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Church Officers' General Instruction Department

Special Appointments for the Month of February

The Christian Home February 2
Foreign Missions Rally Day February 16

Our Church Membership

"THE church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to 'the principalities and powers in heavenly places,' the final and full display of the *Image of God*."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9.

The Bible recognizes but one avenue of entry into the fellowship of the Christian church, and that is through the ordinance of baptism. In harmony with the counsel of the word, ministers of the gospel administer the sacred rite of baptism after the candidate has signified his intention of living for God, has demonstrated his regeneration of heart, and has been carefully instructed in all the doctrines of the church.

The majority of individuals uniting with the Seventh-day Adventist denomination choose to be rebaptized, even though they have received the rite in the church of their former connection. A small number are satisfied with their previous baptism, and are accepted into church membership on declaration or profession of faith. Occasionally, also, there are those who previously have been baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but, through some unfortunate circumstance, such as the disbanding of a church organization, have lost their membership, and are accepted into another church on profession of faith. Statistics for the last ten years show that more than three fourths of those entering the church have come in through direct baptism and less than one fourth on profession of faith.

Dropping Church Members

Recognized in the word of God, there are two means of severing a member's connection with the church body—by death, and by dismissal for failure to meet church standards, the latter procedure often being spoken of as apostasy, and is so recorded on our church blanks. In a church fully awake to the spiritual interests of its members, instructing them faithfully in the sacred responsibilities they are about to

assume, and requiring evidence of heart surrender to God before being admitted to membership, and carefully nourishing and fostering them after taking the vows of fellowship, it would seem that those dropped from the rolls for reasons of apostasy should be few indeed. Watchfulness should be exercised over the flock of God, and those who may be in need of assistance promptly admonished. If they have transgressed, by tender labor and prayer they will be brought to see the error of their ways; or if necessary, prompt attention will be given to their waywardness, and early steps taken to sever their connection with the church body when they do not respond to its entreaties after the Bible plan for reconciliation has been carried out in their behalf. This will keep the records clean at all times.

Through a seeming lack in sensing the need of vigilance, coupled frequently with an earnest desire to meet certain pecuniary standards of membership, some of the local bodies of the Seventh-day Adventist Church have apparently fallen into the practice of giving particular attention to their church lists only near the end of the year when reports are required of membership enrollment. This tendency has shown itself of late years in the greatly increased number of those reported dropped (more than 70 per cent of the entire year's record) during the fourth quarter of each year over that of all the other quarters put together. It seems strange that more than twice as many persons appear to apostatize from the church during October, November, and December than do so in all the other months of the year.

Transfers of Membership

For church members who move from one locality to another, a system of transfer letters is in use. Individual members are recommended as being in good and regular standing by one company to join the church organization in another place. In order to keep all records properly, these letters of transfer should be called for and given immediately upon taking residence in the new locality. Provision is made, after a letter of transfer has been issued, for the individual to remain a member of his former church until the notice is returned from the new company stating that he has been accepted into membership there. If these matters are handled promptly as arranged, for every person transferred there will be an entry of "dropped by letter" recorded on the books of the dismissing church at practically the same time (in effect, just after, never before) the entry is made by the receiving church of "added by letter."

Church records for a number of years back seem to show that by far the larger majority of church members choose the last quarter of the year to make their change of location. The following chart of members dropped and added by letter, based on figures taken from the last statistical report of the churches in North America, illustrates this point:

| Year | Quarter | Dropped by Letter | Added by Letter | More Dropped Than Added | More Added Than Dropped |
|------|---------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1925 | First | 2,591 | 3,380 | | 789 |
| | Second | 1,711 | 1,926 | | 215 |
| | Third | 1,985 | 1,963 | 22 | |
| | Fourth | 6,694 | 4,796 | 1,898 | |
| 1926 | First | 2,301 | 3,331 | | 1,030 |
| | Second | 1,600 | 1,872 | | 272 |
| | Third | 2,028 | 1,937 | 91 | |
| | Fourth | 6,422 | 4,894 | 1,528 | |
| 1927 | First | 2,240 | 3,348 | | 1,108 |
| | Second | 1,510 | 1,740 | | 230 |
| | Third | 1,986 | 2,044 | | 58 |
| | Fourth | 7,139 | 4,917 | 2,222 | |

It will be noted that the last quarter of each year shows a larger number dropped by letter than were added. In fact, on an average, more than half of those dropped by letter during the entire year are recorded in the last three months. And, too, by referring to the differences in the next to the last column above, it is evident that many have been dropped

during that last quarter who were not added to another church during the same period. The last column to the right also shows that many more are added by letter during the first quarter of each following year than have been voted letters of dismissal during the same three months. Why this discrepancy? For example, referring again to the schedule, why in 1925, if all the churches wait for the return receipt before dropping the names from their membership lists, do the records show 6,694 members dropped by letter during the fourth quarter and only 4,796 added by letter, a difference of 1,898? Why in the first quarter of 1926 were only 2,301 dropped and 3,331 added? How came it that in the fourth quarter of the same year 6,422 persons were dropped from one set of churches and only 4,894 added by letter to another, and then in the first quarter of the next year 3,348 added and only 2,240 reported dropped? Or how came only 4,917 members to be reported added to our churches by letter during the fourth quarter of 1927 when 7,139, or 2,222 more, are reported to have been dropped during the same three months? What became of these 2,222 extra dropped members?

Can it be that the responsibility which should be exercised in behalf of the church throughout the entire year, has been left until the close of the year when reports are called for? Can it be that we are not keeping closely in touch with our members who have changed their residence, and that we are not attending systematically all through the year to their transfers to their present place of abode?

General Conference Church Membership Actions

As a partial guide in the careful handling of church lists, the following actions have been taken by the General Conference:

"A member removing to the vicinity of another church for residence for any length of time beyond six months, should transfer membership by letter to the church nearest to the place of residence.

"Where an absentee member does not report for a period of two years, and diligent effort to ascertain the whereabouts and standing of such member is without result, the name of such member may, by vote of the church, be stricken from the church record, the church, however, to continue to seek for such members with a view to restoring them to church membership."

With the church the object of Christ's "supreme regard," and "nothing else in this world . . . so dear to God," surely we who are intrusted with its leadership on earth should allow no practice to enter in that would injure in the least, or bring embarrassment to, any of the members of Christ's body, but instead watch as those who must give account to God. Careful preparation for church membership, faithful admonition and warnings in the fear of God, prompt discipline in accordance with the standards of the word when necessity demands, care in completing membership transfers promptly, waiting always until the return notice has been received before the name is removed from the list—in total, fully shepherding the flock of God and attending to its every need, will manifest a faithfulness that shall be approved by Heaven, at this time when the Lord desires through His church "the final and full display of the love of God."

CLAUDE CONARD.

Washington, D. C.

God Answers Prayer

I KNOW not by what methods rare,
But this I know: God answers prayer.

I know not when He sent the word
That tells us fervent prayer is heard.

I know it cometh soon or late;
Therefore, we need to pray and wait.

I know not if the blessing sought
Will come in just the guise I thought.

I leave my prayers with Him alone
Whose will is wiser than my own.

—Selected.

"THE best law—the golden rule."

Home Missionary Department

THE HOME IS THE UNIT IN GOD'S MISSIONARY PROGRAM FOR THE WORLD

Suggestive Program for the First Sabbath Home Missionary Service

(Sabbath, February 2)

OPENING SONG: "Joy of Loving Hearts," No. 452 in "Christ in Song."

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

FIRST SABBATH OFFERING FOR CHURCH MISSIONARY WORK.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SECRETARY'S REPORT.

SONG: "Home, Sweet Home," No. 737 in "Christ in Song."

PRAYER.

ADDRESS: "The Home Is the Unit of the Church."

RECITATION: "Molding a Life." (A mother should recite this.)

READINGS:

"The Family Altar."

"A Personal Testimony to the Power of the 'Family Altar.'"

DISTRIBUTE CIRCULAR.

CLOSING SONG: "Happy the Home," No. 759 in "Christ in Song."

BENEDICTION.

Note to Leaders

Christian Home Day comes once a year in the church. It should come every day in the home. This Sabbath you have the opportunity to impress upon the parents and the children the vital importance of making the home "a little heaven here to go to heaven in."

The spirit of prophecy declares that parents must be trained for their sacred responsibilities. The Home Commission of the General Conference is giving the opportunity for such training right in the home. Will you help to inform all our people of the aid that is offered to parents and to young people who are approaching the age of marriage?

A supply of leaflets is being sent you. One is the pamphlet, "The Christian Home," which describes the plan of forming Mothers' Societies and Parents' Councils, using the texts now being prepared by the Home Commission. The other is a circular describing the first book of this series, "Makers of the Home," which is the text for 1929. Please see that these are distributed at the meeting.

The Home Is the Unit of the Church

ARTHUR W. SPALDING

HOLD up your hand; stretch forth your arm; grasp the tool with which you are to do your work. You say: "God gave me this hand, this arm, that with them I might perform my duties. If that hand were cut off, I should be frightfully crippled. I could not do without it."

Yes, it is true that the hand is an important part of the body, and that its loss would greatly cripple your usefulness. So also with a foot and a leg, or with an eye or a tongue. These organs are essential to a perfect performance of a person's work.

Yet, as many have proved, it is possible to live and still to do more or less efficient service though the body lose one or many of its members. You may lose an arm, both arms; a leg, both legs; an eye, both eyes, and still accomplish much. No one would choose to be maimed, but one may be maimed and still live and work.

But there is one element of the body which cannot, in its entirety, be lost without every organ becoming useless, without the whole body dying. That element is the body cell. Every organ, every tissue of the body, is made up of living cells. Your hand is a hand only by virtue of the fact that there are in it many thousand cells. Your eye, your heart, your brain,—none of them could be in existence except it be composed of living cells. Within the walls of each simple cell is the protoplasm which, as nearly as science can determine, is the residence of life. That life must continue in that cell if that cell is, with all its fellows, to make up the tissues that make up the organs that make up the body, and each in its different place, to do the work of bone and muscle and nerve and blood and brain. The cell, then, we say, is the unit of the body, that of which every organ is formed. We

need every organ, but every organ requires to be made up of living, healthy cells.

The home is the unit of the church. God has given to the church, organs for the performance of its work. There are the conference organizations, the schools, the sanitariums, the publishing houses; and a great many special workers are required in all these and a hundred other positions. They are every one important, they are every one needed in God's work. But let me tell you that not one of them can live and work and succeed unless the living cells of the church, the Christian homes, are right and healthy and active.

I will quote to you what the Spirit of God dictated: "The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. The work of parents underlies every other. . . . The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences."—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 349.

"The success of the church . . . depends upon home influences." Why, brethren and sisters, you cannot have a living church, a missionary church, a triumphant church, unless you have in the homes which make up that church the living, abiding, working Spirit of God. The making of true Christian homes is the first step in the making of a true Christian church.

Suppose you have a home where the spiritual life is low, where the voice of prayer is seldom heard and the voice of dispute is often heard, where the monthly magazine is more popular than the daily Bible, where the interest is greater in which ball team is going to win than in which force, heathenism or Christianity, is going to win. Will the church get from that home earnest, devoted, determined messengers of Jesus Christ, to carry the peace of God to sin-sick, weary-souled men? No.

But suppose you have a home where the spiritual life is pulsing free and strong, where family worship is a fountain from which the family's cheer and joy well out, where the contemplation of God's thoughts and God's purposes are in every mind and their inspiration upon every tongue. Will the church find the members of such a home fit agents in the carrying forward of its missionary program? Indeed it will.

Suppose you have a home where the discipline is harsh and tyrannical, where parents rule by right of might, where they are capricious, commanding one thing one day and another thing another day, where the conception of family government is that the children are the helpless subjects of their sovereign parents, rather than souls lent by God to parents for the development of self-reliant, purposeful characters. Out of a home filled with tyranny will you get a church that is filled with love of God? No.

But suppose you have a home where love reigns, where the parents study to know how to govern their children in the fear and love of God, where parents and children are devoted companions,—the former as teachers, the latter as students,—where it is known that family government is not to gratify the parents' sense of authority, but to develop self-control and judgment in the growing children, and where, in loving-kindness, firmness, and good judgment, the home government is made to be a model of the heavenly government. Will you, out of such a home, get those who will uphold the law of God and of Jesus Christ? You will, indeed.

Suppose you have a home in which there are disorder, confusion, lack of system, where the principles of healthful living are ignored and despised, where physical dirt is matched by moral filth, where sickness is, in consequence, a common thing. Will you, out of such a home, get messengers of self-control, purity, order, and righteousness? Never!

But suppose you have a home where the principles of health and purity are studied and used, where sane and sensible rules are upheld for the health of the body and the mind, where through example and story, inspiration and law, confidence and instruction, the body and the mind are alike made fit for the habitation of the Holy Spirit. Will such a home contribute to the health and vigor of the church and to the success of its mission? Yes, it will; and only such homes will do it.

The home is the unit of the church. What, the homes are, that the church will be. And the responsibility lies upon our homes to make in themselves, through the grace of God, the

perfect elements of a right physical, mental, social, and spiritual life, that, all together, they may make the church which will finish God's great work in this time.

To that end it behooves parents, and all young people who are approaching the age of marriage, to study to fit themselves for the most important work to be done. Of the mother it is said, "No other work can equal hers in importance. She has not, like the artist, to paint a form of beauty upon canvas, nor, like the sculptor, to chisel it from marble. She has not, like the author, to embody a noble thought in words of power, nor, like the musician, to express a beautiful sentiment in melody. It is hers, with the help of God, to develop in a human soul the likeness of the divine."—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 378.

And it is further declared, "Never will education accomplish all that it might and should accomplish until the importance of the parents' work is fully recognized, and they receive a training for its sacred responsibilities."—*Education*, p. 276.

The General Conference Home Commission offers help to parents in getting this training. There will be distributed to you to-day circulars which describe this work. May God make every parent and prospective parent so conscious of the importance of this work that they will exert themselves to do what must be done in their homes for the finishing of the great work of God.

Molding a Life

I took a piece of plastic clay,
And idly fashioned it one day;
And as my fingers pressed it still,
It moved and yielded to my will.

I came again when years were past,
The bit of clay was hard at last;
The form I gave it still it bore,
But I could change that form no more.

I took a piece of living clay,
And gently formed it day by day,
And molded with my power and art,
A young child's soft and yielding heart.

I came again when years were gone;
It was a man I looked upon.
He still that early impress wore,
And I could change him nevermore.

— Selected.

The Family Altar

"From every Christian home a holy light should shine forth; . . . homes where God is worshiped, and truest love reigns. From these homes, morning and evening prayer ascends to God as sweet incense, and His mercies and blessings descend upon the suppliants like the morning dew. A well-ordered Christian household is a powerful argument in favor of the reality of the Christian religion,—an argument that the infidel cannot gainsay."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 144.

We must acknowledge with sadness that there are Seventh-day Adventist homes which fail to measure up to the standard God has set. While many explanations might be made as to the cause of this failure, in the majority of instances it is attributable to neglect of prayer. As has been truly stated, "In too many households, prayer is neglected. Parents feel that they have no time for morning and evening worship. . . . They have no time to offer prayer for divine help and guidance, and for the abiding presence of Jesus in the household. They go forth to labor as the ox or the horse goes, without one thought of God or heaven."—*Id.*, p. 143.

Is it not time that God's design for the home shall be kept in the forefront of all our Christian activity, and that earnest effort be made to strengthen the pillars of God's cause by making our homes centers of light?

Greater than our failure to represent God properly before our neighbors, is our failure to represent God properly before our children. "I stand with that great company of people to-day who believe that we are in the beginning of a great revival of religion," says Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, "and I am

persuaded that this revival is to be helped on, not so much by preaching, though that is not to be ignored, or by singing, though that is in itself useful, but by changing for the better the conditions of the homes in our land."

To Seventh-day Adventists is given the direct message which follows:

"If ever there was a time when every house should be a house of prayer, it is now. Infidelity and skepticism prevail. Iniquity abounds. . . . In this time of fearful peril, some who profess to be Christians have no family worship. They do not honor God in the home; they do not teach their children to love and fear Him. . . . By sincere, earnest prayer parents should make a hedge about their children. They should pray with full faith that God will abide with them, and that holy angels will guard them and their children from Satan's cruel power. In every family there should be a fixed time for morning and evening worship."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VII, pp. 42, 43.

J. A. STEVENS.

A Personal Testimony to the Power of the "Family Altar"

FIRST I want to express to you again, what I believe I told you before, the far-reaching influence the morning and evening prayers which were so faithfully and interestingly conducted at your home, had in shaping my life. I remember so well one time I asked Mahel: "Surely your father will let you go to this party,—so-and-so will be there, etc." "No," said Mahel, "he doesn't care to have me go." So sweet was her answer, and so mild her spirit with no thought in it of rebellion, though I knew she wanted to go, and had halfway expected that she might go, that I wondered. I've thought of it many times, and then the conclusion came to me, "Ah, those morning and evening prayers, that's the power that holds them." Those sweet songs you folks used to sing each morning! You have no idea how they thrilled my young heart as their melodies were wafted on the breeze regularly morning and evening over to our house across the street. I was so anxious that Harold and I should have the same blessing, that we started the very first day of our life together, even though it was on the train, having worship, and as often as convenient we have singing too, though we have no piano or organ accompaniment as yet. But we've received a blessing just the same, and we hope some day to know others also have been blessed.—*Copied from a letter written to one of our ministers by the wife of a doctor in a foreign field.*

A Family Altar Tract

BECAUSE of the increasing interest in this important subject, and an ever-growing demand for instruction as to how the family worship time may be made one of the brightest and best parts of the day, there has been prepared a thirty-two-page tract, entitled, "Family Worship: Its Importance and How to Conduct It." This leaflet is printed by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, and costs four cents each. A copy of this very inspiring and instructive little volume should be in every Seventh-day Adventist home. Order a supply for your Family Altar Day service, through your Book and Bible House, calling for Christian Home Series, No. 4.

GENERAL CONFERENCE HOME MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT.

Personal Work With "Signs"

THE supreme task of the church is to lead men and women to Christ. "Evangelism." That is the call to God's people in this hour. Every believer is called to share in the work. The *Signs of the Times* is a great evangelizing agency, and February 10-23 has been appointed by the General Conference Committee as the time to secure clubs of *Signs* in all our churches. "At least one *Signs* per member" is the aim. Make 1929 your best year in personal evangelism.

GENERAL CONFERENCE HOME MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT.

It is the runner who arrives at the goal to whom the award is given.

A Spiritless Organization Useless

EFFICIENT organization is of itself a mighty power; but it is only when it is directed by the Master Himself that it is invincible. Ezekiel's vision of a wheel within a wheel and still other wheels suggests a wonderful organization. But it does more than that. It reveals the fact that the organization was controlled by the Spirit of God. "Whithersoever the Spirit was to go, they went." We must organize our forces, and our resources also, to insure the speedy and successful accomplishment of our world-wide task, but in every feature of our organization and plans there must be revealed the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Some one has emphasized this important need thus:

"Spirit: Wait for me.

Organization: Oh, I forgot about you. Why don't you hurry?

Spirit: I cannot hurry.

Organization: I am empty without you.

Spirit: Then wait for me.

Organization: But I am full of enthusiasm for progress.

Spirit: There is no enthusiasm without me.

Organization: No enthusiasm? When I come, people fall in line.

Spirit: With organization.

Organization: Oh, I know I need you. Then hurry.

Spirit: This spirit cannot be forced.

Organization: But I have the vision. The world is in my plan.

Spirit: You plan for me, and yet without me.

Organization: Oh, hurry.

Spirit: If I hurry, I die.

Organization: And—

Spirit: And you die."

Getting a New Vision

SOME years ago I was preaching in an American city. In my audience I noticed a young lawyer whom I knew. At the close of the meeting I made my way down to where he was sitting, stepped up to him, and said: "Good evening. Are you a Christian?"

"Yes," he said, "I consider myself a Christian."

"Are you bringing others to Christ?" I asked.

"No, sir, I am not," he replied; "that is not my business; it's yours. I am called to practice law; you are called to preach."

I opened my Bible to Acts 8:4 and said: "Will you please read what the word of God says about it?"

He read, "'They that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.' Oh, but those were the apostles!" he objected.

I said: "Will you be kind enough to read the first verse?"

He read: "'They were all scattered abroad, . . . except the apostles.'"

He had nothing more to say. What could he say? Your great Captain's command is, Go out and make disciples. Are you doing it?—*Selected.*

Quotable Poetry

"BUT once I pass this way,
And then—no more.
But once—and then, the Silent Door
Swings on its hinges—
Opens . . . closes,
And no more
I pass this way.
So while I may,
With all my might
I will essay
Sweet comfort and delight
To all I meet upon the Pilgrim Way.
For no man travels twice
The Great Highway
That climbs through Darkness up to Light—
Through Night
To Day."

How to Increase Your Reporting Membership

MRS. EDYTH N. HARE

SISTER HOME MISSIONARY SECRETARY was discouraged. Her face showed it.

"The song books are about full of these report blanks now, what's the use of giving out more?" she asked the new minister as she handed him a blank and passed on with a martyred expression on her face.

"Yes, what's the use?" echoed the thoughts of the new minister, "What's the use of wearing that kind of expression, anyway? It won't inspire any one to write a report. But where is the trouble and how can it be remedied?"

The next day the new minister and his wife called on Sister H. M. Secretary at her home. They found her in a more cheerful mood, but when her church work was mentioned her countenance "fell," and she said,

"I just can't get this church to report. They don't believe in it."

In answer to several inquiries the minister ascertained that the church members were working for a club of fifty Signs which were distributed through the town each week; quite a few persons were brought to church; the Dorcas Society was active; several good sisters gave their time freely in cases of sickness and need, and some of the brethren were giving Bible readings, but why wouldn't they report?

The next Sabbath morning the large blackboard was turned around just as Sabbath school was dismissed. While Sister Secretary passed out the report blanks with a pleasant smile, the church members read these words:

"HEAVEN HAS A REPORTING SYSTEM

Why Shouldn't We Have One?

"Angels keep a faithful record of every man's work."

—*Testimonies*, Vol. I, p. 198.

Then the minister asked that both the used and unused blanks be placed in the collection boxes when they were passed by the ushers. Sister Secretary smiled when she received those blanks.

The next Sabbath morning the blackboard bore this silent message under its previous heading:

"Every act of love, every word of kindness, every prayer in behalf of the suffering and oppressed, is reported before the eternal throne, and placed on heaven's imperishable record." —*Id.*, Vol. V, p. 133.

That quotation was erased and the next week this quotation took its place,

"A report is borne to heaven of every successful effort on our part to dispel the darkness and to spread abroad the knowledge of Christ. As the deed is recounted before the Father, joy thrills through all the heavenly host."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 154.

Other quotations followed week by week and as the blackboard preached its weekly five-minute, silent sermon, Sister Secretary's heart rejoiced, for in a short time the reports were full and regular.

What Can I Do This Year for My Church?

- I CAN be sympathetic with its ideals.
- I can be loyal to its appointed services.
- I can habitually uphold it in prayer.
- I can contribute my part toward its support.
- I can aid it in benevolences.
- I can cordially welcome strangers.
- I can help promote good fellowship.
- I can seek out and help the discouraged.
- I can refrain from criticism.
- I can invite my unchurched acquaintances.
- I can help create a spiritual atmosphere.
- I can be charitable toward the erring.
- I can attempt any work assigned me.
- I can encourage the study of God's word.
- I can dedicate my talents to sacred uses.
- I can be genial, kindly, and courteous to all.
- I can see the best in fellow members.
- I can faithfully keep the Lord's day holy.
- I can discourage faultfinding and dissension.

—*Australasian Record*, Jan. 17, 1897.



"THAT MUST MEAN ME"

The Church Missionary Service

(Fifteen-Minute Missionary Meeting)

NOTE.—This brief missionary meeting is no time for sermonizing, or giving a Bible study. Hold closely to the topics outlined for each Sabbath. Do not allow the meeting to exceed the fifteen-minute limit. In most instances the topic can be presented, reports gathered, and the service closed within ten minutes.

Suggestive Service Outline

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Prayer (silent or audible) | 2 minutes |
| Presentation of Missionary Topic | 5-8 minutes |
| Gathering Missionary Reports | 2-4 minutes |
| Closing | 1 minute |

Sabbath, February 2

MISSIONARY TOPIC: "Winning Souls With Magazines."

TEXT: Prov. 11: 30.

SUGGESTIONS: Of the many methods of doing missionary work none is more important than the sale of our truth-filled publications. Our magazines offer a wonderfully interesting and profitable field of opportunity for many of our members, young and old. This is a magazine-reading age, and large numbers of faithful missionary workers have conclusively demonstrated that the public will buy and read the *Watchman*, *Life and Health*, *Liberty*, and the magazines printed in other languages than English. "If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IV, p. 390.

In several conferences the combination of *Life and Health*, with *Liberty*, will be used to sell for the benefit of the Institutional Relief Fund. But in every church there should be one or more "magazine evangelists,"—workers who will make it their soul-winning business to sell our magazines regularly. The home missionary or field missionary secretary of the conference will gladly give information and help to enable any one to start work in this wonderfully fruitful line of missionary activity. Make up your mind now. Start to work at once.

Sabbath, February 9

MISSIONARY TOPIC: "The Signs of the Times in Missionary Work."

TEXT: 1 Peter 3: 15.

SUGGESTIONS: The *Signs of the Times* is our pioneer missionary periodical. It has opened the way into many lands, and only the judgment can reveal the goodly harvest of souls it has turned to the truth. To-day it is one of the most popular of all our publications for missionary work, either for personal distribution or through the mail. Long years ago

the servant of the Lord gave this testimony concerning the *Signs*: "The *Review and Herald* and the *Signs of the Times* are cheap papers at the full price." Speaking particularly of the *Signs*, she says: "With slight variations, this paper has been increasing in interest and in moral worth as a pioneer sheet since its establishment. These periodicals [*Review* and *Signs*] are one in interest. They are two instrumentalities in the great field to do their specific work in disseminating light in this day of God's preparation. All should engage just as earnestly to build up the one as the other."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IV, p. 598.

In accordance with General Conference Committee action February 10-23 is the time for increasing the circulation of the *Signs of the Times* by subscribing for clubs of papers in churches and for clubs or single subscriptions for individual members. There should be an average of at least one *Signs* subscription per member in every church. Make 1929 a soul-winning year by using the *Signs*.

Sabbath, February 16

MISSIONARY TOPIC: "Personal Experiences in Soul Winning."

TEXT: Luke 8: 39.

SUGGESTIONS: "Long, prosy talks and prayers are out of place anywhere, and especially in the social meeting. Those who are forward and ever ready to speak, are allowed to crowd out the testimony of the timid and retiring. Those who are the most superficial generally have the most to say."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IV, p. 70. This counsel is particularly applicable to the recital of interesting missionary experiences. It will be well before the Sabbath to arrange for the telling of one or two good soul-winning experiences. If one person has an especially good story to tell, it may be best to use the whole time for it, but usually it will be best to have two or three short, stirring stories of from three to four minutes each. Encourage the young people as well as the adults to take part in this service. There will be need to guard the time constantly, else it will slip away, and the time to close will come before you have reached the end of your program. Plan carefully, and the meeting will be indeed "meat in due season."

Sabbath, February 23

MISSIONARY TOPIC: "Missionary Training From Home Missionary and M. V. Leaflets."

TEXT: Prov. 1: 5.

SUGGESTIONS: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed," was certainly spoken for all who would become efficient soul winners. In every church there are many members anxious to do something in missionary work, but they feel incapable because of lack of knowledge. "True education is missionary training. Every son and daughter of God is called to be a missionary; we are called to the service of God and our fellow men; and to fit us for this service should be the object of our education."—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 395.

In many cases our church members, young and older, may secure a good fund of working knowledge along the lines of practical missionary work by a careful study of the leaflets prepared by the Home Missionary and Missionary Volunteer Departments. One may learn valuable suggestions as to *how* to carry on missionary correspondence, *how* to do Christian help work, *how* to organize and conduct a Doreas Society, *how* to present the truth to the foreign neighbor, and many other phases of personal soul-winning work. One may study this principle of the reporting plan, and why it is so necessary for each member to report regularly all missionary work, and learn the various uses of tracts in interesting and winning people to the truth.

Most of the Missionary Volunteer leaflets should be in the hands of all our young people, and should be given especially to those who need help in meeting the temptations peculiar to young people. There are leaflets on good reading, Bible study, duties in the home, courtship and marriage, Christian living and service.

These little helpers are designed for this busy age, when there is not sufficient time in every instance, to study a larger volume. Each church should be provided with a supply of

these leaflets covering the entire range of topics now in print, and the members should be encouraged to make a systematic study of every one. It will be well for the church missionary secretary to correspond with the conference Missionary Volunteer Society and also the home missionary secretary concerning a supply of these educational and inspirational leaflets.



MUKDEN, MANCHURIA, May 18, 1928.

DEAR ELDER ———:

Some time ago I received a letter from you in which you spoke of "open-air meetings." I was very much interested in this topic because the work many of our evangelists in Central China are doing is mostly open-air meetings. As the evangelists continue these meetings, the people, on their own initiative, have provided a regular place for an evangelist to preach.

You mentioned in your letter that if I had any experiences along this line to pass them on. Well, it so happened that we had that very experience up here on one of our field days. We held a very interesting home missionary convention at Liaoyang the past two days. After holding a few meetings with the church members and instructing them in the methods of doing missionary work, we separated, going out by teams to the territory assigned to us. In the evening we came together for an experience meeting. It was the best meeting I have attended in a long time. The brethren could hardly contain themselves, so full were they with interesting experiences.

I was out with two Chinese brethren distributing tracts. It was our plan to speak to the people in such a way as to arouse on their part a desire to learn what the conditions of our day mean. It worked like a charm. Every man we approached was anxious to read the tract in order to satisfy the need we had created in his mind. We were talking to a business man when many men began to crowd around us. This large number of people seemed to be a fine opportunity for us to hold an open-air meeting. As we talked, the crowd began to grow. Soon the street was thronged, and the people were surging back and forth in an endeavor to learn what it was all about. We spoke to them about the great events of our day, and asked them if they knew what these things meant. Some said, "No." We then asked them if they would like to know. A chorus of "Yes" met us, and when we told them we had a leaflet that explained these things, there was a real scramble to get copies. Our team had three such open-air meetings, and we would have held more, but we ran short of literature. It was truly an interesting experience. I can still see the expression on the faces of the people as they listened to what we were saying, then the expression changed from curiosity to desire, and finally to gratification.

There are great opportunities for us to bring the message to the people. This is our duty. Our workers everywhere should train and instruct the church members, and lead them into active service for Christ. This is God's program for us to-day.

I have told you briefly some of our experiences. We have just begun our missionary program.

With Christian greetings, I am
Your brother,

(Signed) ———.

"IMPREGNATED with life and strength divine,
Put the bright torch of heaven into my hand,
That I may carry it aloft
And win the eye of weary wanderers here below
To guide their feet into the paths of peace."

Junior Missionary Volunteer Meetings

Suggestions to Junior Superintendents

At the time of the General Conference held in San Francisco in 1922 the Progressive Class membership plans were adopted, and shortly after that date they were put into the field. As you no doubt know, requirements have been outlined for three classes—Friend, Companion, and Comrade. Where the plans have been put into operation and carried out, they have proved a great blessing to the boys and girls, and an aid to our church school teachers and other Junior superintendents in their disciplinary problems.

Any boy or girl ten years of age or above, who is a member in good standing of a Junior Missionary Volunteer Society, may become a member of the Friend Class by meeting the requirements. These requirements have been arranged with the all-round development of the child in mind. The first two or three of the requirements have to do with the spiritual life, and if these requirements are met by the Juniors and are emphasized in a strong way by the superintendent, they will prove a great blessing to the children.

During the year 1929 there will be an average of two Junior Missionary Volunteer programs each month that are based on the Progressive Class requirements. These programs will give you a splendid opportunity for creating an interest in this class work, and will at the same time present helpful spiritual lessons. There are three of these programs for February, based on "The Ten Commandments," the "Home Efficiency Certificate," and "Practical Missionaries" (the value of practical knowledge, such as cooking, sewing, and tying knots); for March, "The Lord's Prayer" and "First Aid." Having this information in advance may help you in planning your work, so that you will be able to gather added material for these particular programs.

The Week of Prayer comes next month. Begin to plan for it now. (See last section of "Suggestions to Missionary Volunteer Leaders," p. 11.)

C. L. B.

Who Is a Hero?

(Program for Week Ending February 3)

Song Service. (Nos. 508, 521, 66, 560, 484, in "Christ in Song.")
Scripture Text: Joshua 1:9. (Write text on blackboard and repeat in unison.)

Sentence Prayers.

Talk: "Be Strong and of a Good Courage."

Special Music: "Dare to Be a Daniel." (No. 42 in "Sunshine Songs." To be sung as a solo or by two or three Juniors.)

Stories: "The Fight With the Lion," "The Fight With the Witch Doctors," "The Fight With Kafir Beer," and "The Black Prince of Eighty." (See "The Book of Missionary Heroes," a Junior Reading Course book for 1929, pp. 138-149. The leader should introduce "Khama" before the stories are told. See p. 133.)

Special Song: "Marching With the Heroes." (See p. 13.)

Recitation: "Heroism."

Mission Offering and Reports of Missionary Work.

Blackboard Testimonies: "What I Want My Name to Spell." (See Note to Junior Superintendent.)

Song: "Dare to Do Right." (No. 67 in "Christ in Song.")

Prayer by the Junior Superintendent. (That Jesus will help each Junior to be true, honest, kind, and brave for Him.)

Repeat Together the Memory Gem: "The World's Greatest Need." (See January "Gazette," p. 12; or "Education," p. 57.)

Note to Junior Superintendent

Who is a hero? Every boy and girl wants to be considered a hero or a heroine. Help all to see that true heroism does not mean that their names will be upon every one's lips; it means that they will be true and loyal and brave under whatever circumstances they are placed. Juniors who are to give the last message to the world will need these qualities of heroism. If you have blackboard space to have several Juniors write out what they want their names to stand for, these testimonies will be effective. (Read Ex. 34:5-7.) Their initials, first names, or entire names may be used. For example, we give here the name of Joseph:

J-ust
O-bedient
S-elf-sacrificing
E-fficient
P-ayerful
H-umble

Do you have the leaflet, "The Society of Junior Missionary Volunteers"?

Talk: "Be Strong and of a Good Courage"

THE Old Testament is a book of heroes. (Ask the Juniors to name some of them.) Are there any cowards in the Old Testament? Yes, but we are glad that at least some of them were turned into heroes later. A person can do all things when he remembers that God is with him. "Be strong and of a good courage." By whom and to whom were these words spoken? Yes, it was God who spoke these words of good cheer to Joshua. He repeated them three times, so that he might never forget them. Joshua and his men needed this encouragement, for they were going to conquer Canaan, a land of giants prepared to fight. Joshua might have been afraid, but God came to him and said, "Be strong and of a good courage."

God sent this message of good cheer to us, too, because He knew we would have battles to fight. No, we do not have armies to fight as did Joshua and his men, but we have enemies that are strong. Do you know what they are? It takes real heroes to fight these enemies.

When Jesus calls us to take His side, and to let others know which side we are on, is one time when we will have to remember these words of cheer. Some boys and girls are proud of their courage and physical strength, but hang back when they are asked to be Christians, just because they are afraid that some of their companions will make fun of them. You remember the three Hebrew children. (See Daniel 3.)

In the hour of discouragement and misfortune we will need these words of cheer. There is a story told of a little imp of discouragement who hopped to a man's shoulder and whispered, "You are discouraged." The man answered, "Well, I suppose I am." The imp went back to Satan and said proudly, "I got him, he is discouraged." The proud little imp hopped on another man's shoulder and whispered, "You are discouraged." The man said, "I tell you I am not discouraged, you go away!" The imp returned to Satan and said, "I couldn't get him. I told him he was discouraged; he told me to get out, and that discouraged me."

Sometimes it takes real courage to do the right thing, especially if it is the unpopular thing. We may feel afraid, and our knees may shake, but courage helps us to tell the truth, and to meet temptation, discouragement, danger, ridicule, and fear. It will even help us to give our life for some one else, to save some one from drowning or to rescue a person in a burning building. Missionaries must have plenty of courage, for often they face danger and death. They must leave home, friends, and loved ones, and forget their own desires for the sake of others. We should be glad when an opportunity comes for testing our courage.

What is the real secret for strength and courage and true heroism? It is to have Jesus with us. We may not see Him, but we know He is with us, for He has promised to be with us. This will make us brave and strong. He knows all the temptations that are coming to us, and He is stronger than all of these. He will give us courage to say "No" when some one wants us to do something wrong, and makes fun of us because we will not do it. If we have Jesus on our side, we may know that we will win the battle.

GRACE JOHNSON.

Heroism

DEAR God, please help my heart to know
That heroes do not always fight
In armor, or with swords, to show
That they uphold the good and right.

The truest hero can endure
Without resentment, and he knows
That victory is made more sure
By gentle words, instead of blows.

The truest hero does not cease
In goodly efforts, day by day,—
He loves his God, his life, his place,
And scatters kindness on his way.

He lives to make a better world;
A chance to serve he will not miss,
His flag of honor is unfurled,—
God, make me truly brave like this.

—John Martin.

God's Promise Chain

(Program for Week Ending February 9)

BY LOUISE C. KLEUSER

Songs. (Choice of Nos. 67, 382, and 601 in "Christ in Song.")

Prayer.

Duet: "Ye Must Be Born Again." (No. 26 in "Christ in Song," society joining in the chorus.)

Report of Secretary.

Leader's Talk: "The Commands of Our Leader."

Song: "Trust and Obey." (By the boys, one stanza.)

Scripture Reading by a Junior: Ps. 118: 32-35.

Talk: "Our Father's Promises."

Exercise: "The Promise Chain."

Missionary Reports and Offering.

Closing Song. (No. 55 in "Christ in Song.")

Repeat in Concert the Junior Law.

Note to Junior Superintendent

This program is another one of our series based on a "Friend" requirement. Lead the Juniors to see they should know these ten commandments, not merely to be able to repeat them, but that they may observe them in their hearts and lives in their lives. For further helps see the program, "God's Measuring Rule," p. 12, and the cartoon on p. 11.

Talk: "The Commands of Our Leader"

It is a wonderful thing to have a friend. It is a sublime thing to be a friend,—a friend to God and man. We would not know anything about true friendship without the friendship of our Friend, Jesus. He is our "elder brother" and also our best chum. How He longs to become better acquainted with each young soul, molding it into a character ready for the new earth!

Our Friend keeps tryst with us. He appoints us bonds to foster the right kind of friendships. He plans to teach us more about Himself, for true friendship requires an acquaintance; each must know the plans of the other one. Through this acquaintance He prepares His friends for admission to the family of heaven. He reveals His Father's will as it is expressed in the ten commandments. Think of a whole universe organized by laws. Now think of another wonderful fact—the ten commandments, only sixteen brief sentences, regulating all conditions for man's good. There are scores of grammar and arithmetic rules to master a few facts, but God, who inhabits eternity, brings all His plans into a few brief expressions.

Every "Friend," to be a real friend, must know the will of his Leader. That is why each Junior should know well the ten commandments, word for word. Because God's commands are so brief and there is so much summed up in His law, each word must have its proper meaning. The code of our Leader is in marked contrast to anything Satan can produce; as "Friends" we must ever be ready to protect its significance. Satan must be defeated in the way Jesus defeated him—on the ground of what God had commanded.

Talk: "Our Father's Promises"

For many years Mrs. Day held the idea that the ten commandments meant little to the Christian. She had been instructed that it was merely a moral code, which Moses had received for the Hebrew people. She had a young friend, Esther by name, who had lately learned to see new beauties in the law of God, and who had also begun to observe the seventh-day Sabbath. Happy in her new experience, Esther longed to bring this good news to Mrs. Day, who was a firm Methodist and well satisfied in her conclusions that Christians are free from the law.

One day Mrs. Day became suddenly ill and was confined to her bed many weeks. She found much comfort in the kind attentions of her friends, but what seemed to bring her unusual joy was the gift of a "Promise Box" by Esther. It contained little pieces of paper tightly rolled, each bearing a comforting message from the Bible, written in Esther's own handwriting. Every day she looked forward to unrolling one of these daily Bible messages! Some of the verses were those that had been a special help to Esther, and therefore she felt that Mrs. Day would appreciate them as much as had she.

During the long days of sickness Mrs. Day had time to think. She became somewhat concerned about her former attitude toward the ten commandments. Esther's solid life was

an argument she could not deny. Soon she found herself praying in the words of the psalmist (have a Junior stand up and read reverently Psalms 119: 18). Opening her "Promise Box" she read (have another Junior read Psalms 119: 151, 152). She meditated much on the message of her promises for the day, and turning to her Bible, continued reading the whole psalm. How many verses bore witness to the truth that God's law is eternal; that it is a lamp and a light to the wayfarer; his road map and counselor, or again his treasure and his health! Earnestly she prayed for light, and Esther became a wonderful help in clearing away much of her confusion.

One day, after both friends had prayed earnestly for the healing of Mrs. Day, and many indications had already encouraged them to believe that God would be pleased to completely restore her, Mrs. Day remarked to Esther, "The law is growing more beautiful to me each day. At first these commandments seemed so stern and useless to me, but now each is indeed a precious promise of my heavenly Father's love. How marvelous the change in my own heart!" With new light also came new life, and Mrs. Day ever loved to include in her prayers the prayer of the psalmist. Let us how our heads reverently and softly repeat it together: Psalms 119: 18.

Exercise: "The Promise Chain"

(HANG up the ten commandment chart. Pointing to this chart, let a Junior recite the following:)

Ten Promises

Ten promises the law contains,
Ten precious lessons it explains,
Ten blessings to the child whose heart
Loves God and claims the better part.

Just follow closely each command,
As we young "Friends" join hand in hand
To link this chain of virtues rare,
Obedience forms with heavenly care.

(Pointing to the first commandment, let a Junior wearing a paper crown with the word "Freedom," reverently recite it. The next Junior wears a crown with the word "Mercy," points to the second commandment, recites it, and then joins hands with the first Junior. The third Junior's crown is inscribed "Innocence;" the crown of the fourth, "Pleasure;" the fifth, "Peace;" the sixth, "Life;" the seventh, "Purity;" the eighth, "Honesty;" the ninth, "Truth;" the tenth, "Contentment." After the tenth has spoken, have another Junior wearing a paper sash inscribed "Love" recite the following:)

The Greatest Commandment

Master, which law of all the ten
Is greatest in Thine eyes, and when
Will I fulfill its tenfold aims?
The Giver of the law explains:

With all thy heart love God and man,
With soul and mind, this is My plan;
Love is the first and last command,
For which all law and prophets stand!

Practical Missionaries

(Program for Week Ending February 16)

Song Service. (Nos. 576, 254, 577, and 658 in "Christ in Song.")

Practical Texts. (Ask each Junior to come prepared to quote or read a Bible verse that speaks of doing some everyday thing in life. For the last one, read Matthew 20: 25-28.)

Silent Prayer, Closed With a Prayer by the Superintendent.

Report of the Secretary, Missionary Reports, and the Offering.

Song: "Master, Hast Thou Work for Me?"

Superintendent's Remarks: "Practical." (See dictionary for the meaning of the word, and adapt thoughts from "Counsels to Teachers," pp. 311-316.)

Talk: "The Art of Resping." (The author of these two talks has been for many years a missionary in China, so he knows whereof he speaks.)

Talk: "The Most Necessary Accomplishment." (Introduce this talk with thoughts from "Counsels on Health," pp. 145, 146 See blackboard thought.)

Recitation: "Just to Please Jesus."

Song by Smaller Juniors: "Beautiful Little Hands."

Closing Song: "Gladly, Gladly Telling for the Master."

Prayer: "Lord help us to learn to do life's common things well."

Note to Junior Superintendent

This may be termed another of the "Friend" requirement programs. Help the Juniors to see that everything they are learning is to make them more useful in the service of our Master. We must begin where we are—to-day!

Can you repeat the ten commandments?

Talk: "The Most Necessary Accomplishment"

I HAVE observed that missionary women who have a good knowledge of sewing and cooking and other practical things of life are best able to adapt themselves to new conditions in mission lands. I think of a young woman who went to a mission field soon after she was married. The very day she and her husband moved into the house where they were to live, two families of missionaries from the interior came to spend a few days. The young woman felt so utterly unprepared and incapable of cooking and entertaining properly, that she went to her bedroom and buried her head in her pillow and sobbed out her grief. The missionary ladies from the interior, being resourceful and capable women, came to the rescue and shouldered the burden of getting the meals. Though relieved of her perplexity to some extent, she was not relieved from embarrassment, and seeing her need, this young missionary made a heroic effort to gain the practical experience in cooking and entertaining which she saw she needed as a missionary. But it would have been a great help if she had gained this experience before going to the mission field.

So, girls, and boys likewise, learn to cook and sew, for such knowledge is often valuable when a missionary is out on a long interior itinerating trip, away from home and family. A training in practical things gives one an appreciation of people in all walks of life; it furnishes a point of contact and in many instances suggests topics of common interest for conversations which may lead to friendships and sometimes result in conversions to the cause of Christ. We find increasing interest on the part of educational leaders in mission lands, in practical education, that kind of education which has been most neglected in those lands. They appreciate one who knows how to "do things," one who can "get things done." So, boys and girls, be broad, be systematic, be thorough, be persistent, and be patient in your training in the practical things of life.

A. L. HAM.

Just to Please Jesus

PAYING a visit to sorrow's abode,
Helping a burdened one o'er a rough road,
This the sweet thought making duty delight,
Turning the shadows of gloom into light—
Just to please Jesus.

Staying at home with the children, perchance,
Watching the sick one's oft-wandering glance,
Sweeping and dusting and tidying home,
Deeds not recorded 'neath fame's painted dome—
Just to please Jesus.

Turning the eyes from the vanity show,
Sparkling and flashing with glittering glow,
Turning away to the quiet and calm,
Singing in secret a thanksgiving psalm—
Just to please Jesus.

Swinging the hammer, if duty demands,
Plying the needle with quick, willing hands,
Using the pencil, the pick, or the pen,
Serving my Lord and my own fellow men—
Just to please Jesus.

Giving a smile, or taking a hand,
Leading lost feet to the fair better land,
Doing, and thinking, and hearing, and seeing,
Eating, and drinking, and working, and being—
Just to please Jesus.

— Author Unknown.

Talk: "The Art of Ropes"

A KNOWLEDGE of the practical things of life is really very important and valuable to boys and girls during their school days and after life.

If you will pardon me for being personal, I will tell you some of my own experiences along this line. About twenty-five years ago I arranged to work for the Walla Walla College during the summer months on the college farm to earn money for clothes and school expenses during the following school year. The business manager agreed to pay me a stated monthly wage for my work and sent me out to hoe potatoes; later he had me pick cherries. I did not really like either hoeing potatoes or picking cherries, but did my best, hoping that I would soon be assigned to work more agreeable to me.

One day while I was "up a tree" picking cherries the

business manager and the driver of one of the college teams came to the orchard, leading a lame horse. They tied the horse's halter rope to the very tree in which I was picking cherries. Looking down I saw that they were fastening ropes to the horse's feet; and then they began to pull, trying to throw him on the ground. They wanted him down so they could treat the running sore on his shoulder. The more they pulled on the rope, the harder the poor horse pulled back on his halter rope tied to the tree. Now I could not pick cherries with that "show" going on below me! I watched them a few minutes and became very sympathetic for the poor, old, sick horse that was getting his neck stretched out that way. Finally, I called down: "If you want me to, I'll show you how to put a rope on that horse so you can throw him with one hand." The manager, startled by a voice from the branches, looked up at me and smiled a bit sarcastically, then turned to the teamster and said, "Give him the rope and let him try it." For me it was a very simple trick; I had learned it years before; so I came down from the tree,—a graduate from cherry picking!

I took the long rope and tied a two-foot loop in the center of it, untied the halter rope from the tree and placed the loop over the horse's head and down against his shoulders. I went to the barn and found two hame straps, which I buckled around the horse's hind legs just above the hoofs. Then I passed the two ends of the long rope from the loop outside the front legs and back through the straps on the horse's hind legs, then back outside his front legs again, past his head. I took these two ends of the rope in my right hand and began to tighten up on them. As I did so, the horse would lift first one and then the other hind foot. As he did this I pulled in on the rope gradually, until the hind legs had been brought up almost to the front feet and my horse sat down on the ground so that a gentle push put him down on his side with his hind feet fast in the ropes. He was helpless without having made much of a struggle, nor could he kick and flounder about while the treatment was being given to the sore shoulder. The treatment over, the manager seemed pleased with what a boy could do with a rope, a knot, and two short straps, and I was forthwith made both nurse and doctor for the sick horse. I think we were both pleased over the new appointment! I was also given charge of a team of beautiful black horses. Not many days after, the manager told me to hitch my team to the wagon which had the hayrack on it and drive by the business office, where he would join me and we would drive to a ranch a few miles away for a load of oat straw. This we did. While we were loading the straw, the manager stopped a moment to wipe the perspiration from his face, and abruptly announced his decision to raise my monthly wages five dollars a month! And, furthermore, that this raise would be retroactive,—that is, it would start from the time I began to work for the college. Imagine my surprise and joy at this announcement! I thanked him and said I would do my best to earn the wages. You can see that this opportunity came to me because of my early experience in handling ropes and tying knots.

While attending the academy, I learned from the principal how to rope a trunk properly. He told me that few people knew how to rope a trunk as it should be done, and taught me how. Since then I have roped many trunks, and I take pride in doing it properly. A missionary has much traveling to do and long distances are often covered in his journeyings. Usually, there are trunks to ship or otherwise transfer from place to place, and such transfers are very hard on heavily packed trunks. It is then necessary to have them well roped. It should be done tightly, neatly, and in such a way as to preserve the rope in as good condition as possible, so that the trunk can be unroped without cutting the rope. There should be only two knots in the whole process. In fact, if it has been properly roped, only one knot need be untied when removing the rope from the trunk. It is very convenient to know this trick, for aside from the safety of the trunk and its contents, there is the matter of customs examinations. It is often necessary to unrope a trunk quickly for inspection while en route from country to country. Unroping and roping can be quickly done, and without injury to the rope, if the proper method is used.

(Concluded on page 14)

Are you giving all you can for missions?

The Home Efficiency Certificate

(Program for Week Ending February 23)

Opening Song: "What Are You Doing for Jesus?" (No. 542 in "Christ in Song.")
 Prayer by Two or Three Children.
 Song: "Love at Home." (No. 530 in "Christ in Song.")
 Talk by Superintendent: "The Home Efficiency Certificate."
 Recitation: "The Daily Task."
 Talk: "The Story the Looking-glass Told."
 Missionary Reports and the Offering.
 Closing Song: "Father, Bless Our Home Life." (No. 48 in "Sunshine Songs.")

Note to Junior Superintendent

It is hoped that this program will help you in getting the boys and girls to work for their Home Efficiency Certificates. The blank certificates can be secured from your conference Missionary Volunteer secretary. No certificate should be signed by the parents until the Junior has done his assigned work well, for the six-month probationary period.

Talk: "The Home Efficiency Certificate"

AMONG the requirements for "Friends" you will notice that a Home Efficiency Certificate must be obtained. This is not like a check-up on you (a Missionary Volunteer is ready to do his part because it is his honest part, and not because some one else asks him to), but the certificate shows that he has so lived his pledge that mother and father have recognized his helpfulness and are glad to recommend his service.

We are told in the book "Christ's Object Lessons," page 345: "By many children and youth, time is wasted that might be spent in carrying home burdens, and thus showing a loving interest in father and mother. The youth might take upon their strong young shoulders many responsibilities which some one must bear." And in "The Ministry of Healing," page 394, it says, "Children as well as parents have important duties in the home. They should be taught that they are a part of the home firm. They are fed and clothed and loved and cared for; and they should respond to these many mercies by bearing their share of the home burdens, and bringing all the happiness possible into the family of which they are members."

So a Missionary Volunteer not only takes care of his own belongings and person, but cheerfully bears some part of the work of the home. He is on his honor and so needs no reminder from father or mother of the task, no matter how much he may dislike it. He does it faithfully and well during the time he is meeting the other "Friend" requirements. And because a true Volunteer forms habits of service, the time covered by the certificates must be at least six months. (Show a sample of the certificate, or have it on the blackboard.)

The story is told of a king who had grown tired of the many trials of skill and strength he saw, and said: "I will have a test of good deeds and see if that will set people to thinking in the right way." So a certain day was set for the test, and the person that won the prize was to choose what he liked best. One by one the people were let into the king's palace to tell him what good thing they had done. Last of all came a little girl with her mother.

"Well, little daughter," said the king, "what good deeds can you claim?"

"I had no time to do good deeds," answered the little girl, "for my mother is so busy that I have to feed the chickens, pick up chips, sweep the porch, set the table, and play with the baby to keep him still; I wanted to try for the prize, but I had no time."

The king told the little girl that the prize was hers, and she could have what she wanted. She chose a wagon for the baby to ride in, so that she could better care for it.

Now, boys and girls, each of you can win a prize, the Home Efficiency Certificate, by serving in your homes as this little girl served in hers. I am sure that all of you are going to try for it.

Any service which a Junior does regularly and cheerfully about the home which is not already required of him, is meeting this requirement. Washing the dishes, bringing in wood or coal, keeping windows clean, and shoveling snow in winter, are all home duties. When the Volunteer lives on a farm, helping regularly with the chores will meet this requirement. The girls can find much to do to lighten the duties of the home, such as the responsibility of keeping a certain part

of the house in order. Perhaps it is helping with the washing or ironing. It may be the responsibility of preparing a daily meal. Any true Volunteer can find much which will show his spirit of helpfulness about the home. C. LESTER BOND.

The Daily Task

THE common daily tasks of life
 Seem poor and mean, and small,
 And oft we scorn them to respond
 To some alluring call.

The tasks that lie so close at hand
 Grow irksome to the soul,
 And are forsaken for some dream,
 Some visionary goal.

And yet the surest road to fame,
 To deeds that stir and thrill,
 Is doing the tasks that lie at hand
 With all our strength and will.

— Expositor.

Talk: "The Story the Looking-glass Told"

We cannot have happy homes if we do not think about the matter and work for it. Happy homes do not come by chance. Some one must take time, some one must labor, some one must spend money and give much thought, as well as offer many prayers, before a home is as happy as it might be and should be. That some one is most likely to be the mother; however, it may be any member of the family. And all members of the family, even the boys and girls, should share in the blessed task of home building.

The home is a training place. Girls should learn the art of housekeeping there, as cooking, sewing, and taking care of the house are important endeavors. Failure to get this training sometimes leads to disaster when young people grow up.

Boys should learn to do useful tasks about the home. They should not hesitate about washing the clothes or dishes, or chopping wood, or tending the furnace. The home ought to make service demands on us, and we should respond cheerfully.

Jack was in an awful rage. He wanted to go out to play ball, but his father had some work about the house that must be done, and there was no one but Jack to do it. He was very angry. He grumbled, banged things about, and sulked.

His mother said nothing for a while. Then she took down a small looking-glass and just held it in front of Jack. "What are you doing that for?" he asked. "I just wanted you to see your face." "My face is all right," said the boy. "It does not look all right to those of us who have to see it. Remember, you do not see it. We do. Just take a look."

Jack looked. It was a red face that he saw. The eyes were angry. The lines were hard. "What do you see shining through?" asked mother. "Nothing!" he replied. "But there is something shining through," she persisted. "It is anger, and it is not pretty."

She hung up the looking-glass, and nothing more was said. But later in the day when the job was done, and the boy was happy once more, she returned to the subject. "You see, Jack," she said, "whatever is in us shines through the face. If we are angry, people see it there. If we are mean, and do not want to do our work, it can be read in the face. But if the Spirit of Christ is in us, He shines through, too. Is it not much better always to let Christ shine through?" Jack knew it was, and determined to do his work cheerfully and well in the future, so that the love of Jesus might constantly shine through him to others.

Now, boys and girls, earning a Home Efficiency Certificate will help you to learn the lesson that Jack learned, and it will make you a greater help and blessing in your homes.

Let us endeavor to follow Jesus in His helpfulness. He helped in the carpenter shop. When He was only a boy, He was, no doubt, helping to earn money to support the family. It might be more fun to run about the streets, or in the fields, than to be with Joseph in the shop sawing or planing wood. But Jesus always did the helpful thing, and never thought first of His own pleasure. Let us follow Him and do helpful things in our homes, or wherever we are. C. LESTER BOND.

Are you a subscriber to "The Youth's Instructor" ?

Senior Missionary Volunteer Meetings

The Paper That Belongs to Our Young People

(Program for Week Ending February 2)

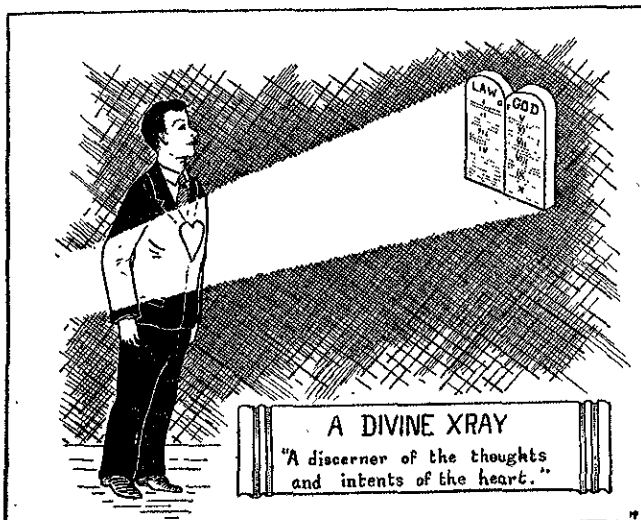
Suggestions to Missionary Volunteer Leaders

IGNORANCE of the laws of the land is no excuse when the offender is called to account for violating the same. Neither will a lack of knowledge of what should have been done be a satisfactory excuse for duties neglected and opportunities slighted when the records of your Missionary Volunteer Society for 1929 are closed. As leaders you are responsible for the souls that may be won and the work that should be done through your society this year. "God has provided divine assistance for all the emergencies to which our human resources are unequal."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI, p. 415. But, "remember that a lack of consecration and wisdom in you may turn the balance for a soul, and send it to eternal death. You cannot afford to be careless and indifferent."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 35. Turn often to your manual, "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work," and check up to see if you are faithfully performing the duties required of your office. (See pages 117-130.)

The Society Programs should be based in general upon the subjects provided in the GAZETTE each month. The programs given here need to be developed and adapted to your society needs, but do not leave this to the work of one mind. The leader should have general supervision of the programs for the entire year, but the responsibility of planning them should be divided. This will lighten the burdens of the leader, train future leaders for the society, and develop workers for service in the Master's vineyard. A small committee should be appointed to work out the program in detail, bringing it before the regular executive committee (or a larger program committee appointed) for approval before definite preparation is begun upon it. Encourage every Missionary Volunteer to take part on the programs as often as opportunity permits. Read the chapter on "Society Members" in your manual, especially the section, "Excuses That Do Not Excuse," page 143. The Missionary Volunteer Society is a training band for larger service.

The Week of Prayer comes next month. Begin now to plan for it by forming prayer bands and by getting in touch with your conference Missionary Volunteer secretary to see what help can be provided for you during the week. But if a minister cannot come to your society, do not take this as an omen that you should let the week pass unnoticed; it is a call to greater service for you. Rally your young people around you, plan carefully, pray earnestly, and God will surely bless you as you seek His special help during this week set aside for united efforts in saving the young people. Order literature helps early. See MARCH GAZETTE. Make a prayer list of all unconverted young people in your church, and whatever other meetings you may have, meet together and pray for those who are not saved. Ask the Lord to show you how to work for them and He will do it.

E. E. H.



- Song Service. (Nos. 241, 13, 16, 34, 42, 44, 152, 178, in "Gospel in Song.")
- Open With Silent Prayer.
- Song: "Can the World See Jesus in You?" (No. 21 in "Gospel in Song.")
- Reports of Missionary Work Done, and the Offering.
- Recitation: "The Message." (While this is given have a line of Juniors pass quietly but slowly behind the speaker, each one holding up a Bible, a "Youth's Instructor," or another of our periodicals or books that help to carry the message.)
- A Scripture and Remarks by the Leader. (1 Tim. 4: 12-16, and thoughts gleaned from "Testimonies," Vol. VII pp. 203-205, and "The Lighted Way," by M. E. Kern, pp. 127-131.)
- Talk: "Peril or Profit in Reading." (See article by H. T. Elliott in the "Youth's Instructor" of December 4.)
- Duet: "Saved by Grace." (No. 6 in "Gospel in Song.")
- Talk: "History of the 'Youth's Instructor.'" (See "Youth's Instructor" of January 15.)
- A Quizz: "Did You Know?" (Have this worked up by gleaned from "Youth's Instructors" since January 1, high points on missions, devotional thoughts, choice quotations, historical information, or Counsel Corner questions. Call upon Missionary Volunteers to answer.)
- Round Table: "The Part of the 'Youth's Instructor' I Enjoy Most." Song: "As a Volunteer."
- What Can We Do to Increase the Circulation of Our Paper?
- A Pledge in Closing. (See readers' pledge in "Testimonies," Vol. VII, p. 64. Ask those who will join you in this to stand, and remain standing while prayer is offered.)
- Missionary Volunteers Separate for Band Meetings. (See p. 15.)

Blackboard Thought

"The religious experience is to a great degree determined by the character of the books you read in your leisure moments."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VII, p. 204.

Note to Leaders

"Our youth should read that which will have a healthful, sanctifying effect upon the mind. This they need in order to be able to discern what is true religion." This program is to call attention again to the importance of choosing good reading, with special emphasis upon our own denominational paper for the youth. In the first issue of the *Youth's Instructor* this statement appeared: "Although the world never was so full of books and papers as at the present time, yet there is but very little written that is calculated to lead the youth to feel the need of the Saviour, and to impress them with the importance of shunning vice, and living a virtuous, sober, and holy life." If that was true in 1852, so true that the leaders in this denomination felt impelled to publish a paper especially for the youth, how essential it is that we to-day take advantage of the opportunity offered for good, wholesome reading in its columns. How many young people in your society have regular access to the *Youth's Instructor*? How many read it every week? For ways and means of getting this good paper into the hands of other young people, see the Literature and Correspondence Band instruction on page 15. But do not leave it all for the band to do. Before this meeting closes, discuss ways and means, pray about it, and call for volunteers to aid in getting the *Youth's Instructor* into the hands of as many young people as possible.

The Message

The third angel's message is going,
The lightning and steam give it flight.
Like a huge tidal wave, overflowing
The land with a great flood of light,
It has deluged the earth with its papers,
Is flooding the earth with its books,
That shine in the darkness like tapers,
And stream through the earth like the brooks.

There is nothing on earth can suppress it,
For God gives it power from above;
The humble find words to express it,
With hearts all aglow with its love.
Like a hurricane crossing the ocean,
It storms the dark centers of sin,
And sets the whole world in commotion,
Yet gives peace and sweet comfort within.

Heaven-born and world-wide in its nature,
It speeds on its mission of love,
And testifies, like its Creator,
That men must be born from above.
With victory perched on its banner,
It marches through jungles untrod,
To restore to mankind, in some manner,
The spirit and image of God.

—William Brickley.

God's Measuring Rule — the Law

(Program for Week Ending February 9)

Song Service. (Nos. 55, 540, 364, in "Christ in Song.")
 A Two-Minute Life Sketch of Isaac Watts (who wrote three of the songs used to-day).
 Opening Song: "The Living Law." (No. 777 in "Christ in Song.")
 Talk: "Is Law Necessary?" (If desired, this may be divided into three parts: an introduction by the leader, and two talks,— "Natural Law" and "Moral Law.")
 Song: "Write Thy Law." (No. 135 in "Christ in Song.")
 Talk: "The Standard in the Judgment." (See also, "The Great Controversy," p. 482; "Mount of Blessing," p. 116; and "Gospel Workers," p. 315. Have the cartoon on the blackboard. See p. 11.)
 Bible Study: "God's Law."
 Drill and Comment: "The Ten Commandments." (Have a Missionary Volunteer repeat one commandment and comment upon the necessity of keeping it, or tell what it means to him. See also exercise, "The Promise Chain," p. 8.)
 Response in Song: "Incline Our Hearts." (No. 951 in "Christ in Song." Sung by quartet, while all stand with bowed heads.)
 Missionary Volunteers Separate for Band Meetings. (See p. 15.)

Blackboard Thought

"The law of God is the standard by which the characters and lives of men will be tested in the judgment."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 482.

Talk: "Is Law Necessary?"

It seems to be natural for every one, and especially young people, to want to be free from all restraint. We like to be a law unto ourselves and free from all outside interference. Sometimes, perhaps, we wonder why it is necessary to have laws anyway.

When the Lord was giving the young man Joshua his commission as leader of Israel, and explaining to him the elements of a successful career, He said to him: (Read Joshua 1: 8.)

According to this, strict obedience to the law of God is necessary to success. Why is this? Perhaps we might put it this way: *Where there is movement of any kind a plan is necessary to avoid confusion.* A statement of such a plan is called a rule of action, or law.

There is an amusing story of the early days of the Russian Revolution. After the czar had abdicated, a stout old woman was seen leisurely walking down the middle of one of the busiest streets in Petrograd, at no small peril to herself and to the great confusion of traffic. A policeman pointed out to her that there was a pavement for pedestrians, and that the streets were for wagons and automobiles. But she was not to be convinced. "I'm going to walk just where I like," she said; "we've got liberty now." Sometimes when we are in a hurry, we may feel impatient because we are stopped by the traffic lights; but that is only surface thinking, for we know that our lives would be in constant danger if the laws of traffic were not subject to regulation.

Natural Law

The rules that govern the physical universe are called *natural law*. Our only safety and freedom in this world is due to the universal obedience of the forces of nature to the laws God has made for them. We go about on land and sea in perfect assurance that the law of gravity is in force everywhere. If we should come to some place where it was not in operation, we would fly off into space. Because of the law of nature that water seeks its level, the falling rain runs into the rivers and on into the ocean, and we are not drowned.

With Isaiah we look up, and see the myriads of stars swinging in space and understand that God "bringeth out their host by number" and "not one faileth." Isa. 40: 26. If one planet or flaming sun should digress from its course there would be confusion, destruction, and chaos. But these obey His will implicitly. Nehemiah represents obedience as worship. (Read Nehemiah 9: 6.)

There are certain laws of health that govern our physical being, and we all know by experience that suffering is caused by disobedience to these laws.

Moral Law

Man was made in the image of God, with power to reason and a will to act. We read in "Patriarchs and Prophets," page 52, that "while everything in nature is governed by natural laws, man alone, of all that inhabits the earth, is amenable

to moral law. To man, the crowning work of creation, God has given power to understand His requirements, to comprehend the justice and beneficence of His law, and its sacred claims upon him; and of man unswerving obedience is required." Again we read on page 49: "God placed man under law, as an indispensable condition of his very existence."

Inanimate things cannot feel or think, but we have life and feeling and hence can enjoy. God wanted man to be very happy, so of all living things, He made us most like Himself, by giving us a moral nature and freedom of choice. But that happiness can only be when we live in obedience to the laws of our life. As it says in "The Desire of Ages," page 308, "God desires us to be happy, and He gave us the precepts of the law that in obeying them we might have joy."

So God's law is not given just to show His authority, or to make us unhappy in doing something we do not want to do. On the other hand, it is the only road to happiness. The train is free and successful as long as it stays on the track, but when it leaves the track there is failure and suffering. Two men were killed in an automobile crash on a public highway. The man responsible for the accident first of all broke the law of the State in purchasing liquor; he disobeyed the law of God and of his own physical being by drinking that which destroys reason and inflames the passions; he broke the traffic laws by driving at a high speed and on the wrong side of the road. As a result, two men are dead, their wives are widows and their children orphans, and the offender is broken in body and lying in prison; a fit symbol of the disaster and ruin that follows in the wake of disobedience to law.

What would a home be without law? Probably not a single soul in this meeting to-day would even be alive if we had been allowed to have our own way from babyhood,—if there had been no law. The mother patiently teaches the child to avoid the fire, not to touch poison, to keep out of the way of traffic, to take precautions against catching colds, to avoid dangerous places, etc., and this teaching is supplemented by strict commands. How many are glad for the loving interest of a mother in your welfare and for her laws? We could not always see the reasons for mother's commandments, but we know now that they were right.

So the commandments of God are "for our good always." Deut. 6: 24. Our freedom and happiness and the happiness of others will come from strict obedience to His laws. If we fail to recognize the sanctity of human life, and take life, we deprive others and ourselves of happiness, and become a menace to society. If we violate the sanctity of personality and rob others and ourselves of purity, we bring shame and misery upon all concerned and disgrace upon our community. If we do not recognize the sacred right of ownership and steal our neighbor's property, we destroy our own qualities of manhood and bring unhappiness and suffering to others. If we fail to recognize the sacredness of God, and take His name in vain, we cut ourselves off from fellowship with divinity and deaden the highest instincts of a human being, that of worship. If we disregard the sacred Sabbath, we undermine the noblest traits of the human character by disobedience, and drift away from the knowledge of the true God. So, as we read in "Patriarchs and Prophets," page 34, "The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness."

And this "law of liberty" (James 1: 25) is the standard by which all men are judged. (Read Rev. 22: 14.) M. E. KERN.

Bible Study: "God's Law"

1. What testimonies do Nehemiah, David, and Paul bear to God's law? Neh. 9: 13; Ps. 19: 7, 8; Rom. 7: 12, 14.
2. How is sin defined? 1 John 3: 4.
3. How only can transgression be known? Rom. 4: 15.
4. To what does the apostle James compare the law? James 1: 22-25.
5. In what words does James show the ten commandments to be still binding even in New Testament times and following the resurrection of Christ? James 2: 8-12.
6. Are the ten commandments unchangeable? Ps. 111: 7, 8.
7. What did Jesus say concerning the law? Matt. 5: 17, 18.
8. What blessing is pronounced upon those who obey the law? Rev. 22: 14.

Talk: "The Standard in the Judgment"

THE law of God's moral government, which is the rule of life for every creature, must necessarily be the standard in the great judgment day.

The Scripture states the sum of all human obligation and responsibility in the words:

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Eccl. 12: 13, 14.

Every son and daughter of Adam's lost race is judgment bound, to answer before the bar of God the demands of the perfect law. Divine justice cannot abate one jot or tittle of the requirements of the holy law, nor by any means clear the guilty. But divine mercy has provided the way by which God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."

W. A. SPICER.

Tests of Great Characters

(Program for Week Ending February 16)

Songs for To-day: "A Shelter in the Time of Storm," "Saved by Grace," "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning," "Ye Must Be Born Again," "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," and "To the work." (All in "Christ in Song." Tell the story of how one or more of these came to be written. See "Sankey's Story of the Gospel Hymns" in your public library.)

Reports, Announcements, and the Mission Offering.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 50: 2-10.

Prayer by Two Missionary Volunteers.

Talk: "The Call for Character."

Stories: "Great Characters." (Have two character sketches given of such lives as David Livingstone, William Miller, the Judsons, William Carey, or others told in the book, "The Advance Guard of Missions." Or choose from "The Story of the Advent Message," or other biographies that you may have.)

Symposium: "It Takes Courage."

Recitation: "Heroism." (See p. 7, or one of your own choosing.)

Special Song: "Marching With the Heroes." (By the Juniors.)

Character Testimonies. (Ask each Missionary Volunteer to be prepared to tell in a few words of noble deeds and acts of present-day missionaries. See our current periodicals.)

Close by Repeating in Union the Memory Gem: "The World's Greatest Need." (See January "Gazette," p. 12; or "Education," p. 57.)

Missionary Volunteers Separate for Band Meetings. (See p. 15.)

Blackboard Thought

"The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits." Dan. 11: 32.

Note to Leaders

In preparing this program study "Patriarchs and Prophets," chapter 22, or "Education," chapter, "Lives of Great Men." Pray earnestly alone and with the members of your executive committee that your Missionary Volunteers may catch a true glimpse of the characters which they must form in order to stand the tests which will come to those who are to carry the last message of warning to the world. Pray that each one may become strong for the right and able to "do exploits" in the service of our King.

Talk: "The Call for Character"

THE outstanding call of the hour is for young men and women who will be kings and queens among men. To the attainment of this eminence there are two fundamentals I would emphasize: First, character, then service, and the second founded upon the first. It is often said, and with truth, that "knowledge is power." But a greater truism is that *character is power*. The greatest men of the ages were great not merely because of mighty or trained intellects, but because they were great in soul, in character. Such nobility of character commands the spontaneous homage of mankind. Character—sterling moral worth—is man's greatest possession, dignifying every station, exalting every position. Character magnifies every office, but is not magnified by office. Let us take then, as our foundation principle, this: The road to power and achievement must lie over the path of character.

Nothing succeeds which is not based on reality. Sham, in the real sense, is never success. In China, all coins, when changing hands, are tested by ringing them down on some hard substance. The metal of your character will one of these days be rung down upon the stone of adversity or test. Then it will be known whether or not you are genuine.

So live that when you have retired to the solitude of your chamber and have blown out the candle, you will not see in the darkness a hypocrite who was invisible in the light.

Would that I could somehow emphasize the immutable grandeur of character. Let me put it this way: When wealth is lost, virtually *nothing* is lost; when health is lost, *something* is lost; but when character is lost, *all* is lost.

Never be satisfied to achieve a mere reputation without possessing the character to back it. There is a vast difference between the two. Reputation is external; character is internal. Reputation is what others think us to be; character is what we really are. Reputation is as fickle as man's whims; character is as enduring as God's steadfastness. Reputation will pass with time; character will live on through eternity. God help you to see that character alone possesses real worth. So in erecting the structure of your life, build your character upon the bedrock of principle.

"Build it well, whatever you do;
Build it straight and strong and true;
Build it clean and high and broad;
Build it for the eye of God."

Had I my way, I would write over the door of every home and above the pulpit of every church, "Wanted—young men and women of character." I would hang it on the walls of our schools, our sanitariums, and our publishing houses. I would engrave it on the mountains. I would teach it to the breezes. I would cause the brooks to sing it. I would seize the lightning's finger, and write it against the sky. I would gather the thunder's roll, and unite the forces of nature with the voices of men in one mighty appeal for character. L. E. FROMM.

Symposium: "It Takes Courage"

1. To live according to your convictions. To be what you are, and not pretend to be what you are not.
2. To say "No" squarely and firmly when those around you say "Yes."
3. To live honestly within your means, and not dishonestly upon the means of others.
4. To speak the truth when by a little prevarication you can get some special advantage.
5. When mortified and embarrassed by humiliating disaster, to seek in your ruins the elements of future success.
6. To refuse to do a thing which is wrong, because others do it or because it is customary and done in trade.
7. To stay at home evenings and try to improve yourself when your comrades spend their evenings having a good time.
8. To remain in honest poverty while others grow rich by questionable methods, which you could easily use yourself.
9. To refrain from gossip when others about you delight in it, and to stand up for an absent person who is being abused.
10. Not to bend the knee to popular prejudice, but stand firmly erect while others are bowing and fawning for praise and power.—*Young People's Leader*.

Song: "Marching With the Heroes"

(Tune: No. 511 in "Christ in Song")

MARCHING with the heroes,
Comrades of the stroug,
Lift we hearts and voices
As we march along;
Oh, the joyful music,
All in chorus raise;
Theirs the song of triumph,
Ours the song of praise!

Glory to the heroes
Who in days of old
Trod the path of duty,
Faithful, wise, and bold;
For the right unflinching,
Strong the weak to save,
Warriors all and freemen,
Fighting for the slave.

So we sing the story
Of the brave and true,
Till among the heroes
We are heroes too;
Loyal to our Captain,
Like the men of yore,
Marching with the heroes
Onward, evermore.

—William George Tarrant.

Have you organized prayer bands for Missionary Volunteer Week?

An Hour With the Promises

(Program for Week Ending February 23)

Hymns of Promise and Praise.

Reports and Offerings.

Silent Prayer, Close With a Short Audible Prayer.

Roll Call: "Promises That Are Precious to Me." (Ask each one to be prepared to respond. If desired, the Morning Watch drill may be woven into this.)

Leader's Talk: "A Promise for Every Need." (See Note to Leaders.)

Talk: "Wky Memorize the Bible?"

Recitation: "God's Promises."

Talk: "Lo, I Am With You Alway." (Add to this incidents gleaned from recent "Reviews" or others of our papers, and personal experiences.)

Recitation: "Tried, Precious, Sure." (See inside back cover of 1929 Morning Watch Calendar. Preface this with the story told on the title page of the calendar, of an old woman who had tried and proved God's promises.)

Song: "Precious Promises." (No. 601 in "Christ In Song.")

Close With a Season of Sentence Prayers. (Make these prayers of praise and confidence in our God who stands back of all His wonderful promises.)

Missionary Volunteers Separate for Band Meetings. (See p. 15.)

Blackboard Thought

"WHAT God promises He is able at any time to perform, and the work which He gives His people to do He is able to accomplish by them. If they will live according to every word He has spoken, every good word and promise will be fulfilled unto them. But if they come short of perfect obedience, the great and precious promises are afar off, and they cannot reach the fulfillment."—"Testimonies," Vol. II, p. 148.

Note to Leaders

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

The value of any promise lies, first of all, in the power of the one who makes it to redeem it. A promise of health from one who has no power to cure, of food from a starving man, or of financial help from a beggar, is a mockery. God is the great promise keeper. He "is able." He has "all power," and can, therefore, redeem every promise that He has made to men. He is willing, yes, anxious, that His children shall "prove" Him, that He may fulfill His promises to them.

Call attention to the Morning Watch texts for this year—they are all promises from God to us. Throughout the program stress the importance of memorizing these texts so that they will come to our minds when needed most. Quote or ask others to read some of the good quotations from the spirit of prophecy given in the calendar for each month. Call attention to the special subjects for prayer; note that subjects for praise as well as prayer are given this year.

Talk: "Lo, I Am With You Alway"

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

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

(Read Ps. 34: 7.) One Friday night Brother W. H. Anderson and his wife and little girl, with his mother, who were traveling by ox team to a mission in the Zambesi country in Africa, made their camp by the roadside. Lions had followed them earlier in the day, but they had been driven away. That night the father and mother and little Naomi slept on the ground, not far from the path. Very early in the morning they heard the natives exclaiming, "Ah! Ah!"

"What is the matter?" asked Brother Anderson.

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

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

(Read Ps. 50: 15.) The children of a missionary mother in China were away at school, and she greatly desired to visit them. It was time to pay the native helpers, and the money had come to the mission station; but she could not find it. She felt sure it had not been stolen; yet though she looked for it hour after hour, she could get no trace of it. The natives needed their wages, and she could not leave to see her children till they were paid. In her trouble she cried to the Lord, and quickly the answer came. When she arose from her knees, she seemed to be led to the very place where the money had been carefully secreted. And, oh, how her heart sang at this answer to her cry for help!

ADELAIDE BEE EVANS.

God's Promises

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

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

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

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

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

—Adelaide Bee Evans.

Talk: "Why Memorize the Bible?"

MEMORIZE as much of the Bible as possible while you are young. It will not be so easy to learn when you are older.

Memorize it,—for the Bible at your "tongue's end" is your equipment for soul winning. Be able to point out the text for your friend to read, but your testimony will mean more if he sees you have it as a part of your very self.

Memorize it,—for your own comfort. Then if sickness or loss of sight come, you will have it in your heart to meditate upon.

Memorize it,—for quoting from other books makes no convicting impression, but God's word is the "sword of the Spirit," and God has declared: "My word . . . shall not return unto Me void." Isa. 55: 11.

Memorize it,—for it is the Lord's command that you should do so: "Therefore shall ye lay up these My words in your heart and in your soul." Deut. 10: 16.

Memorize it,—for God's word is the only thing that shall endure forever. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." Matt. 24: 35.

Memorize it word for word. Its language cannot be improved upon, and must not be quoted lightly or in jest. Rev. 22: 18, 19.—Adapted.

Talk: "The Art of Ropes"

(Concluded from page 9)

In China the coolies who carry baggage from place to place for travelers usually use ropes. I have ingratiated myself with many such carriers by being able to handle the ropes and tie certain knots.

A knowledge of how to pitch and care for a tent is valuable in a mission field. In many mission lands where tents are used for the preaching of the gospel, the climatic conditions are such that they demand the very best skill in caring for tents. It is often necessary for the young missionary to be able to pitch his own tent, and also to train a native helper in the art. It would certainly be unfortunate, and perplexing, if a worker given charge of a tent meeting should be found to be incapable of pitching his tent or taking care of it.

A. L. HAN.

Did you observe the Morning Watch to-day?

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER SERVICE BANDS

"The greatest help that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God, and to depend on Him, not on the ministers. Let them learn to work as Christ worked. Let them join His army of workers, and do faithful service for Him."—"Testimonies," Vol. VII, p. 19.

General Outline for Band Meetings

| | |
|---|------------|
| Memory Gem, or Opening Song..... | 2 Minutes |
| Prayer..... | 1 Minute |
| Discussion Themes for February..... | 2 Minutes |
| First Week: Plans for Remedying Our Weak Points | |
| Second Week: New Opportunities | |
| Third Week: Reports of Work Done | |
| Fourth Week: Are All Members Working? | |
| Oral Reports..... | 2 Minutes |
| Work or Class Study..... | 20 Minutes |
| Closing Prayer..... | 1 Minute |

Prayer and Personal Workers' Band

THIS band should be the inner circle of Missionary Volunteers who carry a real burden for others. They will be watching for opportunities to do work for the Master. They will encourage one another by prayer and by comparing experiences. The leader, to be successful, must himself be a personal worker.

This month should be spent in making earnest, heart-searching preparation for the Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer which comes March 9-16. As an aid in next month's work in your band, send to the Great Commission Prayer League, 808 North La Salle Street, Chicago, Ill., for enough copies of the leaflet "Suppose" to supply your members. There is no charge for the leaflets. They will be sent without question, but it would be well to send a little money to cover the cost.

In this short studies preceding prayer and counsel, this month, let us study "The Elements of Personal Work."

1. Personal work of the early disciples of Jesus. John 1: 41-46. Comments on this and personal lessons will be found on page 115 of "The Desire of Ages." Make personal application to the relations between yourselves and your acquaintances. Pray together for a burden for souls and wisdom to do personal work.

2. Fishers of men. Matt. 4: 19. Draw a lesson from methods of fishing. See "The Desire of Ages," page 249. Note the wonderful statement at the bottom of page 250. Note the thought in the middle of page 250, that spiritual life is begotten through contact of mind with mind, soul with soul. Pray especially for the coming Week of Prayer.

3. Jesus' methods of personal work. John 4: 1-26. Read this story to discover Jesus' tactful methods in dealing with souls.—His means of approach by asking a favor, avoidance of controversy, leading the woman by questions to see her sin, creating a desire to know the Messiah and then the plain revelation of Himself to her. Read "The Desire of Ages," chapter 19. Pray earnestly for Jesus' wisdom in winning souls. Make special effort to cultivate the acquaintance of young people who need spiritual help.

4. Love, the basis of soul winning. Rom. 9: 1-3; 1 Thess. 3: 8; Ex. 32: 32. Try to appreciate the deep burden for souls which these men of God had. This comes only because of the love of God in the heart,—the same love that led Him to give heaven's best gift for us.

When visiting Elder F. A. Stahl's station among the wild Indians of South America, I discovered the secret of this missionary's success. I was trying to explain to these savage minds the love of God. I was not sure that what I was saying was making any impression. Then I said, "The great Father thinks toward you like Brother Stahl does. He wants to do you good." Their faces lighted up in spite of the grime and paint. They thought God must be good if He felt toward them like Brother Stahl did.

M. E. K.

The Christian Help and Gospel Meeting Band

"Do not pass by the little things, and look for a large work. You might do successfully the small work, but fail utterly in attempting a large work, and fall into discouragement. Take hold wherever you see that there is work to be done. Whether you are rich or poor, great or humble, God calls you into active service for Him. It will be by doing with your might what your hands find to do that you will develop talent and aptitude for the work. And it is by neglecting your daily opportunities that you become fruitless and withered. This is why there are so many fruitless trees in the garden of the Lord."—"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 129.

This testimony applies to all lines of hand work, but especially is it fitting for this band, the work of which may begin with the smallest possible act of kindness to a neighbor, a friend, or a total stranger. It is by just these small acts that openings will be made for Bible readings. During January you took a general survey of your community for work that needed to be done. It will be necessary to keep a watchful eye constantly for new opportunities. Encourage each band

member to be a committee of one to report needs and ways of meeting them.

During February let us turn our thoughts especially to the very best methods of doing this work that needs to be done. Thoughtfulness, courtesy, and kindness overflowing from the heart will be your secret keys in every line of work, whatever other methods you may adopt. Do not miss an opportunity for studying the Bible with those for whom you are working. Tell your members the story of how the Bible study method originated with Elder S. N. Haskell as it is told in "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work," page 254. If you are timid about giving Bible studies, get together and practice upon each other. Study the individual to whom the Bible reading is to be given, and be sure to present the right topic first. See helpful suggestions on page 255 of the manual referred to above. Also see "How to Give Bible Readings," a book prepared by the Home Missionary Department. But if no opportunities present for giving Bible readings, it may be that you are not prepared. Study the Standard of Attainment lessons thoroughly, and search diligently in your personal Bible study for a clearer understanding of God's Word that you may be able to present it with force to others. Pray continually that the Lord will enlighten your own mind first, and then that you may be led into service for Him. Refer often to "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work," pp. 246-261.

E. E. H.

The Literature and Correspondence Band

Study the Various Methods of Work: We should ever bear in mind the thought, that in order to be successful in any line of missionary endeavor, we must spend much time in prayer. "The strength of every worker will be found to lie, not in these outward agencies, but in trustful dependence upon God, in earnest prayer to Him for help, in obedience to His word."—"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 110. "Personal effort for others should be preceded by much secret prayer."—"Christ's Object Lessons" (new edition), p. 149.

Remember, also, that much depends upon manner of approach.—Christian courtesy, personal appearance, acquaintanceship with the literature being used, and persevering, systematic effort. Another essential is to maintain close cooperation with the other working bands of the society.

One of the most important and fruitful branches of work for this band to do in the community is house-to-house work. "Among the members of our churches there should be more house-to-house labor, in giving Bible readings and distributing literature."—"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. IX, p. 127. If the society is in a small town, all its homes in it should be visited occasionally with literature, but a certain section small enough to be covered by the members of the band each week, should be decided upon and worked in a systematic way. "The Bible Truth" series of tracts, "Family Bible Teacher," and "Present Truth," are excellent kinds of literature for such work, as they present the message in its logical, consecutive setting. As interests are aroused, it is well to add such literature as the *Signs of the Times* and the *Watchman*.

Place special thought and effort this month upon the distribution of the *Youth's Instructor*. First, see that every young person in your society is receiving it regularly, then all of the young people in the church. Search out any who may have backslidden from the truth, and send them a year's subscription. Young people have been reclaimed by this renewed contact with the truth they once loved. Send or give copies to other young people whom you know. Follow up this work by asking them occasionally how they enjoy the paper, calling special attention to an article on a subject which you know they appreciate. Place used copies of the *Youth's Instructor* in reading racks. Many people prefer them to the cheaper magazines often available for public use. If you are not able to raise the money for subscriptions which should be given, make a list of the names to whom the paper should be sent, and present it to your church board. A call in church will often interest older members who will give one or more subscription prices. If necessary, start a campaign for raising money to pay for subscriptions to the *Youth's Instructor*. Note the special program for February 2. See also "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work," page 217.

The members of this band should ever be on the lookout for those who would like to have Bible readings, and as such persons are found, their names should be given to the leader of the Christian Help and Gospel Meeting Band. In this way all interests will be looked after immediately, and results will soon be realized. Consult often your guidebook, "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work." See pages 262-286.

G. L. B.

If you do not know what is expected of you as an M. V. officer, study the Manual.

OUR FOREIGN MISSIONS

This page contains interesting material for use of church elders and conference workers in promoting our foreign mission work.

That White Knot

THE truth is finding its way into the hearts of the "Davis" Indians about Mt. Roraima. Missionary A. W. Cott, after seven months with these Indians, is able to report:

"Our Indians here are learning the claims that the Sabbath day has upon them, and that one seventh of their time belongs to God. Some weeks ago, one of our Indians before starting on a journey that would take him about two weeks, came to say good-by to us. Before leaving, he showed us a piece of string on which were tied a number of knots. He explained that each knot represented a day of the week, and we noticed that every seventh knot had a white cord attached to it. By this he said he could know when it was the Sabbath, and that he would rest on that day."

And here is another test which shows the Indians' hearts begin to ring true:

"Quite recently Isaac, the chief of our village here, the man who buried Elder Davis, was offered some tobacco in part payment for work that he had done for a diamond prospector who was passing through. But Isaac shook his head, and with the word 'Jesus,' he pointed to the sky, thus refusing what many Indians would gladly have accepted. It is such experiences that prove to us that the work for these 'children of the forest' will not be in vain, and we are confident that the Lord will gather out a faithful company of believers from the neighborhood of Mt. Roraima."

Opening the Brazil Indian Mission

MISSIONARY A. N. ALLEN and his associates have reached their destination down the Araguayá River, and actually begun the work of establishing the new interior Brazilian Indian Mission:

"We are now at the place we have selected for our mission homes and school. We have been here nearly a month, and you can know every day has been full—cutting and clearing and burning, and getting out timber for houses. Our hands blister and get so sore we can scarcely hold the ax, but we are well and of good courage, for which we are very thankful.

"The hill we have selected had a native family living on it, but we paid them a fair price for their clearings, plantings, and some small buildings. These will be replaced with better ones later on. It is a beautiful location.

We do not know yet how we shall provide cover for our buildings, as the palm leaves have burned for many miles. We fought fire all one day to save our houses and fences.

"We have three young people helping us. We give them two hours of class work during the heat of the day. They study at night by the light of a lantern.

"The chief living nearest us says he wants to take me to visit the Javahé and Tapirapé Indians. These have been visited only a few times by whites, but are friendly. I hope to go with him when possible and bring back some young men to attend school.

"We are in the edge of the Indian country, yet within reach of civilization. We should be able to train Indian workers who can carry the message on to many wild tribes where it is almost impossible for whites to go or live.

"Across the river from us it is entirely wild. It is the land of the savage Chevantes. Although they do not come out to the river here, I saw the smoke of their fires farther down last year. The Chirente Indians speak their language, and I hope to get some of these into school, as they now speak Portuguese, and could help us to establish friendship with the Chevantes. But so far no white man has found grace with them. That is why their river is called the 'River of Death.' Do not forget us in your prayers."

Meeting Spiritism in Bougainville

THIS largest and last-entered island belonging to the Solomon group, has for some time been the subject of prayer, that missionaries might enter here with the third angel's message.

Now Missionary A. J. Campbell is able to tell us some of his experiences, especially these dealing with spiritism, strongly entrenched here, as with some associates he enters Bougainville Island:

"The inhabitants of Bougainville are pre-eminently spirit worshippers. Practically everything they do is tainted with spiritism in some form. Pigs, reptiles, the moon, the morning star, the piercing of the nose and ears, the cutting of the flesh, and a hundred other things, all have to do with spirit worship in one form or another, of course varying somewhat according to the customs of the various tribes.

"The practice of burning the body of a person after death has been tenaciously adhered to. Of course we teach the people the Bible custom of burial. The chief reason why we desire the Bible practice of burial to take the place of the burning of the body is that the latter practice is so interwoven with spirit worship and all its heathenish array.

"Two weeks ago an opportunity was afforded us of dealing, in the strength of the Lord, a severe blow to this practice of burning the body after death. Lavalai, a very influential man in the surrounding district, died. The day before his death he emphasized the fact that he did not desire to be burned, but wanted to be buried according to the custom of the 'Seventh-day' mission. Practically all the people in the village knew the dead chief's wish, but only one would uphold his request. This young man, Tounai by name (he is one of the two lately baptized boys), stood staunchly for the honor of the dead man's word. Tounai, by the way, is a stepson of the deceased chief.

"Tounai came to inform me (I was down with measles at the time) that wood was being gathered for the fire, and loads of talo were being brought by the women to be buried with the body for its spirit that supposedly would not die in the flames. With a fever running, I arose, and with very unsteady steps I found my way to the scene of action. I asked the fire preparers to cease work, telling them that they must not burn the body of a man who said he did not want to be burned. I sat upon the pile of wood for a time so that they could not proceed, and at length they carted some away. But we took precautions to watch that the body was not burned at night (it is the custom to burn the body in the early morning at the rising of the morning star). It could be seen that some of the old women who were anxious to see the spirit business through, were definitely in the clutches of Satan.

"The morning came, and the time for burial of the body. We had now come to the real testing time. We realized that Satan would not give up the fight any too readily. Tounai commenced to make a crude coffin, and was later assisted by one or two, who became too ashamed to look on any longer. All said they would not come to the burial. One old woman danced before me with an ax, and then drove it firmly into the door of the dead man's house, as much as to say, 'I will do the same to you.' She later made the same threat to Tounai. The latter was hit by some of the men, and a full coconut was thrown at his head.

"Then came the burial. The crude coffin in which the dead chief lay, was placed in the grave. One man in seeming demon possession threatened Tounai with a stick when he was placing the coffin in the grave. After order was restored, words were spoken with the object of helping the people to see through, not only the gloom of death, but also the greater and more appalling gloom of heathenism, to the light and hope offered through a risen Saviour.

"A week passed by, and a young woman died (both deaths were caused by pneumonia). The people came to me asking me to bury her the same as the chief was buried. If the chief's body had been burned, hers would have been dealt with likewise. Another man took seriously ill,—a brother of the deceased chief, and ringleader in the effort to have his brother's body burned. He told me with emphasis to bury him if he should die, just as his brother was buried.

"This has meant a great victory for the mission, and has cut like a knife into the spirit business connected with this burning of the dead, which in turn is related to all of their other spirit worship. The air has now been cleared, as it were, and the people desire the burial of their dead, whereas burning was the order of the day hitherto. I might mention here that from that day to this I have felt no more effects from the measles which I contracted the day before the death of the chief. The Lord works on our behalf. He hears our prayers. He delights to work on behalf of the children of men! Dear reader, remember before the Lord, the spirit worshippers of Bougainville."

MISSION BOARD.

A GAZETTE FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE CHURCH BOARD

See that the officers of your church have the GAZETTE.

ONLY 90 cents a year. Club of two or more to one address, 75 cents each.