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Church Officers' General Instruction Department

Organization a Plan of God—No. 2

Princes Chosen

BESIDES the officers,—those over thousands, over hundreds, over fifties, over tens, and the seventy elders,—the Lord had in mind another addition to the system of organization for his church and people. This was a body of twelve princes, one of a tribe. "These were the renowned of the congregation, princes of the tribes of their fathers." Num. 1: 16. God himself called these men by name.

The Camp of Israel Organized

When these various offices, created by Jehovah, had been filled with men selected by him or at his direction, he commanded Moses to set about the complete organization of the camp for their journeyings. During their bondage, Israel had lost in a large measure the tribal lines. The Lord commanded Moses to assign the people to the tribes to which they belonged. Accordingly, Moses and Aaron proceeded as follows:

"They assembled all the congregation together on the first day of the second month, and they declared their pedigrees after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, by their polls." Num. 1: 18.

Each of the twelve princes was required to rear a standard for his tribe.

"The Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard, with the ensign of their father's house; far off about the tabernacle of the congregation shall they pitch." "And the children of Israel did according to all that the Lord commanded Moses." Num. 2: 1, 2, 34.

When the poll was complete, and every man had found his place in the tribe and family to which he belonged by birth, then the Lord gave Moses directions as to the Levites' having charge of the tabernacle and they pitched their tents round about it. The order of all the tribes, as related to the tabernacle, was specifically given, so that each tribe knew the position it was to occupy in the square about the tabernacle.

Perfect Organization in Journeying

Then the Lord gave Moses very full directions as to the order they were to maintain in their journeyings.

"The Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them:

that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps." Num. 10: 1, 2.

Then followed a code of signals to be blown on the trumpets by the two sons of Aaron, at the direction of Moses, for the guidance of the people of the congregation. Each tribe, each family in the tribe, and each individual of the family, occupied a definite relation to the entire camp, and all were directed in their journeying by signals from the tabernacle. When the people were encamped and Moses wished to call all the officers over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens, and also the princes and the seventy, he caused to be blown a call for their assembly. There was also a call for the assembly of the whole congregation at the tabernacle.

When all was in readiness, Israel began their journey from the mount of God, and were soon on the border of the Land of Promise. They could have gone in at once on the return of the spies from searching the land, had they believed God and been loyal to his system of government.

This simple scheme of organization that came from God was found to be more potent and effective than the best of man's devices, and the people learned to follow his leading.

After forty years' wandering, Israel again came to the borders of the Promised Land. The younger generation had come to regard Moses as the mouthpiece of the Lord, and to render obedience to him. When Moses died, and Joshua was chosen by the Lord to lead Israel, the princes and elders said to Joshua:

"All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go. According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee; only the Lord thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses." Joshua 1: 16, 17.

Israel had come to recognize the truth that Moses was only the spokesman for God, that he was not the real leader, but that God was in all things the Commander of his host; Moses was only his agent or servant. The people had a right to know that they were still being led by Jehovah when Joshua was called to take the official place of Moses. God was willing to give them the evidence that he was still leading.

Joshua Succeeds Moses

God said to Joshua:

"Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan. . . . There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." Joshua 1: 2-5.

Joshua had said to the people:

"Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." Joshua 3: 5.

Joshua did not take any credit to himself for all that would come to pass, but the Lord said to Joshua on the day that they went over Jordan:

"This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee." Verse 7.

Joshua gave the people the word from the mouth of God, and God fulfilled his word. Joshua was magnified, not as a man, but as the agent through whom God was working, because he was acquainted with God, and God was with him.

The church of God is not a human device. It is composed of the called of God; and so long as God can have his way, men are chosen to fill the offices of the church—not for self-glory, but for service. God makes use of various agencies in the work of the up-building of his kingdom in the earth. He, and not the agent chosen, is the great designer and finisher of the work. ALLEN MOON.

Questions on Tithing

A SUBSCRIBER sends in the following questions:

1. Is tithe reckoned on the net increase or on the gross income? For example, in tithing the rent of a piece of property, should taxes, insurance, and mortgage interest, if any, be taken out before reckoning the tithe?

Answer.—Yes. We understand the tithe is to be reckoned on the net increase. For instance, if we owned a piece of property from which we received a rental, it would be proper to deduct the amount paid in taxes, insurance, and other similar expenses, and then tithe the remainder.

2. Should special investments for missions, such as the proceeds of an acre previously set apart for missions, eggs laid on the Sabbath dedicated to missions, be tithed before the amount is put into the mission funds?

Ans.—There is not perfect agreement on this question. Some hold that as the amount received is consecrated to the Lord and is to be given to missions, it is not necessary to tithe the net proceeds. Others hold it is a question that each should be free to decide for himself. Personally I think it would be better to apply the principles of tithing here as in other matters. Unless we do, we are apt, it would seem, to open the way for a kind of reasoning that might lead to encroaching on the use of the tithe throughout the entire denomination. In what way would the proceeds of an acre of ground consecrated to missions differ from a straight pledge to missions? Suppose a person does not devote the increase of one or more acres of ground to missions, but says, I will give \$500 from my salary. Should he pay tithe on this \$500, or simply pay this sum over into the treasury for missions, and then tithe the remainder of his income? What is the difference between this \$500 and the income from a certain acre, or acres, of ground? Or why should the proceeds of certain land devoted to missions not be tithed any more than the amount we each give in annual or weekly offerings to missions? The principle would seem to be the same. Once we admit that it is not necessary to tithe the proceeds from land, poultry, and commodities which are set apart to some mission enterprise, it will be difficult to convince those who do not own land, but pay their mission offering from their salary, that they should tithe that which they give to missions. If one gift to missions is exempt from being tithed, why not all? Therefore, while all gifts go into the treasury of the Lord, whether tithed or not, it would seem to the writer better to regard the proceeds from land devoted to missions as part of the income, and after deducting the tithe, turn over the remainder to the mission treasury.

3. When is tithe to be considered "back tithe"? That is, is it always best to take the tithe out of money as soon as received, or to make payments at certain seasons of the year?

Ans.—"Back tithe" we understand to be tithe that we have used in our own business, instead of paying it into the Lord's treasury. The best plan in paying tithe is to make payments as the money comes into our hands,—daily, weekly, monthly, or whenever we are able to determine what our net income has been. Not doing so has proved a snare to many.

G. B. THOMPSON.

Transfer of Church Membership

THE clerk of a church in a large Eastern city writes:

"For a number of years Sister — was a faithful member of our church, very liberal in financial matters. Four or five years ago she moved to California. In due time I wrote to her, suggesting that she transfer her membership to the church she is now attending. This she has steadily refused to do. I wrote several times. The elder of the church there talked with her. Finally we sent a letter of recommendation directly to the elder of the church which she attends. She refuses to be admitted there, yet does not communicate with us in any way. The clerk of the church reports that she attends regularly and seems faithful. Ought we to retain her name on our books?"

This is surely a peculiar experience. This sister must have some good reason, a reason that at least appeals to her, for declining to transfer her membership. The letter does not state whether she continues in California her liberal financial support or not, yet it would be understood that she does not send her tithe and offerings back to her church in the East, as the letter states that she "does not communicate with us in any way."

The sister ought to recognize the principles of organization to this extent at least, that if in her own mind she has valid reasons for retaining her membership with the church in the East, she report to its officers occasionally; and more than this, that she faithfully forward to its treasurer her tithe and mission offerings. Her name could hardly be removed from the church roll in the East while she is faithfully acting the part of a good member in the West. We suggest that the case be referred to the president of the conference in California, that he may have an interview with her. Perhaps he will be able to ascertain her reasons for declining the transfer of membership.

This case emphasizes the importance of having members, in removing from one State to another, or from one church to another, promptly attend to the transfer of their membership through the clerks of the two churches involved. In this way church records may be kept up properly, and each church be better able to meet its financial obligations. Church officers would do well occasionally to outline the reasons why departing or incoming members attend to the actual transfer of membership to the church they expect to attend for any length of time.

And further, it should be impressed that every member should faithfully pay in his tithe and mission offerings to the church *holding his membership*. Here is where much of this looseness comes in. Usually a church is quite willing to accept the "liberal financial" help of any member attending, even though it may be known that his membership is elsewhere. But is this observing the golden rule—doing as one would be done by?

For example, if in this case cited above, the treasurer of the church in California had refused to credit to this sister tithe and mission offerings, instructing her that so long as she retained her membership in the East she should forward her tithe and mission offerings there, it is quite possible she soon would have come to the conclusion that it was too much trouble to do this, and would long ere this have asked for her letter of membership transfer. Then the church in the East would not have had occasion to write this letter; for so long as this sister sent them her tithe and mission offerings they would have been satisfied. This principle would apply equally well to some absent member of this church in California, who, while absent in the East, continued remitting tithe and offerings to her home church.

If the rule of organization were adhered to by all church officers,—that members pay tithe and mission offerings to the church holding their membership,—this of itself would largely correct any slackness in membership transfers. But this will hardly be accomplished so long as church officers receive of resident believers tithe and offerings while the membership of these attendants is known to be held elsewhere, perhaps in some distant State or conference.

The remedy for all this inconvenience lies in promptly transferring the membership to that church where the member attends most frequently.

T. E. B.

God can do nothing great for a life that shrinks from supreme difficulty. The question for us is: Have we let the Spirit lead us into hard problems? Have we let him urge us into tasks for which we ourselves have not the capacity, except as we rely on divine wisdom and power? Have we crept out of the challenge of the Spirit on the plea of our modest estimate of our ability? If so, we must suffer the penalty of diminished personal development. No amount of devotional life can make up for a retreat from practical, actual, difficult tasks in life.—*John Douglas Adam.*

Home Missionary Department

The Mission of Our Pioneer Missionary Paper — the "Signs of the Times"¹

Suggestive Program for Fourth Sabbath Home Missionary Service

(To be held November 22)

OPENING SONG: Hymns and Tunes, No. 1248; Christ in Song, No. 548.

Prayer.

Song: Hymns and Tunes, No. 1241; Christ in Song, No. 486.

Bible Study: The Finishing of God's Work.

First Reading: The Power of the Printed Page and Its Place in the Finishing of the Work.

Second Reading: How the *Signs* Weekly Is Helping to Finish the Work.

Third Reading: Extracts from Recent Letters.

Raising the *Signs* club in our church.

Closing Song: Hymns and Tunes, No. 1395, or Christ in Song, No. 568.

Benediction.

Suggestions to Elders or Leaders Conducting the Program

1. *Mark It on Your Calendar.*—Program on the *Signs* weekly, Sabbath morning, November 22.

2. *Plan Carefully.*—Before the time appointed, the leader of the meeting should carefully plan for a strong presentation of the *Signs* weekly and its work.

3. *Make the Meeting Interesting.*—After the opening exercises, give the first few minutes to a short Bible study on "The Finishing of God's Work." Your next topic, "The Power of the Printed Page and Its Place in the Finishing of the Work," will focus on the work the church is to do with literature; then you come up easily to "How the *Signs* Weekly Is Helping to Finish the Work." Following the reading of "Extracts from Recent Letters," the next step, logically, is to crystallize the interest into action and raise a *Signs* club.

4. *Secure the Best Help.*—In "Extracts from Recent Letters" you will find some interesting experiences showing the remarkable influence of the *Signs* weekly. Let several members help you in this particular part. Divide the most striking stories among live members who will read with clearness and force, so as to make the program effective.

5. *Have a Goal.*—Determine the size of club your church needs. Many are surprised when they see what a comparatively simple thing it is for even small churches to finance quite large clubs.

6. *Use a Blackboard.*—On a blackboard or a large sheet of paper, write the following with changes in the figures to correspond with the size of your club. This example is on a basis of 100 copies by twenty persons:

Cost of 100 copies, one year, in a club, at \$1 each ..	\$100.00
Each person's share for a whole year	5.00
Each person's share for three months	1.25

For papers mailed direct from the *Signs* office to separate names and addresses, an extra charge of 15 cents a year per copy is made. A simple plan, you see.

7. *Raising the Club.*—After the plan has been explained and the people get an understanding of it, you will find them ready to take hold and do something. Ask for a show of hands of those who wish to have part in the club. As a rule, the best results follow when each person who raises his hand is asked to say how many he will be responsible for. After the larger orders have been taken by the leader, it would be well for the secretary to pass slips of paper around quickly, upon which the smaller orders may be written. It would be well for those who respond first with the larger numbers also to write their names on the slips of paper. The secretary can have these collected, and arrange for payment of all subscriptions a little later. If this plan is followed, there will be no confusion, and only a reasonable time taken for the necessary work.

8. *Be Enthusiastic.*—After the members have spoken for personal clubs among neighbors, friends, and relatives, be sure to mention the needs of Bible workers, city efforts, reading racks, and perhaps other special calls. A good plan is to list these on the blackboard or large sheet of paper. It has an excellent suggestive influence. Be enthusiastic in the appeal, and others will catch the spirit and respond.

ERNEST LLOYD.

¹ Program prepared by the managers of the *Signs of the Times* Circulation Department.

The Finishing of God's Work

1. How will the Lord end his work? Rom. 9: 28.
2. What is the finishing of the work on earth? Matt. 24: 14.
3. How can we finish the work? John 4: 34; Mark 16: 20. (The disciples went forth and "preached everywhere." Today we have a message-filled literature to help us in our preaching and teaching.)
4. At such a time as this, what should we be? 2 Peter 3: 14; 2 Cor. 2: 14. (A diligent people, "diffusing the knowledge of Christ and his truth in 'every place,'" and the "every place" includes the locality in which each person is placed.)

The Power of the Printed Page and Its Place in the Finishing of the Work

THE earlier years of Christian faith had only the force and echo of the human voice as their vehicle of thought. Today the printing presses of our publishing houses are the humming centers from which come the lettered words of comfort and help that silently pass into the consciousness and experience of those who receive them.

The printed page passes along down the drift of months and years, giving out its message of hope and warning in undiminishing power, never faltering in its power of statement, but silently convincing, no matter how determinedly antagonistic that one might be whom the Spirit of God would convince of truth.

The preached word, given by the most eloquent speaker, is passed on by a very small percentage of those who have sat under the message; and in the great number of cases, it has lost the force which would transmit it farther. But what of the printed page? An innumerable company will gladly witness to its power. Men have been gripped by the simple story of sacrifice and redemption, by the experiences in regeneration of other human lives. Countless are the transformed lives we may meet on every hand, bringing their unquestioned testimony to the quiet and efficient service of the printed page.

Printed sermons reach much farther into the consciousness of humanity than does the spoken word. Reading people are heart listeners. The spoken word, though clothed in eloquence, weakens with the passing hours, and is soon lost in the noise and din of life's work.

The printed word — the message which has slipped from under the pen and out over the forms and type of the printing press — gathers thought with the oncoming months and years, and its usefulness is multiplied by the lives it touches. He who warns men and points them to the Christ as the only way of entry into eternal life, best serves God and man. And the printed page is man's greatest helper in reaching the majority of persons for their spiritual good and future welfare.

The following definite instruction is on record for our admonition:

"Papers and books are the Lord's means of keeping the message for this time continually before the people. In enlightening and confirming souls in the truth, the publications will do a far greater work than can be accomplished by the ministry of the word alone."—*Manual for Canvassers*, p. 8.

"The efforts made to get the truth before the people are not half as thorough and extensive as they should be. Not a fiftieth part is now being done to extend the truth that might be done by scattering publications, and bringing within the sound of the truth all that can be induced to come."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. II, p. 655.

"Let the workers go from house to house, opening the Bible to the people, circulating the publications, telling others of the light that has blessed their own souls. Let literature be distributed judiciously, on the trains, in the street, on the great ships that ply the sea, and through the mails."—*Id.*, Vol. IX, p. 123.

"We are held accountable by the Lord for making the most of our opportunities to enlighten those in need of present truth. And one of the principal agencies he has ordained for our use is the printed page."—*Id.*, Vol. IX, pp. 86, 87.

How the "Signs" Weekly Is Helping to Finish Work

THE stirring words just read from the Testimonies should certainly cause us to seek earnestly the part the Lord would have us do in this fast-closing work. The time is here for more earnestness and liberality. *We cannot now be satisfied with a small effort only.* We should be sowing the printed pages of truth, literally scattering them among the people like the leaves of autumn.

Today we see a restlessness, an anxiety, a real heart's desire, on the part of many around us, for truth, for the meaning of present world conditions. And, recognizing this, brethren and sisters, we must plan to help them, plan to place in their hands the printed pages that will bring them what they want and what they need. The *Signs of the Times* weekly was designed expressly for this purpose—to help the brethren and sisters in their work of giving the message to their relatives, friends, and neighbors. And, we are glad to say, it is doing it.

We believe that our people everywhere will be glad to unite in the present "drive" to put our pioneer missionary paper, the *Signs* weekly, into the hands and homes of at least 100,000 people each week. Our leading brethren count on it as a great helper in getting the message to the world. It is the "silent preacher" that today is going into more than 60,000 homes throughout the land, and at least 40,000 of these homes are not of our faith. Think of it—40,000 preachers calling every week at those homes, and giving the message for the hour in the strongest, most appealing manner that our leading ministers and writers can put it! And the result?—Many souls coming into the light. To show how they have been coming during the past few months, through the influence of the *Signs* weekly, let us notice some extracts from recent letters that have been received at the *Signs* office.

Extracts from Recent Letters

"We have a letter from a sister in Montrose, Kans., to whom some one sent the *Signs* weekly. Some one else was kind enough to send her the Campbellite paper, the *Apostolic Review*. She read them side by side, and embraced the truth through reading the *Signs* weekly and wrote in to our office. Our missionary secretary has visited her, and found her a devoted Sabbath keeper and paying tithes. Her husband and several others in the vicinity are deeply interested as a result."

"Elder J. S. Rouse, president of the Nebraska Conference, visited a family in his field who had been reported to him as keeping the Sabbath. He found that this family had not heard any preaching, but that they had been reading the *Signs* weekly and had begun to keep the Sabbath. Before he left the house, they had turned over to him nearly \$1,400 in tithes and money for missions, and at a later visit they gave \$800, and still more recently \$1,000 for foreign missions. When the *Signs* brings people into the truth, they are well brought in, well rounded out, for the *Signs* gives them the whole message."

"My attention has been called recently to a Seventh-day Adventist family in eastern Michigan who are subscribers to the *Signs* weekly. Last year, when the serial on 'The Marked Bible' was running in the *Signs*, after reading the paper, they would take it down to the neighboring family and give it to them. The members of this family became so interested in the paper, especially in the story of 'The Marked Bible,' that they got to the place where the children would come up as often as two or three times a week to find out if the paper had come yet. Of course, this entire family has accepted the truth."

"A brother in the West, going home from town one night, passed a family on the road, moving by wagon, who inquired about a good camping place for the night. Our brother remarked, 'Drive into my place. I will hang out a lantern by the gate, so that you will know where to turn in.' They did so. The next morning, before the traveling family left, our brother supplied them with papers—the *Signs*. That was ten years ago. He recently heard that they are all keeping the Sabbath and are happy in the faith."

"Some time ago one of our young sisters was teaching public school in a Finnish settlement up in Washington. To escape the dancing and card playing where she boarded, she would frequently go in the evenings to another home near by where also lived some Finns. She frequently took along some papers and had little studies with this family. When

she left, she sent them the *Signs* weekly. An interest developed, the mother accepted the message and was baptized a few weeks ago. Her husband is convinced, and has given up his tobacco habit. Their daughter is also much interested. A neighbor in the same vicinity is just now taking her stand for the truth."

"I sent the *Signs* weekly to a Mr. Williams in the Falkland Islands (just off the southern point of South America) for about a year, and then wrote a letter. As I received no reply, I stopped the paper. Later I received a letter from Brother A. G. Nelson at Punta Arenas, near the Falkland Islands, who said he called on a Mrs. Williams on one of his trips to the Islands, but owing to the fact that he reached her home just before his boat was to leave, he had only a few minutes with her. She told him that some one in America had sent her the *Signs of the Times*, and it was the only religious paper that her husband would read. He was a 'Bob Ingersoll' man, she said. Mrs. Williams was then keeping the Sabbath, as the result of reading the *Signs*, and wanted instruction from Brother Nelson."

"Several years ago a Japanese cruiser called at San Diego, Calif. One of our brethren who was in the habit of supplying the vessels with our literature, interested some of the Japanese marines in the *Signs* weekly. When their cruiser left, our brother gave them a roll of the *Signs* to leave at the first port of call on their voyage home. They went by way of Africa, and called at the island of St. Helena. A Mr. George A. Ward, the signal station man on the island, received the roll of papers. The address of the brother who sent the roll was on the wrapper. Mr. Ward wrote to him after looking over the papers. The seed fell on good ground in that lonely island. The *Signs* has been going regularly to Mr. Ward. In a recent letter, speaking of the papers, he says, 'They do me much good. I have learned many things from God's Word through them. The blessed coming of Christ is not far away. The *Signs* pointed out to me the observance of the wrong Sabbath. I had for a long time been thinking of that.' He also expressed a wish to attend our meetings in the States."

Thus we see the influence of the *Signs* reaching out everywhere, and now, on the island where Napoleon spent his last days, we have a witness for the message.

[The leader of the service will begin here, and conclude the program by raising the *Signs* club.]

Many more experiences relative to the influence of the *Signs* weekly might be given, but perhaps we should not take time to relate more. Shall we not each one of us this day attempt more with our literature, and by ordering a club of the *Signs* weekly, set in operation influences that will lead souls to a knowledge of the truth? Many churches are planning to double their *Signs* clubs. The new era we are now entering following the Great War—the little time of peace—demands greater activity on our part as God's witnesses. Let there be no retrenching, but rather, definite planning for expansion. The following letter recently received at the *Signs* office, from the missionary secretary of our church in Keene, Tex., contains a message for us at this time:

"Your note in regard to our club of *Signs* weekly, which has just expired, came to hand in due time. When I first mentioned renewing our club of seventy-five, and stated the cost, our missionary leader shook his head, and said, 'Impossible! We cannot raise \$75.' However, I insisted that we could, and that instead of retrenching or decreasing, we should *increase* the club. I talked a club of one hundred copies. Finally we arranged for the regular church service hour last Sabbath to be devoted to the home missionary work. Three of our best speakers were drafted into the service, and short, spicy talks were given. Then a call was made for subscriptions for the *Signs*. When the names and amounts were counted, imagine my surprise to find that instead of one hundred, there were three hundred sixty subscriptions."

This is the spirit we need and must have in our 1919 *Signs* weekly effort. Who will be the first to order ten copies? Just stand, please, and we will take the names.

A New Book

THE book, "Epidemics and How to Meet Them" is now off the press, and will be an invaluable aid to the home missionary worker. In a simple, practical way instruction is given for the rational treatment of common ailments and the care of the body. It will appear as a number of the "World's Crisis Series," and will sell for 25 cents. Order through your tract society.

SUGGESTIONS FOR MISSIONARY MEETINGS

First Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Prayer; Minutes.
Suggestive Topic: How to Help the Missionary Meeting.
Reading: An Interesting Prayer Meeting.
Reports from Members.
Prayer for Special Cases.
Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

The problem of maintaining a live interest in the weekly missionary meeting is by no means an easy one, but it is hoped that none will become discouraged when the attendance is small. Clearly, no church can fail in holding its missionary meeting and planning for its missionary work without being weakened and becoming inefficient. If church elders will send in suggestions which they have found helpful in building up the missionary meeting, these suggestions will be passed on for the benefit of all.

How to Help the Missionary Meeting

Come.

Come early.

Take a front seat.

Bring somebody else.

Make the stranger welcome.

Look just as pleasant as you can. Pleasantness is contagious. Remember that the meeting is God's service, and not the service of the one who is leading.

Sing. Suppose you do not know one note from another, you will feel better for having tried, and it will encourage others.

If the meeting drags, don't you drag. Make it snap somehow.

Don't think of that engagement tomorrow. Too much world in your heart will act like water on fire.

Finally, take home that part of the meeting that hit you the hardest, and think it over. Don't pass it over your shoulder to the one back of you.—*Selected.*

An Interesting Prayer Meeting

STEPPING into the Takoma Park church one Tuesday evening, I found a company of forty-five assembled for the weekly prayer meeting, which immediately followed the missionary meeting at which papers had been wrapped and addressed and missionary letters written or arranged for. The opening song had been sung, and all ears were bent to catch the words of a brother who was telling of the condition of an afflicted church member, passing on his request that he be remembered in prayer, and especially that it might be the Lord's will to permit him to quietly pass into the sleep of death, as he had suffered long and was weary of the struggle. All seemed to know of the case, and the deepest sympathy was expressed on every face.

Then another brother arose, and asked that prayer be offered for a woman who was investigating the truth. He stated that this woman's sister, in a distant country, had received the truth and had written to her sister, living in this community, telling of her experience, and directing the sister to the Takoma Park church and people, and asking that she attend church and investigate the truth. The lady had responded to her sister's appeal, had attended one or two of the Sabbath services, and was becoming interested. This request, like the former, met with a hearty response.

Then a careworn, anxious mother arose, stating that her young daughter had become careless; had secured employment where she did not observe the Sabbath, and was fast drifting away. The mother asked for the prayers of God's people, that her daughter might be brought back and saved to the home and church.

Another request was made for prayer in behalf of a young man, sick and discouraged, and passing through special trial. Still other requests of a similar nature were presented, and as all bowed in prayer, each case was presented in the arms of faith to the great Comforter and Healer of all diseases, and it was realized that "earth hath no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal."

A few moments were devoted to the giving of testimonies. One said: "I believe that Seventh-day Adventists are the only truly happy people in the world today. The people of the world are truly scared at the conditions in the world, which they cannot understand, and the majority of professing Christians do not know how to discern the signs of the times; but we who have this third angel's message know that this turmoil and strife which is breaking out everywhere is an omen of the dawn of the long-looked-for day, when God's children will be admitted into the kingdom of peace and joy and glory."

Another said: "If the people of the world only knew the blessedness of serving God and could realize the satisfaction and hope which the Christian enjoys, how gladly would they give up all the wealth they possess, and the unsatisfying pleasures they indulge in."

A brother concluded his testimony by saying, "It is my supreme joy to stay in this message to the end."

One brother brought with him to the meeting a young man for whom he had been praying and working—an Indian, from the State of Oklahoma. The young man wore citizen's clothing, however, and was quite intelligent. The brother gave an interesting testimony, referring to his acquaintance and experience with his companion. When he sat down, the young man himself arose, and spoke of how he had appreciated the interest and friendship of our brother, how he had hesitated to come to the church, because he was a stranger and of a different race, but that he was glad to find Christian people, and desired to learn more of the wonderful truth about which he had heard a little. This testimony, especially, brought inspiration into the prayer meeting, and all felt a stronger desire to do personal work.

The words of the closing song (Christ in Song, No. 287) seemed to express the sentiment of every heart:

"Saviour, keep me pure in heart,
By thy power renewing;
Seal my life of thine a part,
All my thoughts hedewing.

"In thy sinless life I see
Matchless grace and beauty:
Perfect Pattern, guide for me,
Teaching love for duty.

"One with thee! thus would I live,
Till the morn immortal;
Thus myself for others give,—
With them pass the portal.

CHORUS:

"Pure in heart, pure in heart,—
Jesus, only giver;
Seal my life of thine a part,
Here and then forever."

A VISITOR.

Second Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Prayer; Minutes.
Suggestive Topic: The Life of the Church.
Report from the Inca Union Mission.
Reading: Good News.
Plans for Greater Activity.
Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

There are so many opportunities for Christian service at this season of the year that it is not difficult to assign work to each member. But the work must not only be assigned, but made to appear so attractive and yet so simple as to secure co-operation. One of the most practical methods of work is the mailing of literature and missionary correspondence. Arrange for a club of the *Signs of the Times*, or to increase your club if you already have one. Write to your tract society secretary for names of interested persons, and make a special effort in this particular line of work.

The Life of the Church

It has been well stated that "the Sabbath school is the heart of the church; the young people are the future of the church; and the Home Missionary work is the life of the church. No organization can exist without a heart; no work can continue without provision for the future. Activity is the essential law of life."

Is the life current in your church strong and healthy? Keep it so by diligent, loving service for the Master. If there is apparent sluggishness and a dormant condition of the Christian life, apply the tonic of Christian activity, adapting the remedy to the individual needs. Some will thrive best in one line of work, while others will gain strength in an entirely different line. Let none die for lack of spiritual exercise. All can do something. Many will naturally get hold of the work which God would have them do, but there are others who wait to be "set to work," and this, as wise stewards of the manifold grace of God, our church elders and leaders must do.

C. V. L.

Report of Missionary Work from the Inca Union Mission for Quarter Ending March 31, 1919

It is with much interest and pleasure that we note what our Indian brethren and sisters in Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, and the Lake Titicaca Mission are doing in various branches of Home Missionary work. The following report is encouraging and inspiring, and we indeed say, "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love" and service for our fellowmen.

	Bolivia	Ecuador	Lake Titicaca Indian Mission	Peru	Totals
No. churches and companies	1	4	5	14	24
Membership	14	1,360	314	1,688	
Letters written	26	4	77	62	169
Letters received	10	2	..	30	42
Missionary visits	48	49	2,394	80	2,571
Bible studies conducted	25	15	327	51	418
Subscriptions for periodicals	15	..	2	15	32
Papers sold	422	5	34	100	561
Papers lent or given away	19	116	138	72	345
Books sold	250	2	..	10	262
Books lent or given away	12	8	2	15	37
Tracts sold	102	15	117
Tracts lent or given away	125	120	215	200	660
Hours of Christian help work	350	20	129	40	539
Articles clothing given	6	..	5	11
Meals given to poor	10	10	267	12	299
Treatments given to sick	14	3	591	10	618

A comparison of the various items in this report with reports from various centers where the truth is more thoroughly established and greater privileges enjoyed, does not speak so well for the workers in the homeland as could be desired. Take, for instance, a few items as compared with the Quarterly Summary of Home Missionary Work in North America:

	Inca Union Mission	N. America
Average hours Christian help work	3	1½
Average No. Bible readings held	4	3
Average No. missionary visits	1½	1
Average No. meals provided	5½	3

May this report serve to "provoke unto love and to good works."

Good News

"You will be interested to know that yesterday we dedicated a very beautiful little church building in North Dakota. This church is composed of fifty-five members, and the major portion of the work done in bringing these people into the truth was laymen's missionary work. In another section of the conference, twelve people have taken hold of the truth just recently as a result of efforts put forth by our department. In another section seven souls have come in. These are, of course, only illustrations of the marked blessings of the Lord, for which we are profoundly thankful."

S. A. RUSKJER.

Third Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Season of Prayer.
Reports of Work Done.
Reading: The Extra Stone That Lightened the Load.
A Few Suggestive Methods for Lightening the Load.

Note to the Leaders

The suggestions for this meeting should give courage to those who are burdened with many cares and who feel that they are too busy to engage in any of the missionary ac-

tivities of the church. Make a special effort to reach this class, and get their co-operation in work with the *Signs* weekly, and in other work which you arrange for.

The Extra Stone That Lightened the Load

A MISSIONARY, traveling in a strange land, became interested in the labor of a native who was hauling stone on the mountain side with a mule and cart. The man loaded the heavy rocks till he thought he had enough, then he climbed onto the cart and tried to start the animal, but all in vain. Try as hard as he would, he could not move the load. The missionary watched with much interest as the native jumped off the cart, supposing, of course, that he intended throwing out some of the stone, thus lightening the load. But, to his surprise, he went to the side of the road, picked up another large boulder, and hung it to the back end of the cart by means of an apparatus prepared for this purpose, then once more climbed onto the cart, spoke to the animal, and it started off without any trouble. At first this procedure seemed very strange, but as the missionary stopped to consider a moment, it became very clear to him.

When the first attempt was made to move the load, the weight was resting too far forward, and was galling the poor animal's back. What was needed was not so much that the load be lightened, but that it be made to balance evenly to the axle, thus relieving the painful pressure on the sore back of the beast. The extra boulder at the other end of the load answered this purpose.

It has often occurred to us that this is a practical illustration of what is needed in many an overburdened life. Domestic duties, the training of the children, the care of the home, and the thousand responsibilities that rest upon the housewife and mother in the home, or the sharp competition and strenuous conditions that the bread-winner must meet and conquer, often rest heavily upon the tired nerves and weary bodies of thousands of men and women.

Now, strange as it may seem, we are convinced from observation and experience, that one of the best remedies is to add another load, but of a different nature. Let the one so burdened with secular affairs dedicate a certain portion of his time to genuine missionary work for others. In works of love and mercy for those less fortunate than himself, he will find a stimulant, and a tonic that will counteract much of the grinding routine of his secular duties. It will put a joy in his heart and a light in his countenance which will make him a new man. But without such unselfish and loving service, life with many becomes a galling yoke, and the load hard to carry.

E. R. NUMBERS,

Home Missionary Secretary Columbia Union Conf.

A Few Suggestive Methods for Lightening the Load

METHOD No. 1—For the Busy Housekeeper

Have you near neighbors to whom you pass an occasional word of greeting over the fence? Watch your chance. Some day soon that neighbor is going to mention some startling bit of news that she has seen in a newspaper, and likely as not she will say she doesn't know what the world is coming to. You will naturally say: "Wait a minute. I have a paper for you that explains such things," and you place in her hands a copy of the *Signs* weekly. This paper is made to help you in just that sort of missionary endeavor.

METHOD No. 2—For the Traveler

It certainly pays to carry a few copies of the *Signs* or some of our other good literature when one takes a journey by train or boat. You can always find travelers who will gladly talk with you, or read almost anything you have to offer, after the first half hour or so of your journey. Be an opportunist. Remember to carry some literature with you on your next trip. One of our active ministers was won to the truth because a sister, who had formed the habit

of carrying a few papers with her on the trains passed a copy of the *Signs* across a car aisle to him. The seed fell in good ground. He was converted, and began at once to prepare for the ministry.

METHOD No. 3.—For the Automobilist

Make every trip count. Have a pocket for literature in the door of your car. Be prepared. It pays. Up in a mountain section in one of our Western States, a faithful sister and her family are happy in the message today because some one remembered to carry a few copies of the *Signs* on an automobile trip, and stopped a moment at her door to leave a copy of the paper. That small effort changed a household. How little we know of the power of small means! Plan to have a supply of the *Signs*, *Present Truth*, *Watchman*, and other literature ready for your next automobile trip into the country.

METHOD No. 4.—For the Stay-at-Homes

You can do a good work with the visitors, callers, agents, and others who daily come to your door. Just be prepared. Have a supply of literature in a convenient place near the door, and instead of allowing papers and tracts to accumulate, pass them on each week to those who, like the tradespeople, call regularly. This method, like all others where readers are met face to face, is ideal. A sewing machine agent was recently won to the message in this way. Today he is one of our active colporteurs.

Fourth Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Prayer; Minutes.

Testimonies and Reports of Experiences in the Work.

Topic for Consideration: A Suggestion from Across the Sea.

Ten Reasons Why Every Church Should Have a Club of the *Signs* weekly.

Plans for Future Work.

Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

If convenient, place the Ten Reasons on a blackboard so that all may understand. Perhaps there are those in your church who have come into the truth through reading the *Signs*, or who have had encouraging experiences in work with the *Signs*. Make a special call for these experiences. It would be a very interesting feature of work to choose some section of the country where the truth had not been preached and open up the field through literature and correspondence. Directories of counties and towns are obtainable. In some cases it might be a good plan to take lists of certain professional people, such as doctors, lawyers, mechanics, musicians, and write letters especially adapted to them. The *Signs* fits all classes, but the *Liberty* magazine, would be especially suited to lawyers, and *Life and Health* would be particularly appreciated by the physician. Our canvassers can always furnish lists of names of interested people met in their work, and these are obtained through the tract society.

A Suggestion from Across the Sea

ELDER CECIL K. MEYERS, Home Missionary secretary for the Australasian Union, writes as follows:

"We have had what we call a 'Country Towns' Campaign,' to encourage the use of papers and tracts. Churches in the city have taken from the directory the names of persons in country towns and districts where there is no representative of the message, or have secured from canvassers the names of interested people whom they have met in canvassing in the country, and have sent our literature broadcast into such territory. We have thus made the postman serve the interests of the message. Of course this has been backed up by letters written periodically to those to whom literature has been sent, and some good replies have been received. The result has been to engage the interests of our people afresh in work with our papers and tracts, and in consequence the circulation of the weekly *Signs* of the *Times* has increased steadily all along."

As we are now in the midst of a campaign to increase the circulation of the weekly *Signs of the Times*, this timely suggestion should be put into practical application in all our churches.

c. v. l.

Ten Reasons Why Every Church Should Have a Club of the "Signs" Weekly

1. *Because* the *Signs* weekly is a soul-winner. It has perhaps brought more people into the truth than any other publication. Our leading brethren urge that every member of the church engage in its circulation.

2. *Because* it gives the third angel's message—the life-giving message—a clear, definite ring. One of our general men says of it: "The *Signs* is a mighty preacher. It stands for the faith once delivered to the saints, and fearlessly and without apology, gives a certain tone to the message of truth for this time."

3. *Because* its stirring prophetic studies, its strong doctrinal articles, its striking comments on current world events in the light of Scripture, and its other helpful and timely features, qualify it to enter any home as a representative of Seventh-day Adventists.

4. *Because* our ministers and writers are giving of their best through the columns of the *Signs*, and we should cooperate with them by passing on their messages to the people. You would be delighted if these men could talk personally with your friends and neighbors. They want to do the next best thing—talk to them through the *Signs*. Let us bring them and our friends together.

5. *Because* it is a weekly paper. The frequency of its visits is an advantage. It slips into the mail boxes of some 60,000 homes regularly every week, giving its messages in a quiet yet persistent manner.

6. *Because* the contents of the paper are varied. One member of a home is interested in a certain article, and another member is attracted by something else. Its scope is wide, and one issue contains material for a variety of minds.

7. *Because* the very life of the church is dependent on the work it does for others. The *Signs* is one of the greatest aids in the work of witnessing among friends and neighbors. It is the church's evangelist where there is no other, and a mighty helper where there is one.

8. *Because* of what the *Signs* will contain in the future. Our writers will make the paper vibrant with matter that will focus Bible interpretation upon world events and the tremendous issues before us. The spiritual delusions of the day will be treated by the positive counteracting Bible truths. Strong articles will deal with the fundamentals of religion, the great doctrines of the Book, Christ the Saviour of men, and his coming as the solution of all earth's problems.

9. *Because* persons, including our relatives, will read the *Signs* when they cannot be reached in any other way. The *Signs* furnishes an opportunity for individual work, even though home duties seem to prevent the personal touch.

10. *Because* of its very low price, every member can afford to pay for from one to five or more copies, and *because* more *Signs* means more souls.

ERNEST LLOYD.

Watch for Opportunities

I BELIEVE if God by his grace will put the love of God in our hearts, we shall be just fishing for people. We shall be watching and praying wherever there is a soul, for an opportunity to open up the way of salvation. A word can be spoken, or a tract given away; and such simple ministry will often do more good than a preacher.

One of our girls, while canvassing this summer, knocked at the door of a beautiful home. The lady was preparing for a trip, and refused to listen to a canvasser. The girl was a little discouraged, and said, by way of explanation, "I am doing this for Jesus," and turned and went away. She called at the next house, and on leaving, a boy met her and told her that the lady at the former house wanted to see her. She returned, and the lady said she had been so impressed with the statement that she was doing work for Jesus that she wanted to know about the book. After the canvasser had told her story about the book, the lady gladly purchased a copy. This was simply an unstudied testimony of a loving heart, which many hungry souls are waiting for. God will bless you as you rise up and do the work which is near at hand.—W. A. Spicer.

Missionary Volunteer Department

Devotional Meetings for Week Ending November 1

Senior

Subject: "I Promise."

Motto: "Make few promises and keep them."

1. Opening Exercises: Song and Prayer.
2. Scripture Lesson: Promising.
3. Secretary's Report, including Report of Work.
4. Talk: "They Say, and Do Not."
5. Reading: The Keeping Counts.
6. Talk: What Is a Man Worth? See *Instructor* for October 21.
7. Remarks: Our New Year's Resolve.
8. Close by reading in concert Psalms 27: 4, 5, 11.

Junior

Subject: Promises.

Blackboard Motto: "The Creator keeps his word with us."
—Socrates.

1. Roll Call: Morning Watch Texts for the Week.
2. Song and Prayer.
3. Introductory Talk by the Superintendent.
4. Study: God's "I will," and My "I will."
5. Song: "I will early seek the Saviour," Christ in Song, No. 71.
6. Exercise by eight Juniors: Keep Your Word.
7. Reading: Mary's Promise Book. See *Instructor* for October 21.
8. Reports, and Plans for Missionary Work.
9. Closing Song: "I will never, never leave thee," Christ in Song, No. 697.

Senior Notes

Scripture Lesson.—A notable example of Old Testament promises made by man to God is the one made by Jacob at Bethel. Gen. 28: 20-22. The Lord signally blessed this faithful man at the place he made this covenant. Gen. 35: 9-12. God's approval of promising is shown by the words of Psalms 76: 11. While vows are acceptable, God requires that the promise be performed, for in Ecclesiastes 5: 4 he says: "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it." The words of Psalms 28: 7 and 118: 14 assure the one who has promised to do good that he need not strive in his own carnal strength only, but in the Lord's strength.

The Talks.—The material given for the two talks may be used for a single talk if desired. Whoever presents this subject should study earnestly and pray that a deep impression may be made upon the young people. Honesty is absolutely essential as a foundation stone in our character building. Dishonesty and carelessness in regard to promises is a most despicable trait, and makes a person an unfit member of society here, to say nothing of the world to come.

Remarks.—It would be well for the leader to close with a few earnest words about our New Year's Resolve, published in the Morning Watch Calendar. This resolution made and kept by all our Missionary Volunteers would revolutionize their lives, and more than double the power and efficiency of the Missionary Volunteer Movement. The Missionary Volunteer report from Porto Rico for the quarter ending June 30, shows that the Missionary Volunteers of that field averaged more than one missionary visit a week during the quarter. What is your society average?

Junior Notes

There can be no more important subject for children than this. Let the superintendent study as if all depended upon her, and pray as if all depended upon God. Beyond all our own efforts we must depend on the power of the Holy Spirit to beget in our children a sacred regard for their promises.

"They Say, and Do Not"

"They say, and do not" is an accusation applicable to more than the Pharisees. Fortunate for us if it does not characterize ourselves. The motto, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God," has guided more than one faithful missionary along life's pathway of service; but the motto, "Promise great things; fulfil little," has never guided a single person to any worthy height. On the contrary, it has led many into ignominy and shame.

"They say, and do not" is a fearful denunciation. Promises should be held sacred. No promise should be counted

of little worth. It is said that a certain duchess once, on coming indoors from a drive on a bitter cold day, gave orders that four hundred cords of wood be sent to the poor; but after being for a little while under the pleasant atmosphere of her own home, countermanded the order, saying that it was unnecessary, as the weather had moderated. Changing moods and conditions do not release one from fulfilling promises.

The Lord, we are told, is not slack concerning his promise. "When the fulness of the time" comes, he fulfils his word. He requires, too, the same carefulness on the part of those who profess his name. "Pay thy vows" is his command.

No ordinary excuse absolves one from the obligations of a promise. James A. Garfield, when a young district school-teacher, walked four miles in a pouring rain one dark night rather than break a promise that he had made to one of his pupils to return him his knife at the close of school. Many would have thought that the fact that Mr. Garfield could hand it to the boy the next morning would have released him from keeping this promise, since the weather had become so inclement. But Mr. Garfield said, "A promise is a promise, and I must keep mine."

The text, "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God," reveals the Saviour's estimate of the one who lightly regards a promise. If in things of small moment, one is careless in fulfilling promises, one will be very likely to be equally so in regard to things of eternal worth. Let us, then, take thought when making promises, and take even greater thought to see that we fulfil those promises. Let not heaven's record concerning us be, "They say, and do not."—*Selected.*

The Keeping Counts

"OH, this making good resolutions," exclaimed United States Senator Beveridge of Indiana to a party of Washington acquaintances, "and not keeping them, is what hurts! A resolve is good as far as it goes, but it doesn't make a hundred cents on the dollar until it is kept.

"Out in my country home there was an old farmer who employed a young man, full of resolutions. Every night he would resolve he would rise promptly for work the next morning; every day he determined he would finish the work in hand before quitting; every week he tried to get a new grip on himself to save his extra pennies and start a small bank account; but there all his efforts ceased. He never got beyond his resolutions, and his work grew steadily more unsatisfactory to his employer.

"Finally, one day, much to the young man's surprise, the farmer said to him: 'Jed, I'm goin' to raise your wages. Yes, sir, I'm goin' to raise them.'

"Jed rolled his eyes and twisted his thumbs. He knew he did not deserve a raise, and he thought his employer had temporarily lost his senses.

"'I'm goin' to raise your wages, Jed,' the old man went on, 'just as soon as you keep one of your resolutions. You show me you can keep a resolution, and I'll pay for it. Keeping is what makes a resolution worth money, Jed.'

"Fortunately for Jed, he saw the truth at the right time and began to make fewer 'resolutions,' but what he did make he kept. Then his work counted."—*Selected.*

God's "I Will," and My "I Will"

Divide the society into two sections, one to look up and read God's "I will's" and the other to read our "I will's." When calling upon individual boys and girls to read references, be sure to select those who can read readily and distinctly; but that all may have a part, call for some references to be found and read by the entire society.

God's "I WILL"

Ps. 50: 15
Isa. 48: 25
Ps. 32: 8
John 14: 3
Matt. 4: 19
Matt. 10: 32
John 14: 14, 21

MY "I WILL"

Ps. 56: 3
Ps. 9: 1, 2
Ps. 18: 1
Ps. 38: 18
Ps. 91: 2
Ps. 101: 2
Ps. 119: 15, 16

As an introduction to this study, the story may be told of a father who in making his will gave all his property to his son on condition that the son would finish a course in college and work one year before he was twenty-four. In this will there were two kinds of promises, the father's "I will give my son," and the son's promise, "I will do my part." So it is in our lives. If we keep our promises to God, he will surely fulfil his word to us.

Keep Your Word

1. If you promise to be at a certain place at a certain time, *keep your word*.
2. If you promise to take part on a program, be the part large or small, *keep your word*.
3. If you pledge yourself to pay a certain sum of money at a particular time, *keep your word*.
4. If you pledge yourself to read the Bible every day, *keep your word*.
5. If you promise to complete the Reading Course or the Standard of Attainment, *keep your word*.
6. If you promise to do a favor for some one, even if it causes you inconvenience, *keep your word*.
7. If you promise to engage in some branch of missionary work, *keep your word*.
8. If you wish to be a Junior who can be depended upon by his associates and trusted by the Lord, *keep your word*.

Devotional Meetings for Week Ending November 8

Senior

Subject: Missions.

Motto: "Every believer's work is witnessing for God; every believer's home is where he can do the most good; every believer's cross is self-denial for the Master's sake."—Moravian motto.

1. Opening Exercises: Song and Prayer.
2. Report of Secretary, including Report of Work.
3. Scripture Lesson.
4. Map Study: South Africa.
5. Mission Talk: Starting a New Mission Station in Africa.
6. Missions Survey.
7. Close by repeating in concert Matthew 28:19.

Junior

Subject: Foreign Missions.

Motto: "The whole wide world for Jesus."

1. Missionary hymns.
2. Prayer for our missionaries and their work.
3. Scripture Lesson: Acts 1: 8 in concert.
4. Talk: An Aeroplane Trip.
5. Good News from Many Lands.
6. Talk: What God Expects of Us.
7. Song: "Let the lower lights be burning," Christ in Song, No. 480.
8. Secretary's Report, including Report of Work.

Senior Notes

Secretary's Report.—After the reading of the report, call attention, (1) to the evidences of progress as to attendance, donations, work, etc.; (2) to any of these items in which the society shows a lack.

Scripture Lesson.—Philip, the missionary. His call to be a follower of Christ is recorded in John 1: 43. Philip, immediately after being called, found Nathaniel, "an Israelite indeed," and invited him to follow Christ. John 1: 45. His ministry later led him to the Ethiopian eunuch returning from Jerusalem through the desert. This is fully narrated in Acts 8: 26-39. The one taking the Scripture lesson should give special attention to the zeal, promptness, and efficiency with which Philip carried out this commission of the "angel of the Lord." Notice how readily Philip used his knowledge of the mission of Jesus Christ. The record says he "began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus."

Map Study.—Trace the route from Cape Town to the interior of Africa, and point out the important places. Be sure all have clearly in mind the location of the mission station about which we are studying today.

Mission Talk.—Material for this will be found in chapter four of "On the Trail of Livingstone," by W. H. Anderson.

Missions Survey.—Have some one tell the most interesting missionary incidents recorded in the latest *Reviews*. Make this interesting to your society by selecting as nearly as possible, something suitable to their ages and interests. Call for volunteers to give any missionary news they have gathered. Before the close announce the Missions Survey for December. If the plan suggested in September worked well, use it again.

Junior Notes

Music.—If possible, have an efficient person to lead the singing. Teach the children that singing is a part of God's worship. Some good missionary songs may do much to deepen the impression which this program is designed to make.

Talks.—These should be given by some older persons. "An Aeroplane Trip" is only a suggestive outline. Let the speaker study in detail the reports from some mission fields which would be especially interesting to your children, and briefly describe the work there.

Good News from Many Lands.—This is an exercise for several children. Help them to find and to prepare to tell interesting items of news from the mission field. The *Review*, *Instructor*, and *Missionary Readings* will furnish material. The items should be brief and such as all can enjoy.

An Aeroplane Trip

(Use map, and add interesting items to this outline.)

How would you like to take an aeroplane trip around the world, catching a little glimpse of our mission work in different countries? That is about the only way we shall be able to do much with today's subject, for foreign missions is a big subject. When Jesus said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth," it was the same as if he said, "You shall tell the people in your home town about me, then be witnesses in the United States, in Canada, and in the foreign fields." And that is what his people are trying to do.

All aboard! the aeroplane is ready to take its flight! Today we will start on our trip from New Orleans. We will first cross the Isthmus of Panama, noticing as we do so the fine new memorial church in Colon, which has recently been built. Do you see those little children in the Sabbath schools? They are natives of the West Indies, and most of their parents moved to Panama when the great canal was being made.

Now we will fly over South America, looking down on the Andes Mountains and on Lake Titicaca about which we have studied in geography. Look! there are ever so many mission schools dotted here and there in this region where the Indian children go to learn of Jesus. Only think, there are twenty-six of our schools in this part of South America, with fifteen hundred students attending! Last year five hundred fifty persons were baptized in the Lake Titicaca Mission field. If we had time we would fly all over South America and see the good work being done in other places.

Now we will take our flight across the South Pacific Ocean and stop in Sydney, Australia, for repairs and a new supply of gasoline. Australia is much like the United States, with schools and churches scattered far and near, and thousands of Sabbath keepers. Again we start off, and going north from Australia we fly high over Malaysia, coming down in a spiral dive over Manila in the Philippine Islands. We have had a pretty long trip, and so will stop and rest awhile at our fine training school in Manila where Professor Steinel is the principal. A wonderful work is being done in the Philippines.

Much as we would like to stay in these beautiful islands, we shall have to continue our journey, so soon we are off again. Away we go, over the beautiful country of Japan with its cherry blossoms and bright-faced children. Below we catch a tiny glimpse of Fujiyama, the sacred mountain of the Japanese, which is covered with glistening snow. We will pause for just a moment at Tokio where our Japanese training school is located. We can almost imagine we see Brother Okohira and Brother Kuniya at the school, and other workers, too.

On we go, over Korea where Brother Butterfield, Brother Howard Lee, and Dr. Riley Russell are located, and then over the wall of China. We must come down long enough here to see our Shanghai Sanitarium which is doing so

much good, and also to stop at the language school where our missionaries spend some time learning Chinese when they first come over from America. Shanghai is the headquarters for our work in China. There are schools and chapels in many places in that great country, but not nearly enough to supply the need.

On to India our aeroplane flies. At Calcutta we find two schools, one for boys and one for girls. There are also treatment-rooms where many sick people are helped and comforted. This is one of God's lighthouses in the thick darkness of India, with its three hundred twenty-one million souls. At Lucknow there is a large training school and a publishing house for our literature. How we should like to spend several weeks visiting the mission stations of India and our faithful workers there!

Over Africa our plane sails, and we can look down and see our workers at the Solusi Mission, in Nyasaland, and at other mission stations, with their black boys and girls around them, teaching, preaching, farming, caring for the sick, and in it all, witnessing always for Jesus.

A flying trip over Europe we must make before our journey is over. Here we see the little Adventist churches carrying on their work again and being re-organized, after the long hard years of the war. How glad they are that there is a little time of peace once more!

Now our trip is almost over. Across the broad Atlantic we fly, and find ourselves once more in the dear old United States. We have been around the world in an Adventist aeroplane. We are glad that some work is being done in these foreign countries; but boys and girls, there are millions yet who do not know God. What can we do to help?

What God Expects of Us

JESUS said, "Go ye into all the world." While our missionaries have gone to many places, they tell us that we must have more schools, more teachers, more doctors, oh, so many more, in all these countries, before we can say that we have really obeyed Jesus and been witnesses for him in all the world. They are asking every boy and girl to help by praying for the missionaries and by saving and earning more money than ever before to give to missions.

You remember that at one time during the war they used to talk about "doing our bit." Then they changed it to "Do our best," and when everybody began to do his best the war was won.

God wants you and me to be big lights, just as big as we can be. If I cannot shine with a big light myself, I can be like the lighthouse keeper, and help some other light to shine by keeping it in order and supplying oil. If I cannot go to China, I can help send the missionary, and I can pray for China.

Your part and mine is first to act as if we really belonged to God by being true, loyal Christian boys and girls, so people here at home will know that we are serving Jesus. Second, we must pray that those in darkness may know our Saviour, every one in the whole wide world. Third, we ought to plan every possible way we can to raise money for our mission work, to build more schools so that our missionaries need not turn away any one who wishes to learn and to hear the story of Jesus; and to send more medical missionaries and more preachers and other workers to carry this gospel into every dark corner of the earth.

The Foreign Mission Board does the planning, the missionaries do the going, but you and I must do the living, praying, and giving. Will you do your part? (Suggest some plan for raising missionary funds that all the children can engage in; or perhaps you already have a plan on foot which you can push a little more vigorously.)

WHAT the world needs today is the light of Christ's example, reflected from the lives of Christlike men and women. — "Testimonies for the Church," Vol. IX, p. 124.

LET literature be distributed judiciously, on the trains, in the street, on the great ships that ply the sea, and through the mails. — "Testimonies for the Church," Vol. IX, p. 123.

Devotional Meetings for Week Ending November 15

Senior

Subject: What to Do with Doubt.

Motto: "Doubt cramps energy." "Belief is power."

1. Opening Exercises: A moment of silent prayer; Song; Prayer.
2. Secretary's Report, including Report of Work.
3. Scripture Lesson.
4. Talk: What to Do with Doubt.
5. Reading: "I'm a Skeptic."
6. Symposium: Faith.
7. After a song, close by repeating in concert the Missionary Volunteer Aim and Motto.

Junior

Subject: Cheerfulness.

Blackboard Motto: "Keep Sweet."

1. Cheery Songs.
2. Sentence Prayers.
3. Secretary's Report, including Report of Work.
4. Superintendent's Talk: What It Means to Be Cheerful.
5. Song: "Always Cheerful," Christ in Song, No. 284.
6. Talk by a Junior: Chasing Clouds with Song.
7. Talk by a Junior: A Brave Little Girl.
8. Recitation: Cheer Up!
9. Story: How Phoebe Made Sunshine at Home.
10. Offering; Closing Song.

Senior Notes

Opening Exercises.—A moment may be spent in silent prayer to the end that God will fully open our hearts to the reception of lessons from his Word and from human experience which will "increase our faith" in his purpose for our lives.

Lesson Scripture.—We who are in the church are warned against cherishing doubt. Heb. 3: 12; 4: 11. God forbears with one who is not inclined to believe. John 20: 27. We must conquer doubt and "live by faith." Heb. 10: 38. A cure for doubt: 1. "Taste and see," Ps. 34: 8. 2. Pray. Mark 9: 24.

What to Do with Doubt.—This talk should be filled with plain, positive statements based on the chapter in "Steps to Christ" and on individual experience. Use a few illustrations such as the faith of children in their parents. Study some examples of faith in Bible times to strengthen your own position. If thought best, make use of the cartoon. It illustrates an important truth.

Symposium.—These paragraphs should be read or told. If read, the forceful sentences should be emphasized, for some of the statements are valuable to remember verbatim. Some may be asked to take part but not be assigned a paragraph. Others may volunteer at the time, to testify of their faith and experience.

Notice for Next Week.—Suggest the reading of the parable of the Good Samaritan from the Bible and the helps found in "Christ's Object Lessons" with the end in view of gaining some new ideas.

Junior Notes

This program is rather long. Omit some of it, if necessary. A Junior superintendent recently wrote that in her society there was very little time for a program aside from reports and plans for work. That is fine. There are at least three objects in the Junior meeting: instruction, work, and witnessing. The instruction will not be very helpful unless it leads the children to do something for Jesus. And witnessing will be formal and meaningless if the child has not the spirit of service.

"I'm a Skeptic"

It was at a service especially for young men, that a young man, one of the audience that night, followed me into the back room, and asked for an interview.

"Well," I said, "what is it?"

"I want to have a little talk with you, if you don't mind. I'm a skeptic. *I don't believe in anything.*"

"Lots of fellows are skeptics nowadays, just like you, and it's not very easy to help them. What do you want to know?"

"Well, I want to ask you if you would kindly try to prove to me that Christ really exists."

"Why should I? It doesn't interest you at all, if you are a skeptic. It can't concern you, surely."

"But I want to know."

"Why do you want to know?"

"Well, I am miserable, and I find things very unsatisfactory, and I have been wondering this evening whether I could get any proof about this."

"Suppose you did, what next?"

"Well, perhaps I might become a Christian."

"Is it worth your while, being a skeptic?"

"Well, I am so utterly miserable and wretched."

"That's no wonder; it serves you right, and I do not feel inclined to spend two minutes in trying to prove to you that Christ exists."

"Why not?"

"Because it's not worth while under the circumstances. Besides, I'm not sure it's possible to do so to a skeptic."

"I wish you'd try. You have no idea how dark and miserable I am."

"Perhaps I will, but we will make a bargain over it. If you will answer a question of mine and prove what I want to know, then I will see if I can prove what you want to know."

"Yes, that's fair enough. And what do you want me to prove to you?"

"Why, that you are your mother's own son."

"That's easy enough, I should think."

"All right; prove it. How will you begin?"

He sat thinking some time, and then said, "I'll have to admit that I don't know how to begin."

"That's just the trouble with me, too, about proving that Christ exists. I don't know how to begin. Look here, my dear fellow. All you can tell me is, that so far back as you remember some one taught you to call her mother, and she called you her son; and you have both gone on doing it ever since. Has it worked all right?"

"Certainly it has."

"Are you satisfied that she is your mother?"

"Perfectly so."

"Can you prove it?"

"No, but I'm perfectly satisfied she is."

"And so am I that Christ exists. Many years ago I first began to call him my Saviour and to obey him as such; and he has called me his, and it works."

"How can I find him out for myself, then?"

"Well, then, to help you, let me make use of an illustration. In Australia there are enormous tracts of country covered with dense masses of forest, called 'bush.' Suppose you were there, and had got into that bush, as many poor fellows have, and had been unable to find your way out, and would be what they call 'bushed.' There would be, then, only one thing you could do; namely, *stand still and cooey.*

[This is a peculiar, long-drawn-out sound, made with the mouth, which travels a long way in the still, silent air, and can be heard at an extraordinary distance.] Then, if some one, of whose existence you have no previous knowledge, heard your cooey, he would answer you, so you two would keep it up until he found his way to you, and took you out the way he came in.

"You have lost your way. You are practically 'bushed.' You must cooey to the Lord Jesus Christ. If he is anywhere near, he will hear. If he hears, I can guarantee he will answer; and if you keep it up, he will come to you and lead you out of the dark. I cannot tell you how he will answer you, but you will know it and be positively certain of it."

"That sounds simple enough—I am 'bushed'—I am in the dark—I cannot find my way out."

"Will you cooey?"

"Yes."

"Then just kneel down and begin right away."

He dropped on his knees, and began in some such words as these: "O Lord Jesus, I don't know whether you exist or not, but I'm lost, I'm bushed. If you hear me will you save me?"

He paused, and then I began to tell the Lord Jesus what he had told me about himself, that he might hear his own story again. As I did so, I watched his pale, anxious face, and presently a smile stole over it. I stopped and said:

"Have you heard any answer to your cooey?"

"Yes, I have."

"Does Jesus exist?"

"Of course he does!"

"How do you know?"

"He has taken me out of the dark, and I am his. He has saved me. *He is my Saviour.*

"Are you satisfied?"

"Perfectly."

We rose, and after a few more words we parted. More than a year later I was accosted on a tramcar by a young man with a good-sized Bible under his arm.

"Do you remember me?"

"No," I said, "I can't say I do."

"I am the cooey fellow at H—. That was a good night's work. I have been studying this Book ever since, and it is just grand. It works magnificently."—*Selected.*



Sunday School Times

STRENGTHENING FAITH

Faith

THE faith that wins is that which turns obstacles into helps. As long as the electric current flows unhindered through the wire it is not effective. But when it is interrupted, it becomes evident in useful light and heat. Faith that leaps across the hindrance is transformed into power.—*Sunday School Times.*

He that will believe only what he can fully comprehend must have a very long head or a very short creed.—*Colton.*

It was the custom in olden times for the poor in the parish to call at every house, with bowls, for provisions; and whatever size the bowl was, every generous person would fill it. Faith is our bowl. If we have only "little faith," we shall get that filled; but if we have "great faith," we shall have that filled also. Great faith gets hold of God's treasure.—*Spurgeon.*

A woman who was showing a massive piece of family silver apologized as she took it from the cupboard. "Dreadfully tarnished!" she said. "I can't keep it bright unless I use it." That is just as true of faith as it is of silver. Tucked away in the closet of the soul and only brought out for show, it needs apology. You can't keep faith bright unless you use it.—*Selected.*

I once noticed a little girl feeding some chickens. A number fluttered around her, but one had settled on her wrist and was getting his supply of food direct from the basin she was holding in her hand. Of course, that chicken got most of all by reason of its faith in the good will of the child, combined with boldness. Let us trust God with mind and heart, and come boldly to the throne of grace.—*Selected.*

"How is it that one man could accomplish so much?" was asked of a veteran missionary whose work had challenged the attention of the world. "I believe God," was the simple answer. Great faith in a great God—what can stand before it?—*Selected.*

A check, though signed by the richest man, will not do any good unless one has faith to present it. The doctor cannot cure a man who will not trust him enough to take his medicines and obey his directions. A guide cannot lead us through the forest unless we believe him enough to follow him.—*Peloubet's Notes.*

"To believe is to be strong. Doubt cramps energy. Belief is power. Only so far as a man believes strongly, mightily, can he act cheerfully, or do anything that is worth the doing."

"Believe in your work, for, if you cannot, it is not worthy of your best endeavor. Believe in yourself; for, hidden away in your individuality, is something God deemed worthy of development. Believe in God with the perfect assurance that the life worked out according to his plan must attain the highest possible success. In this threefold belief is to be found the key to the achievements of the ages. To us as to the centurion of old come Christ's words, 'As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.'"

Thoughts for the Superintendent's Talk

(Selected from here and there)

FOLD a piece of paper, then spread it out. It is easier to fold it again in the same crease than in any other way. That is habit. To create a habit of cheerfulness, we must send cheerful thoughts along again and again until the trail in our minds is well worn. Then it will be easy to be cheerful.

A cat will choose to lie on the sunny side of the room. And you may choose what kind of things you will allow yourself to think about. Seek to find the good in everything. Do not magnify evil. A poor fellow was run over by a train, and one of his legs was severed from his body. "Thank God" he gasped, "that it is the one I have rheumatism in." He found the only ray of light. Think of all your blessings.

"What is it that makes your face shine?" asked a Hindu of a missionary. "What makes you so happy?" And the lady replied, "It is Christ in the heart." The secret of happiness is Jesus.

A boy or girl whose mind is filled with grumbling thoughts, who thinks that the tasks set him are too hard, will have a hard time. On the other hand, a happy spirit makes tasks easy, and even an unpleasant duty is enjoyable if cheerfully done.

"Why don't you play with the other children?" said a child's mother. "Nobody wants me," grumbled the child. "Then make them want you. Go along," and she pushed the child into the midst of the fun. Cultivate good cheer, and you will make people want you.

Don't forget to say "Good morning"! Say it to your parents, to your brothers and sisters, to your schoolmates, to your teachers, and say it cheerfully and with a smile; it will do you good and do your friends good. There is an inspiration in every "Good morning" heartily spoken. It really seems to make the morning good. Let no morning pass, however dark and gloomy it may be, that you do not help to brighten by your smiles and words.

The best furnishings for a house are happy faces; the best seasoning of daily bread is a smile; the best music to soothe weariness is laughter.

In Riverside Park, New York City, near the tomb of General Grant, is a single grave surrounded by a plain iron fence. Upon a simple headstone is inscribed, "To the Memory of an Amiable Child." In the sight of heaven, who achieved the greater virtue, the true greatness, Ulysses S. Grant, whom the country delights to honor, or the "Amiable Child"? It is written, "He that ruleth his spirit" is greater "than he that taketh a city."

Just as you play a piece of music until it becomes second nature to you, so you may practise kindness of speech until it becomes second nature to you, when it will make more music in your life than the songs of the sweetest singers.

Chasing Clouds with Song

LITTLE Ralph Messena, who had been run down by a truck the week before, was lying on his cot in a ward on the third floor of Bellevue Hospital, with an arm and a leg in a plaster cast. It was visitors' day. Ralph lay and watched the faces of other sufferers brighten at the touch of loving hands, and after a while he called the nurse:

"Please, may I be rolled out on the balcony?" he begged. The nurse tucked him up comfortably, and Ralph watched the thousand or so relatives and friends as they passed through the courtyard to and fro on their way to call on the patients.

Ralph's mother was dead. He had no one to come to visit him. His heart was sad and lonely, but he did not cry. Instead, he sang. He raised his face until it was bathed in sunshine, cleared his throat, and sang loud and clear and sweet with a pathos that touched the hearts of all who heard. The procession of visitors halted, and windows on all sides of the courtyard were raised, until the cheery notes seemed to fill every corner of the great hospital.

"Say, youngster, don't you fret! You have more friends a man sitting near Ralph on the balcony.

"Not now," said the boy, "but somebody has come to see everybody here today except me."

"Say, youngster, don't you fret! You've got more friends here now than all the rest of us put together," said the man.—*Christian Advocate.*

Cheer Up!

[Let a boy recite this, with the exception of the "Cheer up!" For this, train a company of girls, who will sit in the front row, and come in at the proper places with their birdlike chorus.]

A LITTLE bird sings, and he sings all day:
 "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up!"
 No matter to him if the skies are gray—
 "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up!"
 He flies o'er the fields of waving corn,
 And over the ripening wheat;
 He answers the lark in the early morn
 In cadences cheery and sweet;
 And only these two little words he sings,
 "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up!"
 A message to earth which he gladly brings:
 "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up!"

He sings in a voice that is blithe and bold,
 "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up!"
 And little cares he for the storm or cold—
 "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up!"
 And when in the winter the snow comes down,
 And the fields are all frosty and bare,
 He flies to the heart of the busy town,
 And sings just as cheerily there.
 He chirps from his perch on my window sill,
 "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up!"
 This message he brings with a right good will:
 "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up!"

This dear little messenger can but say,
 "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up!"
 As over the housetops he makes his way—
 "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up!"
 O let us all learn from this wise little bird
 A lesson we surely should heed;
 For if we all uttered but one bright word,
 The world would be brighter indeed.
 If only earth's children would blithely say,
 "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up!"
 How jolly a world would be ours today,
 "Cheer up! Cheer up! Cheer up!"

—Amos R. Wells.

Something You Will Want!

THE little book "Social Plans for Missionary Volunteers" which is dedicated to "young people everywhere who are endeavoring to be 'social to save,'" is something you will want. It contains the following chapters: Social to Save; Social Gatherings and How to Conduct Them; Pleasant and Profitable Evenings; Games That Are Good Mixers; Thought Stimulators; Stunts and Races; Paper and Pencil Games; Bible and Mission Games.

Ready in October!

A Brave Little Girl

A LITTLE girl with a cut in her hand was brought to a physician. It was necessary to take a few stitches with a surgeon's needle. While the doctor was making preparations, the little girl swung her foot nervously against the chair, and was gently cautioned by her mother.

"That will do no harm," said the doctor kindly, "so long as you hold your hand still," adding, with a glance at the strained, anxious face of the child. "You may cry as much as you like."

"I would rather sing," replied the child.

"All right, that would be better. What can you sing?"

"I can sing, 'Give!' said the little stream.' Do you know that?"

"I am not sure," said the doctor. "How does it begin?"

The little patient sang a line.

"That's beautiful!" said the doctor. "I want to hear the whole of it."

All the while the skilful fingers were sewing up the wound, the sweet, childish voice sounded bravely through the room, and the only tears that were shed came from the eyes of the mother.

It is said to be a fact that some expression of one's feelings tends to lessen pain. Since weeping and groaning are distressing to one's friends, how would it do for all to try singing instead? Jesus helps his children to sing even in trial and pain.—*Selected.*

How Phœbe Made Sunshine at Home

MOTHER'S checked kitchen apron reached from Phœbe's chin to her toes, and she stood on a wooden stool as she washed the dishes. But even though she was such a little girl, her hands worked so quickly in the warm suds, and the dishes were so clean as she placed them in the rinsing pan, that any one would have said, "Ah, this is not the first time that Phœbe has washed dishes for her mother. She has learned how by doing it very often." And as Phœbe worked she sang so merrily that any one would say, "Phœbe likes to help her mother, even though the work is dish-washing!"

While she was still singing, the door opened and Mabel peeped in. Mabel was Aunt Mabel's little daughter and Phœbe's cousin.

"Oh, how can you sing when you wash that greasy pan? Ugh! the thought of how your hands feel makes me creep," and Mabel looked at her own pretty hands. "I will not wash dishes."

"But today is Friday, and Nora cannot do more than the baking. It is mother's busy day, and she needs help." Phœbe polished the pan till it shone.

"Well, I wouldn't do it," Mabel cried, and ran away.

When the dishes were all put away on the pantry shelf, the small hands did look a little red; but do you think Phœbe cared for that when mother called, "Thank you, Phœbe, dear; you have made the whole morning easier"? She did not take the checked apron off, for she knew that mother was hurrying to find time to polish the silver. It was a slow, tedious task, but mother had said to Nora, "I must try to do it."

Phœbe knew why. Uncle Matthew was coming to spend a whole week with mother. Uncle Matthew was the brother mother loved so dearly and had not seen since he went away to a far country to be a missionary. Phœbe was such a tiny little girl that she could not remember the day at all, but mother often told her the story.

In a short time the silver knives and forks and spoons were spread on the kitchen table, and how they began to shine! First a dab of powder on the soft chamois cloth, then round and round went Phœbe's fingers; not a dark stain escaping her notice.

Suddenly the door opened. "Look at your hands! They're as black as a piece of coal." Mabel had come in. As she spoke, she rolled her own dimpled hands in her white apron.

"It'll all come off," laughed Phœbe.

"Well, I wouldn't do that for any one. I thought you'd be ready to come out to play by this time."

It did take a good deal of scouring to take the stains away from the fingers when the bright silver was laid away in its place, but do you think Phœbe cared after she heard mother say to Nora, "See what the child has done! She is a little treasure!"

The clock on the kitchen mantel warned Nora that dinner time was coming, and she cried, "What shall I do? The vegetables are not ready. The baking and the extra work have made me late."

"I'll pare the potatoes, Nora. Let me." It was little Phœbe who spoke.

"You, child! They'll stain your hands again."

"Oh, the stain will all come off." Soon Phœbe was seated on the low kitchen stool, with a pan in her lap almost as big as herself, paring potatoes, so that father's dinner should be ready on time.

Again Mabel popped her head through the kitchen doorway. "Well, you're the queerest girl!" she called.

"Queer girl, indeed!" snorted Nora. "Never a wee bit of help have ye given your mother, and she as busy as Phœbe's. Ye ought to be full of shame when you look at your lazy, white hands."

Uncle Matthew came, and Phœbe soon found him to be as dear an uncle as mother had said. He had the strangest way of looking at one. Phœbe said to herself, "I believe he can almost see what I think." Of course this was not quite true, but certainly Uncle Matthew was very wise. He was so wise that it was not long before he understood just why Phœbe's mother was so gay and happy and rested, and why Mabel's mother seemed too tired to smile.

The day before he went away, both little cousins wondered when he caught their small hands in his big one. Side by side they rested; Mabel's soft, dimpled, white ones, and Phœbe's roughened and red, with here and there a stain. Slowly he said:

"Beautiful hands are those that do
Work that is earnest and brave and true,
Moment by moment the long day through."

"It's a big mistake to think that loving work makes them ugly, my dears."

The next day, when Uncle Matthew kissed Phœbe good-by, he pinned a beautiful pearl pin under her chin as he whispered, "A badge of honor for the little maiden whose hands and heart are pure and clean and good and beautiful, because they are ready to give loving service."—*Selected.*

Devotional Meetings for Week Ending November 22

Senior

Subject: The Good Samaritan.

Motto: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, . . . ye have done it unto me."

1. Opening Exercises: Song and Prayer.
2. Secretary's Report, including Report of Work.
3. Scripture Lesson: The Good Samaritan. Luke 10: 30-37.
4. Recitation: Who Is My Neighbor?
5. Reading: "Eye Hath Not Seen." See *Instructor* for November 11.
6. Reading: Love and Sand.
7. A Symposium: Incidents of Personal Work.
8. Close with an especially appropriate song.

Junior

Subject: A Real Thanksgiving.

Helpful Thought: "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, . . . to show forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night." Ps. 92: 1, 2.

1. Songs of Praise and Thanksgiving.
2. Prayer by the Superintendent.
3. Question Box: For the Juniors to Answer.
4. Recitation: My "Thank You's."
5. Dialogue: The Real Thanksgiving Spirit.
6. Story: A Double Thanksgiving.
7. Recitation: Margie's Blessings.
8. Talk by Superintendent: Bringing Thanksgiving to Others.
9. Offering; Song; Benediction.

Senior Notes

Opening Exercises.—Call on two to offer short, earnest prayers.

Scripture Lesson.—Relate the parable of the Good Samaritan, and read in "Christ's Object Lessons" from the beginning of the last paragraph on page 387 to the end of the chapter.

Symposium.—Let all the officers of your society be ready to spring to their feet as soon as this part of the program is thrown open. It is the living testimony of benefit received in one's own life and accomplished in the lives of others that arouses missionary activity. Let the officers be wide-awake and energetic in doing missionary work, and the rest will soon catch the spirit. It is very contagious.

Junior Notes

This program may be held on Thanksgiving Day rather than at the usual time, if desired. A pleasant time, lessons of thankfulness, and practical expressions of good will to the needy,—these should be the aims of a Thanksgiving program. If possible, have some harvest decorations and Thanksgiving pictures. Have baskets ready to receive the gifts that the children have been asked to bring, and arrange to give these to some one in need.

Who Is My Neighbor?

Thy neighbor?—It is he whom thou
Hast power to aid and bless,
Whose aching heart or burning brow
Thy soothing hand may press.

Thy neighbor?—'tis the fainting poor
Whose eye with want is dim,
Whom hunger sends from door to door,
Go thou and succor him.

Thy neighbor?—'tis that weary man
Whose years are at their brim,
But low with sickness, cares, and pains;
Go thou and comfort him.

Thy neighbor?—'tis the heart bereft
Of every earthly gem,
Widow and orphan helpless left
Go thou and shelter them.

Thy neighbor?—yonder toiling slave,
Fettered in thought and limb,
Whose hopes are all beyond the grave;
Go thou and ransom him.

Where'er thou meet'st a human form
Less favored than thine own,
Remember 'tis thy neighbor worn,
Thy brother or thy son.

Oh! pass not, pass not heedless by.
Perhaps thou canst redeem
The breaking heart from misery.
Go share thy lot with him.

—Selected.

Love and Sand

"Isn't that splendid?" I exclaimed as I stepped out of my front door and passed down the cement path to the icy stone steps descending to the sidewalk. The stone steps and the sidewalk were slippery with ice, but my neighbor had sanded not only his own steps and sidewalk, but mine, too.

With red sand he kept the commandment of neighbor-love, and in a deed of helpfulness said, "Thou shalt sand thy neighbor as thyself." He knew that I had no sand and that I had shortly before had a dangerous fall down those steps. That spot was my slippery place, where a fall was imminent and likely to be fraught with fatal consequences. So his neighborly good will sanded my slippery place of danger. My neighbor has similar steps and sidewalks, and therefore the same danger to encounter. Moreover, he had sand to protect his places of danger, while I had none for my protection. Seeing this and prompted by good will, he sanded his neighbor as himself.

Of the late John Gunkel, the friend of all boys and the "big brother" of newsboys, it was truly said, "There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John." He was a God-sent man to the newsboys of America to do his rare service of friendship in their interests for twenty-four

years. The one-hundred-thousand-dollar newsboys' building in Toledo, Ohio, is one of the monuments to his great work of neighbor-love; for he loved his newsboy neighbors as himself. With his love, wisdom, and protective, constructive work for the newsboys, he sanded the slippery places of their helpless condition, and saved them. Fittingly, indeed, as his rose-covered casket was carried into the chapel, the newsboys' band played, "God be with you till we meet again."

To look out for their neighbors, in and out of the society, is the very heart of the work of the Missionary Volunteer. The members of the society can take a helpful interest in their spiritual wards. Every Missionary Volunteer can and should strew upon the danger-spots of the paths of their neighbors the red sand of genuine Missionary Volunteer helpfulness. Thou, missionary watchman, sand the slippery steps of thy neighbor as thine own.—*Adapted.*

For the Juniors to Answer

WHAT things should we all thank God for?
Why should we as a society be thankful?
What special blessings has God given to you this year?
Why should we say, "Thank you" to God?
What did Jesus say when he healed ten men, and only one came back to thank him?
Why do we keep Thanksgiving Day?
What do you think is the best way to keep the day?
How can we help to make it a thankful day for others?
How did Nehemiah keep his great Thanksgiving Day?
(Neh. 8: 10-12.)
Where can we "send portions"?
How did David thank God? (2 Sam. 22: 1-3.)
What psalms would you call Thanksgiving psalms?
How did Abraham's servant thank God for guidance?
(Gen. 24: 26, 27.)
How did Jacob thank God for help in time of trouble?
(Gen. 35 3.)
Have you ever thanked God for help in trouble?
How did the shepherds thank God when they had seen the child Jesus? (Luke 2: 17, 20.)
How did he who had been sick of the palsy thank God for healing him? (Luke 5: 25.)
How did Jesus once tell a man to show that he was thankful for healing? (Luke 8: 38, 39.)
How did the lame man whom Peter healed give thanks?
(Acts 3: 1-9.)
How can you and I give thanks?
Why is it a good thing to give thanks?

Margie's Blessings

"WITH salt and potatoes and meal for bread,
We needn't be hungry today," she said.
"Though I cannot stir from this queer old chair,
I look at the cupboard and know they're there;
And mother has left this lunch by me;
How thankful I am for it all!" said she.

"With coal for the stove and a quilt for the bed,
We needn't be chilly today," she said;
"For as long as my arms and back don't tire
I can reach very well to feed the fire;
And mother'll be home to an early tea;
How thankful I am for it all!" said she.

"There's only one thing that I really dread,
And that is the pain in my back," she said.
"But it's better, a great deal better, I know,
Than it was at the first, three months ago;
And the doctor is ever so kind to me;
How thankful I am for it all!" said she.

"And by and by, when the winter is dead,
He thinks I'll be almost well," she said;
"And I'll have some crutches and walk, and then
I can get the dinners for mother again;
And O, how glad and happy we'll be!
How thankful I am for it all!" said she.

—E. S. Bumstead.

The Real Thanksgiving Spirit

IRVING:

Say, aren't you glad tomorrow's Thanksgiving?
Doesn't it make you glad you're living?
Mother wants our dinner to be a surprise;
But can't I just smell the pudding and see the big
pumpkin pies?
I know there'll be cranberries, cookies, and jell,
And big heaps of goodies I can't stop to tell;
I can hardly wait till I get to the table,
And I tell you I'll eat as much as I'm able.

EVELYN:

Is that all Thanksgiving means to you?
Haven't you time to be thankful, too?
Mother says that's not the way
For us to spend Thanksgiving Day—
To play, and eat, and enjoy the food
That God has given us for good,
And forget to thank him for his care
And all the blessings that we share.
God gives us life, and health, and food;
All things beautiful and good.
Shall we not offer him our praise
For joys of life and length of days?

IRVING:

I think you're right in what you say;
So I had better change my way,
And forget about the cakes and pies
That look so good to children's eyes.
And since you told what your mother said
It reminds me now of what I've read—
That eating too much of such rich food
For boys and girls is never good.
So I will try to temperate be,
And not partake of all I see;
But rather think of blessings given
And praise our Father who's in heaven.

FRANKLIN:

What you say reminds me of a poem in my reader.

LA VERA:

What is it, Franklin?

FRANKLIN:

I'll repeat it. The teacher had me memorize it:

"For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see;
For blue of stream and blue of sky;
For pleasant shade of branches high;
For fragrant air and cooling breeze;
For beauty of the blooming trees,—
Father in heaven, we thank thee!

"For mother love and father care;
For brother strong and sister fair;
For love at home and here today;
For blessings lest we go astray;
For thy dear, everlasting arms
That bear us o'er all ills and harms;
For blessed words of long ago
That help us now thy will to know,—
Father in heaven, we thank thee!"

HARVEY:

That surely will help us to remember to be thankful.
Now let us each think of a verse from the Bible containing
the word "thanksgiving" or "praise." I will begin:

"I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the heathen,
and I will sing praises unto thy name."

FRANKLIN:

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his
mercy endureth forever."

EVELYN:

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to
sing praises unto thy name, O Most High."

LA VERA:

I like this one: "I will praise thee, O Lord my God,
with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name forevermore."

IRVING:

"Praise ye the Lord." "O give thanks unto the Lord;
for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever." And now

let us repeat that Thanksgiving psalm we learned in school.

ALL REPEAT TOGETHER:

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve
the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with
singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that
hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people,
and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with
thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful
unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his
mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all genera-
tions."—*Lulu Pressnall Moore.*

A Double Thanksgiving

"Soon will be Thanksgiving," cried Bianca, as she opened
the door. She always burst in from school as if she were
bearing good news; and indeed school was a daily wonder
to her.

"Thanksgiving?" asked Mother Tosti gently.

"Yes, because we are Americans. It is about the Pilgrim
Fathers—and 'My country, 'tis of thee.'"

Mother Tosti sighed a bit as she took up Baby Francesca.
She did not feel a great amount of thankfulness just then.
Father Tosti was with the army in Italy. They had been
just ready to come to America when war was declared, and
Mr. Tosti, fearing for the hardships that might come, had
sent his family on to stay with the grandmother and uncle
in America while he remained to take his place in the ranks.
Soon after, the uncle returned to Italy to fight for his coun-
try. For months now they had not heard from Father
Tosti. With three little mouths to feed, and the price of
food mounting daily, it is no wonder that Mrs. Tosti sighed,
instead of smiled, at the approach of Thanksgiving.

From the window where she sat grandmother's voice
came softly. "Daughter, let us be thankful to the good
God who has kept us thus far."

The smile came out on Mrs. Tosti's face again. "Yes,
we do thank him," she said. "Perhaps we shall have maca-
roni on this American feast," she continued cheerfully.

"No!" cried Tony explosively. "That would not be right
at all. We must have the turkey and the pumpkin pie."

That almost stopped plans for the celebration. Mother
knew that she could not afford to buy turkey, and she
wasn't sure what pie was like. But grandmother and Bianca
restored peace, grandmother by saying that the thankfulness
must be in your heart and not in what you eat, and Bianca
by telling them that the day was for America, and if you
just had an American flag, it didn't matter if you ate
macaroni or just plain bread.

Francesca was fretting by this time, and Bianca took her
out of doors. It was a beautiful Indian summer sort of day,
and other "little mothers" were out with their small
charges. But though Bianca walked up and down with the
girls or sat on the steps while Marietta sang for all the
babies, she was very silent. She was thinking happily that
now they were real Americans.

After Bianca had put the baby to sleep, she ran on an
errand of her own. Rosso, the fruit dealer, had promised
her a flag after she had helped him one day in gathering
up some fruit that was spilled, and she wanted her flag now.

Rosso brought out the flag, a little faded, but still quite
good. Bianca explained that they were going to keep
Thanksgiving, and he thought it a fine idea.

Bianca took the flag home and draped it over the table.
Now, no matter what they had to eat, they could sing
"America" and "The Star-spangled Banner," and so keep
the great feast.

On Monday at recess Bianca talked about it to Doris
Allen, who sat next her in school.

"Why," said Doris in a superior tone, "that's not the
way to keep Thanksgiving. Flags are for Fourth of July.
O girls, just listen to this: Bianca doesn't know the differ-
ence between Thanksgiving and Fourth of July!"

How Bianca's heart hurt—just as if they had called her
names or slapped her! She turned without a word and ran
away across the school yard.

When school began again, Bianca was not in her place, and when Miss Frost asked about her, Alice felt so guilty that she had to say, "We laughed at her, Miss Frost, because she was going to have a flag for Thanksgiving. She looked hurt and ran away."

"I think that is a very beautiful way to keep Thanksgiving," said Miss Frost. "Do you know that Bianca's father is a soldier in Italy, and the mother and grandmother have to make lace to earn money? They cannot afford to buy a Thanksgiving dinner. Yet they are thankful they are Americans, and so they put up the flag. I wonder if we shall all remember to be as thankful next Thursday."

Some of the girls cried at Miss Frost's words. The boys looked thoughtful.

"Oh, they may have part of my Thanksgiving," said Alice.

"Mine, too," cried other girls and boys.

And out of that grew a plan. They gathered around Miss Frost and talked fast. Then the last bell rang, and they had to begin school.

"Remember, not a word!" warned Miss Frost. "It must be a complete surprise."

Bianca was back in school that afternoon. Every one was kind to her, but she said nothing more about the feast.

On Thanksgiving morning all the Tosti family went to church. Bianca saw most of her schoolmates and Miss Frost when she entered the church. But she did not notice that they sat far back and that a few minutes before the service was ended, they stole out quietly. And the minister did not mind at all. He was in the secret. He even helped by talking longer than usual to the Tostis, when he greeted them.

Down the street hurried Miss Frost with a dozen boys and girls, each carrying a basket. The door of the Tosti home was not even locked. All one needed to do was to walk in. With whispering haste the articles from the baskets were set on the table.

"Hurry, children, hurry!" said Miss Frost. "We must get away in time."

But they didn't. Perhaps it was Alice's fault. She had brought a bouquet of asters, and had to take time to arrange them. At any rate the door opened, and the family came in. The children looked as guilty as burglars. But Miss Frost knew what to do.

"Dear friends," she explained, "we heard how beautifully you were keeping the day in thankfulness for all that America gives us. And because this is the first Thanksgiving that you have celebrated, we wanted to share some of our American feast with you. Will you accept it with our best wishes?"

"So many thanks, *signorina*," stammered Mrs. Tosti. It was difficult to remember her English in the excitement. "We hope you are never sorry that we come to be Americans, too."

Grandmother was softly crying, but Bianca with radiant face stretched out her hands to her schoolmates and cried, "Then you do like us a little, after all?"

"Like you!" cried Alice. "We love you. And you were so clever to think of the flag. We're going to have one, too—right over the table like this. And my mother says you were a better American than the rest of us."

Then Miss Frost led her little group out, all sending beaming backward glances at the family.—*Zelia M. Walters.*

It's Ready!

WHAT is ready? The manual known as "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work" is now ready. It contains 480 pages and sells for \$1.25. Some of the chapter titles are:

The History of the Young People's Work; Why Have a Young People's Work; Why Have a Young People's Society? The Society a Department of the Church; Our Motto, Our Aim, and Our Pledge; How to Organize a M. V. Society; The Devotional Features; The Educational Features; Organized Missionary Effort.

This book should be in the hands of every society officer, including band leaders and others who are especially interested. How many can your society use? Order today from your tract society.

My "Thank You's"

I THANK thee, Father in the skies,
For this dear home so warm and bright;
I thank thee for the sunny day
And for the sleepy, starry night.

I thank thee for my father's arms
So big and strong to hold me near;
I thank thee for my mother's face;
I thank thee for my friends so dear.

I thank thee for the little birds
That eat my crumbs upon the sill;
I thank thee for the glistening snow
That's coming down so soft and still.

O Father, up there in the skies,
Hear me on this Thanksgiving Day,
And please, read in my heart, dear Lord,
The "Thank you's" I forgot to say.

—*Kate Whiting Patch.*

Devotional Meetings for Week Ending November 29

As usual, the fifth week is left open for you to plan your own programs.

Missionary Volunteer Programs for Advanced Schools

For Week Ending November 1

Subject: I Promise.

THE power of God received into the life by faith is able to break the life-long habits of the most hardened sinner; but as a matter of fact there are comparatively few college graduates whose lives are changed fundamentally after they leave college. The years of school life are pre-eminently the years of character building; the problems of life are considered, and conscious decisions are made. The heretofore pliable cement seems to "set," and the person rarely desires to change his character foundations.

Such a theme as this, therefore, is of vital importance. But do not give it merely as a "program." Let those who are to take part study the Bible earnestly, the material given in the regular program for this day, and other sources, and pray that the Holy Spirit may be present to make a lasting impression. There may be present some young people who are insincere, deceitful, and very lax about keeping promises; and it may be that it is the plan of the Holy Spirit to use you to speak the words which will transform their lives. What a pity if you should fail! There is a tendency for students to feel that in all their exercises they are "practising." True, you should always be learning to do better, but the best way to improve is to realize that you have vital issues to meet, and that God will hold you accountable for the effort you put forth.

For Week Ending November 8

Subject: Starting a New Mission Station in Africa.

This should be especially interesting to students whose eyes are on the mission field, and it gives a good opportunity to follow up the program of October 11 by using material from the Reading Course. The Foreign Mission Board may be asked to prepare this program. Do not forget the Monthly Missions Survey.

For Week Ending November 15

Subject: What to Do with Doubt.

Every student sooner or later faces this question. Let the emphasis be placed on the assurances. Make clear human limitations. Sometimes the student, elated over his conquests of knowledge and his powers to reach conclusions by the process of reasoning, jumps at the conclusion that he will not believe what he cannot reason out. It will help him to understand that neither the great fundamental truths of science nor of religion can be learned that way. These great foundation truths are not contrary to reason, but beyond reason. Usually the faculty adviser should be on the program committee and hence assist in preparing all programs. Especially on a program like this, he or some other teacher should be counseled with.

For Week Ending November 22

Subject: The Good Samaritan.

Your Christian Help Band, if you have one, might well render this program, and set before the society some definite work to be done. You can make it a Thanksgiving program.

For Week Ending November 29

Open.