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Church Officers' General Instruction Department

Calendar

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Lessons for the Use of Church Elders

Lesson 55

Announcements.
Hymn.
Prayer.
Hymn.
Lesson: Time of Trouble.

Time of Trouble

1. Time of trouble as never was. Dan. 12:1.
2. Will be in all the earth. Matt. 24:30.
3. Will be a time of Jacob's trouble. Jer. 30:5-7.
4. Will come on the rich. Isa. 2:17-22.
5. Labor trouble will develop. James 5:1-4.
6. There will be war. Jer. 4:19, 20.
7. There will be famine and pestilence. Matt. 24:7.
8. There will be persecution. Rev. 13:15-17.
9. There will be great anguish. Zeph. 1:14-18.
10. Our duty in view of the time of trouble. Zeph. 2:1-3.

Note

"The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger,—a faith that will not faint, though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for his blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is? How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God!"—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 621.

Lesson 56

Announcements.
Hymn.
Prayer.
Hymn.
Lesson: The Church.

The Church

1. *Divine origin:*
By the Lord. Matt. 16:18.
2. *Meaning of the word "church":*
The word "church" means an assembly, and in the New Testament has two meanings:

- a. The whole body of Christian believers. Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22; Heb. 12:23.
 - b. To a particular or local Christian congregation. Acts 8:1; 11:22, 26; Rom. 16:1, 4, 5.
3. *The structure:*
- a. The foundation is Christ Jesus. Eph. 2:19, 20; 1 Cor. 3:11.
 - b. Christ is also its head. 1 Cor. 10:1-4; Eph. 5:23.
 - c. Is Christ's body. Eph. 1:22, 23; 5:30; Col. 1:18, 24; 1 Cor. 12:12, 27.
 - d. Each believer is a living stone in the temple. 1 Peter 2:4, 5; Eph. 2:21.
 - e. Is the light of the world. Matt. 5:13-16.

Note

"The Lord has a people, a chosen people, his church, to be his own, his own fortress, which he holds in a sin-stricken, revolted world." "The church of Christ, enfeebled and defective as it may be, is the only object on earth on which he bestows his supreme regard."—*Mrs. E. G. White, in General Conference Bulletin, 1893, p. 408.*

G. B. THOMPSON.

The Church Elder and the Young People

WOODROW WILSON said: "It is one of the principal tasks of each generation of mature persons in this world to hand on the work of the world to the next generation." And it surely is true that there is no more important work committed to any generation or people than the work of training the rising generation.

There is no more important work committed to the church than that of transmitting to its young people the Christian ideal and of training them in the service of Christ. As stated by the Spirit of prophecy, "The work that lies nearest to our church members is to become interested in our youth."—*"Testimonies for the Church,"* Vol. VI, p. 196.

This being true, it surely is the duty of the church elder to think and pray about the children and young people. He should manifest a deep interest in them, both in and out of church. In other words, he should be a lover of children. He should love them not from a sense of duty, but for love's sake, as Jesus did. The "professional" minister or church elder has very little influence with anybody, and least of all with children. They are quick to detect any "put on," or insincerity.

Is it a worthy ambition for the church elder to wish to be popular with the children and young people? It is evident that we cannot lead very far young people who do not like us. It surely is proper for the church elder to think and plan and pray to the end that he may have influence with the youth.

Lest any one should misunderstand, let me hasten to say that he should never lower the standard of Christianity to gain favor with the youth; but one can school himself to enter into the feelings of young people and to appreciate the viewpoint from which they see things, without violating Christian principles. Nothing will more help a church elder to keep himself young and to keep himself in the graces of the young people than to show a kindly interest in the things in which they are interested. A dignified professor had a little snowballing with a fifteen-year-old boy, and the boy at once was drawn to that man,—*"a fine fellow!"*

But interest in the work or play of the young people is not sufficient. Many manifest such an interest, but do the young people no good. The highest interest you can show in any one is the interest in the things that make for character and eternal life. Few young people will resent such an interest if they know it is genuine.

All this means that the church elder will have the young people on his heart at all times—in his daily association with the families of the church, in his pastoral visiting, in his planning for the church services, and in his relation to the Sabbath school and Missionary Volunteer Society. In his talks he will remember to say something for the youth. He will remember the words of Jesus, "Feed my lambs." As has been said, some elders act as if Jesus said, "Feed my giraffes." The feed should be put down where the lambs can get it. It will not usually be in the form of scoldings or labored arguments, but just simple, helpful, encouraging lessons and illustrations which the children can understand. And then by personal effort the church elder should endeavor to reap the fruit of his public instruction. Elder A. G. Daniells has told the following story of the influence of the church elder upon his life:

"I will give an incident in my life that will illustrate what a faithful church elder can do for the young. When a boy I became a Christian, and tried hard to do right. At one time I became very much discouraged. One Sabbath day, when in the meeting, the brethren and sisters were telling how good the Lord had been to them, and how they loved him. I felt so disheartened that I decided to give up and end the struggle. So when the meeting was over, I hurried out of the church so that no one would speak to me. I stepped around the corner of the building to wait for mother.

"As I was standing there, our good old church elder, just the man I did not want to see, came around the corner of the church. He said, 'Well, Arthur, I have been looking for you.' He said he had noticed that I had not taken any part in the meetings for three Sabbaths, that he had been thinking about me and wondering what was the reason. He wondered if he had done anything that had discouraged me, or if his example had not been good, if I had lost courage because of him. Then he said, 'If I have, I want you to forgive me.' Well, I could not have an old saint talk like that to me, so I broke down and began to cry. I said, 'You have not done anything. I am a sinner, I cannot be a Christian, I have tried and given it up.' At this the old man put his hand on my shoulder and said he knew what it was to become discouraged, that he had passed through the same experience. He assured me that he had confidence in me, and that I must not give up, but try again and he would pray for me. I looked up into his face, and said, 'I will try again.' And never since that time have I given up the struggle."

M. E. KERN.

A Faithful Church Clerk

Too much stress cannot, I believe, be laid upon the importance of faithfulness on the part of our church officers in the various duties and responsibilities accepted by them when they permit themselves to be elected to an office in the church. I think the duties of each of the officers are quite clearly understood, especially that of the elder or leader and the treasurer, it being generally recognized that the elder's office is that of shepherd of the flock, and that to him falls the responsibility of conducting the meetings or arranging for the same week by week, and leading the people in their missionary work. The treasurer has the responsibility of handling the sacred funds for the local church intrusted to his care in the matter and for the purpose for which they are given. Also the missionary secretary's duties and responsibilities are made clear in that upon him or her, as the case may be, rests much of the responsibility of looking after and keeping the fires of missionary activity burning in the church. With our many lines of missionary activity, it is not hard for an alert missionary secretary to find plenty to do himself, as well as interesting all members of the church in some lines of missionary work.

But sometimes our church clerks feel that their work is quite nonessential and does not amount to much except to enter the names of church members on their book and to make proper entry of dismissals whether by death, apostasy, or letter. I wish to impress the fact that the work of the clerk is much more than the mere formality of keeping the minutes of the business meetings and the record of the names of the members in the book.

Just the other day I was greatly impressed with the influence that a consecrated church clerk may have. In a conversation with a sister now well along in years, who with a brother and sister in their early teens were lone Sabbath keepers, the mother having died in the faith and the father not being a Sabbath keeper, she remarked that it was the influence of the faithful church clerk who really held them as children to the truth. Though fifty miles from the church, and young people or mere children as they were, not having the opportunity of attending Sabbath school or church services except possibly on very rare occasions, the faithful church clerk wrote each one of them a personal, inspiring, and encouraging letter regularly before every quarterly meeting. This personal interest on the part of the church clerk, the sister said, was what really held her and her brother and sister to the truth during those trying years of their experiences, and they are all still faithful in the message.

I wonder if all our church clerks are as faithful as the one here referred to. I am sure that scores if not hundreds of our people who are isolated and are away from those of like precious faith, not having the opportunity of church and Sabbath school privileges, might be held to the truth if only a little more kindly and personal interest was taken in them by the church clerks. No quarter should ever be allowed to pass without every absent church member's receiving a kindly letter from his church clerk. This will take time and effort, but the efforts will be rewarded in eternity. Did you ever stop to think that the New Testament is quite largely made up of letters that the apostles wrote to individuals and churches?—letters that were imbued with the Spirit of God, coming from a heart of love, so that the Lord saw fit to use these letters as we have them in the epistles to churches and individuals. Will not the same Lord who gave these men of old an inspiration to write encouraging and cheering letters to others, bless our church clerks (and other officers too) if they will take a little more time to write letters of encouragement, especially to the absent ones of their own household of faith? As before suggested, it is the duty of every church clerk to write to every absent member long enough before each quarterly meeting service so that the member can have time to respond with a letter to the church.

I fear that the old-time custom of our denomination in having the clerk call the church roll of its members just before participating in the ordinances of the Lord's house, and having a word of personal testimony from all members present and a letter from absent members, is somewhat departing from us. But there is nothing that will help us so much in keeping our church membership alive as this custom. I feel, therefore, to urge that in any church where the custom has not been practiced of late, it be revived, and that our church clerks take upon themselves, as the important part of their work, the keeping in touch with absent members by correspondence.

The incident above referred to ought to be enough to encourage all to faithfulness. The boy referred to in this incident is now a worker in the cause. Perhaps neither he nor his sisters would today be in the truth had it not been for the kindly and sympathetic interest of that faithful church clerk of years ago. So I would urge that our church clerks feel that theirs is an important and sacred work, and no less important than that of any other officer in the church.

A. R. OGDEN.

Study at Home

If you cannot attend one of our training schools, why not form the habit of studying at home? The Fireside Correspondence School will teach you how. Elder A. G. Daniells, president of the General Conference, says, "I believe your school is conferring an unspeakable benefit upon our people." Let us tell you more about this matter. Address C. C. Lewis, Principal, Takoma Park, D. C.

Home Missionary Department

Suggestive Program for Fourth Sabbath Home Missionary Service

(To be held May 25)

Opening Song: "Hymns and Tunes," No. 645; "Christ in Song," No. 183.

Prayer.

Song: "Hymns and Tunes," No. 1226.

Bible Study: Every Follower of Christ to be a Soul-Winner.

Testimony Study: Every True Christian a Worker.

Experiences in Missionary Work by Members.

Report of Past Month's Work by Church Missionary Secretary.

Offering for Literature Fund.

Closing Song: "Hymns and Tunes," No. 1243; "Christ in Song," No. 513.

Note to the Leaders

There are members in most churches who do not realize that the real evidence of their love for Christ and genuine conversion is the burden they have to give the gospel message to others. The elder is the shepherd of the flock, and should carry a heavy burden for every member of his church, that they all may be filled with the Spirit of Christ, and that they may be trained to become efficient laborers for him. The studies in this program will help the elder to make clear to his members the real test of their faith in the Lord.

Every Follower of Christ to Be a Soul-Winner

1. WHAT great commission did Christ give to his followers? Matt. 28:19, 20.
2. Was this commission given to the disciples only? Mark 13:34.
3. What was this far journey? Acts 1:9.
4. Before Jesus went for this far journey, what were his farewell words to his followers? Acts 1:8.
5. What is the sure result of abiding in Christ? John 15:5.
6. What was Christ's work in the world? Luke 19:10.
7. When he left the world, to whom did he delegate this work? John 17:6, 18.
8. How long are Christ's followers to continue this soul-winning work? Matt. 24:14.

Every True Christian a Worker

1. WHAT is necessary in order for a church to prosper?

"No church can flourish unless its members are workers. The people must lift where the ministers lift. I saw that nothing lasting can be accomplished for churches in different places unless they are aroused to feel that a responsibility rests upon them. Every member of the body should feel that the salvation of his own soul depends upon his own individual effort. Souls cannot be saved without exertion. The minister cannot save the people. He can be a channel through which God will impart light to his people, but after the light is given, it is left with the people to appropriate that light, and, in their turn, let it shine forth to others. The people should feel that an individual responsibility rests upon them, not only to save their own souls, but to earnestly engage in the salvation of those who remain in darkness."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. II, p. 121.

2. Are those who preach the word the only ones who are responsible for soul-winning efforts?

"But it is not only upon those who preach the word that God has placed the responsibility of seeking to save sinners. He has given this work to all."—*Id.*, Vol. VIII, p. 18.

3. What is necessary in order that the members of the church may be able to resist temptation?

"To every man is given his work; not one is excused. Each has a part to act, according to his capacity; and it de-

velops upon the one who presents the truth to carefully and prayerfully learn the ability of all who accept the truth, and then to instruct them and lead them along, step by step, letting them realize the burden of responsibility resting upon them to do the work that God has for them to do. It should be urged upon them again and again, that no one will be able to resist temptation, to answer the purpose of God, and to live the life of a Christian, unless he shall take up his work, be it great or small, and do that work with conscientious fidelity. There is something for all to do besides going to church, and listening to the word of God. They must practice the truth heard, carrying its principles into their everyday life. They must be doing work for Christ constantly, not from selfish motives, but with an eye single to the glory of him who made every sacrifice to save them from ruin."—*Id.*, Vol. IV, p. 397.

4. To how many of Christ's followers was the great commission given?

"The commission which Christ gave to the disciples just prior to his ascension to heaven, was, 'Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.' 'Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.' The commission reaches those who shall believe on his word through his disciples."—*Id.*, p. 401.

5. What is the very first impulse of a renewed heart?

"The very first impulse of the renewed heart is to bring others also to the Saviour. Those who do not possess this desire, give evidence that they have lost their first love; they should closely examine their own hearts in the light of God's Word, and earnestly seek a fresh baptism of the Spirit of Christ; they should pray for a deeper comprehension of that wondrous love which Jesus manifested for us in leaving the realms of glory, and coming to a fallen world to save the perishing."—*Id.*, Vol. V, p. 386.

6. What will strengthen our spiritual powers?

"Go to work, whether you feel like it or not. Engage in personal effort to bring souls to Jesus and the knowledge of the truth. In such labor you will find both a stimulus and a tonic; it will both arouse and strengthen. By exercise your spiritual powers will become more vigorous, so that you can, with better success, work out your own salvation."—*Id.*, p. 387.

7. When truth is not imparted to others, what does it lose?

"God calls upon every church member to enter his service. Truth that is not lived, that is not imparted to others, loses its life-giving power, its healing virtue. Every one must learn to work, and to stand in his place as a burden bearer. Every addition to the church should be one more agency for the carrying out of the great plan of redemption. The entire church, acting as one, blending in perfect union, is to be a living, active missionary agency, moved and controlled by the Holy Spirit."—*Id.*, Vol. VIII, p. 47.

8. With whom will those who do nothing to save souls finally be classed?

"Those who are 'do nothings' now, will have the super-scription upon them, 'Weighed in the balance, and found wanting.' They knew their Master's will, but did it not. They had the light of truth, they had every advantage, but chose their own selfish interests, and they will be left with those whom they did not try to save."—*Special Testimonies for Ministers*, No. 4, p. 8.

9. When the church members do their appointed work, what will be the result?

"Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church, so that every one shall be

working for him according to his ability. When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned, and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory."—*"The Acts of the Apostles," p. 111.*

MISSIONARY MEETINGS

Suggestive Program for First Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Season of Prayer; Minutes; Song.
Lesson: God's Witnesses.
Reports of Work Done: How Have You Witnessed for God During the Past Week?
Plans for Work.
Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

The Bible study shows that it was always God's plan that his people should witness for him by their lives, their words, and their works. Are all your members witnessing for him, and so giving the people around them a knowledge of the truth?

God's Witnesses

1. FOR what purpose did God call Abraham from his home? Gen. 12:1-3.
2. How did Abraham begin his work? Gen. 12:8. The German Bible says, "Preached concerning the name of the Lord."
3. What is the name of the Lord? Ex. 34:5-7.
4. What invitation did Moses give? Num. 10:29.
5. How did Joseph witness for God? Gen. 41:16, 23, 32.
6. Why did Solomon plead that God would hear his prayers? 1 Kings 8:41-43, 59, 60.
7. How did Job show forth the character of God in his life? Job 29:11-16.
8. How did Hezekiah fail to witness for the Lord? 2 Kings 20:12-18.

Suggestive Program for Second Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Prayer; Minutes; Song.
Lesson: Methods of Work.
Reports of Work Done.
Plans for Work.
Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

Some questions have been given to be asked by the leader at the close of each study in order to impress the points on the minds of the members. It would add to the effectiveness of the study if the leader would have some one write on the blackboard the special line of work mentioned in each extract, after it had been read. Is your church using these methods for soul-winning in regard to which the Lord has instructed us?

Methods of Work

1. IN whom should God's people show an interest?

"Visit your neighbors, and show an interest in the salvation of their souls. Arouse every spiritual energy to action. Tell those whom you visit that the end of all things is at hand. The Lord Jesus Christ will open the door of their hearts, and will make upon their minds lasting impressions."—*"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. IX, p. 38.*

2. What special work should women do?

"There is a wide field of service for women as well as for men. The efficient cook, the seamstress, the nurse—the help of all is needed. Let the members of poor households be taught how to cook, how to make and mend their own clothing, how to nurse the sick, how to care properly for the home."—*Id., pp. 36, 37.*

3. What should be brought before the people at this time?

"Blessed, soul-saving Bible truths are published in our papers. There are many who can help in the work of selling our periodicals. The Lord calls upon all of us to seek to save perishing souls. Satan is at work to deceive the very elect, and now is our time to work with vigilance. Our books and papers are to be brought before the notice of the people; the gospel of present truth is to be given to our cities without delay."—*Id., p. 63.*

4. Of what kind of work should more be done?

"Among the members of our churches there should be more house-to-house labor, in giving Bible readings and distributing literature."—*Id., p. 127.*

5. In what spirit should we work for our neighbors?

"If the families around you are opposed to the truth, strive to lead them to yield to the claims of Christ. Work patiently, wisely, considerately, winning your way by the tender ministry of love. Present the truth in such a way that it will be seen in all its beauty, exerting an influence that cannot be resisted. Thus the walls of prejudice will be broken down."—*Id., Vol. VII, p. 11.*

6. For what are we to watch?

"Watch for opportunities to speak a word in season to those with whom you come in contact. Do not wait to become acquainted before you offer them the priceless treasures of truth. Go to work, and ways will open before you."—*Id., pp. 15, 16.*

7. Can the Lord use only the well-educated members in his service?

"Hundreds of men and women now idle could do acceptable service. By carrying the truth into the homes of their friends and neighbors, they could do a great work for the Master. God is no respecter of persons. He will use humble, devoted Christians, even if they have not received so thorough an education as some others. Let such ones engage in service for him, by doing house-to-house work. Sitting by the fireside, they can—if humble, discreet, and godly—do more to meet the real needs of families than could an ordained minister."—*Id., p. 21.*

8. What is another way by which service may be done for God?

"There are ways in which all may do personal service for God. Some can write a letter to a far-off friend, or send a paper to one who is inquiring for truth."—*Id., Vol. VI, p. 433.*

9. As the members take up these lines of work, who will co-operate with them?

"All heaven is in activity, and the angels of God are waiting to co-operate with all who will devise plans whereby souls for whom Christ died may hear the glad tidings of salvation."—*Ibid.*

Questions on the Study

1. What should we tell our friends and neighbors?
2. What helpful work may the sisters of the church do?
3. Why should special attention be given to the circulation of periodicals and books at this time?
4. How may we win our way into families who are prejudiced?
5. What experience will we have when we go to work for the Lord?
6. What class of people will God use in his service?
7. How may the mails be used for the Lord?
8. What help is given to members who enter into this soul-winning service?

Suggestive Program for Third Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Several Short Prayers; Minutes; Scripture Exercise; Song.
Reports of Work Done.

Lesson : Missionary Correspondence.
Plans for Work.
Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

For the Scripture exercise the leader might read 2 Chronicles 30:6, and call the attention of the members to the use the Lord has made of missionary letters in times long past. They are just as effective now, and every church should give attention to this method of work.

Missionary Correspondence

WE are living in a time when correspondence is a great factor in all lines of business. Many correspondence schools have been established, and they are successfully teaching all the subjects that are being taught in the colleges of the land. The world realizes the importance of correspondence, and we often receive a letter from some one telling us of the great value of some article he has to sell. There are also the great mail-order houses, which do all their business through the mail. Surely if the mails are of so much value to the business world, we can also use them to good advantage in the advancement of God's cause in the earth: this we call missionary correspondence.

It has been almost fifty years since missionary correspondence was first begun among Seventh-day Adventists by two sisters up in New England. The work of these faithful women was very successful, and the matter was brought to the attention of the editor of the *Review*, and in 1871 (forty-seven years ago) some articles appeared in that paper, setting forth the possibilities of this work. At the General Conference that same year, plans were laid for the formation of tract societies in connection with conferences and churches to foster this and other lines of missionary work. Since that time many souls have heard of the third angel's message through missionary correspondence, but in late years it seems that our people have to some extent lost interest in this important line of missionary endeavor. The first item on our missionary report blank is "Letters Written," but we too often find this item left blank when reports are made out. We believe a great work can be done for the Lord through correspondence.

General Plan

The general plan for this work is to secure the names of persons with whom we are to work. These names should be distributed among the members of the missionary society who are taking up the correspondence. Some good paper, such as the *Signs*, *Watchman*, or *Present Truth*, should be sent and a good Christian letter written. The letter should be short, telling the recipient that you are sending the paper and hope he will enjoy it. We shall have more to say about the letter a little later. This is the plan recommended by the Home Missionary Department of the Division Conference in leaflet No. 11, and we have found it a good working plan. We want to have a reason for writing, and the paper affords us a good opening. Papers and tracts are to be sent from time to time as the correspondence indicates.

I am sure that one reason why more is not accomplished through missionary correspondence is because the work is not followed up in a systematic manner. In many of our churches we find our people anxious to do missionary work, but they do not know how to begin. While planning for the other lines of work let those who feel a desire to do so, form themselves into a class to study this line of work. The church missionary secretary should instruct these in the work, and encourage them to do more for the Master.

In order to succeed in missionary correspondence we must seek the Lord much. His blessing will not rest upon our efforts if we fail to realize the importance of the work and make the proper preparation. This work cannot be done in a mechanical way. Missionary correspondence cannot be carried on successfully by the circular letter plan. We must allow the Lord to direct us, and success will be sure to follow.

Very much depends on the very first letter that is written. In the first letter we should seek to draw out facts that will help us to know how to proceed with the correspondence. In the very first letter we must plan for the future work. It is an easy matter to get an answer, but we want an answer that will give us a starting-point for the next letter, and so we should plan to find out something of the religious belief and in what subjects he is most interested. This, of course, must not be done by direct questioning, but must be woven into the letter in such a way as not to appear rude. Sometimes we can gain this desired information by calling attention to some special article in the paper sent. We should seek to awaken a spirit of inquiry. If a person is not hungry, it is useless to try to force him to eat and expect to gain his good will. The Lord said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." We must not reverse this and attempt to fill those who have no desire to hear. In corresponding, as in personal contact, we must recognize that many persons have very decided opinions, and we must not antagonize them unduly. They have a perfect right to their opinion, but perhaps after some study, they will see things differently. If we will constantly keep in mind that the object is not to tell what you believe, but to find out what the other person thinks, and so be able to direct his thoughts, we shall avoid many serious mistakes. We must confine ourselves to one subject at a time, and thus avoid confusion. We must avoid arguments, and never say "sharp" things. In fact, we should use the same principles that we would use in a personal conversation. We must ever show a spirit of courtesy; we must be gentle and Christlike in every word. We must also be patient and follow up our first letter although no answer is received. We must be systematic. The Holy Spirit stands ready to supply all that we need if we only seek his counsel.

Follow-up Work of Colporteurs

One of the largest fields for missionary correspondence, and I think one of the most fruitful, is the follow-up work of the colporteurs. This is a work that has been sadly neglected in the past, and I am sure that we will not be held guiltless if we fail to take up this work in a systematic way. In order to make this work a success we must have the cooperation of the colporteur, and this may be had for the asking. Every colporteur feels a regret that he is unable to follow up the interest that he finds as he goes from home to home. The faithful colporteur finds many who are truly hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Here is a field that our missionary correspondence must occupy. Most of my experience in missionary correspondence has been among this class, and I have had some good experiences. I have one man in mind, a man who has accepted present truth and has placed many of our truth-filled books in the hands of his neighbors as a result of this follow-up work. I feel that the time has come for us to lay definite plans for this work.

Reaching the Sparsely Settled Districts

The Saviour in the parable said, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in." In all our conferences there are districts that are sparsely settled, and those who live in these districts are, as a rule, very poor. This is not a very inviting territory for the colporteur, for he must make his living from the sale of his books. Many of these people are honest and are anxious to serve the Lord aright. How are these people to be reached? I think we can solve the problem through the home missionary work and the missionary correspondence. We have in many of our churches men who could spend a few weeks each year in the colporteur work, not for the financial gain, but from a strictly missionary standpoint. They should be encouraged to enter these sparsely settled districts and search out the honest souls and then continue the work by missionary correspondence. Sometimes the church could assist those who go out in this way by helping to bear the expenses of the trip. I feel sure that the very cheapest way and the most ef-

fectual way to work the sparsely settled places is to send the colporteur over the territory to seek out the interested ones, and that the interest be followed up by our church missionary societies through correspondence. THOS. E. PAVEY.

Suggestive Program for Fourth Week

Opening Exercise: Song; Prayer; Minutes; Song.
Lesson: Willing Service.
Reports of Work Done: How Many Willing Servants Has the Lord in This Meeting?
Plans for Work.
Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

Most of God's people are willing to serve him, but they need to be taught the most effective methods of soul-winning. Are you making your church the training school the Lord said it should be?

Willing Service

1. WHAT is it that leads people to work for God? 1 Sam. 10:26.
2. In what spirit would the Lord have his people take up his work? Judges 5:2.
3. What place should the leaders, or church officers, take in this work? Judges 5:9.
4. What should these officers know at this time? 1 Chron. 12:32.
5. How should the church members co-operate with officers who are planning for the work the church should do? Verse 32, last clause.
6. For what were some commended? Verse 33. They kept their proper place in the work, did not fall behind, and did not have their hearts partly on the work and partly on other things.
7. Through whose power will such workers prevail? 2 Chron. 13:18.
8. How long will God be with those who whole-heartedly undertake to serve him? 1 Chron. 28:20.

Helpful Hints on Selling Magazines

Selling points

(By Those Who Sell)

"IN the first place, I am not very much gifted with a free use of speech. However, I find that is no hindrance in selling papers, as one to make a success in the business should know when to talk, and when to keep silent and let the paper do its own talking, and while the paper is doing the talking, he should pray."

Enthusiasm, conviction, earnestness,—these are the qualities that sell papers, and that do everything else worth doing. "Nothing great was ever done without enthusiasm."

"Know your magazine and the worth of it. This magazine and you have formed a partnership. Get close to it. Know its charms. It will make you success and many friends."

"Dark days are the harvest days for the newsboy who is bright and cheery. It is a fact that many more papers are bought on these days. Business is not quite so rushing, consequently the people have more time for reading. And, too, they want something to divert their attention from the surrounding gloom."

"It pays financially to look happy, to look successful. People like to meet all such. Keep fresh in looks and feelings. You cannot afford to look 'draggy.' Your very person exerts an influence. Keep it in good condition. It is your asset."

Study yourself, your methods. Ask yourself: Do I talk too much? Don't I talk enough? Is my canvass strong, or is it weak? If weak, how can I strengthen it? What about my personal appearance? Is my dress too gaudy, or am I careless about being neat? Have I a pleasing address? "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." Seek the Lord's help constantly. *Pray when people hesitate to purchase. Cultivate the hopeful disposition, and the smile habit.*

Suggestive Canvasses

Be brief. Choose one that appeals to you. Do not use the same one always. The following cover, in a general way, the points in the *Signs Magazine*:

1. "The *Signs of the Times* shows the trend of world events, social, political, and religious, and gives their real meaning. The price is only fifteen cents."

2. "I am circulating a magazine giving the meaning of present world conditions, and throwing light on the dark questions that perplex many today." (Price.)

3. "Men and women everywhere realize that we are living in days of great uncertainty and unsettlement. They feel that something unprecedented is *going to happen*. This magazine tells us what that something will be." (Price.)

4. "This magazine is devoting its columns to the explanation of the meaning of the momentous events that are happening in this, the great century of history." (Price.)

5. "Thinking persons everywhere are asking: 'What is the reason for the great war?' 'What will be the outcome?' 'Why the industrial upheaval, with its resultant strikes?' 'Why the high cost of living in a land of plenty?' There is a source from which we may know the answers to these and similar perplexing questions." (Price.)

6. "The *Signs of the Times* gives the meaning of current history from the standpoint of Bible prophecy. Today people are asking: 'Are we driving toward Armageddon?' 'Is the Golden Age approaching?' The Bible studies in this magazine answer in a satisfactory manner, these and other questions regarding the *future*." (Price.)

7. "Many are seeking today for solutions to the great social, industrial, and political problems, seeking remedies for the ills that trouble the world. Men suggest this or that panacea, but they fail of the desired result. This magazine makes clear the great solution of our problems, and shows from the Bible what the one great remedy is for national and international troubles." (Price.)

8. (This one may be used when a business man shows willingness to give more time than usual.) "Men and women about us feel anxious concerning the deplorable conditions in human affairs, the terrible strife among nations, the unmentionable sins and vices, the wanton extravagance of the rich, the unbearable oppression of the poor, the church appealing to the government, the increasing desire for 'cheap' amusement, the general tendency to lower morals.

"These things and a host of others mean something. They are the signs of the times. This magazine, true to its name, shows what these things mean. You will appreciate its help, I am sure." (Price.)

SPECIAL NOTE.—When making the statement that the *Signs* throws the light of Bible prophecy upon the vital questions before the world, refer to an article which does this, with the statement, "This article illustrates this point, and is alone worth the price of the magazine."

Show the cover while saying the first one or two sentences. Continuing, open to the most striking article or illustration, thus riveting the attention of the prospect on two or perhaps three features. *Don't gorge him.* Some make the mistake of trying to show all, causing a confused idea of the actual contents. Be specific. This course is more likely to create interest. We believe in *short canvasses*, but *urge* thorough understanding of the contents of the paper before starting out, for it may be necessary to have some *reserve talk*. It begets confidence.

These suggestions can be readily adapted to other magazines.

Objections to be Met

Two Kinds

1. Those which are common and mean nothing.
2. Those which really seem to be reasons in the mind of the customer.

Under First Class

"No time to read."

Answer.—"You will feel well repaid for the little time

it will take to read one of these splendid articles."

"Possibly not for the ordinary sheet from the press; but this deals with subjects of eternal interest, and you cannot afford to miss it for the little time required to read it."

"Have more now than I can read."

Ans.—"You can well afford to let something go unread for these subjects so vital to the soul's best interest. You will gain single thoughts which will enrich the mind and make your Christian experience brighter."

"But this tells the meaning of the very things you are reading in other publications."

Under the Second Class

"I have my own church papers."

Ans.—"If you are reading a religious paper, you will appreciate this all the more. You will value its help on the prophecies, which Scripture says shall be understood in our time. The gospel, you know, is now going to the remote parts of the earth."

"Can't afford it."

Ans.—"One of our workers in South America sold two large religious books to a native who said, after he had purchased, 'What is fifteen pesos (\$7.50) compared with salvation?' This literature is published in more than ninety languages, and more than a million dollars' worth is sold yearly. I am sure you want at least fifteen cents' worth of it."

"Who published it?"

Ans.—"The Seventh-day Adventists. Its mission is world-wide, however, and thinking people of every denomination are glad for its help in understanding present-day conditions."

NOTE.—Tell the people honestly that it is a Seventh-day Adventist magazine, when they ask you. Be frank about it. We find that individuals often purchase when they find it is an Adventist magazine when they would not otherwise do so, because many know that our people are putting out literature for the times. Say that you find the *Signs Magazine* is more and more appreciated by thinking people; but do not hesitate, nor try to hide the fact that it is an Adventist publication.

Don't forget to ask the interested for subscriptions at \$1.50 a year. Sixty cents commission to you on yearly subscriptions; 35 cents to you on a subscription (90 cents) for six months. All orders for magazines should be routed through your tract society office. Magazine prices: 5 to 40 copies, 8 cents each; 50 or more copies, 7 cents each.

Daily Refreshment

Study the Bible and the Testimonies. Pray much. Take good care of yourself physically. Remember that this is the Lord's work. You can only do your best, leaving results with him. Take Isaiah 41:10 with you constantly.

ERNEST LLOYD.

Missionary Experiences

(For Use in Missionary Meetings)

"A LADY living in — subscribed for the *Signs of the Times* when it was first published as the *Oriental Watchman*. She was a careful reader for several years, and died a Sabbath keeper, not knowing of a church which observed the same day. Later, her eldest daughter attended lectures on the third angel's message, recognized the same truth her mother loved, and is today a faithful member of the Seventh-day Adventist church at this place."

"One of our earnest lay members has sold more than one hundred single copies of the *Signs* during the last few months, and taken more than fifty yearly subscriptions for the same paper. This person is not only doing faithful missionary work, but is earning a neat sum of money in commissions. Perhaps some others would like to have spending money of their own. This is one of the best ways of earning it."

"It has been my experience that the Harvest Ingathering work is one of the best ways for opening the doors of the people to the third angel's message. In the southern part of Colorado, where, in many of the towns, church buildings of every denomination stand vacant for lack of worshipers, people are asking, 'What do these things mean?' I have had the privilege of kneeling with more than one mother whose heart was sore, and of pointing more than one man whose heart was failing for fear, to Jesus, our only stay in this day of trouble. If every believer will fully consecrate himself to God and go forth praying that God will use him, many ways of opening the truths of this day will appear, and usually where they are least expected. This is not only a matter of securing dollars and cents, but a missionary work of the highest importance."

Pretoria

"After the East London meeting it was decided that we should spend some time here taking subscriptions for the *Sentinel* and *De Wachter*, and thus prepare the city for a strong public effort next year.

"Pretoria has been considered a very hard field, but when we began in the center of the city, we were very favorably received, and found honest souls who were anxious for light. One Dutch gentleman, when he learned that the paper explains prophecy, almost ran to get the money to pay for a subscription. He said, 'I am studying the Bible very closely, and I want all the light I can get.'

"Among the wealthier classes, most of whom reside in the suburbs, the desire to know 'what these things mean' seemed even greater. In one morning two young women said to us, 'We want something we are not getting. Our ministers are not telling us these things.' In Bryntirion, a very select suburb, in which the governor resides, the *Sentinel* is going to almost every house. Where the lady was not at home, the housekeeper or servants subscribed. Truly the Spirit of the Lord is impressing many hearts with the truth of the nearness of Christ's coming.

"During our three months' stay in Pretoria, eight hundred fifty subscriptions were taken. To one who had been laid aside for some time, it was a great privilege to have a tiny part in this work. Pray for these souls as they receive the messengers of truth from month to month."

Women's Work in the East Asian Union

"Our church members being few, Sister — has formed a society among her neighbors and friends, who each week gather at her home for study. A Bible worker takes the first hour for a Bible study, after which Sister — demonstrates ways of preparing foods properly. The women take a deep interest in this feature of the program, and they usually spend the larger part of an afternoon at her home.

"The work at Yokohama has not been without results. Sister —'s next-door neighbor, a woman of refinement and education, who speaks English fluently, has accepted the truth. She is the mother of seven children, so this little family alone gives a nucleus for a Sabbath school. Another commendable feature of Sister —'s work is the effort put forth for her domestic servants, who have frequently accepted the message. Should we not all do more for these strangers within our gates?"

"Sisters A — and T — are working hard in the interests of the women of their district. Sister T — is the wife of Dr. T —, the elder of our church at Hiroshima. Both the doctor and his wife are working untiringly for the upbuilding of the company of believers at this place. Mrs. T —, herself a busy wife and mother, nevertheless finds time to gather in the girls from a near-by college, with whom she studies the Bible and the beautiful lessons which she has translated from 'Ministry of Healing' and other of our good books. Such work for bright student girls cannot be without results. As I saw this sister working so earnestly for her own people, a door of hope seemed to open, and I looked forward by faith to the time when our native sisters will be doing a similar work in all parts of Asia."

Missionary Volunteer Department

Program for Week Ending May 4

Senior

Subject: The Home Beautiful.

Helpful Thought: "When the home is right, the battles of life for all the members are more than half fought, and the victory of life is more than half won."—J. W. Chapman.

Song Service and Prayer.

Recitation: Mother.

Talk: The Home Beautiful. See note.

Reading: How to Enjoy One's Home.

Special Music.

Reading: Your Mother. See note.

Response by the Members: How Home Helps.

Story. See note.

Secretary's Report. Plans. Collection.

Close by repeating the Pledge in concert.

Junior

Subject: Beautiful Homes.

Helpful Thought:

*Love and Kindness, Peace and Joy,
Make a plain home fair;
Angels from the courts of light
Love to linger there.*

Morning Watch Drill.

Song Service and Prayer.

Roll Call: Bible Fathers and Mothers and Children. See note.

Talk: What Makes a Home Beautiful. See note.

Response by the Members: How My Home Helps Me.

Recitation: The Bright Side.

Story: The Lost Ball.

Reports of Work. Plans. Collection.

Close by repeating the Pledge.

Notes to the Leaders

Talk.—An outline for the talk on "The Home Beautiful" (the same outline may also be used for the Junior Talk) is given on page 9; and in the *Review* of April 25 is an article on the topic. It was written to help those who will give this talk, but *not* to be read in the meeting. The one chosen to give it should—

Study the outline;

Read the article in the *Review*;

Make the thoughts his own; and—

Give them *in his own words*.

The Junior leader may adapt this material to the members of her society. One way to use it would be to write the outline on the board, and call for illustrations.

Reading.—The reading, "Your Mother," is No. 60 of the Missionary Volunteer leaflets. Those planning to use it should order copies at once from the conference Missionary Volunteer secretary.

Story.—In the *Instructor* of April 23 is a story called "Ketched." It is too long to be read in the meeting, but the gist of it may be told in a few minutes. If it is desired to use it, appoint some one to read it carefully, "boil it down," and give it in a few words.

Junior Roll Call.—At least one week before the meeting, hand to different members of the society the name of some father or mother or child mentioned in the Bible, and ask each to respond, when called on, giving one or two of the most important facts about the person named. To illustrate:

Eve. Her first home was in Eden, but she lost it by disobedience.

Enoch, who walked with God, and was taken to heaven without dying, was the father of Methuselah.

Joseph, the son of Jacob, was sold as a slave.

A princess paid Jochebed, the mother of little Moses, to take care of him till he was twelve years old.

The Leaders' Notes are Written for You.

Have You Read Them?

Mother

THERE came a day when cattle died,
And every crop had failed beside,
And not a dollar left to show.
Then Father said the place must go,
And all of us, we hated so
To go tell Mother.

Behind the barn there we three stood
And wondered which one of us could
Spare her the most—'tis easily said,
But we just looked and looked in dread
At one another.

I spoke: "I'll trust to Brother's tongue."
But Father said, "No, he's too young;
I reckon I—" He gave a groan:
"To know we've not a stick or stone
Will just kill Mother!"

"Maybe a mortgage can be raised.
Here all her father's cattle grazed;
She loves each flower and leaf and bird—
I'll mortgage ere I'll say a word
To Mother."

Upon his hands he bowed his head,
And then a voice behind us said:
"Mortgage? And always have to pay?
Now, Father, I've a better way!"—
And there between the ricks of hay,
Stood Mother.

"I have been thinking, 'most a year,
We'd sell this place, and somewhere near
Just rent a cottage, small and neat,
And raise enough for us to eat,"
Said Mother.

"There's trouble worse than loss of lands.
We've honest hearts and willing hands,
And not till earth and roof and door
Can rob of peace, shall I be poor!"
She smiled. "And now, it seems to me,
You all had better come to tea,"
Said Mother.

As through the sunset field astr
We three went following after her,
The thrushes, they sang everywhere;
Something had banished all our care,
And we felt strong enough to bear
All things—with Mother.

And listen: Once there came a day
When troops returned from far away,
And every one went up to meet
His own, within the village street.
But ere he reached our old milestone,
I knew that Father came alone—
And not with Brother.

Then through the twilight, dense and gray,
All that our choking sobs could say
Was—"Who'll tell Mother?"

But waiting for us, by the wood,
Pale in the dusk, again she stood.
And then her arms round Father prest
And drew his head upon her breast:
"The worse that comes is never death,
For honor lived while *he* drew breath!"
Said Mother.

Often, when some great deed is cried
Of one, by flood or flame, who died,
Of men who sought and won their fame,
While all the land rings with some name
Or other,

I think me of one warfare long,
Of Marah's water, bitter, strong,
Of sword and fire that pierced the heart,
Of all the dumb, unuttered part,
And say, with eyes grown misty, wet
(Love's vision, that cannot forget),
"All heroes are not counted yet—
There's Mother."

—Virginia Woodward Cloud.

Outline for Talk: The Home Beautiful

THE love of beauty.

The home beautiful a spiritual house.

The home beautiful is:

Clean.
Orderly.
Kind.
Helpful.
Friendly.
Hospitable.

It contains:

Good books and uplifting conversation.
Music.
Christ in the home.
Love as foundation and capstone.

For helps in preparing this talk see the article, "The Home Beautiful," in the *Review* of April 25.

Bible Study: Religion in the Home

1. How are parents instructed to bring up their children? Eph. 6:4, last clause.
2. How faithfully are they to teach them? Deut. 6:6, 7.
3. What is the value of early instruction? Prov. 22:6.
4. Why did God commit sacred trusts to Abraham? Gen. 18:19.
5. How was Timothy taught when a child? 2 Tim. 3:15.
6. What is the duty of the child in the home? Prov. 1:8.
7. What will be the fate of those who dishonor their parents? Prov. 20:20.
8. What reward is promised to those who honor their father and mother? Ex. 20:12.
9. Of what is disobedience to parents a special sign? 2 Tim. 3:1, 2.
10. Upon whom will the wrath of God be poured? Jer. 10:25.
11. What special promise is made for parents and children in the last days? Mal. 4:5, 6.

How to Enjoy One's Home

THE way to enjoy our home is to make home enjoyable. Parents should make the home as pleasant for the children as circumstances will permit. Open the shutters, and let in the sunshine, even at the risk of fading a few rugs. Better have faded rugs than have the home like a dungeon. Let there be no closed, dingy parlors, which are opened only when entertaining company, or on the day of a funeral. Brighten things up. Hang up some pictures, and let everything be orderly, neat, and attractive.

Nothing will add more to the enjoyment of home than courtesy, called the "perfume of Christian grace." It will sweeten the lives of parents to extend to them politeness and the little attentions of love. "Thank you, mother," or, "Thank you, son," do not cost much, but they help to lighten the load of care, and make home a little haven of rest. Good manners are for our own homes as well as for the homes of others.

Many a home has been marred by cross, impatient words. These take all the joy from the home. But love and kindness smooth the wrinkles out of our daily life. Gentle caresses, and loving words of commendation for little acts of thoughtfulness and kindness, are an inspiration to better things.

Make companions of your parents. Confide in them rather than in others. Tell your father and mother you love them. You will be glad of this when mother's chair is before you vacant. As the eyes of father and mother grow dim, and their shadows lengthen toward the tomb, it will bring joy into their lives as well as into your own, and help make the home what the Lord intended it should be, to open the alabaster box of love and anoint them before they die. Flowers and kind words in the home are more appropriate before death than after.

Children should enjoy home above any other place on earth. Plan with parents how to make the home all that it should be. Purchase good books to read, and instead of

spending your evenings away from home, in the company of the thoughtless and frivolous, make these your companions.

Cheerfulness is indispensable to the enjoyment of home. Sour, morose deportment in the home is cruel. Learn to smile. Man is the only animal that can smile, and while it may seem a little thing to do, it dispels many a home cloud and brings in the sunshine of peace.

"Where is the happiest home on earth?
'Tis not 'mid scenes of noisy mirth;
But where God's favor, sought aright,
Fills every breast with joy and light.

"The richest home? It is not found
Where wealth and splendor most abound;
But wheresoe'er, in hall or cot,
Men live contented with their lot.

"The fairest home? It is not placed
In scenes with outward beauty graced;
But where kind words and smiles impart
A constant sunshine to the heart.

"On such a home of peace and love
God showers his blessing from above;
And angels, watching o'er it, cry,
'Lo! this is like our home on high!'"

G. B. THOMPSON.

The Lost Ball

GRANDPA and Grandma Barlow had been away from the farmhouse only two hours. But much can happen in even that length of time. When they returned, it was to find that Carl and William had quarreled.

The two little boys were cousins. One lived in Chicago and the other in Pittsburgh. They were spending the summer on the farm. And that was the first quarrel.

"It was my ball, my very best one!" Carl declared. "And William lost it. He said he just threw it against the side of the house. And it hain't—I mean isn't—there. He—he—"

"I didn't steal his old ball!" William shouted, his round face very red. "I didn't, grandpa! I just threw the ball and—I can't find it."

"Oh, bother, now!" and grandpa rose. "Men don't quarrel, not over little things like that. Of course we shall find the ball."

"And little cousins who love each other like brothers? I hope my boys are not angry," grandma said, gently.

But they were. They both trudged off, to help hunt for the ball, but grandpa noticed that they walked a long way apart.

The ball was lost. At the end of a half hour even grandpa had to admit that.

At first it had looked very easy. William said he had thrown it against the east side of the house. There the lawn was smoothly mowed, and there were no flower beds or clumps of shrubbery. The little boy could not throw with force enough to send the ball far; it must be at hand.

Grandpa and the boys looked everywhere. Not until it seemed as if they had inspected every blade of grass on that side of the house did grandpa discover that the cellar window was open a little way.

"Here 'tis! We shall find your ball down in the cellar, lads."

He led the way in through the house, closely followed by both boys. They searched the cellar, looking in every place where a ball, coming through the window, could have rolled. But it was in vain. The ball was not to be found.

William broke down and cried. He would go home. He was not a thief. He had lots of balls in Pittsburgh, better than any old Chicago balls.

And all the time Carl sulked. If William had not stolen the ball, where was it?

Not even grandma could dispel the cloud that had settled over the old farmhouse. Both boys went to bed early, and, although neither of them would have admitted it, each cried himself to sleep.

The next morning it was even worse. An open and noisy quarrel was only averted by grandma's firmness. Breakfast over, she suggested that Carl go to the mill with grandpa, while William helped her pick berries.

"No, I do not want you to be together, not while you feel as you do now," she said.

Just before grandpa was ready to start, a great outcry was heard. It came from the screened-in back porch. Only grandma knew that Betty, the hired girl, was preparing to churn there. The outcry was so loud that they all ran to the porch. Betty cried:

"The cream is spoiled, Mrs. Barlow! I brought the can up from the cellar, and when I poured it in the churn the bottom was all black and dirty. This was in it," and she held up the missing ball.

At first the mystery was not cleared, only changed. But grandpa soon showed the boys how the ball came to be in the cream can.

The can had stood directly under the window, which was open. In passing through the window the ball had dropped on the loose cover of the can. This had tipped enough to allow the ball to fall into the can. Then the cover had risen to its place.

"I'm sorry the cream is spoiled," Carl said, but maybe the little pigs will like it. And, William, I am sorry I said—"

William laughed. "Oh, don't let's be sorry, Carl! Let's be glad! Say, if grandpa will let us both go to the mill with him, we'll pick all the berries when we come back.

"Course we will. We like to do things together."—*Hope Daring, in Sunday School Times.*

The Bright Side

NANNY has a hopeful way—
Bright and busy Nanny,
When I cracked the cup today,
She said in her hopeful way,
"It's only cracked—don't fret, I pray."
Sunny, cheery Nanny!

Nanny has a hopeful way,
So good and sweet and canny.
When I broke the cup today,
She said in her hopeful way,
"Well, 'twas cracked, I'm glad to say."
Kindly, merry Nanny!

Nanny has a hopeful way—
Quite right, little Nanny.
Cups will crack and break away;
Fretting doesn't mend or pay.
Do the best you can, I say,
Busy, loving Nanny.

—*St. Nicholas.*

The Pledge

STUDY the Pledge.
Take it.
Don't try to hedge,
Or break it.
Give it your best.
Make it a test.
If you invest
Your very life in it
You'll gain each strife in it.
Practice the rule of it,
Make life a school of it,
Hew to the line of it;
Love the divine of it!
Study the Pledge!
Use it!
Sharp though its edge,
Just choose it.
Make a fast friend of it,
From first to end of it,
Love it and live it,
And your best give it.
Trusting for strength in Christ Jesus you'll sow by it.
Trusting for strength in Christ Jesus you'll know by it.
Trusting for strength in Christ Jesus you'll grow by it.
So take the Pledge!

—*John R. Clements.*

Program for Week Ending May 11

Senior

Subject: Mission Pictures from the West Indies.

Helpful Thought: "Thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak." Jer. 1:7.

Mission Songs.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 126.

Recitation: Compensation.

Map Talk: The West Indies. See note.

Reading: Seeing Jamaica by Ford.

Mission Talk: Our Island Neighbors. See note.

Reading: The Little White Chapel. *Instructor*, April 30.

Beside All Waters. See note.

Reports. Plans of Work. Collection.

Reading in Concert, The Pledge. See note.

Close by repeating the Pledge.

Junior

Subject: Mission Pictures from the West Indies.

Mission Song Service.

Morning Watch Drill.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 126.

Map Talk: The West Indies. See note.

Mission Talk: Our Island Neighbors. See note.

Reading: Seeing Jamaica by Ford.

Recitation: Little Gardeners.

Story: Weeding the Missionary Garden.

Reports. Plans. Collection.

Close by repeating the Mizpah benediction.

Notes to the Leaders

The missionary meeting should always kindle anew the desire for service in the hearts of the members. All the songs, the scriptures read, and every part of the program should contribute to this end. One of the popular recruiting posters in England has been, "Your King Needs You." Thousands of young hearts have answered that appeal, and gladly enlisted in the service. So, young people, your King needs you. First-rate men are needed to defend their country; so, too, our heavenly King needs the best years of our life, the best preparation we can possibly obtain, willing hearts, loyalty, and untiring service.

Mission Maps.—One of the first things that every society should do is to get a set of the mission maps. Have you yours? These maps are needed by both Senior and Junior societies, and can be used year after year. A set of seven maps, including China, Panama and the Canal Zone, Australia and the Pacific Islands, Africa, South America, Japan and Korea, and India, will be sent for seventy-five cents, postpaid. *No sets will be broken.* These maps may be ordered of the Review and Herald Publishing Association, Takoma Park, Washington, D. C.

Map Talk (Senior).—The one giving this talk should study our organization of the West Indies, and get the divisions fixed well in mind, giving the different conferences to which the islands and groups belong. Add interesting items about the people, the leading geographical features, etc. The talk should not occupy more than five or six minutes; but it should fairly bristle with interest.

Map Talk (Junior).—Let a Junior master the facts given in the prepared talk on page 11, and give them in his own words, pointing out the different places as they are mentioned.

Talks (Senior and Junior).—Those who give these talks should study pages 253-256 of the 1918 Year Book, for details of interest concerning the West Indian field. Do not give a long talk,—keep it under ten minutes, if possible, but present the main points of mission advance in this field during 1917. Brief mention of the general situation in the islands, as gathered from current reading, will also be of interest.

Beside All Waters.—These little testimonials of God's power working in the islands may be given by some of the more timid members, in their own words. They will be found in the *Instructor* of April 30.

The Pledge.—This stirring poem may be written on the blackboard or on a large piece of paper, and read, with spirit, by all the members just before repeating the Missionary Volunteer Pledge to close the meeting.

The Juniors will not have forgotten their missionary gardens. Many will be able to report what has already been done; and there is still time for others to plant for pennies for the mission fields. The little poem and the story will help keep up the interest in this part of the Junior work.

Map Talk: The West Indies

(To be given by a Junior)

HAVEN'T you often wished that you might go up in an airship, and see how the world would look below you? If we were looking down at the West Indies, we should notice, first of all, that these islands extend in a great curve from Florida to the mouth of the Orinoco River. They are divided into three groups,—the Bahamas, off the coast of Florida; the Greater Antilles; and the Lesser Antilles.

The Lesser Antilles are the islands that make the part of the curve nearest to South America. Trinidad is the principal island of this group, and Port of Spain its chief city. This island has large sugar estates. It also has a great asphalt lake, which furnishes the asphalt used for making the streets smooth and hard in many big cities.

The group called the Greater Antilles is made up of Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, and Porto Rico, with the smaller islands about them. Cuba looks like a gigantic alligator sunning itself on the blue sea. Columbus, who discovered this island in October, 1492, said: "It is the most beautiful island that my eyes ever beheld." It is called the Pearl of the Antilles. In 1902 Cuba became a republic.

The next largest island is divided into two nearly equal parts,—Haiti and Santo Domingo. The channel between Cuba and Haiti is about sixty miles wide, and is called the Windward Passage.

This rectangular-shaped island is Porto Rico. It has a mountain ridge in the center, with some rugged hills. Yet it would take ten islands of this size to make one State as large as Indiana. All kinds of tropical fruits grow here in abundance.

Jamaica is a British possession. It has good harbors, and is valuable for its sugar, its pineapples, and its bananas. Oranges, ginger, and spices are also raised here.

The Bahama Islands are of coral formation. They belong to Great Britain. New Providence is the most important of these islands, and many tourists visit Nassau, its capital, during the winter. The best sponge fishing grounds in the world are found off the Bahamas.

Little Gardeners

FIRST BOY:

I'm going home to have a garden, Fred—
A garden full of roses,
And pinks, and pansies, mignonette,
And other pretty posies.
And when the plants are full of bloom,
My basket I will heap,
And selling them in yonder town,
A crop of pennies reap.

SECOND BOY:

I think I'll have a garden too;
I'm going to plant potatoes,
And peas, and beans, and salsify,
And carrots, and tomatoes;
And when they're grown, I'll sell them
At the market in the fall:
And then I'll buy just lots of things,
But first a good baseball.

FIRST BOY:

I know a better plan than that—
I learned it from Aunt Mary;
You know that in a far-off land
She was a missionary:
And to the heathen children there
She taught the way to live;
And to that work my garden plot
Most willingly I'll give.

BOTH:

O, yes; we'll plant our garden plots
With useful plants and flowers,
And God, who giveth all, will send
His sunshine and his showers;
And on such little boys as we
His blessing rich will rest,
Although our offering may be small,
If we but do our best.

—Adapted.

Compensation

GOING at the Master's bidding
Far beyond the trackless foam,
Leaving native land behind us,
Bidding long farewell to home,
There's a sweet and glad assurance
Fills our hearts with joy and praise;
'Tis his word: "Lo, I am with you,
Will be with you all the days."

Not alone he bids his servants
Follow out his great command;
Not alone he bids them labor,
In their own small strength to stand.
But there's blessed compensation
For the strong commission, "Go."
'Tis the word: "I'm with you always,
Through all changing scenes below."

It is blessed to be treading
In the path the Master trod;
It is glorious to be chosen
As ambassadors for God.
But wherever he may send us,
It is best of all to know
That the promise, "I am with you,"
Follows the command to go.

PEARL WAGGONER HOWARD.

Weeding the Missionary Garden

"PATTY," said Mrs. Martin, "you will have a little extra work tomorrow besides your usual tasks. You must pull the weeds out of your missionary garden."

"O mother!" cried Patty, "can't one of the boys do it? It is such dreadful work. The dirt gets under my finger nails, and makes them feel so nasty."

"No," answered Mrs. Martin, "your brothers have their own gardens. You must learn to do your share of your missionary garden work. God will be grieved if you complain."

"Oh, dear!" grumbled Patty as she went to bed, "how I dread that job." Her first enthusiasm had worn off, and weeding *isn't* the nicest part of gardening!

How Patty dreaded it! She dreaded it so much that she could not go to sleep for a long, long time. Indeed, she waked several times in the night and dreaded it. And once when she heard the wind rustling the trees, she hoped it would rain all the next day, so she would not have to weed her missionary garden.

Next morning, she began dreading it just as soon as she waked, and dreaded it so that she did not enjoy her breakfast, although it was a very good one. After she had wiped the breakfast dishes, her mother said, "Now, Patty, you have nothing more to do until the noon dishes, except pulling the weeds out of your missionary garden."

Patty went out and looked at the tiny radishes and onions and beans. It was small, but she dreaded it, and *dreaded it*. After a while, she grew tired of standing, so she sat down under the big plum tree.

There she sat and worked very hard at dreading to weed, until her mother called her in to the midday meal. Afterward, she wiped the dishes, and then hurried back to *dreading* under the plum tree. She was still busy at it when Hazel Symms and Mary Scott came by for her to go with them to gather wild flowers. They had cookies and sandwiches and bottles of lemonade, and were going to have a picnic luncheon in the woods. The day before they had invited her to go, and had said they would come for her at three o'clock, but Patty had been so busy dreading that this had slipped quite out of her mind.

"O mother, please may I go?" begged Patty.

"Of course, dear, if you have the weeds all out of your garden," replied her mother.

"But I haven't pulled a weed!" cried Patty, "I've dreaded it so."

"What! that little scrap of a patch? There are only a few weeds in it," said Hazel. "Mary and I will help you, and we can have it weeded in five minutes."

"No," said Mrs. Martin, "Patty must weed it all her-

Be Sure to Read the Leaders' Notes.
They are Written for You.

self; but if you are willing to wait, she may go after she weeds it."

So Hazel and Mary sat under the plum tree while Patty weeded with all her might. When she finished, and came in to wash her hands, her mother told her that it had taken her just twelve minutes! "Are you not ashamed, Patty?" she asked. "You have spoiled almost a whole day dreading a simple task; and if you keep on, you will spoil all your days in the same way."

"Yes, mother," said Patty meekly, "I *am* ashamed, but I've found out one thing, dreading is harder work than weeding. Besides, I am more ashamed than anything to think I acted so about my missionary garden. I've asked Jesus to forgive me, and make me a willing weeder."—*Adapted.*

Seeing Jamaica by "Ford"

"If you knew them, you'd *love* them!" It was a dark-haired, rosy-cheeked girl who spoke. A friend had been inquiring about the Jamaican people,—of their ways and customs, of their appearance and habits of life,—and at the close of the girl's charming description, her enthusiasm burst forth in this appreciative climax.

Surely it would be pleasant to know these people, and to visit their beautiful little island which is said to be one of the loveliest spots imaginable. If you are willing to "Ford" across Jamaica with me, you may have the opportunity of catching at least a few glimpses of the country and its inhabitants.

We shall need to be up early, so that we can start about 6 A. M.; for it takes nearly all day to go from one side of the island to the other,—a distance of about one hundred twenty miles,—even when one has as convenient a conveyance as a Ford in which to make the trip.

As we roll down the streets of Kingston, we hear a gay little voice calling, "Buy a pear?" "Buy a pear?" It comes from one of the numerous peddlers who throng the streets of the city, selling their various articles of merchandise. Some of the calls are deafening, with their coarse, strident tones, but this particular little peddler of pears has a really pretty song, which she sings as she displays her wares from door to door. Everything is carried on the head in Jamaica; that is, among the poorer classes. You would scarcely believe that such heavy burdens could be borne in this way without injuring the skull.

It is a glorious morning. Spinning along in the fresh, crisp air, we soon leave the city behind, and presently find ourselves in the open country. The natives whom we pass wear no shoes, and many of them are dressed in rags. They are extremely poor. The Jamaican people are black-skinned, being African by descent.

Here we are at the town of Sheffield. Let us visit our little Adventist church for a few moments. We find that it is a small, neat building, propped up on stilts. On account of the unevenness of the ground, it has been necessary to make the stilts six or seven feet high at one corner of the building. The effect is grotesque and unusual. The church stands with its back to the road, which is another peculiarity. It has a pretty thatched roof, and altogether presents quite an attractive appearance.

We soon learn that the people of Jamaica are naturally superstitious. The spirits are supposed to haunt the friends of the dead, and for some time after a funeral takes place, special efforts must be made to drive them away, if one hopes to be left in peace. As we pass one of the little homes on the outskirts of the town, we see an old woman who has just returned from the graveyard, where her husband has been buried. She is vigorously sweeping her front doorstep. When asked why she is making such strenuous work of it, she replies, "O, Elder, I have to sweep the spirits away!"

"Nine-nights," or the ninth night after the death of an individual, it is thought that the spirits come back to torment their friends; so the natives always plan to make a terrible noise on this particular night, as by so doing they hope to keep

away the spirits. These odd superstitions are held principally by the ignorant classes.

At Marchtown there is also an Adventist church. The people have built a serviceable little building of cement, with two large cement pillars on either side of the gate through which one enters the inclosure.

Perchance you will be surprised, as I was, to learn that the people of Jamaica speak English. Some of it isn't so good as it might be, which is no more than one would have to admit of the English spoken in our own land; but among the educated class it is as fluent and accurate as the most critical could desire.

The food of the poorer classes consists mainly of yams. These great roots, sometimes ten feet in length, taste very much like Irish potatoes. When piled up, they resemble a cord of wood. The yampig is also a native of the island. It is a small vegetable similar in taste to the yam, but differing in shape and size.

We notice, as we "Ford" along, that the houses of Jamaica are surrounded by high walls. The homes of the poor are extremely small. It is not unusual to find a family of eight eating and sleeping in one tiny, windowless room. There are no sidewalks in Jamaica except on the main streets. One must walk in the road.

The country is infested with beggars, many of whom are professionals at this remunerative business. One old fellow in Kingston is known as "Machrofat," because of his taste for a small hard coconut cake of that name, commonly eaten by the school children. This man has a fine home and plenty of money. Each night after slipping quietly in at the back gate, he undergoes a transformation. Ragged garments are replaced with clean, fresh ones, and in the evening this erstwhile beggar sallies forth with his wife and two pretty daughters to attend the concert or some other place of amusement. "Seven-bags" is another professional beggar, who received his name from his peculiar custom of carrying seven bags on his back. Each year one of the oldest bags is discarded, and replaced by a new one.

We are glad to learn that, for its population, Jamaica has more Adventist believers than any other country. The people are very religious, and seem naturally to desire spiritual instruction.

At the close of the day we reached our destination, the town of Savanna-la-Mar. We have enjoyed every minute of the day. Our only regret is that it passed so quickly, for we feel that we have caught but a fleeting glimpse of Jamaica and her people. But, oh, that glimpse was *so* interesting! "You can't realize things until you *see* them for yourself," the dark-haired, rosy-cheeked girl had said; and she was right.

E. I.

Consecration Hymn

(For Seniors and Juniors)

JUST as I am, thine own to be,
Friend of the young who lovest me,
To consecrate myself to thee,
O Jesus Christ, I come.

In the glad morning of my day,
My life to give, my vows to pay,
With no reserve and no delay,
With all my heart I come.

I would live ever in the light,
I would work ever for the right,
I would serve thee with all my might;
Therefore, to thee I come.

Just as I am, young, strong, and free,
To be the best that I can be
For truth, and righteousness, and thee,
Lord of my life, I come.

For thy dear sake to win renown,
And then to take my victor's crown,
And at thy feet to cast it down,
O Master, Lord, I come.

—*Marianne Hearn.*

Prayer Meeting for Week Ending May 18

Senior

Subject: An Hour with the Promises.

Helpful Thought: "Every promise is a staff, able, if we have faith to lean upon it, to bear our whole weight of sin and care and trouble."—C. Bridges.

Promise Hymns.

Short prayers, thanking God for his promises.

Roll Call: Comforting Promises. See note.

Talk: A Promise for Every Need. See note.

Recitation: I Know.

Reading: Commit Thy Way unto the Lord.

Consecration Hymn. See note.

Praise Meeting: Gratitude for God's Promises.

Reports of local work. Plans. Benediction.

Junior

Subject: An Hour with the Promises.

Song Service.

Roll Call: Precious Promises. See note.

Talk: A Promise for Every Need. See note.

Recitation: God's Promises. See page 16.

Stories of Promises Fulfilled. See note.

A Word for Jesus.

Reports of work done. New plans.

Morning Watch Drill.

Consecration Hymn. See note.

Notes to the Leaders

An hour with the promises! Could a meeting promise more of blessing and renewed courage and hope and confidence? Pray over this meeting, plan for it, and work for its success. But above all, pray. These special prayer meetings of the Missionary Volunteers should be times of blessing and help. Here they should come to pray for renewed diligence in service, for soul-winning grace, for a more completely surrendered will. When our Missionary Volunteers begin to realize the power that awaits their call, they will ask for, and receive, a spiritual anointing that will change their lives.

Roll Call (Senior and Junior).—A week before the meeting ask every member to come to the next meeting prepared to repeat his favorite Bible promise. Some will use the same promise, but this will not matter.

Talks.—An outline for the talks (Senior and Junior), "A Promise for Every Need," is given elsewhere on this page. Those who give this talk should study the outline, and add illustrations from the Bible and other sources. It should not be more than ten minutes long.

Stories of Promises Fulfilled.—In the article, "Lo, I Am with You Always," three such stories are given. These may be told, in their own words, by three Juniors. One or two other incidents of a similar nature may be added by the leader, if desired.

Consecration Hymn.—Cut out this beautiful hymn, and save it; for we shall wish to sing it often. Have it written in large letters, that can be easily read by all in the room, and pinned up where all can see. It is to be sung to the familiar tune, "Just as I Am."

A Promise for Every Need

(Outline for Leader's Talk)

Promise Making and Promise Keeping

THE value of any promise lies, first of all, in the power of the one who makes it to redeem it. A promise of health from one who has no power to cure, of food from a starving man, or of financial help from a beggar, is a mockery.

God is the great promise keeper. He "is able." He has "all power," and can, therefore, redeem every promise that he has made to men. He is willing, yes, anxious, that his children shall "prove" him, that he may fulfil his promises to them.

Proving the Promises

But every Christian must prove the promises of God for himself. It is an individual experience. "An old lady's Bible was found to be marked in the margin, throughout, with the initials, T and P. She explained that they stood opposite the Bible promises, and they meant Tried and Proved."

Years ago a Christian family were pioneering on a Western prairie. In the midst of the long, snowed-in winter, two men who had escaped from jail came to the house, and a few

days later the constable arrived. Three extra men to feed—and the supply of food barely enough for the family!

The little mother was a Christian, and she shared all she had with the men who had been driven to her door by the bitter cold. When her stock of flour ran low, she borrowed what she could, but soon the neighbors' supply was gone. The constable advised her to turn them out, and save her children; but she knew that to do so meant death to the men.

When the last flour was made into biscuit, and no relief was in sight, her faith wavered; but she read over some of the promises, and her confidence was renewed. They were not hungry yet; and God had promised to provide.

When the men went to the corral, after breakfast, they found a number of deer, which had sought shelter there. Meat provided in the hour when famine faced them! The next day a man came by with several sacks of flour, which had been long delayed.

Thus God proved his promise to that trusting mother. How many proved promises can we mark in our Bible?

Build on the Promises

Those who build their Christian experience on the promises of God have an unshaken foundation. Peace reigns in their hearts. They realize that God, in his promises, is speaking to them individually. "It is in these promises that Christ communicates to us his grace and power. . . . Nothing else can have such healing power. Nothing besides can impart the courage and faith, which give vital energy to the whole being."—*"Ministry of Healing," p. 122.*

"God's ideal for his children is higher than the highest human thought can reach. 'Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.' This command is a promise. . . . Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. . . . He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning."—*"The Desire of Ages," p. 311.*

"As you read the promises, remember they are the expression of unutterable love and pity. The great heart of Infinite Love is drawn toward the sinner with boundless compassion. . . . As you draw near to him with confession and repentance, he will draw near to you with mercy and forgiveness."—*"Steps to Christ," p. 60.*

Where the Promises Lead

"We are told that in many of the crooked alleys of Venice there is a line of red stone worked into the pavement. If one follows this red stone, one comes at last to the Plaza, where the cathedral is. Now God's promises to us are like this red stone. If we look for them, and follow them, they will lead us straight to God, to peace, to happiness."

Receiving the Promises

The promises are given—but have we individually received them? Have we complied with all the conditions? Can we claim the promises made to the repentant? to the burdened? to the anxious? to the one who is faithful in giving back to God his own? to him who is patient and kind? to those who proclaim the gospel? to the overcomer? "He is faithful that promised." Are we faithful to receive?

A. B. E.

Commit Thy Way unto the Lord

As the gray shadows of a winter afternoon were settling over a group of buildings on the campus of an Eastern college, a young man groped slowly down the corridors of one of the dormitories and entered a darkened room. Most of his classmates had returned to their homes for the Christmas vacation. His parents lived in the West, and his Christmas money was spent in a less pleasant pursuit. Three months before the beginning of this vacation he had returned to college after an enforced absence of two years. But only two short months of successful work were allotted to him. An accident deprived him temporarily of the sight of an eye. During the long treatment which followed the doctor deprived him of the use of the other. College meant to the young man the fulfilment of a long-cherished dream, at the cost of many sacrifices. Twice frustrated in his efforts to obtain an education, he felt his defeat more keenly than he allowed his classmates to realize.

The empty corridors emphasized the bitterness of his loss. There was no one to read to him, and the prospects of a Christmas like those to which he was accustomed were very few. He threw himself upon the couch within his room and wept. Anon he rose, and turned on the light. There on the desk he found a note. Regardless of consequences, he drew the dark glass from his uninjured eye, and read,

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."

Neatly folded in the note was a five-dollar greenback. The note went to his heart, and the money found a place in his empty wallet. But the characters of the message went to his heart. His classmates had prepared a Christmas for him, but little did they know that their "club note" would give him newness of life, a calm courage to face the months of waiting before him. Vision returned; the college course was completed; and the student passed out of the college halls into a resourceful and helpful career. The note, which was written letter by letter by many hands, is still one of his cherished possessions. It continues in dark hours to impart its lesson of trust.—*Selected.*

"I Know"—2 Tim. 1:12

"I know"—against this fortress wall
The gates of hell shall not prevail;
I know in whom I have believed,
And that his word shall never fail;
I know that he is able still,
Is strong to save and strong to keep,
And all that I commit to him
Is safe, though I may wake or sleep.

"I know"—this Spirit-sword of truth
Can pierce the cunning foe's device;
I know to ransom me from death
My Saviour paid the utmost price;
I know my sins are all forgiven
Since on the cross my sin he bore,
And if his sufferings I share
I'll share his glory evermore.

"I know"—against this shield of faith
The darts of hate are powerless;
I know not anything that is—
Not tribulation nor distress,
Not all the heights nor all the depths
Of demon power, strong and great,
Not present things, nor things to come,
Christ's love from me can separate.

"I know"—this one triumphant word
Can silence doubts and banish fears;
I know that all things work for good,
And I have proved it through the years;
I know my Shepherd's guiding hand,
His faithfulness, his tender care,
That all my need he doth supply
And all my burdens he doth bear.

"I know"—upon this lighthouse tower
The winds and waves shall beat in vain;
I know that my Redeemer lives
And in his death all death was slain;
I know my life is hid with him
Beyond the reach of change or harm,
And life and death to me are one
Within the shelter of his arm.

"I know"—my firm foundation this,
The Rock amid the shifting sand;
I know that Jesus is the Christ;
And, builded here, my house shall stand;
I know, though all my hand hath wrought
By fire and flood be swept away,
This corner-stone of faith shall rest
Unshaken in the last great day.

"I know"—this anchor-hope will hold
Till storms and clouds forever cease;
I know that he will come again
To bring the thousand years of peace;
I know that when he shall appear,
And earth and time for me are past,
When in his likeness I awake,
I shall be satisfied at last.

—Annie Johnson Flint.

"Lo, I Am with You Always"

WHEN Jesus was going away from his disciples, he told them to go into all the world, and preach the gospel to everybody. That they might go bravely, and have no fear in their hearts, he said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

This promise has been a comfort to all the missionaries who have carried the gospel into the dark places of earth from that day to this. The story of the ways in which God

has fulfilled this promise to his people would fill many beautiful books. Here are two or three:

"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." Ps. 34:7.

One Friday night Brother W. H. Anderson and his wife and little girl, with his mother, who were traveling by ox team to a mission in the Zambesi country in Africa, made their camp by the roadside. Lions had followed them earlier in the day, but they had been driven away. That night the father and mother and little Naomi slept on the ground, not far from the path. Very early in the morning they heard the natives exclaiming, "Ah! Ah!"

"What is the matter?" asked Brother Anderson.

"Shumbwa!" answered the natives, meaning, "Lions."

Then Brother Anderson looked at the tracks, and he found that during the night three lions had passed near the little camp, on their way to drink. One of them came back by the footpath, and stopped and looked at the sleeping family, so very close that he could easily have sprung upon them. But he did not spring. The angel of the Lord was in that lonely place, and he delivered those who trusted in him.

"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." Eccl. 11:1.

As Dr. C. H. Hayton and Brother Anderson were one time traveling over the veldt, as the unforested country in South Africa is called, they saw some native carriers, with goods belonging to a white man. There were very few white men in the country at that time; so when the natives stopped under the shade of a big tree to rest, the missionaries went over to see what was the matter.

They found a Russian man, who lived about forty miles north of the mission station. He was very sick, with a deadly fever. His wife and children were in Russia, and he was living alone, trying to save money to bring them to Africa. Now, if some one did not take care of him, he would die.

The missionaries took him home, and nursed him back to health. When he was well enough to go away, he wanted to give Brother Anderson something; but he had no money. Brother Anderson did not wish to receive pay for what he had done. Still the grateful man wished to send something. So he sent his best dog. This dog's name was Whisky; but on the mission station, he was called Whisk.

Whisk was a good dog. One time when Brother Anderson and his native boys were traveling, Brother Anderson sent the boys on ahead to make the camp, and get everything ready for the night, while he stayed behind to visit a little with some other travelers. It was near sunset, and in the tropics it gets dark very quickly after the sun goes down. So, as Brother Anderson had talked longer than he intended to, darkness was falling as he came in sight of the wagons.

But he was almost there, so he did not worry. However, when only about a hundred yards away, he heard a growl in the tall grass, and saw a big lion getting ready to spring. Whisk was close by, and placing his hand on the dog's head, Brother Anderson said, "Sic 'em!" and dashed for the wagon as fast as he could go. The dog kept the lion busy, and after half an hour came back to the camp without a scratch.

Thus the life that Brother Anderson saved, like bread cast upon the waters, returned to him his own life, after many days.

"Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee." Ps. 50:15.

The children of a missionary mother in China were away at school, and she greatly desired to visit them. It was time to pay the native helpers, and the money had come to the mission station; but she could not find it. She felt sure it had not been stolen; yet though she looked for it hour after hour, she could get no trace of it. The natives needed their wages, and she could not leave to see her children till they were paid. In her trouble she cried to the Lord, and quickly the answer came. When she arose from her knees, she seemed to be led to the very place where the money had been carefully secreted.

And oh, how her heart sang at this answer to her cry for help!

MRS. I. H. E.

Senior and Junior Meetings for Week Ending May 25

Subject: The Missionary Volunteer and His Bible.

THE preparation of this program, for the Seniors, will be left in the hands of the program committee. The leader of the Juniors, with such help as she may appoint, will plan the program for them. Two weeks before this meeting is to be held, those having the matter in charge should meet, and plan each item that is to find a place on the program.

The leading talk should be on the topic; it should be brief, and thoroughly prepared. Such points as—

Daily Bible Reading,
Reading for Victory,
Systematic Bible Reading, and
Reading for Power,

may be mentioned.

A few short talks may also be given by different members. Such titles as—

Men Who Read the Bible Daily,
A Book at a Time,
How to Enjoy the Bible,
The World Needs the Bible,
What the Bible Can Do,

are suggestive. Not more than five minutes should be taken for any one of these talks. Three minutes would be better.

Recitations.—The poem, "The Perfect Bible," may find a place on the Senior program, and the verses, "Books of the Old Testament," in the *Instructor* of May 14, may be given by a Junior. The little talk entitled "Phoebe" may be given by the leader of the Junior society or by one of the older members.

A Bible alphabet, with Scripture verses, or a Bible acrostic on some short promise, may be arranged for the Juniors.

This will be a good time to check up the members of the societies who are reading the Bible through. Encourage those to *keep up* who have completed the required assignments, and especially urge those to *catch up* who have fallen behind.

A little book entitled "The Bible Year" is now published by the Pacific Press Publishing Association. It gives the daily assignments for Senior readers, and many interesting facts about the different books and leading characters of the Bible.

Do not neglect the devotional features. Invite the Saviour into your meeting, seek his blessing, and offer praise for all his mercies, especially for his Holy Word.

Phoebe

Text: "I commend unto you Phoebe our sister." Rom. 16:1.

Object: A cogwheel.

LIKE Paul in his epistle to the Romans, I want this morning to commend to you "Phoebe our sister." She is mentioned only once in the New Testament, and then only to tell us that she carried a letter from Corinth to Rome, and was a member of the church at Cenchrea.

A small matter, you say, to make her name memorable wherever the Bible is read.

But though she carried only a letter, just think what a letter that letter was! For the piece of parchment or papyrus which she so carefully carried was Paul's letter to the Romans, that great letter in which is set forth the whole system of doctrine which we as Christians believe concerning our salvation. A French writer named Renan has said that Phoebe carried the future of Christian doctrine with her. It was only one thing that she did, and we never hear of her again. But think what it meant for the church of Christ, and think what it means for us today! For in that epistle more than all others is God's grace revealed to us.

I have here in my hands a cogwheel, such as is used in mills. You see the numerous little cogs, or levers, that it contains. As the wheel revolves against its fellow wheel, each of these little cogs meets and strikes a cog in the other wheel but once in each revolution. Only once, but if that little cog failed or was broken, it would throw all the machinery out of gear.

The other day I was listening to a symphony played by a great orchestra, and way up at the back of the stage sat a man with a pair of cymbals in his hands. I had had my eye on him for a long time, wondering what he would do, and when he would do it. But he sat as motionless as a statue. Suddenly in the very last piece of music, as the volume of sound swelled great and greater, he arose, and brought his cymbals together in a mighty crash, that was like a thunder-clap, and set the echoes running into all the corners of the great building.

Only once. That was the only part he took in the whole performance, and yet without that one crash of cymbals the whole effect would have been ruined. There was once in the Imperial Palace at Moscow in Russia a most extraordinary band. In this band each performer played on his instrument but a single note, yet so perfect was the skill and training of these men that they produced the most perfect harmony. But if one of those little pipes upon which they played should have failed to sound just once, that harmony would have been spoiled.

All these illustrations are to show us that there is some one thing for each of us to do, and that if we do not do that one thing the whole harmony of life will be ruined. It may be that we know what that thing is, or we may be in ignorance of it. Therefore the safe way to deal with all such matters is to do the very next thing that is asked of us that is good, and believe that is the one. For life is like a great machine, with many cogs all fitting into one another; and if one cog fails to do its duty, all is spoiled.

The great church of Christ is composed of "wheels within wheels," and if the smallest of these wheels fails, the whole great machinery of the church loses power. I have an old-fashioned music box at home that is practically ruined because one little cog in the great wheel attached to the spring failed to do its part, and the other cogs slipped against the ratchet, and were hopelessly broken.

Boys and girls, be like "Phoebe our sister." Learn to do with all your might the thing that God has given you to do. You will never know just how important it is.

It is often the simplest duties that prove of greatest worth; I commend to you "Phoebe."—*Bennett.*

The Perfect Bible

(This should be committed to memory by a good, clear speaker, who will give it standing in front of the society, facing the audience.)

You cannot brighten God's fair stars,
Or polish God's bright sun;
You cannot gem the sunbeam cars
That through the woodlands run.
You cannot perfect perfect light—
The rays from God's own eyes;
And till you can,
O clever man,

Perhaps it would be wise
To leave God's written Word alone,
To shine with luster all its own.

You cannot paint a buttercup,
With all your wealth of gold;
You cannot touch God's roses up,
As you the bushes hold.
You cannot give the rainbow arch
One new and added tint;
And till you can,
O clever man,

Be wise, and take the hint
To leave God's written Word alone,
To glow with colors all its own.

You cannot—not with all your wit,
And culture, pride, and art—
Improve one single line of it,
Or one new truth impart.
So pass it on to other men,
Just as God gave it you;
For till you can,
O clever man,

The good old sun renew,
'Twill be as well that thou shouldst shun
Improvements on this brighter Sun.

—*William Luff.*

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As this number of the the 'CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE goes to press, eight States have adopted the prohibition amendment.—Mississippi, Virginia, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Dakota, Texas, Montana, and Maryland. Don't forget to work for, and pray for, and vote for prohibition.

THERE isn't a bit of use in having tools if you don't use them. A Goal chart, a Bible Year card, a set of Missionary Volunteer Outline Maps, a society library,—what are they worth if they are not made use of? Many societies supply themselves with these good tools for doing effective work, and then allow them to lie neglected and dust-covered on the shelves, while they plod along in the same old inefficient way. Don't do it! *Use your tools!*

"No committee will go off unless it is set off," some one has aptly said. If every leader would remember this when choosing the chairman for a committee, what a difference it would make in the results! A chairman needs to be to the rest of the committee what the cap is to the charge of dynamite. He must be a "booster," with an enthusiastic vision of the importance of the work assigned to him to do. How many committees "peter out" and amount to nothing because they haven't the right kind of chairman!

Do not allow your testimony services to grow monotonous. Monotony kills a meeting. The leader should not "throw the meeting open" without showing the members where the door is. The introductory talk, the Bible study, or the main portion of the program, whatever it may be, should contain the thought which you expect to emphasize in the testimony service. Of course one must be careful not to circumscribe the meeting, so that no one will feel free to testify unless he can say something on the particular topic under discussion. This is often disastrous to a social service.

God's Promises

THE Saviour has promised to help me,—
I read it right here in his Word,—
And pledges more sure or more steadfast
By mortal ears never were heard.

In the hour of temptation and danger,
He says, I will hold fast thy hand,
And keep thee, and make thee a blessing
To souls needing light in the land.

Sometimes I'm afraid in the darkness,
And cower at the tempest's loud roar;
But when I remember, "I'm with you,"
Fear goes, and I tremble no more.

He has promised forgiveness for sinning,
Sweet peace 'mid the world's wild alarms;
And no matter what happens, his children
Have 'neath them his unfailing arms.

What more could he promise to give them?
What comfort, or joy, or delight?
Forgiveness, and "keeping," and power,
And home in the mansions of light!

MRS. I. H. E.

Missionary Volunteer Programs for Advanced Schools

For Week Ending May 4

Subject: *Vacation Duties.*

After the school year—what? This is an interesting question, surely, and one that hundreds of our students are pondering these closing weeks. Have you made up your mind that this shall be a really profitable and worth-while summer? Has the past school year fitted you for it—made you broader, more sympathetic, more industrious, more consecrated?

A writer on college life tells the story of a young man who devoted himself so assiduously to "student activities" during the school year, and so little to *studious* activity, that he came to the vacation months wholly unprepared for their real duties. Of course this young man was not one of our students.

After attending one of our schools a young person is expected to come back greatly improved. Do not disappoint the friends and dear ones you are soon to meet again. Show them that it pays to send our young people to a Christian school,—that it does indeed improve them. Be active in church work, be more willing than ever to help at home. If you engage in field work, let it be seen that your training has done something for you, by showing courtesy, industry, earnestness. And lastly, whatever you do this summer, remember that to *win students* must be one of your vacation duties. Whether at home or elsewhere, be a recruiting officer for the educational army. It is said that a sanitarium has no better advertisement than its *cured* patients; and it is equally true that a school has no finer recommendation than its well-trained, Christian students.

The topics discussed on the program may be something after this order:

1. The student who remains at home. His duty,
 - a. To his family.
 - b. To the church.
 - c. To the young people. If there is need of organizing a junior or senior Missionary Volunteer society, let him be ready to assist in this.
2. The student colporteur.
3. The Bible worker, tent master, etc.
4. Winning other students for your academy or college.

These topics may be profitably given by several students, or perhaps by one of the teachers who is especially interested in the young people. Make the program a practical one, yet truly inspirational. Arouse all to the carrying out of our 1918 Missionary Volunteer Slogan, "A year of active service." Helpful suggestions for the summer's work in educational evangelism are given on the last page of the *Gazette* of April, 1917.

For Week Ending May 11

Subject: *Power from on High.*

When looking at the sword of Richard the Lion-Hearted one day, Saladin is said to have marveled that such an ordinary blade should have accomplished such mighty deeds.

"It was not the sword that did these things," said the lion-hearted English king, baring his arm, "it was the arm of Richard." In the same way, the Christian student, though weak in his own strength, may through the Spirit of God do mighty deeds for his King. But there *must* be the "power from on high."

The disciples of long ago, though they had received three years of careful training under the Great Teacher, tarried for the Spirit's power before going forth to their work for him. If they felt the need then, how much more should we sense *our* great need.

This is the last meeting of the school year. Make it a strong, uplifting one, whose influence will lead each one to seek earnestly for the Holy Spirit before leaving for the summer's work. There will be trials, temptations, difficulties to meet, but in the conquest of sin there is a Mighty Helper who wins the battle for the trusting child of God.

The topic for the meeting might be divided into several parts:

1. Our Need of Power:
 - a. To overcome sin.
 - b. To enable us to help others.
2. God's willingness to bestow the power of the Spirit.
3. The conditions under which it is promised.

Helpful books in preparing the topics: "Ministry of the Spirit," by G. B. Thompson. Published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association; price, 75 cents. "How to Obtain Fullness of Power," by R. A. Torrey. Published by Fleming H. Revell Co.; price, 60 cents. "The Threefold Secret of the Holy Spirit," by J. H. McConkey. Published by Fred Keller, P. O. Box 216, Harrisburg, Pa.; free.