

The Church Officers' Gazette

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NO. 1

Church Officers' General Instruction Department

Calendar

January

5. Missionary Volunteer Day.
12. Foreign Mission Service.
19. Lesson 52.
26. Home Mission Service.

February

2. Lesson 53.
9. Foreign Mission Service.
16. Lesson 54.
23. Home Mission Service.

Lesson for the Use of Church Elders

Lesson 52

Announcements.

Hymn.

Prayer.

Hymn.

Lesson: The Purpose of Trials.

The Purpose of Trials

1. Are the righteous free from afflictions in this world? Ps. 34: 19.
 2. Does God willingly afflict his people? Lam. 3: 31.
 3. What should we not despise? Job 5: 17, 18.
 4. Whom does the Lord chasten? Heb. 12: 6.
 5. Is it therefore a pleasant experience? Heb. 12: 11.
 6. Are trials some strange thing? 1 Peter 4: 12, 13.
 7. What will result from the trial of our faith? 1 Peter 1: 7.
 8. What reason is there for glorying in tribulation? Rom. 5: 3-5.
 9. How many will suffer persecution? 2 Tim. 3: 12.
 10. Why does the Lord chasten us? Heb. 12: 10.
 11. What will be the reward of the one who endures trial? James 1: 12.
 12. Why should we be of good cheer? John 16: 33.
 13. How may we share in Christ's victory? 1 John 5: 4.
 14. What will the overcomer inherit? Rev. 21: 7.
- This study might well be followed by a testimony meeting.

To Church Elders

An Ideal to be Reached

"MANY hands make light work," is an old adage. How beautiful to see a family where all the children, as well as the parents, have their appointed work, and do it cheerfully! How heartening to see a church where old and young alike are endeavoring to do their part in the work of giving "the advent message to all the world in this generation!" When the whole church shall thus be striving to give the whole gospel to the whole world, we shall be witnessing the full fruition of Elijah's message. For this let us pray.

A Special Day and Its Purpose

It was for this purpose of bringing every resource of the church into active service in giving the message that the Missionary Volunteer Department of the General Conference was created ten years ago. It is for this same purpose—to the end that all our members may realize the great importance of the young people's work—that the General Conference and the Division Conferences have appointed one Sabbath in the year as Missionary Volunteer Day. It was the first Sabbath in May, but is now the first Sabbath in January.

For the Whole Church

This is not a special day for the Missionary Volunteer Society merely, but for the church. The Missionary Volunteer Day Readings, printed in the *Review* of December 20, are to be given at the regular Sabbath service of the church. In the past some have not understood this. It is the plan of the General Conference and the Division Conferences that all our churches should make this an important occasion for the whole church. Surely as the end draws nearer, the whole church should give itself to prayer and study, to the end that our children may be saved and also have a part in the work.

The Elder's Responsibility

Who is to arrange for this Missionary Volunteer Day program?—The church elder, of course. For some reason some elders have shifted all responsibility to the Missionary Volunteer Society. This may be an excellent exercise for the young people, and in many cases the program as arranged by them has been above criticism; but at the same time it is not the place of the young people to take full charge of a Sabbath service on an important occasion like this. The young people should doubtless be utilized in giving the program, to a greater or less extent, but it is the place of the church elder to give much study and prayer to the aims to be reached in his church by such a program, and to plan for the day according to the needs.

Planning the Program

In planning the program, give special attention to making it effective. Endeavor to secure some one who can so present Elder Daniells's article that all your members will have a good understanding of the relation of our young people to the advent message. If a minister should be present, he will doubtless be pleased to take this, or the third topic, for surely nothing could be more important on January 5 than these very themes.

The symposium may well be assigned to a number of persons, old and young, to read. It is of little use, however, to assign even a small part to one who reads to himself only, and makes nobody hear. A bit of hearty encouragement from one in authority will often work wonders in developing the timid ones. As a part of the symposium, try to have some personal experiences from your own flock as to what the Missionary Volunteer work has done.

In "The Outlook for 1918," it would be well to have a chart showing the Division, the Union, and the local conference, and the society Goals. Some Union Conferences are furnishing such charts, but one can be made if not furnished. Let the young people know that the church is interested in seeing them reach their Goals. Talk courage, and magnify the privilege of having a part in the Lord's work.

For Every Church

"We have no young people in our church. Shall we have the Missionary Volunteer program just the same?"—Certainly. The whole church needs to understand this young people's movement. Some churches, sad to say, have no young people because all have drifted away. One such church, after years of losses, aroused itself to activity, and the new generation of young people are being saved.

Our Nearest Work

In arranging for this program, let the church elder bear in mind that "the work that lies nearest to our church members is to become interested in our youth."—"*Testimonies for the Church*," Vol. VI, p. 196.

M. E. KERN.

The Support of the Message

THE third angel's message is supported by the tithes and offerings of the believers. The church officers have a responsibility for seeing that the church members understand their obligations to the Lord as stewards of his goods, in regard to the tithes and offerings, and for encouraging them to fulfil these obligations.

The funds that are needed may be grouped under the following headings:

For the support of—

1. The evangelical work at home.
2. The mission work abroad.
3. The general and local conference institutions, camp-meetings, tent-meetings, etc.
4. The church missionary work.
5. The church expenses.

The first fund is provided for by the tithe. Every church board should do all in its power to induce every member to pay a faithful tithe. This is important for the spiritual welfare of the members, as well as for the support of the work. Those who accept the truth should thoroughly understand this subject of tithing before they are received into the church, and their obligations should be presented to them from time to time that they may not become slack in regard to them. There may be cases where the wife of an unbelieving husband cannot pay tithe, or where aged and feeble persons have no income; with these the acceptance of the principle of tithing is all that can be expected. Those who have incomes which they should tithe and do not, should be labored with in a spirit of love, which has for its chief object their salvation, and their freedom from the sin of robbing God.

The mission work abroad is supported by freewill offerings. Offerings taken in connection with the Second Sabbath Missionary Readings, annual offerings, midsummer offerings, Sabbath School offerings, all go to this work. The funds realized by the Harvest Ingathering collection are also for this purpose. The General Conference announces at the beginning of each year the average amount per member that will be needed to support this work, and it is the duty of each church board to find out how much this average will amount to for its church each month, and then to see that the amount is raised month by month. The Lord has given us a great work to do, and we cannot do it unless we plan carefully and systematically for it. A haphazard giving of what we think we can spare will not do it.

We should understand that God has greatly honored us in trusting us with this work, and we should, each and all, see that we do our appointed part. It may not be possible for some to reach the necessary average, but others can give far beyond it, and so the churches, as a whole, can reach the desired standard. The church officers should make it their business to watch the church offerings closely, and as soon as they see the least falling below the standard, they should present the matter to the church and plan ways of making up the deficiency. It is much easier to do this in the beginning when the deficit is small, than to wait until it has reached a large sum, as it almost surely will, if it is not checked at once.

If all church officers and members would realize that they are stewards of God, intrusted with a portion of his goods, and directly responsible to him for the use they make of it, there would be a more faithful division of their money. The Lord's claims would then receive due consideration in all plans for the expenditure of money. Earnest efforts should be made continually to educate all God's people to see these things from his standpoint, and to consider him first and themselves afterward.

In addition to these general lines of work, there are in each Union and local conference, special needs which must be supplied. There are tents and other supplies to be purchased for tent and camp-meetings; schools and sanitariums to be provided with facilities as needs increase with growth and development; religious liberty work to be sustained; and other needs. From time to time these needs will be placed

before the churches, and the churches should receive them as from the Lord, and loyally plan to do their part to provide for them. Much will depend upon how the elder presents these calls. If he does it with a heart warm with the love of God, and shows that he has such a deep interest in the cause of present truth that he esteems it a privilege to contribute to it to the extent of his ability, the members will feel as he does. There is a wonderful drawing power in a man who is full of the love of Christ.

Every church is responsible for doing its part in giving the last message to all the people living around it. It has been set where it is, to give light to others. Some of its work can be made self-supporting, but some money will be needed for tracts to lend and give away, for periodicals and stationery for missionary correspondence, and for some other supplies. The offering taken on the fourth Sabbath is usually devoted to this fund, and if not sufficient, may be supplemented by offerings taken at the week-night missionary meetings, or by pledges for regular offerings from the members.

Some churches have been disposed to consider this part of their responsibility as of little consequence, and to feel that if they pay their tithes, offerings for foreign missions, and church expenses, they have done enough. But to bestow all our care for souls on those at a distance and ignore those right at hand is not in harmony with Christ's instructions. The souls around the church are just as dear to the Lord as those in distant lands, and work for them should have its proper place in all the churches.

Every church board should, at the beginning of each quarter, estimate the running expenses of the church for the quarter, and find out what will be required to meet them. Such things as light, heat, church repairs, interest (if any), church school expenses, Sabbath school expenses, stationery and postage for clerk and treasurer, record books of different kinds, should all be taken into account and planned for. Some definite plan should be decided upon for meeting these expenses. Some churches find out how much will be needed each month, and take up an offering on one Sabbath in the month for that purpose. This is announced the previous week, and the sum that is needed is mentioned. If the amount realized by the offering is not sufficient, the matter is brought before the church, and another collection is taken later to bring the sum up to the necessary amount.

Other churches take pledges sufficient to provide for these expenses, from their members for regular amounts to be paid each week or month, and these are regularly collected. This is the best plan, because the provision is definite and can be relied upon.

To keep up all these offerings and to see that the church meets all its financial obligations to the Lord, is an important part of the duties of the church officers, and especially of the elders, for which they will need much of the wisdom and grace of the Lord.

"Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord." 1 Chron. 29:9.—*Selected.*

"World Problems"

ANOTHER little book has been added to the 25 cent series, entitled "World Problems." It deals with the vital problems the world is facing today—the growing strife between capital and labor, the great war, the rapid spread of Spiritualism, the evil habits that threaten the life of nations, the choice between the Bible and tradition. It is difficult to meet a person who is not interested in at least one of these problems, and most people are more or less concerned about all of them.

This book should have the widest possible circulation, for it has its place in the giving of the last warning message. Will not your church undertake to canvass its entire territory for it? Such an effort would surely bring returns.

Home Missionary Department

Suggestive Program for Fourth Sabbath Home Missionary Service

(To be held January 26)

OPENING SONG: "Hymns and Tunes," No. 108; "Christ in Song," No. 452.
Prayer.
Song: "Hymns and Tunes," No. 1245; "Christ in Song," No. 683.
Bible Study: Our Duty to the Poor.
Testimony Study: How the People May be Helped.
Experiences of Members.
Report by Church Missionary Secretary.
Offering for Literature Fund.
Closing Song: "Hymns and Tunes," No. 1241; "Christ in Song," No. 486.

Note to the Leaders

Much emphasis is laid on helping the poor and needy, both in the Bible and in the Testimonies. There should be a Christian Help Band in every church, whose members will take an interest in the poor in the church territory, and put other members in touch with them. Much may be done for them without involving the church in heavy expense. Clothing and funds can be solicited in the neighborhood to meet the needs of the people who are found to be in want. Cooking schools may be held; simple treatments taught. The sympathetic heart will find ways of supplying needs. What is your church doing in this branch of the work?

Our Duty to the Poor

1. How should we regard our neighbor? Prov. 14:21.
2. What class consider the poor? Prov. 29:7.
3. How does the Lord regard help given to the poor? Prov. 19:17.
4. Who will be blessed? Prov. 22:9.
5. What will happen to those who disregard the poor? Prov. 21:13.
6. What is one characteristic of a virtuous woman? Prov. 31:20.
7. What should we not withhold? Prov. 3:27, 28.
8. What promise is made to the one who cares for the poor? Prov. 28:27.

How the People May be Helped

1. How may we obtain greater results in souls saved?
"There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, can not, be without fruit."—*Ministry of Healing*, pp. 143, 144.
2. What have many lost, and how may they regain it?
"Many have no faith in God and have lost confidence in man. But they appreciate acts of sympathy and helpfulness. As they see one with no inducement of earthly praise or compensation come into their homes, ministering to the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, comforting the sad, and tenderly pointing all to Him of whose love and pity the human worker is but the messenger,—as they see this, their hearts are touched. Gratitude springs up. Faith is kindled. They see that God cares for them, and they are prepared to listen as his Word is opened."—*Id.*, p. 145.
3. What instruction would thousands gladly receive?
"Thousands need and would gladly receive instruction concerning the simple methods of treating the sick,—methods that are taking the place of the use of poisonous drugs. There is great need of instruction in regard to dietetic reform. Wrong habits of eating and the use of unhealthful food are in no small degree responsible for the intemperance and crime and wretchedness that curse the world."—*Id.*, p. 146.

4. In giving this instruction, what should be made plain to the people?

"In teaching health principles, keep before the mind the great object of reform, that its purpose is to secure the highest development of body and mind and soul. Show that the laws of nature, being the laws of God, are designed for our good; that obedience to them promotes happiness in this life and aids in the preparation for the life to come."—*Ibid.*

5. By whom should this work be done?

"Christ commits to his followers an individual work,—a work that cannot be done by proxy. Ministry to the sick and the poor, the giving of the gospel to the lost, is not to be left to committees or organized charities. Individual responsibility, individual effort, personal sacrifice, is the requirement of the gospel."—*Id.*, p. 147.

6. What effect will this work have upon those who take it up?

"Those who take up their appointed work will not only be a blessing to others, but they will themselves be blessed. The consciousness of duty well done will have a reflex influence upon their own souls. The despondent will forget their despondency, the weak will become strong, the ignorant intelligent, and all will find an unfailing helper in Him who has called them."—*Id.*, p. 148.

7. For what should the church be a training school?

"Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings, how to conduct and teach Sabbath school classes, how best to help the poor and to care for the sick, how to work for the unconverted. There should be schools of health, cooking schools, and classes in various lines of Christian Help work. There should not only be teaching, but actual work under experienced instructors. Let the teachers lead the way in working among the people, and others, uniting with them, will learn from their example. One example is worth more than many precepts."—*Id.*, p. 149.

8. Where do we have a special duty to labor?

"We should feel it our special duty to work for those living in our neighborhood. Study how you can best help those who take no interest in religious things. As you visit your friends and neighbors, show an interest in their spiritual as well as in their temporal welfare. Speak to them of Christ as a sin-pardoning Saviour. Invite your neighbors to your home, and read with them from the precious Bible and from books that explain its truths. Invite them to unite with you in song and prayer. In these little gatherings, Christ himself will be present, as he has promised, and hearts will be touched by his grace."—*Id.*, p. 152.

9. What should we not neglect?

"Let none pass by little opportunities, to look for larger work. You might do successfully the small work, but fail utterly in attempting the larger work, and fall into discouragement. It is by doing with your might what you find to do that you will develop aptitude for larger work. It is by slighting the daily opportunities, by neglecting the little things right at hand, that so many become fruitless and withered."—*Id.*, p. 153.

10. In what spirit should we labor?

"We must offer men something better than that which they possess, even the peace of Christ, which passeth all understanding. We must tell them of God's holy law, the transcript of his character, and an expression of that which he wishes them to become. Show them how infinitely superior to the fleeting joys and pleasures of the world is the imperishable glory of heaven. Tell them of the freedom and rest to be found in the Saviour. 'Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst,' he declared.

"Lift up Jesus, crying, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.' He alone can satisfy the craving of the heart, and give peace to the soul."—*Id.*, p. 157.

MISSIONARY MEETINGS

Suggestive Program for First Week

Opening Exercises : Song ; Several Short Prayers ; Minutes ; Scripture Exercise ; Song.

Lesson : The Home-Foreign Mission Field.

Reports of Work Done.

Plans for Work.

Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

For the Scripture Exercise write Lev. 19:34 on the blackboard. Read the text, and make a few comments on the Lord's instructions in regard to the strangers in the land.

The Home-Field Mission Field

By the expression, "the Home-Foreign Mission Field," of course we mean the work among the foreign people in the homeland. That we may get a more comprehensive view of the situation, let us see how many foreign people there are in this field. The United States census for 1910 shows that there were 13,515,886 foreigners in this country that year. Since that time from one to two million immigrants have arrived each year; so we are reasonably safe in estimating that we have a Home-Foreign Mission field of more than twenty million people, of almost every nationality under the sun.

God has not overlooked these foreigners. In olden times he was careful to have his people make provision for the stranger that was within their gates; so now, in these last days of the closing conflict when every word of the great Commander should be heeded with the utmost care, we read the following words from the pen of his messenger :

"There are among us those who, without the toil and delay of learning a foreign language, might qualify themselves to proclaim the truth to other nations."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. V, p. 391.

"The message must be given to the thousands of foreigners living . . . in the home field. . . . Among these millions are the representatives of many nations."—*Id.*, Vol. VIII, pp. 34, 35.

Seeing that the duty of giving these people an opportunity of hearing the truth devolves upon us, the great question of how to reach them when we do not understand their language, is worthy of our most careful consideration. "Our people are not half awake to do all in their power, with the facilities within their reach, to extend the message of warning."—*Id.*, Vol. VI, pp. 18, 19.

"God's people have a mighty work before them, a work that must continually rise to greater prominence. Our efforts in missionary lines must become far more extensive. A more decided work than has been done must be done prior to the second appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ."—*Id.*, pp. 23, 24.

Seeing then that we have "a mighty work" to do, and that "our efforts in missionary lines must become far more extensive," we should cast about for the means with which to do it, and thank the Lord, he has not left us without the means, for statistics show that there are in this country more than thirty million near-foreigners, by which we mean children born of foreign parents. These children, many of whom are able to speak the English language as well as their mother tongue, should prove the entering wedge—a powerful means by which the foreigners themselves may be reached. Every means available should be used to enlist the support of these near-foreigners in this work, as it seems to be the wisest and at the same time the most adequate way to reach our hyphenated neighbors.

But there are some who live in the large settlements of their own people where they have little or no dealing with the Americans, and as a result, they remain as distinctly foreign as if they were in their own homeland. These, of course, present the matter in a different aspect, as they must

be reached through their own mother tongue. However, even in this case, if the near-foreigners can be reached, they will supply us with material for use in the distinctly foreign settlements. This will give some idea of how far-reaching the effect of missionary work among our near-foreigners may become.

We shall consider the circulation of literature first. It is a recognized fact that more people are brought into the truth by reading than by any other means; so when we are doing our best to circulate literature, we are working along the most fruitful line of missionary endeavor. But how to get the literature into the hands of the people, and to get them interested enough to read it is the great problem which confronts us. So often it is the case that these foreigners are reared in the Catholic faith or in some other creed-bound religion, and for that reason they refuse to take the literature, especially if they are suspicious that it is of Protestant origin. These people must first be reached by little acts of kindness and loving sympathy, such as are needed to break down prejudice in any heart. After seeing that we are willing to bear each others' burdens, "and so fulfil the law of Christ," they will be more willing to accept our literature, and investigate our belief out of respect to us.

In Texas we have quite a number of Mexicans, and we find in our work among them that they are generally very anxious to get our literature. Some of our colporteurs who are able to speak the Spanish language, go out and sell literature of different kinds to them, working mainly in the Spanish settlements. Others spend much time and means in the distribution of free literature. We are glad to say that we are already seeing some fruits of their labors.

There is a member of one of our churches who sells magazines and home workers' books. She has found it both helpful and profitable to sell books and magazines to foreigners. She finds the people quite accessible when shown literature in their own language, as few of them have access to any reading matter in their own tongue. Of course she makes a careful survey of her field, and orders such foreign literature as she thinks can be used either for free distribution or for sale. I only wish we had more such workers, and I trust that we may soon see the day when many of our people will be awake to the opportunities before them, and see to it that a more "decided work" is done before our very doors.

But there are some of these foreigners who have never had an opportunity to receive an education. This is where Christian Help work will come into good play again. When it is possible to mingle with them enough for them to learn to understand our language then we may be able to gain access to their hearts. Many of them came from countries where the knowledge of healthful cooking and methods of sanitation are very limited; hence, they know very little about these things. Of course, it will be necessary to be very careful lest we should by any means give offense. But after getting acquainted with some of them sufficiently to begin to give little demonstrations showing the advantages of these new methods, others might be invited in to see how it is done. But be sure, if possible, to get them to see the advantages to be gained or they will not care to come again. After sufficient interest is aroused, they might be induced to attend a cooking school, or a class where simple treatments could be taught. This will arouse their interest, and be a means of gaining their confidence. When sufficient interest is aroused and the people have learned to become good listeners, they will gladly listen to the wonderful news of the soon-coming Saviour.

May the Lord give us all a new vision of the work we have to do, that we may "do with our might what our hands find to do." In whatsoever lines we are privileged to labor, whether in the colporteur work or in the free distribution of literature, or in Christian Help work, let us be careful to make provision for the stranger that is within our gates.

C. U. TAYLOR.

Suggestive Program for Second Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Prayer, especially remembering people who are interested in the truth; Minutes; Song.

Reports of Work Done.
Lesson: Workers for God.
Plans for Work.
Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

To read the words of God and not to do them will be of no avail. Are all your members workers for God? Do you know whether they are or not? Now is the time to enlist any in service who have not yet realized their responsibility to become colaborers with God.

Workers for God

1. WHAT does Jesus say he will make of those whom he sends out to labor? Matt. 4:19.
2. What success did the disciples have when they went fishing without the Saviour? John 21:3-5.
3. Where did Jesus direct them to cast their net, and what success did they have in following his directions? Verse 6.
4. How much can we do in fishing for men without the Saviour? John 15:4.
5. How are we instructed to conduct ourselves toward those whom we try to teach? 2 Tim. 2:24.
6. How are we to instruct them? Verse 25, first part.
7. Whom do they oppose?
8. Who leads them to acknowledge the truth? Verse 25, last part.
9. Would you judge from this that success depended wholly on the unanswerable arguments presented?
10. What is the first thing Paul mentions that he feared he would find among the Corinthians? 2 Cor. 12:20.
11. With what does the apostle mention debate in Romans 1:29-31?
12. Of what does he say those who do such things are worthy? Verse 32.
13. From such statements, would we not infer that the Lord would have us avoid the spirit of debate?
14. How is the wisdom that cometh from above described? James 3:17 (margin), 18.
15. How are we to adapt ourselves to the various classes of men in order to save them? 1 Cor. 9:19, 22.
16. What does Paul say we should be to those among whom we labor? 1 Tim. 4:12.
17. How are we to become proficient in our work? Verse 15.
18. Unto whom are we to study to show ourselves approved? 2 Tim. 2:15.
19. After following out these instructions, what shall we be ready to do? 1 Peter 3:15.

Suggestive Program for Third Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Season of Prayer; Minutes; Song.

Lesson: The Circulation of Tracts and the Family Bible Teacher.

Reports of Work Done.
Plans for Work.
Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

Tracts are fruitful in winning souls to the truth, so should be used freely. The plan of lending them from house to house is an excellent one. Special packages of tracts may be obtained at reduced rates for this purpose.

The Circulation of Tracts and The Family Bible Teacher

WE live in a reading age. This statement needs no argument. With the universal demand for reading matter,

comes the question of the supply. To furnish this, there are two great forces at work,—the good and the evil. The question before us is, "What shall be our part in supplying this universal demand?"

To know which force has the greater supply, we need only to open our eyes and look about us. Go where you will, on the street, on the train, into the depot, or into the store, and you will find the literature that leads downward. The supply is abundant. And further, it is the little, spicy, attractive bits of literature that trap most victims. They are put out as bait to create the appetite for the heavier meals, and the efforts are fruitful. The forces of evil know how to catch men, and the forces for good may profitably use the same methods.

With this knowledge need we ask, Why should we circulate tracts,—tracts that contain a message of salvation, that direct the eyes and heart upward?

To know that the methods which are used for evil are equally successful when used for good, we need only to look back to the experience of those men who were used for God to scatter light in the darkened portions of earth. All are familiar with the work of the Waldenses, how they went forth as peddlers, but had concealed among their wares precious gems from God's Word, often of their own transcription, to which they would draw the attention of the cottagers. These were freely given to those who desired them. Here was the seed of the Reformation.

Take the work of Adoniram Judson. The small tracts which he translated and distributed were carried to the natives away in the interior. Many years later at a great festival, he was appealed to by thousands of natives for tracts. Some came three months' journey to get these tracts. Some said, "We hear there is a hell; we are afraid of it." Others said, "We have seen a writing that tells about an eternal God. Are you the man that gives away such tracts?" Some said, "Are you Jesus Christ's man? Give us writings that tell about Jesus Christ." The distribution of tracts yielded all this fruit.

Being convinced of the necessity of this work, we turn to the *how* it may be done. This problem will be solved when, by the baptism of the spirit of service, every believer in the message presses into the work. The minister in his work from the desk and from home to home, the Bible worker in her weekly rounds, the colporteur as he journeys over the country, and the lay members in their neighborhood,—these all have a part in placing "the little wedges that open the way for the larger works."

In the canvasser's manual we read these words: "The canvasser should carry with him tracts to give to those who cannot buy. In this way the truth will be introduced into many homes." Is not this duty resting upon all believers?

The Family Bible Teacher may be fitly classed as a tract, and answers the following questions so vital to us in these times: "How can I give a Bible reading to my friends and neighbors?" "What can I send to a friend or relative for his personal study?" "How can our missionary society do effectual work in our community?"

In the pages of the Family Bible Teacher the message is given in a concise form, and the searcher is led step by step till he finds himself surrounded by God's last message of mercy.

C. B. CALDWELL.

Suggestive Program for Fourth Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Minutes; Scripture Exercise; Prayer; Song.

Lesson: Tract Study, "The Temporal Millennium."
Reports of Work Done.
Plans for Work.
Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

For the Scripture exercise read responsively Revelation 20. Give out the tract the week before the meeting and encourage all to study it, so that the questions can be quickly answered, and the diagram built up on the blackboard as the different points are brought to light.

Tract Study—"The Temporal Millennium"

Analysis

Millennium

1. Meaning of word.
2. Where equivalent is found.

Bounded By

1. First resurrection at beginning.
2. Second resurrection at close.

Events to Take Place Before It Begins

1. Coming of Christ.
2. Righteous dead raised.
3. Righteous living changed.
4. Wicked killed.

Events to Take Place During the Millennium

1. Righteous in heaven.
2. Judging wicked.
3. Satan bound.
4. Earth desolate.

Events to Take Place at Its Close

1. Wicked dead raised.
2. Satan loosed and gathers nations.
3. New Jerusalem descends.
4. Satan and wicked destroyed.
5. Earth purified by fire and made new.

Popular View

1. Christ reigns on earth.
2. Satan not permitted to tempt.
3. All converted.

Based on Erroneous Interpretations of Scriptures

1. Heathen not given by conversion.
2. Kingdoms given for destruction.
3. Gospel preached for witness, not conversion of all.
4. False peace-and-safety cry.
5. Prophecies referring to new earth.

Arguments Against Popular View

1. Papacy lasts until end.
2. Apostasy at end.
3. Wicked continue until end.
4. Persecution of God's people until end.
5. Scoffers at end.
6. Destruction, not conversion, awaits world.

Questions

1. What does the word "millennium" mean?
2. Where do we find a period of one thousand years referred to in the Bible?
3. What takes place at the beginning of this period, and what at its close?
4. Where is the millennial reign of Christ?
5. How do you know this?
6. What happens to the wicked?
7. What is the condition of the earth during the thousand years?
8. What becomes of Satan?
9. What events mark the close of the thousand years?
10. What is the popular view of the millennium?
11. Why is the conversion of the world an impossibility?
12. In what way does God deal with the people of all ages?
13. What texts are used to support this popular view?
14. What is their true teaching?
15. How many worlds are brought to view?
16. To which of these do some of these texts apply?
17. Give some reasons why the world will not be converted.
18. What will be the condition of the world when the end comes?
19. What will bring in "the better day?"

Formation of Bands and Division of Territory

HARK! What is that I hear? Can it be the bugle call summoning the soldiers of Jesus to arms? Yes, methinks I hear "the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees." Listen; hear the great Commander say, "Let every one fall into line." But I wonder if we are all ready. Does every one know his place, so there will be no confusion? We remember that "God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints." 1 Cor. 14:33. The

peace that Paul refers to here is the peace that comes to the church as a result of every member's knowing his place and not becoming confused.

In the church in the wilderness, very specific instructions were given that every one might know his place. In the sanctuary service they were to be governed by certain rules and regulations; in removing their camp they were to travel in perfect order. All these things happened unto them for what purpose? and were written for what purpose? If for our admonition, then should we not heed, and see that we have order in all our churches?

Let us see how minutely the ancient organization is described. There were "rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens." Ex. 18:25. Thus we see that under the theocracy, God was very careful to have everything well organized.

Have you ever stopped to think that Seventh-day Adventists have been living under a form of organization similar to this for nearly three quarters of a century? To whom is the credit due for the wonderful organization which has been perfected for the finishing of the work in this generation? Does it belong to any man or set of men? Nay, but to God himself, who so graciously gave us his Spirit to direct, and sent us such definite information as the following:

"The church of Christ has been organized on earth for missionary purposes."—*An Appeal to Our Churches*, p. 28. "In our churches let companies be formed for service. Let different ones unite in labor as fishers of men. . . . The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members, but for unbelievers. If in one place there are only two or three who know the truth, let them form themselves into a band of workers."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. VII, pp. 21, 22.

Thus we see that in the closing scenes of this great conflict, the great Commander says small companies should be formed to work not only for church members, but for unbelievers.

One of our ministers once paid us a glowing tribute when he said that "plans were laid whereby every member might have a work to do, from the smallest child to the stoop-shouldered grandma."

As there are "diversities of operations," so there may be many different ways of forming these bands. The best plan I know is one that we have in operation in our district. In the Young People's Missionary Volunteer Society we have the bands formed according to the line of work taken up, as the ministerial band, periodical band, correspondence band, and Christian Help band, while in the church missionary society, we have the division made according to location, as follows:

The village is divided into six divisions, with a leader appointed over each. These are subdivided into small companies, with a leader over each company. Of course, care is taken to place as leaders the most experienced, capable, and active missionary workers we have. The missionary leader then has divisional meetings with his leaders, and outlines their work, giving them their papers, allotting them territory, etc. The divisional leader then passes this information to the band leaders at their regular meeting. As a majority of the people here are Adventists, most of their missionary work is in the mailing of papers. Quite a number went out to the adjoining towns and secured the names of those who seemed to be interested in reading matter, and an accurate record is kept of papers sent to them so as not to duplicate any. In this way more than a thousand papers a month are sent out. These are followed up by a letter after a few copies have been sent, so as to ascertain the interest, if possible. Some very gratifying letters have been received, and these are an encouragement to every one to be faithful in the good work.

There is another line of work we are trying to do in our conference, although we have made but little headway as yet, and that is to send the *Review* to those who are too poor to subscribe for it. As we try to take subscriptions and find those who are too poor to subscribe, we take their names and ask some who wish to help in that kind of work, to mail their *Review* to them after they have read it.

We have yet to deal with the districting of the territory and records kept. We have tried to divide the territory so that no one will be overlooked and no one overloaded. For one church we drew several maps of the city and allotted to each leader his respective territory.

We would not have you think we have reached perfection by any means, for we have as yet only touched it, as it were, with the tips of our fingers. But when we can get the churches to see that they are responsible to God for working the field about them, they will surely arise as one man and put their whole hand, head, and heart to the finishing of the work. Aside from reporting the work done, there are many reasons why an accurate record should be kept of it, chief of which might be the fact that if the worker should move away or in some way be disabled, a record would enable another to step into his place without embarrassment. Another reason is that it might be well to change once in a while, for often the personality of one member is obnoxious to some. To illustrate: My actions, my tone of voice, and my general bearing may be such that I cannot reach the heart of some individual, whereas another of his neighbors can gain his confidence at once. For this reason it is sometimes advisable to change, that every means possible may be tried, lest a soul should be lost.

A soul be lost! Ah, can it be,
All for the neglect of you and me?

Again: "God has opened fields before us, and if human agencies would but cooperate with divine agencies, many, many souls would be won to the truth. But the Lord's professed people have been sleeping over their allotted work, and in many places it remains comparatively untouched. God has sent message after message to arouse our people to do something, and to do it now. But to the call, 'Whom shall I send?' there have been few to respond, 'Here am I; send me.'"—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. IX, p. 46.

C. U. TAYLOR.

Church Temperature

An interesting and stirring message, given by one of our leading missionary secretaries, contains several experiences which are worth passing on for the encouragement they may bring to our readers. He said:

"I wish you could have been present at a fourth Sabbath missionary service that I attended some months ago. It was one from which I believe every person present went home encouraged to be more active in the Lord's work.

"The first testimony borne was by a woman in the audience. She said there were in her home a well-educated man and his wife who had become deeply interested in reading her copy of the *Signs of the Times*. They had never seen anything like it, and she was thankful for a part in arousing this interest.

"The second speaker told of meeting a lady while out distributing tracts, who at first refused the tracts. She said that a woman had come to her home in Washington, and had convinced her of the proper way to study the Scriptures, and that she did not care to investigate anything else. 'Of what denomination was she?' inquired our sister. To her surprise the lady replied, 'She was a Seventh-day Adventist.' So we see people are being convinced. It is to be hoped that this one will accept the truth.

"Another member said that one of his experiences during the week was praying with a neighbor who had begun to study Christian Science. He succeeded in turning the man's mind from Mrs. Eddy's book to the Word of God. This is only an example of the condition of hundreds today. Dissatisfied with their experience, they reach out for something

better. Earnest work is helping many at just the time of decision. The truth must be given to the honest in heart. Will you help carry it to them?"

This meeting seemed to approach the ideal set before us in "Testimonies for the Church," Vol. VII, p. 19:

"Those who have united with the Lord in the covenant of service are under bonds to unite with him in the great, grand work of soul-saving. Let church members, during the week, act their part faithfully, and on the Sabbath relate their experience. The meeting will then be as meat in due season, bringing to all present new life and fresh vigor."

There is nothing that will raise the spiritual life of the church quicker than for its members to get a burden for the souls of others. A church where the members are actively working for their friends and neighbors and bringing souls into the truth, is a church with a good spiritual temperature.

ERNEST LLOYD.

Missionary Experiences

(For Use in Missionary Meetings)

"FOR the encouragement of all those engaged in scattering the precious seeds of truth, I will relate an incident which came under my notice some weeks ago. Last April some of our young people were engaged in selling magazines and papers in one of our large cities. One was purchased by a gentleman engaged in an office where several other clerks were employed. He carried the magazine into his place of business, and stopping a moment at the desk of a fellow worker, remarked that he had bought the magazine to help some young person to attend school, and she could have it to read. It lay there unnoticed until a friend of the clerk, approaching the desk, was attracted by the beautiful cover design and asked to read it, and was told she could have it and welcome. She pored over the pages with ever-increasing interest, and shortly afterward went to the tract society office and bought some tracts and a copy of 'Bible Readings for the Home Circle.' She then studied every spare moment during the day, and often into the small hours of the morning, so absorbed was she in that wonderful light and truth that was dawning upon her soul.

"She studied along all lines of the third angel's message, gaining an intelligent understanding of them, and becoming strongly established before ever getting acquainted with any of our people or attending any of our meetings.

"She then inquired where she could meet some of our people and was directed to me. We had a very interesting time taking up different lines of present truth together, and I found she was in perfect harmony with us.

"On my last visit, I found she was receiving much opposition from her friends and was passing through deep trials; but was firm in her determination to be true to God and loyal to the truth.

"Our young people are doing a wonderful work, and the precious seed is being watered from on high. Take courage, every one, and sow beside all waters. He that goeth forth in faith and prayer, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again, bearing precious sheaves with him into the great garner of God."

"A stray copy of the *Signs of the Times* was placed in my hands recently, and after a careful and prayerful reading I was convinced that God was giving a message to the world through you, and I want to learn more about you.

"Inclosed is 10 cents for a copy of the September issue, and if you have any other literature describing your work, I should be glad to investigate it to the glory of God. I am pastor here of a small Christian and Missionary Alliance church, and I wish to be identified with all the members of Christ's body who are contending earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

"God is pleased when we take up our duties with gratitude, rejoicing that we are accounted worthy to be collaborators with him."

Missionary Volunteer Department

Programs for Week Ending January 5

Senior and Junior Combined

Topic: "To Every Man His Work."

Our Slogan: "A Year of Active Service."

1. Opening Exercises: Appropriate songs, (as, Nos. 558, 542, 474, 486, "Christ in Song"); a season of earnest prayer, several being requested to lead out; responsive reading (Matt. 25: 31-46).
2. Repeat our Pledge, Aim, and Motto in concert.
3. Study: "Go Work Today in My Vineyard." To be conducted by two members. Ten minutes.
4. Leader's Talk: Our Plans for the New Year.
5. Talk: The 1918 Goal. Five minutes.
6. Our Response: "We Can and We Will." (Social meeting.)
7. Secretary's report, including report of work done.
8. The offering.

To the Leaders

Do not try to plan your work alone. Use your executive committee. Perhaps you feel that they are not interested, and do not have a real burden for the work; but consult them anyway! They may have in them latent possibilities that you have not yet discovered. No one individual should do all the planning, be he ever so brilliant. Work together!

This meeting at the very beginning of the new year should mean much to the society. It will require time and thought some time previous to the meeting to make it accomplish all that it should. The newly elected officers, who form the executive committee of the society, should meet together at the earliest possible date, and study the situation in their society, in order to know what missionary lines can be carried on to the best advantage. Then plan for definite tasks in which the society may engage for the benefit of those outside its own particular circle. These plans should be carefully laid, and ready to launch in the meeting. Merely talking about getting to work will amount to nothing. Be prepared to give every individual in the society some definite task to do. Assign each young person to a band, and notify these individuals of your plans for them. They will feel as if they are "a part of the concern" if you give them to understand that you are expecting something of them.

Do not try to launch too many things. The society which does a few things well is far more useful than the one which attempts many things and does nothing as it should be done.

Don't plan your meeting just to fill up the time, but put forth every effort to inspire your members with the missionary idea.

"Go Work Today in My Vineyard"

Scripture Study

1. What is the great commission? Matt. 28: 19, 20.
2. To how many of his servants has Jesus assigned duties? Mark 13: 34.
3. Do all have equal ability? Matt. 25: 14, 15.
4. Give examples of those who served God in humble ways. Mark 12: 41-44; Acts 9: 36-39.
5. How is our work for God to be done? Eccl. 9: 10.

Testimony Study

(These extracts are taken from "Sowing Beside All Waters," compiled by C. C. Crisler from the manuscripts and published writings of Mrs. E. G. White.)

1. Give one great reason why many young Christians fail to make advancement in the Christian life.

"There are young men and women . . . who have had experience in the truth, but do not advance in the divine life, . . . and they do not know the cause. One cause of their lack of spiritual strength . . . is, they are not workers with Christ. If they would work for Jesus, . . . they would grow in him."

2. What is said of many of God's professed children to-day?

"Many, many are approaching the day of God doing nothing, shunning responsibilities, and as the result they are reli-

gious dwarfs. So far as work for God is concerned, the pages of their life history present a *mournful blank*. They are trees in the garden of God, but only cumberers of the ground."

3. What must we do in order to grow spiritually?

"As we accept the truth, we virtually pledge ourselves to be workers with Christ, to no longer live to do our own will, and serve ourselves, but to be faithful servants of the Master. In order to *grow spiritually* we must be earnest workers in leading others to the truth."

4. Unless we arouse ourselves, and do more for the Master, how will we be reproached in the judgment?

"In the day of God how many will confront us and say, 'I am lost! I am lost! and you never warned me; you never entreated me to come to Jesus. Had I believed as you did, I would have followed every judgment-bound soul with prayers and tears and warnings.'"

"In that day the Master will demand of his professed people, 'What have you done to save the souls of your neighbors? There were many who were connected with you in business, who lived close beside you, whom you might have warned. Why are they among the unsaved?'"

5. What work should the officers of the society be doing?

"Those who have leading places . . . should give more thought to their plans for conducting the work. They should arrange matters so that every member . . . shall have a part to act, that none may lead an aimless life, but that all may accomplish what they can according to their several ability. There should be less sermonizing and more personal labor."

A Suggestive Policy for the Six Months' Term

1. EVERY young person connected with our church a member of the Young People's Society.
2. A Correspondence Band, to meet weekly, with definite time, place, and membership.
3. A reading rack at the crossroads to be supplied three times a week with suitable literature.
4. Send a box of books and clothing to our colored school at Greenwood, Miss.
5. Enlist church members in helping to supply papers, clothing, and money for Band work.
6. Do systematic work with twenty-five sets of *Present Truth*.
7. A quartet to visit the McKinley Hospital once a week to sing for the patients, and to take papers, flowers, and Scripture cards for distribution.
8. Strenuous efforts to reach half of our local society Goal by July 1.
9. A Standard of Attainment Band, to be prepared to take the test in May.
10. Add at least ten books to our society library.

Hints for the Leader's Talk

At the St. Louis World's Fair one of the interesting sights which drew the attention of thousands was a locomotive of the latest type mounted upon a high platform. It had been so placed that the engineer could set it going, so that the wheels revolved and the whole monster throbbled with power; yet the engine never moved forward an inch! It was a remarkable sight. Of course no one could complain because the engine did not move. It was placed there simply to go through the motions, and to be looked at.

But how about a young people's society that is satisfied simply to make a noise, and have the wheels go round? Would you count an organization a success which did nothing but carry out programs?—No! A Missionary Volunteer Society is intended to "ride upon the earth, to couple up with real human needs, and get somewhere."

Sometimes persons complain of the Young People's Missionary Volunteer Society, and say that it is satisfied with programs, and educational features, and merely *talking* about work. These persons are usually unfamiliar with the

inner workings of the society, and are not competent to judge of the great influence for good which is being wielded in the lives of the young people through the society meetings; yet we must admit that practical service needs to be made far more prominent than it has been. Elder Daniells said recently that "a thousand times more Christian Help work should be done by our young people," and he is right. Jesus "went about doing good," and he is our example. This year's slogan is to be "A Year of Active Service." We shall endeavor to prepare plenty of plans, and we ask you each to "pray, persevere, and push" in helping to carry them out. (Your policy for the new term should follow.)

Do You Know the Pledge?

It is safe to say that a large number of our Missionary Volunteers cannot repeat the Pledge from memory. And some cannot even intelligently explain its meaning. Surely this is too bad. Every member should become thoroughly familiar with the Pledge, and every society should insist upon this as something of first importance. Have it printed

Our Pledge

Loving the Lord Jesus, I promise to take an active part in the work of the Young People's Missionary Volunteer Society, doing what I can to help others and to finish the work of the gospel in all the world.

Our Aim

The Advent Message to All the World in This Generation.

Our Motto

The Love of Christ Constraineth Us.

in large type and hung up in the room where the society meetings are held. Repeat it in concert at least once a month. Encourage each member to keep his membership card in a conspicuous place where he will often see the Pledge. It is impossible to be a true Missionary Volunteer without living out the spirit of the Pledge. Then let us know our Pledge, and keep it!

What Can Our Society Do?

Help Your Home Church

GET a list of the members in your church, and find out who are not attending the weekly services. Divide up the names, and visit these members, encouraging them to attend. Perhaps you can assist them by lending a helping hand. Caring for babies and young children who would otherwise keep the mothers at home, calling for indifferent persons and sitting with them at the service, providing a wheel chair for the shut-ins or driving them to the church,—these are some of the ways in which you may help. Take as your motto, "Bring One," and remember that "the light that shines the farthest, shines the brightest nearest home."

Help in all the services of the church. Invite strangers to attend. Be a "welcome committee" to greet not only strangers, but all members whom you meet, with a pleasant word and smile. Join the "front-seat brigade," and make it a point to encourage others to fill the front seats first.

Beautify the grounds about the church. Help to keep the church building neat and tidy, redecorating dingy rooms if they need it. "Brighten the corner where you are."

Mercy and Help

VISITING: "I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." Visit the sick, the shut-ins, the aged, the strangers, the poor, and residents not connected

with any church; visit institutions, such as hospitals, jails, and "homes." Sing, give away papers, flowers, Scripture cards, and dainties. Make scrapbooks, and bind our papers to place in hospitals.

DORCAS WORK: Collect, repair, and make clothing for those in need, piece quilts, do Red Cross work. Our Southern schools are in need of books and clothing. Addresses of these schools may be secured from the Missionary Volunteer Department.

PROVIDE FOOD FOR THE NEEDY: Search out those in destitute circumstances, and supply their necessities.

"Speaking Leaves"

What wonders have been accomplished by the attractive, well-printed, well-written, bright bits of literature we call tracts! Many thousands have accepted the Saviour through the reading of the printed page.

READING RACKS: Place neat racks in railway stations, waiting-rooms, at crossroads in the country, and in other suitable places, and watch these boxes carefully. Do not allow them to get empty. Only clean, neat tracts and papers should find a place in them. Mark each with a rubber stamp, if possible, telling where more literature may be secured if desired.

Place our literature in barber shops, libraries, waiting-rooms of dentists and doctors, hospitals, etc. Carry tracts with you and distribute in trains, street cars, stores, banks, —wherever you may be. Sow beside all waters.

CORRESPONDENCE: It would be well if the whole society would join the Correspondence Band, and meet regularly. Mail papers to individuals, accompanied by a letter. The *Signs of the Times* (weekly) is our best paper for this work. *Present Truth* and *Watchman* are good also. The papers need not be new, but should always be clean and neat. Names may be secured from canvassers, from your conference secretary, or from The Missionary Volunteer Department.

The following sample "first letter" is suggested as a tactful form for gaining the attention of those to whom literature is sent:

DEAR MRS. BROWN:

Many persons are wondering what has caused this terrible war which is now raging, and why the world seems to be going back into barbarism. Perhaps you, too, have been asking this question in your own mind.

Today I am sending you a copy of the *Signs of the Times*, which will help you to answer this question. I shall be pleased to learn how you like the paper, and will gladly send other literature of a similar nature, if you are interested. It is free for the asking.

Very sincerely yours,

When replies are received, the work should be followed up with other encouraging letters and more literature.

The 1918 Goal for the Local Society

HAVE the Goal neatly printed on cardboard, of sufficient size to be seen by all, and displayed at each meeting where all may see it. If all have not yet had opportunity to enrol as members of The Bible Year, now is the time to attend to this. How many are taking the Reading Course? What plans have you for the other items of the Goal?

If your conference Missionary Volunteer secretary has not yet supplied you with your local society Goal, write for it at once. From the very first of the year we should begin to work for definite results, and plan to reach half the Goal by the middle of the year, July 1.

By all means tell your members the final results on your 1917 Goal. If you reached it, this will be a jubilee meeting; if you did not, use this fact as a text from which to urge greater efforts during the year to come.

Put enthusiasm into what you say, and so enthuse the society. "Who has the inspiration? Who the zeal? Who pursues his ideal with confidence in its ultimate success? The enthusiastic man!"

Missionary Volunteer Meeting for Week Ending January 12

Senior

Subject: Mission Outlook for 1918.

*Motto: "The Prospect Is as Bright as the Promises of God."
— Adoniram Judson.*

1. Consecration Song Service, with "Mission Workers" Roll Call. See note.
2. Responsive Reading: Isa. 55: 1-13. See No. 957 "Christ in Song."
3. Recitation: The Missionary.
4. Talks (by four members): (1) The Situation in Europe; (2) The Outlook in the Orient; (3) Our Work in Africa; (4) Progress in Latin America. See "Mission Outlook for 1918," in the *Instructor* of January 1. Three to seven minutes each.
5. Social Meeting.
6. Local Work: Reports and Plans.

Junior

1. Mission Songs, followed by Morning Watch Roll Call.
2. Leader's Talk: Mission Work for the New Year. See "Mission Outlook for 1918" in the *Instructor* of January 1.
3. Recitation: A Call for Workers.
4. Story (told by a boy): William Duncan.
5. Reading: Two Mission Boats in France.
6. Reports and Plans.
7. Practical Work.
8. Close by Repeating the Motto and the Aim.

Notes to the Leaders

SENIOR: The list of our mission workers is growing year by year. Almost every one knows one or more such workers personally or by name. Those who do not number missionary friends among their acquaintances can easily get a name for the roll call from late issues of the *Review* with some interesting fact concerning his work. If the leader feels doubtful of the response to this roll call, he should make a list of mission workers, and distribute the names to the members of his society a week beforehand.

Remember that the article, "Mission Outlook for 1918," in the *Instructor* of January 1, from which the facts for the four mission talks are to be gleaned, was written especially for the Missionary Volunteers. Brethren W. A. Spicer, J. L. Shaw, N. Z. Town, and T. E. Bowen took time to study the four topics given, and to prepare the very best and latest material for our use. Encourage your young people who take part to study their assignments carefully, and to come to the meeting prepared to give them in the most interesting way possible. The use of the mission maps of the different fields will be a helpful feature.

These Mission Talks will prepare the way for a good social meeting. The need is so great—what shall be our response? The call is for workers in the Lord's vineyard—in distant lands, in the home field, right in your own neighborhood and community. Pray for the heavenly anointing, that each one may see just what the Lord wants him to do.

JUNIOR: Make the study practical. Many a boy thrills with the idea of going to Alaska,—the land of hardships,—who will hesitate a long time before going out in the snow and cold to shovel a path for some poor woman whose husband is dead or away from home, and do it for kindness and not for pay. Many a girl may think she would like to travel on a mission boat along the canals of France in peace time, who would not like it at all to give up a little of her spare time to care for a cross baby, or amuse a fretful child, or cheerfully wait on a bedridden old woman. Yes, God's errands are right at hand; he has some for the Juniors of your society. Encourage them to keep their eyes open to see their opportunities, and their ears to hear God's voice telling them what to do for him.

Two Mission Boats in France

SOMETIMES we forget that even in lands where the gospel has been preached a long time, there are many who have never heard it. In every land those who love Jesus may tell the sweet story again and again.

France, like China and Holland, is a land of canals. Everywhere these little waterways run, from village to village and from town to town.

There are thirty-five thousand villages in France, and at least one half of these are built along the banks of the little watercourses of the country. Hundreds of these little towns and hamlets are so remote from the great cities as to be

accessible only by means of that marvelous system of canals which extends like a network all over France, linking these isolated places to the outside world.

In 1892 a quaint little craft was launched on the Marne River. It was registered as a canal boat, and, instead of being fitted up to carry corn or wheat, it bore thousands of Bibles, Testaments, single Gospels, and hymn books to the country folk in hamlet and village, many of whom had never possessed a copy of the Word of God.

On her broad bow was painted in large white letters the name, "Le Bon Messenger," meaning the good messenger. The audience-room, where preaching services were held, had a seating capacity of a hundred and sixty persons; but three hundred were sometimes crowded in, so great was the interest in the meetings, while two hundred other would-be listeners stood outside, on the bank of the canal.

The people of France rival those of any other nation in industry and thrift. They are a kindly, honest, and intelligent people. A crowd of French peasants on market days is a pretty sight. They are always clean, and they wear gay colors. The blue petticoats, deep red kerchiefs, and white caps are very picturesque, with the heavy gold earrings and long gold crosses which many of the women wear on their breasts, heirlooms from time immemorial.

The old villages are very charming, usually of a soft gray color, with crooked streets, neat stucco or whitewashed houses, and a canal and little river winding in and out. The gardens of these houses are tended with the greatest care and pride, many of them running down to the water's edge, brimming over with gay flowers, trailing vines, and overhanging shrubbery. All around is the sweet-smelling country, with vineyards, pastures, and cornfields.

When "Le Bon Messenger" first appeared in these peaceful waters, the peasants, moved by curiosity, tramped from miles around to see the strange craft, but when they heard the gospel story, they listened eagerly, coming night after night, though they had toiled all day in the fields, and had had no time to eat supper. They bought Bibles and Testaments, in order to learn more of the good news.

When after a six weeks' stay the boat must start for a new field, the people said, sadly, "How dismal we shall be in the evening without the lights of the boat." After an absence of fourteen years, visiting other towns, "Le Bon Messenger" returned again to the Aisne, and visited the picturesque little hamlet of Pommiers, with its single street, the quaint twelfth-century church, the old wine depot with its beautiful entrance, its gables, and well houses. Here an old peasant woman said to the captain-evangelist: "Oh, I am so glad to see you again! It is fourteen years since your last visit. Here is the Bible I bought at that time. Every day since, when the day's tasks were done, I have read it, but of late my eyesight has been failing, and I have to hold it very close to the candle in order to see. The other night, in my eagerness, I held it so near the flame, that before I knew it, it had taken fire. Oh, may I not have another Bible?"

In 1902 a second mission boat was launched, its keel was paid for by the self-sacrificing gift of a poor seamstress who had been brought to Christ through "Le Bon Messenger." "La Bonne Nouvelle" (The Good News) was considerably longer than the older boat, and narrower, so as to enable her to pass through the locks everywhere. She was built for the busy French towns and villages along the watershed to the south and the valley of Loire. She has cruised as far as Roanne, about forty miles from Lyons.

At the outbreak of the war the two boats were not in active service. "La Bonne Nouvelle" was laid up for repairs at Mâcon on the Saône, not far from Dijon, and "Le Bon Messenger" was moored at Isles-les-Meldeuses on the Marne. When the Germans were approaching Paris, the English force sank all boats that might help them to cross the Marne, and "Le Bon Messenger" lay for a time at the bottom of the Marne. She has since been raised and repaired. At the earliest moment possible, she will continue her peaceful cruises, together with "La Bonne Nouvelle," bringing comfort to many sad hearts in war-worn France.—*Adapted.*

A Call for Workers

In this world of sin and darkness,
Ripening for the harvest day;
Comes a call for earnest workers;
Who will heed and haste away?

Many in this world are dying
For the need of living bread,
Just to know of Christ the Saviour;
"Feed my sheep," the Master said.

God has given us a message,
Warning, loving, and threefold;
And to every kindred, nation,
Must this message now be told.

Let us haste the Saviour's coming,
Let us now the message heed,
Till the Master says, "'Tis finished,"
Let us slacken not our speed.

MARY E. BARRETT.

The Missionary

THE Lord of love with him has gone;
The gleam is ever by his side;
He has that hand to lean upon,
And O, the weary world is wide!

Wide as the gloom the dawn-light leavens
Till far-up soaring skies shine out,
Where all the winds of all the heavens
Blow east and west and north about.

The night is dark; the way is steep;
Salt are the seas he has to swim;
Lions shall roar about his sleep;
Hunger and thirst shall visit him.

What dens of darkness shall he thread!
What desert marches make! what foes
About his way their snares shall spread,
While mighty armies round him close!

But with the Presence ever near,
As holy powers keep watch and ward,
He goes without a pang of fear,
And heartened by the living Lord!
—Harriet Prescott Spofford.

William Duncan

WILL DUNCAN had made a fine beginning in business. When he announced that he was leaving England to teach the Indians in British Columbia, his employer raised his salary, but he turned his back on five thousand dollars a year. Then his friends ridiculed him and warned him of the dangers.

"Whether I return or not is God's business; going is mine," he replied.

He first saw Fort Simpson on Oct. 1, 1857. It was a long time before the Indians could understand why a white man who was not a trader or a whisky seller had come there. One day an honored chief asked him:

"Is it true that you have come with a letter from the Great Spirit? Is it for the Indians?"

Mr. Duncan showed him a large Bible. Then the chief asked, "Will it give God's heart to the Indian? Will you tell my people that?"

"That is why I have come," answered Duncan.

Then the Indians trusted him. He opened a school. Men and women, as well as children, learned to read. He taught them to work.

But other white men who were there sold whisky to the Indians. There were eleven murders in the tribe the first year, and many quarrels. William Duncan decided that they must build a Christian village. Accordingly, they moved to a new place where the white man's fire water should never come. Here they erected a church, schools, and homes. William Duncan taught them how to govern themselves, and to do many kinds of work. William Duncan, a white-haired man, still lives in the midst of his beloved people. Do you think he has ever regretted his choice?—*Selected.*

Missionary Volunteer Prayer Meeting for
Week Ending January 19

Senior

Subject: "Love Not the World."

Helpful Thought: "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matt. 16:26.

1. Opening Exercises: Appropriate songs, Morning Watch review, Scripture reading (Mark 10:17-22), and prayer.
2. Bible Study: "Love Not the World."
3. Talk by the Leader: The Danger of Worldliness. For helps study the outline for the leader's talk, given on p. 12.
4. Recitation: Why Is It?
5. Social Meeting. Twenty minutes.
6. Special Band Reports. Plans.
7. Close by repeating the Pledge, the Motto, and the Aim in concert, and singing.

Junior

1. Song Service, followed by Morning Watch Drill.
2. Bible Study: Adapt from Senior Study.
3. Recitation: The Angel's Ladder.
4. Reading: Watch the Signposts.
5. Sentence Prayers and short social meeting.
6. The Secretary's Report. Plans for Work.
7. Practical Work.

Note to the Leaders

Give plenty of time to the preparation of this program, and come to the meeting with a definite plan in mind, nothing left at loose ends or to chance. Some one should select the songs to be sung, taking care to choose those that are in harmony with the topic. Often the Spirit of God speaks through the words of a song to hearts that can be reached in no other way. Remember that the suggestive programs given are not regarded as complete. There is always room for special music, and often in changing the order of the meeting, a song freshens it up like a revivifying breeze.

The Senior leader should study the outline given for the talk on the Danger of Worldliness, think about it, pray over it, and try to make every point clear, and to present it so tactfully that none will feel that the arrows of truth are barbed with personalities. The talk should be brief. Remember what President Wilson is credited with saying,—that if he is called upon to give a ten-minute speech, he must have all of two weeks in which to prepare it; if it is to be a half-hour speech, he needs a week; but if he can talk as long as he wants to, he is ready any time. You want to give a ten-minute talk; then take time to get ready.

Prayer is our source of power. No talks, no studies, no readings, even from the Bible itself, can take the place of prayer in our meetings. One young man, telling what the Missionary Volunteer meetings had done for him, said: "They have taught me to pray." Encourage the spirit of prayer and praise in your meetings.

This week, under "Thoughts on the Topic," page 12, you will find a number of paragraphs on the dangers of worldliness. If your society is small, pass these out to the different members, to give in their own words in the meeting. If it is large, give these slips to the more backward members.

The Junior leader should remind the children that bearing witness for Jesus is not confined to the brief time in the meeting. They are bearing witness for him as they walk to school and return home, in the way in which they treat one another, and by their deeds of kindness to the unfortunate.

Plan some practical work for the children to do. If the meeting is a midweek one, help them to make scrapbooks for children's hospitals, small and easy to hold, with bright pictures, and helpful stories from the *Little Friend* and the *Instructor*. Some of them will like to knit for the soldiers. Others will be able to think of ways to help the needy close at hand.

Bible Study: "Love Not the World"

1. WHAT reason is given for the command, "Love not the world?" 1 John 2:15, last clause.
2. Explain the meaning of "the world" in this text. Verse 16.
3. What is the end of worldliness? Verse 17.
4. To what will the love of the world surely lead? Rom. 12:2. (By beholding we become changed; as a man thinketh in his heart, "so is he." Love of the world and the things of the world will surely lead to conformity to its standards.)
5. What must ever be the first purpose of the servant of Christ? Gal. 1:10.
6. Why can he not hope to please both? Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13.

7. What is the friendship of the world? James 4:4.

8. What motive actuated Jesus in giving himself for his church? Eph. 5:24-27.

9. How does the love of the world in the heart thwart this purpose? James 1:27. (It is Christ's purpose to present his church "without spot." Those who reach his standard will be "unspotted from the world.")

10. Give Bible examples of persons who have been led into sin by their love of the world and its pleasures and friendships. See Joshua 7; Judges 16; 1 Kings 11:1-13; 2 Kings 6:5, 15-27; John 13:26, 27; 18:1-5; 2 Tim. 4:10.

11. To whom is the command, "Love not the world," especially applicable? Why? Luke 21:34-36; Rom. 13:12-14.

12. How can we overcome the world? 1 John 4:4; 5:4, 5.

Leader's Talk in Outline

Worldliness Separates from God

SPEAK of the three ways in which worldliness hinders Christian growth. Specify three special dangers to be met by young people today.

"To put oneself where evil is, simply to see it or hear it; to visit low places from curiosity, or to take fire in one's hand and heart to find whether it will burn; to expose oneself, excepting as a helper of Christ, to anything, anywhere, that debases, is folly, folly only, and sinful folly at that. It is not wise to join any organization, club, society, whatever it may be; to align oneself with any business; to give oneself to any coterie, until environment has been studied, and we know whether environment is to pull us down or build us up."—*McClure*.

Danger in Worldly Friendship

God loves the world. He loved it so much that he gave his Son to redeem it. Jesus loved the world enough to suffer and die for it. We must distinguish between loving to *save*, and loving to *serve*. Mrs. E. G. White says:

"The true followers of Christ cannot enjoy the friendship of the world and at the same time have their life hid with Christ. The affections must be withdrawn from the treasures of earth, and transferred to the heavenly treasure."

What the World Offers

All the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them were offered to Jesus, if he would bow in worship before Satan. How often the wily enemy of men has offered the treasures of the world, its power and honor and money, to those who would but yield some small scruple to him! Jesus resisted Satan, and overcame. In his strength we may do likewise.

What the World Gives

"There are many whose hearts are aching under a load of care because they seek to reach the world's standard. They have chosen its service, accepted its perplexities, adopted its customs. Thus their character is marred, and their life made a weariness. In order to gratify ambition and worldly desires, they wound the conscience, and bring upon themselves an additional burden of remorse."—*"The Desire of Ages,"* p. 330.

Bunyan illustrates this truth by the story of the man with the muck rake. Here was a man bowed and bent with toil, raking, raking, raking in the litter with which he was surrounded, hoping to gain some treasure from the heap. He "could look no way but downward," while "there stood also one over his head, with a celestial crown in his hand, and proffered to give him that crown for his muck rake; but the man did neither look up nor regard, but raked to himself the straws, the small sticks, and the dust of the floor." He loved the poor stubble of the earth so much that he lost the pure gold of heaven.

Things That Endure

It is because of his love for us that God warns us against worldliness. He knows how brief a time "all that is in the world" will endure. Soon "the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll," and the earth and all its treasures shall be burned up. "But he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

Thoughts on the Topic

(These are to be given, *not read*, by different members in the social meeting, as a basis for their testimony.)

SHUT out every worldly consideration. Make your decisions for eternity.—*Mrs. E. G. White*.

IF we are to keep ourselves unspotted from the world as we pass through its foul streets, we must see that no unholy thing is for a moment tolerated in our heart.—*Selected*.

WHEN the love of the world takes possession of the heart, and becomes a ruling passion, there is no room left for adoration to God.—*"Testimonies for the Church,"* Vol. III, p. 385.

COMPANIONSHIP always leaves its impress. The admitting into the life, even for a little time, of a companionship that is not what it should be, cannot but lower the tone of the life.—*J. R. Miller*.

JUST so truly as God and the world are at war, so with us, the moment our lives are laid down in uncompromising obedience to him, they are laid down in utter and uncompromising contrariety with the things he has told us we are not to love.—*Robert E. Speer*.

A MAN said to D. L. Moody, "Now that I am converted, have I got to give up the world?" Mr. Moody answered, "No, you haven't got to give up the world; if you give a good ringing testimony for the Son of God, the world will give you up pretty quick; they won't want you around."

THERE is no real happiness in the life of the worldling. Its heart is selfishness, and selfishness is always unhappy. The heart of Christianity is unselfishness, and that is always joy. The Christian life knows how to conquer all evil, to rise triumphant over all sorrow, to master every difficulty. It is on earth a foretaste of heaven.—*Selected*.

CHRIST will accept of nothing but the whole heart, the entire affections. The friendship of the world is enmity with God. When you desire to so live as to shun reproach, you are seeking a position above your suffering Lord; and while engaged in this, you are separating from your Father in heaven,—exchanging his love for that which is not worth obtaining.—*"Testimonies for the Church,"* Vol. II, p. 493.

WRITING to a sister in the church, Mrs. E. G. White once said: "Jesus was presented to me, pointing to the charms of heaven, seeking to attract your eyes from the world, and saying, 'Which will ye choose, me, or the world? You cannot have me and the love of the world too. Will you sacrifice him who died for you for the pride of life, for the treasures of the world? Choose between me and the world; the world has no part in me.'"

A story is told of a young man who came to a university to study law. One day he told a friend of his ambition to take a doctor's degree. "And what then?" inquired his friend. "Then I shall enter the courts, win cases, and gain a great reputation." "And then?" "Then I shall be promoted to some high office." "And then?" "Then I shall grow rich." "And then?" "Then I shall live in honor and dignity." "And then?" "Then I shall die at a good old age." "And then?" His ambition went no further. It was centered on earthly things.—*Selected*.

Why Is It?

THE world is good in its own poor way,
There is rest by night and high spirits by day,
Yet the world is not happy, as the world might be—
Why is it? Why is it? Oh, answer me!

The Cross shines fair, and the church bell rings,
And the earth is peopled with holy things;
Yet the world is not happy, as the world might be—
Why is it? Why is it? Oh, answer me!

What lackest thou, world? for God made thee of old;
Why, thy faith hath gone out, and thy love hath grown cold,
Thou art not happy as thou mightest be,
For the want of Christ's simplicity.

It is love that thou lackest, thou poor old world!
Who shall make thy love hot for thee, frozen old world?
Thou art not happy as thou mightest be,
For the love of dear Jesus is little in thee.

Poor world! if thou cravest a better day,
Remember that Christ must have his own way;
I mourn thou art not as thou mightest be,
But the love of God would do all for thee.

—*Faber*.

The Angels' Ladder

"If there were a ladder, mother,
Between the earth and sky,
As in the days of the Bible,
I would bid you all good-by,
And go through every country,
And search from town to town,
Till I had found the ladder,
With angels coming down.

"Then I would wait quite softly,
Beside the lowest round,
Till the sweetest-looking angel
Had stepped upon the ground;
I would pull his dazzling garment,
And speak out very plain,
'Will you take me, please, to heaven,
When you go back again?'"

"Ah, darling," said the mother,
'You need not wander so
To find the golden ladder
Where angels come and go.
Wherever gentle kindness
Or pitying love abounds,
There is the wondrous ladder,
With angels on the rounds."
—*Memory Gems.*

Watch the Signposts

THIS is the day of the signpost. We do not see so many signs saying "Ten Miles to ——" as we used to see; or maybe it is because there are so many other signs that we do not notice these humble ones. "Danger!" "Go slowly!" "Keep to the right!" "Listen here!" "Stop!"—these are a few of the signs that the driver of an automobile must watch, especially along a crowded street, or on a mountain road.

Where there is a long, clear highway, no turns, no hills, little traffic, it is safe to dash ahead at a good speed; but where there is danger, we must watch the signs and heed their warning, if we wish to arrive safely at our journey's end, and not cause trouble to others.

Men have often compared the Christian life to a journey, —a long journey over a toilsome road. Sometimes, it is true, the road lies in pleasant places, but always it is narrow, and sometimes it is rough and steep and hard to walk in.

Those who travel this highway are called Pilgrims. Some of them are old, and some are middle-aged, and some are young—just your age. But they are all alike in certain things—they see, all along the way, delightful little highways branching off, with flowers and music and laughter and many children playing in them. Some of these paths are so bright, so gay, and so lovely to look at, that the Little Pilgrims in the narrow road wander away. They wonder why they cannot play there for a time, and then come back to the straight road when they have enjoyed the delights of these forbidden ways. Why not, when it all looks so inviting?

We know, of course, that these alluring little paths lead to the Broad Road, whose destination is named Destruction. That is why we must shun them.

But how shall we know how to avoid them?—By the signposts which have been set up at every danger point all along the way. There are so many of these signposts, and they make the way very clear. The one we have today is placed near one of the most attractive byways that we shall ever meet, all along the journey—"LOVE NOT THE WORLD."

In fine print under the sign we may read the reasons, if we stop to take the time. But if we are in great haste, perhaps on some errand for the King, we may just read the warning, and keep to the right path.

I read the other day the story of a little boy who was very anxious to be rich. He thought that if he could only have the things that gold would buy, he would be perfectly happy. One day he found in the rocks a bit of bright, glistening stone, which he thought was gold. He showed it to his father and mother, and they wondered about it too. But they soon found that it was not gold at all—only something

that looked like gold. "Fool's gold," it is called. And the little boy, who had been so happy over the thought of possessing this gold, was very unhappy when he found it was nothing but iron pyrites.

There are a great many persons in the world today who are just like that little boy. They want the pleasures of the world, and its praise, and its friends, because they imagine these things will make them happy. But all these things will not endure the testing that will surely come to the world. They are only "fool's gold."

Jesus told us about a certain rich man who dearly loved the things of this world. The more he got, the more he wanted. When his barns were filled to overflowing, he said to himself that he would build bigger barns, and he would make them large enough to hold all his goods. Then he would stop working, and have a good time all the rest of his life, eating and drinking and making merry.

He was going to enter one of those byways, you see, where there is only pleasure and delight—no work, no study, no self-denial; just fun from morning till night.

The signpost was there, with its warning, but he did not heed it. Straight ahead he started—but he stopped very suddenly.

God spoke to him. "Thou fool," he said, "this night thy soul shall be required of thee."

What a foolish man! his heart set on fool's gold, and the things of the world, which are foolishness with God!

For God knows all about these roads. He sees the end from the beginning; he knows the things which will endure, and those things which will be consumed as stubble in the fires of the last day. That is why he has placed the signposts at the danger places for us. Shall we heed their warning?

MRS. I. H. EVANS.

Programs for Week Ending January 26

Senior

Topic: "Be Ready Always."

1. Devotional Exercises.
2. Roll Call. See note.
3. Recitation: The Sufficing Bible.
4. Pioneer Pictures. See note.
5. Leader's Talk: What the Standard of Attainment Is. See *Instructor* of January 15. Ten minutes.
6. Symposium: *Because* —. See note.
7. Special Music.
8. Talk: How to Become a Member of Attainment. Enrollment.

Junior

Subject: *The Book of Books.*

1. Songs: "Give Me the Bible," and others.
2. A Chain of Prayer. See note.
3. Roll Call: Response with Bible Promises.
4. Picture Parables. See note.
5. Recitation: The Book of Books.
6. Bible Drill. See note.
7. Leader's Talk: How the Bible Helps, followed by Bible Year Enrollment.
8. Reports of work done, and plans for the coming week.

Notes to the Leaders

SENIOR: Plan to keep your meeting within the hour limit. If more material is furnished than you use to advantage, make a selection from it. Short, inspiring meetings do most good usually.

For the roll call pass out to each member one or more of the items given under "Standard of Attainment Roll Call." Have the secretary call the names on the membership list, each one responding by giving, in his own words, the item assigned to him. Request each one to speak clearly and distinctly, so that the exercise shall be of benefit to all.

"Pioneer Pictures" is sure to be interesting if well conducted. For ten cents a set of four fine pictures of our early pioneers may be secured from the Review and Herald, Takoma Park, D. C. Arrange to have one of your members glean a few interesting facts on the life of each of these pioneers from "The Great Second Advent Movement." As each picture is shown to the society, give the items of interest prepared, and ask the society to name the picture.

The Symposium "Because —" may be given by several members who have previously studied one or more of the

items under, "Why You Should Become an Attainment Member." The leader might ask the question, "Why should every one of us be members of Attainment?" the different members responding one after another without being called upon.

Do not forget the enrolment of candidates for Standard of Attainment. If you have not secured regular enrolment blanks, neat slips of paper will answer the purpose. Form an Attainment Band, with a good live leader. This is usually the most successful way.

JUNIOR: To encourage the children to pray, call on several to lead in short prayers, one following another in the order that the names are called. Suggest a definite subject for prayer—perhaps it might be for Jesus to give each one a deeper love for the Bible, and to help every boy and girl to read God's Word *every day*.

A week ahead, ask each child to be prepared to repeat a Bible verse in answer to the Roll Call. Perhaps some would do better if you would assign to them a particular verse.

For "Picture Parables" ask three of the children to come prepared to tell one of the parables of Jesus. Give each one who is to take part in this exercise a parable which you think is within his ability to reproduce. Then have pictures illustrating the parable, which you will show as the story is told. "Christ's Object Lessons," "The Desire of Ages," and "Easy Steps in the Bible Story" have very good pictures on "The Good Samaritan," "The Prodigal Son," "The Sower," and others. Luke's Gospel contains the most parables. Chapters 8, 10, and 15 are especially good.

For the Bible Drill, see that every child has a Bible to use. Give out a text of Scripture, and ask those who find it most quickly to stand. Call on one of these to read the text. A half-dozen texts will be sufficient for one drill. As the children see their inability to turn readily to these texts, encourage them to memorize the books of the Bible. You might assign this as home work.

At the conclusion of the leader's talk, take an expression from the children as to how many are taking the Junior Bible Year, and endeavor to enlist as many more as possible in this profitable reading.

Plan definite work *each week* for your Juniors. Children need constant supervision and encouragement; but *how they will work* if only there is some one to direct them!

Standard of Attainment Roll Call

As early as *March, 1844*, about forty persons began the observance of the Sabbath at Washington, N. H., through the influence of Rachel Preston. From this place several Adventist ministers received the Sabbath truth during the same year. One of these was Elder T. M. Preble, who was one of the first to bring this great truth before the Adventists through the medium of the press.

THE first document ever issued by any one connected with this denomination was a leaflet dated *April 6, 1846*, and addressed "To the Remnant Scattered Abroad." It was written by Ellen G. Harmon. Two hundred and fifty copies were printed, the expense of which was borne by James White and H. S. Gurney.

IN *August, 1846*, Joseph Bates published the first Sabbath tract, a forty-eight-page pamphlet, entitled "The Seventh-Day Sabbath a Perpetual Sign," the reading of which, James White said in the *Review and Herald*, "confirmed us on the subject."

THE first general meeting of Sabbath keepers was held *April 20 and 21, 1848*, at Rocky Hill, eight miles from Middletown, Conn.

THE first periodical, a semimonthly entitled the *Present Truth*, was begun by James White as publisher and editor, in *July, 1849*, at Middletown, Conn. It afterward became our present *Review and Herald*.

VOLUME I, No. 1, of the *Youth's Instructor* appeared in *August, 1852*, at Rochester, N. Y. It was a monthly at that time. Today it is a weekly and is four times as large as it then was.

IN *1853* the first regular Sabbath schools were organized in Rochester and Bucksbridge, N. Y.

IN *1854* the first sales of denominational literature were made by J. N. Loughborough in a tent effort at Rochester, Mich.

AT a meeting held at Battle Creek, Mich., *Sept. 23, 1855*, it was decided to remove the denominational headquarters to Battle Creek.

October 1, 1860, the name Seventh-day Adventist was adopted as a denominational title.

THE Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association was incorporated *May 3, 1861*.

September 5, 1866, our first sanitarium, the Health Reform Institute, was opened at Battle Creek, Mich.

IN *1868* the first local tract and missionary society was organized in South Lancaster, Mass. This same year our educational work began, when Prof. G. H. Bell opened a small school in Battle Creek, Mich.

OUR first missionary sent to a foreign field, Elder J. N. Andrews, sailed from Boston for Europe, *Sept. 15, 1874*.

OUR first college was built in *1874*, at Battle Creek, Mich.

IN *1878* the General Sabbath School Association was organized. The same year Sabbath school contributions were first taken up.

IN *1886* Elder L. R. Conradi was sent to Russia. He was our first missionary to a non-Protestant country.

IN *1894* our first work was begun in a non-Christian land, —Matabeleland, South Africa.

THE denominational headquarters was transferred to Washington, D. C., *Aug. 10, 1908*.

IN *July, 1907*, the General Conference Young People's Missionary Volunteer Department was organized at Mount Vernon, Ohio. This is a date that every Missionary Volunteer should remember.

The Book of Books

(Hold Bible in hand, and at the last line hold it up for all to see)

MEN's books with heaps of chaff are stored;
God's Book doth golden grains afford;
Then leave the chaff and spend your pains
In gathering up the golden grains.
Why, if the sun were purest gold,
And all the stars were wealth untold,
And our earth were a silver ball,
This blessed Book were worth them all.

—Selected.

The Sufficing Bible

WHEN I am tired, the Bible is my bed;
Or in the dark, the Bible is my light;
When I am hungry, it is vital bread;
Or fearful, it is armor for the fight.
When I am sick, 'tis healing medicine;
Or lonely, thronging friends I find therein.

If I would work, the Bible is my tool;
Or play, it is a harp of happy sound;
If I am ignorant, it is my school;
If I am sinking, it is solid ground.
If I am cold, the Bible is my fire;
And it is wings, if boldly I aspire.

Should I be lost, the Bible is my guide;
Or naked, it is raiment rich and warm.
Am I imprisoned? it is ranges wide;
Or tempest-tossed? a shelter from the storm.
Would I adventure, 'tis a gallant sea;
Or would I rest, it is a flowery lea.

Does gloom oppress? the Bible is a sun;
Or ugliness? it is a garden fair.
Am I athirst? how cool its currents run!
Or stifled? what a vivifying air!
Since thus thou givest of thyself to me,
How should I give myself, great Book, to thee?

—Amos R. Wells.

Why You Should Become an Attainment Member

Because you should understand Bible Doctrines.

Because you should know our Denominational History.

As to the importance of knowing our denominational history, the Spirit of prophecy says: "The work is soon to close. The members of the church militant who have proved faithful will become the church triumphant. In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment and with confidence in Christ as our leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and his teaching in our past history."

Because you should "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." 1 Peter 3:15.

Because "ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

Because you must know the truth for yourself. You cannot appear before God's judgment bar by proxy. "Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it [the land], they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God." Eze. 14:14.

Because "none but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict."—*"The Great Controversy," pp. 593, 594.*

Because it is your business to lead others to Christ. You cannot lead them unless you know the way. Many know there are beautiful and important truths in the Bible, but if unexpectedly called upon to act as a guide to others, they must admit their ignorance, and thus lose many precious opportunities of guiding individuals to the Fountain of life. Little truth reaches the ungodly save as it "filters through the lives of the godly." We must know the truth before we can live it, and before we can teach it to others.

Because you can become a member of Attainment if you will.

How to Become a Member of Attainment

How is such an important little word! We often hear of things which we would like very much to undertake, but, "How am I to go about it?" is the query. This is especially true of the Standard of Attainment. Many would like to become Attainment members, but they feel that the task is too great for them. True it is that careful study and perseverance are required; but any one who will honestly endeavor, can succeed.

The tests now come in May and December. Begin now to prepare for the examination in May. Longer time for preparation will be needed by some. If you feel that you cannot prepare for both Bible Doctrines and Denominational History at the same time, plan to devote your time to one of these subjects, and try only that one in May. Then study the next subject and take the December test in it. When you have received a satisfactory grade in each subject, you will be awarded your certificate.

Upon request, the examination papers will be sent to either the church elder or the leader of the Missionary Volunteer Society, and are not to be opened until the hour appointed for the test.

BIBLE DOCTRINES: At the back of the 1918 Morning Watch Calendar are two pages devoted to Bible Doctrines texts for Standard of Attainment study. Master these texts. It is not required that you memorize them word for word, but learn the references, and become thoroughly familiar with the substance of each verse, so that you can state what it proves. Drill, *drill*, DRILL! This is absolutely necessary. These texts form the basis of the examinations. The *Family Bible Teacher*, "Bible Readings for the Home Circle," and other literature of a similar nature will be found helpful in more clearly understanding these subjects. When you think you have a subject thoroughly in mind, try presenting it to someone endeavoring to make every part clear. This will help you to find your weak points, and to see where you need to study.

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY: "The Great Second Advent Movement," "Outline of Mission Fields," and the "Review and Herald" are used in this study. A new leaflet containing one hundred and twenty-five questions on the book "The Great Second Advent Movement" and "Outline of Mission Fields" is now ready for use, and the future examinations in Denominational History will be based upon these questions, with this exception: One question on current missions will always be given in each examination, and our young people should be readers of the *Review and Herald* to be prepared for this.

Now isn't the whole plan simple? Enrol today as a candidate for Standard of Attainment membership. You will find it much easier to study and to make progress if a Standard of Attainment Band is formed, with a leader in charge who is possessed of push and perseverance. Meet regularly.

Review constantly. Keep at it. Do not allow the word "discouragement" in your vocabulary. If you follow out this program, you will be a member of Attainment before 1918 closes.

How the Bible Helps

THERE was once a boy who had a dear sweet mother, and he used to kneel down by her side and say his prayers each night, and so grew up to be a manly little fellow. But when he became older, he met some bad boys, and they taught him many wrong and dreadful things. He began to do things that were not nice, things that made his mother cry. By and by he told lies and then began to steal. His life, that was once so clean and white, began to be darkened. Sin entered his life and blackened it. He seemed to do more evil things each day. His life was becoming more and more wicked every day. His father and mother thought education would help him. But the education did not clear up his darkened life. They thought money would help. But it didn't, though they bought him many splendid things and made him travel. They thought the beautiful things of life, such as art and music and flowers, would help. But they did no good.

At last he committed a crime and was put in prison. There some one gave him a Bible. He had always had a Bible, which he had neglected in his later life; but now, when everything was so black, he turned to this Bible for help. He read there about the poor boy who ran away from home and did wrong, just as he had done, and yet was forgiven by his father when he repented and ran back to him. He knelt down by his cot in the prison, and laid his head on the open Bible, and cried as if his heart would break; and he prayed to God, and asked him to forgive him, and to blot out his sins, and let him live a new, clean life again. And God answered his prayer. He rose from his cot, and felt as if a heavy load had been lifted from him, as if the burden of his darkened life had been rolled away. He became a new man from that moment, because in the Bible he had found the good news of God's forgiveness and love, because in the Bible he had found a Saviour and a Master.

There was great happiness in the hearts of his father and mother, and even the angels in heaven rejoiced with great joy because this poor darkened life had become white and clean again.

My Juniors, do not wait until sin has blackened your life, before you turn to God's precious Book. Let us begin now to read it every day. [Bible Year enrolment.]—*Adapted.*

A Good Society Leader

HE will be a loyal and intelligent Seventh-day Adventist.

He will keep constantly in mind the real purpose of the Missionary Volunteer Society.

He will be able to enlist others in active service; to set them to work without coaxing, scolding, or pouting.

He will study, and make careful use of, the *Gazette*.

He will be quick to note and welcome strangers in the meeting.

He will learn how to make announcements briefly, impressively, and effectively.

He will be quietly training several members to take his place.

He will plan his work as a general plans his campaign.

He will be a ready and satisfactory filler of vacant places, ready to step in at a moment's notice, thereby saving a situation which may be threatened with disaster.

He will carry a notebook with him always, containing the names and addresses of all society members. There will be pages for ideas and plans; for dates of coming events; for book lists; and in short, for anything of interest to the society, which would be lost but for the notebook.

In addition to all this, a good leader will have large patience, and a sunny, optimistic outlook on life.

Least these things should discourage somebody, let it be said that all these qualifications can be acquired by any ordinarily intelligent young Christian, if he is determined to do his best for the Lord.—*Adapted.*

