of the overflow. For example:





E. L. Moore



W. A. Dessain

## Building Sabbath School Membership and Attendance

By W. A. DESSAIN

Suppose the total Thirteenth Sabbath Offering was	\$400,000
Deduct the first	\$60,000
	<hr/>
	\$340,000
20% of the \$340,000	\$68,000
Plus the	\$2,000
	<hr/>
Total amount of overflow	\$70,000

I am sure that when we as Sabbath school members realize what an important part the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering has in the planning of the world mission program, we will want to determine this new year to increase, or even double, our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. In view of the times in which we are living, I think we ought to forget the old dollar-day promotion, and ask our members to accept a two, three, or even four-dollar per member goal. In order to reach this objective, it will be necessary to keep this before the Sabbath school members during the fifty-two Sabbaths of the year. It may mean a real sacrifice for some, but the Lord will bless us as we lay definite plans, and attempt greater things for Him this year.

An experience is told of two small children who were living away up the Amazon River in the city of Manaus, Brazil. They were taught to gather funds for the Thirteenth Sabbath. They did not have much, but they wanted to earn some money so that they, too, might give a larger offering on the Thirteenth Sabbath. Along the river in many places, the people do not have drinking water and it has to be carried from different points. This little boy and his sister decided to sell water. So they got a five-gallon tin can, put holes in each side, with a wire through the holes; then putting a pole under the wire, they carried the can between them on the pole over their shoulders. Every day they would go where there was a well, fill the can, bring it to the city, and sell the water from

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If as the Spirit of prophecy says, "The Sabbath school is the training school of the hereafter," all of us have a tremendous responsibility in helping to build up and strengthen it. No organization runs itself.

From a conference officer's viewpoint, lending our influence on the right side goes a long way in strengthening a Sabbath school. Being present and on time at the nine-thirty hour will show that we believe Sabbath school is the place where the Lord would have us be. We are watched closely.

Being faithful with our Sabbath school offerings is also another opportunity to shine for the Lord. That dollar in the offering envelope will be observed by many sharp eyes down the line. Being there proves that not only do we want to participate in the study of the Word, but that we do not want to miss any opportunity to contribute to the cause of world missions.

Then there is the matter of serving when called upon. It is not always wise for members of our household to succeed themselves in office when they have served a term or two as a Sabbath school officer, or in a teaching capacity, but neither is it wise to systematically turn down

offers and invitations to serve. By accepting, the conference is incorporated into the program of the church and the work invariably is strengthened.

Our church members should be shown that if they are members of the Sabbath school, they are living up to expectation. That is by the church and by the entire denomination. This will build up Sabbath school attendance more than any one thing; if church members can understand that until they attend Sabbath school faithfully themselves, they are in no position to invite others to attend, and most certainly outsiders and friends.

A wide-awake superintendent will keep check on the attendance at the Sabbath school. If some members stay away for several weeks, a few persistent phone calls often bring results, and bring the wandering sheep back in the fold. If this is not enough, a personal call by one of the Sabbath school officers to the absent members' homes will usually bring them back into the bright effulgence of the Sabbath school.

All of these aids, if judiciously applied and practiced, will keep the Sabbath school from being a spiritual invalid, with only two-thirds of its members there.

## Evangelism Through Vacation Bible Schools

By A. R. CARETHERS

This is one aspect of evangelism that not too many people have given consideration. In order for this type of evangelism to be successful, it must be integrated with the whole of evangelism. It has no objectives different from those of other types of evangelism. The individual or collective object is the same, namely, bringing men and women to Christ.

Preaching alone will not get the job done. There are different kinds of work to be done. There is a vast field of fruitful evangelism to be

reaped through vacation Bible schools if conducted properly and followed up.

The leadership of the Sabbath school has from its earliest years recognized that soul saving is one of its chief objectives. This field of evangelism has been confined largely to working for the children of the church, and building up all members, especially those new in the truth. However, in recent years, the possibilities of greater Sabbath school evangelism has taken a different

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# Bible-centered Sabbath Schools

By V. L. ROBERTS

Several years ago an old man who lived in New Jersey discovered \$5,000 in the family Bible. The aunt of this man died, and one clause of her will was as follows: "I will, and bequeath, my family Bible and all that it contains, with residue of my estate after my funeral expenses, and just and lawful debts are paid, to my beloved nephew, Stephen Marsh."

The estate amounted to a few hundred dollars which were soon spent, and for almost thirty years his chief support had been a small pension from the government. He had spent most of his life in poverty, and all the time within his reach, there was the precious Bible containing thousands of dollars sufficient for all his wants. He passed the Bible by. His eyes rested upon it many times, and perhaps, he handled the old leather-bound Bible, but he did not open it once.

One day while packing his trunk to move with his son where he intended to spend his few remaining years, it was then that he discovered the unknown riches which were in his possession. What thoughts of regret must have come to his mind. If only he had opened the Bible years ago.

This is a sad story, but there is something infinitely sadder than the experience of this man. It is the neglect of the Bible by God's people. Our Lord has given to His people costly treasures in His own Word, and yet these riches, put at our disposal by a loving Father, are unused and neglected.

As children of God, we should be intelligent in the Scriptures; for they bring to us the rich promises of God, and also a knowledge of salvation. That is why Jesus gave this injunction, "Search the Scriptures."

Our Sabbath schools are agencies that can impress upon the minds of the members of the churches the importance of this great need — the study of the Bible.

The Sabbath school affords precious opportunities for systematic study of the Word of God through the *Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly*. Each member should be urged to

prayerfully study the Bible each day, for he who reads God's Word finds life.

The study of the Bible brings a knowledge of all the requirements of eternal salvation, and also informs us of the nearness of the coming of Jesus. We must with the God-given probationary time that we have now, search the Scriptures to make certain that we have eternal life.

- We should search the Scriptures —
- S eriously — Acts 17:11
  - E arnestly — John 1:8
  - A nxiously — Jeremiah 15:16
  - R egularly — Psalms 1:2
  - C arefully — Isaiah 28:10
  - H umbly — I Peter 5:5, 6

## Birthday Offerings

By J. E. MERIDETH

"Sabbath school offerings not only have played a major part in the work conducted in the mission fields, but also have promoted the spirit of sacrifice and encouraged the grace of giving throughout the entire church membership. One of the basic principles of Sabbath school giving is expressed in this statement from *Testimonies*, volume 3, page 413: 'The very best manner in which to give expression to our love for our Redeemer, is to make offerings to bring souls to the knowledge of the truth.' The spirit of self-denial and sacrifice is taught from the very earliest days of Sabbath school attendance. . . . As one result of this education, Seventh-day Adventists have become known today as the most liberal givers in all Christendom, and truly we could not believe what we believe and give any less emphasis to this important feature of Christian living. We give as we do because we believe that our giving has a direct relationship to the return of our Lord and we desire to hasten that event." *Sabbath School Manual*, page 143.

"For many years the General Conference has depended on the Sabbath schools to raise half of the mission goal. The regular twelve Sabbath



V. L. Roberts



J. E. Merideth

offerings, birthday - thank offerings, investment, and the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering all count toward this goal." *Sabbath School Manual*, pages 144, 145.

"The birthday-thank offering gives our Sabbath school members an opportunity to express in a tangible gift of gratitude their appreciation to God for His kindly providence in sparing their lives for another year." *Sabbath School Manual*, page 148. "For life, health, food and clothing, no less than for hope of eternal life, we are indebted to the Giver of all mercies; and it is due God to recognize His gifts, and to present our offerings of gratitude to our greatest benefactor. These birthday gifts are recognized of heaven." *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, page 143.

We are all stewards and the use we make of God's gifts to us will determine our fitness or unfitness to share the mansions which Christ has gone to prepare. "All the wealth of the world may be as nothing, for it will not buy the smile of a child, the song of a bird, the loyalty of a friend, or restore a loved one from sickness to health. It is the use we make of our material resources, and of our time and talents — the stewardship of God's gifts to us — that counts in the destiny of mankind, and that brings us the enjoyment of peaceful sleep and the inspiration to live." *The Business Administration of a Church*, page 71.

Today is the time for Christians to count their blessings and gratefully acknowledge God's goodness by giving that others might live.

"No one can labor in the Sabbath school . . . without reaping a bountiful harvest, not only in the end of the world, but in the present life. In the very effort to enlighten and bless others, his own views will become clearer and broader." *Testimonies*, vol. 5, page 121.





B. E. Leach

O. J. Bell

## Don't Be Fooled!

By M. H. JENSEN

Men have spent their lives, lost their minds, and wasted vast fortunes in a vain attempt to discover perpetual motion. No patent has been granted. There isn't such a thing. However, some superintendents seem to feel as though they have discovered it in the Sabbath school. This is a sad delusion.

The Sabbath school will not even run on its own momentum as some seem to assume. If the Sabbath school is to move forward, the Sabbath school superintendent is the one who will have to provide the fuel and add the spark.

The best source of fuel is two or three live, wide-awake, hard-working and well-organized branch Sabbath schools. They will pour fuel into the old that will keep it going at high speed. Branch Sabbath schools will keep the members working, happy and enthusiastic, but it will take more than spontaneous combustion to get one going and keep it going. It will take careful, prayerful planning and cooperation on the part of the whole Sabbath school but it is worth the effort many times over. Fuel for starting and maintaining a branch Sabbath school is as follows:

**Organization.** A simple organization should be effected with superintendent, secretary, division leaders, and teachers as required. Musicians and song leaders, as well as leaders and teachers, may be supplied where necessary from the parent Sabbath school.

"If the service cannot be conducted on the Sabbath, then it could be held on Sunday and could be called a Sunday school, or at some other time as a community Bible school. As a branch Sabbath school, its members would thus be a part of the parent

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## Is Yours the FRIENDLY Sabbath School?

By B. E. LEACH

"Is it true," asked a student, "that all the people in the world could live in Texas?" "Yes," replied the professor, "if they were friends." And if they were not friends even the world itself is too small! Friendliness is the world's great need.

Friendliness is that beautiful virtue of the spirit that makes a person feel wanted. Our Sabbath school, whose chief purpose for existence is to win souls, should be the friendliest place in the world. Studied efforts should be made by all responsible officers as to how this can be done and then definite, positive steps should be taken to make the Sabbath school a place of warmth and welcome.

Friendship is the seal of love. We must not have an ulterior motive in being friendly. We must be friendly for friendship's sake and for the love of souls.

How can you make your Sabbath school friendly? Here are ten ways:

1. Sincerely welcome all kinds of people from all walks of life.
2. Accept people just as they are. Make them feel at home.
3. Make folks feel needed in the Sabbath school.
4. Remember that sincere and ap-

preciative words establish a pathway to the heart.

5. Remember that souls are precious — be careful to do and say those things that will in no way offend.
6. Be pleasant, be relaxed, and cultivate a sense of humor.
7. Educate the members to go out of their way to make visitors feel wanted.
8. Share your blessings with your friends, and invite them to participate in Sabbath school sponsored social activities.
9. Give the surroundings an appealing, attractive, inviting appearance.
10. Finally remember that if a Sabbath school would have friends it must show itself friendly.

We are all familiar with the beloved hymn that goes:

*"What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear;  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer."*

The Sabbath school represents Jesus, the greatest Friend the world ever had. As Christ's representative body, teaching His truth, it should be a thoroughly friendly place. Will you help make it so?

## How to Evangelize the Extension Division

By O. J. BELL

What is the extension division? It is one of the divisions of the Sabbath school of your local church or, if you are isolated, the conference church. It embraces all who were formerly classified as home department members. In addition, it includes traveling workers, on-duty workers, and national service personnel. In nearly every church, large or small, there are some individuals who, because of circumstances, find it impossible to come regularly to Sabbath school. The cause of this irregularity may be protracted illness, distance and a lack of conveyance, physical handicaps, or similar circumstances or conditions. Except for the extension

division these persons would be left out of the active Sabbath school organization. Yet every normal Christian has a desire to associate, to be allied with his fellow Christians in their religious experience. He likes to feel himself a part of the body of Christ, to worship with his fellow believers, to study with them, to work with them. In so far as the Sabbath school is concerned, the extension division makes such worship, study, and service possible to each individual

Reader, are you a Sabbath school member? If you are in any of the categories mentioned above and are

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## The Sabbath School Council

By G. M. SCHRAM

Have you ever felt that your job was too difficult for you? Have you ever been in the condition Moses was in with so many different problems to take care of that he was almost to the breaking point? Then you need to do just as Moses did — he listened to the advice of Jethro, who said, “. . . The thing that thou doest is not good. . . This thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thystelf alone.” Exodus 18:17, 18.

Every Sabbath school superintendent must learn the importance of the Sabbath school council. In a multitude of counselors there is wisdom. You, as a Sabbath school superintendent, should make use of this planning avenue to help you carry the responsibility and to help you lay plans for making the Sabbath school a successful soul-winning agency.

Why not use the combined energy and wisdom in your church to increase the efficiency of your Sabbath school? Many superintendents try to do everything themselves. They make all the arrangements, promote all the goals, and then get discouraged because they feel it is too much to have to do. And, they are right. It is too heavy a load for one person. The council should help with this.

Planning with the council will not only lighten the superintendent's load, but it will also relieve him of bearing all the responsibility of those things that do not succeed as they should have. Then, too, by informing his associates of his plans and asking them for suggestions, they will feel that they are having a real part in the Sabbath school and will naturally feel more enthusiastic about carrying out plans they helped to formulate.

By the way, who makes up the Sabbath school council? It is made up of the superintendent, the pastor, the elder of the church, the secre-

tary, and all other Sabbath school officers, plus the division leaders, and the vacation Bible school director, if one has been appointed. The teachers are not members, but they may be called in as often as it is felt they can be of help.

All right, we have our council, now what do we do? The Sabbath school council is the “planning board” of the school. Some of its responsibilities might be listed as: (1) The setting of the goals for the Sabbath school as a whole, with each division leader taking a share of the overall goal; (2) Laying plans for reaching the absent members and caring for the shut-ins through the extension division; (3) Making arrangements for special programs, rally days, decision days, visitors' day, etc.; (4) Planning for a vacation Bible school.

Remember, “The superintendent's guarantee of a wise administration of the affairs of the Sabbath school lies largely in the use he makes of the counsel from those who are immediately associated with him in bearing the burdens of the school.” *The Soul Winning Sabbath School*, page 40.

## Oklahoma

### \$40,000 Needed

Several weeks ago we sent a supply of dime savers to the district pastors and church elders. I am sure that these small banks have been placed in the hands of every church member throughout the conference for the purpose of saving dimes to assist with the equipping of your new Ardmore Sanitarium and Hospital. We have also sent one of these little dime savers to every conference church member. By this method everyone can have a little part in helping to equip our new institution.

Within the next thirty to forty-five

days, the new building will be completed and if there are sufficient funds on hand we will be ready to place an order for the room equipment. If the 3,000 dime banks that have been sent out from the office are returned full of dimes, we will have \$15,000 which will be a real aid toward meeting our objectives.

We would like to call in these dimes on February 28. Please turn them over to your church treasurer or send them direct to the conference office. Even though you may have made a pledge, wouldn't you like to take one of these banks and fill it full of dimes for this worthy project? The funds obtained in this manner will be a real help toward the \$40,000 needed for the furnishing of this new institution.

I know that we can count on each of you to do your best. May the Lord abundantly bless you.

E. L. MOORE,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

## Welcome!

C. W. Pomeroy has recently joined our Oklahoma working force in the capacity of assistant publishing secretary. He came to us from the Indiana Conference where he served in the same capacity for over four years.

The Pomeroy's have rented a home at 2404 N.E. 27th Street here in Oklahoma City. They have three children, two of whom are enrolled at the Oklahoma City Junior Academy. All of them enjoy their new surroundings.

Brother Pomeroy's sunny disposition is already winning friends for him throughout our Oklahoma field. We are certain that his industry and energy will make him a most valuable and desired worker among us.

Welcome to Oklahoma, Brother and Sister Pomeroy and your three children.

W. A. DESSAIN,  
President.



C. W. Pomeroy

## News Notes

Dr. T. R. Flaiz visited the Ardmore Sanitarium and Hospital and was duly surprised at the modernity of our new plant there which is nearing completion. He gave some



constructive counsel on hospital procedures and techniques while there. Dr. Flaiz is medical secretary of the General Conference at Washington, D.C., and represents our world-wide medical work in all its phases.

Elder H. E. Rice, from Washington, D.C., spent the day at Ardmore on January 25. His services dealt with hospital management.

The Shattuck church pledged themselves over their Ingathering goal on Sabbath, January 10, reaching the sum of approximately \$3,600. This achievement placed the entire district over the top for Elder Don Aalborg, including Elk City, Woodward, and Follett, who have worked real hard in all of this.

Brother Ernest Wolfe of Jones, Oklahoma, attended the monthly meeting of the operating board at Ardmore. He was en route back from attending a meeting of dairymen of the Southwest in Dallas, of which he is chairman.

Elder H. C. Klement, an old friend, and a former president of this conference, spent some time in the office recently. He was here on a business trip, and enjoyed meeting many of his old friends.

Brother Mowdy of Altus was also a visitor a few days ago. We are always glad to see Brother Mowdy, who is giving such good leadership in our little church at Altus.

## Texas

### **Farewell to the Masons**

The members of the Texas Conference will be sorry to learn that Elder J. T. Mason has accepted a call to the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference to lead out in the publishing work.

During the past four years, Elder and Mrs. Mason have done an outstanding work for the Lord and endeared themselves to many, many people in Texas. The Lord has blessed Elder Mason in a marvelous manner. We rejoice that during his ministry here 110 precious souls were baptized through literature evangelism. More than \$666,000 worth of Adventist literature has been delivered during this four-year period. This represents a wonderful growth and increase in sales.

For Elder Mason, this move will be a return home. He was born in Monroe, Louisiana and is a graduate of Louisiana State College.

Our faithful literature evangelists will especially feel this loss. Our prayers will follow you, Elder and Mrs. Mason. May God bless your work in Arkansas-Louisiana as He has in Texas.

*Special Note* — The Masons were made happy by one final delivery in Texas during their last week here. Their home was blessed by the birth of a fine nine-pound boy, John T. Mason, III.

### **Hospital News**

Fred Murray, assistant manager of the Santa Anna Hospital, reports they have just completed work which increases their private rooms by three. This was done by converting the linen room into a patient room and by installing partitions in two semi-private rooms, making a total of ten private rooms on second floor.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Mock have moved to Menard from Weslaco. Mr. Mock is doing public accounting and keeping books for the Menard Hospital. Mrs. Mock is admitting and insurance clerk for the hospital.

Mr. Charles Clark has recently joined the Menard Hospital staff as maintenance engineer. Mr. Clark comes to Menard from Keene where he did maintenance work for the college.

The Miller Hospital at Grand Prairie has a good start. S. W. 3rd Street in front of the hospital has just been widened and re-surfaced which will be a great asset to the hospital and clinic. We are proud of this self-supporting hospital and wish we had more of them throughout our conference.

The Menard Hospital enjoyed a very successful Open House on November 23 with approximately 800 people attending. Elder Carl Sundin, medical extension secretary for the General Conference, was one of the principal speakers, assisted by Elder B. E. Leach, president of the Texas Conference, and Elder W. S. Hancock, pastor of the Austin district.

Dr. William Tryon of the Santa Anna Clinic, assisted by one of his nurses, Mrs. Stella Sanford, enrolled 500 of their patients in the Bible correspondence course and has given away over 600 truth-filled books during the last quarter of 1958. We appreciate the soul-saving activities of our physicians and dentists throughout the conference.

DUDLEY TOMBLINSON,  
*Hospital Administrator.*

## Texico

### **Individual Responsibility**

Daniel Webster once said, "The most important thought I have ever had is that of my individual responsibility to God." It is certainly a great privilege to be a part of a people in these fearful times who realize their responsibility to God. God does not hold us responsible for success — just for obedience. When we are obedient He supplies the success. True obedience springs from love and a sense of our individual responsibility to Him.

The Psalmist wrote, "I have set the Lord before me: . . . I shall not be moved." (Psalm 16:8). This is the same spirit that has won the many recent Ingathering victories. Our good people set the Lord before them and determined not to be moved from what they recognized as their individual responsibility to help carry this message to a lost and dying world.

We have just begun a new year; we know not what it will bring. Nevertheless, we must keep the Lord set before us and remain faithful and obedient. Henry Ford said he didn't want men who knew it all; he wanted men with vision — men who could see so much that needed to be done they had no time to think about their accomplishments. With God's blessings there were great accomplishments in this section of the Southwest last year; but with the Lord set before us and a vision of our waiting, eternal home, we will soon forget our accomplishments as we lose ourselves in new activities for Him. True, we cannot buy heaven with silver and gold, but our faithfulness in these things clearly reveals our love and obedience. Let us each one, as David, set the Lord before us this year and determine not to be moved; let us be faithful and obedient in all we do. In our work — our tithes and offerings, our Sabbath observance, we are individually responsible and, as Daniel Webster said, this is an important thought. How tragic it would be if we should set something other than the Lord before us in this late hour and fall short of gaining the crown!

Shall we not make the spirit of Ingathering carry through the new year? JOHN D. SAMMONS, *Pastor*  
*Amarillo Church.*



## Investment Offerings

(From page 3)

they should. However, when you invest for God you are taking no chance. The profits are derived both now and in the hereafter. Why not try some project for your investment during the year 1959? The experience will keep you in close touch with the Lord and the funds raised will bring people to a knowledge of the One who did so much for us. You cannot lose in this kind of an investment.

## "Missing" Members

(From page 4)

pink. The index record should be kept by the Sabbath school secretary, but it should be open to inspection by Sabbath school officers, church pastor, or elder when desirous of obtaining information.

May the Lord give us wisdom and grace as we continue our united efforts to make the Sabbath school a vital factor in the life of every member of the church. Let us pray daily that we may win the missing members back to Sabbath school fellowship, and change their status from "MISSING" MEMBERS to "MISSION" MEMBERS.

## Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings

(From page 5)

door to door. They continued this work until Thirteenth Sabbath. How happy they were to be able to bring in 171 cruzeiros for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. This was not a large sum, but it took a great deal of planning and effort on their part, and the Lord blesses everyone who does his best in helping to support the world mission program.

## Vacation Bible Schools

(From page 5)

turn. This turn has been carried on through branch Sabbath schools, vacation Bible schools, child evangelism, and new emphasis on the evangelistic opportunities that the Sabbath school affords. This is in full harmony with the statement from the servant of the Lord, "The Sabbath school should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ." *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 10.

The results of this phase of evangelistic endeavor have been most gratifying. The past year there were thirteen vacation Bible schools conducted in our conference with an attendance of over six hundred of which about two hundred were not of our faith. Several have been baptized as the result of their attending the vacation Bible school, and quite a few are attending Sabbath school regularly looking forward to uniting soon.

As leaders in the cause of Christ, shall we not pray that the Lord will enlarge our vision to see the great possibilities of soul-saving endeavor as can be carried on through the avenues of Sabbath school, branch Sabbath school, child evangelism, and vacation Bible school, and may our efforts in this field of evangelism for 1959 far surpass that of the past year.

## Don't Be Fooled!

(From page 6)

Sabbath school. However, if it is not conducted on Sabbath, its members would not be included in the membership of a Sabbath school.

"Lessons. Special lessons have been prepared for branch Sabbath schools. These lessons are on two age levels—'Adventures in the Holy Bible' for the children, and 'Bible Adventures' for adults. These lessons are on separate sheets, to be handed out to the pupils from week to week. In addition to the lessons, there are film strips beautifully illustrating the lessons, and tape recordings with the narration of the subject. All this material is available through the book and Bible house.

"For the very small children the Bible lessons in *My Bible Story* and *Our Little Friend* are suitable, and may be taught and illustrated in much the same way as we do in the regular Sabbath school. The various children's songbooks and fingerplay books and picture sets as used in the regular Sabbath school may be used with the children in the branch Sabbath school.

"Any expense connected with either a branch Sabbath school or a Sunday school or a community Bible school should be met from the expense offering of the parent school and should be under the supervision of the officers and the Sabbath school council of the main Sabbath school.

"At the close of each quarter the secretary or leader of the branch Sabbath school should immediately submit to the parent Sabbath school a complete report of membership, attendance, and offerings." *Sabbath School Manual*, pp. 158, 159. (This leaflet can be obtained from your conference Sabbath school secretary.)

## Extension Division

(From page 7)

not blessed with the privilege of attending some Sabbath school, by all means enroll as an extension division member. If there is no Sabbath school near enough for you to attend, start one. On Sabbath morning at the Sabbath school hour gather your family together. Invite your neighbors in. Let your children invite their playmates. Carry out the regular Sabbath school program. Read the thrilling stories from mission lands that will benefit from the Sabbath school overflow offerings. All this material is yours free for the asking. Write your local Sabbath school secretary or the Sabbath school department of the conference for any information and materials you will need.

It is from Sabbath schools started in that way that some of our large Sabbath schools and churches had their beginning. In one family Sabbath school of which I am thinking all the children and many relatives are now staunch Adventists as the result of an effort put forth by one isolated father. It was a blessing not only to the members of that family but also to that community as well. You can do it with the Lord's help.

## Parents' Exchange

TINY THINKERS

Alvin had at last been persuaded to join the Sabbath school. His grandmother was happy, his teacher was happy, but Alvin was not happy. His grandmother asked him, "What is the matter? Jesus is happy that you go to Sabbath school, why aren't you?" "But I can't be happy," Alvin answered, "You see mother does not go, and if she does not go to Sabbath school, she will not be ready to go with Jesus when He comes." When his mother heard that, she started going to Sabbath school.



## PERIODICALS NEEDED

Back issues of *Life and Health*, *These Times*, *Signs of the Times*, *Listen*, *Message*, *The Youth's Instructor*, for use in literature racks in winning souls in dark counties. Send your clean copies to: Mrs. K. A. Hermanson, Route 2, Athens, Texas.

## CME News

LOMA LINDA — The latest motion picture produced by the College of Medical Evangelists is now available for scheduling. This documentary color film entitled "The Ministry of Healing," pictures the growth, responsibility, and purpose of the college in terms of the counsels of Mrs. Ellen G. White. Prepared mainly for Seventh-day Adventist church members, the film strives to answer important questions in church members' minds regarding such points as the dispersion of CME medical school graduates, and the adequacy of spiritual emphasis in the training at the college. Running time of the picture is 30 minutes.

Churches, CME alumni chapters, institutions, and other interested groups may obtain the film for showing by contacting the Community Relations office at CME's Los Angeles campus, 1720 Brooklyn Avenue, Los Angeles 33, California. Borrowers will pay return postage plus insurance of \$150 on the film. Other CME films are also available, and information may be obtained by writing the Community Relations office.

CME NEWS BUREAU.

## Southwestern Junior College

KEENE, TEXAS

L. G. Scales, President  
Altus E. Hayes, Business Manager

## Watch SWJC!

Elder W. A. Scharffenberg, temperance secretary of the General Conference, was guest on the college campus Wednesday, January 14. A temperance rally was held in Evans Auditorium Wednesday evening for the entire student body. Bruce Matzat of Dallas is the student leader of the ATS at SWJC.

Elder B. L. Hassenpflug, evangelist, was guest speaker for the Friday evening vesper service, January 16. He also related some of his mission experiences in South Africa to the members of the college Sabbath school on Sabbath morning, January 17. The Hassenpflugs were en route to San Diego, California where he will take up the pastorate of the district.

The first semester examinations began Monday, January 19, and ended Friday, January 23. Since the holiday vacation just ended on January 5, no weekend leave was scheduled following the examinations. The next off-campus leave is scheduled for the weekend of February 13.

ALTUS E. HAYES.

## Business Notices

Send all advertisements to your local conference office for approval. Rate: Fifty words or less, one insertion, \$2.00. Payment must accompany copy.

TOUR THE CONTINENT OF SOUTH AMERICA. Seventh-day Adventist group now forming for intriguing, picturesque, and wonderfully different travel experience next June. See mission life firsthand, the great Andes Mts., the Amazon River, etc. To be conducted by SDA minister who led Europe and Middle East Tour last summer. Write for free descriptive brochure to John Hayward, 870 Prospect Avenue, Hartford 6, Connecticut. 2-4

WANTED: SDA Laboratory Technician for private laboratory, lower Rio Grande Valley. Salary \$300, or \$250 with board and room or rooms and utilities for couple. Give qualifications, references first letter. Gordon Cross, 713 West Johnson, Harlingen, Texas. 4-2


THE FOLLOWING TOURS are available for SDA's, their families and friends in 1959: Japan in April (Cherry Blossom Time); Europe in June; Hawaii late summer (ship or plane); Mexico in December. For tour brochures, write: UKIAH TRAVEL BUREAU, Palace Hotel Lobby, Ukiah, California.

VISIT EUROPE with Seventh-day Adventist teachers, students, and their friends on a twenty-four day tour of Europe which starts on June 20. Special extension to Scandinavian countries available. For information and folders write to: Miss Millie Urbish, P. O. Box 364, South Lancaster, Massachusetts.

FOR SALE: 30 acres land and 5-room house with porch. Large chicken house, 2 ponds, good well water. One-half mile from SDA church and school, on mail route from DeQueen, Ark. Several large shade trees in yard. A few fruit trees. One acre strawberries. Write: Mose Belcher, Route 2, DeQueen, Ark.

FOR SALE: New three-bedroom home with ten acres, or more land if desired. One mile from Ozark Academy. Good garden spot, young orchard, grapes and wooded area. Priced reasonable. Reason for selling — going back into school work. John T. Owens, R. R. 1, Siloam Springs, Ark.

FOR SALE: House, one acre. One bedroom, bath, large living room. Nat. gas, elec., telephone. Half-mile from SDA church, ten-grade school. Seven miles from Jefferson, Texas. For information write: Lowell Eaton, Route 1, Box 59,



*Listen Every Sunday*

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BOX 55, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

## Sermon Topics

FEBRUARY

- 1 The Most Impressive Sermon
- 8 I Believe in Prayer
- 15 Wonders of the Sky
- 22 Bible Questions

Las Vegas, Nevada, or see: E. M. Eaton, Route 4, Box 113, Jefferson, Texas. 4, 6

WANTED: Organic gardener for country rest home. Some inside work. Room, board, and salary. Write for particulars, giving age, and condition of health. Mrs. Tom Carroll, Route 3, Ranger, Texas.

## Southwestern Union Conference Session

Notice is hereby given that the eighteenth session of the Southwestern Union Conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas, February 16 - 19, 1959.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers, to furnish reports of the work of the Southwestern Union Conference, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the Conference.

The first meeting is called for 9:00 a.m. at the Hilton Hotel.

Regular delegates to the session are such persons as are accredited by the local conferences on the basis of one delegate for each organization and an additional delegate for each 150 of its church membership or major portion thereof. L. C. EVANS, President.  
H. E. SCHNEIDER, Secretary.

## Southwestern Union Conference Corporation Session

The Southwestern Union Conference Corporation is called into regular session at San Antonio, Texas, on February 16, 1959, the first meeting to be at 2:00 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel.

The delegates to the Southwestern Union Conference are also delegates of the Southwestern Union Conference Corporation.

The election of trustees, the submitting of reports, and any other business that properly should come before the Conference Corporation, constitute the purpose of this call. L. C. EVANS, President.  
H. E. SCHNEIDER, Secretary.

## Sunset Schedule

	Jan. 30	Feb. 6
Abilene, Texas	6:10	6:17
Amarillo, Texas	6:14	6:21
Brownsville, Texas	6:15	6:20
Dallas, Texas	5:57	6:04
El Paso, Texas	5:38	5:44
Fort Worth, Texas	5:59	6:06
Galveston, Texas	5:55	6:01
Keene, Texas	5:59	6:06
Little Rock, Arkansas	5:36	5:43
Muskogee, Oklahoma	5:47	5:54
New Orleans, Louisiana	5:35	5:41
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	5:56	6:03
San Antonio, Texas	6:10	6:16
Santa Fe, New Mexico	5:29	5:36
Shreveport, Louisiana	5:46	5:52



# SABBATH SCHOOL — the Heart of the Church

By M. D. HOWARD

It has often been said, "The Sabbath school is the church at study." It is the only department of the church that includes the whole church. It has for its objective the strengthening and building up of the members of the church, from the tiny tots to the oldest members. What the heart is to our physical bodies, the Sabbath school is to our churches.

The heart in our physical bodies furnishes every part of the body with the life-giving elements through the circulation of the blood. It is in action constantly. Let the heart become weakened, and the body cannot function properly. Let it stop, and the body is dead. Just so with the Sabbath school. Through the means of the constant study of God's Word, the life-giving elements of spiritual power and grace are brought to every member of the church. If there is a weak Sabbath school, then you will have a weak church. Let the Sabbath school cease to function and the church soon dies.

With a strong and healthy heart bringing the elements of life to every part of the body, there is growth and sustaining power to the various members. With a well-organized and properly-functioning Sabbath school, there is character growth on the part of its members and development of talents for workers and leaders in the church. Rightly conducted, the Sabbath school becomes a great soul-winning agency, training first of all the unbaptized children of the flock in such a way that their entrance into the fold is only natural; and by interesting those not of our faith in the study of the Bible until they, too, desire to enter the church.

Not only are workers and leaders for the home church trained and developed, but through constant information about our mission fields, a desire is built up in the hearts of many to take their places in the work of the church in other lands. Thus missionaries may be started on their way.

As the heart of the physical body must be sustained by food, so must the heart of the church, the Sabbath school, be sustained by the Word of God. "There is nothing more calculated to energize the mind and strengthen the intellect than the study of the Word of God. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's Word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose that are rarely seen in these times. The search for truth will reward the seeker at every turn, and each discovery will open up richer fields for his investigation." *Counsels to Teachers*, page 460.

May the Sabbath school continue to be the strong and perfect functioning heart of the church for which it is designed.



M. D. Howard



H. P. Evens

## Soul Winning Through Sacrifice

By H. P. EVENS

It was during wartime and the president had asked every family to conserve food. Father, mother, and little Tom were sitting around the table after dinner discussing how they could comply. Father volunteered to forgo desserts; mother offered to sacrifice coffee. Tom reflected, spoke up, "I'll do without brussell's sprouts — never cared for them anyway."

We reap little satisfaction from giving to the Lord if it doesn't hurt, at least a wee bit, to do so. The kernel of Christian religion is based on sacrifice — beginning with its founder, Jesus Christ, and His Father, God, Himself.

So, why should we this year engage in sacrificial giving for souls through the Sabbath school? Firstly, there is a reflex benefit to us spiritually. The question is often put: "Does God ask us to give or to get?" Both, it is true; but which in the greater degree? Some people mistakenly have the idea that God is forever calling upon us to give to Him, and that is the largest part of the Christian life. Such a view is sadly mistaken. God one time called a man named Abram to give up his homeland, his friends, and even his family circle — for what? Someone has well said: "Not only is Abram called out, but he is led in. It is essential for us to realize that God always leads us into more than He calls us out from; that what we are to find will always be more than our loss." And when we look at our apparent "loss," after receiving God's "gain" we shall always see that our "loss" was not loss at all. The normal Christian life is a moment by moment experience of receiving unspeakably rich and ever richer gains and blessings from God.

Secondly, someone will hear and possibly accept the message of salvation made available through your sacrificial gift. Then, too, there is your example, encouraging others to enjoy the same rich blessings which have been yours.

Let us, in 1959, embark upon a program of genuine sacrificial giving through the Sabbath school, to the end that many, many souls may thereby be won.

**Sabbath School — the Greatest Medium of Evangelism**

Statistical Secretary  
Gen. Conf.  
Washington, D. C.  
29525