

The Church Officers' Gazette

VOL. 23

JANUARY, 1936

No. 1

In Granting Church Letters

RECOMMENDING to another church the church member requesting a letter of transfer, involves no small responsibility. This letter proclaims to the receiving church that the member in question comes to them "in good and regular standing." This expression is not placed in this letter as a cordial statement of greeting, worded thus as a matter of good form. It is to express to the church not acquainted with this member, the facts as they really exist. Inasmuch as no qualifying statements are to accompany this letter of recommendation, these words "in good and regular standing" are to express the truth when the letter is issued; for the receiving church has nothing besides this statement upon which to rely in voting to receive the member into their full fellowship. The responsibility of the issuing church, therefore, centers around the question, "Do these words, 'in good and regular standing,' state the truth?" If they do not, then the issuing church cannot stand clear in the sight of God in voting the letter.

A Church Letter Carries Assurance of Confidence and Fellowship

If the brother requesting the letter of transfer is not really "in good and regular standing," what is to be done? Shall the church close its eyes to any untoward conditions surrounding the case? Shall it say, "Although we do not approve of the course pursued by this brother, this sister, in our midst, let us not deal with the situation, now that he or she is leaving us, but let us pass the matter on to the other church, and let them deal with it?" Would it be doing by your brother church officers, your sister church, as you would



Homesick

BY PEARL WAGGONER HOWARD

I'm homesick! Not for the homeland dear

Two thousand miles away,
For I gladly came, and 'tis even here
That I'm anxious still to stay
Till the work is done. But I'm homesick
For a better world than this,—
For the peace and calm and healing balm
Of heaven's eternal bliss.

I'm homesick, yes, for the country blest
Where hearts can never ache;
Where from fiery test one at last may rest,

Where earth no more will quake.
I'm weary of things uncertain,
Of ruins,—of man-made town;
I long for the city God has built,
Whose walls can ne'er shake down.

I'm weary oft of the dust and dirt,
Of winds filth-laden here;
Of the myriad things that seek to hurt,—
Insects and germs to fear.
I'm weary of sight along unpaved streets,
Of squalor and filth untold;
But how sweet will be to earth-worn feet
Those dustless streets of gold!

I'm thinking oft of that wondrous clime
With healing zephyrs blessed,
Beyond these scenes of sin and crime
And where one safe may rest.
I'm weary of wars and bandits,
So weary of sin and strife;
I long for the quiet and strength we'll find

When close to the tree of life.

I'm lonely here for a better land,—
A land from critics free,
Where One who alone can understand
Alone the Judge will be.
I'm weary of idle slanders,
I long for a world made new,
Where gossip shall cease, where all is peace,

Where every "friend" is true.

I'm longing for the reunion sweet
With loved ones now afar,
With plenty of time, and joy complete
Where God and angels are.
I'm weary of pain and suffering,—
Of funerals passing by;
I long for the day God shall wipe away
The tears from every eye.

like to have that church deal by you? Would it not be better to withhold the issuance of this church letter until any question regarding the conduct of the member shall be cleared up?

If the elders or other officers of the church will do some spiritual work, wrongs may be righted, misunderstandings cleared up, and all questions of uncertainty be removed, and the letter may be granted to the receiving church with a hearty vote of recommendation as a member "in good and regular standing." The responsibility must be taken by the church issuing the letter of transfer. And if this responsibility is shirked or minimized, the church cannot be clear before God.

Purpose of First and Second Readings

One week is made to intervene between the first reading of the name of the member desiring a church letter, and the time for voting upon its issuance, for this very purpose: that in case any member of the church questions the right of this member to be transferred as one "in good and regular standing," he is afforded time and opportunity to take up the question privately with the officers of the church, stating the reasons therefor. And when this is done, it is the duty of the officers to examine carefully into the merits of this statement brought to them, withholding the whiles the second reading of this name until matters are adjusted.

"Church letters are granted only to those members who are in good and regular standing. All indorsements on church letters noting exceptions to this rule are out of order. Any church that votes a letter to a member, and then makes a notation on the letter calling attention to some point on which the member fails, thereby

confesses its own weakness and slackness in properly looking after the spiritual welfare of its members, and in exercising proper discipline where a member is not living up to his membership vows. Proper labor should be bestowed on the member, thus helping him to the spiritual experience where the church can vote him a letter without any disqualifying notations."—*"Church Manual," p. 83.*

"Let all things be done decently, and in order," were words of inspiration sent by the apostle Paul to the church at Corinth. And surely in so important a matter as that of the transfer of a church member from one church to another, the regulations cited above, reasonable and right as they are, should in every case be faithfully maintained and carried out.

T. E. B.

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The Smaller Churches

In large conferences and in smaller ones, the large churches receive more attention than do the smaller churches. Study as an administrator or a committee may to correct this tendency, still it seems almost impossible to servo equally the smaller churches of the conference. If some General Conference leader comes to the field, endeavor is made at once that he may address as many of the members as possible; if some foreign missionary arrives, the same is true; and thus, of course, the large centers are favored above the outlying and smaller churches.

When two or three smaller churches are added to a worker's territory, almost inevitably the large church absorbs the pastor's time till the smaller churches are robbed of the help they should have, and the members begin to leave the neglected smaller church for a larger church where they can have what seems to them more desirable attention.

Again, it is often the case that members of the smaller flocks change their membership to some larger church. This usually robs the smaller church of the only talent it has along certain lines. It was not so with the early church leaders, for we read in "Acts of the Apostles," page 186, the following:

"Those who in any place were by his labor led to accept Christ as the Saviour, were, at the proper time, organized into a church. Even when the

I long for the time when at last we see
Full fruits of labors here,
And share in His wondrous joy when we
Shall greet our Saviour dear.
I'm homesick to see my Homeland
And move again no more;
But I'm still not sad, for I'm glad,—so
glad
The King is "at the door"!
Managua, Nicaragua, Central America.

believers were but few in number, this was done. . . .

"And Paul did not forget the churches thus established. The care of these churches rested on his mind as an ever-increasing burden. However small a company might be, it was nevertheless the object of his constant solicitude. He watched over the smaller churches tenderly, realizing that they were in need of special care, in order that the members might be thoroughly established in the truth, and taught to put forth earnest, unselfish effort for those around them."

Note that "he watched over the smaller churches tenderly, realizing that they were in need of special care." It is not in the order of God

Special Appointments for January

Home Missionary Day,
January 4

Second Sabbath Missions
Offering, January 11

Tithe Covenant Day,
January 11

Elementary Schools Offering,
January 25

that the members of smaller churches should flock to the large churches, for He has very definitely warned against this very thing. We quote:

"There is, among many professing the truth, a spirit of unrest. Some want to go to another county or State, buy large lands, and carry on an extensive business; others want to go into the city. Thus little churches are left in weakness and discouragement to die, when, had the ones who left them been content to work on a smaller scale, doing their little with fidelity, they might have made their families comfortable, and been free to keep their own souls in the love of God. Many who move are disappointed. They lose what little property they had, lose health, and finally give up the truth."—*"Testimonies," Vol. V, pp. 152, 153.*

"When Seventh-day Adventists move into cities where there is already a large church of believers, they are out of place, and their spirituality be-

comes weaker and weaker. Their children are exposed to many temptations."—*Id., Vol. VIII, p. 82.*

"Let those who have lived so long in places where there are large churches of believers, go out into the harvest field to sow and reap for the Master. They will forget self in the desire to save souls. They will see so much work to do, so many fellow beings to help, that they will have no time to look for faults in others. They will have no time to work on the negative side.

"Bringing so many believers together in one place tends to encourage evilsurmisng and evilspeaking. Many become absorbed in looking and listening for evil. They forget what a great sin they are committing. They forget that the words they speak can never be unsaid, and that by their suspicions they are sowing seeds that will spring up to bear a harvest of evil. How great this harvest is no one will know until the last great day, when every thought, word, and action will be brought into judgment."—*Id., p. 83.*

G. A. ROBERTS.

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Filled With the Spirit

"If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Rom. 8:9.

"The Spirit of Christ is a missionary spirit."—*"The Great Controversy," p. 70.*

We should be "fervent in Spirit" (Rom. 12:11), "on fire with the Spirit," as Goodspeed puts it.

"Be filled with the Spirit." Eph. 5:18.

A real Christian is filled with the Spirit of Christ, which makes him a tireless missionary.

HENRY F. BROWN.

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The Home Missionary Department

Mobilizing Our Forces

(Missionary Service, Sabbath,
January 4)

Suggestive Program

OPENING SONG: "Sound the Battle Cry," No. 510 in "Christ in Song."

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ephesians 6:10-18.

PRAYER.

SONG: "Stand Like the Brave," No. 508 in "Christ in Song."

MISSIONARY REPORT.

OFFERING FOR CHURCH MISSIONARY WORK.

READING: "The Church 'an Army With Banners,'"

READING: "The Call to Arms."

SPECIAL MUSIC (Quartet or Solo):
"Help Me Find My Place," No. 194 in "The Gospel in Song."

READING: "A Place and a Work for All."

TALK BY MISSIONARY LEADER: Rally Call to Mobilization. (Secure signatures to "Workers' Covenant" blanks.)

CLOSING SONG: "Onward, Christian Soldiers," No. 656 in "Christ in Song."

Note to Leaders

This is mobilization day in the remnant church,—a day when leaders in the army of the Lord send forth a world-wide call to Seventh-day Adventists everywhere to rally and make all personal pursuits secondary to the service of the King, each man, woman, and child standing in the appointed place, ready to discharge the particular duty assigned.

The world has recently witnessed the demonstration of powerful military mobilization. At the moment when the regular standing armies of the belligerent nations were on the eve of advance, the word went forth into all the world calling the nationals "on the seas, on the mountains, in the caves of earth," in cities, towns, villages, or wherever they might be found, to take heed that the zero hour had come and every citizen was called to stand in defense of his country. According to the Associated Press, there was an instant response,—merchants left their places of business, farmers left their tools in the fields, housewives abandoned their domestic duties; all assembled to hear the solemn summons that the time for general mobilization had been reached. To fail to give heed, or to appear indifferent, branded a person as a shirker and traitor to his country. With such a recent object lesson before us, we may the better understand

what is expected of the church at this hour in the final crisis of earth's history.

We are now a part of "the church militant," and every member of the church is a soldier. Not one is excused from service. "So vast is the field, so comprehensive the design, that every sanctified heart will be pressed into service as an instrument of divine power."—"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 47. For centuries the controversy between Christ and Satan has waged a bitter warfare, and thousands of loyal soldiers have laid down their lives in the conflict. But the "church militant" is soon to become the "church triumphant," and the last struggle is right upon us. The great clock of time is striking the zero hour, and today God's leaders send forth a call for 100 per cent mobilization for Christian conquest. As wise generals in the Lord's army, you will study the situation which confronts your sector of the army, and will plan for this service in such a way as to arouse every member of your church. Blanks will be furnished for convenience in enrolling the entire church membership in the various lines of missionary service which are to be promoted with renewed energy during the year just ahead. Leaders for the various groups, such as the topical and class bands, should be chosen in advance and instructed as to the special service they are to render, so that they will be ready to take charge of their groups as soon as registration is completed.

This is a great day in the history of the advent movement, and so much depends upon the vision and the efficiency of the leaders of missionary endeavor that it is fitting to call for a special season of prayer by the members of the church board, seeking divine wisdom for the success of the missionary mobilization call.

GEN. CONF. HOME MISS. DEPT.

The Church "an Army With Banners"

BY J. A. STEVENS

THE figure used by Solomon to describe the church is peculiarly fitting for the last generation of human history. It is a time of warfare, both carnal and spiritual, and organization and discipline are vital to success. As the king of Israel depicted the church in its many characteristics, he placed stress upon the qualities brought to view in the text: "Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?" Song of Solomon 6:10.

Why was the church of the last days likened to an army? Because an army preeminently illustrates the power of organization and discipline. The fundamental difference between a mob and an army is organization. Both organization and discipline have been presented as basic principles of the church since the time when the family was the church. Abraham had three hundred and eighteen well trained and disciplined servants connected with his household, and they vanquished the hosts of the four kings that had ravished Canaan and made Lot a prisoner. When the church was established in the days of the exodus, God gave Jethro detailed counsel concerning organization. "Able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness," were to be placed over the various units of tens, fifties, hundreds,

HELP ME FIND MY PLACE

(Words set to music on page 194, "Gospel in Song")

"THERE'S a place for every worker in the vineyard of the Lord
Where with all our powers united, we can toil with one accord;
"There are needy hearts now waiting for the help which we can give:
Let us guide them safely onward, let us show them how to live.
"There's a place for every Christian in the church which we would serve,
Where we may uphold her standards, and from duty never swerve;
"There are burdens to be lifted, there are hearts in pain and grief;
Let us help the heavy laden, bringing comfort and relief"

CHORUS.

"There's a place, oh, may I find it! where my mission I can fill,
Be it humble, or exalted, may I hold it with a will.
Help to serve my generation, with a heart of love and grace,
Help me, Lord, from this time onward, find and occupy my place."
—Neal A. McAulay.

and thousands into which the church was to be divided. (See Ex. 18: 21-26.)

Twice over, the Scriptures show that organization increases efficiency by 500 per cent. In Leviticus 26:8 it is stated, "Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight." If five could rout a hundred, it would be supposed that one hundred would be able to conquer twenty hundred. But the power of organization and co-operation increased the efficiency so that they could do five times as much as the very fine work of the unit of five. And there is another illustration: "How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had shut them up?" Deut. 32:30. Here again it would appear that two would chase two thousand if one could chase a thousand. But the unity of effort multiplies the ability to accomplish at least five times as much as could be accomplished by one individual working alone.

The potency and permanence of the organization outlined to Moses by Jethro was demonstrated throughout the long years of the wilderness wanderings. It persisted during all the years of occupying the "goodly land," and on into the days of the judges. Gideon declared, "My thousand is the meanest" (margin), in Israel; and when he was to make an offering to the Lord he "took ten men of his servants, and did as the Lord had said unto him." Judges 6:15, 27. Later in Israel's history, "David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name." 1 Sam. 25:5. Amos, the prophet, declaring the judgments to fall on Israel because of their apostasy, said: "The city that went out by a thousand shall leave a hundred, and that which went forth by a hundred shall leave ten, to the house of Israel." Amos 5:13. Even Jesus gave recognition to the ancient form of organization when he fed the multitude. Luke records how the people were seated in groups of fifties, while Mark includes the fact that they sat down by hundreds and by fifties.

Thus it is that the Scriptures teach

the vital importance of organization for service. When Moses was about to lead the people out of Egypt he told Pharaoh that "not a hoof" should be left behind. Ex. 10:26. Every individual was included in the basic organization of "tens." It is the purpose of the Lord that every individual in the church of today is to be included in the class-band organization. Thus the church is to fight the battles of the Lord in these last days with the same form of organization and the same degree of discipline that marked the conquest of the Promised Land. And it is of thrilling interest to note the wonderful similarity of the organization in the remnant church to that of the exodus movement. The presidency of the General Conference is comparable to the office of Moses, and the General Conference Committee to the seventy counselors. Israel marched by divisions, and the world field today is composed of division conferences. The leadership of the thousands in the days of Moses is paralleled by our union conferences, the leadership of hundreds by our local conferences, the leadership of fifties by our local churches, and the basic units of tens in the army of Israel to our class bands for missionary work.

The reason for this definite organization and leadership is made plain by many statements in the Spirit of prophecy.

"God is a God of order. Everything connected with heaven is in perfect order; subjection and thorough discipline mark the movements of the angelic host. Success can only attend order and harmonious action. God requires order and system in His work now no less than in the days of Israel. All who are working for Him are to labor intelligently, not in a careless, haphazard manner. He would have His work done with faith and exactness, that He may place the seal of His approval upon it."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 376.

In harmony with this and other counsel, our churches are pressing onward in an earnest endeavor to perfect thoroughly a missionary organization that is to include every member. We are living in the ninety-second year of the judgment-hour message, and it is most urgent that every church be fully organized to do its part in the finishing of the work.

"Well-organized work must be done in the church, that its members may

understand how to impart the light to others, and thus strengthen their own faith and increase their knowledge. As they impart that which they have received from God, they will be confirmed in the faith. A working church is a living church. We are built up as living stones, and every stone is to emit light. Every Christian is compared to a precious stone that catches the glory of God and reflects it."—*"Testimonies," Vol. VI, p. 435.*

In nearly fifteen hundred churches in North America the class-band method of organization is in operation, and at the very beginning of 1936 every church should be included in the list. "Every one who is added to the ranks by conversion, is to be assigned his post of duty. Every one should be willing to be or do anything in this warfare."—*Id., Vol. VII, p. 30.* Where this has been wisely worked out, and a definite soul-winning organization developed, the missionary work of the church has increased from 300 per cent to more than 700 per cent. Let every officer and every member of every church gladly unite in making this advent movement the mighty soul-winning army of Christian soldiers which God designs it to be.

"The secret of our success in the work of God will be found in the harmonious working of our people. There must be concentrated action. Every member of the body of Christ must act his part in the cause of God, according to the ability that God has given him. We must press together against obstructions and difficulties, shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart."—*"Christian Service," p. 75.*



The Call to Arms

BY L. B. CHRISTMAN

IN the journey from Egypt to Canaan the children of Israel constituted a well-organized, disciplined army. In our study of God's program for the success of that ancient movement it is evident that He provided the leaders of His people a definite program of organization. More and more Moses came to recognize that the success of his leadership depended largely upon his ability to place responsibility upon efficient leaders who in turn charged every individual soldier in the ranks with a definite part of the task. As they came in contact with the heathen nations about them, it was only through the solidarity in

their ranks, and the loyalty of every soldier in adhering to God's program, that they were enabled to conquer the enemy and reach the Promised Land. After the death of Moses, when Joshua was called to cross the Jordan and enter the Promised Land, God instructed him to follow to the letter the plan of organization as given to Moses on the mount. God's instruction to Joshua was: "Turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:7. Again, in verses 10 and 11, we read: "Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the Lord your God giveth you to possess it." There was no question in Joshua's mind as to the ultimate triumph of Israel's cause. He knew God's program would succeed. In his command to Israel there was no semblance of doubt as to victory in their movement against the enemy. What a wonderful example of leadership and organization! Truly an example God's people would do well to follow today.

Today Seventh-day Adventists are entrusted with a tremendous task,—the finishing of God's work in all the world in this generation. To a definite people has been committed a definite work, and, as in days gone by, it is God's plan that every soldier enlisting in the army of Prince Immanuel shall be a dependable agency through whom the last judgment-hour message shall reach the ends of the earth. As Israel of old, the church today has reached the banks of the Jordan; the task is almost finished. While the forces of the enemy are striving to thwart the purpose of God, there comes the mighty clarion call from our leader, "Let the gospel message ring through our churches, summoning them to universal action."—"Testimonies," Vol. VII, p. 14. God's leaders today are coming to recognize more and more that the time has come when the laboring force of a conference must include more than the ordained and licensed ministry, who stand as the officers of the army. We must give heed to the program outlined by God which calls for the wholehearted cooperation of every

loyal church member, and this includes the soldiers in the ranks. It is this program, and this only, that will ultimately sound the cry of victory in the encampment of God's people against the forces of the prince of darkness. We are constrained to believe that if God's counsel had been followed more closely, we would have been in the kingdom ere this.

The servant of the Lord likens the church to a well-organized army: "Our General, who has never lost a battle, expects willing and faithful service from every one who has enlisted under His banner. In the closing controversy now waging between the forces for good and the hosts of evil, He expects all, laymen as well as ministers, to take part. All who have enlisted as His soldiers are to render faithful service as minutemen, with a keen sense of the responsibility resting upon them individually."—*Id.*, Vol. IX, p. 116. This instruction plainly calls for wholehearted service from every soldier in the ranks. Every believer in the third angel's message occupies a very important place in the proclamation of the message. In a special sense, each sustains an individual relationship to this great unfinished task, and it becomes necessary, therefore, to provide a place of service for every one who has espoused the message. This is the program that will solve the problem of the finishing of the work.

In order to guide us in the development of the smallest unit in the organization of the church and the placing of every individual soldier in the army according to his ability and

where talents can be developed to the greatest efficiency, God has given us very definite instruction as to the formation of companies: "In our churches let companies be formed for service. Let different ones unite in labor as fishers of men. . . . The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err."—*Id.*, Vol. VII, pp. 21, 22.

In God's plan of organization today this instruction is being followed with a remarkable degree of success. As in the days of ancient Israel, the topical band constitutes the basic unit of our missionary organization. In the well-organized church these groups are formed according to various phases of missionary work,—Bible evangelism, literature ministry, Welfare Society endeavor; and in some churches a group devoting their time to the home-foreign problem becomes an important part of the organization. This program enables the leadership of the church to place each individual member in the group for work he feels most adapted to do. It is most inspiring to receive the many reports of souls brought to a knowledge of the truth through the untiring labor of those who receive their training for service in one of these topical groups.

We believe it is imperative that definite steps be taken this first Sabbath of the new year to perfect God's organization in every church for an aggressive program of evangelism in the immediate vicinity of the church, and that efficient leaders be chosen to care for these groups. Every member of the church is requested to make

HOME MISSIONARY WORKERS' COVENANT

Remembering that Jesus said, "Ye also shall bear witness," and, "I will make you fishers of men;" and in view of the statement in the Spirit of prophecy declaring that "God calls upon every church member to enter His service," I hereby covenant to do some missionary work regularly, in accordance with the plans of the church, and am particularly interested in the lines of work marked (X).

- ☐ (1) Bible Readings and Cottage Meeting Work.
- ☐ (2) Welfare, Doreas, Christian Help Work, etc.
- ☐ (3) Literature Distribution.
- ☐ (4) Home-Foreign Band Work.

Name _____
Street _____ City _____

"To His servants Christ commits 'His goods,'—something to be put to use for Him. He gives 'to every man his work.' Each has his place in the eternal plan of heaven. Each is to work in cooperation with Christ for the salvation of souls. Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 326, 327.

Supplies of these blanks furnished by conference Home Missionary Secretary.

known his choice as to the particular line of service to which he feels that God is calling him, and to pledge his loyal and faithful response.



A Place and a Work for All

BY W. H. BERGHERM

It is said that Sir Mitchell de Costa, the great musical director, was at one time conducting a rehearsal in which four thousand performers took part. All manner of instruments were being played, and all parts of music were being sung. In one of the grand choruses, which sounded through the vast building like a wind from heaven, the keen-eared conductor suddenly held up his baton and commanded the musicians to cease playing. The reason was that one small flute was silent. In the midst of the vast volume of music, the trained ear detected a missing note, and the orchestra could not go on. And so it is in the church. The church of Jesus Christ, however large or small, is "organized for service." Its organization must be such as will embrace all its parts in that service. If one member is omitted, if one small part is not functioning, He who is the head cannot lead on. Success depends upon the mobilization of every man, woman, and child for service.

The servant of the Lord has told us, "It is not numerous institutions, large buildings, or great display that God requires, but the harmonious action of a peculiar people, a people chosen by God and precious. Every man is to stand in his lot and place, thinking, speaking, and acting in harmony with the Spirit of God. Then, and not till then, will the work be a complete, symmetrical whole."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI, p. 293.

It is a mistake to suppose that without definite and wise prearrangement for complete enlistment of our membership the work of God can go forward. We do well to profit by the system of organization which is successfully carried on by secular bodies, as, for example, the international Red Cross, which boasts of having more than seventeen million members, with fifty national societies. In North America, the Red Cross is divided into thirty five hundred chapters, so organ-

ized that during their annual drives for funds, they are able to reach practically every individual in the land; and in times of calamity in any portion of the earth's territory, they are able to throw their great resources of food, and doctors, and nurses into the stricken areas within a few hours' time.

Armies are organized with a system of officering, beginning with generals and extending down through colonels, majors, captains, lieutenants, until finally we have the corporal with his ten or twelve men. In like manner, the church militant is compared to an army, fighting greater battles than any earthly army. Long ago our great General passed down to His brigadier general Moses a plan of organization calling for captains over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. Ex. 18:21. By this system of organization every Israelite found himself either as a captain or as a soldier under some captain, with definite appointment for service.

Surely if Israel needed a plan that embraced every man among them, this movement likewise needs even more an all-embracing plan, and this plan of organization has been given to guide us. No church has fulfilled its responsibility until all its members are

thus assigned under leadership. Israel's organization did not include merely those who were willing to be organized. It was a definite assignment of every man to his lot and place. It is not sufficient that those who express a desire along certain lines be grouped together. A more comprehensive organization embracing every member is required. The General Conference recommendation on the class-band form of organization by which the Sabbath school class becomes the missionary band, and thus the "church at study" is merged into "the church at work," should be carefully studied in this connection. Success will come if we follow the plan. (See H. M. Series No. 16, entitled "Service Companies and Class Bands.")

Through Spirit of prophecy instruction many years ago we were told that "every one who is added to the ranks by conversion is to be assigned his post of duty. Every one should be willing to be or to do anything in this warfare."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VII, p. 30. We are in warfare. If careful organization is required of an army in times of peace, how much more in war? May God help every church to study the plan of our General and perfect its part of the organization of the army of Christ.

Query Corner

Questions should be addressed to Secretary, Home Missionary Department, General Conference, Takoma Park, D. C. No name will be published.

Should the church missionary secretary send a report of the missionary work of the church to the home missionary secretary of the conference each month or once a quarter?

The church missionary secretary is to report *monthly*. This is in harmony with an action of the General Conference Committee at the Fall Council, Battle Creek, Michigan, October 18-26, 1932. Years of experience prove that the practice of quarterly reports from the missionary secretary of the church results in decreased missionary activity and less accuracy in the reports. *Send your report to your conference office every month.*

Should articles of clothing distributed by the Dorcas Society be added to the total of clothing distributed by the individual members of the church

and reported by them on their individual blanks?

Some perplexity has arisen in a few places over this problem, because members have reported articles of clothing given to the Dorcas Society. When a member gives clothing to the Dorcas Society it should not be reported on the individual blank. Such clothing has not been distributed until it is given out by the Dorcas Society. The secretary of the Dorcas Society should give a monthly report of clothing given away, to be included in the report of the church missionary secretary. The church missionary secretary will add this report to the total as reported by the church members and the M. V. Society.



"We preach our loudest sermons by our actions."

Missionary Leadership

Working to the Blueprint

No experienced contractor would accept a building contract that was not based on plans which had been clearly outlined to the utmost detail in the blueprint. It is necessary that the architect trace every detail of the structure with perfect accuracy, and that every item be transferred to the sets of working plans represented by the blueprint.

The Lord's work in every church is of infinitely greater importance than the erection of a building. Therefore careful planning is essential. The church board should give diligent heed to every detail of the work of the church, touching not only that phase dealing with the spiritual life of the membership, but also that vitally important feature, the soul-winning work of the church. Efficient leadership in the church will outline a working program covering the whole year and involving definite plans for the special work of each month, with a view to attaining the full aim of the year's endeavors. Suggestions for such a working program are as follows:

January

1. Set date and time for the regular monthly meeting of the church board, bearing in mind that this meeting should not be later than the middle of each month.

2. Plan monthly checkup on mission funds goal.

3. Appoint members to take some definite part in the general missionary service held on the first Sabbath of the month.

4. Plan for the church club of *The Signs of the Times*.

5. Study the topics for the church missionary services of the month, and make definite assignment to those who are to assist.

6. Adopt necessary measures for perfecting the missionary organization of the church.

7. Give consideration to the "foreign periodical" opportunities, and plan for needed literature.

February

1. Arrange for the First Sabbath Service on March 7.

2. Plan for an enlarged offering to the Foreign Translation Fund to be taken in connection with the service on March 7.

3. Study topics for the church missionary services during March, and make all necessary arrangements for making these topics most effective in the missionary work of the church.

4. As the special *Review and Herald* subscription effort begins on March 28, a committee should be appointed to visit every member of the church who is not a subscriber.

March

1. Review all lines of church activity for the first ten weeks of the quarter, and take immediate steps to strengthen the weak points.

2. Lay careful plans for the success of the service on the first Sabbath in April, dealing with the great field of medical missionary work.

3. Plan to make each of the four fifteen-minute services inspirational, and provide advance information in regard to the Missions Extension Fund Offering to be received on May 9.

4. Study the report of the special committee on *Review* subscriptions, and find some way whereby every member of the church may be supplied with this periodical. Every church member will be desirous of subscribing for the General Conference *Review* Specials, giving full report of the General Conference session. Bear in mind that the closing date of the *Review* subscription campaign is April 11.

April

1. Plan for Magazine Day which is scheduled for April 18.

2. Arrange for books and magazines to be ordered for advance sale by the members for the Missions Extension Offering, May 9.

3. Study ways and means for making the missionary services during May interesting and effective, assigning definite duties to church members.

4. As the month of May is the particular time for special attention to literature distribution, this great field of endeavor should be viewed in its present-day scope, and plans laid whereby the church can engage in literature work best adapted to the needs of the community.

May

1. Lay out a program that will ensure a successful Religious Liberty Day service on June 6, which involves a generous offering to provide funds for supplying the *Liberty* magazine to the lawmakers and government officials.

2. Give due attention to the topics for church missionary services during June.

3. Anticipate the needs of the welfare and Dorcas societies in the early

fall and winter and ask the church members to help meet the need by canning and drying fruit and vegetables during the summer months.

4. Beware of the common tendency to slacken missionary endeavor during the summer months, and wisely take every precaution to escape the malady so often fatal—"the summer slump."

June

1. Give advance consideration to the missionary services for July.

2. Study Home Missionary Leaflet, "Self-Supporting Pioneers," and adapt suggestions made for carrying on the work which needs to be done in the unentered territory of the church.

3. Encourage the church missionary secretary to prepare an especially live report of the church missionary work for the first six months of the year, to be read at the First Sabbath service.

4. Ask the church treasurer to be prepared to make a statement regarding the church missionary funds to date, and call for a generous offering on July 4.

5. In some places it will be necessary to begin to lay plans for the approaching Ingathering campaign.

July

1. Urge a full attendance at the July church board meeting, which is one of the most important during the year.

2. Plan for First Sabbath service in August, and the weekly missionary services.

3. Map out definite steps to be taken in advance for the organization of the Ingathering campaign, especially in territory where the campaign begins in August.

4. Decide what literature or tracts are to be used in connection with the Ingathering campaign and give instruction for ordering.

August

1. Complete the Ingathering campaign and organization.

2. See that campaign supplies are ordered.

3. District the territory for later assignment to bands and solicitors, and arrange for obtaining follow-up lists from each solicitor when the work is started.

4. Instruct band leaders as to the importance of securing weekly reports from all members, such reports to combine the amount of Ingathering funds secured and the items of personal missionary work done.

September

1. Beware of a tendency to omit the current meeting of the church board, on account of the busy campaign activities. October's duties are as important as those lying within the boundary of any other month, in fact, even more important.

2. Give special attention to the theme "Personal Soul Winning" which is scheduled for the First Sabbath service in October. It is an all-embracing topic.

3. October's fifteen-minute missionary services should be well provided for.

4. Make a safe connection between the completion of the good work of Ingathering and the promoting of other lines of equally important work.

5. Make plans for strengthening the Welfare and Dorcas Society work during October.

October

1. Give study to the suggestive program for the missionary service to be held November 7, and make assignments for special reports on the relief work which is being carried on. Many church members have no idea of the conditions of poverty and suffering which the Welfare and Dorcas workers are struggling with. There needs to be closer cooperation between the church members in general and the relief workers.

2. Arrange for the follow-up plans to care for the names of interested people turned in during the campaign. It is vitally important that every name be given personal and appropriate attention, and the work should be pushed most earnestly during the last two months of the year.

November

1. Plans for the missionary services in December require careful attention.

2. Give consideration to suggestions concerning the election of church officers which the conference president or home missionary secretary may present to you for passing on to the nominating committee when it meets early in December.

3. Give preliminary study to the missionary leadership of bands to serve during the coming year.

December

This meeting should be held on schedule time and nothing allowed to hinder a full attendance, as it is the last meeting of the church board for the year, and many items of business

will need to be cared for. Now that the new officers for 1937 are installed, the missionary organization can be fully manned with band leaders, and definite arrangements made for the soul-winning program of the church during the new year.

1. Set a goal for souls to be added to the church through the work of the laity, this goal to be later approved by vote of the church.

2. Appoint those who are to assist in the First Sabbath service on January 2, and plan for the five weekly missionary services of the month.

3. Give attention to strengthening any weak places which may be apparent in a survey of the past year's work, and provide for starting the work of the new year in a strong way.

4. Outline a definite missionary program for the coming year, to be submitted to the church for approval in connection with the service on January 2.

Thus we close a suggestive program for the missionary work of the church during the year 1936. Of course it will be necessary for each church to plan further detail work, after counsel with the officers of the conference. The home missionary secretary will have plans to suggest which the church board can adapt to its membership and the missionary opportunities available in the community month by month. But we urge that there be a regular monthly meeting of the church board for the purpose of promoting a continuous program of soul winning throughout the year. The blessing of God will rest upon such faithful endeavor, and the result will be a harvest of souls and a deeper and more joyful experience in the life of every church member.

J. A. STEVENS.

Departmental Activities

The Bible Training Class

EVERY church should be a training school for Christian workers." This emphatic statement is found in the instruction imparted to the remnant church through the Spirit of prophecy, and there is no evading its application. *Every Seventh-day Adventist church* is to be "a training school for Christian workers."—"Christian Service," p. 59.

"God expects His church to discipline and fit its members for the work of enlightening the world," and the

church that fails to meet God's expectations will soon become barren and dead. Therefore "there should be no delay in . . . well-planned effort to educate the church members," so that every person will be "understandingly efficient."—*Id.*, p. 58.

The church missionary curriculum, as outlined to us in the writings of the Spirit of prophecy, covers a wide range of subjects, one of the most far-reaching in its application being that of teaching the members how to study the sacred Guidebook and how

wisely to impart instruction to others concerning the eternal principles of God's word. Very specific is the instruction which reads as follows:

"Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings." "Many would be willing to work if they were taught how to begin. They need to be instructed and encouraged."—*Id.*, p. 59.

For a number of years special emphasis has been placed on the Bible Training Class work in our churches, and very encouraging progress has been apparent. Hundreds of our faithful lay members, having consecrated their talents to the Lord's service, have diligently applied themselves to the course of training provided in the churches for efficiency in giving Bible studies, and have found openings on every side for informal, friendly study of the Scriptures in the family circle or with one or more persons. Thousands of souls have been won to the truth as a result. The plan is of God, and it is bound to succeed.

Notwithstanding all the instruction which has been given and the good work which has been done, there are still many Seventh-day Adventist churches where the Bible Training Class is not in operation; and even where the classwork is in operation, there are scores of church members who are not availing themselves of this means of qualifying for the service which God expects them to render in this time when "every follower of Jesus has a work to do as a missionary for Christ, in the family, in the neighborhood, in the town or city where he lives."—"Testimonies," Vol. II, p. 632. The time has come for the Bible Training Class work to be made a prominent and permanent feature of the program of every church. Everything necessary for the success of this training work is now available, and conference home missionary secretaries stand ready to assist in getting the work started.

Attention is called to the following list of textbooks and helps for the Bible Training Class work:

"How to Give Bible Readings,"—a concise textbook on methods and Bible Doctrines, prepared by the Home Missionary Department.

"The Great Advent Movement,"—a revised and up-to-date textbook on denominational history, prepared by

the Missionary Volunteer Department.

"Layman's Bible Training: Class Attendance Record," which provides for registry, attendance, and grade; also gives instruction of a general nature for the help of the class instructor.

Two Sets of Examination Questions: (a) Ten questions on Bible Doctrines; (b) Ten questions on Denominational History.

"Layman's Bible Training Course Certificate," furnished on completion of the classwork, bearing the seal of the General Conference Home Missionary Department, and the signatures of the class instructor, confer-

of the servant of the Lord in "Testimonies," Volume IX, page 118; and it is a work which is sure to yield an abundant harvest, as indicated by the groups of people won to the truth through the efforts of Bible Training Class members. We earnestly appeal to pastors of churches, church missionary leaders, and the lay members in each church to give earnest attention to enlarging and strengthening the Bible Training Class work in every church.

From the Far Eastern Division comes the echo of the rally call sounding through the churches: "One Thousand Lay Bible Workers to Unite

with 320, and Malaya with 100." The results of this training work are very apparent in all parts of the field in the hundreds and thousands of souls being won to the truth through contacts made by lay members of the church who go forth, trusting in the power of God to attend their humble ministry. Surely, in this great North American field, where our church members have every advantage of education and facilities, the slogan should be, "Ten Thousand Lay Bible Workers to Unite With Ministers and Church Officers for the Finishing of the Work."

GEN. CONF. HOME MISS. DEPT.



A HAPPY BIBLE TRAINING CLASS

The pastor of the church (seated in center) conducted the class, and each member is the proud possessor of the Bible Training Certificate.

ence president, and conference and union home missionary secretaries. This official certificate stands for real merit, and is something of which every church member may well be proud.

Special helps, such as the "Prophetic Symbol" charts, and the Projector for use in giving an illustrated Bible reading, are also available.

No longer can we delay the permanent organization of the Bible Training Class in every church, if we are to be included in the "hundreds and thousands" who were "seen visiting families, and opening before them the word of God" under the loud cry of the third angel's message. A continual stream of trained Bible workers should be going out from our churches. As fast as one class completes its work and the members go forth to do valiant service in the harvest field, a new class should be formed, composed of new recruits for the service.

"It is a joyous work to open the Scriptures to others," is the assurance

With Ministers and Church Officers for the Finishing of the Work;" and the response is most encouraging. The leader of the home missionary work in the division writes: "Every union superintendent and every local mission director is laying careful plans to start a Bible Training Class in every church, and spontaneously and almost simultaneously the movement has started in all parts of the division. The Philippine Union led out, setting a goal of 500 training class members. Then followed successively, Japan with 100, Korea

The Cooperation of Conference Bible Workers Needed

We are fortunate in securing a series of articles and outlines for Bible Training Class instruction, furnished by Mrs. G. E. Wales, a Bible worker in the Potomac Conference of the Columbia Union, who for a number of years has been working in the city of Washington, D. C. The first number of the series begins in this January issue of the CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE.

For many months Mrs. Wales has experienced a decided burden to enlist and prepare church members to render assistance in the great and urgent field of Bible studies in the homes of the people, and remarkable success has attended her efforts in organizing Bible Training Classes in different churches, holding the interest of her classes until qualification for the Bible Training



BIBLE TRAINING CLASS FRUITAGE

Persons standing in rear, after completing the Bible Training Class work, were instrumental in bringing the group of eleven people into the truth.

Class Certificate is attained, and then helping the members of the class to get started in actual work and to become efficient soul-winning Bible workers. It is earnestly suggested that all conference Bible workers seize the opportunity to obtain dependable helpers in their ever-enlarging field of service, by conducting Bible Training Classes in the churches, and helping to place the members of classes in contact with those who are calling for Bible studies. In churches where the conference Bible worker is not available, the pastor should conduct the classwork, or arrange with the conference home missionary secretary for the proper class organization and qualified instructor. J. A. S.

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Starting the Bible Training Class

BY MRS. G. E. WALES

HAVING for some time felt a burden to do something which would help the members of our churches to see their opportunity to win souls through conducting Bible studies in homes and with individuals under varied circumstances, and not only to see the opportunity, but to be prepared to meet the opportunity in the proper way, I kept pondering the situation over in my mind, but could not decide just what would be the right way to begin. My time was fully occupied in answering the many calls for Bible studies from people in the city of Washington, and there had always been much more than I could possibly do. It worried me to think of leaving urgent calls so long unanswered, and I recognized that there were many people in our church who could answer these calls in a satisfactory manner if I could just get in touch with them and show them what was needed and how to go about the work. I made the matter a subject of daily prayer, and was waiting to be guided in a definite manner, feeling sure that the blessing of the Lord would attend the right methods for connecting the many calls for Bible studies with the available source of supply to be found among the church members.

One of my readers, who had recently united with our church, came to me one day and told me of a number of young people among her friends

who had become interested in Bible studies, and asked me to come and conduct the Bible readings with the group. As I had a list of more appointments than I could give attention to, I explained that it would be impossible to accede to her request, much as I desired to do so, and I suggested that she conduct the Bible studies herself. Her response was, "Oh, I never could do that!" But I felt impressed to urge the matter, and I replied, "Yes, you can; and I will help you. In uniting with the church, you have signified your desire and determination to be able to make known to others the wonderful truths in God's word which have been revealed to you, and now is the time for you to begin." My repeated assurance of help over difficult places brought about a somewhat reluctant consent on the part of this lady in whose heart the passion for souls was brightly burning.

A suggestive list of topics was made out, to which my friend gave careful study. Then, with fear and trembling, she invited the two young couples to come to her home for Bible studies each Thursday evening. They came, and the interest in Bible study deepened, so that they never missed a study all through the fall and winter months. I visited the little class on several occasions, and was pleased and gratified to see the interest and enthusiasm, and to find that my reader, who had so recently studied with me, was making the messages of truth so clear and plain to her friends. After all points of the third angel's message had been presented, the pastor of the church accompanied me in my visit to the group, and he was given opportunity to talk to the members of the class and examine them on all points of doctrine. The questions were answered satisfactorily, and the young people were found to be in accord with all testing truths and ready for baptism. Not long after, three of the members of the group were baptized.

After this experience, I was still more deeply impressed with the idea that more should be done to assist and train church members to engage in Bible work, and the following statements from the Spirit of prophecy left no room for doubt: "By holding Bible readings, our lay members could do much in their own neighborhoods. Filled with love of souls, they could

proclaim the message with such power that many would be converted."—*"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 35.*

Just about this time, Elder C. P. Sorensen, the home missionary secretary of the Potomac Conference, asked if I would conduct a training class for Bible workers among the lay members of the Alexandria (Virginia) church, which is in close proximity to the city of Washington. I readily agreed to do what I could, and one Sabbath in February, Elder Sorensen and I met with the members of the church and organized a training class. Although the membership of the church is quite small, sixteen names were enrolled for the classwork. We decided to hold our class in the church on Sabbath afternoons, from three to five o'clock. We appointed a secretary, whose duty it was to call the roll at each meeting. If any member of the class was absent, it was expected that he or she would make up the lesson before the next class period. We chose as our textbook that very helpful manual prepared by the General Conference Home Missionary Department, entitled, "How to Give Bible Readings," and later included the revised denominational history, prepared by the Missionary Volunteer Department, entitled "The Great Advent Movement."

At our first meeting, each member was asked to provide himself with a loose-leaf notebook, and it was suggested that the pages of the notebook be of a size to fit into the Bibles used by the class members. At each class period, time was allowed for copying into the notebooks helpful quotations from the Spirit of prophecy pertaining to the work which lay members are called to do, and instruction as to how to do it. Each member of the class also copied in his notebook, instruction in regard to how to prepare and to give a Bible study, and other general information necessary in order to understand the principles involved in giving a Bible reading.

Special attention was given to making the classwork very simple. Instead of spending a long time in study and theory, we decided to start at the very beginning and get practical experience in giving Bible readings. For example, after a period of instruction as to how to prepare and give a Bible reading, the class would separate into groups of four or five, oc-

occupy different corners of the church, and one member of each group would give the study to the others. Sometimes the subject studied in class one week would be repeated in the various groups the next week, some person in each group being chosen to come prepared to give the study the following week. As instructor of the class, I made it my business to visit the different groups and make note of points where help needed to be given to those conducting the studies, and these points would be presented and discussed in the next class period. After the members of the class had gained practical experience in group teaching, some member would be selected as the one to give a Bible study before the entire class. I found that the class seemed to get the most help by this personal assignment method. At first, those asked to give the Bible studies declared that they just could not do it; but we prayed over the matter, and as they were really in earnest in making a success of their training, very soon every member became willing to do his part. It was truly surprising to note the improvement made in the classwork week by week, and to see the development of real talent, which had been dormant and unrecognized.

In beginning our classwork, we decided to follow a ten weeks' course, but as time went on, and the interest increased, there was urgent request to continue the classwork a little longer. After consultation with the local elder of the church, it was thought best to extend the course for several weeks more. Before we completed the course, however, several members of the class were engaged in giving regular Bible studies to people not of our faith. Before the class members started out in public work, I went over their notebooks carefully, to see that proper and accurate records had been kept as a guide to their field work, and it was a happy surprise to see how well the studies on all subjects considered in class had been prepared. The elder of the church now has a band of workers that he can depend on to create and follow up interested cases in an intelligent and efficient manner, and the church manifests a live interest in reaching out after those in the community who have not heard the message of present truth.

Before the Bible Training Class had completed its work in Alexandria, the call came to conduct a similar class in the Capital-Memorial church in the city of Washington, D. C. It has been most gratifying to find the same interest and the same encouraging results attending the several consecutive classes which have been conducted in the Washington churches, as crowned the first training class effort in Alexandria. Both men and women have been faithful in the classwork, and a large number of certificates have been awarded. But the real value of the training class is apparent in the actual work being done by the lay members. Splendid talent has been brought to light. I have no hesitancy in turning over many of my readers to those who have qualified in classwork. They are carrying on the studies in the most satisfactory manner, and souls are being won to the truth. I know of no better way for the conference Bible worker to increase her usefulness in the cause of God than to give some of her time to the church members, laying before them the divine call to this Bible reading work, a broad field of opportunity. Let her instruct them in the *modus operandi* in preparation, presentation, and approach to the people; and let her personally take the members into the homes of the people,—first, for observation and initiation into successful methods, and second, for actually doing the work. Among my readers there are always some who are not too critical of the manner of instruction, or are not of that exclusive environment which requires the fine technique of experience, and these

are glad to have me bring a friend with me and after I have given the first few studies, I tell them that as I am so crowded with appointments I have asked my friend to continue the Bible readings with them. I can keep a large number of lay Bible workers fully occupied in filling such appointments, thus allowing me more time to care for difficult cases. At the same time by keeping in close touch with the inexperienced workers, I can help them meet perplexing situations, and can occasionally accompany them on their visits, thus maintaining a friendly interest with the people.

In my opinion, it is an advantage if the Bible Training Class can be conducted by an experienced Bible worker, as there are always many queries arising in the minds of the students regarding the whys and wherefores, and the do's and don'ts of procedure, which a person having had experience in meeting the public on the field of Bible reading work is in the best position to answer.

At the request of the General Conference Home Missionary Department, I am glad to furnish the outlines used in Bible Training Class work, as far as my experience goes, in the hope that some help may be afforded those who are seeking to extend this important phase of Christian training and service. I do not wish to appear as a criterion on Bible Training Class instruction, but only wish to tell to others how the Lord has blessed the simple measures used, and to urge that greater consideration be given to discernment and development of talent that can be educated for the Master's use.

Church Missionary Services

January 4

MISSIONARY TOPIC: Bearing Fruit.

TEXT: John 15:16.

SUGGESTIONS: On this first Sabbath morning of 1936 it is well to ask ourselves the solemn question, What is our church going to do in 1936? Will this year be a fruitful year or a fruitless year? Solemn, indeed, is it to be found without fruit. In 1934 our records show that there were 968 churches in North America that failed to gain any new members during the

year. This is truly an alarming report for a people looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus. Yet when we consider that during 1933 there were 499 of these same churches that did not show any gain, and 417 churches in 1932, we really are forced to the conclusion that there are altogether too many fruitless churches.

How sad it must make a heaven whose chief joy is to behold sinners brought to repentance, to behold

nearly one thousand churches fail for a whole year to bring any soul to Christ! Yet sad as this may be, it would be still sadder for such a situation to continue in any church. Surely every one of us should join in saying that this must not be true any longer.

And it will not be if all of us individually will set ourselves at the task of soul winning. The farthest point from heaven today is not China, Japan, India, or Africa. These are as near to His throne as the land of the Stars and Stripes. But the farthest point from heaven is the unregenerated heart and this is the sphere for our ministry. You and I are His chosen witnesses unto the uttermost parts of the earth. None are excused from that witnessing. All are to be missionaries in reaching those who have wandered far from God.

Then let us dedicate ourselves with a deeper passion for souls for 1936. Let us pray for the lost who are in Jerusalem (those almost in the church), or in Judea (those a bit farther from the kingdom), and finally for those in the uttermost parts (and these may be in our neighborhood). And as we pray, let us work with hearts softened and tendered and eyes moistened with tears. Our best efforts may appear to us to be most feeble and our words with which we witness, only broken accents made by stammering tongues, but if we are accompanied by the power of the Spirit and guided by that wisdom that cometh down from on high in answer to prayer, hard hearts will yield before us and souls will be won.

Filled with such a passion, no church can be idle or fruitless. Tracts will be distributed, the neighbors will be gathered into our homes for Bible readings, lay evangelism in all its forms will be found, and there will be fruit.

May God grant that when the record of 1936 shall have been written, it will tell a happy story of souls won in every church in North America. Fruitless or fruit bearing—which will it be? W. H. BERGHEM.

January 11

MISSIONARY TOPIC: The Value of Missionary Reports.

TEXT: Hebrews 10:24, 25.

SUGGESTIONS: There is a very close

relation between service and services. We are to encourage one another to diligence in "good works," and also by precept and example to faithfully maintain the "assembling of ourselves together." This admonition is especially to be emphasized among those who live in the time when it is possible to "see the day approaching."

It is always a matter of encouragement to the brethren and sisters to recount the blessing of God in missionary service. Every ear is intent to catch each detail of the story of soul-winning service. Perhaps in the Ingathering work some member has found a person who manifested a deep interest in religious things, and an appointment has been made for further visits with literature and for Bible work. How eagerly the congregation listens to such a report. Or, perhaps, the church missionary secretary presents a summary of the missionary report of the church for the past month. Some cheering items of soul-winning work have appeared in the individual reports as they have been handed in week by week. Sister Blank has reported two Bible readings a week, and the families receiving the instruction are greatly stirred over the truths presented. The faithful worker has asked that the church pray for these deeply interested people. A faithful brother and his good wife are regularly visiting a number of homes with literature each week, and they are faithful in reporting regularly. Several of the older sisters, eager to do something for their needy neighbors, have distributed a number of articles of clothing, and spent many hours in caring for sick folk in the community. Another member, a young girl who is an invalid, has written a number of missionary letters, and the church is thrilled as one of the replies is read. And thus, month after month, the missionary work goes on, and month after month the missionary reports add fuel to the fire of missionary zeal.

This is as it should be. Every member is to be a faithful missionary worker, and equally a faithful reporting member. What a vast total all these individual reports combined do make.

The year's report of missionary work by members of our churches throughout the world indicates that there were 3,013,174 Bible readings

or cottage meetings held by the lay members. It is especially gratifying to note that books, periodicals, and tracts were distributed to the extent of 18,106,483; and in the line of ministry to the poor, 1,064,927 articles of clothing were distributed, and that "needed help" in many different lines was dispensed to over three million persons.

The items mentioned represent just a few of the missionary activities which are recorded on the report blanks as they come in with their totals from individuals, churches, conferences, unions, and divisions. Our aim for 1936 is "Every Member a Working Member" and "Every Missionary Worker Faithfully Reporting." How wonderful is the statement that "every act of love, every word of kindness, every prayer in behalf of the suffering and oppressed, is reported before the eternal throne, and placed on heaven's imperishable record."—*"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 133.* Thus we see that in God's great universal government both verbal and written reports are required. Our reporting plan does not go so minutely into detail as the heavenly record indicates, but every item is very vital to the advancement of God's work on earth. So we earnestly request that during the present year there may be received a regular weekly report from every member of every church, that God may be glorified and all the members of the church edified and encouraged by the inspiring experiences of the missionary workers and the mounting total of work accomplished from month to month.

J. A. STEVENS.

January 18

MISSIONARY TOPIC: Soul-Winning Experiences.

TEXT: Romans 14:7.

SUGGESTIONS: Do we fully comprehend the solemn import of our text which states that none of us live to ourselves alone? Whether we choose or not, we are as individual links in the great chain of humanity, and our daily words and actions have an influence which is as far-reaching as eternity. Constantly, we are either gathering with Christ, or scattering abroad. Soul winning is not a mantle to be put on for certain occasions,—when we make a special visit to distribute literature, to give a Bible

study, to relieve suffering or cheer the sick and discouraged,—and then laid aside until the next appointed day for missionary work. Christians are called to a service which is constant and from which there is no discharge. This important principle of Christian warfare is beautifully expressed in the following manner: "The man who loves God does not measure his work by the eight-hour system. He works at all hours, and is never off duty. . . . Everywhere, at all times and in all places, he finds opportunity to work for God. He carries a fragrance with him wherever he goes. A wholesome atmosphere surrounds his soul. The beauty of his well-ordered life and godly conversation inspires in others faith and hope and courage. It is heart missionaries that are needed. Spasmotic efforts will do little good."—*"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 45.*

This brief third-Sabbath-of-the-month service is designed as opportunity for an exchange of experience in Christian living and definite missionary service, and as such it becomes an occasion of mutual advantage to those who speak of their contacts and blessings in witnessing for God. Remember that "none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself," therefore none are excluded from the field of soul-winning experience. Let us praise God by telling of the ways in which He has brought us in touch with needy souls and of the blessings imparted to us as we have responded to the impulses of the Holy Spirit.

January 25

TOPIC: Gospel Invitations.

TEXT: Numbers 10:29.

SUGGESTIONS: It is a trait of human nature to appreciate being invited to share with friends in that which tends to pleasure and personal advantage, and what satisfaction it is to be able to extend the invitation to those whom we desire to benefit. The same principle applies with equal force in the realm of spiritual things. How many times the Bible gives expression to the most appealing invitations to the sinner: "Taste and see that the Lord is good;" "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest;" "The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him

that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Those who accept these loving invitations enter into a new life, they travel a new road, they are citizens of the heavenly country; and it is one of their happy privileges to invite others to "come" and go along with them to the Father's kingdom. With the same confidence that filled the heart of Moses, we are privileged to say to our friends, neighbors, and fellow men everywhere: "We are journeying unto the place of which the Lord said, I will give it to you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good."

One of the items on the regular missionary report blanks to be used by both adults and young people, is this: "Number of persons taken to Sabbath school or other services." Thus the gospel invitation becomes a definite part of our Christian service in the matter of inviting people to accompany us to the house of God. And what a simple and delightful duty this is! There are children on the streets to be gathered in to the Sabbath school, there are young men and women who would find a new joy and happiness in the environment of Christian young people while attending the Missionary Volunteer meeting. There are thousands of men and women who never enter the churches and who will not do so unless they are personally invited and made welcome. This vast field of missionary opportunity lies at our very doors and will yield rich returns for the efforts put forth. Every church member will doubtless be able to double the number of invitations extended to persons within easy reach.

Such invitations involve more than a mere formal statement. It may be necessary to call by definite appointment, and conduct timid persons to the house of God. On their arrival at church, see that they receive a cordial welcome and are made to feel the warmth of Christian fellowship. Children should be called for. In many cases, help will be needed to get them dressed and ready for going to Sabbath school on busy Saturday mornings. There are aged people and invalids who would be made very happy by being taken in the automobile to the church services once a week. In case it is not necessary to expend personal energy in getting people to the church,

it is always essential to be on the watch for the appearance of any who have been invited and have come on their own volition, exchanging greetings and introducing them to the pastor and Sabbath school superintendent or teacher.

During the period of twelve months, it was reported that the number of persons who were in attendance at our church services as the result of personal invitation and interest, was 113,672. This means that an audience of over two thousand people was assembled each week of the year, in attendance at our church services as the result of gospel invitations. This is surely a very gratifying item in our year's missionary report, but the number might well be greatly increased. Let all give special attention to this important feature of our personal missionary work during the year 1936. Wonderful results will follow.

A woman with many misgivings as to her fitness for personal work undertook, at the request of her pastor, to visit a woman in the neighborhood and invite her to attend church services. A knock at the door failed to get any response. The house was closed up. A neighbor working in her flower garden next door stepped to the fence and volunteered the information that Mrs. D had gone away for the day. The visitor thanked her, and incidentally mentioned that she had called to invite the lady to attend services being held in the church near by. This naturally led to the invitation being extended to the neighbor with whom she was talking, whereupon the neighbor informed her visitor that she had five children and that neither they nor other members of the family had any church connections. The invitation was pressed in a sincere and cordial manner, and soon the children were attending Sabbath school, and a little later the mother, father, and two of the husband's sisters who live in the home, attended the church services. It was not long until several members of the family were united with the church. This is only one evidence of the efficacy of the "gospel invitation" method. Hundreds of people are today journeying with the remnant church because of being invited to attend services in the house of God.

News From Soul Winners

The Evangelist of the Highway

I WISH to relate a story which applies to two men. One of them is living today, and is well known to some of us. The other lived many years ago and should be well known to all of us. The one who is living today calls himself the "Evangelist of the Highway." He travels back and forth on the highway between two cities on the Pacific Coast. He has no money for transportation and does not own an automobile, but trusts the Lord to furnish both. The first time he called at my home he arrived in a beautiful car driven by the chauffeur of wealthy people. I might have expected some very distinguished callers by the conveyance that drove up in front of my house, but when I opened the door in answer to the ring of the bell, there stood an old man (over 80, as he told me afterward). He carried a well-worn leather bag, and introduced himself as the "Evangelist of the Highway."

I had never heard of any one bearing that title riding in a Packard car driven by a chauffeur, and I suppose I appeared rather doubtful. But when he opened his grip I saw packages of *Present Truth*, *Signs of the Times*, and other familiar books and tracts,—no other credentials were necessary. I knew he must be a pilgrim on the King's highway, and I invited him to come in.

Turning to the chauffeur he thanked him most kindly and sent him on his way with the blessing of the Lord. He knew full well that when he needed further transportation there would be another car sent by the Lord and another chauffeur at his command. Then he told me his story, and said he was gathering up literature to use in his travels. I gave him a goodly supply of papers and tracts and soon he went on his way rejoicing.

A small room in "Rest Home" at Azusa, California, is the place this brother calls home, but the most of his time is spent on the highway. He starts out on foot carrying his bag of literature, and asks the Lord to bring him in contact with some person

who needs help. He never solicits a ride, but walks along until some one offers to take him in. He seldom has to walk far before some one drives along, stops, and invites him to ride. As soon as he is comfortably seated, he tactfully directs the conversation into spiritual channels, the signs of the soon-coming Saviour, His love for us, and our duty to Him if we expect to meet Him in peace. Sometimes there is only one person in the car, but usually there are two or more. Then he hands out literature on the subject in which they are most interested. He also gives them a postal card addressed to the local Bible House requesting more literature, so all they have to do is sign their name and mail it. He rides in the car as long as his listeners appear interested, and at the proper time he gets out of the car and leaves the people to go on their way while he trudges along the highway until another car stops and he is invited to ride again, and so on. In this way he comes in contact with the occupants of about twenty-five cars each week. The secretary of the Bible House states that many of the postal cards requesting literature which this brother passes out, are received at the office.

So this brother preaches the message of these last days to all classes of people, young and old, rich and poor, professional people and laborers, actors, ministers of many denominations, local citizens and tourists from other States and abroad. He plans his time so that when night overtakes him he can reach the home of some good Seventh-day Adventist brother who will give him shelter. This brother has engaged in this kind of missionary work for about five years, during which time he has conversed with more than 6,000 people and distributed over 40,000 papers and tracts.

The brief history of this brother's life is as follows: He is a carpenter by trade, but some years ago he laid aside his tools, recognizing the call of God to engage in self-supporting evangelistic work. Since then he has gone about preaching, and teaching the people. His audiences are small, usually

consisting of one or two, but sometimes of three or four persons. His clothes are plain but neat, his bearing is dignified but modest, his deportment above reproach. He has confidence in the message he gives, knowing that it is not he, but God who does the work. He has none of this world's goods, and when the shadows of night overtake him, he hath not where to lay his head, except as some good brother or sister gives him shelter.

This is the story of Brother J. R. Reed, the "Evangelist of the Highway." Do I need to mention the name of the other man who has set the example,—the One who lived on earth many years ago and "went about doing good"? This same Jesus dwells in the hearts of His children today, and impels them to go forth as witnesses for Him.

If the story of your life and mine were written, would it portray the life of the Master who lived among men 1900 years ago?

"Tell me the story of Jesus.—

Tell it in verse or in rhyme?

Ah! no, but pray tell it

In the story of your life and mine."

CALLA D. CORSON.

A Year's Report by the Evangelist of the Highway

No. Visits in Cars and Homes	1,269
Bible Readings Given	970
Small Books Given Away	1,300
Papers and Tracts Distributed	10,300

In addition to this, hundreds of printed cards have been handed out, which have resulted in unnumbered calls for literature, the result of which will never be known in this world. The printed card is addressed to the Home Bible Study League, with street and number of the Book and Bible House of the Southern California Conference. The printing on the reverse side of the card is as follows:

Date.....
Home Bible Study League,
3131 Pasadena Ave.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

DEAR FRIENDS: Your representative recently 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: (1) Why so much talk of peace, and yet much preparation for war? (2) Will Jesus really come back to earth in person? (3) Did a good God make a bad world? (4) What and where is heaven? (5) What is Spiritualism? Where are the dead?

Appreciating your courtesies, I remain,
Sincerely yours,
Name and Address

A rubber stamp is used to place on one corner of the card—"Presented by J. R. Reed, Colporteur, Azusa, California."

Missionary Volunteer Department

Officers' Notes

A Survey of the Year's M. V. Programs

THE topics chosen for the programs of the Missionary Volunteer Society for the year 1936 should have an unusual appeal to young people during these stirring days. The committee which has arranged the topics for the year has been guided, as in former years, by the thought that the year's programs should deal with the various problems and fields of experience which are common to all young people. So, threaded through the months of the year will be found programs which have for their purpose a study of the spiritual, educational, cultural, social, and recreational activities of young people. The purpose is to give a well-balanced variety which will promote symmetrical growth. It is said of Jesus that He "grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him," and that He "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." The Missionary Volunteer Society is not organized for purposes of entertainment, though it is hoped the programs will be interesting, but rather to stimulate growth and development of rugged Christian character.

Special attention has been given to the organization and work of the Missionary Volunteer Society. It is hoped that strong emphasis will be placed throughout the year upon the work of evangelism by youth.

Another feature of this year's programs is a series of studies on prophecy. The rapidity with which prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes must thrill the thoughtful young person; and it is hoped that these studies on prophecy will serve to enlarge the vision, deepen the faith, and move all Adventist youth with the purpose to give "the advent message to all the world in this generation."

It is not expected that the program material shall be followed slavishly by the executive committee as they plan the society programs. If better material than that which has been prepared in the programs is available, use it. We do suggest, most earnestly, that the general themes of the programs be followed throughout the year.

A. W. P.

The Executive Committee and the M. V. Society Leader

THE Executive Committee of the Missionary Volunteer Society is composed of the officers of the society, the band leaders, the superintendent of the Junior Society, the leader of the Church Missionary Society, and the elder or some other church officer appointed by the church board.

The Missionary Volunteer Society leader is chairman of the Executive Committee, and he should call the meetings regularly. It is best to hold a short meeting each week. The purpose of these meetings is to plan for the band activities and the society meetings, to discuss ways of making these interesting and soul winning, to pray for the young people and for those whose lives will be influenced by the Missionary Volunteer Society. The Executive Committee meetings should be conducted in a businesslike manner. Lay the best plans you can devise, encourage the young people to co-operate, lead out in a confident manner, and pray for and expect great things from God.

There are many qualifications essential to good leadership, but the greatest of all is sincere Christianity. No amount of earnestness, however, can take the place of diligent effort. It is real work to lead young people. But the one elected as leader of the society may enter upon this high calling with the assurance that God uses the talents we have if we devote them wholeheartedly to Him. "The Lord can work most effectually through those who are most sensible of their own insufficiency and who will rely upon Him as their leader and source of strength. He will make them strong by uniting their weakness to His might, and wise by connecting their ignorance with His wisdom."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 553.

A concise setting forth of the duties of the M. V. Society leader is given in M. V. Leaflet 4, "Duties of Officers in the Senior Young People's Society of Missionary Volunteers." Order through your Book and Bible House.

E. E. H.

The Secretary-Treasurer's Duties

ONE of the greatest assets a Missionary Volunteer Society can have is a faithful and accurate secretary-treasurer. The society leader finds him an invaluable assistant, the members gain inspiration from his reports in the meetings, and the conference Mission-

ary Volunteer secretary looks forward with pleasure to the prompt and accurate reports that this society secretary-treasurer sends to the conference office.

In some societies it may seem wise to divide the work of the secretary-treasurer; but if this is done, there must be the closest teamwork by these two individuals.

The first duty of the newly elected secretary-treasurer should be to familiarize himself with his duties in this responsible office. See M. V. Leaflet 4, "Duties of Officers," which can be obtained from your Book and Bible House.

E. E. H.

The Bible Year and Morning Watch

THROUGHOUT the history of the world, many and varied epochal changes have occurred—disturbances in the political, social, economic, and religious realms. These epochal changes brought no little perplexity to the generations called upon to face them from time to time.

But never was there a time comparable to the one facing this generation. Our young people today find themselves in a very vortex of confusion. The automobile, the radio, the moving pictures and their accompanying interests present a tangled skein of good and evil that perplexes even adults, with all their experience and maturity.

What about business conditions? Here, too, Seventh-day Adventist young people find it hard to maintain their religious principles, and yet find work with concerns which are controlled by the ever-present corporations.

Then there are influences which lead young people to minimize religious convictions, especially if these stand in the way of business opportunity.

"Wars and rumors of wars" also are perplexing to our youth. What shall be their attitude?

Truly "men and women of experience should understand that this is a time of especial danger for the young. Temptations surround them on every hand. . . . The enemy of souls is filled with intense hatred against every endeavor to influence the youth in the right direction."—"Testimonies," Vol. IV, p. 421.

Is it not our duty at this time to make known to our young people everywhere the solution to this whole question? Is it not our God-given responsibility as leaders to provide our perplexed youth with a tangible program for their lives—a program

GAZETTE subscription goal—at least 2 (preferably 3) copies for each society.

The Week of Sacrifice offering will be received November 30.

that will bring them safely through earth's varying experiences, and place them at last in the kingdom of God with all the redeemed?

The solution? The program? Here they are—the Bible Year and the Morning Watch. How many young people in your society will religiously observe these essentials during 1936? That, of course, will depend largely upon your efforts along this line.

What are you to do? (1) Supply every young person with a Morning Watch calendar for 1936. (2) Supply every young person with a Bible Year leaflet, either Senior or Junior. (3) Supply every young person with M. V. Leaflet 18, "Bible Study." (4) Enlist every one to observe these religiously throughout the year. (5) From time to time make a survey of their progress. Urge and encourage at every opportunity. (6) Observe the Bible Year and the Morning Watch yourself. You too need the blessing, and you will be in a better position to encourage your youth.

D. A. OCHS.

Organized for Service

ALL Missionary Volunteers have been called to service in soul-winning endeavor. When a young person signs the society pledge, he promises to take an active part in helping to finish the work of carrying the gospel to all the world. It is proper, and important, therefore, that every member be assigned to some post of duty, some line of Christian service which will make it possible for him to carry out his pledge. Such assignments may easily be made when the band form of organization is followed. The following three bands are fostered in the average society:

1. The Prayer and Personal Workers' Band.—The Society officers should form the nucleus around which the membership of this band is built up. Though all the members of the society may belong to other bands, they should voluntarily become members of this band, for the key to success in any line of missionary work lies in keeping close to the Source of strength and power. If this band is a large one, assistant leaders should be appointed who will take charge of the small groups which may be arranged during prayer seasons. Encourage the members to pray and work for definite results.

2. The Christian Help and Gospel Meeting Band.—Nothing brings greater satisfaction into the life than to know that one is doing something every day to bring joy and happiness into the lives of others, and especially to be able to help win a soul for the Master. This band will foster the efforts made by the society to help the poor, to care for the aged, to make missionary visits, to visit the sick and shut-ins. Some of these activities may be assigned to certain members of the band who will constitute a Sunshine Band. One of the most important

features of this band, however, is that of conducting cottage meetings or holding Bible readings. The Study and Service League studies are designed to help the members to become qualified for this type of service.

3. The Literature and Correspondence Band.—This band is one in which even those with least experience may successfully engage. Nothing is more fruitful than the systematic circulation of our truth-filled literature. Arrange with the church board for definite territory. Encourage every member of this band to cover faithfully his assigned portion weekly when the band goes out. The literature may be paid for from the society offerings. Continue this systematic distribution sufficiently long to develop an interest which may be followed up by the Gospel Meeting Band.

In case your young people are in a sparsely settled community, we suggest that you secure from your conference office a list of names of people to whom literature may be sent from week to week by members of the band. After three or four numbers have been sent, write a brief letter to each one to whom the paper is going, to ascertain whether the paper is reaching its proper destination and if the people desire to have it continued. Write again after several weeks have passed, and enclose with the letter a series of questions which will draw out a response from those to whom the paper is going. When a real interest is developed, submit the names of the interested people to the conference president, so that he may have one of the ministers call on them.

Let us all unite in an earnest, prayerful effort to make 1936 the most fruitful year in soul-winning endeavor in the history of the Missionary Volunteer organization.

C. LESTER BOND.

(Use in connection with program for January 18. See pages 21, 28.)

Cleaning Up the Dump

"I WISH that somebody would clean up this mess. It's a disgrace—and right here at the back door of one of the prettiest parts of town." Mr. Grover was driving down Hillsboro on his way home.

"It is a mess," said Mrs. Grover. "Whose business is it to clean it up?"

"The city commission's, I suppose."

"Why don't they do it?"

"Why don't they do lots of things?"

Mr. Grover replied,

That evening as Mr. Grover sat listening to the radio, his daughter came to him. "Dad, please turn off the radio. I've something awfully important to talk about."

"All set," replied her father, turn-

ing off the radio and leaning back in his chair.

"Wasn't that a wonderful sermon Dr. Jennings gave us yesterday?"

"Sure. He always gives us fine sermons."

"The girls of our Sabbath school class are going to act on his suggestion. We are going to be home missionaries. We're going to clean up the 'dump' both inside and out."

"What are you talking about, Grace? You girls can't do that. I don't want my daughter associating with those foreigners, do you, mother?"

"I don't see how those people can hurt the girls, and they certainly need help. You have said often that that mess ought to be cleaned up."

"Oh, mother is for us. Besides, Miss Raymond, our teacher, is going to direct us. We want our fathers to supply the money for expenses. We are asking only five dollars from each of you every month."

"All right. I can stand that. I predict that the enterprise won't last long, anyway."

"Thanks a lot, dad," replied Grace, ignoring the last remark. "We'll make a home missionary out of you yet."

The girls worked faithfully. The summer passed rapidly. A two-room shack was rented and a daily vacation school opened. A Sunday school was organized. The women were gathered together twice a week and taught English. A club was organized for the boys and girls. Miss Raymond and the girls were enthusiastic. They grew to love these foreigners.

"I wouldn't recognize this place if I hadn't witnessed its reform from day to day with my own eyes," said Mr. Grover one afternoon in September, as he and his wife were driving home through Hillsboro Street. "I suppose the girls will be giving the work up when school opens. My, but those flowers and vines do cover a multitude of unsightliness, and the yards are as clean as they can be!"

"The children are clean, too, and the mothers are happy. And haven't you noticed what it has done for the girls? They simply radiate Christian love and grace. No, they are not giving up this work. They can't give as much time when school opens, but they are too much devoted to these people to give them up."—Ina Shaw.

Senior M. V. Meetings

Hoisting the Banner

(Program for January 4)

BY C. LESTER BOND

OPENING SONG: "Help Me Find My Place," No. 194 in "Gospel in Song."

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 20:1-16. PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT AND OFFERING. SPECIAL MUSIC: "The Master's Call," No. 133 in "Jubilate."

TALK: "A Call to the Colors."

TALK: "How Others Carry On."

ENROLLMENT OF MEMBERS.

CLOSING SONG: "More Diligence," No. 604 in "Christ in Song."

Notes to Leaders

Following the two talks, present the urgent need for every young person in the church to join the Missionary Volunteer Society, either as a "regular" Senior member or as an Associate member. Emphatically state that the society needs the help and support of each one. At the close of your remarks, distribute the Application for Membership cards, have them filled out, and collect them before the closing song is announced. This should take not more than seven minutes, and it will assure better results than to permit the cards to be carried home. After the application cards are reviewed and approved in the executive committee meeting, the names and information on the cards should be recorded by the society secretary. He should then forward the cards to the conference Missionary Volunteer secretary, who will in turn issue the membership cards. When the certificates of membership are received by the society secretary, they should be signed by him and presented to the members.

Write to your conference Missionary Volunteer secretary specifying the number of Application for Membership cards which you can use, if he has not already supplied you with them.

A Call to the Colors

THE prophecies of God's word relative to the signs of the times and the work of the gospel are rapidly fulfilling. Especially is this true of the prophecies pertaining to the remnant church. Seventh-day Adventists are a people of prophecy; and every day brings new evidences that the church is fulfilling divine predictions.

The youth of the church are definitely referred to in prophecy, and their part in the closing work of God in this earth is clearly pointed out.

"Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, . . . your young men shall see visions," said the prophet Joel.

A prophet is a person who delivers divine messages. The Universal English Dictionary defines a prophet thus: "A person inspired and directed by God to announce His will to men." According to our text, God has placed this responsibility upon the youth of the church today. The hour has struck when the young people must step into the ranks of God's great army of messengers and help to finish quickly His work.

The psalmist once said, speaking to God: "Thou hast given a banner to them that fear Thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth." Ps. 60:4. To hoist that banner is the challenge that God places before every young man and woman who has responded to the constraining love of the Lord Jesus.

"In view of their high calling, the youth among us should not seek for amusement, or live for selfish gratification. The salvation of souls is to be the motive that inspires them to action. In their God-given strength they are to rise above every enslaving, debasing habit. They are to ponder well the paths of their feet, remembering that where they lead the way, others will follow."—"Counsels to Teachers," p. 535.

"We can but look anxiously upon the youth of today as those who must take these burdens, and upon whom responsibilities must fall. They must take the work where others leave it, and their course will determine whether morality, religion, and vital godliness shall prevail, or whether immorality and infidelity shall corrupt and blight all that is valuable. It is the way the standard is carried now, that will determine the future."—"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 128.

The youth must catch their vision from the great Master Teacher. During His ministry Christ was continually beset with temptations and allurements that were intended by the enemy to hinder His carrying out the one thing that He came to accomplish. But His consecration to a good

cause was deep, and His trust in an all-powerful Father was so strong that none of these things could move Him. What a worthy example for the young man and young woman of today.

True, we are living in a time when attractions of every description are multiplied. But are not the appeals of worldly pleasure, wealth, and fame, challenges to every young Christian for greater faithfulness and more perseverance in carrying out His heavenly commission? This is not a time for loitering; it is not a time for pleasure seeking; it is not a time to seek the wealth of the world. No; this is the last hour, and the passion that burned in the life of the Saviour should be the impelling force in all our hearts.

The church is counting on the great army of more than one hundred eight thousand Missionary Volunteers, and it appeals to the members to rally as never before in a great effort to carry out the aim of the organization to give "the advent message to all the world in this generation."

Although God has pointed out the part the youth will have in the finishing of His work, the decision of each one determines whether or not he will have a part in the fulfillment of that prophecy. Youth time is decision time, and the decisions made in youth determine the life destiny. In his book "Entering on Life," Cunningham Geikie has said, "It is only by an effort that conscience can be drowned while we are young men; when we are older, it takes an effort to arouse it. God wrestles with us in the dawning of the day.

"It is irresistible proof of all this that the great majority of religious persons become so, early in life. To let that season pass without deciding for God is to lose the time specially fitted by Him for doing so, for though He will take us at any age, He seeks us in our prime, that our whole life may be blessed in His service. He likes the opening flower rather than the one that is blown and fading. The sacrifices were all taken from the young of the flock or herd. . . .

"Early vigor and warmth, consecrated to God, work miracles. Older men have their honored work, and are no less needed than the younger, but the living force that conquers the world for God is the fresh enthusiasm of opening life. Years may counsel,

Request of your conference M. V. secretary the Application for Membership cards needed for January 4.

and stimulate, and provide the means, but the hard work must fall mainly on young strength and zeal. Once won to God, there is no hesitation or half-hearted service. Youth feels itself only a steward, and gives itself up with unshrinking devotion."

Many of the youth of the advent movement are making such decisions for God, and consequently their devotion and zeal are seen in acts of love and helpfulness wherever they are. Some are careless and are frittering away their time from day to day only to awaken later to a realization of the fact that their lives have been wasted. The thought is well stated in Clarence E. Flynn's poem "Two Youths."

"One said: 'Youth comes but once to me;
So I shall play, and laugh, and sing,
I own no chains. I will be free.
None shall deny me anything.
He had his fling; then worn and gray,
With weary soul and eyelids wet,
He tried to wash the tears away,
And stem the tide of vain regret.

"One said: 'My youth comes not again.
I must not spoil it as it goes.
I must not live a day in vain,
Nor stain a page, nor mar a rose.'
The future found him glad and strong,
Unbound by weariness and fears,
Treading his journey with a song,
Heir to the gladness of the years."

Which of these youth are you? May God help each one to find fellowship with Him, and through that fellowship catch such a vision of the needs of His cause and the needs of lost men and women that he will be impelled to do aggressive ministry in evangelism and personal soul-winning endeavor wherever he may be.

"By aggressive warfare, in the midst of opposition, peril, loss, and human suffering, the work of soul-saving is to be carried forward. At a certain battle, when one of the regiments of the attacking force was being beaten back by the hordes of the enemy, the ensign in front stood his ground as the troops retreated. The captain shouted to him to bring back the colors, but the reply of the ensign was, 'Bring the men up to the colors!' This is the work that devolves upon every faithful standard-bearer,—to bring the men up to the colors. The Lord calls for wholeheartedness. We all know that the sin of many professing Christians is that they lack the courage and energy to bring themselves and those connected with them up to the standard."—"Testimonies," Vol. IX, pp. 45, 46.

As David thought of his responsibility he said, "We will rejoice in thy

salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners." Ps. 20:5. That was his pledge. Our society pledge embodies the same worthy ideals. Let every one who will take it as his individual pledge stand and join in repeating the pledge in unison:

"Loving the Lord Jesus, I promise to take an active part in the work of the young people's Missionary Volunteer Society, doing what I can to help others and to finish the work of the gospel in all the world."

How Others Carry On

Two young men attending one of our junior colleges laid plans early in the school year for Sunday night meetings in two districts a few miles from the school. They had no means of conveyance to their appointments; and when it was impossible for them to enlist the cooperation of some one with a car or other way of transportation, they walked four and one-half miles to meet one appointment and eleven miles to meet the other. The meetings were continued throughout the school year with a growing interest; and before the close of school in the spring, the Bible teacher was invited to baptize their candidates. He baptized twenty-four in one place and thirty-one in the other, and a church was organized in each locality. What cannot young people accomplish for God when they are fully consecrated to Him?

In one of our conferences a young man only seventeen years of age went to his conference president with the request that he be granted a tent in which to hold meetings in a place where meetings had not formerly been held and where there were no Seventh-day Adventists. At first the president was a bit skeptical; but because of the young man's importunity and determination, the president finally presented the matter to his conference committee, and they granted the young man's request. He enlisted the cooperation of another young man two years older than he. They erected their tent; but when it was pitched, they found that because of mildew the tent was filled with holes and would scarcely shed the sun's rays, much less rain drops. They were not discouraged, however, but set the tent in order and announced their meetings. The younger boy did the speaking and the other young

man took charge of the music. Together they visited in the homes of the people. At the end of their effort, which continued for seven weeks, the president of the conference was invited in to examine the candidates, and he had the privilege and joy of baptizing twenty-six men and women who had surrendered their hearts to the Lord Jesus and accepted this truth. At the close of the effort the young man who had approached the conference president resumed his studies as a senior in the academy, but at once he looked for a location to hold Sunday night meetings. Before the close of the first semester, through his ministry six families were keeping the Sabbath and were rejoicing in the light of truth. What these boys did, members of your society may do.

Elder E. A. von Pohle, Missionary Volunteer secretary of the Atlantic Union, related the following incident:

"The young people of the Brookside Junior Academy at Taunton have started an interesting enterprise of their own in an endeavor to win other Portuguese people to the third angel's message. The boys and girls of the academy have secured a hall in East Wareham, Massachusetts, and each Sunday evening are putting forth an effort to win the Portuguese people living in that district. It was my privilege to attend the services one Sunday evening, and I was very much interested in and impressed with the earnestness of the young people who took part in these services, and the presentation of the message they gave to those who attended.

"At five o'clock in the afternoon, Miss Florence Kidder, with the assistance of some of the girls of the school, held a children's meeting. They have been having an attendance of about thirty-five children at these meetings. Miss Kidder and the girls are drilling these Portuguese young people in good Seventh-day Adventist hymns and Bible verses covering creation and other points of our message. It is surprising to see the hearty response they get from the children and how much the children seem to enjoy the lessons. These children are having the truth implanted in their young minds at this time, and we pray that the truth may not only find a place in the hearts of the children, but may be carried back into the

homes of their parents, and result in souls being won to the gospel.

"A young people's meeting is held each Sunday evening at six o'clock, and one of the boys from the junior academy speaks. This evening Tilson Vincent was in charge, and spoke upon the manner of Christ's second coming. He had good command of his subject, and those in attendance seemed to be very much interested. These two services were held in English.

"The seven o'clock service was in the Portuguese language and was addressed primarily to the adults, although most of the young people stayed, there being an audience of about fifty altogether. Ralph Nobrega was the speaker. Although I could not understand what he said, I could tell by his method of speech and his gestures that he was giving them a good talk, and I noticed also that the Portuguese people present were very much interested in what was said. Other young people helped in the services. There was a duet by two girls from the school and a quartet composed of two girls and two boys. One of the girls presided at the musical instrument.

"This is quite an undertaking for these young people, with the slight training they have had, but it shows that there is an earnest spirit among the Portuguese young people. These boys and girls are only about fifteen or sixteen years of age, but the earnestness of their work and the application they give to the study of the subjects which they are presenting would do credit to much older young people."

Similar experiences in soul-winning work are continually being entered into by Missionary Volunteers in every part of the world field. Elder C. W. Bozarth tells how two boys from the Gitwe mission school went out during the summer vacation, and through their ministry in song and word, were instrumental in leading more than two thousand men, women, and youth in their respective home villages to accept the Lord Jesus and His truth. These are now being instructed in baptismal classes.

Following this great interest, Elder J. F. Wright, president of the Southern African Division, visited the field and in council with Brother Bozarth decided it would be necessary to restrict the boys in their mission-

ary endeavor. So Elder Bozarth went to the native teachers and requested them to tell the boys of their decision. But the native teachers said, "No; we cannot do this, for they would not understand. They have been instructed that unless each Christian wins at least one soul a year to Christ he is not a good Christian." The boys were left to continue their missionary endeavor.

Mrs. E. E. Andross, of the Inter-American Division, wrote of a young Indian girl only sixteen years of age who had been reared in a Catholic home. Through her association with a loyal Seventh-day Adventist girl, she came to desire a school training. She had not learned to read or write; but when she went to her parents with the request that she be permitted to accompany her friend to the mission school, they said, "No; that is a Protestant school. You are a Catholic."

But because of her persistence they finally granted her the privilege of going. Later she returned home a baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Upon discovering this, her parents became very angry, and her father abused her in almost every conceivable way. One day he had her bound hand and foot lying on the ground in the yard while he heated an iron rod in a fire, preparatory to branding her on the soles of her feet, when suddenly his entire attitude changed. As his eyes filled with tears, in a subdued voice he said, "Daughter, I have been watching you during these weeks that I have been abusing you and persecuting you, and through it all you have not shown one unkind attitude. You have been gentle and loving through it all. If your new religion can cause one to be like this, I want that religion too." The way opened for her to talk to her parents of the truths which she had come to love, and soon they were keeping the Sabbath and rejoicing with her in service for the Master.

She was not content, however, with the conversion of her parents and her four brothers and sisters. At once she began to work for her neighbors and friends. From week to week she walked fourteen miles to a neighboring village, where she carried on her missionary endeavor. After a number of months had passed, she

wrote to the mission school asking that some one be sent to look after those who had accepted the message. When the teacher came, he found twenty-three in her village and forty-one in the neighboring village ready for baptism.

These incidents are only examples of how the youth in every land are hoisting the banner of Prince Immanuel. May their examples instill in all our hearts greater earnestness and faithfulness in doing our part in helping to finish God's work and to carry the gospel to all the world in this generation.



A Year With Our Bible

(Program for January 11)

BY ERIC B. HARE

OPENING EXERCISES.

TALK: "How Much of the Bible Do We Need?"

TALK: "Why We Need It All."

SYMPOSIUM: "Interesting Facts."

TALK: "Why Are There Only 66 Books?"

POEM: "How Readest Thou?"

TALK: "Do You Value Your Opportunities?"

TALK: "A Great Famine Coming."

PROMOTION AND PLANS: "Are You Ready for 1936?"

TALK: "How to Study the Bible."

CLOSING EXERCISES.

Why Are There Only 66 Books?

JOHN declares that if all the books were written that could be written about the life and teachings of Christ the world could not contain them. John 21:25.

The British Museum contains miles of bookshelves, with over 4,000,000 volumes on them. Still there is plenty of room for more books; so of course John simply meant that the people of the world would not receive them.

It is interesting to know that there are several historical books referred to in Scripture, two of which are the book of Jasher (Joshua 10:13 and 2 Sam. 1:18) and the book of Enos (Jude 14). But these books have never been numbered in the Bible. They are not usually accepted by Protestants as part of the Bible, because:

1. In Hebrew they appear subsequent to cessation of prophecy.
2. They do not claim to be inspired.
3. Neither Christ nor the apostles ever quoted from them.
4. The Jews never received them.

How Much of the Bible Do We Need?

WHEN Jesus was vanquishing the tempter, He said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matt. 4:4. I want to emphasize that word *every* right here in the beginning of the year, when so many of us are starting to follow the Bible Year.

There are 773,692 words in the Bible, grouped into 31,173 verses, 1,189 chapters, and 66 books, and God has put life into *every* word. Our physical food contains grains, vegetables, and fruits, prepared in such a way that some are tasty, some sweet, some sour, some easy to eat, and some character developing (spinach, and those other things you don't particularly like). Yet all are essential for our physical growth. In like manner, the Bible contains promises, instruction, poetry, songs, prophecy, stories, history, and chronology. Always remember there is life in every word, and we will receive spiritual strength and health by reading every word of our daily portion.

"Born in the East, and clothed in Oriental form and imagery, the Bible walks the ways of all the world with familiar feet, and enters land after land to find its own everywhere. It has learned to speak in hundreds of languages to the heart of man. It comes into the palaces to tell the monarch that he is the servant of the Most High, and into the cottage to assure the peasant that he is the son of God. Children listen to its stories with wonder and delight, and wise men ponder them as parables of life. It has a word of peace for the time of peril, a word of comfort for the day of calamity, a word of light for the hour of darkness. Its oracles are repeated in the assembly of the people, and its counsels whispered in the ear of the lonely. The wise and the proud tremble at its warnings, but to the wounded and penitent it has a mother's voice. . . .

"Its great words grow richer, as pearls do when they are worn near the heart. No man is poor or desolate who has this treasure for his own. When the landscape darkens and the trembling pilgrim comes to the valley named the Shadow, he is not afraid to enter; he takes the rod

and staff of Scripture in his hand; he says to friend and comrade, 'Good-by, we shall meet again,' and comforted by that support, he goes toward the lonely pass as one who climbs through darkness into light."—*Henry Van Dyke*.

Why We Need It All

Without the book of Genesis we could never know the origin of things—of man, of worlds, of nations, of languages, of Babel and the flood.

Without Exodus we would lose the record of God's dealing with the proud people of Egypt, and the murmuring of Israel.

Without Kings and Chronicles we could not complete human history or tell in whose line Messiah came.

Without the Gospels the life of Christ would remain untold, and the great prophecy of Isaiah would become a meaningless thing.

Without the Epistles our lines of doctrine and theology would be incomplete.

Without the book of Acts we would lose sight of the apostles and their work, the establishment of the early church, and the beginning of the great missionary work of the gospel.

Without Daniel, Isaiah, and Revelation, the future world would be all dark, and we could not see the completion of God's designs.—*R. H.*

Do You Value Your Opportunities?

THE story is told of a certain rich young woman who one evening sat in a little boat drifting idly about on a lake. All nature rejoiced, and everything lent itself to ease and luxury. As this young woman, charmed by her surroundings, sat drinking in the glories of the evening, she played almost unconsciously with a necklace of pearls. One by one she let the beautiful gems pass through her fingers; and then, unknown to her, the string broke, and one by one her treasures dropped off into the lake. When at last she realized what had happened, it was forever too late. Her pearls were gone. Opportunities and days that are ours now are like those priceless pearls. Let us take advantage of them and use them, lest, charmed with the pleasures of this life, we fail to realize that they are slipping by until it is forever too late.

A Great Famine Coming

STORE up supplies! Get ready for it!

During the past year the long-shoremen's strike, combined with a sympathetic strike of the other labor unions, threatened to tie up supplies. One day we read that no more gasoline would be permitted to come into the city. Another day the street cars stopped running. Vegetables and fruits disappeared from the stores and markets, and everybody laid up stores and supplies while stocks lasted.

We filled our cars to the limit with gasoline, and were very careful not to run around in them unnecessarily. Men could be seen taking home cases of canned milk, canned soup, and canned fruit, because if the strike continued, there would be a famine, and we had all read enough of the horrors of famine to want to be prepared.

There's another famine coming! A terrible one! But not for bread. Amos 8:11, 12 tells of a terrible famine for the word of God which is coming upon the earth. How fortunate that we know and have time to prepare. Start laying up the treasures, the gems, the promises of the word of God, in your hearts now.

You've read your Bible through before? Read it again! Every time you read it you'll find something new!

Are you halfway through? Finish up your Bible Year, this year!

Have you just finished? Start your Bible Year again, this year!

Have you never completed reading your Bible? Start now to follow the Bible Year!

Then when frantic, fearful, panicky multitudes are rushing around trying to find out what the word of God says, you will be safe.

The Bible Applied

If you are down in the dumps, read the 27th psalm.

If your purse is empty, read the 37th psalm.

If you are losing confidence in men, read the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians.

If people seem unkind, read the 15th chapter of John.

If you are discouraged about your work, read the 126th psalm.

If you find the world growing small and yourself great, read the 19th psalm.

If you want to live successfully with your fellow men, read Romans 12.

Organize M. V. Service Bands during the meeting of January 18.

How to Study the Bible

THE Bible is a beautiful palace built of sixty-six blocks of solid marble—the sixty-six books. In the first chapter of Genesis, we enter the vestibule, which is filled with the mighty acts of creation. The vestibule gives access to the law courts,—the five books of Moses,—passing through which we come to the picture gallery of the historical books. Here we find hung upon the wall scenes of battlefields, representations of heroic deeds, and portraits of eminent men belonging to the early days of the world's history. Beyond the picture gallery we find the philosopher's chamber,—the book of Job,—passing through which we enter the music room,—the book of Psalms,—where we listen to the grandest strains that ever fell on human ears. Then we come to the business office,—the book of Proverbs,—where, right in the center of the room, stands facing us the motto, "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people." From the business office we pass into the chapel,—Ecclesiastes, or the preacher in his pulpit,—and thence into the conservatory,—the Song of Solomon, with the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley and all manner of fine perfumes and fruit and flowers and singing birds. Finally we reach the observatory,—the Prophets,—with its telescopes fixed on near and distant stars, and all directed toward "the Bright and Morning Star," that was soon to arise.

Crossing the court we came to the audience chamber of the King,—the gospels,—where we find four vivid life-like portraits of the King Himself. Next we enter the workroom of the Holy Spirit,—the Acts of the Apostles; and beyond that is the correspondence-room,—the Epistles,—where we see Paul and Peter and James and John and Jude busy at their desks; and if you would know what they are writing about, their epistles are open for all to study. Before leaving, we stand for a moment in the outside gallery,—the Revelation,—where we look upon some striking pictures of the judgments to come, and the glories to be revealed, concluding with an awe-inspiring picture of the throne room of the King.—"*How to Understand the Bible*," Martin Anstey, pp. 44-46.

Are You Ready for 1936?

A NEW year is before us, with its unknown duties, its untrod paths, its unseen possibilities. Are you ready for your life journey through 1936?

You will need food to give you strength. Matt. 4:4.

You will need a light in the darkness. Ps. 119:105.

You will need protection. Heb. 4:12; Ps. 91:4.

You will find them all in the Bible Year.

Plan to follow the Bible Year in 1936.

How Readest Thou?

It is one thing to read the Bible through. Another thing to read to learn and do. 'Tis one thing too to read it with delight.

And quite another thing to read it right. Some read it with design to learn to read.

But to the subject pay but little heed. Some read it as their duty once a week. But no instruction from the Bible seek; While others read it with but little care, With no regard to how they read, nor where.

Some read to bring themselves into repute, By showing others how they can dispute; While others read because their neighbors do,

To see how long 'twill take to read it through. Some read it for the wonders that are there—

How David killed a lion and a bear; While others read it with uncommon care.

Hoping to find some contradiction there. Some read as if it did not speak to them,

But to the people at Jerusalem. One reads with father's spees upon his head,

And sees the thing just as his father said. Some read to prove a preadopted creed,

Hence understand but little that they read; For every passage in the book they bend

To make it suit that all-important end. Some people read, as I have often thought,

To teach the book instead of being taught; And some there are who read it out of spite.

I fear there are but few who read it right. But read it prayerfully, and you will see,

Although men contradict, God's words agree; For what the early Bible prophets wrote,

We find that Christ and His apostles quote. So trust no creed that trembles to recall

What has been penned by one and verified by all.

—Author Unknown.

Interesting Facts

THE world's smallest Bible is a book with pages less than half the size of an ordinary postage stamp. This miniature New Testament is three fourths of an inch high, one half of an inch wide, and one quarter of an inch thick. It was exhibited under a powerful magnifying glass at the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago. The volume is not only the smallest Bible, but the smallest book containing a large number of words. It was printed from plates made

under a microscope in Glasgow in 1895. Four years were required to make the plates. Three books only were printed. One of these and the plates were destroyed by fire, and a second copy was lost.

The middle verse of the whole Bible is Psalms 118:8. The longest verse of the whole Bible is Esther 8:9, containing ninety words.

Ezra 7:21 contains all the letters of the alphabet except j.

Second Kings 19 and Isaiah 37 are almost alike. Ezra 2 and Nehemiah 7 are similar.

The last two verses of 2 Chronicles and the opening verses of Ezra are similar.

The name of God does not occur in Esther or the Song of Solomon.

In Psalms 107 four verses are alike: 8, 15, 21, and 31.

Each verse in Psalms 136 ends alike.

The Old Testament was divided into chapters by Cardinal Hugo de Santo-Caro, about 1236. These chapters were divided into verses by Rabbi Mordecai Nathan, adopted by Robert Stephens, a French printer, in his edition of the Vulgate in 1555, and transferred to the Authorized Version in 1611.

The Scriptures have been translated into 954 languages or dialects.

The first complete English translation was by Wycliffe in 1380.

The oldest manuscript of the Bible in the British Museum is the *Codex Alexandrinus*. The *Codex Vaticanus* is the oldest in the Vatican Library at Rome.

There is a Bible in the library of the University of Gottingen written on 2,470 palm leaves.



The Rhythm of Service

(Program for January 18)

BY LOUISE C. KLEUSER

SONG SERVICE: Select songs which suggest joyful services.

OPENING SONG: "In the Service of the King," No. 82 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

SCRIPTURE: Psalms 126.

PRAYER.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

REPORT OF SECRETARY.

OFFERING.

TALK: "Learning the Rhythm of Soul Winning."

BIBLE STUDY: "Rhythm in God's Workshop."

RECITATION: "Just Do Your Best."

TALK: "Keeping Music in Our Souls."

STORY: "Cleaning Up the Dump," p. 16.

ORGANIZATION OF SERVICE BANDS. See Note to Superintendents, p. 28.

TALK: "The Rhythm of Our Limitations."

CLOSING SONG: "Joy By and By," No. 863 in "Christ in Song."

BENEDICTION: Repeat the pledge in unison.

Definite methods of study are presented in the leaflet "Bible Study."

Learning the Rhythm of Soul Winning

God's church, entrusted with the message of the hour, represents His workshop on earth. Heaven is its powerhouse. The Holy Spirit lubricates the wheels of organization and activity. The work carried on the wings of progress enlists the talents and the services of all.

To the owner of an industrial plant, the hum of its wheels is music. Rhythm of sound is music; rhythm of action is power. Like the mighty Niagara, which provides a constant flow of blessing to the human race, is the rhythm of action in the church. Spirit-filled lives become God's channels through which His blessings are sent to an otherwise doomed world. It is this rhythm of service that produces the music of the individual soul and that will eventually swell into the grand chorus in the sea of glass. S. D. Gordon, in his book "Quiet Talks on Service," tells the following story:

"I have often stood, as a boy, on the streets of old Philadelphia, and watched a gang of foreign laborers at work. As a rule, they could speak only the language of their own fatherland. There would be a gang boss to direct their movements. Perhaps it was a huge stone to be moved, or a piece of structural iron, or a heavy rail to be torn up. The ends of their crowbars were fitted under the thing to be moved. Then they waited a moment for the gang boss to give the word. He would say, 'Heave ho!'

"Then all together they would sing, 'Heave ho,' and push. And a 'Heave ho,' and push; a 'Heave ho,' and push. They made perfect music. There was always a small crowd gathered, watching, and enjoying the simple music. Their work was easier because it was done rhythmically. This, of course, is the simple philosophy that provides music for soldiers on march. The men can walk much longer, and farther, with less fatigue if they go to the sound of music."

(Additional Illustration.—See "Joyful Service for Our Captain," p. 29.)



"THE path of sincerity and integrity is not a path free from obstruction; but in every difficulty we are to see a call to prayer."

Keeping Music in Our Souls

"THERE are ways in which all may do personal service for God. Some can write a letter to a far-off friend, or send a paper to one who is inquiring for truth. Others can give counsel to those who are in difficulty. Those who know how to treat the sick can help in this line. Others who have the necessary qualifications can give Bible readings or conduct Bible classes.

"The very simplest modes of work should be devised and set in operation among the churches."—*"Testimonies," Vol. VI, p. 433.*

"The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err."—*Id., Vol. VII, pp. 21, 22.*

"The humblest workers, in cooperation with Christ, may touch chords whose vibrations shall ring to the ends of the earth, and make melody throughout eternal ages."—*"Ministry of Healing," p. 159.*

The lines of service suggested in the Spirit of prophecy are outlined in Isaiah 58, the chapter for Sabbath-keepers. Only as we reach out to help other souls will our souls be watered and our Christian experience be healthy and fresh, bubbling over like a spring of water.

Missionary Volunteers need to keep step with the message. Each young person must be thrilled constantly with the rhythm that service for the lost produces in his own soul. Systematic, rhythmic service makes the hardest task a pleasure. It is best provided through the organized missionary bands. (See "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work," pp. 213-228.) By means of these service groups the humblest workers may have their part in the song of victory.

Prayer and Personal Workers' Band

When the sons of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh "cried to God in the battle," He was "entreated of them; because they put their trust in Him." 1 Chron. 5:18, 20. At one time Jesus took Peter, James, and John into a mountain to pray. Luke 9:28. Again the prayer band conducted by Paul and Silas at midnight in the Philippian jail produced the conversion of the jailor, when it was coupled with personal work. Acts 16:25-34. (See "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work," pp. 229-245.)

Christian Help and Gospel Meeting Band

Jesus sent forth His disciples to preach the message of the kingdom. This work of the gospel would embrace every needful service for suffering humanity. Matt. 10:1, 7, 8. True religion thinks of the widows and orphans and constantly ministers to the poor and unfortunate. James 1:27; Job 29:12-16. (See *Id.*, pp. 246-261.)

The Gadites were skillful in handling shield and buckler. Our youth especially should become expert in producing Bible proof for its neglected doctrines. 1 Chron. 12:8; Ps. 91:4; 119:151, 160. (See *Id.*, pp. 254, 255.)

Literature Band

The published word is to be scattered everywhere at the end of time. The service of our believers in this literature ministry will do much to enlighten the world about the coming of Christ. Ps. 68:11; 126; Rev. 18:1-4. (See *Id.*, pp. 262-286.)

Singing Band

The service of our singing bands during the Harvest Ingathering work has literally touched chords whose vibrations have rung to the ends of the earth. When pursued by Pharaoh's hosts, Israel sang after they went through the Red Sea, while Miriam led out with the timbrel. Exodus 15. The Chronicles record the services of men skilled in voice and instrumental music. 1 Chron. 6:31-33; 15:22; 16:42; 2 Chron. 30:21.

Rhythm in God's Workshop

Base this talk on a study of Ezekiel 1 and 2, which suggests basic principles for our service bands in the society. Fundamental is the lesson that all the wheels in God's organization belong to His divine plan. While each revolves, carrying on its special function, the pattern of the vision shows perfect harmony of purpose and action. The progress of the prophet's message is dependent upon complete coordination. Emphasize briefly the points desired, and then invite each Missionary Volunteer to give further personal study to these chapters.

Ezekiel 1 and 2

Verses 1-4. Heaven's curtain must be drawn aside to permit us to understand the divine plan of our salvation.

Verses 8-10. Our human resources must be combined with the strength and characteristics of the "Tion of the tribe of Judah." We need our Saviour's burden-bearing nature, as well as His lofty ideals.

Verses 11, 15. The wheels in the plan of salvation touch the earth, but

The "Junior Song Book" is now called "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

each wheel is active in carrying out a high and divine purpose.

Verses 12, 18. The Spirit's direction and power drive the wheels forward without sidetracking. The wisdom of the Almighty expands each revolution to dreadful heights.

Verses 16, 17. As intrinsic care and detail promote the progress of each wheel, the effect is that of a wheel within a wheel. The wheels and their work extend in all directions.

Verses 11, 16, 23. The mathematical units of twos and fours suggest complete coordination of service while each part performs its specific function.

Verses 24, 25. The activity of the wheels produced a mighty sound as of a host. It was the voice of the Almighty.

Verses 26, 28. The message came directly from the throne of heaven, and the bow of God's promise was there.

Chapter 2. The message was prophetic, crying woe to a judgment-bound people because they had rebelled against God's word.

The Rhythm of Our Limitations

Most of us have seen children's rhythm bands perform. Perhaps I place the emphasis on "seen" more than "heard." The crude instruments manipulated by these tiny musicians amaze us. The tin pie plate produces surprising sounds bordering on humble music, while other domestic articles add homely beauty to an ensemble, simple indeed, yet skillful. Each improvised instrument in the hands of a sparkling-eyed, enthusiastic child vies with its musical helpers to produce rhythm, if not real music.

Humble though our talents may be, heaven has promised to make them vibrant for truth and righteousness. From the following, draw personal courage to put your limited talents to the Master's use. While sharpening your tools as opportunity presents itself in the service of your missionary band, do with your might whatever your hands find to do.

Examples

1. The lad David used his crude sling and one of the five smooth stones he picked up.

2. The farmer Shamgar slew the Philistines with an oxgoad.

3. Benaiah slew two lionlike men of Moab and a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day.

4. Shammah stood his ground in a lentil patch.

5. Jael brought victory by means

of a nail of the tent, and a hammer.

6. Another woman turned the tide of the battle by casting a piece of a millstone on the leader's head.

7. By means of broken pieces of a wrecked vessel, the members of the ship's crew and passengers who could not swim escaped safely to land.

8. A homemade basket carried the precious cargo of God's potential leader of Israel.

9. Small Zacchaens climbed a tree when he failed to catch a glimpse of the Saviour over the heads of the crowd.

10. A little cake baked first for Elijah opened the way for God to bestow blessings in the widow's home.

Another Illustration.—"It Can't Be Done in This Town." (See the talk "Overcoming Difficulties," p. 29.)

Just Do Your Best

Just do your best. It matters not how small.

How little heard of;
Just do your best—that's all.
Just do your best. God knows it all,
And in His great plan you count as one:
Just do your best until the work is done.

Just do your best. Though poor, despised, forsaken,
Let not your faith be shaken.
Just do your best; with God and one
The mightiest things are done.

Just do your best. Who cares if in
The wild, hot rush for wealth and place
You don't excel?
Don't fret. Just do your work,
And do it well.

Just do your best. Reward will come
To those who stand the test;
God does not forget. Press on,
Nor doubt, nor fear. Just do
your best.

—Ernest Lloyd.



The Art of Making Friends

(Program for January 25)

BY CHRIS P. SORENSEN

SONGS FOR TODAY: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "I've Found a Friend," "Jesus Is a Friend of Mine," "I Would Be True."

OPENING EXERCISES.

POEM: "Friendship."

QUOTATIONS FROM THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY.

TALK OR SYMPOSIUM: "Problems of Friendship."

DISCUSSION: "Adventuring in Christian Friendship."

POEM: "Because I Had a Friend," or "The House by the Side of the Road," by Sam Walter Fess.

CLOSING SONG AND PRAYER.

Friendship Defined

"A FRIEND is one who takes your words
Like the grain and chaff together:
Accepts the good, and with love's breath
Blows the rest into the weather."

Friendship

ONE whose grip is a little tighter.
One whose smile is a little brighter.
One whose deeds are a little whiter.
That's what I call a friend.

One who'll lend as quick as he'll borrow.
One who's the same today as tomorrow.
One who will share your joy and sorrow,
That's what I call a friend.

One whose thoughts are a little cleaner.
One whose mind is a little keener,
One who avoids those things that are meaner,
That's what I call a friend.

One, when you're gone, who'll miss you sadly.
One who'll welcome you back again, gladly,
One who, though angrily, will not speak madly,
That's what I call a friend.

One who is always willing to aid you.
One whose advice has always paid you.
One who defends when others flay you,
That's what I call a friend.

—John Burroughs.

Quotations

A friend may be a connecting link between a soul and Christ:

"There are souls perplexed with doubt, burdened with infirmities, weak in faith, and unable to grasp the Unseen; but a friend whom they can see, coming to them in Christ's stead, can be a connecting link to fasten their trembling faith upon Christ."—*"The Desire of Ages,"* p. 297.

God helps us through friends:

"The Lord did not leave you to perish. He frequently raised up friends to aid you when you least expected it. . . . Then in your sore distress and perplexity the Lord raised you up friends."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. II, pp. 270, 271.

Warmth of true friendship is a foretaste of heavenly joys:

"The warmth of true friendship, the love that binds heart to heart, is a foretaste of the joys of heaven."—*"Ministry of Healing,"* p. 360.

Problems of Friendship

FINDING true friends. Prov. 17:17.
When a friend rebukes us. Prov. 27:5, 6.

When friends disagree. Acts 15: 36-41.

When friends forsake. 2 Tim. 4: 9-18.

Surety for a friend. Prov. 17:18.
How to be a good mixer. Prov. 18:24.

A duty toward friends. Job 42:10.
True friendship demonstrated. John 15:13.

What is the difference between acquaintanceship, friendship, and intimacy?

What is your greatest problem in friendship?

"The Senior Bible Year," M. V. Leaflet 16, will provide a check for daily reading. Price, per hundred, 60 cents.

What if our friendly approaches are rejected?

True friendship consists in loving another for that other's own sake, and not for what that other is to the one who loves. Acquaintanceship involves no such love. You may be friendly to an acquaintance, although this is not necessarily implied by the term "acquaintanceship," and yet never be a true friend to such a one.

Likewise it is possible to be intimate with another, and yet not be a true friend. The ties of association often produce intimacy. We are more or less intimate with those with whom we work. In the home we are necessarily intimate with others in our families. Yet it is sadly true that, even in our homes, true friendship—that unselfish outgoing of the whole soul to another in a ceaseless and unwavering affection—is too seldom found.

"Friendliness resembles friendship," said Aristotle, "and yet it is not friendship."

Keeping in mind, then, this pure ideal of friendship as unselfish love, what are some of the problems of friendship? Perhaps the greatest problem is our own capacity for such a love. Since true friendship involves a love with the element of selfishness eliminated, our friendships can rise only to the degree in which self is eliminated in our lives.

But suppose friends rebuke us or disagree with us or do things of which we disapprove? If our friendship is truly one of self-forgetfulness, such things will not alter our love.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, in "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," tells of a side door of the heart which enters at once into the secret chambers of one's being, and of the peril of trusting a key to that door to any loved one. "Be very careful to whom you trust one of these keys of the side door," he says. "The fact of possessing one renders those even who are dear to you very terrible at times."

But what if our friendship is rejected? Can that cause our love for the other to die? Not if that love is a true, unselfish love, for such love expects no return.

It is true that such an unreturned friendship can never flower to its fullest. The very fact that the other does

not regard us as we regard that one means, in most instances, that we shall have few opportunities for expressing our friendship. Yet that need not alter its quality.

How important, then, it is for us to trust God in the matter of our friendships, and to ask Him first of all to create in us the capacity for true friendship and then lead us to those whom He knows will be the ones toward whom our friendship should be directed.

Because I Had a Friend

LIFE never would have been so rich
To me, so well worth while,
But for that cheering word you spoke,
But for that cheery smile;
The burden had so heavy grown,
My heart was filled with care;
I never would have reached the goal
Had you, friend, not been there.

Because, because I had a friend,
One who was real and true;
Because your friendship did not fail
Just when I needed you,
I had the strength to clamber on,
I had the will to do;
Because I knew I had a friend,
I've had no cause to rue.

Oh, there are records of the past
That tell of trust sublime,
Of friendship that survived the test
Of doubt, disaster, time;
But I know one that's up to date,
That has not had an end,
When a man defeated fought and won
Because he had a friend.

—Author Unknown.

Adventuring in Christian Friendship

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 18

Bases that make friendship possible.

PHYSICAL. What is the relation between health and friendship? Can one easily be friends with those who are sick and complaining? Are we naturally drawn toward those better looking?

MENTAL. Are we naturally attracted to those whose attitudes, ideas, ideals, and prejudices we cannot agree with or respect? Are we attracted to or repelled by those whose interests are the same as ours?

SPIRITUAL. Will our spiritual qualities influence us in choosing friends? After we have chosen our friends, what effect will religion have on this bond of friendship? How would you judge as to the effect of mutual religious interests? What spiritual quali-

ties must underlie a lasting friendship?

MUTUAL INTERESTS. What mutual interests and activities must contribute toward any deep friendship? Can any lasting friendship be founded on just a few mutual interests? How wide a range must these mutual interests cover? Can two persons have mutual interests in two of the above bases and not in the third, and yet enjoy a deep friendship?

Hindrances to friendship.

SOCIAL STATUS. Were the friendships of Jesus carried on in any single social group? Should we confine our friends to our own social group? If not, should we befriend those above or below us? Is it hard or easy to be friends with those who lack culture, refinement, and a taste for the better things of life? How great a difference in religious outlook do you think a friendship can overcome? Can you be a close friend of a Mormon? a Catholic? a member of no church? a Protestant? a heathen? Do nationality and race offer hindrances?

SELFISHNESS. What would you say is the one outstanding hindrance to our having friends? Can every one have friends? Does every one have friends? Does our purpose in having friends in any way affect our lasting friendships?

Purpose in friendships.

CHANCE OR CHOICE. How many real friends do you have? How many friendships were formed by mere chance? How many were formed by choice on your part? Did you select your friends or did they select you? Are most of your friends in the group or groups with which you mingle mostly? How is it that so many young people have formed friendships outside of the church? How do the friends you acquired by chance compare with those you yourself chose? (Read Mark 3:13-19 and John 15:15.) How did Jesus come to choose the men named in Mark 3? What motives prompted Jesus in this choice? Of what advantage were they, as His friends, to Him? Did Jesus select them for anything they had already done or for what they would mean to Him as a result of His friendship? What might that suggest to us in choosing our friends? Did David choose Jonathan or did Jonathan choose David? Why?

MORAL INFLUENCE. Are we taking any risks in the friendships we form? When in the formation of friendship should we exercise wise choice—association, acquaintance, friendship, intimacy? How can we safeguard our standards in the midst of friends? Shall we stoop or climb to the level of our friends in order to save them?

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"A MAN without mirth is like a wagon without springs."



"Messages to Young People" is abbreviated "Messages."

Junior M. V. Meetings

Hoisting the Banner

(Program for January 4)

BY C. LESTER BOND

OPENING SONG: "Forth to Conquer, Volunteers," No. 60 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

PRAYER.

MINUTES AND OFFERING.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

TALK: "By the Grace of God."

TALK: "I Will Be Pure."

TALK: "I Will Be Kind."

DUET: "I Would Be True," No. 58 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

TALK: "I Will Be True."

SUPERINTENDENT'S TALK.

CLOSING SONG: "Send It Over There From Over Here," No. 78 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

Notes to Superintendents

The purpose of this program is to help the Juniors to recognize that God is calling each one of them to be a standard-bearer for Him, to live an exemplary Christian life, and to do what he can wherever he is to witness for God. Four outline talks, setting forth the first four features of the Junior Pledge, have been provided for the Juniors to give. Since a number of programs are being arranged on the Junior Law to be given later, it is not planned that that portion of the pledge dealing with the Junior Law should be discussed in this meeting.

To close the meeting, it is suggested that the superintendent discuss with the Juniors the last part of the pledge, and that definite plans be laid for systematic missionary endeavor.

If your society has not yet renewed its membership for 1936, membership application cards should be filled out and sent to the Missionary Volunteer secretary of the conference, who will issue the membership and preparatory membership cards to those applying for them.

By the Grace of God

THE Junior Missionary Volunteer Pledge is a promise that we make to God and to each other. People have always made promises, and it is interesting to notice their attitudes toward the promise after it has been made. Let us take a moment to think of some of the people who are mentioned in the Bible and of the pledges they made.

Jacob promised God that he would give a tenth of all that he possessed if God would bless and protect him

on his journey and bring him safely again to his father's house. As far as we know, Jacob faithfully fulfilled that promise to his Creator.

Ananias and Sapphira made a promise that they would give the proceeds from the sale of certain property that they possessed. But after the property was sold, they decided to keep back a part of it. Thus they failed to honor their word.

Three months after the children of Israel left the land of Egypt, they came to Mt. Sinai in their travels, and there God proclaimed to them His ten commandments. All the people united in saying, "All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient." However, it was only a few days until they brought their jewels and made a molten calf and bowed down and worshiped it, thus violating their pledge to God.

No doubt the Israelites were sincere in their promise, and fully intended to do the very thing they said they would do. But they depended upon themselves for strength to carry out their resolution; so they were unable to help themselves to meet God's requirements and to do as they had promised.

It will be found impossible today, as it was then, to carry out any good resolutions in our own strength. We can do it only as we permit God to help us. For that reason, in taking our Junior Missionary Volunteer Pledge, we say, "By the grace of God, I will—"

Our Junior Missionary Volunteer Pledge is really the standard under which the Juniors are organized. Its ideals are the ideals that should govern our lives from day to day. How many of you Juniors would like to stand in this first meeting of the new year and take our pledge as the banner under which you will journey during the year 1936, thus indicating that you are willing to let God lead you through all the experiences of life?

I Will Be Pure

THIS part of our pledge is an important one, since Jesus made it very clear that only those who are pure in

heart will be saved. He said, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matt. 5:8. The same thought is emphasized by the psalmist: "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully." Ps. 24:3, 4.

If our hearts are pure, all our words and actions will be pure. Naturally our hearts are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. But if we give our hearts to God, He will purge from our lives all the wicked things and put in their stead that which is pure and upright.

However, we have a part to act ourselves in building pure traits into our lives. The Junior who is continually reading impure stories, who goes to the movies, where he sees impure suggestions, or who listens to impure stories and bad words, will naturally build impure traits into his character.

In spite of all these things about us which offer impure suggestions, God has made it possible for us to be pure. He says He will cause us to grow as the lily. Have you ever observed the water in which water lilies grow? It is filled with slime and moss and wigglers and other wafer insects. Yet, in spite of the fact that the environment is so impure, the bloom of the lily itself is pure and white.

This is the way God will enable us to grow in a world of sin. Jesus said: "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." So if our hearts are pure, our words will be pure. Do you not think that we should ask God to help us to refrain from using slang expressions or from saying anything else that would be displeasing to Him?

This point of our Junior Pledge applies also to the care of our body temples. If we keep this promise, "I will be pure," surely we shall not indulge in cigarettes or tobacco in any form, nor shall we use beer or other harmful drinks, for these will all defile our bodies. Let us every day keep this part of the pledge constantly before us, and ask God to help us under all circumstances of life to be pure.

"KEEP thyself pure." 1 Tim. 5:22.

A new denominational history—"The Great Advent Movement," by Emma E. Howell. Price, 85 cents.

I Will Be Kind

KINDNESS is love shining out of the heart. So one can be kind only if he has love for others in his heart. If we go as far in our relationship to others as we are admonished by our Saviour, and love even our enemies, we shall then naturally be kind to all.

There is great need for kindness in the world today, for the majority of people have grown to be very selfish. In their plans they think only of themselves and are forgetful of the needs and happiness of those about them. If we as Juniors keep this part of our pledge, it will enable us to be a great blessing to others every day. We shall not then forget to do things for others that will help to lighten their burdens. We shall watch for opportunities of helping those about us who are really in need. We shall run their errands, shovel the snow from their walks, do the chores for helpless old people, and always remember to say, "I thank you," when others show us a kindness.

One day a Junior boy stood in a long line with other persons waiting for the door of the Salvation Army soup kitchen to open. It was on Thanksgiving Day. Willie was an orphan and had not enjoyed a good meal for a long time. He had satisfied his hunger again and again by visiting garbage cans in the back alleys of New York. But now he was going to have a good meal.

As he stood there on the icy sidewalk shivering because of the cold, he observed a little girl a few years younger than he, standing in line also. She had no shoes or stockings. She would stand first on one foot, putting the other foot against the calf of her leg to warm it; and then, putting that foot down, she would lift the other and endeavor to warm it against the calf of her other leg.

Willie stood watching her until he could endure it no longer. Then he went to her, took his coat off, put it down on the sidewalk, and said, "Mary, will you please step on this coat?" Then when she had done so, he wrapped the coat around her feet and legs and went back to his place in the line.

You may not be called upon to show kindness in this same way, but if you are watchful, you may find opportunities every day. Be kind to others.

This point of our pledge applies also to our treatment of animals. The boy or girl who keeps it will not do anything that will bring suffering to the dumb creatures about him or her. Let us say again, "By the grace of God, I will be kind."

I Will Be True

HONESTY and uprightness in life are greatly to be admired and should be coveted by every Junior. Do you not like to be in the company of one whose word can always be depended upon? one who is not afraid to stand for the right regardless of what others may do or say? one who is not afraid to let his light shine for God even though those about him may ridicule? Such a life should be the ambition of every loyal Junior Missionary Volunteer.

The one who keeps this point of the pledge will always be obedient to the rules of the school he attends. He will not cheat in examination nor in any game that he may play. He will cultivate the habit of speaking the truth always. His life will be one which will not in any sense be a lie.

The story is told of a conductor on a limited passenger train who was given orders by a train dispatcher to sidetrack his train at a siding three and a half miles out of town for a freight going in the opposite direction to pass. Upon reading the orders the conductor said to himself, "Who ever heard of such an order as that—holding up a passenger train for a freight? I'm not going to obey that order. I can get my train on beyond that siding four and a half miles to the next station before the train leaves."

Instead of giving the engineer his copy of the order, as was usually done, the conductor crumpled up both pieces of paper and stuffed them into his pocket. When the baggage, mail, and express had all been loaded, he called, "All aboard," and signaled for the engineer to start.

The train attained the speed of fifty or fifty-five miles an hour and ran by the siding where it was to have stopped. As it was going around a curve at the hill, the engineer suddenly observed the freight coming toward him on the same track. There was no possible way of avoiding a head-on collision. The engineers on

both trains called to their firemen to jump, and in this way they saved their lives. But the passengers knew nothing of their danger. The trains crashed together and many people were injured and some were killed.

This conductor who had been disobedient and untrue hurried from the scene and hid among the trees. He had not begun in this one moment to betray the trust that had been placed in him. Through the years he had been untrue to other things, until now, when a real test had come, he could be disobedient.

The Junior age is the time to cultivate the habit of honesty. Shall we not every day ask God to help us to be true?

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Why Should We Believe the Bible?

(Program for January 11)

BY ERIC B. HARE

OPENING EXERCISES.

INTRODUCTION. See Note to Superintendents.

TALK: "How Did We Get Our Bible?"

SYMPOSIUM: "I Believe the Bible Because—"

1. "It Has Life."
2. "It Predicts the Future."
3. "It Has Power."
4. "It Tells the Beginning and Ending of Things."

POEM: "The Book for Boys," p. 54 in "Choice Poems."

PROMOTION AND PLANS: "Are You Ready for 1936?" See p. 21.

CLOSING EXERCISES.

Note to Superintendents

Introduction.—We are told to prove all things (1 Thess. 5:21) and to be ready to give an answer to every one who asks concerning our faith. 1 Peter 3:15. We should answer clearly and definitely this question, and tell the world why we believe the Bible.

There are seven books, known all over the world, which are held sacred by their followers:

1. The Koran, sacred to the Mohammedans.
2. The books called King and Shu, sacred to the followers of Confucius.
3. The Vedas, sacred to the Hindus.
4. The Zend-Avesta, held sacred by the fire worshippers of Persia and India.
5. The Tripitaka, sacred to Buddhists.
6. The Talmud, sacred to the Jews.
7. The Christian Bible. But the Bible is the only one that can be read by all the nations and peoples of the world. Complete copies or parts of the Scriptures are printed in 954 lan-

Have you read the book "The Bible Year," by Adelaide Bee Evans?—

guages; so literally all the world can read it.

How Did We Get Our Bible?

THERE are only four possible ways that the Bible could have come to us.

1. *By chance.* But we can't believe that the Bible or anything else ever came by chance. So we are not even going to consider that way.

2. *Maybe bad men wrote it to deceive.* But the Bible condemns sin, and bad men simply couldn't write their own condemnation. So we are sure bad men didn't write it.

3. *Well, maybe good men wrote it.* But if they did, the writers told lies, for all through it they say, "Thus saith the Lord." And if they told lies, they wouldn't be good men. So we know good men didn't write it.

4. *The only other way is to believe what the Bible says about itself.* Second Peter 1:20, 21, tells us that the Holy Spirit moved upon holy men of God, and caused them to write what the Spirit wanted to say. This explains why the writers of the sixty-six books during the 1,500 years from Moses to John all wrote about the same truth of God, without contradiction and without getting mixed up.

I Believe the Bible Because— It Has Life

Hebrews 4:12, A. R. V.

THE Bible was written in only a few languages, but with the facilities of the printing press the Bible and portions of it are today printed in 954 languages. In spite of its enemies, the Bible has lived and multiplied. Nobody can kill the Bible.

"Gibbon, Voltaire, Chesterfield, strove each in his own way, to destroy the influence of Christianity, yet it is recorded that after Gibbon's death, in the house which he occupied, on Lake Geneva, a Bible depository was established. The stream of infidel works written by Voltaire absorbed the full capacity of a printing press, but the press before very long was appropriated to the work of printing Bibles. The club room where Chesterfield's friends used to meet to encourage each other in hostility to the Bible became the vestry of a church where the prayers of saints and penitent sinners were constantly heard."—*Bible Society Record, March, 1914.*

Several hundred years ago the people of Bohemia were forbidden to possess or to read the Bible. An edict was issued by the emperor of Austria, to which country Bohemia then belonged, declaring that the nation was Roman Catholic, and commanding all people to obey the rules of that church.

And the priests forbade the common people to possess a Bible. But many of them did, and they refused to give them up. So the priests sent out soldiers to search the houses and seize the Bibles. When the people of any village heard that the soldiers were coming to their locality, they made haste to hide their Bibles in some secret place. So although the soldiers searched the houses thoroughly and roughly, yet many Bibles were not found. Often boys and girls were given the task of watching and reporting the approach of the soldiers to their homes. So faithful and so shrewd were these children that the soldiers could not make them tell where the sacred book was to be found.

One day the report came to a house, "The soldiers are coming here!" There was only a young girl there, and she was kneading dough for bread. On hearing the breathless whisper of the sentinel, the quick-witted girl spread out her dough, placed the Bible in the center and quickly doubled the dough over it, put it into a big pan, and slipped it into the oven.

When the soldiers arrived a few minutes later, the girl met them at the door, and in answer to their demand for the Bible, calmly told them to search and see if there was one in the house. They looked in every corner of the cottage, but found no Bible. If they opened the stove door they saw only a large loaf of bread rising in the oven.

Years afterward the grandson of the heroine of this story immigrated to America and settled in northwestern Ohio. He brought with him the Bible which his grandmother had saved from the soldiers. It has been carefully kept as a relic of days which, fortunately, are no more. What would you do if some policeman should come to your home and demand every Bible that you had in the house?—*Stories to Tell.*

It Predicts the Future

The Bible contains about 1,000 predictions, many of which have already been fulfilled to the letter. Against the predictions of the Bible, man is powerless. Matthew 24:14 says the gospel shall be preached. Voltaire, the well-known infidel of France, once made a prophecy in Paris, during which he said, "In a hundred years the Bible will be unknown." How powerless were his words; in only ten

years in Paris alone 10,000 Bibles were sold. And today about 30,000,000 copies or parts of Scripture are being sold every year.

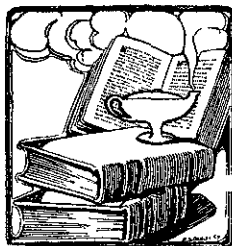
The times in which we find ourselves, surrounded with all the wonders of science, the sickness, the famine, the war, the earthquakes, are predicted accurately in the Bible.

It Has Power

In 1835, in the island of Fiji, there was not a single Christian. That year two natives from Tahiti swam ashore from a ship that was anchored near by. They carried their Bibles on their heads to keep them dry. Fifty years afterward there was not one heathen or one cannibal left in Fiji. The change was very noticeable, but on one occasion a certain English infidel touring around Fiji began to laugh and scoff as he heard the Fijians singing in their worship. "Oh," he said, "why do you people believe in the Bible? Why, we do not believe the Bible any more. Look how big and wonderful we are." One of the Fijians listened very carefully. When the Englishman had said all he wanted to say, the islander tapped him on the shoulder and said: "Mr. Infidel, you can say what you like, but we don't want to hear you ridicule the Bible while you are in Fiji. If it was not for the power of the Bible, we would not leave you sitting there five minutes. Do you know where you would be?" Then turning around to a big fireplace with a huge pot before it, he said, "You would be inside that pot, and we would be getting ready to eat you. But because of the power of the Bible we have no more desire to follow those heathenish practices." Needless to say, the infidel stopped his scoffing.

There are many stories that we could tell of the power that there is in the simple word of God.

There was once an uneducated jockey who knew only how to ride horseback in the horse races. He was uneducated except in all the ways of wickedness. He could drink and gamble and curse as well as any one, but that was all he could do. Yet one time this young man's heart was touched, and he gave his heart to the Lord Jesus. The change was so noticeable in his own life that he began to desire above all things else to take the story of Jesus to others. So one day, with his Bible under his arm, he decided to go and try to tell others. He passed several houses, feeling that they were too big or too stylish for him to go into, and finally he turned toward the outskirts of the town and came to a little shack. He knocked on the door; and when the old lady came to the door, he forgot all he had planned to say. At last he was only able to stammer, "Lady, I used to be a very bad man, but I have been reading the Bible, and I have been converted and my life has been changed.



—You will find it a helpful commentary as you read the Bible through. Price, paper, 25 cents.

Now I am so happy that I want to tell others about it too. Would you like me to study the Bible with you?" He was almost surprised when she said that she would. Not knowing what else to do, he took his Sabbath school lesson pamphlet to the old lady's house twice a week and studied the lesson with her. Because he was not educated, that was all he could do; but because of the power that there is in the word of God, that old lady was won to the truth too.

I can remember my old father telling a story about a certain banker and his son. In the early pioneer days of America they had to travel from settlement to settlement and were often in danger from robbers. It was their custom to sleep by turns at night, one sleeping while the other sat up watching the money and holding a pistol in his hands. On one occasion toward evening they came to a little shack where an old man and woman were living. The banker asked if they could stay there for the night, and the old man made them welcome. After supper they retired, and the banker lay down while his son sat up to watch with his gun in his hand. By and by the banker was awakened by the son. Thinking that they were being attacked, he arose quickly and felt for his gun too, but the boy assured him, "No, no, father; we don't need to watch here. While I was watching through the crack, I saw the old man take down his Bible from the shelf; and after reading a portion of it, they knelt down to pray, and I heard him pray for the angels to watch over them during the night. He even prayed that angels would care for the two strangers that were staying with them in their house. So, father, I just woke you up to tell you that we shall not need to stay up and watch with our guns in our hands tonight. We will be able to sleep all night long, without any fear at all."

After hearing a story like this, who can deny that there is an unspeakable power in the word of God?

Years and years ago an American Indian was given a copy of the Bible. He had seen the power of the Bible in the lives of many of his countrymen. He had seen how cruel fighting men had been tamed. He had seen angry men lose their hatred and become loving and peaceful. Then one day in a playful mood his dog tore two pages out of that Bible and ate them. In his dismay he came running to the missionary and said, "O Mr. Missionary, my dog has eaten two pages out of the Bible. My dog has eaten two pages out of the Bible. What will I do? What will I do?" Thinking that the Indian was anxious for the Bible, the missionary hastily assured him that it did not matter, that he would get him another Bible. But the Indian hastened to explain, "That is not the trouble, Mr. Missionary. My dog has eaten two leaves from the Bible, and now he won't fight any more, and

he won't kill animals any more, and if I don't have a dog that will fight and kill, how am I going to hunt for food in the woods any more?"

Of course, this is just an amusing story, but it shows that even among primitive people they recognize that there is a strange power that brings quietness and peace and safety wherever the Bible goes.

It Tells the Beginning and Ending of Things

It tells how the world came into being. It explains why. It tells us what is coming. It tells us how we can escape the trouble and the judgment of this world, and find our way into heaven, the eternal kingdom of God. It is the only book that can give us the origin and final end of the world.

One day in a little village a new preacher came to live. For years and years the village folk had enjoyed the simplicity of the old-fashioned preacher, who had just gone away, and now they were thrilled to think they were to have a college graduate for their new pastor, a man versed in the mysteries of Greek and Hebrew. With great eagerness Mary and John bought a brand-new Bible and took it with them to church; but the very first Sunday he began to talk about how men had discovered that some of the stories of the Bible were simply fables and myths. He ridiculed the idea of the whale's ever swallowing Jonah. So when Mary and John got home they decided to cut the book of Jonah out of their new Bible. Why should they have anything that was only fable in their Bible? The next Sunday the preacher enlarged on the mistakes of Moses; so when they got home out came the books of Moses. Every Sunday after that some portion of the Scripture was ridiculed, and some portion of the Scripture cut out, until at last, with almost nothing left, Mary and John called on their pastor. They said, "We have been trying to keep our Bible pure and free from mistakes and legends and fairy stories; so week by week we have carefully cut away the things you have said were false or questionable, and now we are wondering where you will stop, for it is nearly all gone. If we keep on very much longer, all we shall have left is the covers."

I am so glad, boys and girls, that we have no fear in telling the world why we believe the Bible and that we believe it all. We believe it because it is alive, because it predicts the future, because it has power, and because it shows us the way of salvation.

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THE first printed English Bible came from the press in October, 1535.

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"CHARACTER is the poor man's capital."

Prince Immanuel Needs Our Juniors

(Program for January 18)

BY LOUISE C. KLEUSER

SONG SERVICE: Choose martial and rally songs.

OPENING SONG: "The Captain Calls for You," No. 75 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 6: 10-18.

PRAYER.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

REPORT OF SECRETARY.

OFFERING.

INTRODUCTORY TALK: "The Prince Who Became Captain."

SONG: "Christ Our Mighty Captain," No. 530 in "Christ in Song."

TALK: "Our Marching Orders."

RECITATION: "The Aching Heart."

ORGANIZATION OF SERVICE BANDS. See Note to Superintendents.

SONG: "God's Youth Are Marching!"

TALK: "Joyful Service for Our Captain."

TALK: "Overcoming Difficulties."

CLOSING SONG: "Here Am I, Send Me," No. 641 in "Christ in Song."

BENEDICTION.

Note to Superintendents

Organizing for Service.—List on the blackboard the missionary bands you expect to organize. Have the name of each leader, the "captain," heading the band. Explain the work of each band. Suggestions may be found in the Senior program, p. 21. Have a plan by which you can assign each Junior to a band. It might be well for each captain to call together the workers of his band at the close of the meeting. Don't merely talk about what you expect to do. Juniors lose interest when there is delay. Begin immediately. For the best results, your band leaders should have been previously appointed, and each leader should have his plans well in hand. It pays to strike while the iron is hot.

The Prince Who Became Captain

In order to help you to solve the mystery of the title of today's topic, I will ask you to turn with me to Acts 5:31, 32. Ever since Satan overcame Adam and Eve, our world has been a battlefield. There are two camps—Christ's and Satan's. It became necessary for the Prince of heaven, God's only Son, to head His forces, and so become the Captain of our salvation. Satan is called "the prince of the power of the air," as well as "the prince of this world." Man sold himself to Satan, who claims ownership of our world. Jesus in personal warfare with him carried off the victory on Calvary.

List your readers on a Bible Year Chart. Price, each, 10 cents.

The battle did not end in Eden. The enemy of God wages a warfare with each individual soul. Whether or not he succeeds depends upon the decision each one makes. Man was created a free moral being with the power to choose. God safeguarded him in his choices by giving him a will and power to exercise it. All through the ages the conflict has been raging, but it will soon be ended. The grand climax of this conflict will be in the battle of Armageddon.

What becomes so important to us regarding this battle is the fact that we are living at the time when the final triumphs for Jesus, our Captain, will take place. Juniors, this is a wonderful hour in the world's history. But are we ready for it? Already we hear around us the tramp of young people whom Satan is lining up on his side, an innumerable army. Some of the advent Juniors, I fear, are watching this great force, wondering whether they will join them or stand out solidly for Prince Immanuel.

The Call to the Colors

But hark! I hear the bugle call of our Captain. (*Have some one ready to sound the bugle call.*) Listen again! What do we hear? (*A chorus in the distance sings, "Christ, Our Mighty Captain," or a similar rally song.*) Yes, we hear the voices of the advent band beckoning our Juniors to fall in line. Let's join them in the chorus of the call to the colors of Prince Immanuel. (*All sing the chorus.*)

God's Youth Are Marching!

(Tune: "Stand Up for Jesus!")

We hear the sound of voices borne on the breezes fair;
Our advent youth are marching, they're marching everywhere;
They come, their banners flying, proclaiming to the land,
Here is a mighty army, which no one can withstand!

See Satan's hosts all tremble whenever they raise their shout.
They go into the battle; see how he flees in rout!

What strength, what grace and beauty, is casting out all fear,
Each heart, each voice proclaiming, Christ's advent now is here!

Our ranks dare not be lagging; God's work we must speed on,
If we our crowns would cherish or sing the victor's song;
So join the marching army, God's advent band of youth;
Yes, come and press the battle! March on, march on for truth!

—T. E. Hirst.
(Written for the Southern New England Youth's Conference, 1935.)

The Aching Heart

The world's great heart is aching, aching fiercely in the night,
And God alone can heal it, and God alone give light;
And the men to bear the message and to preach the living word,
Are you and I, my brothers, and all others that have heard.

Can we close our eyes in slumber, can we fold our hands at ease,
While the gates of night stand open to the pathway of the seas?
Can we shut up our compassion, can we leave one prayer unsaid,
Ere the souls that sin has ruined have been wakened from the dead?

O Voice of God, we hear Thee, above the wrecks of time;
Thine echoes roll around us, and the message is sublime;
No power of men shall thwart us, no stronghold us dismay,
For God commands obedience, and love has led the way!

—Author Unknown.



Joyful Service for Our Captain

THE cause of Prince Immanuel has never yet met defeat. We are assured that the work of the advent youth will be equally crowned with success. Jesus Himself leads the battle. It is a wonderful privilege to serve this victorious Prince. Each Junior should do his task, no matter how humble it is, cheerfully and well. His band leader should be able to depend upon him. While at his work, the Junior keeps a song in his heart. Ever his thoughts are on fulfilling the commands of his Captain, Jesus.

Certain contracts for bridge building in the Sudan were given to American bidders. Competitors offered to do the work in a year's time. The Americans agreed to do it in three months. The contract was given to them, and they completed the work within the specified time. One of the losing bidders later desired to know the secret of the Americans' success.

"I wish you would tell me how you ever got that work done in so short a time. I have had those Sudanese on other contracts, and I know I couldn't have done it. How did you ever do it?" The reply was, "We had a band of native musicians playing the liveliest music they knew within earshot of every crew of laborers, while their foremen kept them steadily at the work."

Overcoming Difficulties

THERE is much truth in these lines:

"It is easy enough to be pleasant,
When life goes along like a song;
But the man worth while,
Is the man who can smile,
When everything goes dead wrong!"

The difference between the way a baby and a Christian meet difficulties is in the fact that the baby fusses and cries to get them out of his way, and the Christian recognizes them as blessings and helps for his development. (*Bring out lessons from the examples of men and women who overcame their handicaps. See "The Rhythm of Our Limitations," p. 23.*)

A certain town in Ohio was planning to enlarge its Young Men's Christian Association. Thousands of young men needed very much the improvements that organization is supposed to provide. A speaker from out of town was enlisted to stir up enthusiasm for the project. He first spoke to a man of influence, who cordially agreed that it was a fine thing. "But," he said, with an air of settling the thing, "it can't be done in *this* town." Another business man was approached for help. He listened attentively, approved the plans, and agreed upon the great need. Then settling back in his chair with the same air of finality, he, too, used the same words and the same emphasis: "It can't be done in *this* town." Several others that day gave exactly the same comfort. It was then that the man who had a vision of the great need of enlarging the "Y" concluded, "They are right; it can't be done *with* them; but it can be done *without* them." And it was done.

Occasionally some boy or girl in the Missionary Volunteer Society feels that the very plans Jesus outlined for the young people of our denomination can't be done in his society. That a plan hasn't worked previously, doesn't settle the fact that it cannot succeed now. Hundreds of youth are carrying

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out the Saviour's orders. They are rewarded by seeing souls won to the society and to the church. So let each band begin with courage and with a determination to meet every difficulty in the name of our Prince and Captain.

Our Marching Orders

BUT wait! Our Captain is a man of order; He has His plans all laid; He has some special instruction for those who must put forth every effort in this closing conflict. Here comes a messenger to read us the instruction sent by our Leader through one of His faithful servants. (*A Junior enters, and, with a salute, announces, "A Message From Captain Jesus." He then proceeds to read the following messages from the Spirit of prophecy.*)

"Keep yourselves away from the corrupting influences of the world. Do not go unbidden to places where the forces of the enemy are strongly entrenched."—*"Messages," p. 82.*

"The youth should seek God more earnestly. The tempest is coming, and we must get ready for its fury by having repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord will arise to shake terribly the earth. We shall see troubles on all sides. Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down, and human lives will be sacrificed by millions. Fires will break out unexpectedly, and no human effort will be able to quench them. The palaces of earth will be swept away in the fury of the flames. Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; confusion, collision, and death without a moment's warning will occur on the great lines of travel. The end is near, probation is closing."—*Id., pp. 89, 90.*

"Young men and young women, I saw that God has a work for you to do; take up your cross and follow Christ. . . . God calls upon you to work, work for Him. . . . You can reach a class whom the minister cannot affect."—*Id., pp. 206, 207.*

"Cannot you form a band of workers, . . . and put forth united action?"—*Id., p. 197.*

"If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members, but

for unbelievers."—*"Testimonies," Vol. VII, p. 22.*

What shall we say to the marching orders of our Captain? Can He depend upon our Juniors in this church? Shall we respond by repeating in unison our Junior Pledge? (*Juniors stand and repeat the pledge.*)

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The Art of Making Friends

(Program for January 25)

BY CHRIS P. SORESENSEN

SONGS FOR TODAY: "Like Jesus," "Would I Be Called a Christian?" "Living for Jesus," "Father, Make Us Loving," and songs listed for the Seniors, p. 23.

OPENING EXERCISES.

BIBLE STORY: "The Friendship of David and Jonathan." 1 Samuel.

MEMORY GEMS.

STORY: "The Two Friends of Syracuse." (This story is given in "Camping With the J. M. V.'s," by Arthur W. Spalding, pp. 215-220.)

POEM: "Be a Friend."

DISCUSSION: "Adventuring in Christian Friendship." (Cull from the Senior discussion, p. 24, all that would be understood by and of interest to Juniors.)

POEM: "The Obligation of Friendship."

CLOSING EXERCISES.

Memory Gems

It is best to live as friends with those in time with whom we would be through all eternity.—*Fuller.*

Purchase not friends by gifts; when thou ceasest to give, such will cease to love.—*Fuller.*

The friendships of the world are oft confederacies in vice, or leagues of pleasure.—*Addison.*

False friends are like our shadow, keeping close to us while we walk in the sunshine, but leaving us the instant we cross into the shadow.—*Bovee.*

Life is to be fortified by many friendships. To love and to be loved is the greatest happiness of existence.—*Sydney Smith.*



Order all supplies through your Book and Bible House.

That friendship will not continue to the end which is begun for an end.—*Quarles.*

A friend that you have to buy won't be worth what you pay for him, no matter what that may be.—*G. D. Prentice.*

The difficulty is not so great to die for a friend, as to find a friend worth dying for.—*Home.*

Two persons cannot long be friends if they cannot forgive each other's little failings.—*Brugere.*

We choose our friends for what they are, not for what they have.—*Sir John Lubbock.*

The only way to have a friend is to be one.—*Emerson.*

Be a Friend

Be a friend. You don't need money; Just a disposition sunny; Just the wish to help another Get along some way or other: Just a kindly hand extended Out to one who's unbenefitted; Just the will to give or lend, This will make you some one's friend.

Be a friend. You don't need glory. Friendship is a simple story. Pass by trifling errors blindly, Gaze on honest effort kindly. Cheer the youth who's bravely trying, Pity him who's sadly sighing; Just a little labor spend On the duties of a friend.

Be a friend. The pay is bigger (Though not written by a figure) Than is earned by people clever In what's merely self-endeavor. You'll have friends instead of neighbors For the profits of your labors; You'll be richer in the end Than a prince, if you're a friend.

—*Edgar A. Guest.*

The Obligation of Friendship

You ought to be fine for the sake of the folks Who think you are fine. If others have faith in you, doubly you're bound To stick to the line. It's not only on you that dishonor descends: You can't hurt yourself without hurting your friends.

You ought to be true for the sake of the folks Who believe you are true. You never should stoop to a deed that your friends Think you wouldn't do. If you're false to yourself, be the blameworthy but small. You have injured your friends; you've been false to them all.

For friendship, my boy, is a bond between men That is founded on truth: It believes in the best of the ones that it loves. Whether old man or youth: And the stern rule it lays down for me and for you Is to be what our friends think we are, through and through.

—*Edgar A. Guest.*

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"One example is worth a thousand arguments."

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.

Winning Their Affection

WITH all the dangers and hardships, to the missionary entering into the villages and homes of savage island tribes the greatest part of the remuneration must be the satisfaction and joy of little by little winning the confidence and affection of these really bright and active people. Away out in the wilds of Central New Guinea, where our missionaries but recently entered, Missionary S. H. Gander gives us a glimpse into this regenerating process going on in the hearts of these savage tribes as he and his family go in among them and show them the better way. He writes:

"This is Sabbath afternoon, and we have just returned from a trip to a village. We often cancel our young people's meeting and all go out and do real missionary work. We take some medicine with us and a Picture Roll. It requires about one hour and a half to reach the village, and all travel is done by foot,—no trams, trains, etc., here.

"We met the people in their gardens. After a rest and a little chat we showed the Picture Roll and gave them a simple talk. They all sat down and were really interested. They asked my wife and Gwen to take off their hats. They then admired their hair and stroked it. They feel you all over and say, "Papa," "Mama," etc.

"Going along, one little boy told Gwen that her skin was *mase mase* (no good), and that she should rub it with pigs' grease, and the skin would go lovely and black. Little girls from seven to sixteen follow me for miles, and when I turn to touch them they run for their lives. Sometimes I hold a little girl, and she will tremble like a leaf. One child cried out from fright. Often I give them a present and they later become friendly.

"Our trip was successful this afternoon. We brought back a lad about sixteen. We are trying hard to build up our school. We have some lovely little lads, and now that they are out of these filthy villages, they look so clean, and are becoming much interested in their school."

Visiting this same mission, Pastor

A. G. Stewart sends a word, showing what confidence the boys have in the protection of simply belonging to the party of the itinerating missionary:

"It would do the heart of the reader untold good, could he join us for a day or two on these rugged bush tracks and share the spirit of comradeship displayed by our boys on the march. Little chaps from the ages of ten to fourteen years, who have recently come away from their heathen villages to become boarding students at the school, had only to be given the opportunity to accompany the *kakakaka papa* ("big fella master from Sydney") to put them into a happy expectant attitude. So, accompanying the older boys, some of whom are married men, they each came along to the mission house, and placing a piece of our outfit over the shoulder, were soon on the trail, with their short stumpy legs in a semitrot, trying to keep pace with the rest of the party.

"In their heathen life they dare not venture into a hostile tribe's territory. But now they were going with the missionary party, and although they were individually unarmed they would march on ahead or fall into the rear with confident tread, displaying no fear at all. Our interests seemed to be theirs, and our comfort and care their chief concern. In striking contrast to the people in the villages, they moved about with their nicely combed hair, their white teeth, and their clean calicoes.

"Don't slack up in your offerings for missions; the work is gigantic here. Pray for us."

Diamonds of Uganda

W. T. BARTLETT, field secretary of the Northern European Division, in visiting in the Upper Nile Union Mission, tells of some very excellent people coming in to join the workers in the Uganda Mission field:

"I met the brother who had been a worker in another mission, but who, when he taught his church to keep the Sabbath, was promptly relieved of his position. He suddenly found himself without a home or farm. He has a home now, but before he built that, he put up a structure in which he could gather those who listened to his teaching. He has done good work, and he is now being sent into a larger field.

"In the Eastern Province, where Brother Rye Anderson has built a mission station, I saw a man and his wife baptized. In his zeal Brother Anderson had already built a place on his farm to serve as a church or school. After the baptism we held a service there, which was well attended by his neighbors. The local chief, a Roman Catholic, wanted to know what the new building was for, and learning of its intended use, ordered it to be torn down. The work still went on, however, and the angry chief threatened to burn it down himself. But the building was completed, and we expect to see a company of witnesses raised up there.

"My talks in the Eastern Province were translated by a man who is the court interpreter. He is interested in the truth, and translated well, but occasionally I led him into deep waters where he lost his footing. It was not so in the Kampala district. There Ashe, who is now employed by the mission, was never at a loss. It was a joyful experience for me; he said it was for him; and the congregations seemed to enjoy it also. Ashe, who is named after a missionary in Uganda, had been a sincere Christian for years. Brother Anderson has told how he became stirred over the question of baptism, and finding no one to immerse him, went down, with a like-minded friend, into the water where they baptized each other. When the truth came to him, Ashe was in the employ of a European, earning a good wage, but in spite of the offers of the employer and the entreaties and warnings of his friends and relatives, he stepped out in faith, with no prospect of other work. When at length he was given some translation to do for the mission, and earned in a month less than one sixth of his former wage, he felt he was the happiest man in Uganda. I expect that Ashe will help us to win many of the best people of Uganda. Many know and respect him.

"At Mityana we were invited to lunch with the local chief. We went, and found that the principal of the mission school in that district had been invited to meet us. Both he and the chief spoke English well. After lunch we all gathered in the chief's sitting room, and there was an animated conversation for over an hour. His wife and sister were present, and an elderly lady also came in. She was modestly but well dressed, had the bearing of an educated Christian woman, and when she took part in the conversation spoke to the point and was listened to with respect. I learned afterward that she was an aunt of Ashe's. The occasion was a revelation to me of what African Christian social life might become. I had seen nothing equal to it before. And I am more than ever convinced that if we support the work in Uganda liberally, we shall win some of the best elements of Uganda life, and find

them a powerful aid in doing stronger work in the surrounding countries."

Loyalty to the Sabbath Rewarded

DIRECTOR E. M. ADAMS of the West Visayan Mission, Philippines, tells us of the experiences in Sabbathkeeping of one Francisco Corridor in that field. Francisco was employed by an American auto firm dealing in parts. For a time he was faithful to his baptismal vows; then he gave up the Sabbath. At camp meeting his heart was again won:

"One day Francisco got a letter from his manager demanding that he either work on Saturday or resign. The following Sabbath was pay day. As usual Francisco did not appear. But on Monday he went back to work, and called for his wages. His money was withheld because he did not get it on Saturday.

"With his wife and one child he came over to the mission office to see me. They had decided to go back to their old home, and work for their relatives. We had a good season of prayer.

"The next day he returned his key to the manager with the property that was under his charge and said, 'Mr. —, if you don't give me my salary, I can't help it; I am going.' His manager in the heat of his feeling said to him four times, 'You are very foolish to enter that kind of religion,' and told him to get his salary the next Saturday. Francisco answered calmly, 'That is what I believe, and I can do no other way.' The manager stopped short and seemed for a moment to be unable to speak. Then he wrote a note and gave it to Francisco to hand to the cashier who in turn promptly paid our brother his salary. And then the manager told him to return at 2 P. M.

"In the afternoon he said to Francisco, 'Can you talk?' 'I don't know what you mean,' answered Francisco. 'I mean are you afraid to meet people?' Francisco said, 'I don't know that I am; anyhow I can try meeting people.' At that, Francisco was promoted to the responsible work of a collector on a separate island, one of the richest sections of this group. He was to have an auto with all expenses paid, and \$1.25 per day added to his salary.

"Before he left his manager, he said, 'Mr. —, there is one thing I am not clear about. That is about Saturday work.' The manager replied, 'I want you to work on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; Saturday you may have off.'

"Francisco was very happy that his prayer had been answered, and that now he would be so situated that he would be able to do more missionary work."

The Book Saved Her Life

It was down in Colombia, South America, that this recently took place:

"Some time ago one of our sisters gave a copy of the book 'Alone With God' to a friend. This lady read the book, and felt its uplifting influence in her life.

"One day a nurse, an American lady, came to her home asking for work or food. This friend had no work, but kindly gave her a good meal, and then thought of the help she had received from reading this book. She lent her treasure to this nurse, who seemed in despair.

"The nurse promised to read it. When she returned the book after a few days, she said, 'Do you know that book has saved my life? I had made up my mind that life was not worth living. I was out of work and starving, and had decided to finish my life by taking poison, but when I read that book it gave me a new hope. I thought God had forgotten me, and I had determined to make an end of all, but now God has given me a hope of eternal life.'"

In Interior Brazil

MISSIONARY A. N. ALLEN, who pioneered in opening a mission among the Indians farther in the interior of Brazil, because of failing health came back out and settled at Vianópolis. From this point he has traveled by muleback over a wide range of territory, meeting with the people where possible, with results he will now tell us of:

"I have just returned from another trip of over three hundred miles on muleback. I think it was the hardest trip in my life, because of the heavy rains, the mud, and the swollen streams, and the almost complete lack of accommodations among the people where we were. Yet it was one of the best trips of my life, for the power of God was so abundantly manifest. Many in several places gained complete and immediate victory over sin. We saw indications of the latter rain. In the places visited we left some sixty preparing for baptism. And in several other places in the state the people are also preparing for baptism. In all, I have the knowledge of more than a hundred scattered over the state who are studying in preparation for baptism. Surely God is visiting this needy field. Except on the trips between places, I preached from one to four times a day. The people simply left their work and gave their time to hearing the word, or in taking me from house to house, and in each place they wanted a meeting. I only wish I were young and strong again to follow up these interests. The first three weeks I was out I kept very well, but when I became tired, I took cold sleeping in a corner with my

clothes wet from fording a swollen river. This made it very difficult for me to continue speaking. Now I am at home again resting, so that soon I can start on another trip.

"My greatest trouble is to get animals that will stand the road. Horses simply cannot do it. It is difficult to get mules equal to the task.

"In the capital some new believers organized themselves into a Sabbath school, and are calling for help. From the church at Riachao, which I visited last year, they write asking that I come back, as twenty more people desire baptism. During the dry season I plan to go there again. Three years ago, I visited Rio Verde, eighty leagues to the south. The people there are again calling for help. If God gives me strength, I hope to visit all these places this year."

A Colporteur's Sunday Experience

OUR missionary colporteur, God's noble vanguard, meet with many an interesting experience. Here is one, both suffered and enjoyed, by a native bookman in Nyasaland, Africa:

"A colporteur, on arriving one Sunday at a village in which was a large church belonging to another denomination, decided that, as the majority of the people were attending service, he would do likewise. When the services were over, our brother asked the native minister if he might canvass his flock. He handed a copy of his book to him for his inspection. After a quick glance through the book, the minister turned to our good brother, and, in a loud voice, roundly berated him for his impudence in wanting to sell that book to his congregation. 'You are a deceiver; we don't want your books here!' he exclaimed. So emphatic did he become that the people, who by this time had almost all left the church, began to file back to learn what the shouting was about. Soon our brother was hemmed in by a crowd of people all craning to see what kind of book it was that their minister was condemning so vehemently.

"That the people might have the opportunity of judging for themselves what kind of book it was, our brother canvassed the nearest man to him—in a voice which carried far afield. It happened that the one our brother had chosen to canvass was a deacon of the church. This good fellow listened quietly to the canvass and carefully noted the passages and pictures pointed out by our brother. At the conclusion of the canvass the deacon purchased two copies of the book, and then turning to the crowd behind him, recommended that they get copies for themselves.

"The minister's scolding, plus the deacon's recommendation, resulted in good success for our brother, for he sold thirty copies of his book that morning." MISSION BOARD.