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EDITOR - - - - - T. E. BOWEN
ASSOCIATE EDITORS - - - M. E. KERN, C. V. LEACH

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Church Officers' General Instruction Department

Sabbaths with Special Offerings During 1920

July 10 Midsummer Offering for Missions.
October 9 Offering for the Work for the Colored People.
December 18 Annual Offering to Missions.

Special Programs

June 5 Medical Day.
August 7 Educational Day.

Regular Programs

Second Sabbath each month (except October 9 and December 11), Missionary Reading in Interest of Missions.
Fourth Sabbath each month, Home Missionary Service.

Offices and Spiritual Gifts Set in the Church — No. 1

"He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Eph. 4: 11-13.

"God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts." 1 Cor. 12: 28-31.

"Forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church." 1 Cor. 14: 12.

In these inspired utterances we are not only instructed concerning offices and spiritual gifts set in the church for the upbuilding of the body of Christ, but we are admonished to covet earnestly the best gifts, and to seek to excel for the edifying of the church.

God's gifts are many. The apostle says that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights." James 1: 17. These gifts include all our talents and all the blessings that God has bestowed upon his creatures. The Saviour has illustrated this by the parable of the kingdom of heaven as recorded in Matthew 25: 14:

"The kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey."

In commenting on these gifts, the apostle says:

"To one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: but all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." 1 Cor. 12: 8-12.

If we think that large mental powers, wealth, honored positions of trust in the church or in the state, are the best gifts, we make a great mistake. If these gifts that are usually sought after most are the best gifts, then but few favored ones can obtain the best gifts from God. No; while we may desire to obtain talents that will give us influence and power over men, we may know these are not the best gifts from God. The humble and the great alike may share in the best that God can bestow upon man.

Before commenting upon some of the gifts, I wish to notice three or four gifts of more value than all others combined, which may be obtained by any one, regardless of his station in life, and without which all other gifts will be of no value.

The first gift as set forth by the apostle Paul, embraces all other gifts:

"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

This scripture declares that in God's gift to man, Jesus Christ, we have eternal life. Without this gift and our acceptance of the same, all other gifts are but naught.

Second, the apostle says we might have all wisdom; have the gift of prophecy; understand all mysteries; possess all knowledge, and all faith and power to work miracles; have the eloquence of an angel; but without the gift of love, all other gifts would be as ashes. Love is the greatest gift, aside from Jesus Christ, and is included in that gift. It is within the reach of every one.

"Hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Rom. 5: 5.

Love makes all other endowments of value, and we may all possess this gift forever. "Charity [love] never faileth." 1 Cor. 13: 8. This gift is the evidence, or seal, of our discipleship, for the apostle says:

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13: 35.

Third, this gift of love is grouped with two other gifts which stand out as among the best; namely, "power" and "a sound mind."

"God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Tim. 1: 7. "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." Acts 1: 8.

Ye, ye shall receive keeping and working power. Notice what the Saviour says:

"Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Luke 24: 49.

This power God has given and placed within our reach, and he says:

"I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist." Luke 21: 15.

This promised power is accessible to all who are called, and the call is to all men; "whosoever will" may come. Acts 2: 39; Rev. 22: 17.

The fourth of these greatest of God's gifts is a sound mind. The standard of a sound mind must be measured by a perfect mind, therefore we are exhorted by the apostle Paul:

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Phil. 2: 5.

A divine comment upon the mind of Christ is found in Isaiah 11: 2-4:

"The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth."

This gift offers a mind clear in understanding, with a sound judgment, a will controlled by the mind of God, a mind harmonious in all its faculties, so that one thinks, speaks, and acts aright at all times. A sound mind is always cheerful and hopeful; while doubt, discontent, and gloom are the harbingers of decay and death.

College View, Nebr.

R. A. UNDERWOOD.

The Support of Church Schools

(Concluded)

THAT an organized plan for the support of church schools is to be adopted is evident from these words:

"Those who have spiritual oversight of the church should devise ways and means by which an opportunity may be given to every member of the church to act some part in God's work. . . . The leaders in God's cause, as wise generals, are to lay plans for advance moves all along the line. In their planning they are to give special study to the work that can be done by the laity for their friends and neighbors."—"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. IX, pp. 116, 117.

I am convinced that this is true and that the following instruction will have to be fulfilled before the Lord can come.

"When heavenly intelligences see that men are no longer permitted to present the truth, the Spirit of God will come upon the children, and they will do a work in the proclamation of the truth which the older workers cannot do, because their way will be hedged up. Our church schools are ordained by God to prepare the children for this great work. Here children are to be instructed in the special truths for this time, and in practical missionary work."—*Id.* Vol. VI, p. 203.

I shall endeavor to explain a plan that I tried in six counties of Iowa, and this year it has been adopted by the Iowa Conference for general use throughout the State.

Various methods for the support of church schools have been tried. Some have proved a failure, either because of lack of interest by the constituency, or because, as a people, we do not quite realize the great mission field our children constitute in our conferences; or because the methods used did not carry with them the element of permanency. Nevertheless I have faith to believe that this plan which the Iowa Conference has adopted can be made to succeed elsewhere, as it has here. While there may be many improvements added, it will not only bear investigation but, we believe, is worthy of our support.

The educational secretary or some other conference worker visits the churches, and after laying before them the need of an adequate church school fund, gives a slip of paper and a pencil to every member, asking each one to sign the paper for a small sum per month—from five cents upward. This need not interfere with nor affect other funds to be raised. After the slips of paper are gathered, a secretary is appointed in each church to visit each member who was not present, and solicit pledges—the members paying their pledges monthly or quarterly, in advance, to the secretary, who will turn over the amount each month to the church treasurer. The church treasurer forwards this money monthly with his other remittances to the conference treasurer.

A chart made on heavy wrapping paper similar to the accompanying illustration, containing the names of all the members of the church (but not the amounts pledged) is presented before the church each month, by the secretary

appointed to look after this work, and the payments crossed off as the members pay in the amounts promised. The secretary is in possession of a special list for his own personal use, of all the names and the amount each member pledged. These are individual and not family pledges. One member is not to know the amount others are paying.

After having visited 600 persons, I was surprised to find an average monthly pledge of twenty-four cents a member. I have met only four persons who refused to pledge.

At the beginning of the new year, this plan works like a self-starter on an automobile. The secretary simply asks how many wish to renew their pledges, and checks off the

| GOD LOVES CHILDREN, AND SO DO WE. | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CONF. CHURCH SCHOOL FUND. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SPENCER, I.A. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NAMES | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N |
| Mr. V. A. Reno | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Mr. E. E. Illwort | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Mr. G. O. Eborn | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Miss Irene Hazel | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Miss L. Washers | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Mr. O. Baker | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Mr. A. A. Vernon | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Mr. John Youth | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Mr. M. M. Jones | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

names of those responding. If there are those who wish to increase the amount pledged, they may do so.

Here are a few results that I have noticed accruing from this plan:

1. It helps to get new converts.
2. It helps us all to get interested in the children of our brethren.
3. It creates a desire in the young people to become teachers.
4. It makes the children feel that something is being done for them.
5. It reminds the minister that the gospel is for children as well as adults.
6. It stirs up the isolated and inactive members.
7. And last, but not least, we shall hear the Saviour say

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25: 40), and again, "Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me." Mark 9: 37.

Spencer, Iowa.

ALBERT PRIEGER.

Notice!

THE GAZETTE is published to provide a medium by which those bearing official responsibilities in the denomination may impart instruction and receive help in connection with the various positions they may be chosen to fill. The editor will be glad at any time to receive either questions or short articles upon any topic of general interest in the conduct of church or conference work. The special problem confronting you may have been successfully dealt with by another. The workers will please remember, therefore, that these columns are ever open for the exchange of helpful suggestions.

"The power to love—God's greatest gift,—
Forget it not, dear heart. 'Twill lift
The weight of burdens, heaviest,
When thou rememb'rest that the best
He gives is thine,—thou still canst love!"

Home Missionary Department

THE ANNUAL CONVOCATIONS OF GOD'S PEOPLE — RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIVILEGES

Suggestive Program for Fourth Sabbath Home Missionary Service

(To be held May 22)

OPENING SONG: "Pilgrims on!" Hymns and Tunes, No. 848; Christ in Song, No. 642.

Scripture Lesson: Joel 2: 15-18; Zeph. 2: 1-4. The Trumpet Call.

Prayer.

Report for the month, by the missionary secretary.¹

Offering for Home Missionary work.

Song: "Come, ye that love the Lord," Hymns and Tunes, No. 30; Christ in Song, No. 379.

A Study from the Testimonies on Camp-Meetings.

Reading: Attending Our Annual Camp-Meetings.

Announcements: Time, place, route, etc., of local camp-meeting.

Exchange of experiences regarding value of camp-meetings, and prospects for attending this year.

Closing Song: "We'll Live in Tents," Hymns and Tunes, No. 1262; Christ in Song, No. 483.

Benediction.

Note to the Leaders

For fifty-two years the annual camp-meetings of Seventh-day Adventists have formed an interesting and inspiring feature of denominational history. As watchmen on the walls of Zion, it rests with you to give the trumpet a certain sound in calling those under your charge to the camp-meetings of 1920. The attendance at the camp-meetings this year should be the largest ever known, and the results are sure to be correspondingly great. By being thoroughly familiar with all the arrangements for your local camp-meeting, and by carefully explaining every detail, as the necessary preparation, time to start, route, etc., you will do much toward securing a favorable decision on the part of many to attend. Church members who do not find it convenient to look up trains, or who do not know how to secure camp-meeting accommodations, readily excuse themselves from making any effort to go to the camp-meeting. A clear and definite statement as to all details will obviate this excuse, and will also be appreciated by those who have recently come among us and to whom this may be the first camp-meeting season. Near the close of the meeting seek to get expression from the members present as to the probability or improbability of attending. As far as possible, help all to overcome the apparent obstacles in the way, and urge that all engage in a "Bring One" campaign. No better Home Missionary service can be rendered than to extend a cordial invitation to those outside the ark of safety to share in the pleasure of leaving the ordinary haunts of life, and enjoying the free air, rest, and inspiration of camp life. In the atmosphere of prayer and song and praise, the soul is lifted into the secret of His presence; old things pass away, and "behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor. 5: 17.

A Camp-Meeting Study

WHAT were the Israelites instructed to do at stated seasons every year?

"God gave direction to the Israelites to assemble before him at set periods, . . . and observe special days wherein no unnecessary work was to be done."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. II, p. 578.

Were these annual gatherings of sufficient importance to warrant the time and expense incurred?

"With those who lived at a distance from the tabernacle, more than a month of every year must have been occupied in attendance upon these holy convocations. The Lord saw that these gatherings were necessary for the spiritual life of his people. They needed to turn away from their worldly cares to commune with God, and to contemplate unseen realities."—*Id.*, Vol. VI, p. 40.

¹ Let this be a good, live report, briefly citing interesting experiences which have developed as the result of the deeper degree of personal responsibility taken on by the members at the previous Fourth Sabbath Service.

How should our people feel with reference to similar annual gatherings?

"Let all who possibly can, attend these yearly gatherings. All should feel that God requires this of them."—*Id.*, Vol. II, p. 575.

What should be the object of a camp-meeting?

"The object of a camp-meeting is to lead all to separate from business cares and burdens and devote a few days exclusively to seeking the Lord."—*Id.*, p. 601.

What is of more value than all earthly possessions?

"A strong, clear sense of eternal things, and a heart willing to yield all to Christ, are blessings of more value than all the riches, and pleasures, and glories of this world."—*Id.*, p. 576.

How was the time to be spent at these annual gatherings in ancient times?

"The time was to be devoted to a consideration of the blessings which he had bestowed upon them."—*Id.*, p. 573.

How should the time be spent at our camp-meetings?

"We should occupy the time in self-examination, close searching of heart, penitential confession of sins, and renewing our vows to the Most High."—*Id.*, p. 601.

What were the people anciently to bring with them?

"At these special seasons, they were to bring gifts, free-will offerings and thank offerings, unto the Lord, according as he had blessed them."—*Id.*, p. 573.

Of what are these gifts to be tokens?

"They were commanded not to appear before the Lord empty. They were to bring tokens of their gratitude to God for his continual mercies and blessings bestowed upon them."—*Ibid.*

Are such gifts and offerings required of God's people now?

"God requires no less of his people in these last days, in sacrifices and offerings, than he did of the Jewish nation."—*Id.*, p. 574.

How do some treat these annual gatherings?

"For fear of losing a little of this world's gain, some let these precious privileges come and go as though they were of but little importance."—*Id.*, p. 576.

Whom should we expect to meet at such gatherings?

"Come, brethren and sisters, to these sacred convocation meetings to find Jesus. He will come up to the feast. He will be present, and he will do for you that which you most need to have done."—*Id.*, p. 575.

— A. T. Robinson.

Attending Our Annual Camp-Meetings

ANOTHER year has quickly passed, and the time for our annual camp-meetings to begin has almost arrived. It is time now to begin making preparation to attend these great convocations.

You are *not* planning to attend, did I hear you say? Why not? Some may have just cause for remaining at home. But there is one thing that saddens our hearts as we attend these meetings each year, and that is that so large a number of our people allow temporal things to keep them away from these yearly gatherings of God's people. Many who in theory believe this message, will, I fear, be lost because of the pressure of the cares of this world.

A Dangerous Risk

We are taking a dangerous risk when we allow the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches to keep us away from the camp-meeting, — and not only a personal risk, but by depriving the members of our families of the blessings of the meeting, we are responsible for the loss they sustain. Unless we are sure that God is pleased with our course, we should make the necessary preparation, and be present to share in the blessing of the Lord. The importance of these yearly gatherings cannot be estimated. We are near the end. The world is in trouble. While the boom of the cannon has ceased, the strife and jealousy among nations was never stronger than today. The struggle between labor and capital threatens the people of all nations. Discontent and revolution are like a slumbering volcano.

A Vivid Picture of Present-Day Conditions

"We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.

"The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones.

"The condition of things in the world shows that troublous times are right upon us. The daily papers are full of indications of a terrible conflict in the near future. Bold robberies are of frequent occurrence. Strikes are common. Thefts and murders are committed on every hand. Men possessed of demons are taking the lives of men, women, and little children. Men have become infatuated with vice, and every species of evil prevails." — *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. IX, p. 11.

Can You Afford to Miss the Meeting?

In view of such an awful hour as is here portrayed, we cannot afford to allow any earthly consideration to keep us away from the annual camp-meeting, where God will commune with his people in a special manner, and impart courage and renewed strength for the Christian warfare. All the youth and children should come. Why should we not at our camp-meetings this year see the largest attendance of our young people and children ever seen at a camp-meeting? This will result in the conversion of many of our young people who are now drifting. Consecrated and experienced workers, whom God has signally blessed in the work of saving souls, will attend these meetings. The heads of our schools will be present to talk with the youth about securing a Christian education and preparing to fill a place in the cause of God. Then come, parents, and bring all the family to the meeting this year. These meetings are held at a very great outlay of money, and they are a strong factor in building up and advancing our work. However, the meetings cannot be of much help to those who do not attend. Plan now to be at the camp-meeting this year, and arrange to go early, and remain until the close of the meeting.

Preparation Necessary

While making the necessary preparation so far as temporal things are concerned, we should not neglect the preparation of the heart. The following extracts from an article by the servant of the Lord, entitled "Our Camp-Meetings," should be kept in mind:

"While preparing for the meeting, each individual should closely and critically examine his own heart before God. If there have been unpleasant feelings, discord, or strife in families, it should be one of the first acts of preparation to confess these faults one to another and pray with and for one another. Humble yourselves before God, and make an earnest effort to empty the soul temple of all rubbish,—all envyings, all jealousies, all suspicions, all faultfindings. 'Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep; let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.' . . .

"Here is a work for families to engage in before coming up to our holy convocations. Let the preparation for eating and dressing be a secondary matter, but let deep heart-searching commence at home. Pray three times a day, and like Jacob, be importunate. At home is the place to find Jesus; then take him with you to the meeting, and how precious will be the hours you spend there. But how can you expect to feel the presence of the Lord and see his power displayed, when the individual work of preparation for that time is neglected? . . .

"The same work of humiliation and heart searching should also go on in the church, so that all differences and alienations among brethren may be laid aside before appearing before the Lord at these annual gatherings. 'Set about this work in earnest, and rest not until it is accomplished; for if you come up to the meeting with your doubts, your murmurings, your disputings, you bring evil angels into the camp and carry darkness wherever you go.' — *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. V, pp. 163-165.

A Resolve

Shall we not endeavor to make the coming camp-meeting season the best in our history as a people? The end is fast approaching. We shall not be able to hold camp-meetings many more years. The One for whom we have waited will soon come. There are days of great stress and trial before us. Persecution awaits those who are true and faithful. The time is drawing near when great financial trouble will overtake the world, and men will cast their hoarded wealth to the moles and bats, and hide with the creatures of darkness in the holes of the rocks. We need a preparation that we and our families may be ready for this awful time. We need the spiritual uplift of the camp-meeting. Our children need it. There may be obstacles in the way of our attending. The enemy will see to it that the way is hedged up if possible. But the God who opened the Red Sea for Israel to pass over is our God, and will help us if we move forward in faith. Sometime, at some meeting, there will be a mighty visitation of God's Spirit and power. There may be such an outpouring at the camp-meeting nearest you this year. Resolve to be there, and share in this spiritual awakening.

G. B. THOMPSON.

A Personal Invitation

THE following verses were written by Elder H. W. Carr, and appeared in the "Western New York Camp-Meeting Special," of 1914. Many of our readers can no doubt testify that they never failed to see Elder and Mrs. Carr at the annual camp-meeting in whatever State they were working, and to be inspired by their strong, uplifting influence on old and young. This year, Sister Carr sleeps the sleep of death, while Elder Carr makes the camp-meeting circuit alone, cheered by the memory of past blessed experiences of companionship and labor. To none is the assurance given of having opportunity to attend another camp-meeting. The present opportunity is ours to improve. Do not fail to respond to the invitation.

"To the ones who have helped start this message
Mid the trials of tense early years,
To those who have since shared its blessings,
Its burdens, its joys, and its tears;
Your presence is urgently needed
At the camp-meeting held here in —
This is one of the last of such meetings:
What is done must be done very soon.

"Earthly treasures will go in a moment,
Heartsick, empty handed, alone,
Some accepted of wood, hay, and stubble;
They rejected a crown and a throne.
'Twas in vain; they would not be entreated;
They awake to a sense of their fate;
They plead for just one more camp-meeting.
Time has ended. The plea is too late.

"God commands, Attend annual meetings.
Their business this call will deny.
The God whom they serve in this crisis
Is the one they must trust by and by.
It may be hard now to obey him,
But consider the end of this strife:
It is now to serve mammon and perish,
Or serve God and inherit his life.

"We shall do all we can to get ready;
We shall pray for you all every day.
O may the dear Lord bless our efforts!
Won't you ask of him, too, that he may?
Come, dear friends of the cause, to the meeting,
Do not answer the call with a No;
For the King will soon call to the wedding,
And you may be too busy to go."

It is important that the members of our churches should attend our camp-meetings. The enemies of truth are many; and because our numbers are few, we should present as strong a front as possible. Individually you need the benefits of the meeting, and God calls upon you to number one in the ranks of truth. — *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. VI, p. 38.

What Should I Bring to Camp-Meeting?

(Place on blackboard before meeting, and set the board in a conspicuous place.)

1. Yourself.
2. All members of your family.
3. As many of your neighbors as possible.
4. Your Bible, songbook, and Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly.
5. Comfortable clothing, but not gaudy apparel; pins, needles, thread, scissors; sufficient bedding.
6. A tender heart.
7. A clear conscience.
8. An agreeable disposition.
9. A willingness to do your full part in helping forward the cause of the Lord.—*Selected.*

SUGGESTIONS FOR MISSIONARY MEETINGS

First Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Reading of Minutes; Prayer.

Text for Comment: 2 Cor. 3: 2, 3.

Reading: The World's Bible.

Reading: An Illustration of Quiet But Effective Home Missionary Work.

Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

It is said of some people that what they *do* speaks so loud that what they *say* cannot be heard. Emphasize the responsibilities of being "living epistles." Draw from your fund of personal experience in citing additional instances of effective service, and urge all to be watchful and faithful.

The World's Bible

"You are a letter of Christ, written with the Spirit of the ever-living God." 2 Cor. 3:3.—*Weymouth's Translation.*

Christ has no hands but ours to do his work today;
He has no feet but our feet to lead men in his way.
He has no tongue but our tongue to tell men how he died;
He has no help but our help to bring them to his side.

We are the only Bible the careless world will read;
We are the sinner's gospel, we are the scoffer's creed.
We are the Lord's last message, given in deed and word;
What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?

What if our hands are busy with other work than his?
What if our feet are walking where sin's allurements is?
What if our tongues are speaking of things his lips would spurn?

How can we hope to help him and hasten his return?

—*Selected.*

An Illustration of Quiet But Effective Home Missionary Work

A young lady, being asked her reasons for accepting the third angel's message and dedicating her life to Christian service as a nurse in one of our sanitariums, makes the following statement:

"My life up to the time I came to the sanitarium was uneventful, living as I did on a large farm with my grandparents and uncle. Grandpa, having passed away five years ago, uncle and I were left to care for dear old grandma, which was a real pleasure to us both. We were members of the Presbyterian Church, and lived up to all the light we had. Last year, however, grandma was taken seriously ill in September, and knowing it would probably be her last illness, we sent word to that effect to her children, among whom was my aunt, Mrs. M., who is an Adventist. Another uncle who was present at the funeral, seeing that my aunt's health was not in the best condition, advised that she remain with uncle and me for a time.

"We had always thought that aunt's religion was peculiar, as it was so different from that to which we had been accustomed. She was always showing us from the Scriptures that the current events were in fulfillment of prophecy, and in a very tactful way, whenever occasion presented itself, she would give us her reasons for believing as she did.

One day my uncle and I were talking, and he asked me what I thought of aunt's religion. I told him it put me in mind of Noah's religion, and he said it so impressed him.

"As the days went by, we became very much interested in the things my aunt told us about the things in the Bible. As she became acquainted with the neighbors, they gradually become interested also. A Bible class of nine members met twice each week for study, and as we studied, we were all impressed with the really wonderful things found in the Bible and the accuracy of the prophecies. There simply was nothing then to do but accept it all. The four men in the class gave up the use of pork, tea, and coffee, and three women and one man began to keep the Sabbath.

"None of us had ever seen a Sabbath keeper aside from my aunt, but in response to a special invitation, Elder _____ visited us, remaining in our home for ten days. The time spent was a veritable Pentecost to the little company of believers. Before returning home, the minister organized a Sabbath school of six members, and about that time another man began to keep the Sabbath, making seven in all who accepted the truth. The two others are very much interested, and although they have not yet begun to keep the Sabbath, they firmly believe every phase of the message.

"When my aunt returned to her home, it was decided that I should accompany her and enter one of our sanitariums for a nurses' course. All expressed regret at our leaving, for it broke up our happy company. All joined in saying the past winter had been the most pleasant and profitable ever spent."

How different might have been the result if this Seventh-day Adventist sister had hidden her light under a bushel, secretly treasuring the fond hope of a joyous future in God's kingdom, but making no effort to turn others from darkness to light! Such a course would have brought darkness and leanness of soul. Thank God for this practical demonstration of what will be accomplished in soul-winning when every believer is watchful for opportunities and faithful in humble service. In Volume VI of the "Testimonies for the Church," page 264, we read:

"By humbly and earnestly engaging in the work of doing good to all, God's people will exert an influence that will tell in every town and city where the truth has entered. If all who know the truth will take hold of this work as opportunities are presented, day by day doing little acts of love in the neighborhood where they live, Christ will be manifest to their neighbors. . . . This will be of more consequence than sermons or professions or creeds."

Second Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Prayer; Secretary's Report. Bible Study: Twelve Exhortations and Commands for Home Missionary Workers.

Reading: The Call to Service.

Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

Endeavor to have all enter into the Bible Study with enthusiasm. The number of texts should be enlarged or modified to meet local needs. Help all to see the privilege and not the so-called sacrifice in Christian service. Plan for the renewal of clubs of papers which expire in the near future, and encourage all to be more active in sending out the printed page.

Twelve Exhortations and Commands for Home Missionary Workers

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Gal. 6: 9 | Jer. 1: 17 |
| Joshua 1: 7 | Eze. 2: 8 |
| Isa. 58: 1 | 2 Tim. 2: 15 |
| Mark 16: 15 | Isa. 60: 1 |
| Matt. 28: 18, 19, 20 | Isa. 52: 1 |
| Matt. 5: 16 | Eze. 3: 10 |

The Call to Service

It is sometimes well to pause and ask ourselves the question, Do I fully appreciate the high calling of God in Christ Jesus?—the call to adoption into the heavenly family, to an inheritance incorruptible, and to the ambassadorship of heaven's King in the enemy's country. Careful observation may reveal a selfish appreciation of the former without a corresponding appreciation of the opportunity to serve our King through service to our fellow men. It may seem in-

convenient or unpleasant to make the salvation of souls of first importance in our daily life. Ofttimes we hear of "sacrifice" which is made for the cause of God. The testimony of David Livingstone, who was called and sent by God into darkest Africa and permitted to lay down his life in service, speaks in no uncertain tones of the true missionary spirit:

"For my own part, I have never ceased to rejoice that God has appointed me to such an office. People talk of the sacrifice that I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of a great debt owing to our God, which we can never repay. Is that a sacrifice which brings its own best reward in healthy activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter? Away with such a point of view and with such a thought! It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say, rather, it is a privilege. Anxiety, sickness, suffering, or danger now and then, with a foregoing of the conveniences of this life, may make us pause, and may cause the spirit to waver, and the soul to sink; but let this be only for a moment. All these are nothing compared to the glory that shall be hereafter revealed in and for us. I never made a sacrifice. Of this we ought not to talk when we remember the great sacrifice which He made, who left his Father's throne on high to give himself for us. 'Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, . . . when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.'"

The thought that Christian "sacrifice" is really no sacrifice, but rather the open door to greatest joy and blessing, is further emphasized by the following statement:

"Good works cost us a sacrifice, but it is in this very sacrifice that they provide discipline. These obligations bring us into conflict with natural feelings and propensities, and in fulfilling them we gain victory after victory over the objectionable traits in our characters. The warfare goes on, and thus we grow in grace. Thus we reflect the likeness of Christ, and are prepared for a place among the blessed in the kingdom of God." — *Mrs. E. G. White, in the Missionary Magazine, October, 1901.*

Third Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Prayer; Report.

Seed Thought: "Be Instant in Season, Out of Season." 2 Tim. 4: 2. (See "Gospel Workers," old edition, pp. 274, 275.)

Reading: Dangerous Symptoms.

Reading: Then and Now.

Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

The Sabbath following this meeting is Home Missionary Day, and the topic for consideration in all the churches will be the annual camp-meetings. It is to be hoped that at this prayer meeting an interest in your camp-meeting will be awakened, and that the Sabbath service will be so impressive that all your church members will endeavor to go to camp-meeting. As the camp-meeting season extends over a period of several months, the date of your meeting may be sometime in the future; but today is a good time to bring this matter definitely before the people, and to help them plan to attend.

Dangerous Symptoms

"I AM having a hard battle with sin," says a church member, "and the enemy has wounded me." Dear fellow worker, something is wrong with your armor. The armor God wants you and me to wear has been tested. Christ wore it. It protected him against all the fiery darts of the enemy, and in it he vanquished the foe in every conflict. We must have that armor. Without it, we are lost; with it, defeat is impossible. The armor is free to all, and in the Bible are full directions for putting it on. But the Christian workers on the camp-ground will be a great help to you in learning how to follow these directions. Think the matter over alone with God, and see if your own better judgment does not say, Go to the camp-meeting.

"The pleasures of the world look so inviting," pleads another whom Satan is trying to entice. Be not deceived. The sparkling glass of worldly pleasure either stupefies the

conscience or fills the soul with bitter heartaches. Go to the camp-meeting and get a deeper draught of heaven's joy. Then the pleasures of this world will become insipid, and even nauseating.

"I have become discouraged," is the frank confession often heard by the professing child of God. Satan cannot discourage the person who lets no cloud of sin linger between himself and Jesus. When the outlook is dark, try the uplook. The camp-meeting has been planned to help you. Go and counsel with Christian workers, and breathe the atmosphere of faith and courage.

Many are the symptoms which indicate the need of seeking God in a special sense. None can afford to miss the camp-meeting. God has chosen you to be his helping hand in this closing work, and the camp-meeting is one of his plans for making you skilful in his service. Heaven has recorded the date of your camp-meeting, and angels, loaded with great blessings, will attend. Then go if you possibly can. Every day devote some time to secret prayer, to personal Bible study, to meditation, and to personal work. Surround yourself with an atmosphere of prayer. Do these things, and the camp-meeting will be to you what the mount of transfiguration was to the disciples when Peter said, "It is good for us to be here." — *Matilda Erickson.*

Then and Now

ANCIENTLY, the children of Israel were directed by God to assemble before him at set periods in specified places. Master, manservant, maidservant, the fatherless, the widow, all were to unite at special seasons in recounting the blessings of the year and in thanksgiving for the manifold mercies of God and deliverance from servile bondage. They were not to assemble empty handed, but were to bring tangible tokens of gratitude for the blessings received.

The children of Israel were surrounded by fierce warring tribes, anxious to take possession of their homes, and from a human viewpoint it would seem a hazardous undertaking for all the able-bodied men to make a journey which would take them away from their homes for a month at a time, thrice each year. What protection would there be for those who remained at home, and what could prevent the enemy from laying the land waste by fire and sword? But these people knew that when God called for an assembly of his people, it was safer to respond than to remain at home, and they trusted in the promise of the One who had delivered them from the hand of the Egyptians, which reads:

"I will cast out the nations before thee, and enlarge thy borders: *neither shall any man desire thy land*, when thou shalt go up to appear before the Lord thy God thrice in the year." Ex. 34: 24.

God still requires his people to assemble before him at set periods, and now is the time for these annual convocations to begin. Throughout North America, and in Africa, in Europe, in South America, in the islands of the sea, and in different parts of the Orient, the Israel of the present day will meet together to praise our God for his marvelous leading and to receive the outpouring of his Spirit.

If ever there was a time when we as a people needed the encouragement and help which these assemblies afford, it is now. The hour is late. The shadows are growing long as the sun of time rapidly makes its way down the western sky. The enemy of souls, knowing that he has but a short time, is working with a determination born of desperation.

We are told that —

"We sustain a loss when we neglect the privilege of associating together to strengthen and encourage one another in the service of God. The truths of his word lose their vividness and importance in our minds. Our hearts cease to be enlightened and aroused by the sanctifying influence, and we decline in spirituality. In our intercourse as Christians we lose much by lack of sympathy with one another. He who shuts himself up to himself, is not filling the position that God designed he should. We are all children of one Father, dependent upon one another for happiness. The claims of God and of humanity are upon us. It is the proper cultivation of the social elements of our nature that

"brings us into sympathy with our brethren, and affords us happiness in our efforts to bless others." — *"Patriarchs and Prophets,"* p. 541.

It is seldom one attends a camp-meeting without hearing a number of persons speak of how they had been hindered in their efforts to attend the meeting, and how, when they determined that they would go, the clouds broke away, and the way opened up. We need to exercise the same faith shown by ancient Israel when they left all their earthly possessions in the keeping of God, and met before him as commanded. The God of Israel still lives, and still works for his people. With David, let all say:

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Ps. 122: 1.

And let us plan that "as for me and my house," we will share in the blessing God will bestow upon his people this camp-meeting season.

c. v. l.

Fourth Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Season of Prayer; Reports of Work Done.

Reading: Making Opportunities.

Reading: How Are You Going to Camp-Meeting?

Reading: "Bring-One" Campaign.

Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

Make the necessary final camp-meeting arrangements, and urge all to join the "Bring-One" Campaign. This campaign, may be applied to bringing others to prayer and missionary meeting, Sabbath school, church service, etc.

Making Opportunities

All are familiar with the statement to the effect that "Opportunity knocks but once at the door of every man," and this, to some, affords excuse for delay until the loud and forceful knock bids them rise and enter the Master's harvest field. But the Christian who waits for the opportunity to go forth and do some great and laudable work will wait in vain. We are living in a period of unceasing opportunity to do good to our fellow men and to make known the gospel message. The Master himself bids:

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

We need not wait for Opportunity to knock at our door, but should be tactful in making opportunities for the presentation of truth. The following gives an example of how this may be done:

A pioneer in this cause was asked how she came to learn of the Sabbath truth, and this was her reply:

"In 1845 my husband and I lived in Bedford, Mass., and Elder Joseph Bates lived in Fair Haven, just over the bridge. My husband and Elder Bates were very close friends, and one day in the summer of 1845, my husband was going across the bridge to Fair Haven, when he met Elder Bates coming toward New Bedford. My husband, in his friendly way, called to him as he saw him coming:

"Hello, Brother Bates, what is the news?"

"The seventh day is the Sabbath!" was the reply.

"The truth struck home like an arrow, and my husband came home and began to search his Bible to see if the 'news' were true. As the Good Book always tells the same story, we were convinced, and soon began to keep the Sabbath."

This is, perhaps, an unusual experience, but it shows that when God's truth takes possession of the heart, it becomes the all-absorbing theme, and the ordinary events of life become channels of opportunity for spreading the knowledge of truth. There is hardly a transaction in life to which there does not attach an opportunity for directing attention to eternal things. The atmosphere which surrounds the child of God is productive of inquiry concerning Christian principles and the teaching of the Bible, and when the life is absolutely under control of the Holy Spirit, there will be much fruit bearing as the result of being "ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

How Are You Going to Camp-Meeting?

If by rail, remember the admonition, "Let literature be distributed judiciously on the trains," and provide yourself with a supply of *Present Truth*, *Signs of the Times*, magazines, and a goodly assortment of tracts. On every hand people will be found who are anxious to read, and who are glad to get literature dealing with problems which they are trying to solve.

Possibly you will reach the camp-ground by automobile. The same equipment is necessary, if you would be faithful in meeting opportunities for scattering seeds of truth. Wherever you stop, hand out the literature, with a prayer that it may fall into the hands of those who are seeking for truth. Your efforts will not be in vain.

The trip to and from the camp-meeting should be made a missionary journey. Each believer should blaze a trail of light as he goes and returns. How many times the remark is made, "If I had only had some literature with me, I could have handed it to interested people whom I met"! To be forewarned is to be forearmed; hence you need not be without missionary ammunition on your camp-meeting trip.

There is no release from responsibilities in Christian service. It was on the return from the feast of the Passover at Jerusalem, amid the confusion of the caravans and the pleasure of traveling with friends and acquaintances, that the parents of Jesus neglected their divinely appointed work. The boy Jesus, however, was keenly alert to the opportunities to fulfil his mission, and in his conversation with the learned rabbis, "his words started a train of thought that would never be forgotten." We are told:

"Jesus was engaged in the work that he had come into the world to do; but Joseph and Mary had neglected theirs." — *"The Desire of Ages,"* p. 81.

The answer of Jesus to the chiding of his parents was, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" This record should serve as an incentive to all to be sure of the presence of Jesus in going to and returning from the feast, and to let no opportunity pass to be about their Father's business.

The "Bring-One" Campaign

In making your plans to attend the annual camp-meeting this year, you are invited to join in the "Bring-One" campaign, which may be far-reaching in results. There may be an aged brother or sister who has no one to arrange for him, or an isolated member or some one in your own church who would feel reticent about going to camp-meeting alone. To such extend a cordial invitation to accompany you to the annual feast of spiritual things, and plan the necessary arrangements for comfortable location on the camp-ground. Especially invite the young man or the young woman who otherwise would not arrange to go. This may mean extra exertion on your part, but God will richly bless the fathers and mothers in Israel who give others a lift by the way toward the kingdom, and you cannot estimate the good which may result to others from your personal effort in this respect.

An invitation to attend camp-meeting will be appreciated by all, whether it is accepted or not. There is something genuinely inspiring about camp-meeting life, where the artificial, as far as possible, is laid aside, and the individual in an atmosphere of song and prayer and praise meets God with only the white canvas and blue sky overhead intervening. It is a reminder of the patriarchal days of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who "dwelt in tabernacles," while they sojourned in the Land of Promise, and it makes one long to enjoy that "better country" where sin shall be no more, and where we shall know even as we are known, and where the people of God "shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods."

Come to the camp-meeting, and help some one else to come.

Missionary Volunteer Department

Devotional Meetings for May 1

Subject: Our Homes.

Helpful Thought: A Christian home is one of earth's choicest blessings.

Senior

1. Opening Exercises.
2. Scripture Lesson: Ex. 20: 12; Eph. 6: 1-9.
3. Talk: The Home We Neglect. See *Instructor* for April 20.
4. Talk: What Will a Father Give for His Sons? See *Review* for April 22.
5. Recitation: Faithful Father.
6. Talk: A Harvest of Peace.
7. Recitation: Before It Is Too Late.
8. Social Service: Our Homes.
9. Close by repeating Ephesians 6: 1 in concert.

Junior

1. Opening Exercises.
2. Scripture Lesson: Eph. 6: 1-9.
3. Talk by Superintendent: In Our Homes.
4. Talk: Marjorie's Lesson.
5. Recitation: Chums.
6. Talk: "Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother."
7. Social Service: Our Homes.
8. Close by repeating Ephesians 6: 1 in concert.

Notes to the Leaders

Aim for Today.—The programs for today are sent forth with an earnest prayer that they may help to awaken among us a deeper appreciation of the homes that shelter us and of the fathers and mothers that make these homes possible.

Opening Exercises.—Have several good songs sung. Include the following numbers in Christ in Song: 568, 580, 738, 759. Use also, either in the opening exercises or later, the song "Mother" printed in the *GAZETTE* for May, 1919, and the song "Father" published in the *Instructor* for June 3, 1919. We trust that your society keeps files of the *GAZETTE* and *Instructor* so you can sing these songs today. Include the secretary's report and also brief reports of last month's work from the band leaders, and announcement of plans for May in your opening exercises.

Social Service.—Ask each to contribute a thought on the home. Some will feel free to speak of their indebtedness to the home that shelters them. We hope all will say something about home or about the parents whom the Lord bids us honor.

Special Junior Note.—The superintendent is referred to the Senior program for helps in preparing her talk.

The story for No. 6, "Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother," will be found in the Junior Reading Course book, "Stories Worth Rereading," page 90.

Are you a blessing at home?

A Harvest of Peace

"THERE is but one thing that can never turn into suffering," says Maeterlinck, "and that is the good we have done. When we lose one we love, our bitterest tears are called forth by the memory of the hours we have not loved enough."

A minister's wife was making her way through the throng of things that had to be done that very day, the usual and unexpected duties crowding and heaping up into the hours between daylight and dark. Just before supper one of her boys came in saying, "I was in the library, mother, just now, and the librarian told me that this new book you wanted has gotten down to your name on the waiting list."

"Thank you, Harry. Just lay it on my desk. I believe I have an evening to myself tonight. Poor papa has a board meeting, but I am free, for a wonder, and shall enjoy the book so much!" Later, when the long day was done, and the younger children in bed, and the house was still at last, she turned with a thrill of pleasure to her Morris chair, and the new book that so many of her friends had read and recommended in her hearing. Suddenly, just as she opened the attractive volume, a thought of something

yet undone caused her to drop back her head and close her eyes for a moment. Ever since she had left the roof of her parents twelve years before, it had been her custom to write to them, at least once a week, a long, lively letter full of home and church happenings. She had never failed except in case of illness or mutual visits. This week the letter had not been written, and it was now Thursday night. If it could be dropped in the box on the corner of the block by eleven o'clock, her parents would receive it the next evening. She was very tired. Would it matter very much if she skipped just this once, and should write on Sunday afternoon? It would be only three days later. She wavered a little, and something seemed to whisper, "You won't have them always!" She laid down the book, went to her desk, and started in with the informal chat that was so dear to the two loving old hearts in the next State.

Many years afterward this same lady, herself with silvered hair and failing strength, had retired with her husband from active service in a little home of their own, provided by their boys. All the children had married and gone, and although she was quietly happy, the changes of life sometimes cast a shade of sadness across her heart. One rainy afternoon she went up into the attic, more because she loved the sound of the downpour on the roof than from any definite desire to rummage in her beloved boxes, and being there, she bethought herself of an old box of her parents' letters tucked away in a bureau drawer. How long it was since the farm had been sold because the dear ones who had kept up the hearth fires had been laid to rest! How many years had drifted by since a letter carrier had brought to her an envelope in the handwriting of either! A great hunger to hear from them, to see them again, possessed her. Although herself a grandmother, the old ache of doing without them asserted itself. The old love swept through her. How dear and good they always were to her and hers! She wished that she had appreciated them more while they were within reach, that she had done more to make them happy. She knew they must have been very lonely after she left home. She remembered how they enjoyed her singing for them in the twilight. Of course the piano went with her. Her hands were busy now with the string that tied the box. The letters were just as she had put them aside long ago. One always expects to reread old letters, but there is seldom time for anything old, each day brings so many new things. She took out one letter at random. It read:

"OUR DEAR, DEAR CHILD: Pa and I had a rather dull day yesterday. It rained so hard that he couldn't attend to anything outside except to see that the new hired man fed the stock properly. I was a trifle upset for me; nothing for you to worry about the least bit, just a slight attack of grip, but it kept me on the sofa, and I couldn't read aloud to pa as I usually do in bad weather. He hates to read aloud himself you know. We fell to talking about you, and of the first day pa took you down to the district school, and how proud you were of your new hair ribbons and your first lunch basket. I remember there was a little apple turnover that I put in hot from the oven. Then somehow we didn't talk any more for quite a while, and the rain beat on the windows, and the old clock ticked so slowly it seemed to be going to sleep. Along toward five o'clock pa began to get restless. He kept getting up and going to the window. I didn't say anything, but we were both thinking of your letter, which was due.

"There, I just heard the train whistle. Didn't you, ma?"

"Yes," I said, "the mail will be in in a few minutes."

"Pa went over to the corner cupboard and took out his overshoes."

"Are you going down to the village in all this rain?" said I.

"It's let up a good deal," said he, putting on the rubbers.

"Why don't you send Hiram?" I asked.

"Well, you know, ma, I set store on seeing that letter lying in the box, and I like to have it handed out to me and drive home with it in my pocket. I keep thinking all the way that a good time we'll have reading it over together. Katharine's a good girl. She never forgets us."

"The next hour seemed short to me, thinking of the treat that was coming, and when I heard the wagon wheels coming up the lane, I almost forgot about the grip, getting the lamp lighted and hunting for my nearsighted glasses—you know I'm always losing my spectacles. We thought we'd

have supper before we read the letter, because so long as we had it right in hand it sort of made us happier to wait a bit. So afterward, when pa had put another log on the hearth and was all settled into his chair, I drew up my little rocker under the light and managed to read it to him. I was pretty husky but we didn't either of us mind that. Katharine, that was one of the best letters you ever, ever wrote. We laughed until we cried over your reading the Bible to old Mrs. Cook and then walking off with her pocket-book. You always were absent-minded. But it was a funny thing for the pastor's wife to do, and we knew just how embarrassed you must have felt when you went back with it after prayer meeting. And before we had finished we cried the other sort of tears, right from the heart, over the sweet, loving words you said of your old father and mother. God bless you, dear! You turned a dreary day into a bright and happy one. We are glad that at last you have succeeded in getting the library book you have waited for so long. I'm much better today, although I didn't venture out to church. Love from both of us.

"Your affectionate
"MOTHER."

And as the daughter sat on an old trunk in the attic and read these words, a wonderful comfort and happiness filled her heart. She remembered the night that she so nearly failed to write home. This voice from the past spoke to her as in benediction. She was reaping what she had sown, and the harvest was peace. — *Selected.*

Before It Is Too Late

If you've a gray-haired mother
In the old home far away,
Sit down and write the letter
You've put off day by day.
Death may claim her e'er you know it,
So, dear young friend, don't wait,
But show her that you think of her
Before it is too late.

If you've a tender message,
Or a loving word to say,
Don't wait till you forget it,
But whisper it today.
Who knows what bitter memories
May haunt you if you wait?
So make your loved one happy
Before it is too late.

We live but in the present,
The future is unknown;
Tomorrow is a mystery,
Today is all your own.
The chance that fortune lends to us
May vanish while we wait.
So spend your life's rich treasure
Before it is too late.

The tender words unspoken,
The letters never sent,
The long-forgotten messages,
The wealth of love unspent —
For these some hearts are breaking,
For these some loved ones wait;
So show them that you care for them
Before it is too late.

— *George Bancroft Griffith.*

Faithful Father

LIKE a mighty bulwark stand
Father's brain and heart and hand,
Ready to oppose the strife
And vicissitudes of life;
Shielding those he loves from care,
Leading them to lives most fair,
By his life and counsel kind,
And his earnest, upright mind.
Willing sacrifice he gives —
All he has and is; and lives
To see his children take true place
In life's grand drama; face to face
With noble men and ideals great,
True factors of the home and state.

For this he toils from morn till night,
Forgoing much that is his right;
He cannot, like the mother, move
In constant atmosphere of love,
That makes to her amends for much
She must endure, and gives her such

Returns of love. A watchdog, he,
Who guards the sacred sanctity
Of his dear home, nor seeks to gain
A word of praise for hand or brain,
But lives content with duties done —
That is his share from sun to sun!

O sacrifice almost divine!
O Time move slow, while we entwine
A wreath of joy and sunny hours,
All perfumed with love's rarest flowers!

— *Celesta Ball May.*

Marjorie's Lesson

"MARJORIE," her mother called as she started outdoors to play, "I wish you would go over to Mrs. Jones' for me, and see if she will do the washing tomorrow."

"Where's Florence? Can't she go, mother?" objected Marjorie, stopping in the doorway.

"Florence has gone to the store," replied her mother. "You know where Mrs. Jones lives, don't you?"

"But, mother, the girls are waiting for me to play. Can't Florence go when she comes back?"

"Why, Marjorie, Florence will be too tired when she gets back," said her mother reprovingly. "It is a long way to the store, and it is nearly dinner time. So get your hat, and I'll have a note ready for you to take."

"I don't see why Florence can't go as well as I. I never have any time to play," said Marjorie, poutingly.

"Well, girlie, don't go then. I do not want my little girl to go if she feels that way about it," the tired mother responded.

Marjorie stood there a moment thinking. How tired and ill mother looked! Poor little mother, always so patient and uncomplaining! A sense of regret filled her, and she stood irresolute, but then —

"Marjorie, Marjorie!" called the girls, "aren't you coming?"

"Yes I'll be right there," and she flew to join the children in the garden.

Marjorie was only nine years old, and as she had always been a rather frail child, she had been indulged by her parents more than the other children; so when she refused to do anything, Florence, three years older, usually did it. So it was this time.

Florence, returning from the store a half hour later, dropped wearily into a chair, exclaiming, "Oh, I'm tired. I went down town. You see I couldn't get the kind of cloth you wanted at Benson's."

"That is too bad, Florence; and I was going to ask you to go over and see Mrs. Jones about the washing; but if you are too tired, we will let it go. I think I can do part of it myself."

"Dear mother," cried Florence impulsively, "you won't do any such thing! I'll go right away. I'm not so very tired after all."

Mother's tired eyes brightened and her step seemed lighter as Florence hastened off the second time. How like Florence, anyway! dear, helpful Florence, always to be depended on!

Time passed; the incident had been forgotten by all except Marjorie. Somehow it was always recurring in her mind. Her mother had not been well all summer, and was steadily becoming really ill. What the doctor said was the matter Marjorie could not understand, but anyway it meant to her that mother would not be well again for a long time. How she wished she had done more for her! Marjorie grew more thoughtful those days, and whenever the chance offered, she was ready to do the slightest little errand for her.

One night there was an anxious family in the home. Mother was decidedly worse. The nurse was kept busy, and another doctor was called. He shook his head, and Marjorie, standing fearful near the door of the sick-room, heard the doctor say, "There's only one chance in a hundred that she will live through the night."

Marjorie sped up to her room, and throwing herself upon the bed, gave way to a torrent of tears.

Mother—not mother? No, it couldn't be! It wasn't possible—that was all. Memories crowded thick and fast upon her. Why, O why hadn't she obeyed her? Why had she been so stubborn and selfish?

"O God," she prayed, "don't let mother die, don't! don't! I'll always do just as she wants me to, but don't let her die!"

It was too late. That night poor weary mother dropped into the peaceful slumber that knows no awakening. All her trials and cares were over. Nothing would fret or vex her more. Marjorie was almost crazed with grief. Through it all, "You might have saved her pain; you might have helped her," rang continually in her ears. Every one tried to comfort her; but always before her, her mother's eyes gazed sadly, reproachfully at her, as they had that day.

In time she became resigned, but never did she, for once, forget. She had learned her lesson. From that time, she became more quiet, more thoughtful, and more kind to others.

GLADYS SHAW.

Chums

THEY wonder why I run and tell
Of every little thing,
And say I'm such a baby boy,
Tied to an apron string.
But truly I don't blame them much;
They're different from me;
My mother knows just what is what,
Because we're chums, you see!

When things are in a tangle up,
And tempers snarling, too;
When some one needs a whipping bad,
(And maybe, it is you!)
She never scolds nor makes a fuss,
But sweet as sweet can be,
Will try to help a fellow out,
Because we're chums, you see!

She ciphers with me on my slate,
Then helps me read and spell,
And makes me study hard and learn
To say my lessons well.
And mother's great at games; she likes
To play as well as we;
When our side wins, she's just as glad,
Because we're chums, you see!

I'm sorry for those other chaps;
I pity every one;
They'd love to have a chum like mine
For all they're poking fun.
Some mothers are too tired, I know,
And others do not care
To bother with the little boys,
Their plays and studies share.

But mine! She's just the very best
Of loving friends to me!
And, oh, I'm such a happy son,
Because we're chums, you see!

—Selected.

Some of our Missionary Volunteer Societies are planning
and working to make 1920 a banner year.

Is yours?

Devotional Meetings for May 8

Senior

Subject: *A Man Who Lacked Stability.*

Helpful Thought: "The greatest want of the world is the want of men, . . . men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."—Mrs. E. G. White.

1. Opening Exercises.
2. Bible and Testimony Study: The Need of Stability.
3. Talk: Reuben.
4. Talk: Men of Stability.
5. Recitation: Filled His Place. See *Instructor*, April 27.
6. Talk: How Much Are You Worth?
7. Consecration Service: Stability That Endures.
8. Close by repeating the Helpful Thought together.

Junior

Subject: *Being Faithful.*

Helpful Thought: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." Luke 16: 10.

1. Opening Exercises.
2. Bible Study: Faithfulness.
3. Talk: Being Faithful. See *Instructor* for April 27.
4. Dialogue: Faithful Little.
5. Reading: "Be Thou Faithful."
6. Blackboard Talk: A Little Maid of Hope and Cheer.
7. Consecration Service.
8. Close by repeating the Pledge in concert.

Notes to the Leaders

Aim for Today.—Do you lack stability? Then resolve today to acquire that great essential in Christian living. Do you have stability? Thank God for this great victory, and try to learn new ways and means today of increasing this rare quality. These are testing times, and it will require stability—the highest grade of stability—to stand firm for truth. Such stability is not obtained in a day. It is the result of victories in the minor issues of everyday life. He who stands firm for right in some apparently insignificant matter today, and day by day lets God choose for him, will not lack stability when brought face to face with the great issues of life. Impress these facts upon your young people. How many will go home firmly resolved by the grace of God to be *young men and women of stability?*

Opening Exercises.—Open with a song service. The following in Christ and Song are good: 484, 508, 509, 521, 560, 570, 678. Follow your song service with an earnest season of prayer. Then have the secretary's report.

Special Senior Notes

Bible and Testimony Study: The Need of Stability.—Perhaps you can add other quotations to those given here.

Talk: Men of Stability.—Make Missionary Volunteer Leaflet Series, No. 39, "How Others Fought to Win the Prize," the basis of this talk. The men whose experiences are recorded in this leaflet must indeed have been men of stability or they never would have climbed such difficult ladders to success. Just as these men set before themselves high ideals and then through the element of stability remained true to their ideals, so we today must have enough stability to be true to life's highest purpose.

You would do well to use some of the Junior material today.

Bible and Testimony Study

The Need of Stability

READ 2 Thess. 3: 3, 4; 2: 16, 17; 2 Peter 2: 20, 21.

"There is need of young men and women who will not be swayed by circumstances, who walk with God, who pray much, and who put forth earnest efforts to gather all the light they can."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 537.

"All who profess godliness are under the most sacred obligation to guard the spirit, and to exercise self-control under the greatest provocation. . . . Satan attacks us at our weak points, but we need not be overcome. However severe or unexpected the assault, God has provided help for us, and in his strength we may conquer."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 421.

"Integrity, firmness, and perseverance are qualities that all should seek earnestly to cultivate; for they clothe the possessor with a power which is irresistible,—a power which makes him strong to do good, strong to resist evil, strong to bear adversity."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 226.

"Sad indeed is the condition of those who, becoming weary of the way, allow the enemy of souls to rob them of the Christian graces that have been developing in their hearts and lives. 'He that lacketh these things,' declares the apostle, 'is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.'"—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 533.

"The truth is not to be practised only when we feel like it, but at all times and in all places. The Lord is not served by man's hasty impulse, his fitful performances."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 196.

"There is need of men who, like Daniel, will do and dare for the cause of right. . . . The spirit that possessed Daniel, the youth of today may have; they may draw from the same source of strength, the same power of self-control, and reveal the same grace in their lives, even under circumstances as unfavorable. Though surrounded by temptations to self-indulgence, . . . yet by divine grace their purpose to honor God may remain firm. Through strong resolution and vigilant watchfulness they may withstand every temptation that assails the soul. But only by him who determines to do right because it is right will the victory be gained."—*The Story of Prophets and Kings*, pp. 488-490.

A Little Maid of Hope and Cheer

DRAW on the blackboard four circles, one within the other. In the inner circle write: "Little Maid;" in the next around it: "Naaman's Wife;" in the next circle write: "Naaman;" and in the outer circle write: "King." Then tell the story of the little captive maid who witnessed for Jesus in the land of her captivity. Her faithfulness was a great blessing not only to Mrs. Naaman, but to Mr. Naaman, and her influence even reached the king. Help the children to see that they have similar opportunities to be faithful. We, too, are in the land of the enemy, and there is great need of faithfulness.

Reuben

REUBEN'S heart was all right; what he lacked was a backbone on which to hang his heart. He did not want Joseph killed. He said he did not, and that ought to convince any one. "Shed no blood," he urged his angry brothers; "blood leaves stains, on knives and clothes. Just throw this dreamer into a pit and leave him there to starve. That is the gentlemanly way to do it. Any one is liable to fall into a pit."

Reuben was the oldest, and they did as Reuben said.

Then the sly contriver went off, expecting them to follow. They did follow, but not till they had sold Joseph into slavery.

Then Reuben, the crafty plotter, returned to the pit to deliver his brother, and lo! he had gone beyond his reach forever.

Ah, the years of repentance and chagrin that Reuben prepared for himself by those minutes of cowardice! Ah, the folly of seeking good in roundabout ways, of attempting reforms by indirection!

How many times Reuben must have wished that he had spoken out boldly, had pleaded his brother's cause openly, had told his father's love, and the agony they were planning for him! He saw, when it was too late, that such frank words would have cleared his conscience from sin. But that miserable artifice of the pit! It made him, the merciful one, appear more ferocious than any other, and forever shut his mouth against his brothers.

Ah, but did it? What said he, when, years afterward, they got into trouble in Egypt? "I told you so!" That taunt of the weakling was his pitiful comfort.

"Said I not, Do not sin against the child, and ye would not hear?" He did not remind them what else he had said, but they all remembered.

It is small wonder that the keen-witted Jacob, when with his dying breath he gave admonition to his sons, was compelled to say to Reuben, "Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel." With good impulses but flabby execution, his intentions rose on the crest of the wave, but his deeds sank to the trough.

Reuben is a pattern of those reformers that would outwit the devil with a trick, and find that he knows a trick worth two of theirs. They would insinuate good measures through the legislature by means of a lobby. They would coax men into righteousness before they know it. They would do good by stratagem and bring in the kingdom of God by stealth. That kingdom, to be sure, comes not with observation; but it does not creep in over the back fence.

No, no! Come into the open, Reuben! Call a spade a spade, and not an agricultural implement for the inversion of the soil. Fight like a man, and not like a snake. Water? So be it. But not a wave, rocking backward and forward. Rather, a mighty river, turning mill wheels, carrying vessels, and steadily forging ahead to a definite goal. — *Amos R. Wells.*

How Much Are You Worth?

It is said that a noted Chinaman when visiting in America a number of years ago frequently greeted people he met, in his Oriental way, with the question "How much are you worth?"

Perhaps this is not a fair question to ask of our friends, but we ourselves cannot always hope to avoid it, — it is

sure to come to us in some form; so let us put the question candidly to ourselves, How much am I worth?

The chemist might figure your worth by the actual value of your physical by-products: iron, salt, sugar, lime, phosphorus, magnesium, fat, etc. — and, according to your size in avoirdupois and the value of these by-products on the market, he would estimate in dollars and cents your worth. Are you satisfied with that? "No," I hear you say, "that would not be a fair estimate."

Perhaps the business man would compute your value, after figuring up the debit and credit columns of your ledger, by determining your total assets, according to the value of your property. Is that what you are worth?

Some one will say, "It is mental capacity which determines value. You can't measure value in dollars and cents; it must be measured in brains." And the educator agrees that you have it now. Very well. Surround the child with books from his earliest childhood, send him to school, and supply him with the most learned of teachers. Never mind the cost in dollars and cents. He must have the best to be had in the educational curricula of the day. See him develop into manhood! Now he has received his degree! He has the education so far as books are concerned; but what is he worth?

A warden of Sing Prison in New York once said to a visitor: "We have in this place a first-class college faculty. There are men here well fitted to teach any college subject." Here was the mental ability — a wealth of it, but it was very far from being of value to the world.

I think we are all agreed by this time that a man's worth cannot be measured in physical materials, in dollars, or even in brains. They are well enough, and we must all have them in some degree at least, — but what is your worth?

The story is told that at the Battle of Waterloo a certain regiment sent word to the Duke of Wellington that they could not hold out against the enemy.

The answer came back, "Stand firm."

"But, we shall all perish."

"Stand firm," again said the unflinching duke.

"You'll find us there," and the officer galloped away.

At the close of the battle they did find them there — every man had fallen at his post. How much were they worth?

Moses was trained in the best Egyptian schools, but not until God gave him a special course of training was he fitted for the work before him. Moses might have refused to leave the wealth and honor to which he was heir, but his was a noble choice, and he stood for what he knew was right, "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." When he made this choice, then and not until then, could he be of any value in the work which God had in store for him. Could you estimate his worth?

A worthy writer has said:

"The greatest want of the world is the want of men, — men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; . . . men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."

Have you tried to come up to your ideal and failed in the attempt? Perhaps you are a bit discouraged, and are thinking that after all, it doesn't matter so much whether you are such a man as this of which the world stands in need. How much are you worth? Face the question squarely.

If you are tempted to become discouraged, recall the story of the woman who watched and worked over a choice rosebush, but saw no results of her labor. When she had about given up all hope that it would ever blossom, she saw some of the branches had grown through a crevice in the wall near the bush. Going around to the other side of the old stone wall, she found her roses blooming in all their beauty. If you have worked on and on, and it seems there are no results, perhaps your work is "blooming" on the other side of the wall.

Do the Master's bidding, and when you have done this, honestly and fairly, then, leave the issue with him—leave it to him to estimate your worth.

EMMA E. HOWELL.

Faithfulness

[Pass out these references and have them read without comment.]

2 Kings 12: 15; Ps. 101: 6; Matt. 24: 13; Prov. 14: 5; Matt. 25: 21; Luke 16: 10; 1 Cor. 4: 17; 1 Cor. 4: 2; Gal. 6: 9; Rev. 2: 10; Rev. 20: 4.

Faithful Littles

FIRST CHILD:

I'm only a stray little sunbeam
I can't do much, you know,
To brighten the world as I pass along,
But I'll do what I can as I go.
Perhaps some little corner
Would be darker without my light;
If that be true, I will do my best
To make that corner bright.

SECOND CHILD:

Such a wee, wee little birdie,
And my voice is not very strong;
No doubt in a crowd of singers
You could scarcely hear my song;
For it's only a feeble effort
If I do my very best;
But if I can't sing for the wide world
I can sing for my home nest.

THIRD CHILD:

Just a little drop of water,
What good can one drop do?
But the blade of grass it fell on
Was refreshed and greener grew.
Then, little drops, you know, make up
The rivers and oceans wide;
Though only a drop, I, too, must help
To swell the wondrous tide.

FOURTH CHILD:

Such a tiny wayside flower,
'Most hidden among the grass,
Men go on hurrying by me,
Not noticing me as they pass.
But then, if this spot is gladder
For my growing here, I know
It is just what God designed for me,
And so I'll continue to grow.

LEADER:

Just a little boy and girl
Doing the best they can,
She grows to thoughtful womanhood,
And he to an earnest man;
So all along life's journey
We each may find work to do,
For the "fields are white to harvest,
And the laborers are few."

— Selected.

"Be Thou Faithful"

On a high stool, in a stuffy post office, in a small Western town, sat little Nell, trying hard to smile brightly at each of the mixed multitude who presented themselves at the window.

Neil's father, the postmaster, left her often with the duties of the office, as he found it necessary to splice out the slender living for his family by doing all manner of odd jobs about the town. The work at last had taken her permanently out of school and away from the life she loved. She was only fourteen and very slight, but she made up in patience and faithfulness what she lacked in physical vigor, so she had become an adept little postmistress.

It was Friday afternoon. Across the dusty street, worked her father besmeared with mortar, laying a cement sidewalk. That morning she had timidly announced her inten-

tion to keep the Sabbath, and told him as sweetly as possible that she could not keep open the post office during the Sabbath hours.

He had been very angry, and gentle little Nell's resolution almost failed her before the heartbreaking interview had ended. He had always hated his wife's stubborn adherence to Sabbath observance, and since her death, which had occurred several years before, he had determined to be rid forever of that harrowing practice in his home. He had hoped that the children, being small, would forget it, and that finally their stepmother, as irreligious as himself, would raise their prejudice against their mother's religion.

But Nell did not forget. She knew something of her mother's heroic stand for the truth, and was beginning to connect her early death with the crushing persecution which she had long borne. To Nell's mind also came the words, which as a little child she had learned from her mother, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Nell began earnestly to study that worn Bible, and at last had dared to confess to her father her purpose to live its teachings.

She had told him that she would have to leave the post office one hour before sunset, and could not go back until after sunset the next day. His abuse had hurt her keenly, but her mother's "Be thou faithful" had kept her resolute through the long, trying day. Yet she could hardly keep her eyes away from her father's figure across the street, as she hoped every minute to see him coming to relieve her. The time was up; several people were waiting at the windows and others were coming, yet he did not even look her way.

She worked on until nearly sunset. Perhaps he had forgotten. But now what should she do? Should she yield her conscience to her father's will in so important a matter of right and wrong? He was her only friend. In her coarse-natured stepmother she could find no companionship, and her father had always been a friend when she had tried to please him. The temptation was strong to yield to his will in this, and to be, as in everything else, his dutiful daughter. For Nell's shrinking nature it was far the easier way. For one despairing moment her constancy wavered, and then before the sun's rim had touched the hills, without a word, she closed the windows, slipped through a rear exit into her own room, and awaited the tempest she knew would break.

"Oh, mother, mother!" she sobbed. Then "Dear God, help me to be strong!" and fell upon her bed. It seemed hours before she heard her father's voice, vibrant with anger, demanding "Where's Nell?" and heard his firm steps approaching her door. She straightened herself to meet him.

"What are you doing here?" he thundered. "Get into that post office as fast as you can. I'll teach you to try to start a mess of foolishness around here!"

Forcibly he took her before she could answer and dragged her to the door opening into the office. Here he stopped. He could not permit himself to be seen forcing his daughter through the doorway.

"Get in there, I tell you."

"Father, I can't. I told you why. I would do anything for you that is right, but I can't do wrong."

"Some more of that 'faithful' stuff, I suppose. I'll get that out of your head quick enough."

Several patrons waiting decided him to release her, and he entered the office himself. Nell, crying, went back to her room and did not know when her father left the office.

In the morning, with a heavy heart, Nell faced her first Sabbath. What would her father do today? Had she done right to disobey him? If there were only some one to whom she might go for advice and comfort, but there were no Sabbath keepers in the community, and she knew of no one who could help her except that Friend whose will she was seeking so earnestly to do. Hesitatingly, and dreading to meet her father, she stepped from her room.

He was waiting for her and caught her in his arms. "Daughter," he said, "your father is sorry he has been

such a beast. After this you shall keep the Sabbath anyway you please."

Surprised and happy, she listened to his story. "Nell, you're saying that you couldn't do wrong stuck to me. I sat a long time in the office last night thinking what a brute I had been, and when I did come out, I found your Bible. I opened it, and the first thing I saw was, 'Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.' I knew that's what you'd do, and I knew you'd get the crown of life, too. Then I remembered your mother, and, Nell I almost believe I killed her with my hatred. If God will forgive me for those years of wickedness, I promise him solemnly to let you love and serve him as you will."

"And, father, won't you love and serve him, too?"

"I hope to, Nell, if you will teach me how."

IDONA HILL.

Devotional Meetings for May 15

Senior

Subject: Prayer and Personal Work.

Helpful Thought: Life holds no privilege more precious than that of giving itself for the salvation of the lost. — Mrs. Taylor.

1. Song Service.
2. Season of Prayer.
3. Secretary's Report, including Report of Work.
4. Bible Study: The Call to Personal Work.
5. Recitation: One Taper Lights a Thousand. See *Instructor* for May 4.
6. Symposium: Personal Work; How to Do It.
7. Recitation: "What Then?" See *Instructor* for May 4.
8. Consecration Service.
9. Close by repeating the Pledge in concert.

Junior

Subject: Being Pure.

Helpful Thought: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matt. 5:8.

1. Song Service.
2. Scripture Lesson: Read in concert Psalms 15: 1-3; Philippians 4: 8.
3. Sentence Prayers.
4. Talk by the Superintendent: Being Pure.
5. Talk: "Whatsoever Things Are Pure."
6. Recitation: The Kingdom Within.
7. Reports from the Juniors.
8. Close by repeating Psalms 51: 10 in concert.

Senior Notes

Aim today to give new impetus to prayer and personal work in your society. There is no more important evangelistic work. In fact, it is safe to say that personal work in some way enters into every successful missionary effort; and surely your society should strive to enlist every Missionary Volunteer in strong, aggressive, soul-winning work. Your society should be a training center for soul-winners.

Song Service. — For appropriate selections see "Winning Souls" in topical index in Christ in Song.

Symposium: Personal Work and How to Do It. — Base this on "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work," chapter 14. Assign one or more sections of this chapter to each person taking part in the Symposium.

Consecration Service: Call for experiences in personal work. Will not all present today consecrate themselves anew to soul-winning work?

Junior Notes

Aim for Today: Set before the Juniors today a high ideal, and endeavor to reveal to them the attractiveness of the life that is true to such an ideal.

Song Service: Sing several good songs. Nos. 67, 569, 578 in Christ in Song are all good.

Talk by Superintendent: No special helps are provided for this talk. "Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing," pp. 42-45, gives excellent helps. Every Junior, like the pure lily in the stagnant pool, may live a clean, beautiful life if he will let Jesus help him.

Reports from the Juniors: Take a little time today for talking over your missionary work. Introduce this number of the program with a short talk on the purpose of the pure life. It is here to serve. That is our only mission here—we are here on business for our King. Have our lives during the last week proved to others that we realize we are here on business for Jesus?

Whom Are You Serving Today?

Bible Study

The Call to Personal Work

[By appropriate questions or some other form of study the leader should develop the following points.]

1. In order to accomplish his work, Jesus sanctified himself not for his own sake, but for the sake of those whom he desired to help. John 17: 19. He was dedicated to a definite work.

2. In the throngs that pressed him Jesus never overlooked the person who needed help. Matt. 9: 20-22.

3. Some of the most precious texts found in the Bible are those words Jesus spoke when working for single individuals. John 3: 16; 4: 14, 23, 24, etc.

4. To us is committed the same work and the same means of doing the work as was given to Jesus. John 17: 18.

5. The sinner is separated from God. Isa. 59: 2.

6. The Christian, being in communion with God, stands as a middle man—a go-between—to persuade the sinner to be reconciled to God. 2 Cor. 5: 17-20.

7. Every professed Christian whose life wins the confidence both of God and of man may be the only means God has of opening up communion with some sin-burdened heart.

8. That disciple of Jesus who came closest to his master and perhaps knew more of his methods of work than any other, wrote to the church saying:

a. That he who sees his brother sin should pray for him.

b. That in answer to such a prayer God shall give life for the sinner.

c. That this life for the sinner is given to the one who prays. 1 John 5: 16.

9. When God gives you life for a sinner, he expects you to impart that life to the one for whom it was given and bring him into communion with God.

B. E. HUFFMAN.

"Whatsoever Things Are Pure"

Two boys were seated on some boxes behind a board fence that stretched across the front of a vacant lot. One of them produced a small shabby-looking book, and both boys began excitedly to look it through.

Soon another boy was seen walking briskly across the lot, and in answer to, "Say, Joe, come over here," he strolled over to see what the boys were looking at.

"Keep it under yer hat, and you can look at this here book, too."

"What is it, anyway?" Joe asked, innocently. Then his face flushed. "There's nothing there that I want under my hat, he said firmly. "I didn't suppose you fellows would have anything like that. Where did you get it?"

"Well, you needn't go and git so shocked about it, and goody-goody around. 'Nuther guy gave it to us," said Tim.

"What's the harm, anyway?" asked the other boy.

"Would you want to take that book home and give it to your sister to read, Leighton?" Joe inquired.

Leighton thought of Hazel, that sweet twin sister of his, only a second, before he said, "Of course not! She's a girl!"

"Well," said Joe, "I've a sister, too, just as fine and true as a fellow ever had, and to keep things even, I've got to be a decent chap myself," and Joe walked on.

"Don't cry, little girl, don't cry!"

"Good-by, sissy!" the boys called after him.

Though Joe whistled on his way, apparently untouched by their taunts, he nevertheless felt the sting, which continued to bite in deeply, until he had met his sister, and they were walking home together.

"O Joe!" she said, "I'm so proud of you!" Her shining brown eyes told it unmistakably. "Mr. Allen told me that you are the most manly boy in the freshman class. He says that you are a prince! A prince, Joe! And it's right from your teacher! I told him I always knew it!"

Joe's honest heart thrilled at his sister's praise, and he had reward enough.

Left alone, Tim and Leighton read on to their complete satisfaction, and then decided that it would be better to hide the book than for either to take it home. Having found an old barrel, they carefully concealed the book under some rubbish with which the barrel was partly filled, and thinking they had escaped observation, left the place.

But Leighton had not forgotten Joe, and he felt uncomfortable as he started for home. He had been brought up in a home of high ideals and of Christian living, and though he had fallen into the company of boys less fortunate than himself and had begun to try the pleasures of the forbidden way, his conscience was not asleep. On this occasion his feeling of guilt was intensified by Joe's brave stand for the right.

In the Thornly home, evening worship, conducted by the father, was the most impressive ceremony of the day, and one never hurried through. After a song, Mr. Thornly always read a chapter or two from the Bible, commenting upon interesting points as he went along, each member of the home adding ideas of his own, as he felt inclined. In prayer the family all joined.

On this evening Leighton looked forward to worship with less pleasure than usual; but great was his amazement as he entered the living-room to find on the table, lying side by side, in hideous contrast, his father's Bible and the book he would not have had his parents see for any sum of money he could imagine. He felt the perspiration pricking through his pores as he took the only vacant chair in the room, and seated himself beside his sister. To his relief no one seemed to notice his embarrassment.

As usual, Hazel went to the piano and at her father's request began playing, "Building for Eternity." With difficulty Leighton joined in the singing, but it was still harder when the second stanza began,

"Every thought that we've ever had,
Its own little place has filled;
Every deed we have done, good or bad,
Is a stone in the temple we build."

Then the last stanza was more than he could bear, and his voice ceased:

"Are you building for God alone?
Are you building in faith and love,
A temple the Father will own
In the city of light above?"

His father then opened the Bible and read slowly, without comment:

"Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Phil. 4: 8.

Here he paused, "Have any of you anything you wish to add to these excellent thoughts?" he asked.

"Neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure," his mother quoted, and he saw tears in her eyes.

Hazel's turn was next, and she said, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

Time was given to Leighton, but he said nothing.

The family then knelt in prayer, led by Mr. Thornly. After Mrs. Thornly and Hazel had prayed, there was a short pause as they waited for Leighton. At last, brokenly, his prayer came.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

Left alone, he and his father held a long conference, at the end of which the hateful book was burned, and a "Clean Heart Club" was started with a charter membership of two. Each was to work for additional members, and Leighton's first addition was his friend Joe. Together they won Tim. The club meetings were held in the Thornly living-room every Wednesday evening, and Joe was elected president. The membership increased gradually, and frequent programs were given to which visitors were invited.

Always it was Leighton's privilege to put up the beautiful silk banner, bearing their motto, which had been made by the boys' sisters, "Whatsoever Things Are Pure."

IDONA HILL.

The Kingdom Within

A LITTLE kingdom I possess
Where thoughts and feelings dwell;
And very hard I find the task
Of governing it well,
For passion tempts and troubles me,
A wayward will misleads;
And selfishness its shadow casts
On all my will and deeds.

How can I learn to rule myself,
To be the child I should,
Honest and brave, nor ever tire
Of trying to be good?
How can I keep a sunny soul,
To shine along life's way?
How can I tune my little heart
To sweetly sing all day?

Dear Father, help me with the love
That casteth out my fear,
Teach me to lean on thee, and feel
That thou art very near,
That no temptation is unseen,
Nor childish grief too small,
Since thou with patience infinite
Dost soothe and comfort all.

I do not ask for any crown,
But that which all may win;
Nor try to conquer any world,
Except the one within.
Be thou my guide, until I find,
Led by a tender hand,
Thy happy kingdom in myself,
And dare to take command.

— Louise M. Alcott.

Devotional Meetings for May 22

Senior

Subject: A Man Whose Heart Betrayed Him.

Helpful Thought: "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

1. Opening Exercises.
2. Bible Study: Our Friendships.
3. Song: "Yield Not to Temptation."
4. Talk: A Man Whose Heart Betrayed Him.
5. Talk: About Our Friends.
6. Talk: Love and Courtship. See *Review* for May 13.
7. Consecration Service.
8. Close with an earnest prayer.

Junior

Subject: Choosing Wrong Company.

Helpful Thought: "Be not deceived: evil companionships corrupt good manners." 1 Cor. 15: 33, A. R. V.

1. Opening Exercises.
2. Bible Study: Our Friendships.
3. Song: "Yield Not to Temptation."
4. Talk by Superintendent: Bad Company. See *Instructor* for May 11.
5. Story: Shun Evil Companions.
6. Recitation: Be Careful of Your Company.
7. Social Meeting.
8. Close by repeating the Junior Pledge together.

Notes to the Leaders

Aim for Today.—Some one has said that we are what our friends make us. This is at least a partial truth. We are a part of all our friends. Hence the importance of choosing for our close friends those who will demand of us that we be true to life's highest ideals. The closer the friendship, the more important the kind of friends. As Missionary Volunteers we should have no friendships that do not include the Master. All our friendships should be under his supervision, that he may use them to enrich our lives and make them worth more to others.

Opening Exercises.—Sing one or more good songs. Then have a season of prayer and the secretary's report, including report of work.

Bible Study.—It may be well to simplify the Bible study for the Juniors.

Special Senior Notes

No. 4.—Make this a strong ten-minute talk. Assign it to an earnest Christian who will make thorough preparation. For helps in preparing this talk, make a careful study of "Patriarchs and Prophets" chapter 54, and the article, "Never Mind About the Philistines," in the *Instructor* for May 11.

WON BY ONE

No. 6.—“Love and Courtship” should be given by an older person. Ask the church elder or another older Christian to give this talk. The article on this subject may be used as a basis for this talk, but it would be well for the one giving it to consult the Testimonies on this important subject. Missionary Volunteer Leaflet Series, Nos. 35, 44, 49 are all on this important subject. Why not consult them? Prepare this program with much earnest prayer. Pray that all present may go away from the meeting determined not to make the mistake that Samson made, not to let their hearts mislead them, but to put forth a special effort in this all-important matter to “do all to the glory of God.”

Our Friendships

1. The Value of Friendship: Prov. 27: 17; Eccl. 4: 9, 10; 2 Tim. 1: 16; John 15: 14-16.
2. Whom the Christian Should Not Choose for Close Friends: Ps. 1: 1; Prov. 22: 24, 25; 13: 20; Ex. 23: 32, 33; 1 Cor. 15: 33.
3. Whom He Should Seek for Close Friends: Ps. 119: 63; Prov. 2: 20; 13: 20.
4. How to Make Friends: Prov. 18: 24; Matt. 7: 12.
5. Friendship Demands Loyalty Regardless of Cost: Prov. 27: 10; Ruth 1: 16; 1 Sam. 20: 42; 2 Tim. 1: 16.
6. The Christian Loves His Friends: 1 Sam. 18: 1; 20: 41; 2 Sam. 1: 26; John 15: 13.
7. The Christian's Debt to Others: Gal. 6: 2.
8. The Christian's Best Friend: Matt. 11: 28; Ps. 16: 11, 7.

About Our Friends

Nothing is more important to young people than the choosing of their friends. Really it is almost the settling of their whole future. The kind of friends one begins with one is likely to stay with always. If you accept and choose as your friends in early youth those who are good, refined, and aspiring, you are setting your life in the direction of whatsoever things are true, just, honorable, pure, and lovely. Almost certainly your whole future will be on the same wholesome lines. But if you attach yourself, then, in friendship to those who are unworthy, whose lives are earthly and sinful, who are not true and noble, you, in effect, fix your place and your character in a drift which will be toward things that are not good, and that do not tend to honor and beauty of soul.

We all need common friendships, and it is very important that they be formed wisely and carefully. There is a tendency among young people to be altogether too indiscriminate in forming their friendships. All who come are admitted to a kind of general intimacy. Youth is hospitable to friendships, and is disposed to confide without question, and to make room for every new companionship that offers. There is need, however, for reserve at this point. No doubt the law of Christian love requires us to be courteous to all, even to strangers, to show the grace of kindness to every one we meet, even most casually. But we are not required to take every chance acquaintance into the place of friendship. Here we must learn to exercise the greatest caution and reserve.

Character should be made a test. Young people should shut out of their lives everything that would defile or tarnish, and whatever would make it harder for them to be true and worthy. Life's battle is sore enough at best, and instead of admitting influences which would make the struggle for them more severe, they should seek always the contacts and inspirations which will make it easier for them to live nobly and worthily. To take into the life a friendship which is not good and pure, which will become a temptation toward a lower moral standard, toward a less beautiful and helpful life, toward frivolousness, indolence, irreverence, or selfishness, is, at the best, to make it harder to live beautifully. Young people should have the courage to shut out of their lives all friendships whose influence could work in them only moral deterioration, and hinder their growth into the best possible character.

“Thou shalt need all the strength that God can give
Simply to live, my friend, simply to live.”

It is well also that between friends the relations shall be such that neither shall be too greatly dependent on the

other. One quality of all true friendship is the desire “not to be ministered unto but to minister.” A friendship whose chief object is to receive, to be helped, to be served, is only selfish. On the other hand, one must be willing to receive as well as to give.

It is not necessary that all your friends should be about your own age. Every young person ought to have friends older than himself. The older are better for counsel; and the young people are fortunate indeed who have one or two wise, true, and sympathetic friends of more years than their own, to whom they can go with the serious questions and problems which continually arise in every earnest mind.

We need to be ever seeking new friends, or at least holding our heart's door open to receive the new friends whom God may send to us. We need new friends to take the place of those we lose as we go on our way.

Friendships seem sometimes to be outgrown. We deplore their dying out, when perhaps the truth is that these friendships were sent to us on a definite errand, to minister to us in a particular way and but for a time. Then when their ministry is completed, they fall off. But we have not really lost them, nor should we ever forget them, or the part they have had in the making of our life. God sends us new friends for new needs, not to displace the old, but to carry on the good which the old began. Robert Louis Stevenson tells us that,—

“The dearest friends are the oldest friends,
The new ones are just on trial.”

One friend is not enough. Some young people are inclined to make one very intimate friendship, and to allow that to exclude all other companionships. Sometimes they are so exacting as to demand that the one favored friend shall scarcely even treat any other person kindly. Such an exacting spirit is very narrow, showing utter selfishness and want of confidence in the friend who is held in such bondage.

Young people will do well, also, to guard against too great and too unreserved intimacy even with their best friends. There is sure to be an estrangement sooner or later if the association is too close or free. For example, when two girls are seen always together, almost giving up every other friendship and companionship for each other, it is usually safe to predict a short-lived intimacy. It is better always, even in the closest friendship, to maintain a measure of reserve, never to give all, not to see too much of each other. A friendship which exercises wise self-restraint which is not too emotional, too free and unreserved, will prove the surest and the most lasting, and in all ways the most wholesome.

It need not even be said that young people should choose for their friends those who love and follow Christ. There is a wondrous secret of safety in Christian companionship. The intercourse which deepens into true Christian fellowship is very sacred. The friendship which is hallowed by the love of Christ is woven of a threefold cord which cannot be broken. God reveals his love to us in the love of our true Christian friends. It is he who gives us our friends, and we must recognize the gift with reverence and love.

It is well for us to remember that friendship requires also something on our part. It cannot be all on one side. It costs to be a friend. Then we must be worthy if we would take another life into the place of confidence and affection. We need to make sure that our hearts are pure and that our hands are clean before we accept the confidence and trust of a human heart. Then we must be loyal and faithful to our friends, once chosen, whatever the cost may be.—J. R. Miller.

Are you making preparations for a successful May? Do not forget that the society that fails to prepare for a successful May is preparing to fail. ∴ ∴ ∴

Shun Evil Companions

THINKING that I might learn some practical lesson from life, I went one afternoon to attend a trial in a higher court of the city of New York.

Shortly after I entered, two policemen brought to the witness stand a poorly clad young fellow. His face was pale and thin, and showed deep anxiety. After taking the customary oath, he sat down in the witness chair.

The district attorney arose, and in a ponderous voice thundered out, "What is your name?"

The judge rapped on the desk and ordered, "Speak louder, so the jury can hear you; speak distinctly."

"How old are you?" continued the prosecuting attorney.

"Eighteen," said the boy, making a strenuous effort to speak audibly.

"For whom do you work?"

"Marshall, Ward and Co., cloth refiners."

"Do you know Jens Jenson, Jack Paul, and Kit Lolly, who have confessed that on May 28 they robbed your employers, Marshall, Ward and Co.?"

"Yes, I do."

"How long have you known them?"

"Five years."

"Have you seen them often during that time?"

"Quite often in the coffeehouse at night."

The prosecuting attorney's face flushed; he stamped his foot and paced restlessly back and forth, and in a ridiculing manner repeated, "Quite often, quite often." Then he commanded, "Tell the court just how many times a week."

"Four or five nights a week."

"You consider them your friends, do you not?"

"Yes, I suppose so."

"Did your friends say anything to you about their plans to rob business establishments?"

"Yes, sir, many times they asked me to join them, but I told them I would not steal any more."

"When did they ask you the last time?"

"Last night they asked me to join them."

"What did you answer?"

"I told them I was going to be straight."

"Tell the court your whereabouts May 29."

"I slept in the company's loft. At half-past three I got up and swept the loft. About five o'clock I went as usual to the coffeehouse for coffee and buns. In a half hour I came back and noticed the loft was lighted. Two policemen were holding Jens, Jack, and Kit. Jack spoke to me, and said, 'James, we're caught.' The policemen took me to the station house, and I have been in the Tombs ever since."

The prosecuting attorney sat down, and spoke a few words to some men seated near him. The lawyer for the defendant made a few remarks, and asked a few questions. The district attorney then arose, and said calmly, "I refuse to prosecute further."

The judge stood up. He was a kind-looking gentleman with gray hair and keen bright eyes. With the tender sympathy of a loving father, he looked earnestly at the young man, and said gently and yet emphatically: "My boy, two years ago I was compelled to send you to a house of correction for the crime of stealing. I believe you have learned the lesson I wished to teach you. Since you have been released, you have tried to be an honest man, and there is no reason why you cannot succeed in being an honest man. But my boy, you have made a mistake in choosing your friends and associates. You have erred in selecting worthless boys who would lead you astray. Shun evil companions. Make friends of boys who have ambitions to become true and noble citizens, young men who can be a help to you. Be diligent in the service of your employers. There is no reason why you, or any other boy with a determination to do right, cannot become a successful man. If you would succeed, be careful whom you choose for your friends. You are dismissed."

The judge sat down. I could hear the sobbing of the young man. The kind words of advice given by the judge

had melted his heart. I believe the young man gained courage to take a new hold on life and went from that courtroom determined to shun evil associations.

The court crier dismissed the court. The employers of the young man rushed over to him, and shook his hand.

The jurymen stood about until they had a chance to speak to him a few cheering words.

I lingered in the courtroom until many had gone, and then slowly walked home. Often in reminiscent mood I see that calm, wise, sweet-faced judge leaning over his desk, looking earnestly at the young man who sat before him, and hear him say gently yet forcefully, "You have tried to be an honest man. You have made a mistake in choosing your friends. Shun evil associations. If you would succeed, be careful whom you choose for your friends."—*Dudley C. Newbold.*

"Be Careful of Your Company"

A LITTLE song rings in my ear
And haunts me all day long,
And this, whichever way it runs,
Is the keynote of my song:
"Be careful of your company,"
The little song runs ever,
"The down once brushed from off the peach
Returns again, ah! never!"

Shun doubtful places, evil things,
For folly leads to shame;
Saloons don't furnish presidents,
Nor card rooms lead to fame!
"Be careful of your company,"
The little song runs ever,
"The down once brushed from off the peach
Returns again, ah! never!"

—*Florence A. Jones.*

Be sure to get M. V. Leaflet Series No. 39 for the program to be given May 8

Devotional Meetings for May 29

Open.—Every society makes its own program for today. Why not take an inventory? Does the record of the months that are past indicate that you will reach the halfway mark by the last of June? If not, why not?

What about the Junior societies? Have you made provision for the continuance of your Junior society during the summer? Do not forget that the Juniors need this society as much in the summer as during the school year; and they need the right kind of society.

Missionary Volunteer Programs for Advanced Schools

For Week Ending May 1

Subject: Our Homes.

There could be no more important topic than this for our students to consider. Use material in regular lesson, and any other material available.

For Week Ending May 8

Open.

This week is left open for any special topic which may be thought best to meet local conditions.

For Week Ending May 15

Subject: Prayer and Personal Work.

Prayer and Personal Work is the very foundation of the Missionary Volunteer movement. Make it clear that the real missionary is one who is always watching for souls. Help the students to recognize the coming vacation as a great opportunity for soul-winning. The material presented in this issue can be used; but by all means let those appointed to present the program draw upon their personal experience.

For Week Ending May 22

Subject: Improving Our Improved Talents.

Arrange for a short but forceful presentation of this topic, to be followed by a consecration service. Pray and work to the end that the students may realize their vacation opportunities for soul-winning.