

# The Church Officers' Gazette

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No. 12

## The Son of Man Gave Authority to His Servants

**I**N giving instruction to His disciples before leaving them, Jesus said: "The Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work." Mark 13:34.

This statement cannot be understood to vest the church with authority in civil affairs, as this power had been delegated to the Gentiles. Another text reads, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve." Luke 22:25, 26.

Yet authority, even divine authority, is placed in the church for directing its important mission and work upon earth. This is emphasized in the recorded experience of Jesus with the Roman centurion, who came to Him pleading healing for his sick servant. The Lord said He would come and restore him. "I am not worthy," was this captain's reply, "that Thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh." Marveling, Jesus said to His disciples, "I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel."

"Under authority." This centurion recognized that as he was under the authority of the Roman government, so this new Teacher, working such mighty miracles, likewise was under heavenly authority, which gave Him power to do the wonderful works mani-

fest in His ministry. And this was precisely the truth, for did not Jesus teach that "the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son"? John 5:19. And Peter, in completing the record of that heavenly and divine authority under which we all are placed, adds, "[Jesus] who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand

of God; angels and authorities and powers *being made subject unto Him.*" 1 Peter 3:22.

### Where Differences of Opinion Exist

When church officers are being selected, or when other decisions which pertain to the conduct of the local church or other organizations charged with responsibilities of church administration are under consideration, differences of opinion or a diversity in judgment may arise, and it becomes necessary for some to yield their opinions to that of the majority. This yielding of opinion should be made gracefully and with a good spirit. It is only so that delegated church authority and unity may be preserved.

"God has made His church on the earth a channel of light, and through it He communicates His purposes and His will. He does not give to one of His servants an experience independent of and contrary to the experience of the church itself. Neither does He give one man a knowledge of His will for the entire church, while the church—Christ's body—is left in darkness. In His providence, He places His servants in close connection with His church, in order that they may have less confidence in themselves, and greater confidence in others whom He is leading out to advance His work.

"There have ever been in the church those who are constantly inclined toward individual independence. They seem unable to realize that independence of spirit is liable to lead the human agent to have too much confidence in himself, and to trust in his own judgment rather than to respect the counsel and highly esteem the judgment of his brethren, especially of those in the offices that God has appointed for the leadership of His people. God has invested His church with special authority and power, which no one can be justified in disregarding and despising; for he who

### What Then?

When the great plants of our cities have turned out their last finished work; When our merchants have sold out their last yard of silk, and dismissed the last tired clerk; When our banks have raked in their last dollar, and paid their last dividend; When the Judge of the world says close for the night, and asks for a balance—

#### What then?

When the choir has sung its last anthem, and the preacher has read his last prayer; When the people have heard their last sermon, and the sound has died out on the air; When the Bible lies closed on the altar, and the pews are all empty of men; And each one stands facing his record, and the great book is opened—

#### What then?

When the actors have played their last drama, and the mimic has made his last fun; When the film has flashed its last picture, and the billboard displayed its last run; When the crowds seeking pleasure have vanished, and gone out into darkness again; When the trumpet of ages is sounded, and we stand up before Him—

#### What then?

When the bugle's last call sinks in silence, and the long marching columns stand still; When the captain has given his last orders and they've captured the last fort and hill; When the flag has been hauled from the masthead and the wounded afield have been checked in; And a world that rejected its Saviour is asked for a reason—

#### What then?

—J. Whitfield Green.

does this despises the voice of God."  
—*Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 163, 164.

### Guidance Vested in Judgment of Majority

In local church relationship, some may be tempted to disregard the judgment and advice given by our brethren. These words of counsel are addressed to us:

"But," say you, 'should I follow the judgment of the brethren independent of my own feelings?' I answer, The church is God's delegated authority upon earth. Christ has said, 'Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' There is altogether too little respect paid to the opinion of members of the same church. It is the want of deference for the opinions of the church that causes so much trouble among brethren. The eyes of the church may be able to discern in its individual members that which the erring may not see. A few persons may be as blind as the one in error, but the *majority* [italics ours] of the church is a power which should control its individual members."—*Testimonies*, Vol. V, p. 107.

It is here indicated that authority is vested in the voice of the majority of the church.

### Christ's Meekness Needed

It is the lack of heavenly meekness and true humility of heart that causes one to disregard and despise the counsel of the brethren. The heavenly Counselor invites us, "Come unto Me, . . . and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

We need to press together, especially in these "last days" when such "perilous times" have "come," when men are "lovers of their own selves, covetous," boastful, "heady, high-minded." At such a time this word comes to us with special force:

"Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you. Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger." Zeph. 2:1-3. T. E. B.

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"Be kindly affectioned one to another, . . . in honor preferring one another."

### Nominating Officers

Now is the time when churches are to choose officers to lead out in church affairs for the next year. Let those upon whom rests the responsibility of nominating such ones not be influenced by friendship, or age, or the time which one has been serving in office; but rather the qualifications of true Christian leadership, spirituality, sincerity, devotion, and honesty.

"Let the church appoint pastors or elders who are devoted to the Lord Jesus, and let these men see that officers are chosen who will attend faithfully to the work of gathering in the tithe. If the pastors show that they are not fitted for their charge, if they fail to set before the church the

### Special Appointments for December

Annual Week of Prayer,  
December 8-10; Annual Offering,  
Sabbath, December 10

Home Missionary Day,  
December 17

Christian Stewardship Day,  
December 31

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering,  
December 31

(For the Missions of the  
Central European Division)

importance of returning to God His own, if they do not see to it that the officers under them are faithful and that the tithe is brought in, they are in peril. They are neglecting a matter which involves a blessing or a curse to the church. They should be relieved of their responsibility, and other men should be tested and tried."—*Review and Herald*, Dec. 1, 1896. J. F. PIPER.

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### Owe No Man

"OWE no man anything." This is inspired instruction, a divine command. If it is a serious matter to try to evade the requirements of the fourth, or fifth, or any other commandment, it is a serious matter to ignore or attempt to evade this plain, positive, imperative requirement of the living God, who made heaven and earth. The fact that this commandment is found in the New Testament instead of in the Old does not make it any the less binding. If you should deliberately transgress this command through fear of temporary hunger,

you would be more ready to receive the mark of the beast if you should be threatened with the death penalty, for death is a more fearful thing than hunger. Besides, if you cultivate the habit of incurring debts to human beings, you will soon feel no pricks of conscience about debts to God.

We do not love those we defraud, because this is not doing as we would be done by. It is a selfish transgression of the golden rule. In "Testimonies," Volume V, pages 179, 181, we read that some bring reproach upon the cause, by going "in debt for provision for your family." Such debts they "are not always particular to pay, but, instead, move to another place." These people, the servant of the Lord says, should not "give occasion for the truth to be reviled through their . . . course of action."

Shall we not, ministers and laymen together, endeavor to be more careful about this thing? The Lord may not expect us to "restore fourfold," but should we not hasten to pay every debt before the Lord comes? And even if we do not restore fourfold, shall we not show in some way our loving appreciation of the small kindnesses that have been shown us which caused us to be in debt? Very often a debtor comes to cherish hard feelings toward a creditor, but he needs love as well as you.

ERIC A. BEAVON.

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## Nearing Home

We are nearing home, and my heart is glad;  
 With a hope so sweet, can I e'er be sad?  
 We are nearing home, where my Saviour waits  
 To welcome me in through the pearly gates.  
 We are nearing home! O the thought is sweet;  
 We shall cast our crowns at the Saviour's feet.  
 We are nearing home. Yet there's work to do,  
 So haste we must till the task is through.  
 We are nearing home! O assuage thy fears;  
 Christ will welcome us, He will dry our tears.  
 We are nearing home, nevermore to weep,  
 For the blind shall see and the lame shall leap.  
 We are nearing home, for the Saviour said  
 That familiar landmarks would loom ahead.  
 We are nearing home, and we see each sign  
 With a joy serene and a hope divine.  
 We are nearing home, with the long road past,  
 Where we'll find sweet peace and shall rest at last.  
 We are nearing home where rewards are given,  
 We shall shout for joy in our home in heaven!

—Adlai Albert Esteb.

### Suggestive Program for Sabbath Service, December 3

OPENING SONG: "What of the Night?" No. 705 in "Christ in Song."

SCRIPTURE LESSON: The Saviour's Promise. John 14:1, 2; Rev. 22:12, 20. The Home Prepared. Rev. 21:1-5; Isa. 65:17-25.

PRAYER.

SOLO OR QUARTET: "Home of the Soul," No. 919 in "Christ in Song."

"HOMEWARD BOUND"—Message by W. A. Spicer.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "In a Little While We're Going Home," No. 199 in "Gospel in Song."

"NEARING HOME"—Message by Orno Follett.

SPECIAL MUSIC: No. 50 in "Gospel in Song."

"THE GLORIOUS HOME-COMING"—Message by A. A. Esteb.

CALL FOR RENEWED CONSECRATION FOR SERVICE.

CLOSING SONG: "One Sweetly Solemn Thought," No. 882 in "Christ in Song."

BENEDICTION.



### Homeward Bound

BY W. A. SPICER

THIS is an excellent topic for this last home missionary Sabbath service of the year. For all this year have we not been seeing the landmarks passing swiftly, showing that the staunch old gospel ship is truly homeward bound?

Is it really true? Everything in earth and sea and sky, in the world and in the work of God, seems to cry out with a new voice, as we have long sung in the old hymn,—

"I asked again: earth, sea, and sun  
 Seemed, with one voice, to make reply:  
 'Time's wasting sands are nearly run,  
 Eternity is nigh.'"

We do not say it because we are Adventists. We are Adventists because everything in the word of God and in the world says that eternity is nigh.

It seems to me that a new conviction of the nearness of the eternal world has come upon believers this year. I have just come in from a summer in Northern Europe. In every country the

brethren and sisters came out to the conferences with a deeper advent note in their hearts than I had ever witnessed before; and everywhere the attendance at the meetings was the largest I had ever noted. We hear of the same spirit of the advent hope in the old North American base, and over other lands and seas. Is it not God's gracious purpose, brethren, to move forward the world-wide body of believers to give the last message and be ready to stand before the Son of man?

As Adam and Eve looked back upon their dear lost home, seen through the angel-guarded gate, it must be that only one thing kept their hearts from breaking—the promise of the Redeemer who would one day lead them home again. That promise has sustained the children of God through the ages. But when the time of the prophecy came, and this remnant church keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus appeared, it was seen with surety that the glad time when Jesus would come to lead

His children home, was no longer afar off, but was very near. That surety has become more sure and sweeter and dearer as the days have gone by. This year's events have, it seems to me, spoken more decisively than those of any past year, that we are nearing home. A few years ago the messenger of the Lord, Mrs. E. G. White, was moved by the Spirit to describe just such things as we have been witnessing. She cried out: "I feel as if I must cry aloud, 'Homeward bound!'" Let us cry it out, from land to land, in half a million voices the world around, "Homeward bound! Homeward bound!" [Here ask congregation to unite in singing the old inspiring song, No. 740 in "Christ in Song."]

### Millions Now Deciding

Things long foretold are now fast fulfilling. God is speaking to the multitudes. "Multitudes, multitudes," cried the prophet, "in the valley of decision!" And it does appear that God is literally using events to bring men to a decision. Some will recall these words in the "Testimonies," Volume VI, page 406: "There are thousands upon thousands, millions upon millions, who are now making their decision for eternal life or eternal death." What a wonderful thing that God is able to deal with men in terms of "millions upon millions." No wonder He hesitates not to tell us that He will cut the work short in righteousness as the time fully comes.

Here is His plan of work for the very last: "It shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh." Joel 2:28. We have been seeing it in recent times as never before. As brethren and sisters from old church centers have gone out in all kinds of work, they have reported finding many people now interested who never before seemed to have ears to hear. In dark lands we have seen whole tribes turned by the Spirit toward light. One chief of a spirited tribe asked for teachers. Our missionary reminded him that we had long wanted to enter his country, but he would not open the way. "Yes, I know," said the proud old chief, "but it is different now. Something has changed our hearts." We see it over land and sea. And as souls are awakened to search for light, how glad are we that God has been awakening us,

His servants, to fit us to go out and help the people! This has come about also according to the prophecy: "Also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit." Verse 29.

### God's Spirit Is Being Poured Out

That is how this arousing to every-member service has come about. How God has blessed your service in 1938! O brethren and sisters and children, it has not been in vain—those words you have spoken, the meetings and Bible readings you have held, the pages you have sold and given, the all-round ministry of the Doreas groups. The reports come flowing in every day. I just looked over a few of these reports, for I wanted to see an up-to-date record with my own eyes. In one of our meetings in Kansas, one man said, "I could stand another hour if you would give that lecture over again." And three new believers are awaiting the preacher for baptism. In Ontario, six persons began to obey the Lord's commandments. On a Canadian reservation an Indian brother, himself a new member, has brought in four adults and several children. I have two reports from Oklahoma—four won in one place and eighteen in another; everybody is helping. I cannot go further. I wanted you to see some of these reports that come into the General office, flashing with the light of this awakening, inspiring movement. You have all been having some part in it. Somewhere in Europe this summer—I think it was in far Finland—I heard a good testimony from a local elder. He said, "We kept on writing to the conference to send us a worker till we got tired of it; and then we went to work ourselves!" And they have had an awakening experience.

This outpouring of the Spirit upon the servants and the handmaids has taken away fetters of fear. Shy,

timid souls have spoken for Jesus. How close akin is all the world in its deepest need. The peasant brother down by the Black Sea, praying for courage to speak to the mayor of his town, is brother kin to our Canadian businessman who talked of Jesus to another man of business, a stranger, on the train, by the far Pacific. The mayor, or burgomaster, wiping tears from his eyes, said to our peasant brother, who had hoped not to offend him: "Why, man, do you know, of all the people that come to me, you are the first one who has ever spoken to me about my soul! You are the best friend I have." And the businessman on the Canadian Pacific train is kin to the Rumanian burgomaster. He said to our brother: "You are the first man who ever inquired about my spiritual life. I appreciate this talk."

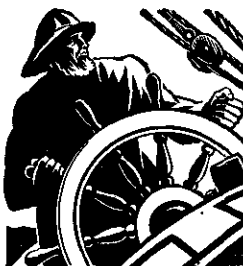
And this kind of thing is going on in a thousand places. If each of us had a thousand eyes, we could not check up on what is being done as God pours out His Spirit upon all flesh, and as He pours His Spirit upon His servants and handmaids to help us to do our part.

### We Need Our Pilot Now

What a precious truth we have, and what a wonderful time in which to tell it! I am glad every day that I am in this movement. Just the other day I came into New York harbor on the biggest ship afloat. Up on the bridge we had a commander and four men besides, each qualified to be captain. But we stopped just outside and took on a pilot for the last few miles of the journey. As the ship of the advent hope nears the end of the voyage, wo, too, must make sure of the Pilot. The servant of the Lord cries out: "We need a pilot on board now; for we are nearing the harbor." —"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 105.

I want the Pilot in full charge of my life now for these last miles of the journey. I pause a moment with you, brethren and sisters, and young people and little children, to pray, "Jesus, Saviour, pilot me." And let us face the calls to new service with the glad old song in our hearts:

"In a little while, in a little while,  
We shall cross the billows' foam;  
We shall meet at last,  
When the stormy winds are past,  
In a little while we're going home."  
[Special music: No. 199 in "Gospel in Song."]



## Nearing Home

BY ORNO FOLLETT

A GREAT world conqueror was leading his victorious army back to Italy—and home. Onward they marched, over rivers and plains and through wooded forests, until they reached the foothills of the towering Alps. Here the thinning ranks of the worn and tired soldiers began to falter as they trudged on over the rocky defiles of the mighty mountain passes. As they climbed higher and still higher, the blinding snow and storms well-nigh discouraged the stoutest hearts. Stopping on an eminence where he could overlook all his men and be heard by them, the great general, pointing upward across the mighty barrier, shouted, "Men, beyond those Alps lies Italy!"

Italy! Waving fields, beautiful orchards, sparkling fountains. Mothers and fathers, wives and children, sweet hearts. Home! Ah, sweet home!

Fainting hearts revived. Tired muscles found new strength. Onward and upward that brave army pressed against every obstacle—and won! They reached home.

A worn and tired missionary who had served long, weary years in the great Navaho Indian mission field was returning for a short rest and a visit with his family in a Southern California village, where his wife had settled with the children, in order to enjoy the advantages of a Christian school. Almost providentially, it seemed, the very train on which the missionary traveled was named, "The Missionary." But, oh, how slowly that train seemed to travel! The missionary's heart cried out over and over again, as the train neared the San Bernardino pass, "Speed on, speed on! Beyond those mountains lies Beaumont. Waving fields, beautiful orchards, a humble cottage, wife and children—home! Thank God, I am nearing home!"

Another scene: All over the world are members of Prince Immanuel's army. Many have won decisive battles with the enemy, great victories over sin. They have struggled along life's rugged highway, and many have become worn and weary in the conflict. Long have they marched, homeward bound. But now they have reached great mountains of difficulties, strife, wars, threatened dissolution of all so-

cial and moral standards—the mighty Alps on the stream of time. To this vast army their Captain shouts, "Christian soldiers, beyond these mountains of difficulty lies Paradise!"

Heaven! Waving fields of living green. Kingly forests with never-fading foliage. Sparkling fountains. The tree of life, and the river of life. Long-lost friends, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, husbands, wives, children, loved ones. Thank God, we are nearing our heavenly home!

"Just over the mountains, in the Promised Land,  
Lies the holy city built by God's own hand;  
As our weary footsteps gain the mountain's crest,  
We can view our homeland of eternal rest.

"In the rolls of the prophets we have long been told  
Of that wondrous city with its streets of gold;  
Now with rapturous vision we can see it there,  
With its walls of jasper and its mansions fair.

"My brother, my sister, will you meet us there,  
In that land of sunshine where there'll be no care?  
Accept of God's message, and to Him be true;  
Then when Jesus cometh, He will call for you."

[Special music: No. 50 in "Gospel in Song."]



## The Glorious Home-Coming

BY ADLAI A. ESTEB

FELLOW workers in the cause of God, rejoice with me, for we are nearing home! Certainly we see the gleams of the golden morning, and how good the Lord is to let us see these omens of the coming day! As we see the events which are taking place in the world today, we should lift up our heads and rejoice, knowing that our redemption is drawing near.

How the traveler's heart leaps with joy as he comes in sight of familiar landmarks, which indicate that he will soon be at the end of the journey. The sorrows of the way, and even the joys of the journey, are forgotten in the realization that he is almost home.

On two different occasions it has been my privilege to look out over the prow of the American-bound steamship and view the familiar sights of my native land, as we steamed through the Golden Gate into San Francisco harbor. Only those, who have been away from the homeland for many years, and know what it means to come face to face with death's door, can appreciate the unspeakable joy that thrills the heart of the one who returns home.

It was a great home-coming when the soldiers in the World War came back to America. What a reception was accorded those battle-scarred heroes, and how happy they were! Joy knew no bounds; happiness reigned supreme. The war was forgotten; the sound of cannon and guns was drowned in the din of shouts of welcome, and the wounds of battle were forgotten amid the embraces of loved ones.

If home-comings on this earth are so sweet and mean so much, how much more wonderful will be that glorious home-coming when Jesus bids us, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for

### Solemn Facts

It is a solemn thing to die, but a far more solemn thing to live. Every thought and word and deed of our lives will meet us again. What we make of ourselves in probationary time, that we must remain to all eternity. Death brings dissolution to the body, but makes no change in the character. The coming of Christ does not change our characters; it only fixes them forever beyond all change.—"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 466.

you." Such is the blessed hope—the hope of an eternal home, where sin, sorrow, and sickness can never enter. There we shall lay aside the dusty garments of our earthly pilgrimage, and the weapons of our earthly warfare. The journey over, the battle ended, we may bask in the smiles of God forever. The heart leaps at the very thought of seeing the Saviour face to face.

### Retrospective

We have come to the closing month of 1938, and we realize that we are nearing the end of another year's record. How quickly the months have slipped by. Our opportunities to make 1938 a year of noble deeds and to win many souls for God, are almost gone. Have we put off doing the things we had planned to do this year? Are they still undone? We dare not longer procrastinate. Have you planned to talk to some loved one about the message of God for this hour, and put it off from month to month? No longer permit lethargy to thwart your plans. Speak today. Have you planned to invite your neighbor to accept Christ and enter the Christian life? Dare you wait longer? Have you planned to distribute a certain amount of our message-filled literature? What you do in 1938 must be done quickly, for the record will soon close.

### A Time for Greater Zeal

We are not only nearing the end of this year's record. Beyond that, and much more important, is the gripping fact that we are nearing the end of this world's history. We have just about come to the end of our earthly pilgrimage. How our hearts should thrill with the thought!

But since we are near the end of the journey, we must not be unmindful of this supreme fact, that what we do for this world we must do quickly. The fact that we see the familiar landmarks of home, and the omens foretold in prophecy as signs of the last days, should inspire us with greater zeal to hasten to completion the glorious task committed to our trust.

We know we are nearing home, but how can we see our Saviour face to face if we know we have not done well the work He has given us to do? When Jesus says, "Well done, good and faithful servant," He will not be speaking to those who have not done well. He will not call us faithful servants unless we have been faithful.

May God help us in this last month of this year, and during these closing days of earth's history as we are nearing home, to urge the entire church to arouse, and arise and finish the work of God before it is forever too late.

intimate fellowship with God. Nothing can be done well if we ourselves drift away from God.

Friends, this is vital, and our failure here will result in weak leadership. Let us ask God to forgive us for our neglect. Let us go to Him with a sincere purpose to allow ourselves time for the cultivation of our own souls. The trouble with many of us is that we come to our work from low levels and without that sense of the heavenly about us. We are "from beneath," not "from above." May the Lord help us. Our daily devotions must have purpose, method, and regularity. We must not allow anything to take their place. It is a costly business, a travail and not a pastime. Oftentimes, we do not pray and study, because we do not like to; at other times we feel that we hardly dare, and yet on other occasions we feel we have something else to do. Let us be frank with ourselves. It is a grand thing for our young people to have a praying leader. It is imperative that we go into our study to do hard work. There is no man so speedily discovered as an idle worker.

Let me give you a few extracts from the diary of the powerful Dr. Andrew Bonar, who labored in Scotland a generation ago:

"By the grace of God and the strength of His Holy Spirit I desire to lay down a rule not to speak to man until I have spoken to God: not to do anything with my hand until I have been upon my knees: not to read letters or papers until I have read something of the Holy Scriptures." "In prayer in the wood for some time, having set apart three hours for devotion: felt drawn out much to pray for that peculiar fragrance which believers have about them, who are very much in fellowship with God." "Yesterday got a day to myself for prayer. With me every time of prayer, or almost every time, begins with a conflict." "It is my deepest regret that I pray so little. I should count the days, not by what I have of new instances of usefulness, but by the times I have been enabled to pray in faith, and to take hold upon God." "I see that unless I keep up short prayer every day throughout the whole day, at intervals, I lose the spirit of prayer." "Last night could do little else but converse with the Lord about

## Missionary Leadership

### The Leader's Peril

WE have surely reached a crisis hour. Perils within the church are even more threatening than those without. Careless indifference, worldly compromise, and formalism challenge the leadership of this movement. O, may God bring to us an exalted conception of our calling, so sacred, so responsible, so glorious! We are to be constantly engaged with eternal interests. As one writer has said, "We are to be friends of the Bridegroom, winning men, not to ourselves, but to Him." "As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them."

I wish to speak of a peril that threatens us as leaders. There is danger that we do not sense our great need as men and women called to such

a holy work. The souls of many may be lost or saved according to the conception we have of our calling and our own supreme need. The peril I will name is that of scattering our energies over a multiplicity of interests, which leaves no time for absorbing communion with God. We need the practical results of this communion in our work today. We are tempted to measure our fruitfulness by the amount of ground we cover in a week. We are always on the run—visiting, writing, planning conventions and meetings, devising new ways and means; but, dear fellow workers, I find that we are not always doing the most work when we seem to be most busy. Of all things that need to be done, this is supreme: To live in

the awakening of souls, and asked it earnestly." "Passed six hours today in prayer and Scripture reading, confessing sin and seeking blessing for myself and the parish."

Do not these words, written for no eye but God's to see, give deep significance to the power attending this man's life? Our ministry must be Spirit filled and our service more fruitful.

May 1939 prove to be a year of advancement in every respect. May we see a more definite campaign of evangelism next year. This is the call of the hour. What a glorious and promising field lies before us!—*E. L. Minchin, in Australasian Division Record.*

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### Church Deadwood

Go over any church-membership list, and you will find a lot of dead timber,—members that joined the church and then settled down to do nothing, feeling that church membership is a passport to heaven.

They remind us of an incident told by a world traveler who was preparing to take a photograph of some Turkish warships anchored in the waters near Alexandria. The captain, noticing the young man, explained that these warships were not really dangerous; in fact, they were not really warships. "They look formidable enough," the officer continued, "but they are perfectly harmless. They were anchored there eight years ago and have not turned a wheel since."

How many times have we carried the battle into the enemy's territory since we enlisted in the Lord's army? Just why did we join the church? Have we made any sacrifices? Have we sought to help others into church fellowship? or did we sail into the protected church harbor and anchor there some eight, ten, or twenty years ago—and perhaps "have not turned a wheel since"?

Such church members do not worry the devil at all. He knows that they are "perfectly harmless." He also knows that church membership will not save a lazy Christian.

C. L. PADDOCK.

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You can grow potatoes for the love of God just as well as you can preach a sermon.—*Sir Wilfred Grenfell.*

### Notes to Leaders

The articles which have so kindly been furnished for the last general church missionary service in the year are of a most heart-gripping and inspiring nature. It is hoped that each article will be given a place in this service. If the readings are interspersed with appropriate musical selections, as suggested, they will not become tiresome, and the occasion will be one especially enjoyed by all. The chorister may be asked to arrange for the most effective rendering of the songs, either by the choir or by individuals. The joy that fills the heart

at the thought of nearing home can often best be expressed through the voice of song. The leader should plan for the missionary report, the missionary offering, and the necessary announcements to be introduced at the most suitable time in connection with this service.

That new courage may be imparted, faith strengthened, and the incentive to missionary service deepened, as the result of this communion of saints in the journey toward the eternal home, is the sincere prayer of the secretaries of the

GEN. CONF. HOME MISS. DEPT.

## Departmental Activities

### Forward Into Unentered Territory

THE challenge of unentered territory in North America which confronts Seventh-day Adventists entrusted with the proclamation of the third angel's message, is the same as the challenge to Israel of old when they were bidden to "go in and possess the land." The experience of Israel has been recorded for "our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come;" and there is a lesson for us in the fact that Israel, for a time, pressed forward, conquering large areas of land and taking many cities. But they failed in that they did not drive out all the inhabitants of the land; they ceased their conquest too soon. And the same is true of the church today in many places. Although in some areas our work has become established, there is a tendency on our part to settle down, and leave a large portion of the territory unentered. There is need of extending the light of truth beyond our present borders.

In the Texico Conference territory are many areas which had not been entered until quite recently. An especially needy field is the mountain regions of New Mexico, which are occupied by Spanish-speaking people. In recent months one of our Spanish workers made a visit among these people, in the north-central part of the State, and found many persons hungry for the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is in this section that we find a large number of *Flagellantes*. These people are Roman Catholic in belief, but they practice the cruel rite

of self-castigation, beating their bodies until the blood streams down their backs, and permitting themselves to be tied to wooden crosses, where they hang suspended in the air for hours. A large number of these *Flagellantes* attended the meetings which our Spanish worker conducted in a schoolhouse.

Not long ago we sent another of our Spanish-American workers into one of these areas, where we already had established a small Sabbath school. During the three-weeks series of meetings, held in a schoolhouse, hundreds of the people crowded into the place, and when the house was filled to capacity, large crowds stood at the open windows. Passing northward, toward the Colorado line, the worker established himself at Questa, and again witnessed an interest unsurpassed in the history of this field. One of our humble Spanish colporteurs, over on the western border of the State, wrote us that a large number of Roman Catholic people came night after night to hear the teaching from God's word, even though they were forbidden by the priest to do so.

But a word must also be said about the work among the English-speaking people in hitherto-unentered territory. Down in the flowering city of Midland—a city which has grown from 5,000 to 10,000 population in a brief four years—we had a few believers. But some grew weary of waiting for a worker, and dropped out, while a very few kept pressing on. A few weeks ago we launched an effort in this unentered place, and fruit is now springing up. Over thirty-five people have

signed the covenant, and soon a church building will stand as a monument to the triumph of the message, and a new church will have been organized.

Then there is Fort Sumner, where Dr. J. W. Taylor established his little hospital a few years ago. We had no church there, and only a few believers. Our evangelist moved in and set up his tent. Today a large number are preparing for baptism, and here, too, a church building will soon be erected.

But many places are still waiting. There are over seventy cities and towns in the Texico Conference, each with a population of over a thousand, which have not yet been entered. We realize that we must enlist the help of our laymen in order to complete this prodigious task, for our small ministerial force cannot encompass it. May the Lord help all, laymen and conference workers, to unite their forces, so that under the leadership of the great God of Israel we may possess the land.

WESLEY AMUNDSEN,  
*President, Texico Conference.*



### A Prisoner's Story

A CHRISTIAN worker dedicating her life in behalf of the inmates of Federal prisons, relates the following personal experience:

"During my address one morning, in the Leavenworth, Kansas, prison, I observed a boy, not more than seventeen or eighteen years of age, on the front seat, intently eying me. The look he gave me was so full of earnest longing as to speak volumes to me. At the close of the service I asked the warden if I might interview the boy, which privilege he readily granted. As the boy approached me, his face grew deathly pale. As he grasped my hand, he could not restrain the tears. Choking with emotion, he said, 'I have been in this prison two years, and you are the first person who has called for me,—the first woman who has spoken to me.'

"How is this, my child? Have you no friends who love you? Where is your mother?"

"The great brown eyes, swimming with tears, were slowly uplifted to mine, and he replied:

"My friends are all in Texas. My mother is an invalid, and fearing that the knowledge of my terrible

fall would kill her, I have kept my whereabouts a profound secret. For two years I have borne my awful homesickness in silence, for her sake.'

"As he buried his face in his hands, and heartsick sobs burst from his trembling frame, it seemed to me I could see a panorama of the days and nights, the long weeks of homesick longing that had dragged their weary length out over two years. So I ventured to ask, 'How much longer have you to stay?'

"Three years,' was the reply, as the fair, young head dropped lower, and the hand trembled with suppressed emotion.

"How did it happen?"

"Well,' he replied, 'it's a long story, but I'll make it short. I started out from home to try to do something for myself. Coming to Leavenworth, I found a cheap boarding house, and one night I accepted an invitation from one of the young men to go into a drinking saloon. For the first time in my life I drank a glass of liquor. It fired my brain. There is a confused remembrance of the quarrel, somebody was stabbed, the bloody knife was found in my hand, I was indicted for assault with intent to kill.'

"Five years for the thoughtless acceptance of a glass of liquor is surely illustrating the Scripture truth that 'the way of the transgressor is hard,'" I said; but, taking him by the hand, I tried to point him to the Saviour who loved him, and who understood his plight.

"Then the boy turned to me in a most imploring manner, and said he wanted to ask a favor of me. I expected him to ask me to obtain a pardon, but no! He begged me to write a letter to his mother, not telling her anything of his crime, but sending her answer to him, so that he might read it. 'Just get a line from mother, so that I can look upon it,' he said. 'O, I am so homesick for my mother!' I laid my hand upon the drooping head of the sobbing lad. I thought of my own boy, and for a few moments I was silent; then I gave vent to my sorrow. Presently I said, 'Murray, if I were your mother, and the odor of a thousand prisons were upon you, you would still be my boy. I should like to know where you were. Is it right to keep your mother in suspense?

Do you suppose that there has ever been a day or night that she has not prayed for her wandering boy? No, Murray, I will consent to write to your mother only on condition that you will permit me to write the whole truth, as one mother can write to another.'

"After some argument his consent was finally obtained, and a letter was hastily penned and sent on its way. A week or so elapsed; then I received the following letter from the mother in Texas:

"Dear Sister in Christ: Your letter was this day received, and I hasten to thank you for your words of tender sympathy and for tidings of my boy—the first we have had in two years. When Murray left home, we thought it would not be for long. As the months rolled by and we did not hear from him, the family gave him up for dead, but I felt sure that God would give me back my boy. As I write from the couch of an invalid, my husband is in another city, nursing another son who is lying at the gates of death with typhoid fever. I could not wait for his return to write to Murray. I wrote and told him, that if I were able, how quickly I would go and pillow his head upon my breast, just as I did when he was a little child. My poor, dear boy—so generous, kind, and loving. What could he have done to deserve this punishment? You did not mention his crime, but say it was committed while under the influence of drink. I did not know he had ever tasted liquor. We raised six boys, and never knew one of them to be under the influence of drink. O! is there any place in this nation that is safe for our boys who have left the home-fold? O God, my sorrow is greater than I can bear. I cannot go to him, but, sister, I pray you to talk to him, and comfort him as you would have some mother talk to your boy were he in his place. Tell him that when he is released, his place in the old home nest and in his mother's heart is awaiting him.'

"Then followed the loving mother's words for Murray. As I wept bitter tears over the words so full of heart-break, I asked myself the question: How long will the nation continue to sanction the liquor-traffic covenant with death and the league with hell?"—*The New Illustrator.*



## Our Dorcas Society

JUNE B. PERRYMAN

You have often heard the saying, "Just as busy as a bee,"  
But if you'd see that demonstrated, take a little walk with me.  
Come some early Tuesday morning, when you've nothing else to do,  
And we'll visit with our Dorcas, where you'll find all busy, too,

Flitting here and there at something; not a moment's time to lose,  
Rolling bandages at tables, or whatever work they choose;  
Sorting garments to be mended, piecing quilts of every kind,  
Making aprons, rugs, or curtains,—many sorts of things you'll find:

Handkerchiefs for men and women, linen doilies large or small,  
Even dresses for the babies, or for children grown quite tall;  
There are some who do crocheting, some who use machines to sew,  
Others work on scarfs or bonnets, some sew buttons in a row.

Even our menfolk now are restless, for they want some work to do;  
So they're taking up wood carving, making jigsaw puzzles, too,  
For the sick and crippled children, who rejoice with happy heart;  
So our men are very thankful thus that they can have a part.

Then oftentimes we get a message, "There is some one in great need,"  
Or perhaps an ailing husband and some hungry mouths to feed;  
There are those who need warm clothing, and they know not what to do;  
This is why your Dorcas leaders sometimes ask for help from you.

Every Tuesday while we're working, keeping busy as a bee,  
We are thinking of our neighbors more unfortunate than we;  
This is why we band together, why we like to do this work,  
Why we need more Dorcas members who will not their duty shirk.

We are sure the God of heaven heartily approves this plan  
Of helping those among our number, doing all the good we can,  
Reaching out to friends and strangers, any one who needs our aid,  
For the gospel of salvation on this principle was laid.

So to every Dorcas worker, let me pass this thought to you  
As you sew and mend the clothing, or whatever work you do:  
God remembers faithful service, notes your sacrifices, too;  
Your reward will come in heaven, when in love He says to you:

"I was hungry, and ye fed Me; I was naked, clothing came;  
All these things you gave to others have been given in My name.  
When you helped those needy brethren, or the stranger at your door,  
Sent those boxes of warm clothing on to aid the struggling poor.  
"Twas a very humble service; and although you did not see,  
I was in that needy family; so you did it unto Me.  
Come, ye blessed of My Father, share My joy and kingdom, too;  
Since you've measured to your neighbor, God has given back to you."

Yes, our tasks are very humble, but there's room for many more  
Who will come and join our number?—there is work right at our door.  
So rearrange your busy program, and bring others, if you choose;  
Come and join our happy circle, not another meeting lose.

Brooklyn, New York.

## Postal Evangelism

A MINISTER, during enforced retirement because of ill-health, became burdened in behalf of the lonely lighthousekeepers along the coasts of the country. Obtaining a list of these "keepers," he began sending literature to them, followed by an occasional letter. Soon the work grew until every month he was sending literature to every lonely lighthouse. And he did not stop there. He began sending literature in the different languages to lighthousekeepers on foreign shores. Thus he became the "postal evangelist" to hundreds of isolated people all over the world, and when called to his final rest he was mourned

and deeply missed by his widely scattered flock.

We need "postal evangelists" in every church. We need not wait until we are retired from active service in the public field. We can secure the name of at least one lighthousekeeper, and possibly many more, and establish contact through the mails, which will bring the light of the third angel's message into the hearts and humble homes of the lonely sentinels all along our great coast lines. Why not begin this phase of "postal evangelism" with the new year? Names and addresses of lighthousekeepers will be supplied by the General Conference Home Missionary Department on request.

## How the Message Came to Me

[NOTE.—In many instances, first contact with the message of truth centers around some phase of personal missionary endeavor, such as the distribution of literature, a personal visit, a neighborly act, a Bible study or cottage meeting, an invitation to attend Sabbath school or church service, or Harvest Ingathering. From this point of contact, appropriate follow-up work has led to full acceptance of the message and uniting with the remnant church. Believing it will be encouraging to all personal workers to learn of the actual results attending the various activities, we extend an urgent invitation to all church members who attribute their knowledge of present truth to such a beginning, to send a brief account of their experience to the General Conference Home Missionary Department, Takoma Park, D.C. —EDITOR.]

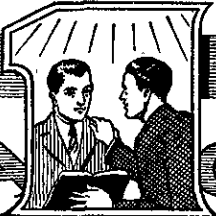
*Through the Harvest Ingathering Magazine.*—In the year 1923, J. B. Bossman lived in Wisconsin and operated a small grocery store. One day a man called at the store—not to purchase groceries, but to ask for an offering to help carry on Christian work in mission lands. Mr. Bossman gave the man fifty cents and received the Harvest Ingathering magazine. As he glanced through the magazine which was placed in his hands, the solicitor perceived that a deep interest was manifested, and it was not long afterward that the grocer received another call from the same man. But this time the object of the call was to ask permission to hold Bible studies. The appointment was made, Bible studies were begun and continued, and at the end of four months the grocer and his wife were converted, and united with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. For many years Brother Bossman has

been a successful colporteur. No wonder he prizes that copy of the 1923 Harvest Ingathering magazine which he holds in his hand in this picture.



From Grocer to Colporteur

# WIN ONE LEAGUE



## Win Another

To those who have had a taste of the joys of soul winning, there is nothing sweeter than a repetition of the same joyful experience. One victory calls for another and usually paves the way for still others, if we follow on to obtain them.

Some years ago a young soldier, newly recruited, was assigned work as a stretcher-bearer. He was told to bring in the wounded and the dead from the battlefield. All went well until the battle actually began. Then amid the explosion of shells, the cries of dying men, and the flare of cannon balls, the seriousness of his responsibility dawned upon him. His whole body trembled with fear. He reported to his superior that he could not do what had been assigned to him. It was only through threat of personal injury if he refused to obey, that he finally yielded and crept out amid the dying soldiers. There he found hundreds of men crying for help. Tenderly he lifted dying men from the field and brought them to the hospital unit.

As the timid stretcher-bearer listened to the words of gratitude for the kindness shown to men in desperate need, there gradually came to him a vision of the glorious possibilities in his work; and then the bursting of cannon balls and the explosive bombs no longer affected him. Fear was gone. He who had shrunk from duty, now boldly set out doing all within his power to save dying men. Again and again he ventured forth until many of the suffering and wounded had been rescued through his tireless and fearless efforts. The joy of service had become his strength. Fear was supplanted by a desire to help, and in helping to save men he found great satisfaction.

Is not the same true in the winning of souls? In this, as with many other things, getting started is often the difficult part. But when one soul has been saved, when one poor darkened

heart has been enlightened with a peace that fills his whole life, there comes to the soul winner a joy such as nothing else can impart, because of personal efforts put forth. Fear of man is overcome by the joy of service.

Many of the readers of this paper have experienced this joy. May we appeal to you to press on in the same experience and win another. It may be that some have become weary in well doing and have decided there was no use to try further. But you must never give up. As you continue on you will find that the Saviour, through His Holy Spirit, has been laboring with you. He never wearies. Someday, like workmen building a tunnel, who meet those working from the opposite side, in the center of the mountain, you will meet Him, and the victory will be won. It is your privilege to reenlist in the service of our Captain who has never lost a battle, and who will accomplish for you that which you cannot do alone. Let us win one, and another, and still others for Him.

W. H. BERGHERM.

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## The Isle of Prayer

Do you ever feel discouraged  
With the story of the past?  
Have you tried to do your duty—  
Tried and tried, and failed at last?  
Does your life seem vain and useless,  
Crushed and desolate your heart?  
Would you give earth's richest treasure  
Just to get another start?

Then I know a little island  
That is just the place for you,  
Where your soul may find refreshment  
And your life begin anew.  
I have often found fresh courage  
In its purifying air,  
In the place where God meets mortals—  
'Tis the sacred Isle of Prayer.

There the sunbeams of forgiveness  
Will dispel each cloud of gloom;  
From our deep tears of repentance  
Flowers of hope begin to bloom.  
From the crystal streams of mercy,  
Rising washed and purified,  
We begin our lives all over  
With a living Friend and Guide.

Let us often seek the pleasures  
Of this happy little isle,  
And forget our cares and worries  
In the sunshine of God's smile.  
He has given us many blessings,  
But no privilege so rare  
As a full and free admission  
To this golden Isle of Prayer.

—Winifred Davidson.

## An Impressive Scene

THE missionary spirit is the vital spark that keeps the Christian alive to the suggestions God instills in his mind for soulsaving endeavor. When the sense of personal responsibility to win souls is lacking, it is a sign that the Christian has lost the zeal of his "first love" at conversion.

The other day I happened to pass the scene of a serious automobile accident. Every person in the wrecked car was hurt seriously, and each face was twisted in agony. A great crowd stood by, unable to help. It was a sickening sight, and I pitied the poor victims from the depths of my heart. Suddenly there flashed before my mind the picture of the future judgment day and the countless numbers writhing in anguish and despair. At that time we may perhaps see some whom we might have helped. How many opportunities for speaking a word for Christ are we permitting to slip by today? Can it be possible that the people with whom we are talking today, who are out of the ark of safety, will one day face eternal destruction because of our neglect? What will it mean then to hear their cries of anguish and despair, knowing that we have failed to warn them? May the Holy Spirit impress our minds with the need of working now for souls.

ALGER H. JOHNS.

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## A Farmer and His Wife "Win One" Soul

THE value of personal interest in the spiritual welfare of those with whom we come in contact, is illustrated in the experience of an ex-service man who was baptized recently. Several years ago a young man came to the home of a Seventh-day Adventist farmer in the Northwest and asked for work. It was midsummer and the farmer needed more help; so he arranged to hire the man, taking occasion to inform him that there would be no work done on the Sabbath, the

seventh day of the week. For a number of months the young man worked on the farm, during which time he observed and heard many things concerning Christian living and the Bible teaching which he had never known before. But he was not interested in religion in any way. His ambition was to join the Navy, and he seized the first opportunity to do so. But before leaving the farmer's home, he expressed his gratitude for the kindness shown him and promised the farmer that he would write to him.

Months passed, and then one day there came a letter addressed to the farmer, bearing the postmark, "Hawaiian Islands." The young sailor wrote as he would to his father and mother, stating that he had not forgotten his kind friends, and that he was homesick and lonesome. The letter was answered immediately, and along with the letter some papers and tracts

were mailed. Although replies were irregular and far between, the farmer and his wife continued to write and to pray. To the sailor in a strange land, separated from his own people, the letters brought cheer, encouragement, and a determination to be true to principle.

When the sailor returned to America, he quickly sought out the old couple, and once more made his home with them. His attitude toward religion was now entirely changed, and he took delight in the daily Bible study conducted by the farmer and his wife. The Holy Spirit was present to bring conviction and obedience to the truth, and soon the young man wanted to be baptized and to unite with the church. Today this young brother is rejoicing in the truth, and the farmer and his wife experience the blessing of having won a soul for the Master. W. H. BERGHERM.

bers who were no longer members of the church, and some members would purchase books, papers, etc., on credit, who would not otherwise obligate themselves. We recognized that we were facing a disastrous situation, and set about to find the way out. After much prayer and careful consideration, we asked the church members to help distribute 250 copies of *Present Truth* every week, each member paying for his share of the papers. A number agreed to the plan, and some offered to pay for the papers which others distributed. We decided to charge one cent a copy, using the amount over the actual cost to apply on our standing debt. This has worked out exceptionally well. We are now ready to pass out the fifteenth number in the series of twenty-four, and many interesting experiences are being reported by those who engage in the literature work. All the papers for the entire series have been paid for, and the old debt has been considerably lessened.

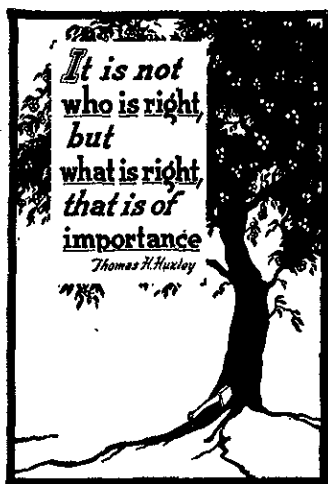
"In addition to the literature work, we are conducting a Bible training class, and the attendance and interest are excellent. We are truly thankful to the Lord for what has been accomplished, and we are praying that our efforts may result in souls saved in His kingdom. We recognize that we have a tremendous work ahead of us, and that only wholehearted, consecrated effort on the part of all, with much prayer and the help of the Holy Spirit, will enable us to carry out the divine injunction."—A. W. Simons.

*On the Upward Trend.*—The missionary secretary of a city church in Pennsylvania, states: "We feel that our missionary society is progressing, especially with regard to the holding of the regular fifteen-minute service and the distribution of literature. Our greatest difficulty is to get the members to report. Some excuse themselves by saying that they do not like to talk about their work, fearing that it will savor of self-praise. But we have interesting services on the first Sabbath of each month. I have noticed that although the members know the pastor will not give a sermon on that day, they come to the service and listen attentively to the readings, and seem to enjoy the program. It is our earnest and prayerful purpose to make the missionary society a real, active department in our church."—Eugenia Bowman.

## Church Missionary Officers' Round Table

### An Exchange of Experiences, Problems, Suggestions

All Church Missionary Leaders and Secretaries  
Are Invited to Contribute to This Exchange



*Conducting the Missionary Services and Reducing Church Debt.*—The missionary leader connected with a church in the Ohio Conference, passes on the following report of encouragement and suggestion: "In the matter of conducting the church missionary services regularly, we have been more than ordinarily successful. With but few exceptions, our Home Missionary Day

services and the fifteen-minute church missionary services have been conducted faithfully for several years. At times, there has been a tendency to crowd out these services with other things, but I have held firmly yet tactfully to the program. There are times when conditions warrant a sudden change in plans for the monthly missionary service; but in most cases, it is best to follow the organized plan.

"For the success of the missionary program, it is essential that there be the closest possible cooperation between the missionary leader and the missionary secretary, and everything that will coordinate their respective duties should be encouraged, particularly when it comes to financing the missionary endeavor. Possibly our experience during the last few months may be of interest.

"Over a considerable period our account with the Book and Bible House had been allowed to accumulate, and had reached the point where it became necessary to refuse to carry accounts for individuals. We found that we were carrying debts incurred by mem-

### My Blessing Box

(A narrative containing valuable suggestions for use by missionary leaders and secretaries.)

I SEE you are smiling at my box with the funny label, Miss, and I suppose you're curious to know what it means; so if you'll take that chair, and sit down, I'll tell you all about it.

The way it began was like this: After my husband died, which is three years ago next Christmas, I got in a terrible way of complaining and grumbling and finding fault with everything and everybody. I kept on with the little shop which we used to run, and so managed to get along pretty well; but somehow I always looked on the wrong side of things, and nothing ever seemed right. Trade was bad, and my rheumatics were bad, and the weather was bad! One day a young lady I know, who goes to the mission hall around the corner, dropped into my little shop, and had a little talk with me, and listened to my usual growl about things in general and my bad knee in particular; and just before she left she laid some handbills on the counter. "There," she said, "there's a present for you, Mrs. Smith. I want you to give them to your customers when they come in, and would you mind putting this one up in the window?" and she smiled so pleasantly, and asked so nicely, I couldn't have said "No" if I had wanted to. So when she'd gone I stuck it up in the window.

And then I took my glasses and read one of the handbills which said, "Come to the Magic Lantern Service, Thursday night. All seats free." So I said to myself, "I'm going! I always like those pictures!"

Well, Miss, I went, and I saw a lot of my customers there, which showed my bills had done some good; and my young lady, she was there, and she smiled at me sweetly. I told her I got rid of all the bills, and had a little grumble to her about the weather, and my rheumatics, and the goings on of my errand boy. Then the lights went off and the pictures began. I can't remember much of what the gentleman said, but I know it was very interesting. He told us about some natives out in Africa, and how they had never heard about God, but were cannibals, and didn't wear any clothes, and couldn't read. I'd never heard such a story before in all

my life. Then he showed us pictures of some who had been converted and put in their right minds and were wearing clothes like decent folk, and pictures of schools and churches and a hospital. And then he told some stories that made my glasses go misty and made me fumble for my handkerchief.

And when the lights were turned on again, he told us how we could all help. Some of us could go. "Well," thinks I, "I'd like to, but it isn't any good; I'm too old, and there's the rheumatics."

And then he said, "You can all help go." "Why bless me!" I said to myself, "How can I help them?" But the gentleman goes on to explain, "Some of you can pray." "I will," said I, though I need praying for myself. "Some of you can work." "Don't see how I can," for I was pretty full up, what with the shop and a little starching and ironing I took in. "And some of you can talk." "That's me, every time!" I think. "And last of all, some of you can give," he says; and with that he held up a little box, same as you see here. "This," he said, "is what is called a Blessing Box, and every one who takes it is asked to put in a penny for every blessing that comes to him."

Then my young lady sang that hymn, "Count Your Blessings," and we all joined in the chorus. I'd never heard it before, and it was beautiful; but all the time I was saying to myself, "It won't take me long to count them! I haven't got many!" But, Miss, somehow I couldn't get it out of my mind, and what with the pictures I'd seen, and the stories I'd heard, and the singing of that hymn—well, I just marched up to the table and said, "Put down my name for a Blessing Box, please." So he put it down, and I took the box home.

### Hunting for Blessings

When I'd got my bonnet and cape off, I looked at it. There was a little map on one side, and some texts on the other, with a label underneath and a slit on top; and I said to it, "Well, I'm afraid it will be a long time before you get full, for I haven't any blessings to speak of." I put it on the table and got ready for bed, and said my prayers. I didn't forget them, though I was getting very bad tempered. I can't say as how I

really prayed, but I used to say, "Our Father," and some other words that I'd learned. Just as I knelt down by the side of the bed, it came into my mind like a flash, "My bed is a blessing, anyhow!" And then I thought it couldn't mean that kind of thing; so I said my prayers and got into bed. "Your bed's a blessing, and there are many who haven't any bed tonight!" It seemed as if a voice kept on saying that in my ears over and over again. At last I couldn't bear it any more, so I scrambled out of bed, lit the candle, and found my old purse. So I said, "Money is a blessing, too, I'm thinking," and in went the other penny.

Next morning I put it up on my mantel shelf in the room back of the shop, and when I came in from serving any one, there it was staring me in the face.

The first night it was up there, I didn't pay much heed to it till near bedtime, and then I thought of my Bible. I had not been reading it regularly, but just occasionally; but that night I took down my mother's big family Bible, and dusted it, and opened it, and read a bit. And when I'd read, I said, "There's another penny for that old box, for the Bible's a blessing, sure enough." And, do you know, Miss, ever since that night I haven't missed once reading in the good old Book, and a lot of good it has done me, I know.

Another day, as I was sitting in the back room listening for the shop bell, I thought to myself, "How nice and comfy is this old armchair!" It was one my husband had picked up cheap and had padded nicely for me, and just as I thought that, I looked up, and there was my Blessing Box staring me in the face! "In you go!" I said, taking a penny out of my pocket, and then I thought of all the rest of the furniture that I couldn't do without, so put in another one.

And so it went on: and do you know, I got so into the way of it that I got to looking out for blessings, and I didn't have to look far, either. One day I picked up the box. I thought to myself, "You're pretty heavy, you are!" so I opened it, and what do you think? There were thirty-nine pennies inside of it! And I had only had it three weeks! I was fair amazed at the sight of it, and I just knelt down there by the pennies

and thanked the good Lord for all His blessings, and asked Him to make me good. And He heard me, sure enough.

### Another Box Installed

"I'll send this in!" I said to myself next day. So I found out the address which was on the label, and got the old man upstairs to write a letter for me, and told him to ask for some papers which would tell about the people that the money was going to. So we sent off the stamps, and by and by comes a receipt, and a paper with a lot of reading, and some fine pictures. Me and the old man had a look at them, and he read to me out of that paper for the whole of one evening. He was quite surprised, too, and asked how my box was getting on, and said he'd like to put something in, as it appeared to him he had a few blessings likewise. So I went off and brought it up, and he puts in a silver dime! "There," he said, "that's because I am not a cannibal, and I live in a Christian country, and—and—well, I've got a lot to be thankful for, though I am a bit of a grumbler."

And so the box got started again, with a silver bit this time, and when I got downstairs I just poked in a nickel to keep it company. I said, "There's three more blessings: (1) I've got this nice paper, (2) some one to read it with me, and (3) a partner in this blessing business."

It was just astonishing what a difference that box made in my life. I started going to the mission regularly again. I'd dropped it off altogether since my poor husband died. And I got to talking with people there, and found they had a prayer meeting for the poor natives; so I used to go to that, and heard a lot more about Indians and Chinamen and Malays, and suchlike, who were all very interesting. And then I had a lot to pray for. I felt as if I was a partner in this missionary business, and I had to help all I knew how. It is wonderful how that box makes you think and makes you thankful, too; for now, whenever I drop a penny in, I just kneel down and thank God for the blessing that the penny belongs to.

After about a year that missionary man came along again, and I made bold to tell him what a blessing my Blessing Box had been to me and to ask for another one.

(To be continued in January)

## Weekly Church Missionary Services

### December 3—Forward Into Unentered Territory

A FEW months ago a brother living in California went to a Southern State for a vacation. He took with him a projectoscope and a number of films, especially films illustrating the prophecies pertaining to our time. During his stay at the home of relatives, he was asked to show the pictures and explain their meaning. Neighbors were invited to come in, and as a result, a real interest was created and further illustrated Bible studies were held. In due time a conference worker was called to care for the interest, and now there is in that Southern town a thriving church of forty-three members. Thus the light of truth has become established in another dark county.

It is estimated that in the United States there are about five thousand towns and cities of a thousand and more inhabitants, in which there is no organized Seventh-day Adventist church. Some of this unentered territory may be within reach of the church where this church missionary service is conducted, and the first responsibility may lie at its door. "These fields must be entered," is the word which has come to us through the Spirit of prophecy, "and many laborers should go to them with the expectation of bearing their own expenses."—"Testimonies," Vol. VII, p. 254.

It might be asked, Why has not this territory been entered before? The responsibility does not rest entirely with the ministry. The answer is given in the following words: "Many fields ripe for the harvest have not yet been entered, because of our lack of self-sacrificing helpers." Among the gifts bestowed upon the Christian church is that of "helps." Today God is bestowing the gift of "helps" in rich measure upon our lay members, and He is calling them to supply the lack and enter the "fields ripe for the harvest." Some "helps" may go in groups, as families; others as individuals, or as church missionary bands, may answer the call. Let us ask ourselves the question, "What doest thou here?" 1 Kings 19:13.

### December 10—Opportunities in Missionary Correspondence

VERY soon it will be time to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the Vigilant Missionary Society, which was the first organized attempt on the part of our people to carry on systematic missionary correspondence. It is interesting to know that this society, which was organized in 1869, is still carrying on, under other names, after seventy years of soul-winning service. A society organized in Canada for similar purposes, recently reported that thirty-three souls accepted the truth as the direct result of the literature mailed and the follow-up correspondence. It would be well for all home missionary workers to stop and take inventory. Why are not a larger number of church members engaged in sending out literature and carrying on personal correspondence in behalf of souls?

One of our sisters living on the Pacific Coast became deeply convicted of neglect of duty in not scattering the literature which had accumulated in her home. She was led to pray that the Lord would reveal to her the address of some person who would be willing to read the papers. At this same time a woman living in the State of Mississippi was secretly praying for light. What a wonderful picture—a woman on the Pacific Coast praying to be led to some one who needed the light of truth, and another woman, on the Gulf of Mexico, praying for the light. In an unusual manner, these two women were brought into touch through the medium of a patent-medicine almanac. Today, as the result of the literature and correspondence coming from an unknown Christian worker for souls at a far-distant point, the woman in Mississippi is a faithful and loyal Seventh-day Adventist.

"Let every Seventh-day Adventist ask himself, 'What can I do to proclaim the third angel's message?' . . . The distribution of our literature is one means by which the message is to be proclaimed. Let every believer scatter broadcast tracts and leaflets and books containing the message for this time."—"Christian Service," p. 145.

### December 17—Missionary Experiences

ONCE, while I was walking with a friend, I asked him what would be his greatest joy in heaven. Without hesitation, the reply came: "My greatest joy, it seems to me, will be recounting the steps whereby the light of truth came to me and my acceptance of it, and seeing the souls saved in the kingdom through my instrumentality." And this is indeed true. By the pen of inspiration we are told that "the themes of redemption will employ the hearts and minds and tongues of the redeemed through the everlasting ages."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 134.

Today, through personal effort in winning souls, it is our privilege to have a foretaste of heaven's joy. And it is now our privilege to bear testimony as to how God is using us from day to day for the redemption of lost mankind. In the brief moments allotted to this missionary service there is opportunity for a number of missionary experiences to be related. (Perhaps the missionary leader can cite an encouraging experience which has come within his own observation, or the experience of some other member of the church can be called for. While the time is short, yet an encouraging experience, briefly told, will be the means of helping many.)

### December 24—Radio Follow-Up

THE third angel's message is being proclaimed on the air, and men and women everywhere are listening. The mysterious ether waves penetrate into homes and hearts that could be reached in no other way, and results far beyond our fondest hopes are being obtained. No matter where you are, or to what church you belong, there is need of your personal service in helping to follow up the radio broadcast. This is the way to proceed:

Study the radio log as it appears in the union conference papers, and make sure just when the territory in which you live is reached by our evangelists over the air. If the union or the conference prints a "radio log," get a supply of them and place one in every home in your neighborhood, and by personal call and courteous invitation, induce the people to listen in at the particular time specified. Then call again from time to time, to help keep the interest alive, announcing topics for the immediate future. Offer copies of the radio

lectures which have been given, in printed form, to all who will take them. This is pioneer follow-up work. It arouses the special interest of the people, and sows seed for later follow-up of inquiries sent in to the station. Such work requires literature, Bible studies, or friendly contact. Every church should plan to have a part in the wonderful modern invention which is being made to serve its rightful purpose in warning the world of coming events, by such personal work in local territory as is here suggested. Write to the conference home missionary secretary for information as to how to get started.

The following experience is related by Evangelist John Ford, who has had extensive experience in radio work: "A young woman in an Eastern State who has been bedfast for years took the course of the Radio Bible School of the Air, and has become a full-fledged Seventh-day Adventist. She never knew of Seventh-day Adventists or their work before she tuned in on the radio broadcasts. Upon the anniversary of my first year of broadcasting in the city in which this young woman lived, she wrote a poem, which reads as follows:

"One year ago I lay in bed, lonely and ill and sad;  
It seemed as though no earthly thing could make my heart be glad.  
The doctor said I soon would die; and that thought made me yearn  
For knowledge of God's Bible, and of heavenly things to learn.

"I prayed. 'Dear God,' I softly cried, 'please hear this one appeal—  
Teach me Thy word and unto me Thy precious truth reveal.'  
My radio was there close by, and as I raised my head,  
I thought I saw It beckon me. 'Why not tune in?' I said.

"I turned the knob; a gentle voice was speaking earnestly—  
Not to some unseen audience, but speaking right to me.  
I listened, soon forgetting all my sorrow and my fear,  
Until at last that pleading voice brought my dear Saviour near.

"And with my Saviour came a peace that never before I'd known.  
It filled my heart with comfort, and with visions of God's throne.  
And so throughout one happy year I've learned to trust and pray,  
And listen to that kindly voice day after shining day.

"No longer ill, no longer sad, no longer filled with fear,  
But listening still to that gentle voice that brought my Saviour near."

### December 31—Retrospective Glance

TODAY we close the record of 1938. And as we look back over the months, we rejoice in the many evidences that it has been a wonderful year for the kingdom of our Lord. Scores of new languages have been added to the speaking vocabulary of this message, and great victories have accompanied its proclamation. Yes, many golden pages, filled with triumphs for the cause of Christ, are in the book of records which we now must lay aside to be opened no more until the judgment day.

There are also pages the record of which brings sorrow and tears. There are chapters that tell of privileges neglected, of duties undone, of a soul which might have been saved. A helping hand might have been extended at just the right time, more cheering words might have been spoken, missionary letters written, or the "cup of cold water" might have been supplied to many of God's needy children.

We are thankful, however, that while we close one book, we open another, the pages of which are pure and white. A volume of three hundred sixty-five pages, upon which no spots or stains appear, will be ours on the morrow. May we suggest that the close of this new book will depend largely on the way it is begun. If upon its very first pages are written the record of a life hidden in Jesus, of loving devotion and loyalty in service, victory and triumph will crown every page.

### Cause for Reflection

EVERY day that passes brings us nearer the last great important day. . . . Are we also drawing nearer to God? Are we watching unto prayer?

Another year of our time to labor has rolled into eternity. Every day we have been associating with men and women who are judgment bound.

Each day may have been the dividing line to some soul. Some one may have made the decision which shall determine his future destiny.

What has been our influence over these fellow travelers? What efforts have we put forth to bring them to Christ?—*Testimonies*, Vol. V, p. 466.

# Missionary Volunteer Department

## Officers' Notes

### Binding Off the Year's Work

**A**S the year draws to a close, the Missionary Volunteer officers should seek to complete all unfinished business and projects. They should see that the records are properly made out and filed, and that reports have been made up, copies filed in the record books, and other copies sent on to the conference Missionary Volunteer secretary.

Now is a good time to prepare the society for the new year which is to come. It should be the pride of the officers whose term of office is expiring to turn over to their successors a society well organized and properly functioning. As the members of the society executive committee give up their work and return to regular membership duties in the society, it is their privilege to bring the inspiration and strength of their experience to the missionary bands and to the other lines of work which may come to their hand.

May this new year bring new blessings to the Missionary Volunteer Society. May God's blessing go with the outgoing officers, and may heavenly wisdom and grace be given to the incoming officers. A. W. P.

### Annual Week of Prayer

MANY and varied are the enterprises launched by the General Conference in connection with the cause of God each year, but none is more important than that of building up the spiritual experience of our people. For this very purpose, the Annual Week of Prayer is set aside. This special season of prayer is to be observed from December 3-10. During this week, Seventh-day Adventist institutions, churches, and companies the world over enter upon a program of study, meditation, and prayer. Adventist believers in every land—old and young alike—gather together daily to seek the Lord for a deeper spiritual experience.

How about the young people in your Missionary Volunteer Society? Will they receive the benefit of this special week? That depends largely on the previous plans laid by the conference Missionary Volunteer secretary and the local society leadership.

What should you do? Why, lay definite plans early, in cooperation with the pastor or the elder of the church, with the purpose of reaching every young person. Call your Mis-

sionary Volunteer executive officers together to lay tangible plans. Organize prayer and service bands. Lay definite plans early for meetings to be conducted in such a manner that every young person will have an opportunity to take his stand for Christ. Work with the church leaders in conducting a baptismal class for those who make their decision. Plan to carry the spirit of the Week of Prayer throughout the year by urging all to enter upon a devotional program, observing the Morning Watch and the Bible Year. D. A. OCHS.

### The Annual Offering and Our Youth

YOUNG people have played an important part in the work of God from early Bible times, and this has been especially true in the history of the advent movement. Most of our pioneers were but young people when they began their work, and they accomplished much for God. Because our young people have been willing to forgo the comforts and conveniences of home and go as missionaries to foreign lands, our cause has made great progress. It is from the ranks of our young people that our missionaries are recruited, and many now laboring in mission lands are still young.

Our young people who have not been able to serve as missionaries overseas, have supported the cause of foreign missions by their prayers and by their means. Our Sabbath schools and Missionary Volunteer Societies have fostered the interest and support of our young people in foreign missions to the extent that it can be safely said that no other phase of God's work appeals to the youth more. Knowing this to be true, our Missionary Volunteer officers should definitely plan to enlist the help of our young people in the Annual Offering which will be taken on Sabbath, December 10. The needs of the hour are great, and we look to our youth to do their part in sacrificial giving. We believe they will not disappoint us.

H. H. COBBAN.



## Looking Ahead—1939

THE program topics for the 1939 Missionary Volunteer Society meetings (listed in this GAZETTE) include a definite outline of studies to help in the work of saving the youth of the church, of building in them Christian character, and of training them for service. Several series are listed. It was felt that at this crucial time a monthly study on the Bible would be especially helpful to the Seniors and to the Juniors. Twelve Senior programs have been arranged on the Master Comrade work; and twelve Junior programs on the Junior Progressive Class work. Quarterly there will be programs on nature study, Christian education, definite consecration, and health. Missions, our denominational work, and special occasions and campaigns also find their place in this list of topics. May each program build for eternity, so that the youth of the denomination, the world around, may be found in the kingdom of God! M. W. M.

### Membership Enrollment

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

At the present time only about fifty per cent of the young people in our churches in these two classes are actively enrolled members in our societies. Some of these young people who are not members are participating in the work of the society, but the society needs all the youth who have surrendered their hearts to God. An earnest and continuous effort should be made in every church to enlist their hearty support and cooperation. Near the close of each year a part of the program at two or three of the society meetings should be given over to the enrollment of new members. This need not take a great deal of time. One of the leaders of the society, or some one else appointed, should at the first of these meetings set forth the ideals of the society as

(Continued on page 17)

Please hand this number of the "Gazette" to the 1939 M.V. Society Leader.

# MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM TOPICS

## 1 9 3 9

### SENIOR

- 7 Morning Watch and Bible Year  
14 An Urgent Need (Leadership of Juniors) MC  
21 Service  
28 Historical Background of Bible BS

- 4 Playing Fair With Our Family  
11 A Positive Program (Survey of Progressive Class work) MC  
18 Habits, Their Value and Their Danger ‡  
25 BS

- 4 My Friends and I \*\*  
11 Our Feathered Friends MC \*  
18 In Step With the Remnant People †  
25 BS

- 1 Why Marriages Succeed or Fail  
8 Creative Hobbies (Vocational Honors) MC  
15 Advanced Study and Service League  
22 BS  
29 Open

- 6 You and Your Recreation (Voc. Hon. in Recreational Pursuits) MC  
13 Mother's Day  
20 BS  
27 How Can I Serve Christ During My Vacation †

- 3 Value of Christian Education \*\*  
10 A Wonder World of Insects MC \*  
17 Temperance—Liquor †  
24 BS

- 1 When Loyalties Conflict  
8 You Are a Teacher MC  
15 Open  
22 BS  
29 Christian Education and the Lifework \*\*

- 5 S.D.A. Youth Around the World †  
12 God's Sentinels (trees) MC \*  
19 Harvest Ingathering Rally Day  
26 BS

- 2 Open  
9 Artisans for Service (Voc. Hon. in Household Arts and Mechanics) MC  
16 Temperance—Tobacco and Dope †  
23 BS  
30 Outlaw Amusements

- 7 Reading and Reading Courses  
14 The Power of Music (Voc. Hon. in Arts) MC  
21 Improving Opportunities \*\*  
28 BS

- 4 Christian Courtesy  
11 Seeing Stars MC \*  
18 BS  
25 Thanksgiving

- 2 Open  
9 Youth and the Family Altar MC  
16 Membership Drive  
23 Christmas BS  
30 Facing the New Year †

### JUNIOR

#### JANUARY

- 7 Morning Watch and Bible Year  
14 Why I Want to Be a Friend (Friend requirements) JP  
21 Service  
28 Historical Background of Bible BS

#### FEBRUARY

- 4 Playing Fair With Our Family  
11 Why I Want to Be a Companion (Companion requirements) JP  
18 Habits, Their Value and Danger †  
25 The Spade Confirms the Book BS

#### MARCH

- 4 My Friends and Their Influence on Me \*\*  
11 Why I Want to Be a Comrade (Comrade requirements) JP  
18 In Step With the Remnant People †  
25 Getting Acquainted With the Bible BS

#### APRIL

- 1 Your Best Friends (Parents)  
8 Creative Hobbies (Vocational Honors) JP  
15 Pioneers of the Message  
22 Christ in the Bible BS  
29 Open

#### MAY

- 6 The Junior and His Recreation (Voc. Hon. in Recreational Pursuits) JP  
13 Mother's Day  
20 John Three Sixteen BS  
27 How Can I Serve Christ During My Vacation †

#### JUNE

- 3 Value of Christian Education \*\*  
10 A Wonder World of Insects JP \*  
17 Temperance—Liquor †  
24 A Commandment Study BS

#### JULY

- 1 When Loyalties Conflict  
8 You Are a Builder JP  
15 Open  
22 BS  
29 Christian Education and the Lifework \*\*

#### AUGUST

- 5 Our Juniors Around the World †  
12 God's Sentinels (trees) JP \*  
19 Harvest Ingathering Rally Day  
26 The Beatitudes BS

#### SEPTEMBER

- 2 Open  
9 Artisans for Service (Voc. Hon. in Household Arts and Mechanics) JP  
16 Temperance—Tobacco and Dope †  
23 Lessons From the Disciples BS  
30 Outlaw Amusements

#### OCTOBER

- 7 Reading and Reading Courses  
14 The Power of Music (Voc. Hon. in Arts) JP  
21 Improving Opportunities \*\*  
28 Prophecies BS

#### NOVEMBER

- 4 Christian Courtesy  
11 Seeing Stars JP \*  
18 Our Friends From the Bible BS  
25 Thanksgiving

#### DECEMBER

- 2 Open  
9 The Junior and the Family Altar JP  
16 Membership Drive  
23 Christmas BS  
30 Facing the New Year †

Key to Series: MC—Master Comrade. JP—Junior Progressive. BS—Bible Series. \*—Nature. \*\*—Christian Education.  
†—Consecration. ‡—Health and Temperance.



## Officers' Notes

### Membership Enrollment

(Continued from page 15)

embodied in the Missionary Volunteer Pledge, Motto, and Aim. Then an earnest appeal should be made to those who are not already members to accept these ideals as the ideals of their lives and to associate themselves with the society and its work. Application-for-membership cards should be passed out to those who respond. They should be filled out at the time, and collected during the meeting.

It has been found helpful to appoint a fellowship committee whose responsibility it is to foster the membership plans throughout the year. The members of this committee contact the young people of the church who are not members, and encourage them to enroll. Also they serve as a welcoming committee at the Missionary Volunteer Society meetings. Inasmuch as they are already acquainted with all the active members of the society, they readily recognize any visitors or young people who may have moved recently into the community, and at once do what they can to lead these young people to become members of the society.

In addition to the regular Senior membership and associate membership mentioned above, there are the regular Junior and Junior preparatory memberships. It is not necessary for the Juniors to be members of the church in order to hold regular Junior membership. However, the Junior must be familiar with the Junior Pledge and Law and be willing to adopt them as a code of life. A boy or girl must be at least ten years of age before he can become a Junior member. Boys and girls under that age, or Juniors who are more than ten years old, may become preparatory members during the time they are studying the Pledge and Law and otherwise qualifying themselves. In case there is no Junior Society in the church, the Junior boys and girls should be admitted as Junior or Junior preparatory members of the Senior Society.

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

May God help you in your efforts to enroll all Seventh-day Adventist youth in your Young People's Society of Missionary Volunteers.

C. LESTER BOND.

(Please turn to page 24).

## Senior M. V. Meetings

### Increasing Society Membership

(Program for December 3)

BY C. LESTER BOND

OPENING EXERCISES.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

ENROLLMENT OF NEW MEMBERS.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

TALK: "Deepening Spiritual Life Essential."

TALK: "The Need of a New Vision."

SONG: "Do Something for Somebody," No. 114 in "Gospel in Song."

TALK: "Work for Seventh-day Adventist Youth."

TALK: "Work for Youth Not of Our Faith."

CLOSING EXERCISES.

### Note to Leaders

The Missionary Volunteer Society of the church occupies a unique position. It is designed to win and train the youth of Seventh-day Adventist parents and so to utilize their capabilities that they may be instrumental through personal and group missionary work to win young people not of our faith. The society that, under the blessing of God, meets these ideals in its program, is a live, growing society. There is no neutral ground, however, and the society that is failing to accomplish these ideals and purposes is a dying society. Like people, the society either continues to grow or it dies. Unless a society is adding to its membership from year to year, it is failing to achieve. Even though some of the former members may transfer their church membership to other localities, the society should be so active that new members will be gathered in from the community. It is hoped that by careful planning and earnest prayer the program today may so instill the true objectives of the Missionary Volunteer Society in the minds of the members that each one will throw his very best effort into the work of the society to bring about the desired results.

### The Need of a New Vision

To become engrossed with our school program and our everyday duties to the exclusion of serving others is an easy thing. But in these last days there are going to be young men and young women who put first things first in their lives, and consequently make it possible for God to accomplish great things through

them. We need to get our eyes off ourselves and fix them on the fields white with the harvest. This is what Jesus meant when He said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

If we are making the kingdom of heaven first in our lives, we will naturally think of the subjects of that kingdom, and long to see our friends and neighbors among them. Today God is waiting for young people who will volunteer their services to help finish His work in all the earth. The church is languishing for the help of young men and young women who will bear a courageous testimony and use their ardent zeal to stir up the sluggish energies of God's people.

We can never deepen our own burden for souls while we are self-centered. We must look to the need of our fellows all about us. Many of them are without a knowledge of God. Many more of them have no knowledge of the gospel message that is now due the world. They do not recognize that we are in the time of the judgment and that our cases will soon be decided for all eternity. Because of this, the gospel commission given to the disciples is still sounding as a challenge to Christian youth. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

May God help each one of us to catch the same vision of our responsibility in this work that Jesus had when He said, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work."

### Deepening Spiritual Life Essential

BEFORE our society can make material growth in membership, it is necessary for the present members to put from their lives everything that would separate them from God, so that they may indeed be true witnesses for Him. In Isaiah 43:10-12 God tells us that we are His witnesses and that we are to bear witness to the fact that He is the only Saviour. All about us are young people who need such testimony borne before them. In-

Annual Week of Prayer, December 3-10.

dividually, we cannot truthfully bear such testimony until we know for ourselves that He is the Saviour; that is, we cannot lead some other individual to the foot of the cross in penitence until we have been there ourselves. We cannot help some other young person to know how to prevail in prayer until we have entered into that experience ourselves. The psalmist recognized this, for it is made clear in his prayer recorded in Psalms 51:7-13 that he must be free from sin before he could be an efficient soul winner for God. After sincerely repenting and seeking forgiveness, he said, "Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee."

The same lesson is set before us by the Saviour. He said, "Ye are the light of the world. . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." He did not say, "Strive to shine," but, "Let your light so shine." In other words, remove from your lives all the obstructions, so that the light of truth may radiate to those with whom you come in contact from day to day.

Likewise, the apostle Paul emphasized the need of this spiritual strength before undertaking the task of winning others to the Master. He said, "My son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

As members of this Missionary Volunteer Society, we all desire to see our numbers greatly increased. For that reason, shall we not reconsecrate ourselves to God at the very beginning of this service today, surrendering to Him our lives and all that would separate us from Him or that would hinder us from doing His work in an acceptable way?

### Work for the Seventh-day Adventist Youth

OUR work in securing recruits for the Missionary Volunteer Society should begin among the young people who have been reared in Seventh-day Adventist homes but who are either not members of the society or not Christians. First of all, we should make a special effort to enlist every young man and young woman who is now a member of the church. We

need you, young people, who are in this class as members of our Missionary Volunteer Society. We need your support and cooperation and your prayers. And we believe that you will be greatly benefited by becoming active members of our society. We need you to help us in working for those who are not now members of the church.

In a number of societies the following plan has been carried on with excellent success in bringing about the conversion of Seventh-day Adventist youth. I wonder if it would not be well for us to try it in our society. The names of all such youth in the vicinity of the church are listed. Enough money is raised to make it possible to send the *Youth's Instructor* to each of these young people for a period of three or six months. A neat card is printed, embodying the following sentiment:

"DEAR FRIEND: This is to inform you that the Young People's Society of Missionary Volunteers is sending you a complimentary subscription to the *Youth's Instructor*. We trust that you will enjoy reading its columns and that you will be greatly benefited by so doing.

"The society cordially invites you to attend its weekly services, which are held at the church every Friday evening at 7:45.

"Signed \_\_\_\_\_"

The signature on the card should always be that of some one who knows the individual to whom the card is sent. The same individual should follow up his work by calling personally upon the young person and doing all that he possibly can to encourage him to participate in the activities of the society.

In one church 106 young people were placed on a list of this kind. Before the year had passed, 47 of them were baptized members of the church. In another church 47 youth were so listed, and 26 of them were baptized during the year. Let us all unite in earnest prayer and work for the salvation of these young comrades of ours.

### Work for Youth Not of Our Faith

THE missionary endeavors of our young people's society should not end with the youth of Seventh-day Adventist parents. We should continu-

ally be putting forth effort for our young friends and neighbors about us. Often very simple methods bring wonderful results. Here is one method in which every member of our society can participate; namely, invite these young people to attend our Missionary Volunteer Society meetings.

In a small society of only seventeen members a covenant was made between the members that each one would do all that he could to bring some one else with him to every meeting. It was not very long until five young people not of our faith were regularly attending the society meetings. After a number of weeks had passed, they sought to become associate members of the society, and before many months had passed they were baptized members of the church and regular members of the society.

We, too, may do what other societies have done in conducting Sunday schools, and through this medium interest boys and girls in our work, and later invite them to our society and other church services. Many of those interested by this method will take their stand for the truth, and may then be enrolled as active members of the group.

Also, every one can take an active part in the circulation of the excellent leaflets provided for in the Truth for Youth series. Let us watch for and take advantage of every opportunity of reaching the youth of our city and neighborhoods. As these young people become members of our church and society, we can at once enlist their interest in all of our missionary activities, and enlist their wholehearted support.

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## How to Maintain the Reality of Jesus in the Life

(Program for December 10)

BY D. A. OCHS

OPENING EXERCISES.

ENROLLMENT OF NEW MEMBERS.

SCRIPTURE: John 15:1-13.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

TALK: "Jesus Wants to Be Real to Us."

TALK: "The Fellowship Program."

TALK: "How to Maintain the Reality of Jesus in the Life."

TESTIMONY MEETING.

CONSECRATION PRAYER: Followed by song, "Into My Heart," No. 30 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

CLOSING EXERCISES.

"The needs of the hour are great, and we look to our youth—

### Notes to Leaders

There is no topic in all the realm of Christian experience that is so difficult to explain as that of making Christ real in the life. Therefore, it is very necessary that the leader give diligent study to this theme before assigning the parts to those who are to participate in the discussion of the day. Throughout the program the leader should be ever ready with a statement or quotation here and there to emphasize the value of the practical side of Christianity, in order that the young people may see more than mere theory. The Seniors may draw on the Junior material under this topic, and the Juniors may be able to make use of some of the Senior material.

At the close of the program it would be well to give opportunity for the expression of desires and purposes. The meeting should not close without a consecration prayer, perhaps followed by the song, "Into My Heart."

### Jesus Wants to Be Real to Us

THROUGH the entire Scriptures runs the thought that *not only* was Jesus as the Son of God and the Redeemer of mankind a real being, but He longs to be a real friend and companion to all. Of Christ's reality, the Old Testament Scriptures testify. John 5:39, 46; 1:45; Luke 24:27, 44. From the beginning of the New Testament to the close, the prominent name is the name of Jesus Christ. Matt. 1:1, 21; Rev. 22:21.

The reality of Jesus, according to the Spirit of prophecy, is the central theme of the Scriptures, as is disclosed in the following: "The central theme of the Bible, the theme about which every other in the whole book clusters, is the redemption plan, the restoration in the human soul of the image of God. From the first intimation, of hope in the sentence pronounced in Eden to that last glorious promise of the Revelation, 'They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads,' the burden of every book and every passage of the Bible is the unfolding of this wondrous theme,—man's uplifting,—the power of God, 'which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.'"—*"Education,"* pp. 125, 126.

God, the Father, calls every human being—you and me—into a real fellowship with Himself and His dear Son. 1 John 1:3; 1 Cor. 1:9. Fellowship means to have a friendly state of relation, a state of companionship, comradeship. Where fellowship exists, there is found a mutual understanding.

The individuals enter into ecstatic experiences—joys and sorrows. This fellowship does not come by reading about each other, by hearing about each other, not by reading each other's writings, but by a personal contact, by living in each other's presence. That is the kind of fellowship the Father wants us to have with His Son. That is the kind of fellowship Jesus wants with every being—with you and me. Christ will not force this fellowship upon any one, and that for good reasons. (See "Steps to Christ," p. 17, par. 2.)

"Your energies are required to co-operate with God. Without this, if it were possible to force upon you with a hundredfold greater intensity the influences of the Spirit of God, it would not make you a Christian, a fit subject for heaven. The stronghold of Satan would not be broken. There must be the willing and the doing on the part of the receiver. There must be an action, represented as coming out from the world and being separate. There must be a doing of the words of Christ. The soul must be emptied of self, that Christ may pour His Spirit into the vacuum. Christ must be chosen as the heavenly guest. The will must be placed on the side of God's will. Then there is a new heart, and new holy resolves. It is Jesus enthroned in the soul that makes every action easy in His service."—*"Healthful Living,"* pp. 304, 305.

He invites us to come unto Him. Matt. 11:28; Isa. 1:18; Rev. 22:17. Christ stands, He knocks, He waits for us to open the heart's door and let Him in. He is desirous of dwelling in our hearts and carrying on that close fellowship with us. Says Jesus, "I will come in to him, and will sup with him." Rev. 3:20.

### The Fellowship Program

1. *Separation from sin.* When Christ comes into the life by faith and this intimate and real fellowship is established, all sinful rubbish disappears from the heart. "I saw that many have so much rubbish piled up at the door of their heart that they cannot get the door open. Some have difficulties between themselves and their brethren to remove. Others have evil tempers, selfish covetousness, to remove before they can open the door. Others have rolled the world before the door of their heart, which bars the

door. All this rubbish must be taken away, and then they can open the door and welcome the Saviour in."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. I, p. 143.

"It is not enough to be familiar with the arguments of the truth alone. You must meet the people through the life that is in Jesus. Your work will be made wholly successful if Jesus is abiding with you, for He has said, 'Without Me, ye can do nothing.' Jesus stands knocking,—knocking at the door of your hearts,—and yet, for all this, some say continually, 'I cannot find Him.' Why not? He says, 'I stand here knocking. Why do you not open the door, and say, 'Come in, dear Lord?' I am so glad for these simple directions as to the way to find Jesus. If it were not for them, I should not know how to find Him whose presence I desire so much. Open the door now, and empty the soul temple of the buyers and sellers, and invite the Lord to come in. Say to Him, 'I will love Thee with all my soul. I will work the works of righteousness. I will obey the law of God.' Then you will feel the peaceful presence of Jesus."—*Mrs. E. G. White, in Review and Herald, Aug. 28, 1888.*

"We cannot advance in Christian experience until we put away everything that separates us from God."—*"Messages to Young People,"* p. 377.

2. *Fellowship with Christ in suffering.* This experience is to be real to us. Moreover, we are to rejoice in it (1 Peter 4:13), for if we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him. 2 Tim. 2:12. His sympathy is always with us in our suffering (Heb. 4:15), and this fellowship with Christ in suffering brings us into sympathy with Him.

"We are brought into sympathy with Christ through the fellowship of His sufferings. Every act of self-sacrifice for the good of others strengthens the spirit of beneficence in the giver's heart, allying him more closely to the Redeemer of the world, who 'was rich, yet for your sakes became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich.' And it is only as we thus fulfill the divine purpose in our creation, that life can be a blessing to us."—*"Steps to Christ,"* pp. 79, 80, pocket edition.

3. *Fellowship with Christ in power.* When Christ comes into the heart, He brings into the life His power; He shares with us His power. Matt. 28:17, 18; 1 Thess. 1:5.

—to do their part in sacrificial giving."—H. H. Cobban.

"The power of God, combined with human effort, has wrought out a glorious victory for us. Shall we not appreciate this? All the riches of heaven were given to us in Jesus."—*"Messages to Young People,"* p. 106.

4. *Fellowship with Him in triumph.* That is, fellowship with Christ in suffering leads to glorification, triumph, and victory. 1 Cor. 15:57; 2 Cor. 2:14.

### How to Maintain the Reality of Jesus in the Life

In order to make the experience of an indwelling Christ a reality in the life, the Christian must observe certain essential requisites:

1. *Diligence in Bible Study.*—(See 2 Tim. 2:15; John 5:39.) "The study of the Scriptures is the means divinely ordained to bring men into closer connection with their Creator, and to give them a clearer knowledge of His will. It is the medium of communication between God and man."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 69.

True Bible study means to appropriate the messages found in the Bible. "If we would live a true Christian life, the conscience must be quickened by constant contact with the word of God."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. VII, p. 195. (See also M. V. Leaflet No. 18, "Bible Study.")

2. *Diligence in Prayer.*—The Bible, from the first chapter to the last, gives evidences not only of the necessity of prayer, but also of the value of sincere prayer. Ex. 34:2; Ps. 5:3; Isa. 50:4; Mark 1:35; John 17. (For further comment, consult the chapter on "The Privilege of Prayer," in "Steps to Christ.")

3. *Meditation and Communion.*—Meditation is to Bible study and reading what digestion and assimilation are to eating. Jesus will become a reality to the one who meditates on His life, character, and promises.

"Walk continually in the light of God. Meditate day and night upon His character. Then you will see His beauty and rejoice in His goodness. Your heart will glow with a sense of His love. You will be uplifted, as if borne by everlasting arms."—*"Ministry of Healing,"* p. 514. (See also "Steps to Christ," p. 93, par. 1, pocket edition, and "Messages to Young People," pp. 160, 161.)

4. *Trust and Faith.*—Trust in the Lord. Ps. 37:1-7. Christ dwells in

the heart by faith. Eph. 3:17. (See "Steps to Christ," chapter, "Faith and Acceptance." Also, "Messages to Young People," p. 159.)

"Wherever we go, we bear the abiding presence of the One so dear to us; for we abide in Christ by a living faith. He is abiding in our hearts by our individual, appropriating faith. We have the companionship of the divine Jesus, and as we realize His presence, our thoughts are brought into captivity to Him. Our experience in divine things will be in proportion to the vividness of our sense of His companionship."—*"Healthful Living,"* p. 301.

5. *Obedience.*—This essential in making Christ real in the life is perhaps the most difficult to carry out. Christ abides in the heart of him who is obedient to His law. John 14:23.

"The willful commission of a known sin silences the witnessing voice of the Spirit, and separates the soul from God. Jesus cannot abide in the heart that disregards the divine law. God will honor these only who honor Him."—*Id.*, p. 306.

It is very necessary that we be obedient in the requirement of keeping the avenues to the soul closed to all that is evil. Isa. 33:15, 16. "Those who would not fall a prey to Satan's devices must guard well the avenues of the soul; they must avoid reading, seeing, or hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts."—*"Messages to Young People,"* p. 285. These avenues are the senses. "All should guard the senses, lest Satan gain victory over them; for these are the avenues to the soul."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. III, p. 507.

6. *Service.*—No one can expect to maintain the reality of companionship with Christ without being a coworker with Christ in winning souls. 2 Cor. 6:1; 1 Cor. 3:9. That is what Christ meant when He called the disciples to follow Him. Matt. 4:19. That is what He meant when He gave the great commission: "Go ye, . . . and, lo, I am with you always." Matt. 28:19, 20.

If the love of Christ is enshrined in the heart, it "will be manifested in a desire to work as He worked, for the blessing and uplifting of humanity."—*"Steps to Christ,"* pp. 77, 78, pocket edition. (See also pp. 77-83, chapter, "The Work and the Life." Also, "Messages to Young People," p. 23.)

## Not a Thought in a Carload

(Program for December 17)

BY IRMA LEE HEWETT

SONG: "Truehearted, Wholehearted." PRAYER.  
SECRETARY'S REPORT.  
MISSIONARY REPORTS.  
OFFERTORY.  
ENROLLMENT OF NEW MEMBERS.  
SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 4:11-16.  
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC.  
READING: "My Hobby—Books."  
TALK: "Making Use of Those Spare Minutes."  
TALK: "Books Are Windows."  
TALK: "Choosing Your Book Friends."  
POEM: "The Choice of Books," p. 38, in "Choice Poems."  
SONG: "Would I Be Called a Christian?"  
TALK: "Not a Thought in a Carload."  
DISCUSSION: "How to Get the Most Out of Reading."  
POEM: "That Wonderful Country of Books."  
READING: "An Undying Influence."  
CLOSING SONG: "Wonderful Words of Life."  
BENEDICTION.

### Notes to Leaders

The matter of reading is of vital importance to the youth of your church. Give thorough preparation to this program. Advertise it by posters. Help your members to see the influence of the right kind of reading, and secure their cooperation in building up the reading standards of your society.

One way to stimulate an interest in books is by having a contest. Divide the members into two groups, letting each group choose its name. Ask some one beforehand to volunteer his services in the making of two charts on which can be listed the names of the members of the groups. Appoint a leader of each group. Decide upon a certain list of books to be read. The side which finishes the list or reads the most books in a certain length of time is the winner.

The 1939 Missionary Volunteer Reading Course books are now on sale. These were listed in the November GAZETTE, page 16. A contest could be originated featuring these books. (Don't forget to suggest these books and other good books as gift ideas for the holiday season.)

From time to time display posters featuring books or pointed statements on reading good books.

See Junior program for further suggestions in promoting an interest in reading.

### My Hobby—Books

I've sailed the seven seas. I've lived through some of the tensest moments of history, as the drama of politics, intrigue, of nation against nation, was revealed to me.

Did you notice the holiday suggestions given on page 24 of the November "Gazette"?

I've been inside a Tibetan monastery, high on a mountain, inaccessible, forbidden territory to alien eyes. I've flown over the Sahara desert, been whipped by a sandstorm, and landed in a Persian garden.

I've been inspired by the noble lives of men and women who have given the world its best in science, art, music, literature, medicine, research, history, self-sacrifice. I've been thrilled as I set sail from ports in the Old World with such men as Columbus, La Salle, Balboa, on voyages of discovery.

I've been saddened by the terrible ravages of disease and plague, preventable, but unchecked, because of ignorance. I've been heartbroken by the pitiful waste of lives in the senseless wars of the centuries. I've praised God in language so beautiful that my whole being was stirred as I uttered the words. In fact, I've tasted life to the full, vicariously, perhaps, but each emotion so real that it was actually mine.

Yes! my hobby is books. What better pursuit to transport one from this mundane sphere to the realms of delight in travel, biography, history, the arts, inspiration!—*Marie Mooney.*

### Making Use of Those Spare Minutes

HORACE MANN, the great educator, said, "Resolve to do a little reading every day, if it is but a single sentence. If you gain fifteen minutes a day, it will make itself felt at the end of the year."

Some people know how to budget their time to get much more out of twenty-four hours than do others. They are the busy folk whose lives are filled with their work, interests, hobbies, and families. Those same busy folk are the ones who are well read, and on their toes mentally. Few evenings can they find to sit down to leisurely reading, and so they must do bits of reading in between times.

How many waste valuable time each day on the trains, buses, and street-cars, reading things in the newspaper which really do not interest them, because nothing better is available. Tuck a book under your arm, and you'll find many minutes of profitable reading to your credit in a day. Often there are minutes to spare at lunch-time, while commuting to your work or school, or waiting for the dentist or the doctor, or while using some means of transportation. If you make those minutes count, you will find yourself informed on events and topics of the day, and you will be able to converse intelligently with any one.

### Books Are Windows

"BOOKS are windows through which the soul looks out. A house without books is like a room without windows."  
—*Henry Ward Beecher.*

A woman in search of living quarters in the city found two apartments of which she could take her choice. The rooms in one were large and commanded a view of the other side of a narrow street. Those of the other were small and on the top floor, overlooking an uptown park, so that from the windows you could see over tree-tops and rooftops, far across the island to the blue beyond.

She chose the small one: "The other has more room for furniture," she said, "but this has more room for me." And she added, "No room can be really crowded if it has a window with a view."

Books can make windows like that; you can look not only into them but through them, sometimes for a long way. Sometimes they open on a vista of centuries past, and sometimes into the future; some of them are magic casements which open up to enchantments of many lands; and some look straight into your neighbor's yard.

No life need be crowded if it can look out and get its bearings. In this time of transition and changing concepts, the only way most of us can get our bearings is through books—good books.

### That Wonderful Country of Books

THIS workaday world is so trying at times;

Folks chatter and squabble like rooks!  
So the wise flee away to the best of all climes.

Which you enter through History, Memoirs, or Rhymes.

That most wonderful Country of Books.

And griefs are forgotten. You go on a tour

More wondrous than any of "Cook's;"  
It costs you but little—your welcome is sure—

Your spirits revive in the atmosphere pure

Of the wonderful Country of Books.

Your friends rally around you. You shake by the hand

Philosophers, soldiers, and spooks!  
Adventurers, heroes, and all the bright band

Of poets and sages are yours to command  
In that wonderful Country of Books.

New heights are explored; and new banners unfurled;

New joys found in all sorts of nooks—  
From the work-weary brain misgivings are hurled—

You come back refreshed to this workaday world

From that wonderful Country of Books.

—*John O'London's Weekly.*

### Choosing Your Book Friends

"A GOOD book is the best of friends, the same today and forever."

Much of our success and happiness in this life depends upon the wisdom we use in choosing our friends. Friends can pull us down or lift us up to a higher level. Our choice of books likewise influences our outlook and achievement in life; for, said Kingsley, "Except a living man, there is nothing more wonderful than a book."

What is a good book? How do we choose it? Or does it choose us? Should we keep stretching our minds by trying to read books that at first seem "heavy"? Or should we read merely for recreation?

In a public library recently a woman was heard to say, "No. Don't give me that. I never read a book until it is ten years old. By then it has proved itself." Another reader, a girl in her teens, was poring over the shelf of latest books. She remarked irritably, "Why, this has been out six weeks. Haven't you anything newer?" Of course, these are extremes, but books, like friends, are proved and tested by time. A book that is fitly chosen can become a lifelong friend. Those people who have proved your real friends are those whom you like to have about you often. Just so do you like to step to your bookcase and choose to read again and again a book which has already proved its worth.

When first meeting an individual, you usually feel that in a few moments you have sized him up and know whether you are interested in cultivating a real friendship. You have been mistaken in this many times, haven't you? Some of those people who seemed at first so attractive in appearance and personality proved to be just short-time or casual friends. Perhaps you have found yourself thrown with people who did not appeal to you, and whose friendship you would not otherwise have sought. Perhaps they were not as outstanding in appearance or their personality was not so sparkling, but as time went on, they proved pure gold, and you found yourself the owner of lifelong friends, regardless of the ups and downs.

Just so it is with a book. Do you frown on a book that is not dressed in a gay or attractive jacket? Does your interest wane if the first page or two does not hold your interest?

**The mission fields are counting on our youth—Annual Offering, December 10.**

How much you are missing in the world of books! Don't be like the woman who ordered from a department store three yards of books in green bindings to harmonize with the furniture! A paper-bound book you love is more valuable than a real-leather volume that gathers dust on the parlor table.

How many people condemn a book simply because they are too lazy to follow the author's thought. They want canned thinking like the canned music on the radio. We have so many mechanical devices today to do our tasks for us, that most of us fail to get the proper exercise to keep both our bodies and our minds from growing flabby; instead of walking six blocks, we take the bus; instead of reading and digesting the news for ourselves, we wait for the radio commentator to make up our minds for us; instead of chewing and savoring a good book, if we can't swallow it in one gulp, we say irritably, "That's too heavy for me."

How do you know you won't like a person (even though others don't) until you have become somewhat acquainted with him? How do you know you won't like a book if you have never done more than glance at the cover? Don't say you don't like history, biography, poetry, science, or nature until you have had enough contact with them to be a fair judge. Are you going to limit yourself to a chosen few? We need the friends who are always there when wanted, but must we limit our repertoire of friendships? Let us continually reach out and seek new personalities and minds among people, and at the same time add to our library shelves, for a library is a collection of book friends.

"You need have no dull hours if you are a sincere lover of books. Should discouragement, sorrow, or difficulty assail you, it is your privilege to turn to a good book for inspiration, solace, and refreshment. Books are ever available friends, ready to serve you at will. In reading, the vital thing is that you assimilate. It is possible to read omnivorously, yet acquire little in real knowledge and culture. Method, judgment, and discipline are as important in the choice and reading of books as in the conduct of a successful business. There is nothing that will precisely take the place of a taste for good literature. To possess half a dozen of the great

books of the world is to be rich in a great and enduring sense."—*Grenville Kleiser*.

Choose your lifelong book friends upon their proved merit.

### Not a Thought in a Carload

Not long ago a young woman who is interested in good reading matter decided to do a little investigating, just for her own satisfaction. Frequently during the winter months after office hours she stopped in a near-by drugstore for a few moments while waiting for the bus which took her some distance to her home. She was amazed, especially at the first of every month, at the number of new magazines placed in a huge case in a convenient place to attract the eyes of those entering and leaving the store. But how few worth-while magazines to be purchased! One day when it was too rainy to walk and she had missed the bus, the girl amused herself by counting the magazines in the case. Would you believe it possible that there were 204 different magazines? They included everything from the cheap pulp detective thrillers, love stories so untrue to life, comics, to the joke magazines—none of which were fit to read.

Then the girl went carefully through the whole display of magazines once again, and found that out of the 204 magazines, there were but 32 that any thinking and respectable person would take from the store. The good magazines covered the field of home care, parenthood, outdoor life, current events, worth-while hobbies, and inspirational articles. Out of 204 magazines only sixteen per cent were fit to read! No one would possibly have time to read even all of the 32 magazines every month; hence how careful one must be in choosing his magazine reading.

This matter of magazines is more serious than one might think. Books, being more expensive, are not so easily accessible as are magazines displayed on every newsstand to attract the eye of the passers-by. The purchase of a magazine means the expenditure of only ten, fifteen, or twenty-five cents, but the result of reading it may result in the relish for cheap literature or for the worth while.

Pile the magazines belonging to the trashy group into a dozen stacks, and what would you have? Just paper to

be sold to the junkman, from which to make more cheap magazines. In fact, if you filled a whole boxcar with such magazines, you would not find a thought in the whole carload. *Not a thought in a carload* of such trashy magazines. Let's not waste our precious time in reading that which is of no help or inspiration in our life.

### An Undying Influence

A LITTLE more than two hundred years ago an old Puritan doctor wrote a book and died without knowing whether his book had done any good. The name of the book was, "The Bruised Reed." Richard Baxter was converted through reading, "The Bruised Reed," and he wrote, "A Call to the Unconverted." Philip Doddridge was converted through reading Baxter's book, and wrote, "The Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul." William Wilberforce was converted through reading this book, and wrote, "A Practical View of Christianity." Thomas Chalmers read Wilberforce's book, and was converted. A young minister by name of Leigh Richmond read Chalmers' book, and he was inspired to write, "The Dairyman's Daughter," which has been the means for the conversion of tens of thousands. This true story shows how a book, sermon, poem, or article may form a link in the golden chain of influence which in God's providence grows longer and longer.—*Herald and Presbyter*.

### How to Get the Most Out of Reading

1. DEVELOP the habit of doing two kinds of reading: the one for the sake of learning; the other, for enjoyment. We ought to get fun out of learning, and we ought not to read for enjoyment unless that which we read also teaches us things worth learning.

2. Make yourself comfortable either at a desk or in a chair. Remove anything which has a tendency to clutter the room or your mind. Turn off the radio—the radio decreases your efficiency as much as fifty per cent. Have good ventilation.

3. Read fast—look at entire phrases instead of single words.

4. Do not say words, either aloud or beneath your breath.

5. Do not read too long at a time.

6. Read different kinds of literature. Some people confine their reading to one field. That is like eating one kind of food all the time. If you have never tried biography, poetry, or science, why not delve into one of these interesting realms and find out what fascinating things and people there are in this world? If you find that you can spend an entire evening in reading, you will get more out of

**Bind off the year's work during this month.—**

it if you divide the time between two types of books.

7. Do not try to read more than two or three books at a time. Finish what you start—unless, of course, you find the book not worth reading.

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## The Life of Jesus

(Program for December 24)

BY GWYNETH M. THOMPSON

### OPENING EXERCISES.

DIALOGUE: "Bible Study on the First Advent."

### SPECIAL MUSIC.

TALK: "What Think Ye of Christ?"

TALK: "The Spirit of Christ."

### SPECIAL MUSIC.

READING: "The Second Coming of Jesus." (Glean from pages 636-647 in "The Great Controversy.")

### CLOSING EXERCISES.

#### Notes to Leaders

The Bible study on the first advent of Christ is in dialogue form. Each participant should type out his texts, or have the location carefully marked in his Bible, and rehearse the reading of them before time for the program, so that each verse may be distinctly and clearly enunciated. After prophecy No. 1 is read, fulfillment No. 1 should be read by the other participant, and so on.

### Bible Study on the First Advent

TODAY is the day celebrated by the Christian world as the birthday of Jesus Christ, though neither the Bible nor history substantiates this date. In fact, the evidence would seem to indicate that Jesus was born at another time of the year. However, it is not essential that we know the day on which Jesus was born, but it is essential that we know Him as our personal Saviour; and it is very appropriate that we spend this hour in talking and meditating upon the life of Jesus as our Saviour.

In the Bible, there are over three hundred converging rays which meet "in one perfect portrait of a Man who did not appear on earth till at least three hundred years after the last prophet had laid down his pen. Yet in not one feature, however minute, does the portrait fail to predict the person." A few of these prophecies in the Old Testament, with the fulfillment of each as recorded in the New Testament, will now be read.

#### PROPHECY

##### Birthplace Foretold

1. Micah 5:2

##### Work as a Prophet

2. Dent. 18:15

3. Isa. 9:1, 2

##### Triumphant Entry

4. Zech. 9:9

##### His Betrayal

5. Zech. 11:12, 13

#### Treatment on Trial

6. Isa. 53:5

7. Isa. 50:6

8. Isa. 53:7

#### Disposition of His Garments

9. Ps. 22:18

#### Resurrection

10. Ps. 16:10; 110:1;

Zech. 6:13

#### FULFILLMENT

1. Luke 2:1-7

2. Acts 7:37

3. Matt. 4:12-16

4. Matt. 21:1-11

5. Matt. 26:14-16;

27:3-10.

6. Matt. 27:29-31

7. Matt. 26:67; 27:30

8. Mark 14:60, 61; 15:3-5

9. John 19:24

10. Mark 16:19; Acts 5:31;

1 Peter 3:22; Heb. 2:9

### What Think Ye of Christ?

THE ideal man has not yet been discovered among those who were mere men. No one of our noblest men was a spotless sun; no one reached sinless perfection. From all our loftiest specimens of manhood I turn dissatisfied to Jesus Christ, and in Him I find that the ideal becomes actual, the dream real, and the hope fruition.

As Mont Blanc, towering 15,781 feet above the level of the Mediterranean Sea, is king of the Alps in comparison with the other snow-clad and cloud-kissed mountains of this great mountain system, so is Jesus Christ the King, in comparison with the loftiest men who have risen as mountain heights above their fellows through all the ages.

Jesus Christ is the pearl and crown of humanity; He is the loftiest specimen of manhood the race has produced; He is the fullest manifestation of divinity God has given the world. He rises in unapproachable glory not only above men, but also above saints and seraphs, and above angels and archangels.

There are those who think of the Christ as a dreamy, sentimental, and poetic character. They are charmed by the commendable characteristics of His remarkable life. They refer to Him in terms of soothing speech and dreamy affection. They think of Him in language which the robust Chalmers called, in his lofty scorn, "nursery endearments." They are ready to adopt the language of the renowned theologian, Renan, who spoke of the Christ of God as the "sweet Galilean." Such epithets must be utterly unwelcome to Christ. . . .

Christ was indeed the ideal man of the human race. He was the great exemplar, the perfect model, the sublime original, to be imitated by all true men and women. In Him, and in Him only, the plant of humanity blossomed and bloomed into a perfect flower.

But how can we account for the perfection of His humanity, if we deny the reality of His divinity?

Doctor Geikie, in his "Life of Christ," calls attention to the fact that the Jews confess great admiration for the character and words of Jesus; that the Mohammedan world gives Him the high title of Messiah; that the myriad-minded Shakespeare paid Him lowly reverence, and that men like Galileo, Kepler, Bacon, Newton, and Milton set the name of Christ above every other name. He also reminds us that Jean Paul Richter tells us that "the life of Christ concerns Him who, being the holiest among the mighty, the mightiest among the holy, lifted with His pierced hands empires off their hinges, and turned the stream of centuries out of its channel, and still governs the ages." Spinoza, the great philosopher, calls Christ the symbol of divine wisdom. Schelling and Hegel speak of Him as the union of the divine and human. The immortal Goethe, the acknowledged prince of German poets, and one of the most superbly accomplished men of the eighteenth century, says, "I esteem the Gospels to be thoroughly genuine, for there shines forth from them the reflected splendor of a sublimity, proceeding from the person of Jesus Christ, of so divine a kind as only the divine could ever have manifested upon earth."

What thinkest thou of the Christ, O Jean Jacques Rousseau, with all the brilliancy of thy intellect? Rousseau speaks: "How petty are the books of the philosophers compared with the Gospels! Can it be that writings at once so sublime and so simple are the work of men? Can He whose life they tell be Himself no more than a mere man? . . . If the death of Socrates be that of a sage, the life and death of Jesus are those of a God."

Carlyle steps forward and speaks: "Jesus of Nazareth, our divinest symbol! Higher has the human thought not yet reached." Let us summon Doctor Channing, the cultured and eloquent preacher and writer. He

—Be sure all records are clearly understood by the new officers.



makes reply: "The character of Jesus Christ is wholly inexplicable on human principles."

What thinkest thou of the Christ, O Napoleon, mighty son of Mars, striding through the world like a colossus? Hear this man of gigantic intellect, whatever may be said of his moral motives: "I think I understand somewhat of human nature, and I tell you all these, the heroes of antiquity, were men, and I am a man, but not one is like Him; Jesus Christ was more than man. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself founded great empires; but upon what did the creations of our genius depend? Upon force. Jesus alone founded His empire upon love, and to this very day millions would die for Him."

I summon Thyself, O Thou Christ of God, Thou holiest of the holy, Thou who art God of very God. What sayest Thou of Thyself? "Before Abraham was, I am." "I and My Father are one." "He that hath seen Me, hath seen the Father."—*Abridged from Robert Stuart MacArthur.*

### The Spirit of Christ

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

If one were to distill from the essence of the life of Jesus here on earth the one fundamental premise upon which He founded all His acts and words of love, it would be His deep conviction of the greatness of the human soul. "He saw in man the impress and image of the Divine, and therefore thirsted for his redemption, and took the tenderest interest in him, whatever might be the rank, character, or condition in which he was found. This spiritual view of man pervades and distinguishes the teaching of Christ."

"Jesus looked on men with an eye which pierced beneath the material frame. The body vanished before Him. The trappings of the rich, the rags of the poor, were nothing to Him. He looked through them, as though they did not exist. He recognized a spiritual . . . nature, and the germs of power and perfection which might be unfolded forever. In the most fallen and depraved man He saw a being who might become an angel of light."

"Still more, He felt that there was nothing in Himself to which men might not ascend. His own lofty con-

sciousness did not sever Him from the multitude; for He saw in His own greatness the model of what men might become. So deeply was He thus impressed that, again and again, in speaking of His future glories, He announced that in these His true followers were to share. They were to sit on His throne and partake of His beneficent power."

This, then, is the Spirit of Christ: the recognition of the innate sacredness of human personality. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me," He tells us. He is our example in all things. Dare we think less than He of those for whom He died? "Love one another." This is the Spirit of Christ, as portrayed in the following poem by Phillips Brooks:

"Then let every heart keep its Christmas within,  
Christ's pity for sorrow, Christ's hatred of sin,  
Christ's care for the weakest, Christ's courage for right,  
Everywhere, everywhere Christmas to-night!"

### I've Built a Little Manger

(Use following poem with program "Christmas," page 29.)

I've built a little manger  
Within my heart tonight,  
To welcome in the Stranger  
The Lord of love and right.  
I've built a manger lowly  
Where He may come and rest,  
And here the infant holy  
Shall be my welcome guest.

For many a door has turned Him  
Into the evening gloom,  
And many a voice has spurned Him,  
Saying, "No room! No room!"  
I've made a little manger,  
Because I have no more;  
Come in, thou blessed Stranger,  
Possess it evermore.

—Clarence Flynn.

### Officers' Notes

(Continued from page 17)

#### Three Thousand Toys

A MOTHER in a Pennsylvania town, with the aid of her three little children, reclaimed three thousand castoff toys last fall, and mended and repainted them for the Christmas of less fortunate children. Two little daughters, one six and one four years old, and one boy of seven, worked away with her in the basement day after day. The mother sent out a call for discarded toys through the schools, and gathered hundreds of dolls, trains, automobiles, games, and storybooks. The enterprise was started in October, and everything was done in time for Christmas.—*Girls' World.*

### The Christmas Spirit

ALTHOUGH we do not believe that December 25 is the birthday of Jesus, we do believe that it is well at this season of the year, when the attention of people generally is directed to the life and work of the Master, to do all that can be done through exemplary living and sacrificial service to reveal the spirit of the Christ to the world. To most people, the Christmas season has come to mean a time for the giving and receiving of gifts of a material nature. Often the gift is presented with the hope that a finer one may be received.

But the Christian always gives for the sheer joy of giving. He knows from experience that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." He knows also that it is not always the material gift that carries the greatest blessing into the life of the recipient; that blessing may be borne through the ministry of song or instrumental music. It may be imparted through a cheerful or encouraging word. It may be brought into the life of some needy one through an act of Christian help work, or through a Bible reading.

Such gifts as these are regularly being bestowed by the members of Missionary Volunteer Societies through their organized working bands, but the atmosphere at this season of the year should give a new incentive for undertaking even greater things for God. Such service, humble in itself, is a gift or service rendered to Him. He has said through His Son, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

By careful planning and direction, the society may make the Prayer and Personal Workers' Band a great factor in transmitting new spiritual life and blessings to the people living in the community about the church. These blessings will react upon the youth and strengthen their experience.

The Christian Help and Gospel Meeting Band affords a large opportunity for touching, helping, and influencing the lives of others. Thus far, many of our societies have touched these features of the work with only the tips of their fingers.

The Literature and Correspondence Band may also be made a much more effective agency in bringing salvation—the greatest gift—to those who are not now acquainted with the Master.

The true "Christmas spirit" is a spirit of sacrifice, a spirit of giving—the giving of oneself to meet the greatest need, the need of a lost race. The Master Himself left us the example when He said, "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Let us endeavor as never before to lead the youth of the church to cooperate with the Christ to the fullest extent, in helping to achieve this greatest of all objectives.

C. LESTER BOND.

All the youth of the church in the M.V. Society.—



## Junior M. V. Meetings

### Increasing Society Membership

(Program for December 3)

BY C. LESTER BOND

OPENING SONG: "Missionary Volunteers," No. 83 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

PRAYER.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

ENROLLMENT OF NEW MEMBERS.

OFFERTORY.

TALK: "Consecrated for Service."

SPECIAL SONG: "Like Jesus," No. 76 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

TALK: "Helping Our Society Grow."

TALK: "Seeing as Jesus Saw."

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

BENEDICTION.

### Consecrated for Service

THE plan of redemption includes in its scope boys and girls as well as men and women. Jesus loves the children. He said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." But while this is true, He wants us to be in a place where He can use us to bring other boys and girls to Him. He can do this only when our own hearts are right. We must be willing to place ourselves unreservedly in His hands, and let Him mold our lives just as the potter does the clay when he is making the vessel. God has chosen certain methods of reaching the hearts of individuals and transforming their lives. This cannot be done by any mechanical device unless it has the human agent associated with it.

One day an old potter stood at his wheel pressing the clay into the desired shape with his hands. A visitor asked, "Why don't you have machinery to do that?" The old man replied, "We have tried all kinds of machinery, and failed. Somehow it needs the human touch."

God's work for the conversion of boys and girls can be accomplished in that same way only. It needs the human touch; that is, He needs boys and girls who are fully consecrated to Him to serve as messengers or am-

bassadors for Him; boys and girls who will go to other boys and girls, as well as to men and women, and tell them of Jesus' love and of His power to save people from their sins. But before we can do work of this kind, our hearts must be right. We must let Jesus mold our own lives, and fashion them according to His will. For that reason He invites each one of us to give our hearts to Him. Shall we not all do it today?

### Seeing as Jesus Saw

You will remember the story told in the Gospels about Jesus when He was a boy twelve years old—a Junior. One day He stood in the temple asking questions of the lawyers and Pharisees, and answering questions they asked Him. While He was doing this, His mother and Joseph came into the temple, and, finding Him, rebuked Him for remaining behind when they had started on their homeward journey. Jesus was a reverent, respectful boy, and had always been obedient to His parents. He would not say or do anything that would hurt the feelings of His mother, but He had come to the age when He was accountable to God for His actions, and He had begun to recognize the responsibility that rested upon Him as Saviour of the world. Turning to Mary, He said, "Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" Jesus had caught a vision of His life task. From that day on, until the time when He said, "It is finished," as He hung on the cross, He never lost sight of that vision. He had come to appreciate the fact that men and women and boys and girls all about Him were lost in sin, and that God the Father had sent Him into the world to save those who were lost.

After His resurrection Jesus placed upon His disciples the responsibility of finishing the work which He had started, saying, "As My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you." This commission includes the Juniors as well as those who are older; for we are told by the prophet of old, "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." The wise man said,

"Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right."

As members of this Junior Society we need to recognize above all else that God has given us a work to do. May we recognize the need of those who do not know this truth, and do all that we can to bear it to them. It is this vision that God wants us to have in our hearts and carry out in our lives.

An English traveler was visiting Rome. He was on the lookout for treasures everywhere, but especially in the places where the average tourist did not go. One day while lingering amid the ruins of an old palace, he noticed an Italian peasant anxiously examining a little stone which he had rescued from the ruins. Stepping nearer, the traveler became interested, and at a venture offered five dollars for the stone. The money was gladly and promptly accepted. The Englishman took it to his room, examined it, and was convinced that it was of real value. He took the stone to a lapidary, a man who is expert in valuing precious stones,—who declared it to be the world-famous topaz which once sparkled in the crown of Caesar Augustus. It was worth two hundred fifty thousand dollars. Its worth and beauty had been obscured by dirt and filth, but the gem itself had not been destroyed.

Sometimes we think boys and girls and men and women about us are beyond all hope of being won to Jesus, but even these very ones are worth more than all the gems in the world, and Jesus is able to save even them. Let us do our part to bring them to Him.

### Helping Our Society Grow

As Junior Missionary Volunteers we should not only be missionaries and endeavor from day to day to tell others about God's truth and be instrumental in winning them to Him, but we should do all that we possibly can to build up our society; that is, we should do all that we can to win new members. I believe that every one of us can win a new member this year if he really works and prays to that end. All of us know boys and girls of Junior age who live near us. Many of these boys and girls do not go to any church or belong to any Junior Society. Even if they do attend a

—All the youth of the M.V. Society in the church.

church, it is very likely that we could interest them in our society work if we were to tell them about it and invite them to attend the meetings. Wouldn't it be wonderful if, within the next few months, we could have twice as many members as we have now?

Every one who is saved in God's kingdom will be instrumental in winning some one else and helping him to find eternal life. And Jesus will say to each one, "Well done, good and faithful servant." No one will be there to whom He cannot say these words; so we should seek earnestly every day to do what we can to win souls for Him.

Possibly we could learn a lesson from this little incident: A visitor at the hotel of St. Bernard in the Alps told of one of the noble St. Bernard dogs coming in one morning holding his head and tail to the ground and slinking to a dark corner of his kennel as if ashamed to look any one in the face. The men who were in charge explained that the dog had not been able to find anybody in the snow that morning to rescue; therefore he was ashamed to come in from his search. God is now giving us opportunity to search out those who are lost, and rescue them. There is no reason why each one of us should not find some one. This faithful dog did its very best, and felt ashamed that it did not find any one. Are we doing our best? If we are, we shall not be ashamed in the end. But if we fail to do our part in reaching the boys and girls about us, we will one day have to give an account. Let us all endeavor to do our part.

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## Is Jesus Real in Your Life?

(Program for December 10)

BY D. A. OCHS

### OPENING EXERCISES.

### ENROLLMENT OF NEW MEMBERS.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:41-52;  
Acts 1:8-11.

### SPECIAL MUSIC.

TALK: "Jesus Wants to Be Real to Us." (See Senior program, p. 19.)

POEM: "Keep Close to Your Guide."

TALK: "Is Jesus Real to You?"

QUOTATION: "Living as Christ Lived."

READING: "Pray Without Ceasing."

### CLOSING EXERCISES.

### Note to Superintendents

See Notes to Leaders, p. 19.

## Keep Close to Your Guide

KEEP step with the Master whatever  
bedide;  
Though dark be your pathway, keep  
close to your Guide.  
While foes are alluring, and danger is  
near,  
When walking with Jesus you've nothing  
to fear.

Keep step with the Master wherever you  
go;  
Through darkness and shadow the way  
He will show;  
The light of His presence your path will  
illumine,  
And make all the desert a garden of  
bloom.

Keep step with the Master, nor halt by  
the way;  
Whate'er He commands you, haste to  
obey!  
Arise at His bidding, press on in His  
might;  
While walking with Jesus you're sure to  
be right.

—Author Unknown.

## Is Jesus Real to You?

DID you ever see a tree without roots, or an eagle without wings? Well, then, you never saw a Christian who could not and would not pray. We need to pray. We could not live the Christian life if we did not pray. Montgomery wrote the truth when he wrote those beautiful words:

"Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,  
The Christian's native air."

And yet in spite of this great truth some boys and girls ask this foolish question, "What's the use of praying?" It is an old question. Did you ever hear a boy or a girl ask the question, "What's the use of breathing?" We all know that our bodies would die if we did not breathe. Breathing is the only true sign of life. It is good to breathe, because while we are breathing we are living, and we all like to live. So now, what breathing is to the body, praying is to the soul. It is good to pray, because while we are praying it is a true sign that our soul is still living. Jesus tells us to pray, because He wants us to live. So you see it is very clear that a boy or a girl who is a Christian cannot afford to quit praying, because the very moment one stops praying, he ceases to live the life of a Christian. It pays to pray, for when you pray, God listens. He loves to hear the children pray.

There is a story told about a little shepherd boy who was obliged to keep watch over the sheep, and so could not go to church. But in his heart there grew a longing to pray to God as they were doing in the church. He had never been taught to pray, and he did not know what to say, but he wanted to pray, and so, kneeling down, he

began with closed eyes and folded hands to say the alphabet,—“A, B, C, D,” and on to the end.

“What are you doing, my little man?” said a gentleman who was passing by.

“Please, sir, I was praying,” replied the boy.

“But why are you saying your letters?”

“Why,” said the little fellow, “I didn't know any prayer; only I felt I wanted God to take care of me and help me to take care of the sheep; so I thought if I said all I knew, He would put it together and spell all I wanted.”

“Bless your heart, my little man, He will! When the heart speaks right, the lips can't say wrong,” said the gentleman.

We are not all gifted to use beautiful language, but when we kneel in prayer God does not listen to the eloquence of the tongue, He listens to the desire of the heart. It is not always what you say, but just what you mean, that God listens to.

Have you heard about the prayer of that old man who was in one of our city hospitals? The doctors were getting ready to perform an operation on the old man. He was stretched out on the operating table, and when at length everything was in readiness, one of the doctors brought the chloroform. The old man raised his head and said, “Wait a moment;” then folding his hands and closing his eyes he began to repeat the little prayer which he used to say at his mother's knee:

“Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to keep;  
If I should die before I wake,  
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to take.  
And this I ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.”

The doctors bowed their heads reverently and waited, and when he had finished, he looked up calmly and said, “I am ready.” Do you still say, “What's the use of praying?” I have learned to believe that it is always best to spend some time in prayer each day. It should cheer our hearts in the days of sorrow or trouble to be conscious of the fact that our heavenly Father looks down upon us with a smile upon His face, when we take time to pray.

There is a sweet story told by Robert Louis Stevenson of a storm that once caught a vessel off a rocky coast and threatened to drive it and its passengers to destruction. In the midst of

Make your report to the conference M.V. secretary immediately after the close of the month.

the terror one daring man, contrary to orders, went to the dock, and made a very dangerous passage to the pilot-house. There he saw the steersman lashed fast at his post, holding the wheel unwaveringly, and inch by inch turning the ship once more out to sea. The pilot saw the watcher, and smiled. Then the daring passenger went back to the other passengers in the lower part of the vessel, and gave out a note of cheer. "I have seen the face of the pilot, and he smiled. All is well."

Let us imitate the example of the shepherd boy, and also that of the old man, and at all times and under all circumstances by prayer seek the face of our heavenly Father, and then whatever happens we can say with the same confidence of that daring passenger on the vessel in the storm, "I have seen the face of my Pilot, and He smiles. All is well." Will you do this? Begin in the days of your youth to pray without ceasing, and your life will be filled with happiness the rest of your days.—*Alfred Barratt.*

### Living as Christ Lived

CHRIST is the Master Artist for the Christian. He is the Master Giver. In the Christian field we find many knowers of, many admirers of, and many believers in, Christ, but only a few doers of Christ. Effective Christians need to go farther than the song "Living for Jesus;" they need to live Jesus. We can learn only by doing. In our Christianity we need to be artists, living our art according to the Master Artist. The work and the devotion which made many artists famous has produced Christians worthy of the name. The world needs artists, but even more it needs men and women who today are living as Christ lived. It needs Christians who can do more than theorize about Christianity; who instead can show a living example of Christ Himself.—*Abbreviated from Irma McAtee.*

### Pray Without Ceasing

We are told that "prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend."—"Steps to Christ," p. 93, pocket edition. Now in order to make this communion with Jesus real, we must keep an unbroken contact with Him. "Unceasing prayer is the unbroken union of the soul with God, so that life from God flows into our life; and from our life, purity and holiness flow back to God."—*Id.*, p. 93. That means to "pray without ceasing." 1 Thess. 5:17.

"A number of ministers were discussing this text. One of the number

was appointed to write an essay on it to read at their next meeting.

"This was overheard by a young servant girl. She exclaimed, 'What! waiting a whole month to tell the meaning of that text. It is one of the easiest and best in all the Bible!'"

"Well," said the old minister, "what can you say about it, Mary? Can you pray all the time when you have so many things to do?"

"Why, yes, sir," said Mary. "The more things I have to do, the more I can pray."

"Let us hear how you do this," said the minister.

"Well," said the girl, "when I open my eyes in the morning, I pray, 'Lord open the eyes of my understanding;' while I am dressing, I pray that I may be clothed with righteousness; when I wash myself, I ask for the washing of regeneration; when I go to work, I pray that I may have strength equal to my day; when I kindle the fire, I pray that God's work may revive in my soul; as I begin to sweep out the house, I pray that my heart may be cleansed from its impurities; when I am preparing and partaking of the breakfast, I desire to be fed with the manna and the sincere milk of the word; as I am busy with the children, I look to God as my Father, and pray for the spirit of adoption, that I may be His child; and so on, all day everything I do, furnishes me with a thought of prayer.'" ❀ ❀

### Book Friends

(Program for December 17)

BY IRMA LEE HEWETT

SONG: "He Keeps Me Singing," No. 18 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

ENROLLMENT OF NEW MEMBERS.

SCRIPTURE: 1 Timothy 4:11-16.

SONG: "Would I Be Called a Christian?" No. 45 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

POEM: "The Blessedness of Books."

TALK: "Making Good Books Our Friends."

TALK: "Never Read a Bad Book."

STORY: "What Turned the Scale."

STORY: "A Broken Chain."

SYMPOSIUM: "Good Books."

POEM: "Book Friends."

DISCUSSION AND PLANS.

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

BENEDICTION.

### Notes to Superintendents

Books wield a mighty influence in the lives of boys and girls. The reading of a book may inspire a Junior to hitch his wagon to a star, and live out a noble and useful life, or it may start him on a path which leads to sin and sorrow. Yes, one book may create in the heart of a Junior the desire to be

a champion in God's cause, or it may make him a hater of his fellow men and a blasphemer of God.

Are you aware of your responsibility, and also of the greater possibilities through the promotion of reading among the Juniors in your church? Are you leaving it up to the parents? If you feel that it is their duty entirely, you are making a mistake. Many parents are not educated along this line, and others do not see the importance. Do you see in the Juniors with whom you meet each week potential doctors, nurses, teachers, missionaries, social workers, Bible workers, stenographers, scientific farmers, executives, and fathers and mothers? Reading has a great influence in helping a Junior to decide upon his life-work. Put inspirational books in his hands. Give him so much of the good that he will have no time for the bad.

How are you getting the Juniors interested in worth-while books? Read excerpts from books—just enough to pique their curiosity—and you'll find them requesting the book to read in its entirety. Do you have a library in the school or church? Why not? Find some nook or cranny and devote it to a library. You don't have a bookcase? Get one. Perhaps some kind member will donate one, a carpenter might be willing to make one, or you can raise funds and buy one. Make a call in the church for past Reading Course and other worth-while books. In many homes where the children have grown and left, the parents gladly donate books from their own libraries.

Arouse in the Juniors a desire for a library, and you'll find them taking pride in its care and growth, and reading the books. Appoint a faithful older Junior (one who likes detailed work), or an adult, to be librarian. Keep the books in circulation. Insert in your programs now and then a book review, and observe the interest aroused. Display attractive, colorful posters, featuring good books. Do not close this program until you have made definite plans with the Juniors for their future reading.

Turn to Senior section, p. 20, for additional program material.

### The Blessedness of Books

Books should be found in every home,  
To form and feed the mind;  
They are the best of luxuries  
'Tis possible to find.

The true, good books in all the world  
Are man's most precious treasure;  
They make him wise, and bring to him  
His best, his choicest pleasure.

Books give the best and grandest thoughts  
Of all the good and wise;  
Books treasure human knowledge,  
And thus it never dies.

Books tell us all that men have done,  
Have thought, have sung, have said;  
Books show the deeds and wisdom  
Of the living and the dead.

Books, therefore, are of all man buys,  
The choicest things on earth;  
Books have, of all his worldly goods,  
The most intrinsic worth.

—North Pacific Union Gleaner.

Do your Christmas plans include others "for Jesus' sake"?

### Never Read a Bad Book

NEVER, under any circumstances, read a bad book; and never spend a serious hour in reading even a second-rate book. No words can overstate the mischief of bad reading.

A bad book will often haunt a man his whole life long. It is often remembered when much that is better is forgotten; it is remembered at the most solemn moments, and contaminates the best feelings and emotions. Reading trashy books is a grievous waste of time.

There are more good books than you can ever hope to read and master. And you cannot read an inferior book without giving up an opportunity of reading a good one.

Remember that books are friends; books affect your character; and you cannot afford to neglect your duty in regard to books any more than you can afford to neglect to choose worthwhile, helpful friends.

### Making Good Books Our Friends

Two boys grew up in my native village. One of them made a friend of a clever young fellow, went with him everywhere, learned to swear, smoke, and gamble, and came to a bad ending. His friend led him astray. The other made a friend of a quiet young man who liked to study. This friend taught the boy to love books and nature, and he made a success in life. What we are often depends on the kind of friends we make.

Books are friends. Some are decidedly bad, and should be avoided. They have nothing good to tell us. Others are silly. They are not evil; but they have nothing worth while to tell us, and it is not profitable to spend time with them. Others are good, full of helpful information. This is the kind of book friend we should learn to know.

Books are written by people. A wise man will write a good book; a stupid man, a stupid book. Fortunately we can choose which books we shall read, and which we shall not read. The world is full of books, and many fine books, too. Let us ask the advice of older people as to the best books to read. And above all, do not forget the greatest Book in the world. Whatever we do, let us read this Book all the time. There is no better or wiser friend than the Bible.

### What Turned the Scale

"So you have come well armed, eh?" asked Mr. Rufus Cameron, member of the firm to which Joe Lovett had applied for a job as office boy. "You are well armed with recommendations from your teacher and minister. Suppose you call on me again in about three days. The boy who is with us now is to stay the week out. Be here Monday, and I will give you an answer."

Joe returned home in not too happy a frame of mind. He had counted on those recommendations to help him get a job. It was not to be wondered at that he proudly handed the recommendations to Mr. Cameron, for they testified to his good character and industrious habits.

Monday morning found Joe once more in Mr. Cameron's office. Hat in hand, he stood there waiting while the businessman finished dictating a letter to his secretary. Finally, however, Mr. Cameron looked up and said, "Back again, eh?"

"Yes, sir," replied Joe quietly.

"I find that you are careless in money matters, young man," remarked Mr. Cameron, eying Joe sharply.

"Why, I—I don't intend to be," stammered Joe.

"Since you were here I took the pains to visit your home town," continued Mr. Cameron, looking severely at Joe. "There was one person there whom I particularly desired to talk with—the town librarian. From her I learned that you paid a fine of twenty cents on a book which you had kept beyond the allotted time."

"Yes, sir, that is true," declared Joe, coloring, "I—well, you see I got so interested in it that somehow I forgot about returning it on time."

"Interested in it, eh? Mm. I don't blame you, young man. I have read that book no less than three times during the last forty years. That is a real book. I have a considerable library in my home, upward of a thousand books; but that book is among the three which I prize above all others. Well, to get down to business, young man, I shall expect you here next Monday morning prepared to start work."

"Oh, thank you, sir," exclaimed Joe, smiling broadly. "I will do my best to please you."

"I do not doubt that, young man,"

said Mr. Cameron, gripping Joe's hand. "Your recommendation indicated that. But—well, the sort of book that interested you turned the scale in your favor."—*Abbreviated from Junior Christian Endeavor World.*

### A Broken Chain

NETTIE's hand moved toward the pile of periodicals on the end of the table. One of the popular magazines for October was just in, and its striking cover topped the small stack.

"Wonder if I can finish that story in half an hour," thought Nettie as she glanced at the Big Ben that would ring out the rising bell so mercilessly in the morning. "A half hour for my story, and then I'll have a half hour for my Bible," she told herself in an effort to quiet a disturbing conscience.

Just two months before, Nettie had returned from camp meeting, where she had received a new glimpse of Jesus. There for the first time the word of God had opened up to her until it had seemed like a new book.

"It is really so much more enjoyable than the magazines that I've been used to," she had told the conference secretary, "that I'm going to stop reading those and make the Bible first." Nettie had meant every word of it, too; and though it was late in the year, she had begun the Bible Year with a will.

A month later the magazine that she had read for years with fascination had come to the house, and Nettie had allowed it to lie on the library table unopened. She was too busy with the Bible and the Reading Courses to care much about it. Then one day she happened to remember the heroine in the serial story she had been reading before camp meeting. The beautiful girl was about to make a serious mistake in her life. Nettie hoped she didn't do it. But the more she thought about it, the more she wondered if she had. It bothered her because she didn't see how that story could end right. At last she decided to look in the magazine just long enough to find out. The next step was easier. She came to the conclusion that she would give herself just fifteen minutes each day to read stories. Surely her mind needed that much recreation, she told herself.

And now after two months, it was the usual thing for Nettie to pick up

**Include the M.V. Reading Course books in your holiday gift list.**

the magazine before the Bible. The story she delved into that night was fascinating. Every other thought was lost, and Big Ben ticked on unheeded. An hour! an hour and a half! "Dear me," ejaculated Nettie, as she noticed the telltale hands, "who'd ever dream that time could go so fast?"

Guiltily she opened the Bible and tried to read. Her eyes scanned the life-giving words, but her brain was going over the fascinating whirl of events in the story. Helplessly she laid the Bible down and bowed her head for a word with the Master. Yes, the words were there, but the scenes of the story flashed again and again, and Nettie knew her prayer could never reach the throne of grace. But it was late; she must get into bed immediately, and so she stopped trying to pray, and gave herself up to the thrills of the story that had so taken possession of her mind.

The next thing she knew she was sitting straight up.

"Wh—where am I?" she asked herself dazedly. Stretching out her arms, her hands found the familiar wall, the table. "Oh," she gasped in relief. "Suppose it had been true!" she added to herself shudderingly.

Then once more the dream flashed before her with such reality that she could scarcely keep from crying out. Ahead was the golden city, too beautiful for words. Loved ones stood on the wall and beckoned. Jesus Himself stretched out His hands to her. She reached out to take them, but something jerked her back. Looking around, she saw a scene that sent her blood cold with terror. Behind her was an awful abyss, black as midnight. At the edge played a group of demons. They were laughing in glee, and suddenly she realized that they were laughing at her.

Then she noticed a great chain securely fastened about her. It was made up, link by link, of the stories she had read. With dread, she turned away and looked once more at the golden city so beautiful and so near. With all the energy she possessed she struggled to go forward. And then from over her shoulder came derisive laughter, and she was forced back, back to the black chasm. At last she could all but feel the touch of the demons. With a scream on her lips she found herself sitting rigidly bolt upright in bed.

"Can it be? Can it be that that dream is true?" thought the girl. "Am I bound with a chain already?"

Fortunately for Nettie, the effect of that dream came to stay, or it might have become true on the great judgment day. It was decided in the gray dawn of that morning—she could and she would overcome by the blood of the Lamb. To this day Nettie refuses to pick up a cheap story, for she fears to feel the pull of that chain that was drawing her backward.

Nettie is still a lover of books and a great reader, but she gives her time and energies to none but the best.—*Selected.*

### Book Friends

Good books are "really truly friends."  
They help us in our play,  
They teach us how to live and work,  
And how to pass the day.

Companions they may always be  
Whenever we're inclined;  
And by the books we like to read  
It's fair to judge our mind.

They bring us friends we cannot lose,  
Who come to be so dear  
That books who introduce such folk  
We look for far and near.

So choose the books that help you live  
To make your love more deep,  
That after you have read them through  
You're glad are yours to keep.

—*Ethel R. Peyser.*

### Good Books

(To be memorized)

1. WHEN I was a boy, my mother was very poor, but she was never too poor to buy her boy a good book, and to this more than anything else I owe my success in life.—*Henry Clay.*

2. Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.—*Steele.*

3. If a book is worth reading, it is worth buying.—*John Ruskin.*

4. A book is a friend; a good book is a good friend. It will talk to you when you want it to talk, and it will keep still when you want it to keep still—and there are not many friends who know enough to do that. A library is a collection of friends.—*Lyman Abbott.*

5. My books are friends, whose pages hold  
What's better than the purest gold;  
I turn to them and always find  
The best of help for heart and mind.  
No matter what my need may be,  
My books provide their best for me.  
Deep in the hearts of these good  
friends

Is faithfulness that never ends.

—*Wanamaker's Jollybook.*

6. A good book is the best of friends, the same today and forever.—*Tupper.*

7. Show me the man who reads good books, and I will show you a man who will move the world.—*Napoleon.*

8. If you are interested in the world you live in, read more.—*Casson.*

9. Books are the records of the very best that men and women have felt

and thought and hoped. When we read these, we enjoy the companionship of the finest of mankind.—*Collier.*

10. A house without books is like a room without windows.—*Henry Ward Beecher.*



## Christmas

(Program for December 24)

BY GWYNETH M. THOMPSON

### OPENING EXERCISES.

TALK: "The Spirit of Christ."

POEM: "Always Christmas."

READING: "A King's Christmas Lesson."

POEM: "His Life."

SPECIAL MUSIC.

POEM: "I've Built a Little Manger."  
(Sec p. 24.)

CLOSING EXERCISES.

### Note to Superintendent

"On Christmas, so soon to come, let not the parents take the position that an evergreen placed in the church for the amusement of the Sabbath school scholars is a sin; for it may be made a great blessing. Keep before their minds benevolent objects. In no case should mere amusement be the object of these gatherings. While there may be some who will turn these occasions into seasons of careless levity, and whose minds will not receive the divine impress, to other minds and characters these seasons will be highly beneficial. I am fully satisfied that innocent substitutes can be devised for many gatherings that demoralize."—*Mrs. E. G. White, in Review and Herald, Dec. 9, 1884.*

### The Spirit of Christ

THE life of Jesus is so beautiful and perfect that if we had not a whit more evidence, it would convince us that His religion, His divinity, His mission here on earth, were true.

It is hard for human beings to understand that a divine Being, no less than the Son of God, has been here on earth and lived among us. And in their efforts not to lessen His majesty, some forget, too, that He was a real human being just as you and I are. He was born a baby; He grew year by year—"increased in wisdom and stature," the Bible says—just as you are doing now. When He was twelve years old, He was able to carry on such an intelligent discussion with the priests at the temple that they marveled, which indicates that He was a considerably more brilliant child than most of us. Yet, He was a human being. At thirty years of age, He entered the ministry, and for three years He taught among the

people. His words of compassion, mercy, love, as recorded in the Gospels, testify to His divinity.

So beautiful, so manly, so powerful, was His life that all who read of it want in their souls to be like Him. Have you not thought what a wonderful world it would be if every one were like Jesus? Then let us start with ourselves, do *our* share in being like Him in what we say and what we do.

What shows that we have adopted His way of living as our own? The Bible says, "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Rom. 8:9. Therefore, we must have the Spirit of Christ, for one thing.

And what was His Spirit? Love, you say? Yes—but what conviction, what strong belief of His, lies behind that love? Is it not that He *believed* in boys and girls, men and women? Yes, His love for man was the result of His belief in man, His faith in man. He looked at boys and girls, men and women, in a different manner from that in which we are inclined to look at them. He saw in every boy and girl the likeness of His Father, and He loved them for it.

Yet He sorrowed for them, for He saw that the boys and girls did not see themselves or each other in that light. They had an entirely different set of ideals. So they quarreled, they fought, they held grudges and refused to forgive, and even took the matter of revenge for fancied or real wrongs in their own hands. He then early knew that it was His mission to teach them to value themselves, and each other, that they might look up to the Father who created them and reflect His image. So high a value did Jesus place on erring human beings that He frequently told those whom He taught—which means you and me, too—that if we followed His example, we, too, would reign with Him and share the Father's glories.

So if we are to be like Jesus, we will love one another, because we will see in every one a soul whom Jesus loved and died for. We will catch the vision Jesus had of poor, mistake-making mortals.

Jesus is a man who *lived out* the ideal He was teaching others. Let us, like Jesus, strive to live up to the image of God within us, and ever realize the sacredness of human personality. It is that spirit that brings

us to love all people as did Jesus, whether they be black, yellow, red, or white.

There is a story which tells of a child who sat drawing a picture. The mother, after watching her as she carefully worked at her task, asked her what she was drawing.

"A picture of God," she replied.

"But no one knows what God looks like," expostulated the mother.

Naively the child answered, "They will when I finish this picture."

This story is usually used to point out how simple we are in believing we can draw a picture of Him. But there lies within the tale another very important thought. "When I get through living, will people know what God is like?" Jesus' life accomplished that!

### Always Christmas

Used to think that Christmas was nothin' but a day  
To get a lot o' presents an' to give a lot away.  
Shouted, "Merry Christmas," an' helped to trim the tree—  
Just a day o' Christmas was all that I could see.  
Since I found that Christmas is more than any day;  
Christmas came to our house—an' never went away.

Struck of a sudden that friendliness an' cheer  
Was meant to be on duty more than one day in the year.  
If we're happy Christmas, why not the day before,  
An' the day that follows, an' so on, evermore?  
Got to thinkin' of it—an' that is why I say,  
Christmas came to our house—an' never went away.

Used to think that Christmas was nothin' but a date  
Till I learned that truly you would never have to wait.  
But that it's the spirit that never stays apart  
If you let it find you, an' keep it in your heart.  
Since I found that Christmas is more than just a day,  
Christmas came to our house—an' never went away.

—Walter D. Nesbit.

### A King's Christmas Lesson

ON the Christmas Eve when Alfonso XIII of Spain was seven years old, he put his little royal shoes, as usual, on the sill outside the window of his bedroom; for in Spain the three kings of the Orient go about at Christmas putting gifts into every little shoe that they find awaiting them. But on Christmas morning Alfonso found no gifts in his shoes; only a note, that ran as follows:

"To our beloved confrere, His Most Catholic Majesty, King of Spain:

"You are expecting a present, a very fine, beautiful, and splendid one, such as kings give one another. But we have purposely brought you no present, because we want you to have

a little disappointment. A king must learn what disappointment means, because he has sometimes to cause disappointments to others, and to make them do what they do not wish to do. He must know how it feels to have that happen to others by having sometimes felt it himself.

"When you are a man and have everything you want, you must never forget that there are many people in the world who have nothing at all; you must notice these sad and disagreeable things so as to prevent them whenever you can. Remember that there are a great many children who are always disappointed. They want our toys very much. But those children cannot have any presents from the Wise Men. They would have to put their shoes outside the windows of their rooms; but they haven't any room, any window, or any shoes."

Probably the wise mother who dealt the little king this blow could in no other way have so surely brought home to him the meaning of want. Little as his own disappointment resembled the suffering of the children of the poor, it was his own, and therefore made their mental state a hundred times more real to him than it could have become through the mere sight of even the most abject poverty. We may be sure that he never forgot that disappointment, or failed to associate it with the grief of the poor; and we cannot doubt that the mother love that taught him that bitter lesson in the early morning knew how to make the rest of the day the happiest Christmas of his little life.—*Selected.*

Are you thinking of some one less fortunate than yourself this Christmas?

### His Life

He left behind  
No marble wrought with sculptured grace,  
No priceless canvas with its deathless face,  
No guide to mines of priceless ore,  
No volume stenciled in majestic lore,  
No ponderous task in wisdom wrought,  
No honored dream of glory sought,  
No treatise lettered in profound display,  
No measured rhymes to charm life's way,  
No golden store to tell of riches rare,  
No titles guarded with a jealous care,  
No cenotaph of grand design,  
Reared unto "Memory" all divine—  
Nothing but just a borrowed grave  
Left by the One who came to save.

Ah, there was more—His life divine  
Was left to model yours and mine;  
So sweet, so holy, and so true  
That men grew heroes in its view,  
While self forgot its gain and greed  
In learning love's diviner creed;  
And sorrow, in its stricken grief,  
Found solace and a sweet relief.  
Demons departed at His sovereign word,  
And tempest billows owned His Lord,  
While even death gave back its prey  
When Christ of Nazareth passed that way!

O wondrous life! I how tonight  
Before Thy cross, to pray aright.  
Teach me to copy, in a perfect form,  
The life that ruled the angry storm,  
Headless of marble's sculptured grace,  
Or canvas with its deathless face.  
Great Master, let this ever be  
The hope that binds my heart to Thee.  
Make Thy great life, so nobly left behind,  
The holiest model for my mind!

—R. Hare.

Leaders and Superintendents, please read all footnotes.

## 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.

### In the Enemy's Stronghold

**M**ISSIONARY Norman A. Ferris tells of a recent visit to Malaita, one of the larger islands of the Solomon group, accompanying Pastor Paseoc to several sections in the interests of our missions. He writes:

"We spent one day in the Langa Langa Lagoon. Here live hundreds of people on little islands. The houses are so closely built together that one finds it difficult to walk anywhere without bending over and dodging the poles and sticks hanging from each roof.

"It is here that all the native money is made from certain stones and shells. Strings of certain lengths are valued at a pound. Ten strings will buy a pig or a wife. In this district the men do the outside work, caring for the gardens, and they also prepare the food. This is done because the women have to spend their whole time making money. They sit by the hour with their spinning drills, and are not allowed to leave the village. We have found that our work has been much harder among these people than in most of the other parts of the island.

"On this trip we went away up to the north end of Malaita, visiting several of the villages. Most of the teachers of the Makwana district had come in. Investigations were made into some killings in a village where one of our teachers was stationed. Two girls and a storeman were murdered.

"It is in this Makwana district that the salt-water natives live on built-up islands, right out in the sea. Hundreds of them swarm together like a hive of bees. A heathen dance was attracting every one. The devil dances are weird and uncanny. They take place on grounds surrounded with devil houses, in the presence of devil priests, and one feels that the devil is pretty close. Truly these people, blinded as they are by the powers of darkness, are held by the chains of iniquity. Life is of little value; filth covers the people, and disease is the common lot of all. In spite of all the hardships, our teachers in this area, working in the very strongholds of Satan, have stood nobly by their tasks, and there are evidences that the seed of truth is taking root.

"Our next stop was away down in the Uru district, where Pastor and

Mrs. J. D. Anderson began work years ago, and laid a good foundation. We gave many injections, paid the teachers, and married a Malaita boy to a very fine girl. This is the second Malaita man to be placed as a teacher among his own people. It was good to meet with the people, both here and at Singarago, a little farther on. Our believers have made a complete change from their old heathen ways."

### Our Inyazura Mission

A FEW months ago the proposition of disposing entirely of the large tract of land in Southern Rhodesia upon which for more than twenty years our Inyazura Mission was located, caused no little regret to many who had become familiar with the good work carried on there. In a recent report from G. R. Nash, superintendent of Southern Rhodesia, this cheering word appears:

"A definite and final policy of development has at last been decided upon with reference to Inyazura. We will not be forced to sell the entire place, as we have been able to dispose of 1,000 acres of land. We still have 2,900 acres, which is ample for a mission farm. With the proceeds of the tract sold we hope to build permanent buildings for the boys and girls, and also a new school building. Just a few weeks ago J. R. Campbell and E. M. Cadwallader, with the government circuit inspector, and the writer joined Christopher Robinson in finalizing plans for the buildings, campus, and schoolwork in general. We have every reason to believe that with the strong leadership of Elder and Mrs. Robinson and Miss McCullough, along with the extra financial help, we are soon going to see a new Inyazura."

### From Hong Kong to Hankow

MISSIONARY RALPH DINSBIE writes the following little sketch of an experience in taking needful sanitarium supplies upcountry from Hong Kong to Hankow recently:

"I mentioned having gone to Hankow. Several of us drove some trucks up from Hong Kong, with supplies for the Wuhan Sanitarium. We also had an ambulance for the sanitarium, and there were two sedans in the caravan.

"Let no one tell you there is no beautiful scenery in China. We saw plenty of it on that trip. In Kwangtung Province we passed over one big mountain range after another. The roads are well built, considering that the Chinese have to do practically all the work by hand. However, there were many places where the curves were so sharp that we could get around them with the trucks only by stopping and backing. Usually in those places there is on one side a sheer drop of hundreds of feet. But with all this we came through with no accident or harm. In Hunan Province the roads would compare favorably with the very best graveled roads in the States. We could drive from forty to fifty miles an hour.

"You will be interested to know that while we were in Hankow we went out to the school compound where Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Carter conducted school-work prior to their furlough. We were in their house. Now that it is unoccupied, things are run down, and the grass has grown high. It made me feel badly, because I could see that it had been a beautiful compound."

### A Remarkable Dream

THE following report of an experience which came to an honest soul over in northern Siam, was sent on to us by Missionary J. H. McEachern:

"Siam is one of the most difficult countries to reach with the gospel message. Buddhism is the prevailing religion of the Siamese, and they are very much attached to their religion; but the Spirit of God is visiting hearts in old Siam. Word has come to us of a well-to-do woman, living in northern Siam. She is prominent in society circles. She knew that there was such a religion as Christianity, but had met no Christian missionaries, nor had she attended any Christian church.

"One night she had a remarkable dream. It seemed that the Lord appeared to her, and a voice told her to seek out the true religion for these times. She was so solemnly impressed by her dream that she started out in search of a Christian church. The first place she came to was a Roman Catholic church. She entered and observed the ceremonies. She was impressed that this was not the church of the true religion. She continued her search and finally found our little mission. When she met our missionary in charge, she humbly told him her dream, and earnestly inquired if he could give her light on her perplexities and problems of mind. He began Bible studies with her; and now she is earnestly studying the truth, and gives promise of becoming one of our most substantial, loyal, and influential church members."

### Were Called Back

DIRECTOR E. M. ADAMS, of the West Visayan Mission, Philippines, passes



on the following experience of one magazine worker who reports concerning literature ministry among the people:

"I have no word to express my gratitude for the abundant blessing God has given us. This work has molded my character and strengthened my faith.

"I would like to speak about our work in Orong. We found the way to this place very muddy. We had to take off our shoes to cross small brooks. We stayed there three days, and sold many magazines and pamphlets in the haciendas [large estates] near Orong.

"We had the privilege of preaching at night among the villagers. The audiences were large, and the people were very much interested. It was decided that after we finished Orong, my fellow colporteurs and I would transfer to Ilog. As we were planning to leave the following morning, we received an urgent request to remain longer. The people indicated that they were willing to hear another message about the second advent of Christ. So we held another meeting in the home of one of the converts.

"They believe that the second advent of Christ is very near. They requested us to stay one week, so that we could give them more truth, but we had to inform them that our short time would not permit us to do so. However, we assured them that later on another worker would be sent them.

"After three days in Ilog we received a letter from the people of Orong, urging us to come back and tell them more about the truth. They were not content with the message that we had given them. They said it would have been better if we had not come to Orong, if we could not stay longer. They sent a messenger to know whether we would come back, for the people were anxious to hear the message. We promised to go back."

### Itinerating in Tibet

For years Tibet was one of our unentered lands, but now we hear reports which tell of how a few hunters are seeking to rescue souls from among mountain fastnesses of that sparsely inhabited land. Now that doors have been opened, making it possible to follow up interests awakened by our medical missionaries, Missionary Floyd W. Johnson tells us of some of his recent experiences, and urges that help may be provided to carry the light into this hitherto-unentered country.

"The Tibetan Mission includes an area equal to that of California, Texas, Arizona, and Nevada combined. However, it is not so densely populated as these States, the total population being only 6,500,000, or ten persons to

every square mile. In addition to meeting the strangle hold which the devil has upon them, there is the problem of transportation, together with the hardships of long itineraries over snowy mountain wastes to reach the scattered population.

"I have done much traveling in China, but in all my life I have never been over roads that horses were expected to travel which could compare with the roads we traveled on during

our recent three weeks' itinerary. Two of the horses actually fell over backward, the road was so steep. That may sound like exaggeration, but if I told you the whole story of that road, you would not believe it at all. And that was a road that we were told was a 'big road.' I recall reading a report of the dangers of traveling in South America. It mentioned that at times the headlights of the car shone off into nothingness as they neared a curve with a towering cliff on the one side and a great abyss below. On our eastern border we found that there was great danger for even horses to travel on some of these roads, to say nothing of cars. We lost one mule in the river at one place, and incidentally one of our food boxes was not retrieved. On the grasslands traveling is very easy and the weather is lovely most of the year.



### Lift Up Thine Eyes

"Lift up thine eyes!" Look up, O weary reaper!  
Gaze not so fondly on the gathered wheat,  
The goodly sheaves, the heaps of garnered treasure  
That lie in guarded safety at thy feet.

"Lift up thine eyes!" Behold the night approacheth,  
That last dark night, wherein no man can toll;  
And yet upon a thousand fertile hill-sides,  
Still waits the mighty harvest's golden spoil.

"Lift up thine eyes!" Rest not thy tardy sickle,  
The richest, fairest gleanings wait thy hand;  
The choicest, fullest ears still stand un-gathered,  
And flaunt their gold throughout the harvest land.

"Lift up thine eyes!" O would there were uplifted  
A hand of prayer, like Joshua's of old,  
To stay the sinking sun so swiftly setting  
Across the waving seas of white and gold!

"Lift up thine eyes!" O lift them ever higher:  
The Master of the harvest bids thee rise  
And reap, O reap, while yet one hour remaineth,  
For us to pray, to work, and sacrifice!

—Norma Youngberg.

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"On our itineraries we hear many words of appreciation for the loving ministry of Doctors Andrews and James, and many people express the wish that we might open work among them. With the medical work on a strong basis, it is now time for us to enter upon a more aggressive program of evangelization. But we have no suitable place for any kind of meetings. In the little room that we use for this purpose here in Tatsienlu, we can seat about thirty people; if they are Tibetans, only about twenty. It is embarrassing to invite people to come to meetings, and then have no place in which to accommodate them. We must have a chapel. This is our first need.

Second, in connection with our chapel we must have a school. We cannot expect to bring workers from far-off provinces to work in the Tibetan country. We have children here who should be preparing to become workers. Third, we need a foreign family to go to Kanze and open work there. The whole of Sinkiang is open to our mission now, and we must take advantage of the opportunity, or we may lose it. Fourth, we need two of the best workers who are suited for work out here, to come and help us.

"At Mohsimien—our station two days south of Tatsienlu—there are a few Chinese ready for baptism, and I must go down for a short time. Also we want to get our worker there started on the work for the Nesu tribes, if possible. When I come back, we are going to start an extensive house-to-house work here in Tatsienlu, and organize a Bible class.

"The six and one-half million people in the Tibetan Mission need so much the gospel of Christ to save them from sin. A chapel, a training school, and additional workers will greatly speed on the work of God in this field. Dear friends, think of Tibet, pray for it, and give for it, that every honest soul may be reached and saved by the power of Christ."

MISSION BOARD.

The Annual Offering, December 10, offers us next to the last opportunity for gifts to missions during 1938.