

The Church Officers' Gazette

VOL. XXI DECEMBER, 1934 No. 12

Maintaining Denominational Principles

A BROTHER in the West asks the following questions:

1. "Should a Seventh-day Adventist accept a position as night watchman in a fruit grower's packing house, requiring his being on duty Friday night?"

The question of Sabbath keeping is here involved. The question of service as a night watchman in a worldly business enterprise touches the principles of Sabbath keeping equally with any other position offered a Seventh-day Adventist requiring labor to be done on the Sabbath. Would the one considering the position of night watchman accept an offer for service with this fruit grower which would involve his joining the pickers out in the fruit groves, or orchards? The night watchman is a hired servant of the fruit grower, as is the picker. His work is that of reporting at certain points and certain periods throughout the packing house during the night, thus reporting on all stored property as being safe. For this work he is paid. Unless the proprietor himself shall arrange for a substitute watchman during the Sabbath hours of Friday night, we do not see how a Seventh-day Adventist conscientiously could accept this position as night watchman.

2. "Should a Seventh-day Adventist owning a garage have it kept open on the Sabbath?"

No. Hired laborers working for him on the Sabbath would involve the owner in Sabbath day desecration, the same as if he himself worked there in keeping it open. The commandment reads:

"But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor

thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates."

These words are explicit, concise, all-inclusive, and authoritative; to be neither subtracted from, nor added to.

3. "Should a Seventh-day Adventist Dorcas Society give suppers and promote sales to raise money for church purposes?"

There should be no objection raised to properly conducted food sales, or the sale of other articles, such as worked-over garments, etc., provided a place other than the church is used in which to conduct it. Some churches in this manner provide funds to assist in carrying on their church school work. Where church members provide baked articles of food gratuitously, and these quiet sales are conducted in some vacant store or other place, donated perhaps for the occasion, the legitimate proceeds often help materially in meeting some needed church expense. Not only does this means of service provide missionary work for the sisters, but the purchasers may likewise be benefited in procuring wholesome articles of food, or other things, perchance for less than they could be procured elsewhere. A food sale properly conducted occasionally by the Dorcas Society may thus not only be made a very commendable occasion, but a profitable and helpful one to all concerned. This may not touch the point of "suppers," such as was in the questioner's thought, but the principle governing would be the same. Welfare work, providing inexpensive food for the needy, touches another phase of church endeavor. Some city churches are so constructed that from basement rooms such relief work may be very properly conducted.

4. "Would it be in harmony with our principles of truth for a minister, in addressing a baptismal class, to instruct the sisters that if their husbands objected to their putting off their wedding rings, they could keep them on?"

We would say that such instruction is quite out of harmony with the principles long taught and observed by the denomination. Very explicit instruction has been given ministers upon this very point by the Lord's faithful messenger, herself a married woman, and called to labor in countries where this custom might be spoken of as "obligatory." In "Testimonies to Ministers and Workers," pages 180, 181, we read:

"Some have had a burden in regard to the wearing of a marriage ring, feeling that the wives of our ministers should conform to this custom. All this is unnecessary. Let the ministers' wives have the golden link which binds their souls to Jesus Christ, a pure and holy character, the true love and meekness and godliness that are the fruit borne upon the Christian tree, and their influence *will be secure anywhere* [italics ours]. The fact that a disregard of the custom occasions remark, is no good reason for adopting it. Americans can make their position understood by plainly stating that the custom is not regarded as obligatory in our country. We need not wear the sign, for we are not untrue to our marriage vow, *and the wearing of the ring would be no evidence that we were true*. I feel deeply over this leavening process which seems to be going on among us, in the conformity to custom and fashion. Not one penny should be spent for a circlet of gold to testify that we are married."

Then in referring to that which missionaries called to labor in countries where the custom of wearing the wedding ring may even be spoken of as "obligatory," should do, this in-

struction is given missionary wives:

"Let not our missionaries feel that the wearing of the ring will increase their influence one jot or tittle. If they are Christians, it will be manifest in their Christlikeness of character, in their words, in their works, in the home, in association with others; it will be evinced by their patience and long-suffering and kindness. They will manifest the spirit of the Master, they will possess His beauty of character, His loveliness of disposition, His sympathetic heart."—*Id.*, p. 181.

Instead of baptizing a wedding ring, the minister rather would be expected to continue instruction until the candidate of her own choice voluntarily would lay aside, for Christ's sake, this needless ornament. (Study 1 Tim. 2:8-10.)

"Here the Lord, through His apostle [referring to this text], speaks expressly against the wearing of gold. Let those who have had experience see to it that they do not lead others astray on this point by their example. That ring encircling your finger may be very plain, but it is useless, and the wearing of it has a wrong influence."—*"Testimonies," Vol. IV, p. 630.*

T. E. B.

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Qualifications of Church Officers

LITTLE can be said on a large subject in a short article, but as we are now approaching the time when our annual church elections take place, a few thoughts on this very important matter will be fitting. New men and women are to be chosen, and perhaps many former officers will be considered as to their eligibility for the coming year. Let the following points be emphasized:

1. Is he a Christian? A candidate for a church office should be first known for his definite Christian character. He should be a representative of the great Founder of Christianity and Head of the church. Christ is the great leading officer of the church. His underofficers should be like Him, kind and tender.

2. Can he feed the flock of God? If an elder is being considered, has he a knowledge of the Bible and some ability to impart to others? Paul and Peter both point out this qualification. Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-3.

3. Is he a shepherd? Does he show a genuine interest in the flock, to feed them, to protect them, and, in going before them to lead them, does he set

a right example? He is not to be a lord over the flock, but a good under-shepherd, an ensample, or example.

4. He should be to some extent gifted in rulership. Does he rule his children well? or is his church work to be handicapped by noisy, disobedient children? (See 1 Tim. 3:4.)

5. Is he an Adventist, or simply a professor? Does he believe the message, or better, does he live the message? No one should accept office who questions one of the great fundamentals of the message. He cannot do acceptable service unless denominationally sound.

6. Does he exalt the denominational standards, or allow them to trail in the dust? Is he pleasure loving and

Special Appointments for December

Week of Sacrifice Offering,
December 1

Week of Prayer—Annual
Offering, December 8-15

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering,
December 29

an attendant at the movies? Is he careless about Sabbath observance, using its edges for self, thus robbing God of His time, and setting a wrong example?

No person should be elected to office whose life, deportment, dress, and morals can be truly held in question by those whom the officer serves.

7. Does the elder or other officer deport himself properly with others of the opposite sex? Is the candidate a special favorite with women, or is he the "husband of one wife"? No person should be selected to office whose life is questionable along this line. The world is corrupt, and we must definitely plan to keep that corruption out of the church. Let no officer be chosen about whose domestic relations there is a "buzz." Let these be adjusted and well in the past, and then only on Bible grounds, before choosing such for officers. There should be a definite lifting of Bible standards among us. Let this start with church officers.

8. Both the Bible and the Testimonies teach that care should be taken in regard to proper dress. No officers should be chosen who disregard

this Heaven-sent counsel. Fashion is doing more than any other one thing to separate souls from God, we are told. Let us lift the standards.

9. Church officers should be loyal to our denominational policies. A church officer should be loyal to his president with whom he must cooperate. No officer can act independently. We are one. Let the spirit of love, unity, and brotherly cooperation abound.

10. Church officers have a large responsibility in relation to the finances of the cause. Every church officer should be a tithe payer and a mission fund supporter. He cannot talk unless he is a believer in the principle, and obeys it. Any one not in harmony with the Seventh-day Adventist system of denominational finance should decline to be an officer. The church should have the good sense not to select such for office.

11. While neither tithe paying nor acceptance of the Testimonies are made tests of fellowship, yet we hold that no church officer should be chosen who does not accept the denominational teaching on both these points. As a people we have been greatly helped and knit together by the Spirit of prophecy. As we near the end, we need this help more and more. Every church officer needs the counsel of the Testimonies. Our work is unique. No church worker or minister can afford to neglect this great gift.

May God guide the church in making wise selections for the ensuing year.

J. E. FULTON.

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The Home Missionary Department

The Onward March of the Layman's Missionary Movement

(Suggestive Program for Sabbath, December 1)

OPENING SONG: "Marching to Zion," No. 887 in "Christ in Song."

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalms 48.

PRAYER.

SONG: "No Abiding City Here," No. 925 in "Christ in Song."

CHURCH MISSIONARY SECRETARY'S REPORT. (See note.)

SERMON: "The Onward and Upward March of the Layman's Movement" (or readings selected from articles furnished).

RALLY CALL: "One Step Forward in 1935," by the missionary leader. (See note.)

CLOSING SONG: "A Year of Precious Blessings," No. 475 in "Christ in Song."

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

Pastor or Church Elder.—Week by week and month by month of the present year there has been steady advance by the Layman's Missionary Movement of the remnant church. Much new territory has been covered by this mighty evangelistic force impelled by the Spirit of God, and as souls have been set free from the bondage of sin and made to rejoice in the glorious light of present truth, the bulwarks of Zion have been broadened and deepened and her towers of strength made to gleam with greater brilliance under the shining banner of Prince Immanuel. It is fitting on this occasion to heed the summons which the psalmist presents to God's people, in the following words: "Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces. . . . For this God is our God forever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death." Ps. 48:12-14. Let us pause to review the beauty and strength of spiritual Zion, and thereby gain fresh courage and renew our pledge of loyalty and willingness to follow our Leader even unto death.

There is a place close by the sea where for seventy years the Methodists have assembled for their annual camp meeting. Close by the mammoth tabernacle, which is filled to capacity by

the thousands in attendance on the high days of the camp meeting, is to be found an exact replica of the city of Jerusalem, done in cement and spread out over an area 25 feet square, inclosed by a high wire fence. It is very interesting to gaze upon the miniature city, with the temple and adjoining buildings clearly discernible, and in close proximity the Mount of Olives, the garden of Gethsemane, and Golgotha, while the streets and houses of the ancient city stand out distinctly. But more impressive is the custom of the Methodists to assemble the entire encampment on the last day of the meeting, to form in line, and in solemn procession march around the inclosure. They call it "marching around Zion;" and in the environment of these sacred memories the campers separate and return to their homes for another year.

So today, in every Seventh-day Adventist church, all should unite in "marching around Zion," making a prayerful survey of the year's advance. Let every member of the church ponder well the all-important question, *Have I done my full duty in helping to advance the cause of God during 1934?* Still greater opportunities await the Layman's Movement of the remnant church during the coming year, and there is urgent need of more whole-hearted and more united effort on the part of every church member. Elder W. H. Branson, the General Conference vice president for North America, says: "I am profoundly convinced that we must undertake greater things for God. We cannot possibly face the new year of 1935 with the thought that we shall rest satisfied with accomplishing what we did in 1934, marvelous though it may appear. We have one year less in which to work, and yet there are millions who do not know this message. How can we rest satisfied, brethren and sisters, unless we accomplish all that God intends for us? 'Christ expects every man to do his duty. Let this be the watchword throughout the ranks of His followers.'"

Church Missionary Secretary.—Much depends upon the nature of the report which you will render in connection with this service, and special thought should be given to preparing in an interesting manner a brief summary of the missionary activities of the church during the year. Try to get away from the usual repetition of figures, for to the majority of people they are dry and uninteresting. Nevertheless, figures are all-important and indis-

pensable to your report; but you should seek to dress them up in such a new garb that they will make a pleasing and lasting impression. Endeavor to make your report a story of thrilling experiences in adventures for God, touching the high points of successful endeavor which have been reached, carrying your hearers down into the valleys where little has been accomplished, and pointing to the higher attainments to be aimed at in the coming year. A good church missionary report brings courage and inspiration into the First Sabbath Missionary Service, but a dull, monotonous report is often a detriment. It is not the easiest task to transpose figures into living realities, but that is one of the specialties of the church missionary secretary, and it can be done. Pray earnestly for divine guidance, and the Holy Spirit will aid you in making and rendering your report, just as He assists the speaker in presenting the missionary sermon from the pulpit.

Church Missionary Leader.—Your part of this missionary program is to see that the inspiration of the sermon or readings is directed into right channels for permanent results. Your missionary program should be definitely set forth, making clear that there is a place and a work for every church member, and calling for all to make a united advance in service. The story is told of a Seventh-day Adventist brother who visited the soldiers' barracks where he knew there were many of our own Adventist boys in the service, although he did not know who they were or how many there were. With a desire in his heart to say something to encourage the boys, he asked the general for permission to speak a few words to the Adventist soldiers. The general said it would be impossible, as the boys were scattered. But finally consent was given, and the experience is related as follows: "I stepped out with orders to have all the regiment called in from their duties. An official had the bugle call given, and in less than five minutes the whole yard was filled with soldiers in marching formation. It was apparent that every soldier was on a nervous tension, awaiting orders, not knowing what the unusual call could mean. Then the captain shouted, 'Attention! All who are Adventists, take one step forward!' No one moved. The surprise was too great. Again the captain shouted: 'Adventists, one step forward!' Then a few soldiers stepped forward. Again, with

(Continued on page 5)

Divine Resources for the Finishing of the Work

BY J. L. MC ELHANY

WE are now in the final scenes in our work and experience in connection with the work of God, the foundations of which were laid three quarters of a century or more ago. God has a definite program for His church, and it is clearly set forth in the call of Jesus to His early disciples,—a call to service, to save men and women for the kingdom of God. Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." He called His disciples to turn aside from the things that absorbed their purposes and activities, and to give themselves wholly to the carrying out of the divine program. God's program is the same today, and includes every man, woman, and child. I believe it is in the order of God for the carrying out of His program, that the Home Missionary Department of our great work has been called into existence.

We have the assurance that God "will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness," and that "a short work" will be made upon the earth. When we read a statement like that we need not try to figure out *how* it can be done; we need not have any fear or anxiety concerning the matter. Sometimes we hear people talking about the human impossibility of the task, and they refer to the fact that the heathen are multiplying faster than we can carry the message to them. But we need not be concerned about that. We are to place the emphasis upon the promises of God and His ability to do what He has promised. Let us thank God for the divine resources, and believe that He is able to do what He has promised.

I like to think of these divine resources under three general headings: First, the man power of the movement. That is important, and we must utilize it. Second, the material resources, such as money, property, etc. Third, last, but by no means least, the Holy Spirit and the power of God. All these agencies are at work today helping to fulfill the divine program, and to find the way of using them is our chief work.

There are three very important statements found in the following paragraph from the writings of the Spirit of prophecy:

"Under an appropriate symbol of an angel flying in the midst of heaven is represented the work of the people of God. In this work heavenly intelligences cooperate with human agencies in extending the last message to the inhabitants of the world. But the plans and work of men are not keeping pace with the providence of God; for while some in these countries who claim to believe the truth declare by their attitude, 'We want not Thy way, O Lord, but our own,' there are many that are pleading with God that they may understand what is truth. In secret places they are weeping and praying that they may see light in the Scriptures, and the Lord of heaven has commissioned His angels to cooperate with human agencies in carrying forward His vast design, that all who desire life may behold the glory of God. . . . We are to be as faithful stewards, not only of our means, but of the grace given unto us, that we may be brought under the blood-stained banner of Prince Immanuel. . . . The light of truth is to go to all the dark places of the earth in a much shorter time than many think possible."—*General Conference Bulletin, 1893, p. 294.*

First, the wonderful assurance is given that "heavenly intelligences cooperate with human agencies;" second, "we are to be as faithful stewards, not only of our means, but of the grace given unto us;" and third, "the light of truth is to go to all the dark places of earth in a much shorter time" than even the members of the church think possible. We need not be worried about how the work will be finished, but we may rest assured that through the unfolding of God's great plan for the world and His people, He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness.

We are told that God will use very humble instruments for the finishing of His work,—so humble, in fact, that the very workers in God's cause will be surprised. Note the statements:

"Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those that consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them."—*The Great Controversy, p. 606.*

"The workers will be surprised by the simple means that He will use to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness."—*Testimonies to Ministers, p. 300.*

As I have been out in the mission field I have been surprised at what I have seen and heard. What is going on is really marvelous. One of our workers received a letter from a sister who lives away back in the high eastern ranges of her country, in the midst of a very hotbed of fanaticism. Three years ago the woman was a fanatical Catholic. One of our colporteurs sold a book to her husband. The man read it and began keeping the Sabbath; but the wife made it very hard for him. She was very angry, and went to the priest to ask what she should do. The priest advised her to leave her husband, as he said she would otherwise be drawn away from the church. But the husband kept on praying and sending literature to his wife, and God touched her heart. She was converted and baptized; and for three years that woman has gone all through those mountain villages preaching this truth, and scores have accepted the message as the result. Three years ago she was a fanatical Catholic, but now she is on fire with evangelism. Here is the letter this woman wrote, telling of her experience and of the "irresistible impulse" which has taken possession of her:

"A most valuable factor which has proved a strength in my missionary work is the books of the Spirit of prophecy, especially 'Testimonies Selectos' and 'Servicio Cristiano' (Christian Service), the careful reading of which I recommend to all my brethren in the faith if they desire to fortify themselves in the hope of eternal life and in the art of winning souls to Christ. I have shed tears and I have thanked God as I have put my eyes upon these powerful glasses which supplement our shortsightedness, in order that we may recognize the great and mysterious characters of Bible truth. Praise to our God for this rich provision of His mercy. The experience which I am enjoying today establishes in me an absolute confidence in the truths contained in the writings of Sister White as divinely revealed and inspired. Not only are they in perfect harmony with the Bible, but their counsels, when put into practice, result in tangible blessings. Thus I learned, for instance, that in order to receive answers to my prayers, I must first acquire the right to ask by being scrupulously faithful

in the observance of the Sabbath, and in paying tithe, as specialities within the circle of the ten precepts."

I wish that all our people could get such an impulse as that woman. She is not having any trouble as to whether Sister White was a messenger for God. Away back there in the mountains a light breaks in upon her soul, and she thanks God for the richness of it. There are many people in our churches in America who are not so far along as that woman. What kind of instruments is God going to use?—Humble instruments, "simple means." There is no cause for doubt as to how God is going to finish His work. Just in that one locality, a goodly company of believers has been raised up as the result of that one humble instrument.

Another experience: Two peasant women were on their way to market, —barefooted, carrying great loads on their heads,—and they stopped for a few moments on the mountain trail to talk. One woman was a Catholic; the other, a Seventh-day Adventist. The Seventh-day Adventist woman told about the great things the Lord had done for her soul. As they were chatting together in a friendly way, there stood near at hand, but unobserved, a young girl, listening intently. Now this girl was the daughter of a devil priest—a man who held the people all through that country under his power. The girl ran and told her father what she had heard, and told him that he ought to get the Adventist religion. The girl talked so earnestly to her old father, that he decided the Adventist religion might be useful to him, and so he took a little corn and a little money, and started out to buy the religion. He found the mission and went in and offered to purchase the Adventist religion, and was much surprised when he was told that it could not be bought. All the religion he knew anything about had money connected with it. The missionary told him that he could not buy the Adventist religion, but that if he would sit down and listen to what he had to tell him, he could have it for nothing. The plan was agreed to, and all that day and the next he listened to the unfolding of the simple story of salvation, the love of God in giving His Son for sinners, and that Jesus was now in heaven and would soon come again. Finally the old man rose up to go home, but he was no longer a devil

priest, but a converted man. He went back to his home and collected all the paraphernalia used in devil worship and burned it, telling the people that he could not carry on any more devil worship for them. The people said the old chief was going crazy; but ere long they discovered that he was in earnest, and a wonderful change was apparent. Today we have a group of 250 believers in that place, and over fifty of those believers were devil priests. This is an evidence of the power of God's truth over devil worship. This old man is a great comfort, not only to the believers, but to all the people in that community, and in answer to his prayers many cases of healing have been seen. God is working through humble instruments "to bring about and perfect His work of righteousness."

So, brethren and sisters, let us rejoice as we see what God is doing. These things are but an indication that the great missionary Leader is with us and that He has made provision, through the divine resources, to make use of humble, simple means, and thus we witness the onward march of the Layman's Missionary Movement in all the world, and the work of God will be finished "in a much shorter time than many think possible."



THE result of a man's work is not the measure of success. To have worked is to have succeeded.—*Elbert Hubbard.*

Notes to Leaders

(Continued from page 3)

more emphasis, the captain shouted, 'All Adventists, one step forward!' This time fourteen soldiers and several officers found themselves one step forward, with the army back of them. Then the captain said, 'Every one return to his duty. The Adventists will speak with the Adventist pastor.' I had a pleasant visit with these boys, and encouraged them to remain faithful and true to God, and to be true missionaries in the Army service." Today the call is ringing through our churches, "Adventists, one step forward" to join the onward march of the Layman's Missionary Movement. May there be a loyal response.

GEN. CONF. HOME MISS. DEPT.

God's Wonderful Doings

BY J. A. STEVENS

WE have been admonished that our greatest danger is in forgetting the way in which God has led His people. Too often we accept as a matter of course the wonderful reports of progress of the Lord's work in all the world, and thus fail to strengthen our own faith in what God may also do in our own poor hearts. The psalmist places strong emphasis on the importance of personal recognition of what God has done for His people and His work, when he writes, "I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all Thy work, and talk of Thy doings." Ps. 77: 11, 12.

It is beneficial to take a retrospective view of the way over which we have been journeying, and observe whether we have been traveling in a circle, or whether we have just stood still and marked time as the hosts of Israel marched by, or have gone straight forward in a steady upward way. Let us today, as we assemble in the house of prayer, recount the mercies and blessings of God during the year which is passing, and take courage from the experiences of the past to press forward to greater heights during 1935.

Another exhortation of the psalmist is very fitting at this time, calling to meditation on the glorious situation and achievement of the church, referred to under the name of Zion. In Psalms 48:12, 13 we read: "Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following."

Note the purpose of this careful survey of the church—"that ye may tell it to the generation." Therefore the essential information is to be set down in writing, in order that it may be preserved. Every detail is to be carefully reported—the bulwarks, the towers, the palaces. The beauty and strength of the whole is to be resolved into its individual features. From one point of vantage we see the mighty wall following the summit of the hills, and then it dips down across the valley and up again to the heights. There are the towers guarding every gate, and there are also noted the

great beams that close the gates at the set of sun. We note the marvelous symmetry of the organized plan of Zion as a whole, even as we mark its many details.

Today we are called to consider the church as she makes her final advance upon the powers of evil; and as we go up and down in her midst, and go round about her vastly extended walls, we behold her varied activities, like mighty towers, gleam with the brightness of the glory of the Lord. "The church," we are told, "is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard." And again, "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 Acts of the Apostles," pp. 12, 9.* What a high honor, what a matchless privilege, to be chosen as "lively stones," a constituent part of the great spiritual temple which reflects the divine fullness and sufficiency.

The advancement of the Layman's Missionary Movement during 1934 has been phenomenal. All over the world the light bearers have witnessed for God in all places and under all circumstances. Untiring effort has been put forth in holding public meetings and cottage meetings, or Bible studies in homes, by laymen who have gone forth from their homes at the close of the day's toil in their various vocations, impelled by a sense of personal responsibility to proclaim the message to all who can be reached. Never has there been such a year of personal lay evangelism as that just closing, and thousands have heard the message as it has been uttered in human weakness but with the power of the Holy Spirit; hundreds of the honest in heart have been gathered out from the world, and new churches and companies have sprung up in profusion. In practically every church the members have formed bands for training in the Heaven-appointed work of giving Bible readings, and many thousands of Bible studies have been held. The truth-filled literature has been

scattered as never before, and thousands of cases of need have been cared for through the ministration of welfare and Dorcas Society workers.

As an indication of the untiring labor on the part of individuals and groups, we refer to two instances, as follows:

Over in India, one of the native believers has unconsciously set an example of true missionary service. He is a very humble man, of poor birth. He and his wife make tassels which are used as ornaments by the Indian women, and he goes about selling them. Like the Waldenses, he makes it his chief concern to preach the gospel as he goes from village to village. He talks to the people, sells Bible portions, distributes tracts and Bible pictures, and sings gospel *bhajans*, which is an Indian style of song used to portray a story. This Indian brother's missionary report for eleven months includes the following items:

Hours worked	505
Villages visited	316
Efforts for men	1465
Efforts for women	1306
Tracts distributed	1353
Pictures distributed	112
Bible portions distributed ..	47
Stories told	267
<i>Bhajans</i> sung	426

In the northern part of the Central Chosen Mission a company of five Adventist families are endeavoring to do their part as Christian laymen. These families have taken all their land and divided it so that each has a part in one field that is dedicated to the raising of crops with which to pay for tracts and to meet other expenses involved in carrying on a live home missionary society. In the morning before the work is started in the field, the entire group comes together to unite in the morning devotions, asking God's blessing upon their work. During the past year this group has reported 100 per cent in their home missionary society, and they have sent in their report and funds to the church treasurer every month. This has not been an easy task, inasmuch as these people live about seventeen miles from the nearest post office. It is from groups of earnest missionary workers like these that the message is being spread throughout the mountain districts of Chosen.

These Korean believers furnish an example of faithfulness in service and

in reporting to which we may well give heed. Every month their report comes in on time, even though they are seventeen miles from the post office, and automobiles are not at their disposal. If every church missionary society in all parts of the world would be as prompt and faithful, our missionary statistics at the close of the year, remarkable as they are, would be far more wonderful in the record conveyed. For it is a sad fact, which cannot be overlooked notwithstanding all the encouraging aspects of the year's advance, that on the whole there is an average of only 50 per cent of the church members who are regularly reporting missionary work through the proper channels. There are always some who respond to calls for special service from time to time, and whose help is greatly appreciated, yet fail to report what has been done. It is just as much a Christian duty to be faithful in reporting to the glory of God as in performing any service. We plead for greater diligence in discharging individual responsibility in connection with the missionary reporting system so thoroughly organized and operating from the individual church member to the church, the church to the conference, the conference to the union, and the union to the general headquarters of missionary records. We plead for 100 per cent working and reporting membership on the part of our lay forces.

One day in an African village there was a hurst of choral singing away down the long street leading to the river. The occasion was the arrival of a native Christian woman who was just entering the village after a month's journey on foot. She had come to report what she had done for the Lord Jesus in her district, and her hands were filled with tiny straws done up in bundles and neatly tied with bark rope. These bundles constituted a record book of a novel sort that the African has been using for centuries,—each straw representing an item of work. For each case of professed conversion, there was a straw cut, and the bundles of straws looked like miniature sheaves. When this African woman's straw reports were counted, the total items of service were 660. Shall Christians in more favored lands be excused for neglect to bring in faithful reports of their endeavor for God?

Reports of Progress in the Layman's Movement

Twenty-one Years' Progress

BY E. F. HACKMAN

THE General Conference Home Missionary Department, which fosters what has come to be known as the Layman's Missionary Movement, was organized in the year 1913. Elder A. G. Daniells, who at that time was president of the General Conference, felt a great burden for strengthening the missionary work in our churches, and in his opening address to the delegates of the General Conference assembled at Washington, D. C., outlined three steps that should be taken to hasten the proclamation of the third angel's message and the finishing of the gospel work. He suggested, (1) The development of a stronger and more efficient ministry, (2) The placing of greater importance and value upon evangelistic work, (3) Arousing greater activity in home missionary work.

In addressing the delegates, Elder Daniells said: "In the vicinity of the home of every believer in this message there are men and women to be won to Christ through the influence of Christian lives and judicious missionary effort. If the lives of our people are what they should be, their neighbors will respond to their efforts to unfold the truth to them. And this effort will bring as great joy and blessing to those who make it as it will to those for whom it is made. We should at this time launch the greatest home missionary movement ever known among us."

On June 5, 1913, the following recommendation was passed by the General Conference: "*We recommend*, That home missionary secretaries, both for the General Conference and the North American Division Conference, be appointed for the promotion of the church missionary work. The duties of the secretaries shall be to cooperate with our conferences, each in his own field, in building up the church tract and missionary work, by (a) Developing such practical plans and simple instruction as will unite all our churches in a general missionary movement. (b) The publication through the medium of church and conference papers, and personal and

circular letters, of such missionary reports and experiences as will lead our people everywhere to appreciate their opportunities and stir themselves to greater activity."

Since that day, twenty-one years ago, the Home Missionary Department has come a long way and, under the blessing of God, has made wonderful progress. The department is now organized in every division, union, and local conference throughout the world. In every church there are officers duly appointed to carry on the interests of this great work, such as missionary leader, missionary secretary, band leaders, etc. During these twenty-one years our dear people, through the various items of missionary endeavor, have brought many thousands of souls to a knowledge of the truth. At the present time the missionary statistics reveal that an average of a thousand people accept this message every month as a result of the combined missionary activities of the entire church. Surely this is a remarkable record; yet when we consider the vast army of lay members throughout the world field, it is not surprising that 350,000 members should win 12,000 souls a year. The wonder is that we do not win more.

The following comparative report for the first quarter of 1914 (the first year in which departmental missionary reports were rendered) and of 1934, indicates to some extent the growth which has taken place in home missionary endeavor:

Lines of Work	1st Qr. 1914	1st Qr. 1934
No. persons reporting	13,800	159,016
Per cent reporting mem.	15%	46%
No. souls won	259	2,455
No. Bible read given	44,361	795,732
No. missionary visits	81,634	955,441
No. treatments given	6,809	209,042
No. articles of clothing given away	112,957	281,177
No. periodicals, tracts, books, etc.	928,213	3,966,352
No. missionary letters written	24,494	144,048

While we may gather courage from this comparative report, yet we must not be unmindful that there is a great work before us, and that thousands of our church members are still idle in the market place. We trust that in all our churches there will be a great revival of missionary activity during 1935, for "the work of God in this earth can never be finished until the

men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."—"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 117.

A New Impetus in the Southland

BY R. G. STRICKLAND

THE work of God in the Southland has received a new impetus that must undoubtedly result in the salvation of scores of souls who would not otherwise be reached. This new impetus is found in the fact that in almost every section of this great field the laymen are entering into the work of proclaiming the glad tidings. From the pulpits of churches, from the desks of wayside schoolhouses, from counters and platforms of stores and other public buildings, and from under the canvas canopy on city lot or the village green, are heard the voices of God's laymen proclaiming the message due to the world at this hour. As a result of such efforts, new companies of believers are springing up everywhere.

A series of meetings, conducted by the leader of the local missionary forces in Florida, has been the means of establishing a new company of believers. The meetings were held in a church belonging to another denomination, and the effort has been so successful that those who have newly come to the faith are continuing to hold services there, and are planning to purchase the building for a permanent Seventh-day Adventist church. In South Carolina, one of our zealous lay brethren has been holding meetings in a tent, furnished by the conference. Very encouraging word is received from this effort, and souls in that community are being added to the household of faith. In the Georgia-Cumberland Conference we have a number of loyal Seventh-day Adventist young men who, although regularly employed long hours in their ordinary labors, have banded themselves together and are conducting a very successful evangelistic effort in one of the large cities of the South.

Throughout the extent of our territory this same work is being carried on, and with gratitude to God for the harvest of precious souls which is apparent at the close of the present year, we look forward to 1935 with eager anticipation that greater numbers of our laymen will go forth to proclaim

the message of salvation. Surely there is a definite sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees,—a stirring movement in the cities and the highways and byways of our union territory,—as the consecrated men and women comprising our church membership unite their efforts with those of ministers and workers, and the general public recognizes that Seventh-day Adventists have a message of vital importance.

Best Year in the North Pacific

BY L. E. ESTEB

It affords us great pleasure to pass on a word of courage from our loyal constituency of 17,000 believers in the North Pacific. This has been one of our best years in soul-winning endeavor. Our churches have distributed a million copies of the *Hope of the World* series of tracts, and have sent out an average of 8,500 *Signs* each week. We have organized and kept in operation fifty-one Bible evangelism classes in our churches, and many church members have availed themselves of this excellent training and have become proficient in conducting cottage meetings and Bible studies. From all over our union we are receiving good reports of personal soul-winning endeavor. At the camp meeting a year ago, the members of one Seventh-day Adventist family became so inspired with the possibilities for proclaiming the truth through cottage meetings, that they went home determined to engage in this work. This year the family came to camp meeting, bringing with them four other families as the fruitage of the cottage meetings and Bible studies held during the year.

A letter has just come in telling of the work of a young man who became interested in the truth through reading literature. At the time the Sabbath question was under consideration, he read a notice announcing that a certain minister would lecture on the subject of Sunday the true Sabbath, and he attended the lecture. But as he listened to what the man had to say, he became thoroughly convinced that the minister presented no Scriptural reasons, and that the seventh day of the week is the Sabbath. Then he set out to tell his friends what he had found to be true. The first one to unite with him in his new-found truth was his mother. Greatly en-

couraged, he kept on working until he had won four other persons to see and accept the Sabbath truth. Then the young man got in touch with one of our conference workers, Elder G. F. Watson, and arrangements were made to hold Sabbath afternoon meetings with this new group of believers, and the prospects are good for establishing a church in that place. Similar experiences are taking place constantly. During the year, two evangelistic efforts have been held to care for the interest developing from the missionary work of the lay members. In one place, a new church of seventy-five members was organized, and in the other effort one hundred fifty people were won to the truth.

Our church officers have felt the burden for organizing the churches for soul-winning activity, and we have very few churches throughout the union in which we do not have an efficient missionary line-up, consisting of a church missionary leader, missionary secretary, and welfare leader.

Our people in the great Northwest believe that a united laity in a united effort provides the divine solution for the finishing of God's work on earth. Although we are grateful for the wonderful blessings of the present year, we are like the artist who, when asked what he considered his best picture, replied, "My next one." We are pressing toward the "mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus," and are counting on stronger organization and greater soul-winning effort in 1935. Pray for the believers in the North Pacific Union.

Literature Effective in the Atlantic Union

BY A. GRUNDSET

It is interesting to note how our literature brings results. Our missionary paper, the *Signs of the Times*, was sent to a home, and although the older members of the family did not care for the paper, the daughter began reading it and became very much interested in its message. After a few months of reading and studying various phases of the truth, she began keeping the Sabbath. Great was her surprise to find that there was a Seventh-day Adventist church only a few miles away. This young woman has been baptized, and is now an offi-

cer in the Sabbath school. It pays to circulate our truth-filled literature.

An Indication of What Is Going On in Canada

"Six precious souls are rejoicing in the truth as the result of an effort held by two laymen," writes Elder J. H. Roth, former home missionary secretary in the Canadian Union. "These brethren had a burden for souls. One is an electrician and the other a mechanic. They began by distributing *Present Truth* in territory five miles out of the city. Soon the people manifested an interest in religious things, and the next step was to organize a Sunday school in the neighborhood and gather in the children, watching for opportunity at the close of the exercises to talk with the parents who came with the children. This work was continued for a number of months, and as a result six persons have been baptized and united with the church, and a number of other people are deeply interested."

Cheering Omens in the Southwest

BY H. F. BROWN

ONE of the most cheering omens of the coming of our Saviour is the intense activity that we see all through our churches. At our camp meetings, one of the best attended meetings is that dedicated to instruction for the laymen. Eager faces look up and seem to absorb every word of instruction that is given. When opportunity for questions is given, very practical questions are asked, showing that real thought is being given in our churches toward the solving of tremendous problems of our unevangelized fields.

One of the most inspiring features of the work in our field is the lay preachers' efforts now going on. At the Oklahoma camp meeting five lay preacher's certificates were given to as many fine men who are carrying on this type of work. Brother E. H. Carter, the local elder of the Shattuck church, reported that he could not come to camp meeting, as he was too busy carrying on his effort. With the help of a half dozen members, he is holding a series of meetings in a little town where the truth has never been preached. The room that he was able to secure admitted only ninety people, but was filled to overflowing, and he could count twenty standing in

the door, and almost as many more trying to listen in through the window. He made the call as to how many wanted to be present in the earth made new, and almost all responded.

Secretary Amundsen tells us that he is planning on having fifty such laymen preaching just as fast as he can prepare them for that work.

Secretary Hanhardt, of Texico, writes as follows: "I am sure you will rejoice with me about the result of our layman's evangelism at Stanley, New Mexico. Nine were baptized as the result of this effort. Don't you think it pays to sponsor lay evangelism? Let us shout for that kind of work. That gives me courage. I am confident that by the grace and help of the Lord we can bring one hundred people into the truth in one year by means of our laymen. Am I too ambitious?"

From the Texas Conference comes the most inspiring news that several laymen are using the layman's stereopticon, and that they are cheered by souls determining to accept the Sabbath.

As we look over the reports that come in from Arkansas-Louisiana, where churches which have been dormant for years are awakening to the enthusiasm of this movement and pleading for instruction as to how to carry on this lay work, we feel confident that Jesus really is coming. Yes, the Southwestern Union has nothing but progress to report. Every item of the home missionary program, with the exception of one, shows a good gain during the past year. This cheers our hearts and gives us courage to face the year 1935 with a determination to make it the best year in the layman's work that the vast expanse of the Southwest has ever seen.

A Rich Harvest of Souls in Columbia

BY E. A. MANRY

THE layman's missionary endeavor in the Columbia Union has brought most encouraging results. Of the 13,888 members, 46 per cent were active reporting members. The number of Bible readings conducted by the 46 per cent membership was 24,606; missionary visits amounted to 57,223; and in response to personal invitation, 20,580 persons were brought to our church services. The number of people who received tem-

poral help along various lines was 55,147, and 9,415 treatments were given. At the same time 27,230 articles of clothing were given out. Add to these figures, 682,656 books and tracts distributed, and you have some idea of the missionary activities in the Columbia Union for the first six months of 1934 only. The statistics for the last six months of the year are not available at the time of writing. As a partial result of all these various activities, 258 people have accepted the truth during the

period of time specified. The work is moving onward, and by the help of our Master we intend to persevere in our efforts to educate the rank and file of our membership, and not to rest content until every believer is engaged in some line of soul-winning work. [Preliminary to this good report, Elder Manry lays stress on "The Importance of Reporting," as the secret of success in our church missionary organization, and special attention is called to his article on pages 10, 11. —EDITOR.]

Missionary Leadership

Electing Missionary Officers

CONSECRATED, capable leadership is one of the vital needs of every church, and officers should be chosen at the annual election because of their spirituality and ability. God has given definite instruction as to the kind of leadership that is required.

"Great care should be exercised in selecting officers for the new churches. Let them be men and women who are thoroughly converted. Let those be chosen who are best qualified to give instruction, those who can minister both in word and in deed. There is a deep-seated necessity for work in every line."—"Testimonies," Vol. VI, p. 85.

"The leaders in God's cause, as wise generals, are to lay plans for advanced moves all along the line. In their planning they are to give special study to the work that can be done by the laity for their friends and neighbors."—"Testimonies," Vol. IX, pp. 116, 117.

Thus we are given to understand the necessity of choosing church officers who have a clear understanding of the soul-winning responsibility of the church and an earnest purpose to lead the church in the successful fulfillment of its missionary task.

The officers of the church constitute the church board, and the church board is to direct all the missionary work of the church as well as to care for the many church needs. The church board is made up of the following officers: The pastor, the elder or elders, the deacon or deacons, the deaconess or deaconesses (outside of North America "deaconess or deacon-

esses" does not apply), the treasurer, the clerk, the Sabbath school superintendent, the missionary leader, the Missionary Volunteer leader, the church missionary secretary, and two or three other members who may be chosen by the church at the time of its annual election of officers, where it seems advisable.

The elder of the church (or one of the elders where there are more than one) is the chairman of the church board, except where there is a pastor, who is usually elected chairman. In large churches the church board may appoint a subcommittee to care for the missionary work of the church, as provided for in the following recommendation (General Conference, 1930):

"Recognizing the urgent need of the utmost simplicity in the organized plan of the missionary movement in our churches, and in order to facilitate the successful development of our evangelical work,

"We recommend, That the church board constitute the missionary committee, provided, however, that in churches where it is necessary the church board appoint a subcommittee to lay definite plans for the missionary work of the whole church, this subcommittee to consist of the missionary leader, the church missionary secretary, Missionary Volunteer leader, Junior Missionary Volunteer superintendent, and any other members of the church board thought best."

Because of the many missionary activities that are to be carried on in the churches, the 1930 General Conference also voted the following recommendation:

"WHEREAS, The work of the church's missionary leader calls for the fullest

exercise of time, talent, and energy; therefore,

"We recommend, That in each church the most capable person available be elected missionary leader."

In many churches the elder can also be elected missionary leader, but where the care of the spiritual needs of the membership, together with the regular routine of church work, is a heavy task for one man, it will be best to elect a missionary leader to direct the missionary activities. The missionary leader is to be nominated and elected just the same as the other church officers.

In large churches where the church board appoints a subcommittee to serve as the missionary committee, the missionary leader serves as chairman of this subcommittee, but all plans must have the approval of the church board, of which the elder is chairman. If the elder has been elected missionary leader, he will serve as chairman of both the board and the missionary subcommittee.

Great care should also be exercised in choosing the church missionary secretary. This officer is responsible for many and important duties, such as keeping the accounts of the church and its members who do business with the Book and Bible House, gathering missionary reports, making a monthly report to the church at the First Sabbath Service, and sending the church missionary report to the conference home missionary department every month, etc.

"It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." 1 Cor. 4:2. Where officers have demonstrated their ability and faithfulness they should be reelected. Many changes weaken the work. In choosing the missionary officers of the church for 1935, let every church seek counsel of the conference president and the home missionary secretary, and may the Lord make 1935 the most fruitful year in soul winning in all the history of our work.

J. A. S.

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TELL about Jesus by your life;
Tell about Jesus in the strife;
Tell about Jesus when you walk;
Tell about Jesus when you talk;
Tell about Jesus by your dress;
Tell about Jesus—talking less;
Tell about Jesus by your looks;
Tell about Jesus—reading books;
Tell about Jesus when you work;
Tell about Jesus—never shirk;
Tell about Jesus in your song;
Tell about Jesus all day long.

—N. P. Neilson.

The Work of the Church Board

THE church may be termed a miniature conference, the pastor or elder of the church comparable to the conference president; and the church board comparable to the conference committee. The members of the church are comparable to the workers in the conference, and are to be directed by the church board, the same as the conference workers are directed by the conference committee. The people within the reach of church missionary activity constitute the church's field of evangelism.

The chief business of the president of the conference and the conference committee is to shepherd the membership of the churches, and to evangelize the unconverted within the conference boundary. Likewise, the chief business of the pastor and officers of the church is to minister to the spiritual needs of the members, and carry on a continuous program to evangelize the unsaved people within its territory. The church board should, therefore, meet regularly, and not less than once each month, to plan for the work of the church membership. Such plans will include the conduct of the first Sabbath missionary service and the church missionary services during the month, and will involve counsel with the missionary leader of the church as to the training of every member of the church to engage in some specific line of missionary service, and whatever may be needed in order to perfect the missionary band organization of the church.

The church board is to function as the responsible directing committee for every activity of the church, rather than just as a group of people representing the various departments of the church, in order that they may better care for their own particular line of endeavor. The members of the church board are to work together for the best interests of the church work as a whole.

The many functions of the church board are clearly outlined in "The Church Manual," but through the Home Missionary Department section of the CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE we wish to place special emphasis on the practical duties of the church board in its relation to the soul-winning activities of the church. If any church board is facing an unsolved problem

as to how to transform the church into a soul-winning organization, we suggest that the matter be brought to the attention of the conference home missionary secretary, or sent to the General Conference Home Missionary Department for answer through the "Query Corner."

J. A. S.

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The Importance of Reporting

PROBABLY every one who has traveled through the country, has observed a crow perched on some fence or limb, apparently taking a rest all by himself. But let any intruder approach the place where a flock of crows are feeding, and immediately the lone crow will make the air ring with his caws to warn the other crows of danger. Experience has taught the crow that a timely report is essential to safety and progress.

The fiery hornet knows by instinct the value of timely reports, and on the outside of every nest is stationed the lookout to report current events. One word from this reporting sentinel, and the entire organized force rushes from the nest and, without taking time to investigate, attacks the enemy front, rear, right, and left. Should the reporter fail in his duty, ruin and disaster would fall upon the hornets' nest.

Stationed on the top of one of the high buildings in New York City is a man who spends his time closely scanning the sky. When a cloud approaches, he quickly reports to an officer in control of the great dynamos which supply electricity for the city lights. Immediately certain levers are thrown into place, and ponderous machinery begins revolving for the purpose of furnishing additional light to compensate for the shadow caused by the passing clouds.

No successful business can be conducted without some system of reporting. Our great railway systems seek to avoid collisions and disaster by appointing at every post along the line dispatchers who are responsible for reporting the whereabouts of every train on their schedules. It is through accurate and faithful reports that traffic is directed in all divisions of the road. It is equally important that the church organization have an adequate system of reporting, and the home missionary secretary in every conference should be kept fully in-

formed of the activities of every church member in the conference. Only thus can he direct the work of God intelligently and successfully.

Each week the church missionary service or the opening exercises of the preaching service, should allow time for securing a missionary report from every member of the church. The missionary secretary of the church gathers up these reports, and at the end of each month should furnish to the conference home missionary secretary an accurate summary of all weekly reports. The conference secretary should insist on monthly reports from the churches, rather than quarterly reports, for it is essential to keep in close contact with individual reporting members and see that none drop out by the way. At the close of each quarter, however, the conference home missionary secretary makes up a summary of the three monthly reports and sends it to the

union home missionary secretary, who, in turn, reports to the General Conference Home Missionary Department.

The live conference home missionary secretary will keep his reporting membership well above the 50 per cent mark, ever aiming toward the ideal of 100 per cent working and reporting members. Just a slight letting down in any church or conference seriously affects the standing of the union, and frequently all the conferences in the union are put in a bad light because a secretary somewhere along the line has been negligent in the handling of missionary reports.

The Scriptures state that "he that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." It may seem a small matter to delay or neglect the missionary report, but to do so jeopardizes the reporting system of the entire church and causes loss and possibly disaster.

E. A. MANRY.

Query Corner

Is the church school teacher the assistant to the Missionary Volunteer leader by virtue of her teaching profession? This does not mean Junior Missionary Volunteer.

The church school teacher is not assistant leader of the Senior Young People's Missionary Volunteer Society *ex officio*. The leader and assistant leader of the Senior Missionary Volunteer Society are elected by the church at the regular church elections. The qualifications of leader and assistant leader may be found on page 116 of the book entitled, "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work." When a Junior Society is conducted in connection with the church school, the church school teacher is the Junior Missionary Volunteer superintendent, because of his position in the school and his relationship to the Junior Society. Counsel regarding the leadership of the Junior Society may be found on page 20 of the "Junior Manual for Missionary Volunteer Workers."

A. W. PETERSON, *Gen. Sec.,
Y. P. Dept. of Miss. Vol.*

Is the church school teacher a member of the school board just by virtue of her profession, or does she attend only when invited?

In a one-teacher school the teacher is not usually a member of the school board, though she may be, and sometimes is. In the larger schools, with a number of teachers, the usual cus-

tom is to make the principal a member of the board. It is courteous, of course, to invite the teacher to board meetings. She sometimes is a valuable help in deciding matters that come up.

MRS. FLORA H. WILLIAMS,
*Asst. Elementary Education,
Gen. Conf. Educational Dept.*

Is it all right for money to be taken out of the Harvest Ingathering cans to pay for the gasoline used in automobiles, or for lunches and other expenses incurred by the workers?

Assurance is given the public that every cent received goes to the work described in the Harvest Ingathering magazine, that not one penny is taken out for expense or overhead. The public is made to understand that these expenses are cared for from funds other than those given us by them, and that the work of the solicitors is done gratis. The hearty response of the public to our annual appeal for funds is due, at least to some extent, to the fact that 100 per cent of their gift is used in the work described to them. Let us guard zealously the faith and confidence of our friends. In our churches there are those who contribute their part to the success of the Ingathering campaign by providing their cars and taking care of the expense of gasoline and oil. Other churches take an offering to pay for gas, oil, lunches, and other expenses of solicitors. Above all let us hold intact the funds received, and see that they find their way into the treasury of God's house.

L. E. CHRISTMAN.

Questions for answer in this corner should be sent to, Secretary, Home Missionary Department, General Conference, Takoma Park, D. C. No name will be published.

Just What You Are Looking For

THERE has come to our desk a neatly bound brochure bearing the title, "Words to Writers" and (we take the liberty to add) Would-Be Writers, in which the technicalities of the art of writing for the press are presented in such a simple and enticing manner as to inspire confidence and create desire to enter this larger field of contact with the human mind. To be able to express clearly and convincingly the message of truth through written articles, reports, or letters, is an accomplishment well worthy of highest endeavor, and all who engage in missionary work should seek to qualify themselves for greatest efficiency in self-expression at the point of the pen. The author, Mahle A. Hinkhouse, is a literary worker of experience, and writes from a practical viewpoint. The booklet is well worth the small price of fifteen cents, and we take pleasure in recommending it. Orders should be sent to the author, at the Southern Publishing Association, Nashville, Tennessee.

GENERAL CONFERENCE HOME MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT.

Church Missionary Services

December 1

MISSIONARY TOPIC: Soul-Winning Correspondence.

TEXT: Ecclesiastes 9:10.

SUGGESTIONS: There are wonderful possibilities in missionary correspondence. Let us think of the comparison between our day and a hundred years ago. Then it cost eight cents to send a letter of one sheet forty miles; twenty cents was required to carry a letter of the same size five hundred miles, and twenty-five cents for more than five hundred miles. The cost for sending a two-sheet letter was twice as much. About forty years ago the first rural mail route was started in the United States, and at the present time there are more than fifty thousand carriers, covering about a million miles a day. Think of what a three-cent stamp will do today.

This rapid advance in postal facilities is one of the means to be employed for the speedy proclamation of truth. How strange that so little is being done, compared to what might be accomplished. A personal letter accompanying a missionary periodical or a tract, may be the means of changing the entire course of a life. A woman who is an invalid has helped to raise up several churches through correspondence, and her work is considered as valuable as that of the minister. A worker in one of our publishing houses states that he is able to count more than one hundred Sabbath keepers as the result of the missionary letters written.

The Home Bible Study League is a direct channel for unlimited missionary correspondence. The church missionary leader or secretary keeps on file a live list of names of interested people for whom follow-up work along the line of mailing literature and carrying on missionary correspondence is greatly needed. Every church member may have a part in this work. Even if you cannot get out to the missionary meeting or the church services, you can carry on a growing missionary work in your own home. Begin at once.

The sad story is told of a poor cripple woman who, when eighteen

years of age, was seized with a dread malady which progressed to such a stage that by slow degrees feet, legs, and arms were amputated, and only the trunk of her body remained. For fifteen years she lay helpless. But one day an inspiration came to her. She sent for a friend, who was a carpenter, and instructed him how to fit a pad to her shoulder, and to the first pad another pad, and to that a fountain pen. Through persistency in her attempts, she began to write letters. Instead of writing with her arm, she was obliged to write with the whole of her body. But her letters were written to win people to Christ, and it is said that she received hundreds of replies from those who had been converted through her personal appeal. If God can accomplish so much in the salvation of souls through a poor dismembered creature, what can He not do through any fully consecrated life?

December 8

MISSIONARY TOPIC: Our Duty Toward the Jews.

TEXT: Romans 1:16.

SUGGESTIONS: How tragic has been the history of the Jewish race for the last twenty centuries! They have

Letters

THE one I love went way out West
To make a home for me, as best
He could. And he would write to me
From far away, so tenderly,
It seemed he bared his very heart,
And we were not so far apart!
I'd read his letters o'er and o'er.
He'd tell me what to do before
I came to him, and what to bring,
And how to find the way. I'd sing
All day, and dream about that home,
And how he'd greet me when I'd come.

What would he think of me
If, when I saw him, I should say,
"I was so busy every day
I never read your words to me,
The words you wrote so tenderly!"

The Lord I love went on ahead
To make a home for me. He said
He would come back again. And He,
O gracious love, He wrote to me!
He knew I was so weak and blind
And foolish that I could not find
The road alone. He told me things
That all earth's wise men and its kings
Have never guessed, yet I foreknow
If I but read His word. And, oh,
Such depths of love on every sheet!
My soul is trembling at His feet.

What would He think of me
If, when I saw Him, I should say,
"I was too busy every day
To read what Thou didst write to me:
I really hadn't time for Thee!"

MARTHA SNELL NICHOLSON.

been banished, disgraced, and massacred times without number, and even today their lives hang in doubt in different lands.

The Jews of our day are rapidly drifting toward infidelity, and the majority of them have already lost their faith in God. Communism and other forms of atheism are attracting considerable numbers. Many, however, especially of the youth, are not yet hopelessly hardened and could still be won to the truth. Our literature, given out judiciously, will prove an effective antidote against the poison of atheism. The Jewish Department of the General Conference is now preparing a new series of papers on our doctrines, especially adapted to the needs of the Jews of all classes. For the unbelieving Jews such subjects as the Origin of Evil, Evolution, Prophecy, Signs of the End, Capital and Labor, would prove to be as a nail in a sure place. Distribute these, one subject at a time, in Yiddish or in English, as the case requires, and follow up the interest with more doctrinal subjects.

How to labor for the religious Jews is quite a different problem, for many of them are steeped in rabbinical traditions, and hold tenaciously to the idea that the Jews are still the chosen people of God. Prejudice toward Christianity still runs deep and strong in this class, and it will require much tact born of true love to overcome this barrier.

Never give the Jew the impression that you wish to "convert" him, or that you want him to be anything else but a Jew. Tell him what denomination you belong to, and that all Seventh-day Adventists keep the true Sabbath, from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. Inform him that Seventh-day Adventists deplore racial prejudice, and have often cooperated with the Jewish people to maintain religious liberty by opposing Sunday laws, etc. A good impression is made by explaining to Jews that, according to the Bible, we are living in the last days, and that God is now giving final opportunity to individuals of all nations to become true Jews; that a true Jew in the Bible sense is not one who belongs to a certain nationality, but who has a character conformed to God's immutable standard, the ten commandments.

Give your prospect some literature

on the least controversial subjects, as Signs of the End, the Origin of Evil, the Law, Nature of Man, Spiritualism, the New Earth, one subject at a time, in the Yiddish or English. Avoid controversy, letting the literature make the desired impression. Follow up with papers on the Sabbath, the Change of the Sabbath, and the rest of our doctrines, still avoiding emphasis on the subject of the Messiah.

If the Jew has read all the foregoing papers, the time has come to offer him literature dealing specifically with the question of all questions, that of the Messiah. It is very enlightening to the Jew to be told that the words "Messiah" and "Christ" mean the same thing. Give him papers on the prophecy of the seventy weeks, and on the great galaxy of Old Testament prophecies which point to the Messiah. Do not urge the Jew to accept Christ, but pile up evidence upon evidence, and let the truth make its own way into the heart; pray for the Spirit to do His appointed work. You have now reached the crisis in your labor for the Jew, but we have been assured by the servant of the Lord that as the Jews "see the Christ of the gospel dispensation portrayed in the pages of the Old Testament Scriptures, . . . their slumbering faculties will be aroused, and they will recognize Christ as the Saviour of the world." We have also been told that thousands of Jews will yet take their stand for the truth! Our success is assured. Let us patiently labor for the lost sheep of Israel, and we are sure to reap a rich and abundant harvest in eternity.

S. KAPLAN.

The Jews Are Looking for Messiah

A MISSIONARY tells of meeting a Jew on the road from Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives. In the course of conversation, the Jew explained that every morning for fourteen years, he had made this same journey, and explained why he had done so by saying: "I am an orthodox Jew, and we orthodox Jews, by watching the signs of the times and what is happening today among the nations and in Palestine, have come to the conclusion that the day of the Messiah must be at hand. I read in my Bible that 'His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives.' Therefore I go

every day to the Mount of Olives, for when His feet stand on the mount, I want to be there to give Him a welcome."

Surely it is a blessed privilege to go in search of such kindred spirits and make known to them the message which the Messiah is sending to all the world to prepare the way for His second advent. If there is one people who have any right above another to a knowledge of the full gospel as made known through the third angel's message, that people are the Jews. Are we sure we are doing our duty toward the Jews?

December 15

MISSIONARY TOPIC: Soul-Winning Experiences.

TEXT: Psalms 134:2.

SUGGESTIONS: A commendable daily resolve is to speak to some one person every day in regard to his spiritual condition, and to try every day to lead some one else to Christ. If this resolve is honestly and prayerfully made, many unlooked-for opportunities and blessed experiences will be found. May this brief soul-winning experience period be a strength and encouragement to all.

"The Lord Christ wanted a tongue one day
To speak a message of cheer
To a heart that was weary and worn
and sad,
And weighted with a mighty fear.
He asked me for mine, but 'twas busy
quite
With my own affairs from morn till
night.

"And the dear Lord Christ—was His
work undone
For lack of a willing heart?
Only through men does He speak to
men?

Dumb must He be apart?
I do not know, but I wish today
I had let the Lord Christ have His way."
—Selected.

December 22

MISSIONARY TOPIC: Report of local church missionary work for the year.

TEXT: Proverbs 15:30.

SUGGESTIONS: The church missionary secretary who has prepared and rendered the church missionary report at the First Sabbath Missionary Service, will have no difficulty in touching some of the particularly interesting points for further emphasis on this occasion. Make use of the blackboard, if possible, to visualize facts and figures. Be sure to indicate just how many members of the church *did not* have any part in the year's record, in case there are any such, and ask every one to do his part in making a

better record of missionary activity from this time on.

December 29

MISSIONARY TOPIC: Retrospect and Prospect in Missionary Endeavor.

TEXT: Philippians 3:14.

SUGGESTIONS: It is said that a certain church (not Seventh-day Adventist) reported for the year as follows: "Members received, none; dismissed, none; died, none; married, none; given to missions during the year, nothing. Brethren, pray for us that during the next year we may hold our own." We are very sure that no such retrospective will be found in any of our churches as they review the work of 1934, for the year has been one of marked progress in the Layman's Missionary Movement. However, there is no ground for self-complacent ease. Intensity is taking hold on the world; on every side wickedness is increasing, and God's work is fast closing up. It is time that we "look our work fairly in the face, and advance as fast as possible in aggressive warfare." Elder W. H. Branson's appeal for greater achievement applies to every church just now in a very special sense. We quote his statements as follows:

"The Lord expects more fruit of you and me with every passing year. If under the blessing of God I have succeeded in winning twenty or thirty souls during the past year, with the experience and the training that I have received in the winning of those souls, the Lord expects that during the next year I shall be able by His grace to hear more fruit and to win more souls than I did last year. And even then I can't rest on my oars and say, 'I have won more souls than anybody else in this conference; I think I will take it a little easier next year.' 'No,' the Lord says; 'I want to prepare you so that you can go out and get one hundred next year.' O, every passing year the call of God to you and me is, More fruit. Don't be satisfied with the accomplishments of the past. Expect greater things and attempt greater things for God in the future, for that is God's ideal for His disciples who labor in His name here on earth. There are too many who are satisfied with reaching a low standard. We are satisfied with small results and with little achievement, whereas we should ever be reaching forth to greater accomplishments."

News From Soul Winners

A Missionary "Hitch-Hiker"

ON returning from a tour of the Pacific Coast, one of the departmental secretaries of the General Conference told of coming in contact with a Seventh-day Adventist brother, well along in years, who spends his time traveling along the highways for the one purpose of accepting invitations to ride in passing automobiles and improving the opportunity to scatter literature and to witness for the truth. So interesting was the report that an attempt was made to get in touch with this brother, and the following is the reply received:

"I have engaged in this work for about five years. I have contacted over six thousand persons, placing literature in their hands, and have had the privilege of Bible study and reading the Scriptures with more than half that number. I have distributed more than 40,000 tracts and papers, placing them in the homes and in the ears of the people. Much of this literature I have secured from the homes of our people, where it was lying dead and unused, thus fulfilling the command of Christ to 'gather up the fragments, . . . that nothing be lost.' I have met all classes of people, from common laborers to the general manager of Sears-Roebuck stores, traveling from all parts of the United States, and some tourists from abroad. I rode with a tourist from South Africa for several days, answering his questions and presenting to him the message by reading to him from the Bible, which is my method of doing the work in which I am engaged. I receive no salary, and have no remuneration from any source, but live among our Seventh-day Adventist people, traveling during the day and stopping overnight wherever I happen to be. I make my headquarters at the Seventh-day Adventist Rural Rest Home, where through their generosity I have a place to remain over the Sabbath each week.

"In traveling with this large number of people, I have never been in an accident, and have never been left on the highway at night. I do not solicit a ride at any time, but depend

on the angels of the Lord to arrange for me to meet those with whom I should come in contact."

This lay brother calls himself a colporteur, but he might very appropriately be known as a modern Philip the evangelist, as his experience is so similar to that recorded in Acts 8: 26-40. As a means of following up the conversation and interest developed in transit, a card is placed in the hands of the driver and occupants of the automobiles, which is addressed to the Home Bible Study League of one of the large churches in the State, and reads as follows:

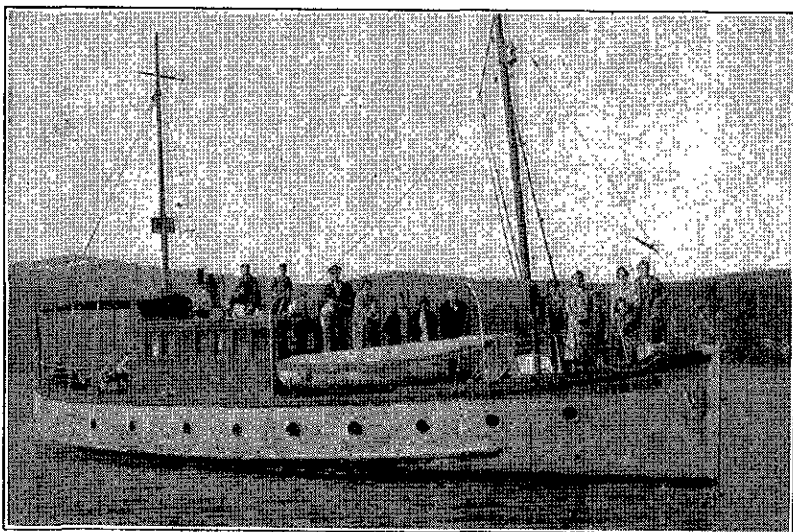
"DEAR FRIENDS: Your representative [name and address of representative appears on the card, made by a rubber stamp] placed in my hands some literature dealing with present-day conditions. I would be glad to receive more reading matter touching on the topics checked below: [Five different topics, touching points of present truth, are listed.] Appreciating your courtesies, I remain, Sincerely yours, [Signature and address given.]"

Would that there were a thousand such "missionary hitch-hikers" covering the great highways of our country and the world, daily witnessing for God through such unique contact. In describing this aged brother, the Gen-

eral Conference worker said he was a very nice-appearing man,—snow-white hair, well-dressed, and dignified in appearance; just such a person as any automobile driver would gladly offer a "lift along the way." If there are any other wayside evangelists of this character operating on the highways, the General Conference Home Missionary Department would be glad to hear from them.

Our Missionary Boat in Alaska Waters

A REAL "home missionary boat" is the "Messenger," which is owned and operated by the believers in the Alaska Mission. The principal means of travel in that country is by boat, and the 60,000 population are to be found in the small towns along the coast. H. L. Wood, the superintendent of the field, and his associates spend a large share of their time on this boat, going from place to place to visit the scattered church members. But this is not all that the "Messenger" accomplishes. It is known all along the coast as the Seventh-day Adventist Mission hospital boat, as it stops anywhere, at any time, to pick up emergency cases in need of hospital or medical attention, and brings them to the nearest city where such attention can be obtained. It is estimated that hundreds of lives have been saved by the timely visit of the "Messenger," and thus the way is prepared for the favorable reception of the message of truth.



The "Messenger"

Missionary Volunteer Department

Officers' Notes

Our Theme for December: Christian Inventories

Missionary Volunteer Organization

OUR greatest denominational asset is our army of children and youth. With this army, rightly trained and disciplined, properly organized and efficiently officered, and mobilized against the common enemy, the work of the church will speedily be accomplished, "and then shall the end come."

The Young People's Society of Missionary Volunteers has for its objective this important work. Its slogan, "To Save From Sin and Guide in Service," should be kept in mind constantly by the society officers, and the program of every meeting should be made to contribute to that end. The first field of missionary endeavor for the society is the unconverted youth in families belonging to the church, and every possible effort should be made to win them to the Master.

Personal soul-winning work is no doubt the most effective; however, we should never lose sight of the fact that "in union there is strength," and that although one may "chase a thousand," two may "put ten thousand to flight." Much more is accomplished when a number of earnest Christian youth organize themselves for service, than when each one endeavors to "carry on," regardless of the other members of the group. Every church should therefore have its young people organized into a society that aims at definite spiritual culture and service.

The Missionary Volunteer Society is the church at work for and through her young people, and all the members should participate in laying plans for its organization. The church elder should have charge, and should direct in the election of society officers at the time all the officers of the church are elected in the month of December. The nominating committee should select names and make recommendations to the church for the following society officers: leader, associate leaders, secretary-treasurer, assistant secretary-treasurer, and pianist or organist. The following officers may be elected by the society as occasion demands: devotional secretary, educational secretary, social secretary, and leaders for missionary bands that may be organized in connection with the society work.

Though the society is very small,

there should be at least one well-organized band. The following-named bands are regularly fostered by the department: Prayer and Personal Workers' Band, Christian Help and Gospel Meeting Band, and Literature and Correspondence Band. Great care should be exercised in the selection of competent leaders for these bands, as the success of the society depends very largely upon the success of the bands.

Society Membership.—If you would build a society that will be a blessing to all concerned, every person who becomes a part of it must first make an unconditional surrender to the Master. He must be a Missionary Volunteer in deed and in truth. For this reason only those who are church members in good and regular standing may become regular members of a Senior Missionary Volunteer Society. However, for the benefit of young people who are not church members, but who may desire to participate in the activities of the society, the Associate Senior membership is provided.

Annual Membership Enrollment.—Because many of the youth change their place of residence frequently for educational purposes or for employment, and because it is desirable to keep an active membership enrollment, certificates of Missionary Volunteer membership must be renewed each year. The time to secure the applications for membership is early in December. This gives opportunity for the society secretary to pass them to the conference Missionary Volunteer secretary, and for the latter to send the certificates of membership to the society in time for the beginning of the year. When this matter is delayed until after the first of January, the entire work of the society is delayed for several weeks during the new year.

The following procedure has been found successful in many societies: Devote a part of the program to setting forth the ideals of the Missionary Volunteer Pledge. (See "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work," pp. 81-92.) Then present the application cards, have them filled out, and collect them. After reviewing them in the executive meeting and approving them, copy the list in the secretary's record book and send the approved application cards to the conference Missionary Volunteer secretary. (Those absent from the society meeting on this day should be visited by a society officer or by a member of a committee which may be appointed to solicit new members throughout the year. To

make sure that no one is overlooked, it is advisable to give opportunity at two or three succeeding meetings to make out applications for membership.) The conference Missionary Volunteer secretary will fill out the certificates of membership and mail them to the society secretary. He will keep the applications for his file. When the certificates of membership are received, they should be signed by the society secretary and presented to members. (For suggestions on receiving members into the society, see "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work," pp. 136-138.)

In addition to the regular Senior membership and the Associate Senior membership mentioned above, there are the regular Junior membership and the Preparatory Junior membership. These are explained in "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work" and in the "Junior Missionary Volunteer Handbook." Associate Senior membership is a name which was adopted to take the place of Preparatory Senior membership. It has the same meaning as that given in "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work," pp. 135, 136, for Preparatory membership. Where there is no Junior Missionary Volunteer Society, the Junior Missionary Volunteers may join the Senior Society, but receive a Junior certificate of membership. The reports of the Junior Missionary Volunteers should be recorded in the Junior column of the society report blank (M. V. Record Blank 2).

Every member of the society should be assigned a place for service, either in one of the bands or in some other capacity. When the application cards are being filled out, make request for each one to write on the card the kind of missionary work in which he prefers to participate. This information will facilitate the making of satisfactory arrangements for all to take part in an active way.

O. LESTER BOND.

How 1934 M. V. Officers Should Assist 1935 Leaders

It may seem early to begin thinking about the 1935 officers for your Missionary Volunteer Society, but it is none too early. There are a number of things that should be taken into consideration. In the first place, put the matter before your church elder or the board any time before the first of December. If the new officers could be elected so that they could observe more closely the workings of the society and meet with the 1934 executive committee, there would

Has your society done all it can for the missions in the Amazon region?

not be such a wide gulf to span at the opening meetings of 1935. Such a method of handling the transition of officers, we believe, would cause the entire Missionary Volunteer Society to move on with no apparent break or slump, but rather with renewed impetus and zeal for the duties of the incoming year.

The 1934 officers, too, need special admonition at this time, that they do not slacken their efforts and let down with the closing of the year. All band work should be brought to such a focus that it can be transferred without disrupting the work in any way. The secretary and the treasurer should see that their records are in perfect condition and every item attended to as far as possible. Never leave leftover problems for the incoming officers to wrestle with, if there is any way to solve them before your term expires.

If the 1935 officers are elected two to four weeks before the close of 1934, call an executive committee meeting, including the 1935 officers, outline the plans you have followed the past year, and then let them have a week or so to think over the whole situation and ask you questions at a subsequent meeting, if they desire. Be tactful about laying your plans before them; they may have entirely different ideas in mind for 1935. And successful as your plans may have been, the new officers' ideas may be a wholesome change and equally successful. Of course, there are some definite principles set forth in our manuals that should never be omitted from the Missionary Volunteer Society; but they are amenable to many variations. Young people enjoy change and new things. They are in the experimental age. If no young person had tried a new idea, valuable discoveries would never have been made.

The Senior manual, "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work," should be passed on to the 1935 officers for study. Read especially at the very beginning of the year the chapter, "Missionary Volunteer Society." Each officer should read the paragraphs dealing with his particular phase of the work. (See the index.)

Junior superintendents should have the Junior Manual and the "Junior Missionary Volunteer Handbook," and the boys and girls who are studying the Progressive Classes should have individual copies of the Junior Handbook.

It would be a wholesome thing if you could have a joint executive committee meeting to pray about and discuss the possibilities in your community. If you feel that there is work which you did not accomplish, pass on the idea and the result of your experience. If any failure on the part of the M. V. Society during 1934 has been due to some existing circumstance that seems insurmountable, it may not be out of place to mention it, but in no case should you throw about

it a mantle of discouragement or hopelessness. You may have led the work just to the point where a change is about to come, or the Lord may be bringing in the very leaders that He sees can overcome that barrier. Hold up their hands in prayer and assurance that they have your cooperation in secret prayer and in public service.

E. E. H.

Distribute the Morning Watch Calendar

(Personally and Through the M. V. Society)

Give to friends and neighbors.

Send out as Christmas or New Year cards.

Distribute in hospitals.

Arrange to place in hotel or Y. M. C. A. rooms.

Give to members of your Sabbath school class.

Send to pastors of churches of other denominations for their use, and solicit quantity orders from them.

Persuade Sunday school teachers to give to their classes.

Suggest to managers of business houses that they give the calendar to their employees.

Obtain sales for calendar by getting dealers in greeting cards to handle; placing on sale in drug stores; selling from door to door.

By some unknown means last year a storekeeper found a Morning Watch Calendar in his possession. He was impressed by it, and followed it through the year. Anxious to obtain a copy for the new year, he wrote to the Review and Herald office, and his letter was referred to the British Columbia Conference office, in the territory in which the man lived. One of the office workers wrote:

"When it was brought to my notice, I took two Morning Watch Calendars and went to see him. He told me he had given up hope of hearing from the publishers concerning such a small item, and had started using the old one over again. He was overjoyed that I had brought two along with me, for he explained that now his wife could have one at home, and he could have one in his office. He stated that he and his wife had studied the Scriptures and had conducted morning worship every day of their married life—over forty years. He added that besides that he had his private devotions. I urged him to get some of our publications, but he said it would not be possible at the present time.

"Later I called to see him, and in the course of the conversation he mentioned that his wife had found a book in their library from which there were quotations in the Morning Watch. It was 'The Great Controversy.' He is interested in it, and stated that he reads long portions of it to his wife in the evenings. The book had been obtained in Calgary some time previous to 1913, but had been forgotten. Just another example of how people's

minds may be drawn to neglected books."

What Has Your Record Been?

THE year 1934 is about to pass into history. Before turning our attention to the coming year, let us glance at the record, almost complete.

What do you find on its pages?

Have your life and influence always counted for God?

Have your time and energy been spent in measuring up to God's ideal or in seeking indulgence of personal inclinations?

As a Missionary Volunteer have you exemplified the ideals and principles that make our group of youth different from the world?

Have you helped to enlist some fellow youth in active, aggressive living for Christ?

If you have been a Missionary Volunteer officer, do you feel that you have done your best to lead those under your charge into all the joyful privileges of membership in the greatest youth's organization in existence today?

Are we really aware that God's plan for us is far above our present level of living?

Shall we not make 1935 a year of real achievement in those qualities of Christian manhood and womanhood which recommend to others the Lord we serve?

The year is past. We cannot change the record, but we can profit by the errors. We can be sure that we do not make the same mistakes a second time. The challenge comes with greater appeal than ever, that we must arrange our life program so as to put Christ and eternity first, and let the other interests of life take their subordinate positions.

L. A. SKINNER.

Missionary Volunteer Banners

EVERY Missionary Volunteer Society should own a set of these beautiful banners—our Aim, Motto, and Pledge for the Senior Society, and our Pledge and Law for the Juniors. They will be an inspiration, hung before your young people from week to week. The banners come in felt, a beautiful dark-green background, with sewed-on Old English letters in gold with brown shading. Gold fringe and harmonizing rods and tassels make them artistic indeed. Senior sets of three: Aim, Motto, and Pledge, \$12. (Approximate sizes: Aim and Motto, each 16 x 26 inches; Pledge, 25 x 42 inches.) Junior set of two: Pledge and Law, \$10. (Approximate sizes: each, 22 x 33 inches.) Order direct from the United States Poster Company, 330 H Street, Northeast, Washington, D. C.

E. E. H.

THE Lord be with us as we walk
Along our homeward road.
In silent thought, or friendly talk,
Our hearts be near to God.
—John Ellerton.

The Week of Sacrifice Offering should be taken today—December 1.

Senior M. V. Meetings

The Bible in Our Day

(Program for December 1)

BY MELVIN OSS

OPENING EXERCISES.

SONGS: "Wonderful Words of Life," "To Obey Is Better Than Sacrifice," "Give Me the Bible," "My Mother's Bible."

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalms 119:129-136.

SHORT, SPICY TALKS: "Understanding the Bible," "The Theme of the Bible," "System in Bible Study," and "The Bible Year."

APPEAL: "The Bible Year," by the leader.

POEMS: "The Bible" and "The World's Bible." (For the latter, see the 1935 Morning Watch Calendar.)

BLACKBOARD SUGGESTIONS: "Medicine for Specific Complaints." Besides placing these on the blackboard, have them duplicated or typed on cards or slips of paper to hand out to each one present at the meeting.

DUET: "The Bible Satisfies," No. 73 in "Gospel in Song."

SUMMARY: "Studying the Bible." ("Testimonies," Vol. I, p. 242, top par.)

SYMPOSIUM: "The Missionary Book."

CLOSING EXERCISES.

Notes to Leaders

Because the Bible is as practical, as necessary, and as holy in our day as in any past day, it is our hope that every Missionary Volunteer may make it the citadel of his faith, invincible, immovable.

If you care to work out the program from a little different angle, study the Junior talks, "The Guidebook," and "Caution Signals," pp. 24, 25.

Pocket editions of books of the Bible may be purchased through your Book and Bible House. Prices: paper, 3 cents; red cloth, 4 cents, each; postage additional.

Bible Year Certificates. Young people are allowed two years in which to complete the reading of the Bible and the winning of a Bible Year Certificate, though it is urged that the Book be read in one year.

Bible Societies. The American Bible Society, the British and Foreign Bible Society, and others have for their purpose the translation, printing, and distribution of Bibles.

The Scriptures have been published through the world in 936 languages and dialects. No other book has been translated into as many languages. During the past decade some portion of the Bible has appeared in a new

language at the rate of one in four weeks. The whole Bible has been printed in 174 languages; the New Testament in 190 more; portions consisting of at least one book in about 481 more; and less than a book in the remaining languages.

Fully 882,000,000 Bibles have been published by the three great Bible Societies, and we know that many more have been printed by commercial publishers.

Understanding the Bible

1. WHAT is necessary in order to understand God's will? Rom. 8:5-7.

2. Before opening the Bible, what should be our prayer? John 14:26; 16:13; Ps. 119:18.

3. Can we understand the Bible if prompted to study it by mere curiosity, without any sincerity of purpose and willingness to obey? John 7:17; Ps. 119:33-40.

4. What else is necessary in order rightly to understand and explain the word of truth? 2 Tim. 2:15; Prov. 2:2-5.

The Theme of the Bible

"IN order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary."—"Gospel Workers," p. 315.

In Genesis we find the PROMISE of the Saviour. Gen. 3:15. Next in order we see the plan of salvation portrayed in TYPE in the sanctuary services. The prophets under inspiration were carried forward to the glad day when Jesus would be born and in joyful ANTICIPATION they sang out their glad hope. Isa. 9:6; 7:14.

The Gospels bring to us the GLAD NEWS of Christ's having come upon the stage of human HISTORY. In the Acts we learn more of Christ in the EXPERIENCE of men. The epistles contain the DOCTRINES of Christ. In the book of Revelation we find a REVELATION of the ascended and glorified Christ. Thus Christ, the Word of God (John 1:1), is the theme of the Bible from beginning to end. John 5:39. He is the golden cord that ties the Bible books together. What the Old Testament foretells, the New Testament fulfills. We cannot accept one part and reject the other.

Should any one in reading the Bible fail to find Christ and love Him better, he has failed to realize the purpose for which the Bible has been given to us.

System in Bible Study

In the Bible we find a record of God's revelation to us of Himself and His will. Through the books of nature and the Bible we may learn how great and holy our God is.

The prayerful reading of the Bible gives us food for our souls. We need nourishment regularly. Have you not noticed how students who go to our boarding schools improve in health and appearance because of the regularity of the meals and school life? If we are to prosper spiritually, it is as necessary that we study the Bible systematically and regularly.

An old Negro slave and preacher had an infidel master. One day he said to the slave, "You are a preacher, Sam?" "Well, I tells about Jesus some, massa." "Well, if you are a preacher, you ought to understand the Bible. Now tell me, what does this mean?" And he opened the Bible and read, "Whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate"—words that have puzzled wiser persons than the poor slave. "Well," said the slave, "massa, where is it?" "It's in Romans," said the master. "Oh, my dear massa; I will explain dis 'ole business to you. It is very simple. You bengin with Matthew and do all the dear Lord tells you to do there; and then you go on to Mark and Luke and John; and when you get to Romans it is easy enough—but you can't begin there."

By reading three chapters daily and five on Sabbaths it is possible to read the entire Bible in one year. A regular time should be assigned for Bible study. The morning is the best time, because our minds are clearer and we can meditate throughout the day upon what we have read.

A Very Modern Book

DR. DEAN of China had been conversing with an intelligent Chinese respecting our sacred books, assuring him that they are very old. He gave an example from the Scriptures. Soon after, the man came to Dr. Dean and with a look of accusation exclaimed, "You told me your Book was very ancient; but that chapter," pointing to the first chapter of Romans, "you have written yourself since you came here and learned all about the Chinese."

December 8-15: Annual Week of Prayer. What are you doing for the young people?

The Bible Year

READING three chapters daily and five on Sabbaths completes the Bible in a year. A guidebook entitled, "The Bible Year," is valuable (cloth, 60 cents; paper, 25 cents). It contains information about each book of the Bible. The ideal way is to study a book at a time. It is helpful and interesting to know the time and circumstances under which each book was written. Have you noticed the beautiful poetic passages? In our poems we generally have a rhythm in words; but in the Hebrew language there is a rhythm of thought. These parallelisms are beautiful and impressive if we comprehend them.

Small booklets containing one or more books of the Bible can be purchased. (See Notes to Leaders.) A set of these is a valuable investment. When I was on the farm I carried one after another of them in my pocket. While the horses were resting, or while I herded cattle, I read the book. When I was in India, I discovered that country to be a land of delays, but I learned to make *dis*-appointments *His* appointments for Bible study. While one is riding on a train or car it is possible to memorize portions of Scripture.

Reading the different versions of the Bible adds interest to its study. A good concordance and Bible references are helpful.

We are not to juggle with the Bible, but to seek to learn its message for us. We are not to read it to bolster up *our* doctrines and ideas, but to seek for the Bible doctrine. As we read with the right intent, we shall find fewer discrepancies in the Bible and more in men. It is always better for us to read more of the Bible itself than what men say about the Bible. The Bible is its best interpreter.

A beautiful Bible Year Certificate is given by the Young People's Missionary Volunteer Department in recognition of having read the Bible through in one year. A leaflet (M. V. Leaflet 56, price, 60 cents per hundred) which gives the chapter assignments for each day of the year, may be obtained. (Secure enough copies to present one to each of your members and any others in the church who are interested in reading the Bible through.) It is time now to make our plans for the coming year and resolve to read the Bible through systematically.

(Note to Leader: Here make an appeal and enlist those who plan to read the Bible through next year. Encouragement should be given to those who are somewhat behind in this year's reading, to complete their reading before the close of the year.)

Medicine for Specific Complaints

(Study one or two "complaints," and then give out cards containing the entire list, so that those present may keep this "prescription" in their Bibles.)

Order "Application for Membership" blanks early—M. V. Record Blank 1. Price, 25 cents per hundred.

If lonesome or blue and friends prove untrue: Psalms 23, 27; Luke 15.

If trade is poor: Psalms 37, 73; John 15.

If discouraged or in trouble: Psalms 126; John 14.

If out of sorts: Hebrews 12.

If losing confidence in men: 1 Corinthians 13.

If skeptical: John 6:40; 7:17; Philippians 2:5-11.

If you cannot have your own way: James 3.

If tired of sin: Luke 18:9-14; Luke 7:36-50; Psalms 32.

If very prosperous: Psalms 24; Job 1, 2; Luke 19:1-10.

Happy conclusion: Psalms 131; Matthew 6:33; Romans 12.

—*Missionary Review of the World.*

The Missionary Book

IN THE HUDSON BAY REGION

Edgerton R. Young, who spent his life ministering to the Indians of the Hudson Bay country, gives two significant pictures.

"How did your mother die?" he asked a heathen Indian. "She died of a rope," the man answered. "What do you mean?" "Oh," he explained, "she got so old she could not snare rabbits and catch fish, and I was not going to be bothered with the old thing. So one day I put a rope around her neck, and she died."

Note this contrast after a few years of gospel teaching in that tribe: Two stalwart Indians appear in the church door, carrying their invalid mother in a chair made of their hands. Another stalwart son goes ahead, and places a folded blanket for a cushion on the hard, backless seat. The mother is gently placed thereon, and the son sits beside her, supporting her back with his arm.

THE PERSISTENT LITTLE BOOK

A Christian worker in Arizona tells of a fierce-looking cowboy who came to him asking for copies of Mark's Gospel, and who told him this story: "I went to San Francisco and threw away much money in rough revelry. I slept late after a night of dissipation. When I awoke I saw a little book on the table near my bed—the Gospel of Mark. I angrily threw it on the floor. I did the same thing the second morning. Awakening the third morning, I saw that same little book. This time I took it with me to a nearby park and began to examine it. I spent the day reading it. I heard the Son of God say to a leper, 'Be thou clean.' I heard Him say to a paralytic, 'Thy sins be forgiven thee.' I heard Him commend the widow for her mite. I saw Him take little children in His arms and bless them. I heard Him say, 'Couldst not thou watch one hour?' I saw Him die. It broke my heart and changed my life. I am a different man. Now, stranger,

I spend much time giving away copies of the Gospel of Mark."

JOSÉ AND HIS BIBLE

Voices came to Miss Hudson through the small open window of the mission from the court below.

"Get José to play for us tonight," said one voice in Spanish.

"José won't play for a dance any more, I think," said another.

"Why not?" asked the first.

"José is reading the Bible now. He won't do the things he used to do. He's a different man altogether now," said the second voice. "You'll have to get some one else for the music for the dance."

"Yes," Miss Hudson admitted to herself, "Bible study has changed José."

For three years José had owned a Bible and kept it hidden away in his little trunk. One day he heard the missionary as he preached on the street corner, and asked some one what book he was using. When he heard, he knew that he had just that Book at home; so he went there and got it out of the trunk. The more he read, the more interested he became; and finally he came to the mission and gave his heart to Jesus. For three years he had hidden that Bible away and gone right on in his evil ways. For only three short months he had studied it daily, and it had made a new man of him.

❖ ❖

"An old lady who was reading the first nine chapters of First Chronicles, said, 'If the Lord can remember all those names, surely He can remember mine.'"

❖ ❖

The Key to Success

(Program for December 8)

BY CLARENCE V. ANDERSON

SONGS FOR TODAY: Nos. 101, 157, 92, 76, 91, in "Gospel in Song."

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalms 40:1-6.

PRAYER.

DUET: "In the Secret of His Presence," No. 168 in "Gospel in Song."

TALK: "Success."

TALK: "Have You Your Key?"

TALK: "The Key to True Success."

TALK: "Preparation Before Power."

HYMN.

BIBLE STUDY: "Prayer and the Morning Watch." (See also "My Watchtower" in the Junior program, p. 25.)

POEM: "Take Time to Pray," p. 71 in "Choice Poems."

SYMPOSIUM: Five two-minute testimonies on "My Morning Watch."

ENROLLMENT for 1935 Morning Watch. CLOSING HYMN.

Notes to Leaders

Impress upon the minds of the

young people the fact that true success means becoming more like Jesus instead of more like the world. Two good rousing talks of ten minutes each can be given, based on the suggestions in the program. The Bible study should come after these talks, emphasizing the necessity of morning prayer. Prepare for a successful year by beginning each day successfully.

The suggested symposium should not be extemporaneous. Each participant should be prepared to tell very briefly his experience in Morning Watch observance, after which it might be well to invite others to make morning prayer a habit.

Present Morning Watch Calendars to the members of your society. Order early so that you will be sure to have them on hand for the meeting. For suggestions as to how your members or society may distribute the calendar this year, see those listed on page 16.

At Oxford University some students experimented scientifically with the morning devotions. They purposely spent one-half hour each morning in prayer, reading, and meditation. They found it so helpful that they voluntarily decided to continue the practice after the period of experimentation was over. In letters they mention some of the following ways in which morning prayer helps: It gives actual physical and spiritual strength for the day's work; it makes you happier; it gives you poise; it makes you able to do bigger and better things; it gives courage; it makes you humble and unselfish; it gives you stored-up energy that makes you able to master problems and endure sorrow or disappointment; it makes you feel God's presence.

Success

THE most successful man this world ever saw was considered a failure. The birds of the air have nests, the foxes have holes in the ground, but Jesus had nowhere to lay His head. Yet He so successfully fought sin and the devil that He came through life without having sinned once.

Man is here on earth to live for God, not for self. Job 10:8, 11-13; Ps. 40:7-10.

God's plan is that man shall live forever. That is success. Jesus entered heaven, and led the way, and made a way for us to enter as well. That means success for us. But not even God can spell SUCCESS without U. Neither can He save you without your intimate cooperation. Think of success in terms of eternity. "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Matt. 16:26.

Have You Your Key?

THE other day, just fooling about the stamp window of the post office substation where I got my mail, I reached in while the postal scales were idle and dropped a key on the pan. Just monkeylike, restless curiosity; that was all. The key weighed exactly a third of an ounce. It was a little key. I dropped it back into my pocket and started away, and then I stopped. I had thought of something.

I looked again to make sure. Yes, it was. That key was the key to the ignition of my automobile. And it weighed exactly a third of an ounce. The car itself weighed twenty-six hundred pounds when ready for the swift, sure spin over the road. Twenty-six hundred pounds is forty-one thousand six hundred ounces. Each of those ounces is three times as great as the weight of my ignition key. So the car itself weighs just one hundred twenty-four thousand eight hundred times as much as that key weighs. Yes, sir, so it does! I should have to stand and shovel keys into the scales for a good while to get enough on to weigh as much as the car weighs.

And yet that twenty-six hundred pounds can't do anything at all without that one little third of an ounce! A ton and six hundred pounds of helpless, foolish bulk waiting for the magic touch of a third of an ounce of steel before it can turn a wheel! A big lump of complicately manufactured, cunningly contrived mechanism surrounded by carriage-work and rubber and protected by a metal-bowed, textile-covered canopy—all this standing inert, wanting the touch of one one-hundred-twenty-four-thousand-eight-hundredth part of its own weight, to make it alive and worth while and of any use to anybody.—*Strickland Gillilan*.

The Key to True Success

MONEY in these days can get one anywhere and anything in this world except happiness. Some one has said, "Money is a strong key, unlocking many otherwise locked doors," but it never unlocks heaven's door. The man who puts his trust in gold and deposits his heart in the bank, thinking money means success, is like a starving traveler in the desert who, seeing a bag in the distance and

hurrying to it, found in it, instead of food which he sought, nothing but gold. He flung it from him in disappointment, and died for want of something that could save his life.

Diligence and application may bring one knowledge. Knowledge is power. Physical strength and endurance may bring the possessor publicity and a reputation. These things are counted as success in the ordinary understanding of the term, but *real* success should include both heaven and earth. "Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence."

Prayer changes the pray-er and the one prayed for. Prayer changed Gideon from a fearful, critical, timid man into a fearless, God-fearing warrior. Judges 6, 7. Prayer changed the servant of Elisha, who cried out in fear and despair upon seeing the foreign army surrounding his abode, into a happy, seeing, believing man. 2 Kings 6.

A lock without a key is like a bow without an arrow—quite useless. All have unsolved difficulties, also treasures behind lock and key. The money key, the knowledge key, the physical championship key—all bring a kind of success that this world admires and applauds, but these keys do not unlock the hidden blessings of the spiritual life and heaven. Prayer in the hand of faith is the only key which brings the user lasting and eternal success. *All may have the key.* Only a few know its value and use it. Missionary Volunteers! Use the Prayer Key. This will unlock both heaven and earth.

Preparation Before Power

JESUS said to His disciples long ago, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Right here we have the secret of the success of many soul winners, and likewise the failure of so many Christians to win souls—they will not follow the Great Fisherman. We, of this age, can no more expect to be winners of men and women without meeting the conditions, than could those twelve in the early days.

Dare we cease personal evangelism? A young woman says of her experience: "I well remember a rebuke I received in my junior year at college. One individual girl was much in my

Plan to distribute the Morning Watch Calendar widely this year.

For suggestions, see p. 16.

thought. I wanted so much to win her for the kingdom, but I feared she would sneer at me. At last I spoke, because I felt it was my duty. I shall never forget her words, 'I have been expecting you to speak to me about this matter for days, and I think ten times more of you for doing so.' Just to think that I had lived in constant fear of her sneers, and all the time she was longing for me to tell her about my Christ."

But what about the preparation? Has that been sufficient to bring the desired power? A young artist desired to copy a beautiful picture that hung in a palace in Rome. He was refused permission to copy it in the palace; so he set to work to reproduce it from memory. Hour after hour he would sit before the picture until it took possession of him, and then, hurrying home, he would paint. Each day he spent some time gazing on the original, and each day he saw some new loveliness. As he looked and toiled, his power grew. At last there stood in his studio such a wonderful copy that all who looked said, "We must see the original." This should be the aim of all our Christian service—so to reproduce Christ that men will say, "We must see Jesus." Time spent gazing upon Him is not lost. As we try to copy His spirit, our power grows, and we are able to draw others closer to Him.

MARJRIE WEST MARSH.

Prayer and the Morning Watch

WHAT IS PRAYER?—There are two things involved in prayer: (1) asking and (2) receiving. Dan. 10:12. It is talking to God as to a friend; hence something is said and done on both sides. Too often we feel hurt at not receiving at the hands of our friends, when we are at fault for not asking. James 4:3.

HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?—As we would talk with a friend. Our prayer life can be just as intimate.

Illustrations:

Abraham. Gen. 18:16-33.

Jacob. Gen. 32:24-30.

Jeremiah. Jer. 1:4-10.

WHEN SHOULD WE PRAY?—Dan. 6:10; Ps. 5:3; Mark 1:35.

The neglect of the Morning Watch probably accounts for much spiritual weakness. It is far better to ask for strength to overcome before the temptations and troubles come than afterward, when we must confess not only the mistake but also the failure to obtain power through prayer. The above-mentioned men of God began to pray early, always in the morning.

WHY A MORNING WATCH CALENDAR?

1. As a reminder. ("Men ought always to pray." Luke 18:1.)
2. To give a definite text for the definite morning appointment with God before you talk to man.



Silent Witnesses

(Program for December 15)

BY MRS. E. L. GARDNER

SONG SERVICE, ending with "Glory Be to the Father," No. 2, which is No. 466 in "Christ in Song." All songs today are given in this song book.

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalms 19.

OPENING SONG: "Twilight," No. 339.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

RECEIVING OF OFFERING AND REPORTS OF MISSIONARY WORK.

SONG: "Thy Glory Fills the Heavens," No. 341.

TALK: "A Brief History of Astronomy."

DEFINITION OF TERMS: See Notes to Leaders.

TALK: "Stellar Distances."

TALK: "Stars and Constellations." By several members.

SYMPOSIUM: "The Wanderers," p. 28.

TALK: "Orion," p. 27.

SONG: "I Sing the Power of God," No. 330.

BIBLE STUDY: "The Bible Says."

CLOSING SONG: "The Heavens Declare Thy Glory," No. 373.

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

In the Scripture lesson we read how David felt as he looked up into the heavens, which themselves declare the glory of God and give evidence of His creative power. The thought of this brings to his heart a spirit of worship which he has expressed in verses 7 to 11; and in the closing verses of the chapter David prays to be acceptable in the sight of such a great God.

This is the experience of all those who find joy in the study of the stars, silent witnesses to the love and power of God. Contemplation and study of the stars results in a closer touch with the Infinite.

It is hoped that those who are not already interested in the Progressive Class work and the Master Comrade class may become aroused to its possibilities through this study. You will find the requirements for Star Study in the "Junior Missionary Volunteer Handbook," pp. 53-59, 100, 101. If you have already taken up the study of astronomy with your group, review it and enlarge upon your study. Ask those who give the talks to sketch the star groups on the blackboard. Plan for an evening out in the open, and actually find the various stars.

Definition of terms: At the begin-

ning of a study of the stars, constellations, and planets, let us be sure we understand clearly what each term means. A *constellation* is a family of stars which we associate because of their grouping, such as, Orion, the Big Dipper, etc. A *star* is a great central sun around which revolve worlds each with its own moons, all bound together in one inseparable whole. A *planet* is a world revolving about a sun. It has no light of its own, but borrows light from its sun, the same as our planet, the earth, borrows light from our sun. The planets are much smaller than the stars, but because of their great distance from us the latter appear smaller.

A Brief History of Astronomy

THE shepherds of old, as they watched their sheep at night, knew and loved stars. As they lay with their flocks on the darkened hillsides, they studied the starry heavens until, in their imaginations, the stars grouped themselves into fantastic shapes of men and beasts. To these shapes the shepherds gave names, and about them they wove strange tales. Those stories and names have come down to us. The Chaldeans, who lived in and about Babylon, were among the earliest observers. Our present system of star groups, or constellations, began to be formed in those early times.

To the Greeks is given credit for the first genuine science of astronomy, though they borrowed the beginnings of their knowledge from the Babylonians and the Egyptians.

The Chinese take great pride in their early astronomical work, having in their possession some of the oldest records of solar eclipses. Two of their chief astronomers were put to death by order of the government for failing to announce an eclipse that took place in their time.

Thales lived more than six hundred years before Christ. We are indebted to him for the part of geometry which treats of lines, for the foundation of algebra, and also for what he did to awaken and keep alive an interest in astronomy. He determined the exact position of the sun in the heavens at the time of the equinoxes and the solstices. Two centuries before Christ a man named Hipparchus ascertained the length of the year within six minutes, and made the first star catalogue, locating definitely 1,080 stars. Ptolemy, who lived in

the second century after Christ, added new theories to the study of the stars. He believed the earth to be spherical, but rejected its rotation. Many of the early astronomers were put to death for their views on the stars. Others were exiled from their homes and suffered many things because they presented new theories regarding movements of the stars. To Galileo we must give the honor of the invention of the telescope—just a piece of lead pipe with a specially devised lens set at each end, the development of which has made possible the great advance in the study of the heavens in recent years. Kepler and Isaac Newton were two astronomers whom we remember in connection with our well-founded theories of astronomy.

Stellar Distances

A RAY of light is said to travel 186,000 miles a second. Traveling at that rate it would require one seventh of a second to go around this world, and approximately eight minutes to go to the sun, which is 93,000,000 miles away. But when we realize that traveling at this tremendous speed it would require more than four years to reach our nearest star, we are lost in the limitless vastness of space. It is interesting to look up at the stars at night and think that no doubt the light which now reaches our eyes from some of them may have started on its trip when Jesus walked the earth or when Moses was leading the children of Israel out of Egypt.

Professor David Todd, of the Amherst Observatory, in an attempt to help us comprehend the distance of the stars, says: "While one is taking two ordinary steps, at an average walking pace, light will travel a distance equal to eight times round the world, nearly two hundred thousand miles. Now to realize in some sense the enormous distance of the nearest fixed star from our earth, open a Webster's International Dictionary, which contains over two thousand pages of three columns each, or the equivalent. Begin to read as rapidly as you can, and imagine a ray of light to have just left the nearest fixed star at the instant you begin. By the time you have finished a single page, the star's light will have sped onward toward the earth no less than

one hundred million miles. Imagine that you could keep right on reading, tirelessly and without ceasing, day and night, just as light itself travels—how many pages would you have read when the ray of light from Alpha Centauri, the nearest fixed star, had reached the earth? You would have read it completely through,—not once, or twice, but nearly a hundred times. So enormously distant is this nearest of the stars that if it were blotted out of existence this present moment it would continue to shine in its accustomed place for more than four years to come. And other stars whose distances have been measured are a hundredfold more remote."

Surely we may exclaim with Eliphaz of old, "Behold the height of the stars, how high they are!" Job 22:12.

David wrote: "When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; what is man, that Thou art mindful of him? . . . For Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet." The first statement reveals man as small and insignificant, but the second part of the quotation shows him as great and glorious. This helps us to understand the character of God. We see how He can abhor a small lie in a small and unimportant human being, and yet be large-hearted enough to give His only Son for that very same one. David said, "As the heaven is high above the earth," (and that is a long way, isn't it?) "so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him." Ps. 103:11.

Stars and Constellations

(A week before this meeting, assign these topics. Ask the young people to prepare to present interesting facts and descriptions regarding the star or constellation they have been assigned. They may consult any reliable astronomy, or "In Starland," by Fannie Dickerson Chase. *Nature Magazine* may be helpful also.)

1. TAURUS (tau'rus), the Bull, contains two interesting groups of stars.
2. What M. V. hasn't located the Seven Sisters, or the PLEIADES (plē'yā-dēz)! But have you ever counted them to be sure that there are seven?
3. A constellation with which M.

V.'s in the Northern Hemisphere are well acquainted is the Big Dipper, or URSA MAJOR.

4. CASSIOPEIA (kās-i-o-pē'yā) is a constellation always to be found on the opposite side of the North Star from the Big Dipper.

5. The Northern Cross is called CYGNUS (sig'nūs), which means swan. Job mentions the star Arcturus. This is easily located if you have become acquainted with the Big Dipper. Follow the line of the last two stars in the handle, and it will bring you to the watcher of the bears. It is a very bright star and is orange in color. In December and January look for it in the east between midnight and dawn. It is a sun one thousand times brighter than our sun. It is among the swiftest moving of the stars visible to the naked eye. Surely only God could guide such a great sun safely along its own sky path when it is traveling at such speed. Job 38:32.

6. Another winter constellation is AURIGA (ō-rī'gā).

7. GEMINI (jēm'i-ni), the Heavenly Twins, has the form of a long rectangle, with the bright stars Castor and Pollux at its eastern end.

The Bible Says

HAVE the stars ever been counted? Ps. 147:4.

Who was once told to count the stars? Gen. 15:3, 5.

For what outstanding reasons were the stars created? Jer. 31:35; Gen. 1:17; 1:14; Ps. 19:1; 136:9.

What does Isaiah say of God's ability to measure the distance of the heavens? Isa. 40:12.

When was a group of false astronomers condemned to die? Dan. 2:2, 10-12.

What three star students followed a star? Matt. 2:1, 2.

What was the testimony of David as he looked on the heavens? Ps. 104:24; 97:6; 8:3, 4.

Program for December 22

We suggest that you plan for today a program of Christmas music, readings, and Scripture passages. No more beautiful reading on the first advent of the Saviour can be found than portions of chapters three and four in "The Desire of Ages." The scriptures which prophesy of His coming should be used today. A fascinating program may be worked out by following through the story of Christ's coming to earth as a babe, beginning with the first prophecy and continuing in the three ways mentioned.

Order through your Book and Bible House one for each of your members.

Out of the Old— Into the New

(Program for December 29)

BY G. M. MATHEWS

OPENING EXERCISES.

SONGS FOR TODAY: Hymns of purpose, determination, and consecration.

SCRIPTURE LESSON OR MEMORY GEM: Philippians 3:13, 14.

SUMMARY REPORTS: Given by the leaders or secretaries of the missionary bands sponsored.

GENERAL REPORTS OF SOCIETY WORK: Given by the society secretary.

TALK: "Finding Our Position." Given preferably by the retiring society leader, with comments on the reports about the society work which were given preceding this talk, and also pointing out clearly the weakness and the unfinished business of the society.

MUSICAL NUMBER.

POEM: "Land of Beginning Again." RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

SYMPOSIUM: "What Our M. V. Society Offers You for 1935."

TALK: "What You Can Help Us Do in 1935." Given by the best young speaker you have. This should be a challenge and a call to consecration, leading to signing the application for M. V. membership blanks.

QUARTET: "Only Two Ways," No. 11 in "Christ in Song," a climax to the call for members.

SIGNING APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP CARDS.

POEM: "A New Year's Wish." CLOSING HYMN: No. 295 in "Christ in Song," or No. 277 in "Gospel in Song."

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

The time has come for our annual renewal of Missionary Volunteer membership. Arouse interest today—sell the Missionary Volunteer idea to every young person in your church—and have each one sign an application for membership for 1935. Throughout December we have been taking inventory. Make this program a real "1935 Membership Day" for your society!

Banners.—By all means have the Senior Aim, Motto, and Pledge displayed during the program and at the proper time lead the whole society in repeating them. For prices on felt banners see the note on the officers' page. If you are unable to have the felt banners at this time, have some member of your society who knows how, letter the aim, motto, and pledge attractively on a good grade of cardboard.

Blanks.—A supply of M. V. Record Blank 1, "Application for Membership," should also be on hand and passed out at the close of the last talk. (Price, 25 cents per hundred.)

Advertise.—Since this meeting is

important, it would be well to advertise it several weeks in advance. Use pointed announcements on a bulletin board, conspicuously located; have terse announcements made in other meetings of the church; and, above all, extend personal invitations.

Finding Our Position

(Band reports and a general report by the society secretary should precede this talk. The speaker should comment on the reports briefly and then go on with such material listed below as he desires to use.)

DURING the month of December we've been taking inventory of our attitudes, our lives, and the work of the society to find out our standing at the close of the year. In what items have we made a gain? A loss? What is the final result—a gain?—a loss? Comment on the "gains," or accomplishments. Then balance by the "losses."

Several resolutely joined a "service band" and promised to remain ever active and reporting members—real assets to the society and its noble work. Today finds them quitters also, having petered tremendously. Perhaps they got "tired," or maybe they were "busy here and there."

The inventory also reveals that some of our young people are sick, spiritual invalids of greater or less degree, being quite able to accompany us on our hikes, but pretty poorly when it comes to a "walking singing band" in the Harvest Ingathering work. Some of these impotent folk take little or no spiritual nourishment; in fact, they haven't profited much from the services of the church and society, and their spiritual health forbids their taking part in our M. V. activities.

More alarming is the fact that not all of the young people whose church home is our church were enrolled in the society at all this year. Knowing that experience clearly shows that no one can long enjoy a healthy Christian experience unless he is actively engaged in religious worship and service, we may infer that these young people are in an extremely dangerous condition. They must be won back to the church and society soon, or it will be too late.

Another revelation is that although our society has been in motion the past year it has been slow motion, if the per capita report of missionary endeavor is any indication of the speed and number of our activities.

(Give the figures for some features of your society.)

What I have said has not been prompted by pessimism. Many encouraging things we could report regarding the work of our Missionary Volunteers. Many of the reports of our secretary are indeed Books of Acts. For these splendid services, sacrificial loyalty, and fine cooperation we are very thankful. God only can estimate the true value of the services rendered or of the souls helped toward the kingdom. But the facts revealed above by the inventories taken are significant. Today, December 29, 1934, is a capital time to think about them—and to lay plans to remedy them.

The Land of Beginning Again

(To be memorized and given with much feeling)

AFTER hearing the preceding talk by our leader, giving us a picture of our true situation, I wish there were some plan of beginning all over again. This poem well expresses my sentiments:

"I wish that there were some wonderful place

Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches,
And all of our poor, selfish grief,
Could be dropped, like a shabby old coat, at the door
And never put on again.

"I wish we could come on it all unaware,
Like the hunter who finds a lost trail;

And I wish that the one whom our blindness had done
The greatest injustice of all
Could be at the gates, like an old friend that waits
For the comrade he's gladdest to hall.

"We could find all the things we intended to do
But forgot, and remembered—too late;

Little praises unspoken, little promises broken,
And all of the thousand and one
Little duties neglected that might have perfected
The day for one less fortunate.

"It couldn't be possible not to be kind
In the Land of Beginning Again;
And the ones we misjudged and the ones whom we grudge

Their moments of victory here
Would find in the grasp of our loving handclasp
More than penitent lips could explain.

"For what had been hardest we'd know had been best,
And what had seemed lost would be gain;

For there isn't a sting that will not take wing
When we've freed it and laughed it away;

And I think that the laughter is most what we're after
In the Land of Beginning Again!

"So I wish that there were some wonderful place

Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches

And all our poor, selfish grief
Could be dropped, like a shabby old
coat, at the door,
And never put on again."

—Louise Fletcher Turkington.

Say, folks, don't you think we might consider the year 1935 as the Land of Beginning Again? We'll reach the door Tuesday. Knowing now where we have come short, I am glad for this brand new year in which really to begin again and do a lot better than we did in 1934. Thank God for 1935—the Land of Beginning Again!

What Our M. V. Society Offers You for 1935

(May be used as a talk, but preferably a symposium, having each speaker take one of the following paragraphs and use it as basic thought, weaving in illustrations and other material so as to make it a strong, personal selling point for the Missionary Volunteer work.)

1. It offers you membership in the most inspiring army ever marshaled on earth—an ever-increasing army of serious-minded Seventh-day Adventist youth who are consecrated to the lofty ideals and challenging service outlined in the Missionary Volunteer Aim, Motto, and Pledge; membership in an organization conducted by the young people and for the young people, where everybody takes part, learning to do by doing, bearing responsibility, and developing into the denomination's leaders of tomorrow; membership which unites the young people of Adventist churches around the world in Christian service and fellowship.

2. The cordial fellowship enjoyed while working and playing shoulder to shoulder with other wide-awake young people whose ideals forbid their taking part in the unwholesome things of life, who keenly appreciate clean sport and wholesome good times, ripens into fine friendships which are the most valuable assets in Christian life. These associates keep us away from worldly associations and bind us with strong cords to the truth. Finding our associates thus largely within the church greatly lessens our social problems in regard to parties and other public occasions, and also to the formation of harmful friendships which lead us away from this message.

3. It offers you the valuable and very helpful counsel, reproof, and instruction of older folk who are in sympathy with your problems, and whose counsel will greatly assist you in developing well-rounded, desirable

characters, and in establishing your philosophy of life. This service comes through the personal visits to the society of adult department workers and ministers, through the weekly programs presenting the material outlined for our young people in the GAZETTE, and through correspondence.

4. It proffers to you and continuously holds up before you a program of daily living which, if you will accept, will greatly simplify the problems of life and cut short many desires which otherwise make for unhappiness and unrest. This delightful program provides for a few moments of prayer and meditation early in the morning, known as the Morning Watch, and a few minutes caught during the day for Bible reading; it always urges you to have one eye, at least, watching for opportunities to do a kind deed for others. For those of you who wish to go farther it provides the M. V. Study and Service League, which prepares you and finds opportunities for you to do some soul-saving work. It will guide you in the systematic reading of supremely good books and worth-while magazines. It will increase your missionary zeal, and cause to grow within your heart a burden for the souls of your friends and associates. Thousands of talented youth from all parts of the world have adopted this reasonable program of life and have found that it works.

What You Can Help Us Do in 1935

"IN union there is strength." Our job necessitates our possessing the maximum strength and power possible, for if we do *our part* to carry "the advent message to all the world in this generation" more of us will need to be more earnest about our Father's business. The inventory reveals an almost unlimited field of service, one border of which is not far from our church and the other beyond the far-flung mission line of advance. It will need the best efforts of every young person we can induce to take the pledge to make an impression on our big task.

If each of us will visualize the wide meaning of this M. V. Aim, and if we are prompted to join this great youth movement by an experimental knowledge of the M. V. Motto,—that motto which proclaims the "constraining" or

"impelling" power of the love of Christ in our hearts; if knowing the aim and prompted by the motto we sincerely take the pledge, which is promising God and the church to *do something*, some activity, to bring to pass the aim because of the motto,—our society will advance, and prove a tremendous blessing to ourselves and this message.

Fellow comrades, the year 1935, unspotted and full of opportunities, is before us. This Land of Beginning Again we shall tread ere another Sabbath blesses us. What shall we do about it? Are we willing today in the closing hours of this eventful year to renew our consecration, to deepen it, to widen it, to heighten it, until it measures with the meaning of the cross? Are we willing to join hands with the many thousands of other loyal, faithful, earnest young men and women in nearly every land and with the youth in our church to do with our might what our hands find to do? If so, I show you the gateway to service. It is "Membership in the — Missionary Volunteer Society." The most all-inclusive New Year's resolution you can make is to sign the Missionary Volunteer membership pledge. Won't you join today? On the threshold of the New Year please remember that—

"To every man there openeth a High way and a Low,
And every man decideth the way his soul shall go."

(Here let those stand in reconsecration who wish to join the society, and pass out the application for membership blanks—M. V. Record Blank 1—for their signatures.)

A New Year's Wish

THIS is a curious New Year's wish, I know,
And yet it is sincere. I wish for you
That measure of real joys which you bestow
Throughout the year; such good as you may do
From day to day; such kindness as you show
To those who halt through fear or lose the way;
Such happy hours as you to children give;
Such help as you hold out to those who live
Where shadows group to make life cold and gray;
Such hopes as you help others to achieve;
Such comfort as you bear to those who grieve;
Such peace as your own presence radiates.
And thus my wish removes you far from Fate's
False prated sway, leaving in your own hand
The power to gain what you yourself command.

—L. M. Hodges.

Please send your report to your conference M. V. secretary promptly.

Junior M. V. Meetings

The Christian's Guide— The Bible

(Program for December 1)

BY MELVIN OSS

SONGS FOR TODAY: "When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder," "Brighten the Corner Where You Are," "Can the World See Jesus in You?" "Living Bibles," and "Give Me the Bible."

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalms 95:1-6.
PRAYERS thanking God for the Bible and asking His help in living according to its teachings, so that each may follow the course outlined to the kingdom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS, AND OFFERTORY.

TALK: "The Need of a Guide."

STUDY: "How the Guidebook Was Written."

TALKS: "The Guidebook," "Caution Signals."

APPROPRIATE HYMN.

PRACTICE in the use of concordance and reference columns in the Bible.

SYMPOSIUM: "How My Bible Helps Me."

STORY: "How Do You Read It?"

SYMPOSIUM: "The Missionary Book," page 18.

DUET: "The Bible Satisfies," No. 73 in "Gospel in Song."

Notes to Superintendents

Some Junior's attitude toward the Bible may be decided for life in this meeting today. Do everything you can to enlist interest in Bible study. If your group is in special need of drills on Bible knowledge, plan some extra meetings during the winter for Bible drills.

Spend time in drilling on finding references. Bible knowledge increases only with practice in the use of the book.

"The Junior Bible Year," Missionary Volunteer Leaflet No. 55, is prepared by the Young People's Department and gives a reading assignment for each day of the year. One of these leaflets should be provided for each Junior. (Price, 60 cents per hundred. Order through your Book and Bible House.) The assignments may be checked as read. The society secretary should make application to the conference Missionary Volunteer secretary for a Bible Year Certificate for each Junior who has completed the assignments for the year. (If Juniors wish to extend the reading over two consecutive years, they may receive the Bible Year Certificate at the end of that time.) Appeal earnestly to your Juniors to complete the Bible Year for 1934 and to enroll for 1935.

The Need of a Guide

WE are all on the journey of life. God knows the way from beginning to end. We can learn from Him about the way that is best for us to take from the Guidebook which He has given. It is called the Bible.

It is not best for us to remain in ignorance and lose our way when the Guidebook is at our disposal. We should consult it frequently. To those who are lost it shows the way to life eternal. Jesus is the way. John 14:6. The Bible points us to Jesus.

The Bible shows us the right course to take. It is sin to miss the way. It is a sin to neglect consulting the Guidebook which shows us the way and keeps us from going astray.

We are surrounded by darkness and cannot see without a light. The Bible is this light to show us the way. (Read Ps. 119:105.) The world fails to recognize that the things that are happening are signs that Jesus will soon return. "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." 1 Thess. 5:4, 5. Let us thank God for the light of the Bible which He has given to us.

How the Guidebook Was Written

THE Bible is made up of many books prepared by different writers. Yet these men did not write down for us their own notions and opinions. They were controlled by the Holy Spirit in the writing. (Read 2 Peter 1:21.) So much were they under divine control, called inspiration, that they wrote down the message that came whether they fully understood it or not. 1 Peter 1:10, 11.

Although even the prophets often had to study to understand the divine message, God knew what was necessary for us. In giving us the Bible He has made known Himself to us. All these revealed truths are for us to understand. Deut. 29:29. In reading the Bible we should pray to understand God's message for us.

The Guidebook

THE Bible is God's chart by which we may steer our lives. It keeps us from the bottom of the sea of sin; it shows us where and how to find the harbor of heaven, and how to reach it without running on the rocks of temptation. Have we ever really studied this chart in such a way as to know how necessary it is in steering our lives?

In the course of his travels from town to town, a tourist met an old friend. They talked long about their spiritual and moral problems. The traveler complained, "Life has become so much more complex and difficult than our fathers found it that often I don't know what is right or which way to turn." "When you're in that predicament on the road, I knew what you do," responded the friend. "You go to your road book. Why not go by our spiritual road book? I keep a Bible on my desk and use it as a guide to business."

Knowing God's will is a progressive thing. The little we know will grow and grow, if we, like Paul, are in earnest and want to know God's will and follow as He guides. "Can we be sure of God's leading?" asked a young preacher of a group of ministers. An old minister arose and exclaimed, "Yes—if we give God time!" Progressive! As a lamp to my feet. The lamp does not light us from where we are to our destination in one path of light, but just a step ahead. I do not know God's will for me to the end of life, but I may know what is His will for me at this moment.

The longer we follow the instructions in the road book, the more we know by experience that we can trust it. So with the Guidebook to eternal life which Christ has left us. If we follow its instructions, it will lead us to the new earth.

How Do You Read It?

"WHERE in the world is my Bible, Helen?"

"I don't know. Where did you put it?"

"Well, if I knew, I wouldn't be asking you," replied Beth irritably. "There it is under those magazines. Now what chapter did I read last night? I put a slip of paper in, so that I could find the place. Here it is." So saying she settled down to read. "There; that's done," said she a

The book "The Bible Year" costs only 60 cents, cloth; or 25 cents, paper.

few minutes later. "I haven't missed once since the girls of our class promised to read a chapter a day."

"What's the idea?" asked Helen.

"What do you mean—the idea?" inquired Beth.

"Oh, it just doesn't seem to me that you're getting much out of it, if you can't even remember where you were reading."

"I'm keeping up my own record and that of the class, am I not?"

"I wonder," said Helen.

As the girls started to their room for the night, the telephone rang. "I'll answer it, mother," called Helen. "Beth, it's for you."

"Well, what do you know about that!" exclaimed Beth some fifteen minutes later. "Louise makes me tired. She's just read her chapter for tonight, and she says that we simply must ask Mary Korkmas to join our new club. She says Mary is lonely, and she is our age and in our class at school, and that it's the Christian thing to do, and that she has felt it was right all the time; but that since she read that chapter in Corinthians tonight, she knows it's the only thing to do." Beth stopped to get her breath.

"Why not ask Mary?"

"Why, Helen, she's a Syrian. The trouble with Louise is that she's taking this Bible reading too seriously."

"Bible reading should be taken seriously, shouldn't it?" Helen replied.—*Ina Shaw.*

Caution Signals

(Near the leader's desk should be placed a large railroad crossing sign inscribed, "Stop! Look! Listen!" Have six lesser signs, like those used as guideposts, holding up the appropriate one at each of the italicized phrases given below. These may be cut from cardboard and mounted on a slender standard with supports of its own, or be held in the leader's hand. But they will be more impressive if lined up on the table or platform as they are used.)

THE Bible is the road map whose directions all travelers would do well to heed. We are promised safety and security if we follow its signposts along the way—if we stop, look, and listen where danger lies in wait for us or where a clear view is difficult. Careful instructions mark the way to the Father's house so that even through dark places one may expect to arrive safely. Seven points of caution should be given careful consideration.

1. *Slow down upon approaching an important decision.* Lift your heart to the Father for the light that never faileth. (Here read John 16:13.)

2. *Slow down when meeting those of*

less Christian experience than you have had. You do not know whether they have been taught to drive well, or steer their lives into safe roadways in emergencies. 1 Cor. 8:11.

3. *Slow down when approaching parked lives which seem to have been stranded.* Perhaps God led you that way on purpose to give you an opportunity for service. Dan. 12:3.

4. *Come to a standstill (Stop sign) when drawing near pedestrians, especially little children or aged travelers.* Do not seek the right of way if it would injure or cripple any one in his spiritual life. Rom. 15:1.

5. *Look out for the unexpected entrance of temptation into your life.* Some person hurrying recklessly along life's highway may scatter obstacles that will surely wreck a traveler who is not on his guard. James 1:12.

6. *Change course when traveling if by so doing you can help to carry a burden too heavy for another.* Gal. 6:2.

7. *Stop! Look! Listen! Stop* while there is yet time. *Look* carefully at your road map. Keep it always by you. *Listen* to your conscience. Ask God to guide and guard you. Ps. 25:4.—"Missionary Review of the World."

How My Bible Helps Me

(By six Juniors)

1. My Bible helps me to understand Jesus. (Read Heb. 12:1, 2.) When I read the Bible, I read the story of Jesus. I cannot understand the whole meaning of His life. But when I read the story of how He died for us, I can understand a little of the greatness of that story, and I can see that because He died for us and lives again, we may live, if we follow Him.

2. My Bible helps me to know the will of God. (Read Rom. 12:1, 2.) Without reading the Bible I would not know what God wants me to do. When I read the story of the boy Jesus and see His example, I know God wants me to be like Him. When I read all of Jesus' teachings, I know those are the things that God wants me to do. The stories of the brave men and women I read about in my Bible show me what I am to do. So my Bible helps me.

3. My Bible warns me against disobedience. (Read Matt. 7:24-29.) So many stories in our Bible tell us what happened to disobedient and wicked people because they did not listen to God's commands. I learn from these to do as God tells us to do, and to try to follow every day the things I read in the Bible.

4. My Bible helps me to trust God. (Read Ps. 91:4.) It has in it so many promises of God's goodness and mercy that I learn to trust Him and let Him guide me. It has so many stories of how God helped those who put their faith in Him that I know if I listen to what He wants me to do I can trust Him. He will never fail me. He knows every little sparrow and watches over them all; surely

He takes care of all His children whom He loves. "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

5. My Bible helps me to live a good life. My Bible teaches me to live close to God every day. It teaches me to be kind at home, fair on the school ground, honest in the school-room, busy and faithful at church. It tells me what I should do. The many stories of the great men who lived as God would have them live are written there to be our examples—to help us to live good lives. My Bible helps me to live better day by day. But to get this help I must read it every day.

6. My Bible helps me to be kind to others. It is not enough to know what God wants us to do, and just try to be good ourselves. We must do good to others. Jesus went about doing good. Almost all of His life and all of His lessons and teaching were about doing good. So we must help others, be kind to those who need kindness, work for those who need help, give to the needy, speak a word of cheer. Our Bible helps us do this—for it shows us the way. (Read Eph. 5:1, 2.)—*Luther League Review.*



My Watchtower

(Program for December 8)

BY CLARENCE V. ANDERSON

SONG.

PRAYER.

OFFERING AND REPORTS.

SONG.

TALK: "My Watchtower." (Close with the poem "The Morning Watch," found on the inside front cover of the 1931 Morning Watch Calendar.)

STORIES: "Robbie's Prayer" and "Free Light."

POEM: "When Father Prays," p. 40 in "Choice Poems."

STORY: "Brigands, Gunpowder, and a Little Prayer Meeting."

POEM: "The Snow Prayer."

ENROLLMENT for active participation in the Merning Watch for 1935.

CLOSING HYMN.

Note to Superintendents

Order Morning Watch calendars early so you can give them out to your Juniors today. See the list of suggestions, p. 16, for the distribution of the calendar. Juniors as well as Seniors will find enjoyment in passing copies of this calendar on to others.

My Watchtower

"A MOMENT in the morning—

A moment if no more—

It is better than an hour

When the trying day is o'er."

We used to be awakened each morning, when in the home of an elderly gentleman whose life testified to an intimate walk with God, by his morning song. It was always the same song and closed with the following

Remember the Amazon Missions. Have you done your share for them?

words: "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." His was a personal morning watch with God, and a definite experience came to him.

The morning prayer habit should be formed in early youth. Make the practice so regular that you will feel a real lack if it is omitted, although this should never be allowed.

There are some habits you should never form, but the prayer habit is a necessary one—not a set form of words, but a set time to petition Heaven for blessing during the troublous days.

Prayer should be of double nature: We should ask God for the things we need, and thank Him for blessings received. Two little girls were spending the night together. Both knelt beside the bed for prayer. Both repeated their prayer aloud. After the amens had been said, one little girl jumped quickly into bed, but the other remained upon her knees. When the second had finished, the first little girl asked why the other had stayed in the praying attitude after prayer. "I waited to see if Jesus had anything to say to me," was the reply. "Did He say anything?" came the question. "Yes. He told me that I had been cross with brother today, which was not right, and that I had answered mother impolitely, and that I should beg forgiveness were I to have God's blessing."

Many pray and ask, but receive not because they are not willing to confess their sins. How do you pray?

When an early translation of the Bible was being printed, a little girl picked up a scrap of paper from the proofs which she found on the floor of the printing room where her father worked. On it she read, "For God so loved the world, that He gave—" Happily she tucked the fragment in her pocket and sang all day as she worked. She had known only a stern God whom she feared. She thought of Him as a terrible Power who meted out punishment for sinners. At night the mother asked, "Why are you so happy today?"

The little girl showed her precious bit of paper.

"But what is there here for cause of gladness?" asked the mother. "It does not say what God gave."

"Oh, mother," rejoined the little girl, "if God could love us well enough

to give us anything, it must be something good, and it makes me so happy I want to sing."

My morning watch should include not only my prayer, but my listening to that still small voice whispering within, always guiding aright. It should also include a message from the Book of books which starts the song in the morning and makes all things brighter and the burden lighter.

In 2 Kings 6:15-17 you will find the story of two men. One of them kept the morning watch and the other did not, though I think the latter did after this experience. Elisha had talked to God early that morning and had seen the vision of angels and so was not afraid of the foreign host. The morning prayer always gives us a larger spiritual vision. Try it. Elisha's servant thought he had no time for a morning watch, and so he was not prepared to face the day's test. He saw only the evil. Prayer will open our eyes and enable us to see the good and the wall of protection provided. Elisha's prayer for the young man brought a new experience.

Gideon prayed in the evening, and in the morning came to find the answer to his prayer. Judges 6:36-40.

During religious persecution in a certain country a boy had been found with a Bible among his belongings. The book was taken away from him and thrown into the flames before his very eyes. It disappeared into ashes. The persecutors turned to the boy and laughed scornfully, saying, "Now you are finished with that book." "Yes," said the boy, "you may burn the pages of that book, but you cannot destroy the Gospel of John that I have here," pointing to his heart. He had committed the whole of the Gospel of John to memory. Dear Juniors, the time is coming when we shall not be permitted to study our Bibles as openly as today. Hide away in your memory that morning watch text every day. It will come in handy some time. Say to yourselves, "I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what He will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved." Hab. 2:1.

The Morning Watch is a life enrollment. Never give it up. The backslider generally slides off the morning prayer first, and after that the sliding back is easy.

God lives. The best time to find Him is in the morning.

The Snow Prayer

(The last line of each stanza may be sung by three or four small children standing behind the child who recites the poem, or it may be sung in unison by the Juniors.)

I LEARNED it in the Bible,
A tender little prayer,
And when the flakes are falling
So beautiful and fair,
I say to my dear Saviour
This little prayer I know:
"Wash me and I shall be whiter
than snow."

For I have often grieved Him
With sinful words and ways;
I'll ask Him to forgive me,
And help me all my days.
He shed His blood so precious,
Because He loved me so.
"Wash me and I shall be whiter
than snow."

I want to be like Jesus,
That His pure eyes may see
A heart made clean and spotless
To serve Him faithfully.
And so I'll ask Him daily
His mercy to bestow.
"Wash me and I shall be whiter
than snow."

Robbie's Prayer

LITTLE Walter coming home from school entered the room where his mother sat sewing. She spoke cheerily, "Well, how is mother's boy today?" Then looking up she observed an odd expression on his face and continued, "You're not sick?"

"No, mother, but I feel sad. You see, Robbie and I always walk together going and coming from school, and I noticed he had not worn any overcoat this winter, but I didn't say anything, as I didn't want to be impolite. But today he said, 'My, I'm so cold!' And I said, 'Where's your overcoat?' Then he told me it is too small and his father can't buy him a new one this winter; so he's afraid he will not be able to go to school. He says that he and his little sisters have been praying so hard for an overcoat for him and shoes for them, but they did not come at Christmas time as they thought they would, and they are really discouraged. And Robbie has such an awful cough, mother."

Tears came to Walter's eyes, and he said, "The Lord will answer Robbie's prayer, won't He, mamma?"

"Yes, darling," replied his mother, and sent him off to play.

That evening his mother and father had a long talk together. A few days afterward Robbie received from "an unknown friend" a large package containing an overcoat and three pairs of shoes.

God *does* hear children's prayers.

Free Light

NOT far from where I live in England there is a ridge of hills. In the springtime the woods are full of blue-bells and other lovely flowers, and the birds are singing all day long. On one of the hilltops there you can see, above the trees, the sails of a little windmill. They are always spinning around, for the winds are always moving on that ridge of hills; and whichever way they blow, and whether they are warm or cold, the windmill always turns to catch them and let them spin its sails.

I used to wonder why it was there and what it was doing. One day I discovered what it was for. I went along a path that led quite close to it. When I drew near, I saw that it stood in the grounds of a large house and that there was something printed on it. In large letters just beneath the sails I read the words, "Free Light." Free light? What did that mean? It meant that those sails, always spinning around, were working a machine that made electricity; and the electricity was stored up so that the house near by always had electric light. It is free light, too, because once you have the machinery of your windmill up and your storage batteries in place, there are no bills to pay to any electric light company or any one else. God's wind is free, and if you can catch and use its power, you can have as much electric light and heat as you want. Your house can be brightly lighted even on the darkest night and warm and comfortable even in the coldest weather. And it costs you nothing. Isn't it wonderful?

That little windmill working away making its free light made me think of something else even more wonderful. It reminded me of how Jesus once spoke about the wind that blows where it will, and you can hear its sound, though you never know where it has come from or where it goes. He said that God's Spirit is like that, always moving about you, though you never see it; but if you can catch and use it, it will fill the house of your life with free light and power. Only you must learn to put up your little windmills every day. Do you know what they are? They are your prayers. When you say your prayers in the morning and the evening, you are putting up your little human wind-

mill to catch the unseen Spirit of God and to bring its help and power into your own heart and life. Jesus Himself always did it. He was always slipping away by Himself to pray in some quiet place, on the mountain side, or in the desert, or in the garden. That was why His life was always so full of the light of goodness and the warmth of love and the power to conquer temptation and to be unselfish. He never forgot the windmill. And if you and I are to be like Him, we must not forget it either.

Brigands, Gunpowder, and a Little Prayer Meeting

A BRIGAND and his band had installed themselves in a city in South China, named Kweilin, where they lived secure for some months by sheer force and terrorism. On pain of imprisonment, torture, or death, they compelled the inhabitants to give them goods, money, and valuables. At last a relieving army was sent to Kweilin and the robber horde turned out. Before they left, they threatened revenge—if they were turned out, they would leave the city an "empty level." It was only a little while afterward that eight hundred buckets of gunpowder were discovered with the fuse nearly burned. These were to have made the threat come true.

But not many months had passed before the same brigands reappeared, threatening to come into the city again. What could be done? The brigands were many, and the few soldiers who had remained of the relieving force were obviously outnumbered. In the mission hospital a little band of Christians prayed—Chinese nurses, patients, servants, and the two foreign missionaries. They met more than once. Outside was a cloudless sky. Suddenly peals of thunder were heard, darkness came on gradually, and by noon the storm was echoing wildly among the hills. Vivid lightning lit up the room where the little band of Christians still knelt in prayer. Then came rain, at first a few drops, but gradually a rushing flood. Outside the city a few courageous souls, under a leader, were sallying forth to attack the brigands. Suddenly some hundreds of the latter turned tail and fled. They had to cross a stream, and every moment the water was deepening and swirling madly under the torrential rain. Four

hundred of the brigands were carried away by the flooded, rushing stream.

A few days afterward the hospital doctor was visiting an official who was ill. "Is it true that the hospital was praying for Peh-Chong-hsi [the relieving general who was leading his little company of soldiers out of the city against the brigands during the storm] when the robbers were driven back?" the official asked. "Quite true," replied the doctor. "Your God surely hears prayer," said the patient. Then suddenly he stood up. "Pray to your God now for me also."



Starry Messengers

(Program for December 15)

BY MARJORIE WEST MARSH

OPENING SONG: "Twilight," No. 115 in "Junior Song Book," or No. 339 in "Christ in Song."

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalms 19 or Psalms 136:1-11, 23-26. Read responsively, the leader reading the first verse and the group the next. Enough Bibles should be provided so that at least every second person has a Bible.

PRAYER, REPORTS, AND OFFERTORY.
SONG: "Thy Glory Fills the Heavens," No. 341 in "Christ in Song."

TALK: "A Brief History of Astronomy," p. 20.

TALK: "Stars and Constellations," page 21.

TALK: "Stellar Distances," p. 21.

SYMPOSIUM: "The Wanderers."

TALK: "Orion."

CLOSING SONG: "I Sing the Power of God," No. 330 in "Christ in Song."

BENEDICTION: Psalms 19:14.

Notes to Superintendents

Read the Notes to Leaders in the Senior program, p. 20.

Those Juniors who have already worked on their Star Study requirements for the Progressive Classes will be delighted to talk about their findings. And those who have not begun their work on this study will today become intensely interested in the starry messengers of God's love and care and power, we hope.

Adapt the program to fit the needs of your society. Ask the children to draw on the blackboard the star groups explained. Take the Juniors out for an evening of star study under the twinkling canopy of the heavens. With so many brilliant constellations in the December skies, you will have no trouble in locating several.

Orion

THE constellation of Orion (pronounced ô-ri'on) is the most magnificent in the heavens. It contains more bright stars than any other single group. To the ancients this figure

represented a giant, Orion, placed in the heavens in heroic attitude facing Taurus, the mighty Bull, who, with fire darting from his eye, is about to make an onset with his splendid long horns. Orion stands with his right arm uplifted, and his great club in the air ready to strike. Over his left arm hangs a lion's skin, which he holds up as a sort of shield.

With the exception of the Big Dipper, Orion is the easiest of all the constellations to find, provided you look for it at the right time of the year, which is during the winter months. During November and December Orion rises a little earlier each evening until, during the week on each side of New Year's Day, he appears in the east just as daylight fades. In February he stands erect in the southern sky at nine o'clock in the evening. In March and April he is rushing furiously down the western sky after Taurus and the Pleiades, and by the middle of May he has disappeared from the evening sky. In the latter half of July the very early riser can catch a glimpse of him in the east just before daylight. Then again in late October we may watch for him between nine and ten o'clock.

Orion is marked by four bright stars forming a parallelogram. Since he is represented as facing Taurus, Betelgeuse (hēt-ēl-gūz'), a red star of the first magnitude, marks the right shoulder of the mighty hunter, and Bellatrix (bē-lā'triks) the left shoulder. Rigel (rī'jel), a bluish-white star of the first magnitude, marks the left foot, and Saiph (sā-īf') the right knee. (Stars do not all appear to us to be of the same size and brightness; some look much larger and more brilliant than others. The stars that appear to be the most brilliant are called first magnitude stars. Those next brightest are second magnitude stars. There are six magnitudes visible to the unaided eye, but to the sensitive photographic plate used with the large telescopes in photographing the heavenly bodies there are over twenty magnitudes.)

Near the center of the parallelogram lie three bright stars, which constitute the bands, or belt, of Orion. Extending southward from the belt is an irregular line of three stars, which marks the giant's sword. The telescope reveals the middle star, Theta, of this last group (the sword), to be

a multiple star (one which appears as a single star until separated into two or more by the telescope), the four principal stars being arranged in the form of an irregular quadrilateral, a trapezium, with two others near and still others scattered throughout the great hazy, cloudlike mass known as the Great Nebula of Orion surrounding this star. The word "nebula" comes from the Latin word for cloud.

Later astronomers have found through more powerful telescopes and photographic plates that the trapezium is a dark nebula, and that dark nebulae may be composed of dark dust or gaseous clouds. The dark space within the trapezium is thought to have a diameter of sixteen trillion seven hundred fifty billion miles. The diameter of the orbit of the earth is one hundred eighty-six million miles. These figures show that ninety thousand of these orbits, side by side, forming one straight line of rings, could be placed between the stars of the trapezium. Our finite minds cannot grasp the immensity of these figures—and yet this is only a very small part of the universe of God.

In 1848 Mrs. E. G. White was shown some of the events related to the Saviour's return to this earth. After her vision she wrote in part: "Dark, heavy clouds came up, and clashed against each other. The atmosphere parted and rolled back; then we could look up through the open space in Orion, whence came the voice of God. The holy city will come down through that open space."

The Wanderers

(The following facts about the planets may be clipped and given out before the meeting. The numbers call for the planets in their order from the sun.)

INTRODUCTION:

If we look along the path of the sun—one night after another—we are likely to see a bright point of light which looks almost like a star, and yet it is certain that this point of light really does move among the other stars. What kind of heavenly object then is this?

The bright point of light which seems to be almost like the other stars when we look at it with the naked eye is really another world, or planet, like our earth. The term "planet" is taken from the Greek word for *wanderer*. Because of the movement of these bodies through the heavens they are called planets. The reason the planets, some of which are smaller and some larger than our earth, can be seen to move is that they are quite near our earth in comparison with the

fixed stars. Planets are often called stars, morning and evening stars; but they are not stars in the true sense of the word, for stars are suns, supposedly with worlds, or dark bodies, revolving around them, as our earth revolves around the sun. Planets shine by the reflected light of the star around which they revolve; stars shine by their own light. The reason planets shine like stars is that the light from the sun which strikes them is reflected to the earth in exactly the same way that the sunlight falling on a mirror is reflected away in another direction.

To prove that the apparently slowly moving point of light is really a world, or a planet, and not a distant star, or sun, notice whether it shines with a steady light or whether it twinkles. None of the planets, except Mercury, ever twinkle unless they are very near the horizon. Then look at this point of light through a pair of opera glasses or a small telescope. It will appear to you to be a round body, whereas a star, even when viewed through the greatest telescope, is never larger than a mere point of light.

The major planets of our system are nine in number. Given in the order of size, from the largest to the smallest, they are: Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Uranus, Earth, Pluto (?), Venus, Mars, Mercury. The planets, with the exception of Uranus, rotate upon their axes from west to east; and they all move in that same direction around the sun, which is opposite to the motion of the hands of a watch.

1. MERCURY was called "the sparkling one" by the ancient Greeks. Because it does not appear so high in the heavens as the other planets, its light passes through a thicker and more hazy layer of the atmosphere and hence shines with a less steady, or a twinkling, light. Its diameter is about three thousand miles, and it has a volume one thirtieth that of the earth. It is the nearest planet to the sun, averaging thirty-six million miles away. Mercury whirls about the sun at the rate of thirty miles a second, making its year eighty-eight of our days long. It rotates on its axis in exactly this same length of time, making its day the same length as its year. Look for Mercury just above the eastern horizon for about an hour before the sun rises in the spring and above the western horizon for about an hour after the sun sets in the autumn. Its pale ash color will help you to single it out from the stars about.

2. VENUS, termed "the shepherd's star" and "the queen of beauty," is so much brighter than any of the other stars or planets that you will know her. Indeed when Venus is the brightest, and the sun is far enough away from her, she can often be seen with the naked eye in the daytime, if the sky is clear. Once when Napoleon went to Luxemburg to be fêted, he was surprised on his arrival to find the populace more in-

terested in observing a celestial object than in him or his brilliant staff. Upon inquiry he found that they were observing what in their superstition they regarded as his star, the star of the conqueror of Italy. When the emperor himself recognized that it was Venus shining brightly upon them at midday, he too was interested. Venus reaches its maximum brilliance only every eighth year. Her diameter is nearly that of the earth. Her year is two hundred twenty-five of our days long.

3. **THE EARTH** is our own planet. We are ninety-three million miles from the sun. The diameter of our globe is 7,920 miles, which makes the circumference at the equator about twenty-five thousand miles. Although the surface of the earth seems very irregular to us, the distance between the highest mountain and the deepest part of the ocean bed being about twelve miles, yet on a globe fifteen feet in diameter Mt. Everest would be represented by a projection but one eighth of an inch high, and the greatest depression of the ocean only one seventh of an inch deep.

4. **MARS** is a planet of much interest, because many have thought its resemblance to our earth close enough to warrant hope that it is peopled with human beings like us. Its year is six hundred eighty-seven days long, and its day is a little over twenty-four hours. Two phenomena are peculiar to Mars and both are puzzling: (1) the white polar caps and (2) the various shaded and shaped streaks on the planet. Astronomers have studied by telescope and spectroscope these markings, but have not yet been agreed as to what they are. However, it is known that Mars has seasons, as our earth does; that its climate is much colder than ours; that its atmosphere has much less oxygen and less vapor than ours. Mars has two moons with diameters estimated as five and ten miles respectively.

5. **JUPITER**, "the belted world," the largest planet which revolves around our sun, is fifth in distance from him. It is the giant of our solar system—larger than all the other planets put together—about ninety thousand miles in diameter, or about thirteen hundred times as large as our earth. If Jupiter were as near to us as the moon, it would take the place of one thousand full moons; yet if Jupiter became a planetary attendant of the nearest star, Alpha Centauri, our largest telescopes would seek for it in vain! Jupiter is crossed with several bands and has nine moons, but neither his belts nor his moons can be seen without a glass.

6. **SATURN**. If Jupiter is the king of the planets, Saturn is the queen. With her golden rings, beautifully tinted cloud belts, and magnificent train of moons, Saturn is unquestionably the most interesting object in the sky. Saturn's year is twenty-nine of our years long; its day is slightly over

ten of our hours long. The most interesting feature of Saturn is its rings. Sometimes when viewed from a certain angle, the rings appear as a fine line of light passing through the center of the planet at the equator and extending out for some distance beyond the planet at each side; then again they have disappeared altogether; and still again they appear as broad surfaces about the planet. The Dutch astronomer Huygens in 1655 discovered that what had perplexed and annoyed astronomers was a broad, flat ring nearly parallel to the planet's equator. Later it was found that this ring consists of three concentric rings, instead of one, which are continually whirling around Saturn. The rings are thought to consist of myriads of small moons, closely packed together, each in its own orbit. The bright ring is the most densely packed. Besides this Saturn has ten large separate and distinct moons.

7. **URANUS** is the planet that revolves backward, together with its four moons. It is nearly two billion miles from the sun, but it goes around that body once in 30,686 days. One may distinguish its pale green color on a clear, moonless night in the spring and summer months. Before William Herschel, a native of northern Germany, discovered with his homemade telescope that Uranus is a planet, astronomers frequently mistook it for a fixed star. A day on Uranus is thought to be eleven hours long and a year is eighty-four of our years long.

8. **NEPTUNE**. When searching for a cause for the variation in motion, though slight, exhibited by Uranus, astronomers finally observed this farthest planet in our solar system exerting an influence over the already discovered planet. Neptune is so far away from the sun that it cannot be seen with the naked eye, but can easily be seen with a good opera-glass. Neptune is attended by one moon, which performs the same curious feat as do those of Uranus, traveling from east to west instead of from west to east.

9. **PLUTO** is the most recently discovered planet in our solar system. The discovery of this farthestmost planet was announced in March, 1930. Percival Lowell and other astronomers at the Flagstaff, Arizona, observatory, searched fruitlessly for many years for a planet they thought to be beyond Neptune. But Mr. Lowell died in 1916, and not until fourteen years later was Pluto actually found. The planet is said to be named appropriately, as the first two letters of Pluto are the initials of Percival Lowell, the founder of the observatory where the planet was discovered. Little is known of Pluto except that it is somewhat smaller in size than the earth, that its year is 249 of our years, and that its temperature is very cold.

Out of the Old—Into the New

(Program for December 29)

BY G. M. MATHEWS

OPENING SONG: "Father, Lead Me Day by Day," No. 21 in the "Junior Song Book."

SCRIPTURE LESSON OR MEMORY GEM: Philippians 3:13, 14.

OTHER OPENING EXERCISES.

POEM: "What Is This Coming Year?" p. 107 in "Choice Poems."

TALK: "Those Shabby Gibeonites," revealing the unfinished work as well as what the society accomplished during the year 1934.

SONG: "The Captain's Call," No. 66 in the "Junior Song Book."

POEM: "The Land of Beginning Again," p. 22.

DIALOGUE: "The Kind of Junior Society We Want at — Next Year."

The parts should be memorized and given enthusiastically. It will sell the Junior work to both Juniors and parents, and help you to enlist a fine group of members for 1935.

SIGNING APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP BLANKS.

POEM: "My Resolve."

SONG: "The Youth of the World," No. 36 in the "Junior Song Book."

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Superintendents

It is important that we remember that the working out of the J. M. V. plans requires a distinct organization just for Juniors. It may be a band of the Senior Society or a fully organized Junior Society (which is preferable), but it must be separate and distinct. Today's program gives opportunity to reveal what has been done by and for the Juniors, the vast, almost unlimited fields yet unentered, and a rare opportunity to enlist every Junior in the church under the green and gold J. M. V. banner.

Decorate the church a bit for this program. Display terse quotations on the importance of the Junior work; placards revealing some of the things the Juniors have done, such as a board with the knots they have learned to tie; and, above all, banners or posters bearing the J. M. V. Pledge and Law.

Order early application for membership blanks (M. V. Record Blank 1). Price, 25 cents per hundred.

Those Shabby Gibeonites

You remember the story of the Gibeonites, of course. Joshua 9:3-6. Weren't they a sorry looking set as they appeared before Joshua? Ragged garments, patched, torn shoes, old leaky water bottles of smelly skin, and hard, moldy bread. I wonder whether God, as He looks down on the history of our J. M. V. Society for 1934, is reminded of the Gibeonites? Are all the society members en-

Supply your Juniors with "The Junior Bible Year" leaflet.

joying a healthy Christian experience—clothed with the spotless robe of Christ's righteousness? Have our feet been swift to "go on God's errands" or are our shoes worn out by our selfishly following our own pleasures? Have our programs been fresh, enthusiastic, and sincere,—showing real life,—or have they been given half-heartedly and poorly prepared? Have we gone to the Bible every day for fresh, living bread, or have we tried to get along on the poisonous, unsatisfying, literature of the world? Really, fellow Juniors, I'm afraid that some of us do remind God of those shabby, deceitful Gibeonites. And I fear He isn't pleased with our pretending.

I should like to ask our Junior superintendent a few questions just to help us see what our society has done during the past year? (J. M. V. superintendent should be prepared beforehand to give answers.)

1. How many Juniors were baptized?
2. How many were advanced at least one Progressive Class?
3. How many earned at least one vocational honor token?
4. How many were regular reporters of missionary work done?
5. How many earned one or more Reading Course Certificates?
6. How many completed the Junior Bible Year?

Thank you, —. These are just a few of the items in which wide-awake, consecrated Juniors have been interested the past year. Each of you can see for yourself how we stand, and whether there is room for improvement. (More material along this line may be found in the Senior program for December 29 under the heading "Finding Our Position.")

The Kind of Junior Society We Want at — Next Year

(For four Juniors and the Junior Missionary Volunteer superintendent. Arrange the platform like the living room of a house, including a piano or organ. As the curtain rises, Bobby and Marilyn Franks, brother and sister, are seen. Marilyn at the piano and Bobby thumping through the "Junior Song Book.")

MARILYN: Hurry up, Bob. I'll get grandma's glasses if you need them. I think it's number 83.

BOBBY: You're right for once, sis. Let's see if we can sing it. *[They sing a stanza, and then a knock is heard at the door and Bobby admits two Junior boys, Jimmy Burt and Carrol Hays.]*

BOBBY: You fellows are just in time and badly needed.

MARILYN: I should say. Bob and I were just starting to think up some ideas to suggest to Miss Stevenson for our Junior Society next year—

BOBBY (*interrupting*): And if you'll pardon my interruption, Miss Marilyn, I'll add that we're real sure we can have a Junior Society that every Junior in — will join and be proud of, but we're a little short on ideas.

JIMMY: What's that song you were singing when Carrol and I came in?

MARILYN: It's our very own M. V. song. Let's sing the first stanza over again and have Jim and Carrol help us. *[They sing first stanza and chorus twice.]*

CARROL: Isn't it peppy though! I surely like our Junior meetings. They help me so much. Dad says the J. M. V. organization is one of the best things in the whole church. He told mother the other day that the Junior work helped us children enjoy a type of fellowship and guidance in our problems and enjoyment that he and mother were not able to give us.

JIMMY: While I was at Junior camp I got a clearer idea of what it's all about. Before that I wasted plenty of hours every day, but now I have a lot more fun doing things that are worth while.

BOBBY: That's just what Marilyn and I were thinking. I'd rather take a hike now any day than go fishing. Why, I see so many of my bird friends, can call so many of my tree friends by name, and even know a few flowers, though I still depend on sis for their names.

MARILYN: Thanks, Bob. I didn't think you'd admit it. You know, boys, Bob and I are working on our moth and butterfly honor, and I wish you could see some of our gorgeous specimens. I wish our society would spend a lot more time working on the nature honors. They are so interesting.

JIMMY: And say, isn't it fun to work out all of the Progressive Class requirements? Carrol and I just learned how to do the spiral reverse handage, and our poor dog has been the victim. Let me show you how it's done. *[If the Junior cannot do this exceptionally well, demonstrate some other requirement and change the conversation to fit.]*

(Knock is heard. Marilyn goes to the door and admits J. M. V. superintendent, Miss Stevenson.)

MISS STEVENSON: O children, what's this, a unit meeting?

MARILYN: No, but we hope you'll let us have regular unit meetings next year so we can learn and practice these interesting requirements.

BOBBY: Yes, please do, Miss Stevenson. And we promise to do our best to live up to the Junior Pledge and Law. We were just talking of how we could help you make our society better and more interesting.

MISS STEVENSON: Indeed! That's surely fine. I've been planning a few things myself. What do you think of these suggestions?

1. Hold Junior meetings weekly.
2. Every Junior be a member of a unit with an adult counselor.
3. Have a meeting every month for the whole society for recreation or demonstration or study, such as a nature hike, gym meeting, or evening camp fire.

ALL: Splendid! Great! Capital!

MISS STEVENSON: Then, too, we want to get the new Junior Reading Course as soon as possible and have every Junior read the books. I hope we can induce every Junior to read his Bible through this year—and, oh, yes, I think we should have at least one industrious missionary band, don't you?

MARILYN: I do. We can sing for the shut-ins, make *Little Friend* booklets for crippled children, and many other things.

BOBBY: Surely we can! I'm glad you came in, Miss Stevenson. We'll be so busy and so happy next year we won't have time for mischief.

JIMMY: Bob's right. You can count me in.

CARROL: Me, too.

MARILYN: Well, I wouldn't miss belonging for anything.

MISS STEVENSON: The J. M. V. plans have proved very interesting and helpful in the past, and I know we can make them even more valuable to us next year. I surely appreciate the enthusiasm you Juniors have manifested, and I resolve to be a better and wiser superintendent. I invite every boy and girl in any way connected with our church to join our Junior Society [or band, if the Junior members are organized as a band of the Senior Society]. I believe that would be the most valuable New Year's resolution you could make. How many want to join? Will you stand in a reconsecration to the Junior Pledge and Law?

(Pass out application for membership blanks to those standing and get your list of members at this meeting.)

My Resolve

I WILL start anew this morning with a higher, fairer creed;
I will cease to stand complaining of my ruthless neighbour's greed;
I will cease to sit reprinting while my duty's call is clear;
I will waste no moment whining, and my heart shall know no fear.

I will look sometimes about me for the things that merit praise;
I will search for hidden beauties that elude the grumbler's gaze;
I will try to find contentment in the paths that I must tread.
I will cease to have resentment when another moves ahead.

I will not be swayed by envy when my rival's strength is shown;
I will not deny his merit, but I'll strive to prove my own;
I will try to see the beauty spread before me, rain or shine;
I will cease to preach your duty, and be more concerned with mine.

—British Weekly.

Our Foreign Missions

These pages provide interesting and helpful material for church elders and conference workers in promoting foreign mission work, and may be used on the second Sabbath of each month when the church offering for missions is taken.

Uprising on Malekula

IN telling of a recent visit into the New Hebrides Islands group, W. G. Turner, president of the Australasian Division, mentions conditions found over on Malekula, where dwell the Big Nambus tribes, their warring propensities again in evidence:

"Malekula was our next point of contact. We first touched at Matanavat, having already heard that much unrest existed among the tribesmen of the northwest coast. For some time the men of Tinanibet, a branch of the Nambus people, have been shooting the people of Malua Bay, seven men having been killed during the past several months. The entire village of Malua Bay has been burned to the ground by these raiders, and the people have been compelled to flee for their lives. Joe, our teacher at Matanavat, advised that the situation was exceedingly serious, so we exercised reasonable care, but visited our people at Espiegle's Bay, Tonmiel, and Tonmaru.

"At the last-named place we met the Big Nambus chief and a number of his men. They were apparently friendly, but the chief told us that he could not control his people. A few days after our visit to this center another attack was made on our mission at Tonmaru, and Joni, himself a Big Nambus man, with his family and others from the mission, had to flee by sea in a large dinghy to protect their lives, as the Tinambet men attempted to surround and shoot them. The whole coast is unsettled and unsafe, and it would appear that for the time being little can be done in this area, the people making it plain that they do not want peace or the mission, but human blood in sacrifice for the settlement of so-called accounts. While we were at Malua Bay, rifle shots rang out near by, causing a recruit hurriedly to lift his anchor and proceed to sea in unquestionable fear and agitation.

"At Atchin we found the situation much better, and spent a helpful Sabbath with our believers there. In the present absence of a white worker the people are holding on faithfully, with a native teacher in charge, and show an earnest desire to continue to hold the fort."

Meetings Were Held

In a large section in the Inter-American Division no work had been done by our missionaries, except that a few books had been sold. It was decided to begin evangelistic services in the largest city of this territory, a hall having been rented, with the precaution of its rent having been paid in advance in full. Pastor E. E. Andross continues in relating the experiences:

"As soon as the plan was made known to the Catholic priest and the bishop, very strenuous efforts were made to oppose the holding of any such meetings in the city. The owner of the hall was approached by the bishop, and threatened with excommunication, and was told that he would probably lose his position with the government if he permitted the Adventists to hold these meetings. The bishop then approached the officials of the government in an effort to prevent the holding of the meetings, but without success. The owner of the hall tried in every way possible to get the key from the brethren, but they refused to give it up. Every other means having failed, a mob was organized with the purpose of breaking up the first meeting. The police authorities learned of the plan, and provided sufficient protection so that nothing serious resulted.

"Night after night large audiences listened attentively to the preaching of the message. As a direct result, a company of about thirty new Sabbath keepers was organized into a class for instruction preparatory to baptism. Several hundred people assembled on the seashore to witness the baptism. This resulted in deepening the interest that had been created."

Ethiopia

C. V. ANDERSEN, the home missionary and Y. P. M. V. secretary of the Northern European Division, recently visited Ethiopia. Of our new hospital work at the capital, established through the interest and generosity of the king, he says:

"The new hospital in Addis Ababa, manned by Drs. Bergman and Nicola, is having a wonderful start. Each month sees new victories, and God is

surely going to give these workers souls for their hire. Dr. Bergman has worked hard to get the place equipped and started. I think that only the Lord and the Doctor himself fully know the struggle it has taken. Here is the prayer of Dr. Nicola's youngest son in behalf of his daddy going out to help the heathen: 'Dear Jesus, make all the heathen sick, so that daddy can make them well.' We know they are all already sick with that incurable malady, the leprosy of sin. We are glad our missionaries will point them to Jesus, the Great Physician, for the healing of their souls."

In speaking of other centers where a foothold has been obtained, he says:

"The advent message is getting a foothold in this peculiar country where the Sabbath of the Bible has been recognized through the years. Here we have needed to apply with special vigor the entering wedge of medical evangelism. We are operating in five centers where European supervision obtains. With the exception of our training school, all are manned by medical missionaries, and a request has recently come from the chief of another province, inviting us to build a hospital there, and offering a considerable sum for its erection and maintenance.

"These missionaries are doing a noble, self-sacrificing work. All except Addis Ababa workers are far separated from any other European. Upon my visit, Nurse Hovig came in to the union headquarters from Dessie, not having seen or spoken to a white woman for a year. Imagine her joy upon meeting with fellow lady workers. Tears of happiness mingled freely with her delighted laughter as she visited about. God bless these workers who unselfishly serve for souls in out-of-the-way places."

New Light in "Thou Shalt Not Steal"

MISSIONARY G. A. ELLINGWORTH, up in the Lake Tanganyika region where David Livingstone once explored, writes of work among the natives:

"Brother H. A. Matthews is at work at Utimbaru. During August he held an effort near this place, among one of the Bantu tribes, and over sixty came out. There are actually fifty-five names written down in the hearers' class as a result of the effort there. We feel that this is the beginning of a new and large interest that will develop among those people. And they surely need it, if ever any one did. They are probably Africa's most thievish tribe, so the eighth commandment must come as a big jolt to them. I have never heard of another tribe who make a profession of thieving as they do. When you are among them, you are thankful if they leave you

anything. As one man said when he woke up to find most of his belongings gone, including things taken from within three feet of his head, "Thank God, they did not take the enamel mug with my false teeth."

"They visited the magistrate, made a hole in his office wall, the guard not hearing a sound, and took out a safe that required ten men to lift. They carried it out a little distance and worked at it till daybreak, but failed to get an opening into it, so perforce had to leave it. I understand it had to be sent back to the makers to be opened. You should have seen its appearance when they had finished with it! The magistrate says they are a lovable people, but he is afraid they are hopeless." But we know they are not hopeless."

Brought an Ounce of Gold

How eager Inca Indians of the Peruvian Andes, are to attend our mission schools is shown by the following from Missionary Bent Larsen, in charge of the Laro Mission:

"Since the day we received the call to go to Laro Mission, we have been praying about a revival among the Indians here, and God is answering this prayer. We prayed for sixteen church schools this year; and that is four times as many as we had two years ago, and twice as many as last year. God heard, and we now have twenty schools. Five of these schools are in new places that have never had an Adventist school before.

"It is marvelous to see what sacrifices the Indians make to be able to pay their matriculation. One chief brought his horse, a pair of oxen, and thirty soles, to get a teacher for his people. This was almost all he had. Three men from another place spent a whole month in the forest washing gold to pay for the teacher. They brought me almost an ounce of gold. One sold his horse and brought the money for the matriculation, and many brought their new ponchos [blankets].

"One chief had for some years had a private teacher for his children and for the children of his neighbors. He had always been very much against the Adventists, and especially against the Adventist schools. He was the leader and chief in all the feasts, in the dances, in the drunkenness, and in all that belongs to these feasts.

"One day an Adventist brother talked to him about the Adventist school in the neighboring village, and encouraged him to send his children to that school. He did not like to hear about the Adventist school, but his own school did not seem to do much for his children, so he decided to make the experiment. He sent one of his boys to the Adventist school just to see if it was any better. After a short time the boy became inter-

ested in coming to the Sabbath school, and after a few Sabbaths he also encouraged his father to come with him. The result was that the whole family accepted the truth. This was last year, and this year, when we began the matriculation of the schools, this chief came as the first to get a good teacher.

A short time ago I visited the few believers in this village. All the people came together, and it was a real joy to see the enthusiasm with which they received the message from God. I am sure that we shall have a good school this year in that place, and many souls will be won for the kingdom as a result of the educational work."



Where They Are Dying Without God

MISSIONARY S. M. KONIGMACHER, out of Barotseland, Africa, writes us:

"One of the best letters I ever received from a native teacher since I have been in Barotseland, came in last night. It is so good, and the appeal so touching, that I will send the letter to you, for it is written in English. Oh, how I wish I could answer some of these appeals! The portion of the letter where he states he found Sabbath keepers as a result of the message brought to them earlier in the year, and that they had burned their false gods, gives me great pleasure. Just now we are making a strong appeal to the people to put away evil, and follow in the way of truth and light."

Here is a portion of the letter to which he refers:

"I have just returned from a fifteen days' trek through four districts. In these districts are to be found many natives who have never heard the sound of the gospel. When in these villages, I was intreated to go up and preach the message of the love of Jesus. The people there were working hard killing young locusts. But when I called, they gathered in groups. A company from sixty-three villages appealed for some one to be sent to them soon to instruct them. Mbongweta, of Nyiala district, said: 'Tell your

master to send us a teacher, for we are dying without God.'"

Our Mission Boat Visits Mussau

WHAT a glad day it must be for missionaries and people alike to sight one of our mission boats as it approaches the isolated islands where the message has been planted. On a visit to Mussau Island, just off the equator, near New Guinea in the South Seas, Missionary A. G. Stewart describes the approach and landing:

"As we neared Mussau, we could see the friendly flash of the mirror, tilted this way and that to throw a beam of dazzling light across the water as a sign of welcome, before we could hear their hearty 'Sail-O.'"

"When we realize that it is practically all the communication these folk have with the outside world, is it any wonder that the arrival of the 'Veilomani' is hailed with such a hearty welcome, bringing as it does all the supplies for home, mission, school, etc., as well as letters from loved ones far across the sea, and papers, news, secular and religious, for these hungry souls to feast upon?"

"Mail, however, and supplies are not opened until the visitors are received, warmly welcomed, and provided for. The native brethren by the score and sometimes by the hundreds line the winding path to the mission cottage, to grasp in friendship the hand of the visitor, whether he has been there before or not.

"We first called at Boihui on this occasion to discharge cargo and mails. Here Brother and Sister Gander and little Gwen gave us a hearty welcome. This time we could berth our ship at the end of the pier built of earth, stone, and coral through chains of mangrove swamp. Then as we followed well-made paths, first to their new but uncompleted home, then later to this large new church, eighty feet long and forty feet wide, and capable of seating 1,000 people, we were led to comment upon the large amount of manual labor this all meant.

"Later in the day we ran around the coast for about seven miles in the ship and called upon Brother and Sister Atkins and baby, landing their supplies and mail also. Here another very warm welcome was extended, including a unique feature on the end of the jetty, when the cleanly-dressed deacons and deaconesses, representing ten churches or companies on the island, lined up, headed by a group of small children holding their slates in hand while they sweetly sang of Jesus' love for the children.

"After a brief counsel together the brethren announced a two days' meeting for all the people to be held at Boihui, where the large, new, and strongly built church had been completed that day and was ready for dedication."

MISSION BOARD.