

The Church Officers' Gazette

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When Jesus Yielded Up His Life

THEREFORE doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father." John 10:17, 18.

This statement, this prophecy, uttered some time before Jesus in Gethsemane took the cup which, before the world began, He had promised to drink in redeeming a lost world, should sin enter, contains a deep and vital truth. No man was to take His life. And no man did take it. Though the cruel Roman spear was thrust into the side of the Son of man, the Son of God, this act did not take His life. He had already bowed His head in death, with the despairing cry: "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Voluntarily He gave back unto His father, the Author of His life, the life given Him. These were His words, "Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit [My life]: and having said thus He gave up the ghost." Luke 23:46.

Heaven Wondered in Amazement

All heaven wondered whether, in this awful crisis, the beloved and only-begotten Son of God would lay down that precious life in behalf of such an ungrateful race of sinners. Thrice He had prayed that this terrible cup might pass from Him; thrice He added, "Nevertheless not My will, but Thine, be done." Our salvation that hour was forever to be settled by the decision He should make. To His praise and everlasting glory, He took the cup and drained its most bitter dregs—realizing the possibility of His forever being sepa-

rated from His Father's presence—that we might live with Him. "Having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them unto the end." John 13:1.

"Satan with his fierce temptations wrung the heart of Jesus. The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb. Hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the grave a conqueror, or tell Him of the Father's acceptance of the sacrifice. He feared that sin was so offensive to God, that their separation was to be eternal. Christ felt the anguish which the sinner will feel when mercy shall no longer plead for the guilty race. It was the sense of sin, bringing the Father's wrath upon Him as man's substitute, that made the cup He drank so bitter, and broke the heart of the Son of God.

"With amazement angels witnessed the Saviour's despairing agony. The hosts of heaven veiled their faces from the fearful sight. Inanimate nature expressed sympathy with its insulted and dying Author. The sun refused to look upon the awful scene. Its full, bright rays were illuminating

Were All the Tithe Brought In

If the tithe were in the storehouse
That belougeth to the King;
If all who share God's bounties,
All their tithe would quickly bring;
Heaven's windows wide would open
At the word of His command,
And blessings would be poured out
Which would overflow the land.

If all the tithes were in the storehouse,
It would not be very long
Till the weary hearts now crying
Would be shouting Zion's song.
The "thirsty land" would then rejoice,
And waiting isles would sing;
If all the tithes were brought
That belong unto the King.

Darkened hearts would soon be lightened
With God's message from above,
And thousands now in heathen lands
Would rejoice in heaven's love.
Come, ye stewards; haste; get ready!
All your tithes and offerings bring,
Soon you'll answer, as a steward,
To your soon-returning King.

—Author Unknown.

the earth at midday, when suddenly it seemed to be blotted out. Complete darkness, like a funeral pall, enveloped the cross. . . . This darkness . . . was as deep as midnight without moon or stars. It was a miraculous testimony given by God [the Father] that the faith of after-generations might be confirmed.

"In that thick darkness God's presence was hidden. . . . God and His holy angels were beside the cross. The Father was with His Son. Yet His presence was not revealed. Had His glory flashed forth from the eloud, every human beholder would have been destroyed."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 753.

And did Jesus in that last hour know His Father was beside Him?

"In that dreadful hour Christ was not to be comforted with the Father's presence. He trod the wine press alone."—*Ibid.*

Thus Jesus' words were confirmed that power was given Him by His Father to lay down His life.

When Jesus Took Up His Life

Regarding the manifestation of the power, likewise given Him of His Father, by which He was again to take up His life, we are not left in doubt. Are the Scriptures silent regarding the manner of the resurrection of Jesus, at that hour when, through the power given Him of His Father, the Son of man, the Son of God, was to take up His life again?

"Behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door [of the sepulcher], and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow." Matt. 28:2, 3.

With reference to this text we find in "The Desire of Ages," pages 779, 780, these words:

"Now, priests and rulers, where is the power of your guard?—Brave soldiers that have never been afraid of human power, are now as captives taken without sword or spear. The face they look upon is not the face of mortal warrior; it is the face of the mightiest of the Lord's host. This messenger is he who fills the position from which Satan fell. It is he who on the hills of Bethlehem proclaimed Christ's birth. The earth trembles at his approach, the hosts of darkness flee, and as he rolls away the stone, heaven seems to come down to the earth. The soldiers see him removing the stone as he would a pebble, and hear him cry, Son of God, come forth; Thy Father calls Thee. They see Jesus come forth from the grave, and hear Him proclaim over the rent sepulcher, 'I am the resurrection and the life.'"

Thus it was that Jesus, by the power given Him of His Father, took up the life which on Calvary He had laid down—that life which He had committed into His Father's hands.

Whom God Hath Raised Up

That God the Father brought to life His only-begotten Son is confirmed by many texts. Here are a few:

"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: *whom God hath raised up*, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it." Acts 2:23, 24.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that *God hath raised Him from the dead*, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9.

"*God hath both raised up the Lord*, and will also raise up us by His own power." 1 Cor. 6:14.

"Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, *who raised Him from the dead*)." Gal. 1:1.

"What is the exceeding greatness of His power to usward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, *when He raised Him from the dead*, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places." Eph. 1:19, 20.

With this Scriptural testimony before us, it would seem clear that one would not be justified in reading into the text in which Jesus stated He had power to lay down His life and He had power to take it again, that He intended to convey the thought in these words that apart and separate from His Father He would do this. The very words, "This commandment have I received of My Father," would

indicate that together in unison they would do this. "I and My Father are one," is Jesus' word again and again repeated in different ways throughout His life of ministry. Together the Father and the Son wrought in the creation of our world; together they wrought in these few crucial hours at Calvary and Joseph's new tomb, in sealing for eternity the compact made before the foundations of the world were laid. Glorious truth for us that the Son withheld not Himself from death, and that the Father did not fail in calling forth His Son from the grave. "If Christ be not raised," writes Paul, "your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins."

Special Appointments for February

Christian Home Day,
February 4

"Signs of the Times" Cam-
paign, February 4-18

Second-Sabbath Missions
Offering, February 11

Temperance Day,
February 25

Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." 1 Cor. 15:17, 18. T. E. B.

The Church Without a Pastor— May It Prosper and Grow?

This has become a vital question, and is causing considerable study, especially in the larger conferences in which there are many churches and it is possible to supply only a few with a pastor. In our conference it has been fully demonstrated in several places that the church can grow and prosper under the leadership of the local elder.

In one church the elder conducted several outside interests, and he is a busy man, being the manager of a branch power company. These meetings increased in interest until a company was ready for baptism; and as a result of this elder's work, the membership increased during the year from fifty-eight to eighty-three. There was also an increase in tithes and offerings of over \$300. This same elder is now calling for a minister to come

and baptize another class he has ready.

In another church the local elder furnished the money for the church building. He then made a systematic canvass of every home in the place with *Present Truth*, and held Bible studies. As a result of his work, two families accepted the truth. Then a tent effort was held there, and the membership increased from eighteen to thirty-nine, and there was also an increase in tithes and offerings.

Another elder who has given faithful service for twelve years in a large church, was recently placed in charge of two smaller churches, and he is doing excellent work.

In another church the treasurer, having a burden for soul winning, in his work as traveling salesman in a near-by territory left tracts, papers, and small books with his customers, and in this way he was instrumental in bringing one family into the truth and interesting many others. At times he has carried the burden of the church in all lines of work, and it has prospered in membership, tithes, and offerings.

There are many today who, if qualified by study and prayer, filled with the Holy Spirit, and fired with holy zeal, could take the leadership as elders in our churches, and lead the members into a great soul-winning campaign.—A Conference President.

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CHRISTIAN HOME DAY

Suggestive Program for Sabbath Service, February 4

OPENING SONG: "Home of the Soul," No. 919 in "Christ in Song."

SCRIPTURE: Mal. 3:1-6; 4:5, 6. (Or Christian Home Bible Study.)

PRAYER.

RECITATION: "Are All the Children In?"

SONG: "Lead Them to Thee," No. 70 in "Christ in Song."

READING: "Family Worship," by A. W. Spalding.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "The Love That Binds."

READING (OR TALK): "A Parable of a Garden."

ANNOUNCEMENT, HOME COMMISSION OFFER: "Sacred Responsibilities."

OFFERING FOR LOCAL MISSIONARY WORK.

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

BENEDICTION.

Note to Leaders

Again we are glad for the privilege of bringing before our dear brethren and sisters the importance of Christian homes in which to train our children. No one can cast off the responsibility of parenthood as a light and trifling thing and still escape the wrath of the Lord. The indifference of parents is the greatest sin of today, and is directly responsible for the flood of crime which is sweeping over the earth. Someday the fathers and mothers will find that there is no

Family Worship

BY A. W. SPALDING

Secretary, Home Commission

THE center of all religious teaching in the home is the institution of family prayers, or family worship, or, in the figurative term that is often used, the family altar.

From the very earliest times this form of communion with God has been practiced by the worshippers of the true God. When Adam and Eve sinned and were thrust out of the Garden of Eden, the plan of salvation was immediately put into operation by God, and the fallen race were

no exception to the rule that what the parent sows and what he allows to be sown in the fallow ground of the child's mind and heart, he will reap within a few years in a harvest either of crime or of righteousness and service. Let parents not wait until it is too late. Study as well as prayer and diligent effort is required. The Home Commission of the General Conference holds out a helping hand to all parents, and there should be cooperation to the fullest extent in making every Seventh-day Adventist home a Christian home.

GEN. CONF. HOME MISS. DEPT.

bidden to look to Him who was to be their Redeemer. The symbol of the sacrificial lamb was instituted to point forward to the Sin Bearer; and at the gate of Eden the smoke of the sacrifice ascended, with the prayers of the lost, but not forsaken, family of man.

The office of priest, as well as of chief, in ancient times belonged to the head of the family. It was the father's, or patriarch's, duty and privilege not only to govern his children, even when they were grown, and to direct them in all social and civil matters, but also to mediate between them and God, to teach them the ways of righteousness, and to bring to them the favor of the heavenly Father. This was his priestly work.

Why did God give to the father this work? Because, first of all, to the little child his parents stand in the place of God. The child in his infancy cannot know God; those who represent, in his limited comprehension, all power and all goodness, are his father and mother. To them, therefore, belongs the opportunity gradually to lead the child to a knowledge of God. The father and

Home—The Father's Kingdom, the Mother's World, and the Children's Paradise

the mother, if they live the life God intends them to live, will always have an experience in the things of God surpassing the child's experience. Therefore, the parents are fitted to stand as guides and mediators between their children and God. To the father, as head of the family, belongs primarily this office of priest, but to the mother also, and especially to her when the father fails.

While in later generations the office of priest or minister has by God Himself been bestowed upon a special consecrated class in His church, nothing can take away from the father and the mother their primary interest in this religious training of the child.

"In a sense the father is the priest of the household, laying upon the family altar the morning and evening sacrifice. But the wife and children should unite in prayer, and join in the song of praise. In the morning before he leaves home for his daily labor, let the father gather his children about him, and bowing before God, commit them to the care of the Father in heaven. When the cares of the day are past, let the family unite in offering grateful prayer, and raising the song of praise, in acknowledgment of divine care during the day."—*"Ministry of Healing," pp. 392, 393.*

What Constitutes Family Worship

Rightly conceived and rightly conducted, the exercise of family worship is a period of instruction appropriate to the age of the participants, and of a spiritual culture which fixes the habit of reverence and faith.

That there must be religious instruction of children by Christian parents, cannot be denied. That this instruction should include a progressive knowledge of God and His relations to men, of the proper mode of approaching Him in prayer, of the means of learning His will for us through His inspired word, the Bible, is admitted by all Christians. That to be effective this instruction must be regular and systematic is self-evident to every intelligent person. Given these factors, we have family worship. However conducted, whatever the minutiae of its program, such religious instruction constitutes family worship. And Christian parents will see to it that the institution of family worship is established and

maintained in their homes, else the knowledge and practice of religion will die out of those homes.

"If ever there was a time when every house should be a house of prayer, it is now. Infidelity and skepticism prevail. Iniquity abounds. Corruption flows in the vital currents of the soul, and rebellion against God breaks out in the life. Enslaved by sin, the moral powers are under the tyranny of Satan. The soul is made the sport of his temptations; and unless some mighty arm is stretched out to rescue him, man goes where the archrebel leads the way.

"And yet, in this time of fearful peril, some who profess to be Christians have no family worship. They do not honor God in the home; they do not teach their children to love and fear Him. Many have separated themselves so far from Him that they feel under condemnation in approaching Him. They cannot 'come boldly unto the throne of grace,' 'lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.' Heb. 4:16; 1 Tim. 2:8. They have not a living connection with God. Theirs is a form of godliness without the power. . . .

"By sincere, earnest prayer parents should make a hedge about their children. They should pray with full faith that God will abide with them, and that holy angels will guard them and their children from Satan's cruel power."—*"Testimonies," Vol. VII, pp. 42, 43.*

Causes of Neglect

The causes of neglect of family worship in nominally Christian families are commonly one or more of these three: Lack of time, lack of interest, consciousness of unforgiven sins. Think it over, and see if that is not so.



Take the first-mentioned cause. The practice is carried on for a time of having family worship at a given hour. But there comes a morning when the family oversleeps. The father must rush to get to work, the mother is hurried and worried, the children must be prepared and rushed off to school. Time must be saved somewhere. Breakfast must be eaten, for we cannot go without eating, even though hastily. And we say, "Well, we are sorry, but we shall have no time for prayer this morning." And we let it go.

We do not intend to do it again, but a few mornings later the same thing occurs. The children become accustomed to omission of the worship, and are likely to dillydally until breakfast time; and father and mother, with some feeling of guilt, lose more and more the habit of family worship.

Take the second cause. The manner in which family worship is often conducted is this: the family drift together, perhaps with repeated calls to some negligent member of the family; the father or mother opens the Bible, reads a chapter anywhere, without previous reflection or thought of its appropriateness or comprehensibility; then the family kneel in prayer, and perhaps the father prays the same prayer every day, varying his phrases a little for shame of repetition, but yet showing that he is not really seeking God. The prayer ended, the members rise, and without ceremony vend their several ways to their work. That sort of empty ceremony will soon kill all interest in family worship. It is, indeed, a greater cause than the first why family worship is being lost out of the homes, and it is contributory to the first cause.

Take the third cause. How many and many a father and mother have not the close relation with their heavenly Father that makes them certain of His favor! Perhaps we cherish some sin, some indulgence, because we do not want to give it up; and it condemns us. Perhaps we feel too guilty because of known sins, and fear to come to God for forgiveness. Perhaps we have stumbled and failed so many times that we are discouraged. In such a condition, how can we approach God with our children in worship and make it more than a num-

mery, a heathenish performance, in which we neither take any interest nor have any faith? This cause, I am persuaded, is the chief of all, and is contributory to both the second and the first cause.

Remedies

What are the remedies? for certainly we cannot allow such causes to stand between us and God, between us and our duty to our children.

Take the last first. The remedy for the condemnation under which we are crushed is to come to Christ and receive His forgiveness. We must believe His promises: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. "Him that cometh to Me I will in nowise cast out." John 6:37. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. Every night know that your sins are forgiven; every morning rise with the joy of a free soul. And then that joy will be manifest in the home, and the greatest cause of the neglect of family worship will be removed.

Take the second. The way to remedy the lack of interest is to put brains into your religious exercise and teaching. It takes some effort, some planning, to make the service interesting, but it is worth it.

Take the first. The remedy for lack of time is system. It is not that we lack time, but that we do not plan and use our time aright. Lack of system in homes is responsible for more ills than any other lack.

But besides the causes for neglect of family worship which are cited above, there is very frequently the difficulty that not both parents are Christians, and the one who is not a Christian is at best indifferent, at worst opposed, to having family worship in the home. Generally it is the father who is not a Christian, and the mother sometimes has a very difficult time to train her children in the ways of God.

A Vital Question

The question which confronts the faithful mother or father is, What shall I do when my companion, the father or the mother of our children, refuses to have family worship in the home?

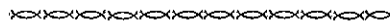
First, pray. Mightier things are

accomplished by prayer—earnest, persistent prayer—than can be accomplished by any other influence. "Let mothers come to Jesus with their perplexities. They will find grace sufficient to aid them in the care of their children. The gates are open for every mother who would lay her burdens at the Saviour's feet. He who said, 'Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not,' still invites mothers to bring their little ones to be blessed by Him."—"Ministry of Healing," p. 42.

And then go forward and hold family worship with your children. You may teach them the way to Christ even while your heart is burdened with the sorrow of your husband's failure. It is altogether possible that the husband and father may be won to God by your faithfulness. Let me tell you the story a man told me about himself:

How Our Father Was Won

Father was not a Christian; mother became one. She determined to hold family worship with the children. Father left the house, night after night, whenever mother took the Book. But one evening he said to himself, "What's the sense of



Are All the Children In?

Are all the children in? The night is falling,
And storm clouds gather in the threatening west;
The lowing cattle seek a friendly shelter,
The bird hies to her nest;
The thunder crashes; wilder grows the tempest,
And darkness settles o'er the fearful din;
Come, shut the door, and gather round the hearthstone:
Are all the children in?

Are all the children in? The night is falling,
When gilded sin doth walk about the streets.
Oh, "at the last it biteth like a serpent"! Poisoned are stolen sweets.
O mothers, guard the feet of inexperience,
Too prone to wander in the paths of sin!
Oh, shut the door of love against temptation!
Are all the children in?

Are all the children in? The night is falling
The night of death is hastening on apace;
The Lord is calling, "Enter thou thy chamber,
And tarry there a space."
And when He comes, the King in all His glory,
Who died the shameful death our hearts to win,
O may the gates of heaven shut about us!
With all the children in!

—Elizabeth Rosser.

my going off just because mother wants to play this fool game every night? It's my house. I'll stay here and read the paper." So he buried himself behind his newspaper, while mother gathered the children to her knee, read a Bible story, and then with them knelt down and prayed.

He paid no attention until his boy began to pray a simple, short prayer that ended with these words: "Bless papa, and help him to know the truth, and to keep the Sabbath. For Jesus' sake. Amen." Father got up and tiptoed to the door, but he had not closed it behind him before he heard his baby girl lisp: "An' bless papa, an' help him keep de troof."

He wandered around outdoors until bedtime. The next day his mind was even more disturbed. At worship that evening he laid down his paper and listened; and when it came to his boy's prayer, that father slipped to his knees for the first time in his life; but he was up before they saw him. The next day was Sabbath, and his chores done, father put on his best clothes, and to his wife's inquiry he replied: "Why, mother, I thought I'd go to Sabbath school with you, if you don't mind." She didn't mind. For years thereafter that man held important positions and did a great work for God until age retired him. And he told me this story himself.

All Honor to Faithful Mothers

Many a man owes his whole Christian experience primarily to the faithfulness of his mother in teaching him and praying with him, in the face of his father's indifference or opposition. How many times have I heard one who has borne the heaviest burdens, and longest, in our own church work, tell how, though his father never accepted the faith, and opposed his continuing in it, yet his mother, morning by morning and night by night, read with him the Bible, and knelt at his bedside to pray with him. To that faithful mother's courage and labor, how many thousands today owe their salvation and their joy, because of the ministry of that son!

But let the mother's daily life and conduct be in accordance with her prayers. The patience, the forbearance, the cheer, and the courage that belong to the Christian will give evidence of the influence of true religion upon her own life. With such an

Home—"A Little Bit of Heaven to Go to Heaven In"



experience, the impressions made by her Bible study and prayer with her children will make an indelible imprint upon their minds, to which their afterlife will testify.

A Parable of a Garden

BY AGNES LEWIS CAVINESS

ONCE upon a time a man planted a garden with fine seeds, and when he saw them coming up he was glad, and his neighbors rejoiced with him. "These are the finest seeds I could procure, and this is fine soil. I shall have a wonderful harvest," he said. "When it is well grown I shall water it and weed it and care for it as a fine garden should be cared for." And so he went away and left his garden to grow of itself.

Now the seeds were vigorous, and the soil was rich and good. The sun shone down hot upon it, and the rain came in abundance, so that the seeds swelled and sent forth shoots, and in a little while were above ground.

This man saw this with pride, and rejoiced within himself and to his wife. He noted that the seeds in his neighbor's garden over the way had not done half so well. This, he told himself, was because he had such a fine stock for his beginning, and because the soil and growing conditions were so superior in his garden. And so, having rejoiced within himself, the man went away again and left his garden to itself. And the sun shone, and rains came, and the garden grew and grew, and the man was well content. Always the plants grew bigger and greener, and the man more and more content.

Now after some days, the man noticed that there were many small fine weeds about his plants; but they were very small weeds and they surely could do no harm. "When plants are

so vigorous as these of mine, a few small weeds cannot hurt them," he said to himself. "When soil is so rich and fine as this, of necessity weeds must spring up. It could not be otherwise. But in time they will die of themselves, and the plants will live on sturdily. Such good sun and rain must surely produce a good garden in spite of the small weeds that intrude for a time!" And the man went away again to his office and to the other men who also had gardens at home and had left their gardens to grow alone.

And so time went on. The plants grew bigger and bigger, and the weeds grew bigger. But of course the weeds would soon die out and the plants live on alone.

Once the wife mentioned the fact that they should perhaps rid the garden of weeds, and her husband assured her that all gardens have weeds in the beginning, but that really good soil and the sunshine on plants from vigorous seeds always produce a fine yield, and so there was nothing to be anxious about. And the woman, having a great house and many friends and many charities to look after, was glad to believe that all was well, and worried no more about the weeds in the garden. And the garden continued to grow by itself.

Now the weeds, seeing that nobody bothered about them, decided that this was a good place to grow. So they sent down their roots deeper and deeper and their branches farther and farther. And the plants began to feel their roots crowded by the weeds, so that they did not grow so well. Still they did not give up, but went on growing as best they could by themselves.

The Love That Binds

(Tune: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds," No. 416 in "Christ in Song")

BLAST be the love that binds
Our hearts with mother's love;
Often we go to mother's room
To learn of God and pray.

She shares our many woes,
Our many burdens bears;
Our hopes, our fears, our aims she
knows,
She comforts and she cares.

Her sympathizing tear
For each of us is shed
Whene'er our feet forbidden stray
In paths so dark and drear.

May we remember true
The one God giveth us
To cheer and help us bear our load,
With Christ as friend and guide.

—Cloda E. Bailey.

Now it happened that the man at the close of a day, weary and perplexed by many worries, heard two men talking of a garden. They were saying what a shame it was that such fine seeds had been used in such fine soil and no efforts were made to keep out the weeds. The one told the other that he had never seen such fine seeds as were sowed, and commented on how well they had grown at first. "But," the second told the first, "surely, unless something is done soon, the harvest will be only of weeds!"

And the man whose garden it was went home startled. He went to his garden, and in truth the weeds had grown beyond all belief. He went to his wife and called her to see. He asked her if she had not noticed the phenomenal growth of weeds, and why she had done nothing about it. She had nothing to do at home all day; why had she so neglected their possessions?

Now the wife had seen the devastation and had called his attention to it, but he had been sure there was nothing to be alarmed about. And since the earth was grubby and the sun hot, she had been glad to agree with him. However, she thought now that he should do something about the weeds; only she was sure the method should be one of cultivating the plants and ignoring the weeds. Surely that would be the way. They might have begun immediately, but they were so interested in the ways and means that the day was gone and the weeds grew on unmolested.

On another day the wife did begin to water and nourish the plants with much energy for a few moments. But the sun shone on all verdure richly, and the water she gave the plants strengthened also the weeds. And, anyway, she had many other interests; so the garden was forgotten and grew on alone.

And then the man, coming home, chanced suddenly to see his garden as it had been that of another man, and the weeds suddenly looked tremendous and the plants fairly choked among them. So the man was appalled and ran shouting to his garden, calling his wife as he ran. He took great heavy tools and laid about him right and left because the great-

ness of the weeds was a rebuke to him and shamed him before his neighbors. He was bound they must be done away with immediately, that they should shame him no more. So he worked and shouted at the weeds until he was exhausted. Then he slept content that now his garden was safe. And again the garden was left alone to grow, for the man was dreadfully occupied with many other things at this time. Anyway he was at peace, for had he not struck out mightily against the weeds, and were they not all destroyed?

The wife also was much absorbed. She did see the garden at times, and questioned greatly if the method had been the best. It had not been her way, at least. Anyway, it would probably all come out well. At least it was not her fault if it did not. She had often made herself weary watering it. She could not help if the weeds also grew.

The summer days began to shorten, and the time of harvest drew on. At different times and by different methods had the man and woman sought to better their garden, for they could well see that while many small weeds had been destroyed, some others had grown to shocking proportions and were indeed become so stocky that there was no getting rid of them now. So they contented themselves with working around these and cultivating such of the plants as remained to them to cherish. It was impossible to ignore the weeds any longer, and they still disagreed over the method; so the man and his mate were forced to acknowledge to each other that there was scant hope for the harvest to which they had fondly looked forward. So they fell to blaming each other more and more, and ceased to try to work greatly in the garden.

And now at last came the harvest-time—the time of fruit bearing and rejoicing over well-earned abundance of good things! But when they came to look for it, the harvest was not there; for the plants had been choked by the weeds, and the weeds had grown to be the whole garden. And the man and woman sat down and wept over the garden. And the man said to the woman, "Perhaps, after all, your way was best. We should have watered all the garden, and the weeds would have died of their own accord!"

But the woman, touching his hand in sorrow, said, "Not so, beloved! The weeds should have all been uprooted; only your tools were so sharp and hard. I feared them greatly!"

And as they grieved thus, the master Gardener spoke to them sorrowing, and said to them, "My children, you were both wrong, and you were both right. The sun and water are priceless,—the garden must have these for growth,—but they are not enough. The weeds must all be rooted out and the soil kept cultivated and mellow and enriched with care and love.

And, too, My children," and His voice was very tender, "you began much, much too late to succeed. Weeds must be eradicated early—so early—before they take the strength from the plant roots. And then, too, you were busy about so many other things, whereas a garden needs daily, hourly care. You must never forget you have a garden, and you must work together in love, and be patient with each other while you work."

And as they continued to mourn, He said, "There is no other way. You must begin very, very early and work a little every day and be gentle while you work. I also would fain have helped you whenever you had called. Only you seemed to need Me so little." And He sighed as He laid His hand on them in love.

And the man and woman cried out to Him. "Master! You are right! We have been wrong and impatient and restless and inconstant! We see our wrong! We confess our sin! Forgive us and give us yet another garden to grow for Thee!"

And the Master smiled on their tears and comforted them as He could, saying, "I forgive, I forgive, My children!"

"Oh, thank you, Good Master! Now give us another garden! We see our mistake. We will plant again, and this time we will do well!"

But the Master sadly shook His head. "I forgive you, My children, and I will comfort you all the long days, but I can give you no second garden. There is only one growing time—only one garden. Your planting time is gone forever!"



The Christian Home Bible Study

1. The home of Abraham. Gen. 18:19.
2. The home of Moses. Heb. 11:23; Ex. 2:1-10.
3. The home of Jesus. Luke 2:40, 51, 52.
4. The home of Timothy. 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14, 15.
5. The home of obedience. Ex. 20:12; Col. 3:20; Eph. 6:1-4.
6. The home of ideals. Deut. 6:7, 11, 19; Prov. 31:28; Ps. 144:12.
7. The home of the redeemed. Isa. 54:13; Matt. 19:14; Mark 10:16.

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A Doctor's Tribute to His Parents

OFTEN sons and daughters fail to appreciate the blessing of godly parents who sacrifice and toil for them, and whose love and prayers follow them to the very ends of the earth.

We have received from the parents of one of our graduates the following tribute received from their son, who has spent many years in mission work in distant lands.

"My hope for eternity I owe to you. If you had not brought me up in the truth and supported me always by your prayers, it is very likely that I would have no such hope. Now that this old world is going to pieces so fast and so many have no hope, this is the most precious of all things I have. If my belief of the truth and my future hope lead me to do any good thing in this life, you have a large part of the credit for the good that is done.

"But best of all, in a way, is the love you have always shown. Your teachings and financial help would have meant much less if they had not come along with hearts full of affection for me. Even the keenness of mind I inherited from you has been more fruitful because of your love and prayers. So, while I am thousands of miles away, I want you to remember especially on Christmas Day that I know about your love, that I appreciate it, that I understand what it has done for me and what it means to me, and that I return it as well as I know how. The coming years are likely to be few, but hard; but no matter how many and no matter how hard, I feel sure that our love will last and will pull us through together."

A Precious Jewel

DR. J. WILBUR CHAPMAN related the following incident: "I was standing in a great jewelry store in a city, and I heard a salesman say to a lady, 'Madam, this pearl is worth \$15,000.' I was interested, and said, 'Please let me see the pearl that is worth \$15,000.' The salesman put it on a piece of black cloth, and I studied it carefully. I said, 'I suppose your stock is very valuable!' And as I looked around that beautiful store, I imagined them bringing all their stock up to my house and saying: 'We want you to take care of this tonight.' What do you think I would do? I would go to the telephone and call up the chief of police and say: 'I have all a city jeweler's stock up in my house, and it is too great a responsibility. Will you send some of your trusted officers to help me?'"

"But I have a little boy in my home, and for him I am responsible. I have had him nine years, and some of you have just such another little fellow. I turn to this old Book and I read this word: 'What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?' It is as if he had all the diamonds in the world, and held them in one hand, and just a little boy in the other, and the boy would be of more worth than all the jewels. If you would tremble if you had \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 worth of jewels in your house one night, how will you go up to your Father if the lad is not with you?"—*The Leader, Northern European Division.*

Sacred Responsibilities

For seventeen years the Home Commission has ministered to the ideal set before us in these words from Mrs. White: "Upon fathers as well as mothers rests a responsibility for the child's earlier as well as its later training, and for both parents the demand for careful and thorough preparation is most urgent. . . . Never will education accomplish all that it might and should accomplish until the importance of the parents' work is fully recognized, and they receive a training for its sacred responsibilities."—"Education," p. 276. Thousands of parents have taken advantage of the instruction and help offered, and many households bear witness to this training. But not all.

Now the Home Commission has reorganized its work and revised its study plans to meet the needs and opportunity of all. It offers short courses in a great variety of subjects, as well as the more complete Home Science Course. No parents can afford to let the years drift by while their children are growing up, without putting forth the utmost effort to train those children for God. These are difficult times for children and youth; let the parents give their utmost for their salvation and training. God tells parents to get a training; let parents heed.

The Home Commission offers help through "Parents' Lessons," "The Parents' Council," etc., and will be glad to assist any who apply. Address the Home Commission, General Conference, Takoma Park, Washington, D.C.

ally fed upon the Bible. If you would be strong, healthy, and useful in the Christian life, be a daily student of the Bible.

4. *A Charitable Christian.* Avoid unwarranted egotism. An old Scotch woman was addressed thus: "A person would think, to hear you talk, that you thought you and the minister were the only Christians in the world." To which the elderly woman replied, seriously, "Indeed, I have my doubts sometimes about the minister."

5. *A Forgiving Christian.* Abraham Lincoln's motto is a good one: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right."

6. *A Hopeful Christian.* Dr. Adam Clarke was called the school dunce, but his ambition and determination were aroused by one who said, "You will make your mark in the world yet." Adam Clarke became a great scholar, minister, missionary, and author.

7. *An Intelligent Christian.* An experienced and successful minister once told a group of young men, "God has greatly blessed me, but He never blessed my ignorance."

8. *A Joyous Christian.* The apostle Paul says, "Rejoice in the Lord always;" and by way of emphasis he adds, "Again I say, Rejoice."

9. *A Loving Christian.* Jesus said, "Love one another." John affirmed, "God is love." Peter adds, "Above all things have fervent charity [love] among yourselves."

10. *A Peaceful Christian.* "Blessed are the peacemakers." "If it be possible, . . . live peaceably with all men." "Be at peace among yourselves"—in the home, the church, and the neighborhood.

11. *A Prayerful Christian.* "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much,"—in private, in the family, and in public.

12. *A Steadfast Christian.* "Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." 1 Cor. 15:58.

13. *A Working Christian.* "Those who are humble and who do their work as unto God, may not make so great a show as do those who are full of bustle and self-importance; but their work counts for more."—"Ministry of Healing," p. 477. "I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works." Titus 3:8.

Missionary Leadership

The Attributes of a Consistent Christian

BY E. R. POTTER

1. *An Assured Christian.* Christ said, I "know My sheep, and am known of mine." The apostle Paul said, "I know whom I have believed." The consistent Christian should be able to say, "I know I am His and He is mine."

2. *A Self-controlled Christian.* When motives, words, or actions are misunderstood or misrepresented, the con-

sistent Christian takes no offense, but pursues the even tenor of his way. "The grace of Christ is to control the temper and the voice. . . . The life breathes a sweet perfume, which ascends to God as holy incense. Love is manifested in kindness, gentleness, forbearance, and long-suffering. The countenance is changed. . . . There is expressed a habitual gentleness, a more than human love."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 102.

3. *A Bible Christian.* Luther liter-

Departmental Activities

A Timely Suggestion Regarding Reading Racks

A LETTER has come to hand, making an SOS call in the interests of literature distribution through public reading racks. The suggestion is most timely, and is stated as follows:

"I desire to call special attention to the importance of placing reading racks in all places where people congregate, especially in bus depots and railroad stations. It has been my practice for some years to look after a number of such depositories in a wide range of territory. In one city of the Middle West I placed 3,000 papers each year in the reading racks at bus depots, and in another city about 1,000 papers were used in the railroad station. I visited these places once every twenty-four hours, to see if papers were needed, and to keep the literature straightened out and attractive in appearance; for I have found that if the reading racks are not well cared for, the general public will not have much respect for the contents. People will disarrange the papers, taking them out and replacing them upside down, and soon the rack looks like a pile of rubbish, unless special attention is given to keeping everything in proper shape.

"I find that the general public are interested in the literature which we place in the racks, and I have made use of all our different periodicals, and also tracts, making a special effort to collect the literature which so often goes to waste in Seventh-day Adventist homes. It is time to increase the literature-rack distribution tenfold, yes, a hundredfold, especially in the large cities. There are also vast opportunities in the rural sections. But it is very essential that these racks be looked after in a business-like manner, and their contents kept free from soiled papers or rubbish. Every paper should be carefully folded and placed so that the caption will attract attention. There is no better method for quickly scattering the printed page of truth 'like the leaves of autumn,' and the work is most interesting and enjoyable."

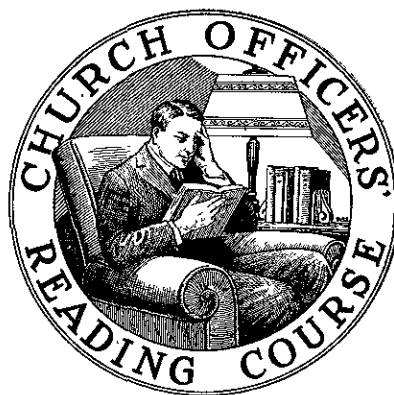
Faithful in All Opportunities

A FEW months ago I was on the train traveling across the continent. I became acquainted with a young businessman and his wife from Cuba. In our conversation I learned that he was not a Christian; that his father had been a Christian man, but was so strict, severe, and exacting, that this man, as a lad, had determined that when he grew up he would have nothing to do with Christianity. Therefore he had turned away from everything that pertained to religion.

I felt impressed to talk to him, and his heart was open to receive what I had to say. I told him that that was not the spirit of the word of God, as I understood it; that a man in whose soul burned the spirit of Christ would have nothing of harshness or exactness in his manner, but would be kind and lovable. I said, "Your father was undoubtedly a Christian, but he had a different way of looking at Christianity." I told him about Christian people whom I had known, of this wonderful Christian family to which we belong, of the self-sacrificing labors of the missionaries out in the hard places of the earth, and of the lives that have been laid down in the service of God. He was deeply interested, and when I parted from him, he said, "I have gained a new vision of what Christianity really is. I am glad to learn that there is a Christian people in the world today who have in their hearts that spirit of love and sacrifice, and I aim to know more about that people."

The need today is to manifest the love of Jesus. Everywhere we find men and women hungering for something the world cannot give. There is only one satisfying thing in all the world today, and that is this blessed message. There is nothing in the world beside it. And if we are to share in the ultimate triumph of this message, we must be faithful in all our opportunities for service. It is only those who have been faithful, who will stand with the King of kings and Lord of lords in that day.

GLENN CALKINS.



The Church Officers' Reading Course

EACH year a selection of books containing messages particularly helpful to church elders, missionary leaders, and secretaries, and all other officers and church members who are keeping abreast of the layman's missionary movement, is given careful attention by a committee appointed by the General Conference. The annual selections embrace a combination of from two to four books, and are announced under the title, "The Church Officers' Reading Course." Hundreds of church leaders and members have joined the reading circle year by year, and have derived great pleasure and profit in so doing.

We take real pleasure in announcing the books comprising the Church Officers' Reading Course for 1939, as follows:

1. "The Early and Latter Rain," by F. M. Wilcox.
2. "The Carpenter of Nazareth," by M. E. Olsen.
3. "The Great Controversy," by Mrs. E. G. White.

The first two books are presented as the purchase volumes, while "The Great Controversy" is included as a special study volume, which, in the great majority of cases, need not be purchased, as it is already in the library of nearly all our church members. The urgent need of a renewed and closer study of this very important volume of the Spirit of prophecy is a matter which has weighed heavily upon the minds of the Reading Course committee in selecting books for this year. It is the general conviction that, irrespective of how often this book may have been read heretofore, there is no more important instruction

for the present time than is contained therein.

It is evident in a number of different ways that the Holy Spirit has impressed upon the mind of each member of the committee the importance of restudying "The Great Controversy." Therefore we feel constrained to urge all former members of the Church Officers' Reading Course, and all church officers and leaders appointed for the present year, to unite in the reading and intensive study of the three books which have been selected as the 1939 Church Officers' Reading Course.

A Special Provision

As a means of helping all to enter into the study of "The Great Controversy" in the most systematic and thorough manner, we have arranged for a chapter-by-chapter analysis, in the form of "Thought Questions and Notes," to appear in the CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE each month. The first installment of these study outlines will be found on page 11 of this issue.

In the preparation of this material we are most fortunate in securing the cooperation of Elder D. E. Robinson, who has for many years been closely associated with the literary work in connection with the writings of the Spirit of prophecy, and at the present time is associated with "The Ellen G. White Publications," with headquarters located in the General Conference building. This is the first time a comprehensive study outline has been furnished covering one of the most wonderful books of the age. We feel assured that all church officers and readers of the CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE will be glad to avail themselves of this unusual provision.

The two books—"Early and Latter Rain," and "Carpenter of Nazareth," retail for \$2.25. But when they are ordered together as a Reading Course offer, the price is only \$1.75, postpaid. Those who desire to purchase "The Great Controversy" will be able to select it from various styles of binding at a price to suit. All books should be ordered through Book and Bible Houses. Each member of the church officers' reading circle should enroll with the conference home missionary secretary, in order to secure the annual token of appreciation, in the form of a unique bookmark or certificate, which is furnished by the—

GEN. CONF. HOME MISS. DEPT.

A Wonderful Book

FOR fifty years the book entitled "The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan" has been in the possession of the remnant church as one of the volumes of the writings of the Spirit of prophecy. Concerning the origin of this book, the author, Mrs. E. G. White, makes the following statements:

"Through the illumination of the Holy Spirit, the scenes of the long-continued conflict between good and evil have been opened to the writer of these pages. From time to time I have been permitted to behold the working, in different ages, of the great controversy between Christ, the Prince of life, the Author of our salvation, and Satan, the prince of evil, the author of sin, the first transgressor of God's holy law. . . .

"As the Spirit of God has opened to my mind the great truths of His word, and the scenes of the past and the future, I have been bidden to make known to others that which has thus been revealed,—to trace the history of the controversy in past ages, and especially so to present it as to shed a light on the fast-approaching struggle of the future. . . .

"To unfold the scenes of the great controversy between truth and error; to reveal the wiles of Satan, and the means by which he may be successfully resisted; to present a satisfactory solution of the great problem of evil, shedding such a light upon the origin and the final disposition of sin as to make fully manifest the justice and benevolence of God in all His dealings with His creatures; and to show the holy, unchanging nature of His law, is the object of this book."

Thousands of copies of "The Great Controversy" have been sold by colporteurs in all parts of the world. Large editions in foreign languages have

been issued. There is no means of telling the exact number of people who have seen the light of truth and have accepted it and taken their stand on the right side of the controversy, as the result of reading the book, but we know the number would be very great. Time and time again we come in contact with those who testify that the reading of "The Great Controversy" convinced them of the true way, and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit they found the way and are walking in it. And it is a striking fact that these people are most firmly established, true and loyal. They cannot be shaken or moved. The message of the book is as a rock of defense against the darts of doubt with which the enemy assails.

But we are wondering if all members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church of the present day really appreciate this wonderful book. Has it been read and studied by each member of the church even once, or is it simply known by its title and fragmentary statements on leading doctrines held by the denomination?

Of one thing we are sure, and that is that "The Great Controversy" should at this time be studied more prayerfully and earnestly than ever before. We are told that "the great controversy between good and evil will increase in intensity to the very close of time." Surely in this year of 1939 we need to be thoroughly familiar with the instruction God has so specifically sent to the church for guidance through the conflict.

"The Great Controversy" has been selected as one of the volumes of the Church Officers' Reading Course for 1939, and we earnestly urge every officer and leader in the church to give renewed study to the book. By following the monthly study outlines (see page 11 of this issue of the GAZETTE), the greatest benefit will be derived.

Not long ago there came to our attention the story of a father and son, living in Mexico, who manifested a zeal in obtaining a copy of "The Great Controversy" which is most remarkable. The boy was a high-school student, and in his teacher's library he came across "The Great Controversy." He asked permission to borrow the book, and was allowed to take it home. The father, a Catholic, chided the son for bringing home a Protestant book,

(Continued on page 11)



Father and Son Who Made a Complete Copy of "The Great Controversy"



Study Outlines on "The Great Controversy"

For the Month of February

BY D. E. ROBINSON

Chapter 1—"The Destruction of Jerusalem"

1. STUDY the circumstances and occasion of Jesus' bitter grief and lamentation over Jerusalem. For what reasons must it have seemed strange and unaccountable to the onlookers? 17:1, 2 [15:1, 2].

2. Did Jesus have reason to feel sorrow for Himself as He faced Gethsemane and Calvary? What motive led to great grief? 18:1 [16:1].

NOTE.—As we think of the trying times ahead of God's people, should our greatest concern be for our own hardships and tests, or for the fate of the impenitent? If we follow Jesus' example of thinking of lost souls, how shall we manifest this burden in our lives?

3. Meditate on God's compassion and love for His people in His dealings with them in the past and in Christ's mission of love to them. Memorize: "The waves of mercy, beaten back by those stubborn hearts, returned in a stronger tide of pitying, inexpressible love." 20:2 [19:3].

4. What had caused the prophets to weep? How did Jesus' view of the future compare with their expectations—(1) as to the time covered, (2) as to the multitudes of people involved, (3) as to their iniquity, (4) as to the severity of the judgments? 21:1; 22:1; 36:2 [21:1; 22:1; 39:2].

5. Compare the great sin of the Jews with that of the later Christian world. 22:2 [22:2].

6. What prophecy of Micah was to meet its fulfillment in the attitude of the Jews and the destruction of their city? How was it fulfilled? 26:2; 27:2 [27:2; 28:1].

7. What circumstances made it possible for Christ's followers to escape from Jerusalem with their lives? Where did they find a place of safety? 30:2; cf. 37:2 [31:1; cf. 41:1].

8. As illustrated in God's dealings with Israel, note that God exhausts heaven's resources in seeking to persuade men to accept salvation. 20:3; 22:1 28:1 [19:4; 22:1; 29:1].

9. When men finally and irrevocably reject God, they thereby choose Satan as their ruler. What kind of master is he? Show that the destruction of Jerusalem and of the Jewish nation was a natural consequence of their impenitence. How does this principle apply to our own time? 35:3 [38:2].

10. To whom are we indebted for peace and protection? What may cause the withdrawal of this protection, and with what consequences? 36:1 [39:1].

11. What conditions will prevail up to the time of the close of probation? 38:1 [41:2].

Chapter 2—"Persecution in the Early Centuries"

1. In forecasting the experiences of His people to the end of time, did Jesus offer flattering inducements to lead men to accept of Christianity? What phase of their experience did He especially stress? 39:1 [43:1].

NOTE.—The fact that Jesus foretold the trying experiences through which His church was to pass has exerted a powerful influence in fortifying the believers in their conflict with the forces of evil.

2. What was the secret of the fortitude and perseverance of the faithful amid the awful persecutions under paganism? 41:1, 2 [45:1, 2].

3. In what way did the persecution prove to be a blessing—(1) to the cause of truth, (2) to the experience of the individual believers, (3) to the church as a body? 41:3; 41:1 [45:3; 47:2].

NOTE.—The phenomenal growth of the church under these adverse circumstances is evidence of a remarkable spirit of missionary zeal among the lay members.

4. Changing his strategy against the church, Satan wrought more effectually for its ruin by leading its members to compromise. They increased greatly in numbers, but at a dear cost in spiritual vitality. 42:2; 43:1 [46:2; 47:2].

NOTE.—We see in the religious world today a popular trend toward compromise at the cost of a surrender of vital truth.

5. What should be our attitude toward the present-day trend for compromise with error? 46:1 [50:4].

6. What part did apostates act in their warfare against the doctrines of Christ? 45:1 [50:1]. (For the application of the same principle in our own time see page 608, paragraph 2.) [608:2-681:1.]

7. How can the statement of Jesus, "I came not to send peace, but a sword," be harmonized with His title, "Prince of Peace"? 46:2, 3 [51:1, 2].

8. Notice God's dealing with the righteous and the wicked, in permitting them to reveal their true character, thus vindicating the justice of His decision in regard to their destiny. 48:1, 2 [52:2, 53:1].

9. Should the fact that there is no bitter persecution against the church be regarded as a matter for great satisfaction? What experience of God's people will result in a renewal of persecution? 48:3 [53:2].

A Wonderful Book

(Continued from page 10)

but on examining it he became interested and found that the book dealt with subjects he had long desired to know more about. So he told his son to try to purchase the book from the teacher. The proposition was not favorable to the teacher, however, as he said he did not know where he could get another copy, and was not willing to part with the one he had. But the father insisted that he must have the book. Finally, they asked the teacher if they might borrow the book for a longer period. This request was granted. Then father and son began to copy the book—the boy writing on the typewriter as the father read page after page. During eight hours a day, for two solid weeks, they worked, transcribing the seven hundred pages of the book, and at last succeeded in having a typewritten copy of their own. The photograph herewith shows the father and son holding the pages of "The Great Controversy" as they produced them in Spanish on the typewriter.

Do you prize this wonderful book in the same degree as these honesthearted people in Mexico? If you do not already have a copy, it will require but a small expenditure of money and a single postage stamp to receive it from your nearest Book and Bible House. Let every church officer and every member of the church unite during 1939 in one unbroken reading circle for the study of the wonderful book, "The Great Controversy."

GEN. CONF. HOME MISS. DEPT.

Important Note: For convenience of the student, both the page and the paragraph referred to are given. Thus "19:2" refers to the second paragraph on page nineteen. Because of a difference in the paging of two current editions—due to the difference in illustrations—both references are given. The second reference, in brackets, is to the 1928 and 1927 special and subscription editions. The edition may be identified by noting the date of the last copyright registration, which is found on the back of the title page.

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 a cottage meeting, an invitation to attend Sabbath school or church service, Harvest Ingathering, etc. From this point of contact, appropriate follow-up work has led to full acceptance of the message and uniting with the remnant church. Believing that 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.]

Kindly Interest Manifested by a Christian Mother.—My chum was a Seventh-day Adventist, and I was always made welcome in his home, in which I visited frequently. The mother in this home was an invalid, but she was always interested in her callers, and always knew just how to speak a word for Christ in such a way as to make a deep impression. I had been receiving the *Signs of the Times* for a number of months, through the thoughtfulness of some one who was interested in my welfare, but I was quite indifferent to religious things. However, I could not get away from the kind interest manifested by the mother of my chum, as she would call attention to points of truth and refer to articles in the *Signs*. Later I accepted the invitation to attend Bible studies conducted in the home, and in due time I became convinced of the truth and was baptized. In order to keep the Sabbath, I gave up a good position; but the Lord has cared for me, and I rejoice in the knowledge of the third angel's message. I am indeed thankful for the kindly personal interest of that Christian mother, who, though shut in by invalidism, was not unmindful of opportunities to win a soul to Christ.

The Book "Daniel and the Revelation."—When I was eight years old, a man came to our neighborhood selling a book. My parents wanted the book, but were too poor to buy it. But a neighbor bought one, and we children would go to her house and look at the strange pictures of beasts with horns, and read as much as we could about dreams and visions in the Bible.

About three years ago I was truly converted. Then I began to pray that God would lead me to His true church. I said, "Lord, if it is the smallest church in the world, if there are not more than two members, but they are your people and have your Bible truth, I will unite with that church."

One day I was in the public library looking through some religious books, and I came to one called "Daniel and the Revelation." On opening it, I recognized it to be the same as the book that had been of so much interest to me in my childhood. The conviction came so strongly that this book was associated with the answer to my prayers, that I found where the volume could be obtained, and secured a copy for myself. I did not merely read the book; I studied it carefully. Then I set out to find the people who believe the teachings of the book. I found the Seventh-day Adventist congregation in the city, and have been attending the services regularly for several months. And now I wish to be baptized and unite with the church.

Pastor C. A. Holt, in referring to the above experience, says, "The woman was not an entire stranger to us when giving her testimony, for we had followed her progress from the first day she came among us, and after careful examination as to her Christian life and knowledge of the message, we consider that she is ready for baptism."

Prayer and the Singing Band.—Back in 1929, when I left home to sail the seas as an engineer officer, my aunt prayed with me and presented me with a Bible. I remember that in her

prayer she asked the Lord to make a way for me to accept His precious truth, and that the Bible might be my guide and counselor. I had heard a few things about what my aunt considered "the truth," but I was not interested. As time passed on, however, I had a longing for something better in my experience, but being somewhat prejudiced against the Seventh-day Adventist doctrines, I sought help in the Methodist Church. I became a member of the choir, and engaged in home missionary endeavor, as conducted by that church. But still being dissatisfied, I turned to the Baptist Church and connected with them in like manner. It seemed to me that I, without a religion, was like the man "without a country," and I was most unhappy.

One Saturday evening I went to choir practice in the Baptist parsonage. It was a stormy evening, and only two or three members of the choir came. Disappointed, disheartened, and blue, I boarded a bus for home; and, after taking my seat, I offered a silent prayer, asking God to take me by the hand and guide me by the Holy Spirit to the place where my soul could find satisfaction. Up to this time my life had seemed to be a failure. My marriage had gone on the rocks, and life seemed more or less a blank. But the Lord answered my prayer in His own way.

I left the bus at one of the main thoroughfares in the city, and decided to walk down a certain avenue to reach my place of abode. I had not gone far before my attention was attracted by a chorus of voices, singing one of my favorite hymns—

"I've found a Friend; oh, such a Friend!
So kind, and true, and tender,
So wise a Counselor and Guide,
So mighty a Defender.
From Him, who loveth me so well,
What power my soul can sever?
Shall life or death, or earth or hell?
No; I am His forever."

This was followed by several more of the real old-fashioned songs that my mother used to sing. I approached the singers, and soon learned that they were soliciting money for some good cause, and, although I had only a nickel in my pocket, I slipped it into the can which was passed around. One of the young women gave me a copy of a paper entitled "For Humanity's Sake," and I asked her what church the group represented. She seemed rather reluctant to mention the

name Seventh-day Adventist, fearing, I suppose, that prejudice might be aroused. But I told her that I believed I had been led, as an answer to prayer, to find the group of singers; and then she asked me to wait a minute while she went in search of a man in the singing band whom she introduced to me as the pastor of her church. He talked to me very kindly, and I opened my heart to him, explaining my longing to find the right church and to get closer to God. The pastor asked me to accompany him to his home, and I did so. As we talked and prayed, I realized that not only my prayer was being answered, but also the prayer of my Seventh-day Adventist aunt.

When I returned to my room, the first thing I did was to kneel down by my bed and thank God for leading me to the friends and the church I was seeking. The next Sabbath I attended Sabbath school, and have been a regular attendant since that time, more than a year ago. I also united with the singing band as they went out night after night during the time of the campaign, and secured three dollars more than my goal. The pastor's wife gave me twenty-seven Bible studies, after which I was baptized and united with the church.

When I notified my employer that I could no longer report for duty on Saturdays, he promptly said he could get along without my services. But in this, as in other crises in my life, I asked God to lead and direct, and within a few days I had secured another position in which I was allowed the Sabbath off, and received a larger salary than that which I had received when I was with my former employer.

Last summer I attended the first camp meeting in my experience, and it was to me a feast of good things. It was at the camp meeting that I purchased a new Bible; so now the Bible which my aunt gave to me will retire from service. After nine years of toil and hardship, including some of the most severe storms on the Atlantic and the Pacific, among which will be remembered the Florida hurricane of 1929, and the storm in which occurred the sinking of the "Vestris" off the Virginia Capes, my aunt's prayer has been answered. I would like to request the prayers of Christian people that I may continue on in the service of the Lord.

Weekly Church Missionary Services

February 4—Win Another With the "Signs"

Two years ago, with the revival of the "Win One" movement, the editors and the promoters of the *Signs of the Times*, and those who set the type, make up the pages, run the presses, and mail the papers, all began to work and pray earnestly that the *Signs* would be a greater soul-winning influence than it had ever been before.

History has been made rapidly since that time—in the world, and in the proclamation of the truth. We have seen prophecy fulfilled in the affairs of nations. War has raged in China, Spain, and other places. Boundaries in Europe have been changed, while only the restraining power of God has held back the winds of war. There have been devastating floods and other disasters, all witnessing to the reliability of the words of Scripture concerning what is to happen in the last days.

Through these times the *Signs* in the hands of our people has been a mighty agency for giving the truth and winning souls. Many families and individuals are rejoicing in peace and in a new hope in God because some one with a love for souls faithfully sent the *Signs* to them.

Recently the pastor of a Presbyterian church in Toledo, Ohio, wrote that he had accidentally come across a part of an issue of the *Signs of the Times*, bearing the date, August 13, 1935, on a short trip he had made. "The meat contained therein," he writes, "was better by far than anything obtained in paper form to date, and I want to know if the *Signs of the Times* is still being published. If so, please write me, sending me late copy with subscription blank. I know when I need food."

In these days of perplexity there are many people whom the Lord's Spirit is directing to the *Signs of the Times* for spiritual food. May we have the vision and the faith which will lead in using the *Signs* in a larger way through another eventful year. There is no better way "to win another" than "with the *Signs of the Times*."

J. R. FERREN.

February 11—Our Pioneer Soul-Winning Periodical

To look back into the early files of the *Signs of the Times* is to be impressed that God led in the establishment of our "pioneer missionary paper." For example, we read: "I saw that there would be a paper published upon the Pacific Coast. . . . A paper published on the Pacific Coast would give strength and influence to the message. The light God has given us isn't worth much to the world unless it can be seen by being presented before them. I declare to you our vision must be extended. We see things nigh, but not afar off." —"Life Sketches," p. 210. The realization of the fruits of these leadings and convictions were soon to be seen. Sixty-four years ago the first issue of the *Signs of the Times* came from the little hand press in Oakland, truly to pioneer in opening the truth to the people. It was dated June 4, 1874.

In the *Signs* itself, (March 1, 1877) four years after the vision referred to above, the story is told of how God had led far beyond expectations. A lot, a building, and a working capital; all adequate, had been provided. In another column in the paper a list of experiences and conversions are found. One man rejoiced because he had been freed from the tobacco habit, and had found the Sabbath truth. A reckless sailor had found the light. A Baptist minister had accepted the Sabbath truth and the truth of Christ's second coming. "My mind is made up," he said, "to spend the rest of my life with the Adventists." He had only read the *Signs*; he had never heard an Adventist sermon.

Those experiences have been multiplying through the years as the Lord has used the *Signs of the Times* in quietly and silently preaching the truth and winning people to it. The influence of the *Signs* is so closely and inseparably woven into every other kind of soul-winning endeavor, that we would not know how to get along without it today. It is truly pioneering today as in the early days, but on a much larger scale.

During the momentous year just closed, more than four million copies

of the *Signs of the Times* have been distributed by our people. There will surely be a wonderful harvest in results and waves of influence. During the past year we made a 10 per cent gain in *Signs* circulation, which meant reaching from 77,000 to 79,000 families every week with the messages of the *Signs*. The year before, it ran from 70,000 to 72,000. Surely there should be still greater advancement this year, when the *Signs* will bear a continuous series of articles dealing with events which definitely fulfill prophecy. The Lord will bless us in laying larger plans for personal work through the mails, and in every way possible for reaching more people with our pioneer soul-winning paper, the *Signs of the Times*. J. R. FERREN.

February 18—Personal Testimonies and Experiences

SCRIPTURE Key Thought: Mark 6:31.

A letter received from a sister in one of our churches in the Midwest contains the following statements: "Last Sabbath our pastor took charge of the church missionary service, and called on three of the church members to relate their experiences. It was a wonderful meeting. We all felt inspired to do something ourselves. The experiences were briefly told, and surely indicated that God is working for 'His people.'"

Once each month opportunity is afforded for listening to personal testimonies and experiences as related by our brothers and sisters who are united in the onward march of the layman's missionary movement. We are told that "far more than we do, we need to speak of the precious chapters in our experience."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 338. Let the time allotted to this missionary service be used to the very best advantage in telling of experiences in the Lord's work, thus bringing new courage to all and ascribing praise to our heavenly Father. The promise is, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Surely we desire to be under His direction.

W. H. BERGHEM.

February 25—Why the "Win Another" Plan?

BECAUSE the "Win One" plan is the sure way. There is more assurance of getting at least one person to accept Christ as his personal Saviour by especially working for one, rather than scattering the efforts and singling out

no one in particular. The writer's mother was left a widow with six children, and because of financial difficulties the four oldest were placed in an orphans' home. We attended the Methodist Church. However, in time a tent was pitched near our home, and mother accepted present truth. Her own stand for this new light, and her personal talks and influence, caused my younger brother and me to give our hearts to Christ and accept this message. As the four older children returned home at the age of eighteen, mother taught them the truth, and three of them became Seventh-day Adventists. This is largely why I believe in the "Win Another" plan.

Christ had large congregations at His meetings, and many people followed Him from place to place. He doubtless reached many through these public efforts. Few are called to this larger work, but all can do personal work. Jesus ever sought opportunity to speak to the individual. We read how He singled out Zacchaeus from the crowd and won him and his family. Also of how He went into Matthew's office and, in the midst of business duties, appealed to him to forsake all and follow the pathway leading to eternal life.

During the noontide, while resting at Jacob's well, Jesus entered into conversation with a woman who came to fill her pitcher with water, and

thereby won one soul; and as a result of the woman's testimony, a multitude believed on Him.

A crowd of people is passing through Jericho. Blind Bartimaeus hears that Jesus is in the multitude; so he cries out, "Thou Son of David, have mercy on me." Many charge him to be quiet. But he only shouts the louder. Jesus stops and calls him. In response to, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" he cries out, "Lord, that I might receive my sight." And "immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way." Mark 10:46-52.

"I have heard of a city of light,
With its streets made of glittering gold,
Of the angels in garments of white,
And the songs which shall never grow old.
There fresh glories unfold,
In that city of gold,
But the joy of my Lord will be mine
O'er the lambs I have brought to His fold.

"I have heard of a country so fair,
With its hills and its valleys of green
Covered over with flowers so rare
While the river of life flows between;
There the tree on its shore
Giveth life evermore;
But the greatest of joys will be mine
In the souls I have led to that shore.

"Let them sing of the fruits and the flowers,
And the mansions so beautiful and grand;
Let them tell of the joys that await
Those who enter Immanuel's land;
But the wonder will be,
That my Lord should use me,
A poor sinner, to help some lost soul
Share the joys of that beautiful land."

WILLIAM A. BUTLER.

MONTHLY POSTER SERMONETTE—THE MELTING POWER OF LOVE

"Go to your neighbors one by one. . . .

"Come close to them till their hearts are warmed by your unselfish interest and love. Sympathize with them, pray for them, watch for opportunities to do them good. . . .

"Do not neglect speaking to your neighbors, and doing them all the kindness in your power, that you 'by all means may save some.'"—"Christian Service," p. 116.

"While logic may fail to move, and argument be powerless to convince, the love of Christ revealed in personal ministry, may soften the stony heart."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 57.



NOTE.—This poster is one of a set of twelve, size 18 x 20 inches, which may be obtained for 50 cents a set from the Review and Herald Publishing Association. Illustrated truth makes lasting impression. Every church should make use of the posters. Watch for "Poster Sermonette" next month.



Young People's Department of Missionary Volunteers



February Officers' Notes

If I Were Secretary—

I WOULD remember that my society is a part of a great world-wide organization of youth who are preparing themselves, and helping to prepare others, for a life of service now and for eternal life when Jesus comes.

I would try to help the other members of the society to catch this larger vision.

I would study my duties as outlined in M. V. Leaflet 4, pages 10 to 12.

I would be alert to see the things a secretary can do to assist the M. V. Society leader.

I would attend the weekly executive-committee meetings.

I would keep a list of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the M. V. Society officers.

I would sign all certificates of membership promptly and give them to the leader for presentation; and enter the names and addresses of the members on the society membership list.

I would keep an up-to-date list of the names and addresses of all young people of the church, whether or not they are members of the society, and from time to time seek to interest in the work of the society those who are not members already.

I would survey the programs for the year as outlined in the *December GAZETTE*, so that I might look ahead with the society leader and other members of the executive committee in laying plans for the work of the society.

I would order all supplies, such as record blanks, pledges, charts, and leaflets, early, through the church missionary secretary, from the conference Book and Bible House.

I would gather weekly reports of missionary work by having the ushers distribute and collect the Missionary Workers' Individual Report Blank.

I would issue monthly reports of the missionary work of the society to the conference M.V. secretary.

I would record accurately the names of those who begin and who complete any specific line of work such as Bible Year, Reading Courses, Advanced Study and Service League, Progressive Classes, etc., so that they may receive proper certificates or awards upon my application to the conference M.V. secretary.

I would carefully record the minutes of all meetings of the society and of the executive committee.

I would vary my reports to the so-

cietly so as to maintain their interest, to inform them of their achievements individually and as a society, to point out wherein they may improve, and to spur them on to bigger and better things.

I would be sociable, and give a particularly hearty welcome to the visitor.

I would correspond with the conference M.V. secretary regarding those young people who move to another vicinity, so that he may put the nearest society in touch with them, or enroll them in the conference society.

I would complete my records promptly at the close of the year before I turn them over to my successor.

M. W. M.

M. V. Messages Fund

ON Missionary Volunteer Day next month, March 11, an important offering known as the "M.V. Messages Fund" is to be taken in every church. The M.V. Messages Fund is the financial project for the youth of the North American Division to help make available to the young people of other lands that wonderful book of counsel to Adventist youth, "Messages to Young People." By means of this offering, the youth of North America are stretching the hand of fellowship in helpfulness across the distance to their fellow Missionary Volunteers in lands where young people face unusual problems and perplexities, who have need of the counsel of the Spirit of prophecy for young people.

During the last two years the youth of the North American Division have given for this project, and as a result of their giving, funds have been sent on to several divisions to help in the translation and publication of "Messages to Young People." The Southern European Division received help for the translation of the book into Rumanian and French, the South American Division for the Spanish and the Portuguese, the Northern European Division for the Danish-Norwegian, Swedish, and Finnish; and the China Division for help to bring the book out in Chinese. Requests have come in from two other division conferences for help. This is a wonderful opportunity for the young people of North America to help other young people. Let the Missionary Volunteer officers keep this offering constantly before the members of the M.V. Society so that on Missionary Volunteer Day a large offering may be received. A goal of twenty-five cents a member is suggested for each Senior

Missionary Volunteer. Encourage the members of the society to begin now to plan for this offering. Remember the date—Missionary Volunteer Day, March 11.

A. W. P.

Christian Home Day

NOTHING is more vital to the well-being of children and youth than the influences of the home. Recognizing this, the General Conference has set aside Sabbath, February 4, as Christian Home Day. It is hoped that in every church the program for Christian Home Day will be observed. In order for this meeting to be a real success, careful preparation should be made by those taking part in the program; therefore, the assignments should be made some time in advance. Let us pray earnestly that this special program on behalf of the home may result in the revival of true godliness in homes represented in our churches.

C. LESTER BOND.

Temperance Day

ON every hand are marked evidences of the fact that the liquor and tobacco interests are doing every possible thing to popularize their products. More than ever before in the history of the world men and women are resorting to the use of alcoholic beverages; the smoking of tobacco, and the use of other narcotics. There should be no relaxation of effort to educate the members of the church, the children and youth, as well as our neighbors and friends, regarding the harmful nature of such indulgences.

Sabbath, February 25, has been appointed as Temperance Day to be observed in all our churches. Whether or not the church conducts a temperance program at the eleven-o'clock service that day, it will be well for the Missionary Volunteer Society to give attention to this important topic.

C. LESTER BOND.

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March Topics

4. My Friends and Their Influence on Me.
11. Our Feathered Friends.
(Junior—Why I Want to Be a Comrade.)
18. In Step With the Remnant People.
25. Jesus Christ's Book.
(Junior—Getting Acquainted With the Bible.)



Senior Meetings

Playing Fair With the Family

(Program for February 4)

BY LEO THIEL

OPENING SONG: No. 233 in "Christ in Song."

PRAYER.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 10:38-42.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SOCIETY BUSINESS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

OFFERING.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT. (See "Note to Leaders.")

TALK: "Ideals in the Christian Home."

SYMPOSIUM: "The Christian Home."

POEM: "Home." (By Edgar A. Guest.)

TALK: "Some Attractions and Disattractions."

CLOSING HYMN.

BENEDICTION.

Note to Leaders

There should be no need for an apology for a program discussing the Christian home. Many of the members of the Senior Missionary Volunteer Society may not be in charge of a home of their own. But practically all of them are in their parental homes. It is none too early to begin to formulate home ideals even in the minds of those who are the youngest members of the society. It is hoped that this program may aid in accomplishing this.

Ideals in the Christian Home

MUCH is said today of the decline of the home. The sad fact is that too much of what is said is true. A mere glance at the statistics of the divorce courts convinces one that in many cases the home was badly founded.

Yet even today and in times like ours, Christian homes are still in existence, and the blessings of life in such an atmosphere are still vouchsafed the sons and daughters of men. The painful situation in the world today can be a matter of mere observation rather than one of experience to him who is careful that he does his part in playing fair with the home. Let us consider some of the aspects of the Christian home.

First of all is the matter of ideals. Of all the gifts God gave to men, some of the most important are the ideals He placed around us for our benefit and pleasure. No home can long be a pleasant place if there are

not worth-while ideals on which it is founded.

The realization of ideals necessarily is a selective process. We must continually choose. We must constantly discard, select, and cherish. Some of the ideals to be cherished are courtesy, kindness, love, expressed appreciation. It helps quite materially for father and mother to say "please" and "thank you." The young daughter has done well. Tell her how nicely she has done. Don't take too much for granted. A dozen words of merited praise unnecessarily spoken are better than a word or two of deserved and expected approval which are left unsaid. The young son has been a gentleman under circumstances that make right decorum difficult. Tell him you are glad that he, at least, knew how to behave.

Ideals must constantly appear in the relationship of father and mother. These two must present a united front. Differences in the conducting of the home necessarily arise. One's way is not always the way of both. Then the ideal of silence could and should prevail. When father and mother are alone, the differences can be discussed and the affair adjusted. Especially when the children are young is it hard on the youthful mentality for father and mother audibly and emotionally to air their differences.

Politeness is a virtue that should be one of the ideals of the Christian home. It is aptly expressed in the old couplet:

"Politeness is to do and say
The kindest thing in the kindest way."

The members of the family should have a passing acquaintance with the best methods of etiquette as practiced in the location and at the time of usage. But no book of etiquette can possibly meet all the circumstances that arise in the conduct of the home. Here it is that the ideals of kindness, consideration, and forbearance prevail.

What is the program for tonight? Well, I expect to do this if you have nothing else you would rather have me do, is the response of the daughter. The plans of each member of the household are kept liquid until all the

plans of all the others are developed. Then each gives and takes until all have something of what they want. Mother wants to spend an evening visiting. The older children speak up and offer to stay with the younger children. This is an exemplification of consideration for others in the home.

Loyalty is an ideal greatly to be cherished. This is one of the desirable traits that can early be taught. The home presents a united front. Parents recognize the weaknesses of the children, but do not discuss them before outsiders. Children, as they grow older, are conscious of shortcomings of the parents, but do not mention them before playmates. Father still is a sort of hero. Mother, as always, is on the pedestal around which nothing evil can linger.

Responsibility is another ideal of the Christian home. The wise man said it is good for a man to bear the burden in youth. It is surprising how early children can be taught to help. And they like it. The young ones bring baskets, carry pails, carry eggs, with some trepidation, to be sure. They run errands of all types and are happy because they feel that they are doing something and are really a part of the concern.

The care of animals and pets is one of the best devices to teach responsibility. The work is divided, and each child has a clear understanding of what is to be done. It is a good plan that wherever possible the child be allowed to share in the profits of the care he has bestowed. Proceeds from the sale of calves, or hens, or other income, make Junior feel that he is a partner rather than a hireling if he pockets part of the proceeds. But in all this teaching of responsibility, father and mother must still strongly feel that it is their responsibility carefully to oversee what is done.

Friendliness and companionship are ideals of the home. The parents must take time and be willing to spend time in merely being friendly with the children. "A friend is one who knows all about you and loves you just the same." Circumstances arise in every child's life that place him in the need of counsel. Happy is the child who can go to one of his parents and find there the friendliness that makes the approach easy and the counsel easy to take. This friendliness should exist first of all between the parents. It

can well be expressed in times of solitude when father can state to one of the children the question as to whether the child really appreciates the fine character and the charming personality of mother. Father and mother must be friends, and then show themselves friendly with each of the children.

Family companionship means putting aside the book you are interested in and spending the time showing Junior the intricacies of one of the household games. It means putting off a much-needed day's work in the garden to enable the whole family to spend some time in a picnic atmosphere. It means a constant choosing and changing of plans to enable the older members of the household to appreciate the desires of the younger ones. Father puts himself in Junior's place in order that no one feels left out. Not only in scenes of pleasure does this spirit of companionship prevail, but it also should be present in scenes of work. No child likes to work alone. Much more is accomplished and with much more pleasure if mother assists in the household tasks and father aids in the outdoor work. Gardens are tended, wood is cut, and the chores are done if father and the boys all work together. In this work atmosphere, with its accompanying informality, an easy avenue of approach is afforded for the discussion and the eventual solution of many problems of life that may have little relationship to the work in hand. Here, too, is an opportunity for expressed appreciation. The parent can easily express his appreciation, not only of the work done by the children, but also of the pleasure of their companionship.

Ideals are practical. They can be carried out. They must be carried out if the Christian home is to be a place where fair play is seen and appreciated and eventually realized.

The Christian Home

(Quotations are from "Ministry of Healing.")

1. WHAT are some of the far-reaching effects of fair play in the home?

"The restoration and uplifting of humanity begins in the home. The work of parents underlies every other. . . . Out of the heart are 'the issues of life,' and the heart of the community, of the church, and of the nation, is the household."—Page 349.

2. What important aspects do loyalty and fair play have in the Christian home?

"Around every family there is a sacred circle that should be kept unbroken. Within this circle no other person has a right to come. Let not the husband or the wife permit another to share the confidences that belong solely to themselves."—Page 361.

3. On what basis is the Christian home founded?

"Let each give love rather than exact it. . . . The spirit that Christ manifests toward us is the spirit that husband and wife are to manifest toward each other."—Page 361.

4. What plan should be used in the arranging of the Christian home?

"Let the homemakers resolve to live on a wiser plan. Let it be your first aim to make a pleasant home. Be sure to provide the facilities that will lighten labor and promote health and comfort. Plan for the entertainment of the guests whom Christ has bidden us welcome. . . . Furnish your home with things plain and simple, things that will bear handling, that can be easily kept clean, and that can be replaced without great expense."—Pages 369, 370.

5. What important part can the father play in the Christian home?

"The father should enforce in his family the sterner virtues,—energy, integrity, honesty, patience, courage, diligence, and practical usefulness. And what he requires of his children he himself should practice, illustrating these virtues in his own manly bearing.

"But, fathers, do not discourage your children. Combine affection with authority, kindness and sympathy with firm restraint. Give some of your leisure hours to your children; become acquainted with them; associate with them in their work and in their sports, and win their confidence. Cultivate friendship with them, especially with your sons."—Page 391.

6. What part does the mother play in the Christian home?

"There is a God above, and the light and glory from His throne rests upon the faithful mother as she tries to educate her children to resist the influence of evil. No other work can equal hers in importance. She has not, like the artist, to paint a form of beauty upon canvas, nor, like the sculptor, to chisel it from marble. She has not, like the author, to embody a noble thought in words of power, nor, like the musician, to express a beautiful sentiment in melody. It is hers, with the help of God, to develop in a human soul the likeness of the divine."—Pages 377, 378.

7. What are the spiritual responsibilities of the Christian home?

"In the morning before he leaves home for his daily labor, let the father gather his children about him, and, bowing before God, commit them to the care of the Father in heaven. When the cares of the day are past, let the family unite in offering grateful prayer and raising the song of praise, in acknowledgment of divine care during the day."—Pages 392, 393.

Some Attractions and Distractions of the Modern Home

Too often, I believe, we take the position that some of our modern inventions are inevitable causes of the home's decline. The radio, the motion picture, the lowering of social standards, the increased freedom of youth, all are frequently cited as insuperable obstacles. We seem to be told that all homes would be ideal were they placed back in the "former days."

However, we can find these inventions an aid as well as a detriment. The radio gives a good chance to choose. The better programs are the ones to be used. The family, the whole family, should be educated to choose wisely and with profit. The radio programs often offer interesting avenues for discussion. Problems of ethics and conduct can easily be brought forth from a worth-while program. The situations and characters often can be used as illustrations of good or bad conduct. The worth-while musical programs can be made the basis for excellent cultural progress. Those of us who live in the smaller places can, nevertheless, have the best orchestras and choruses by means of these programs. The news commentators enable us to be up to the minute on world happenings. We simply must choose.

The automobile can easily be used to teach carefulness, consideration, and high personal honor. The young people of the family should and could be shown and taught that driving the family car is a trust highly to be cherished and not lightly to be disregarded. The desires and plans of the whole family can well be used as a means of teaching consideration. The planning for the evening's use of the car can be arranged only after the plans of each member of the family are considered. The fact that the younger members of the household are entrusted with the car can be a means of their being brought to realize that this is a confidence shown in them that is worthy of their earnest consideration. Correct social usage should be expected and can be realized when mixed groups are riding.

The motion picture does not necessarily mean the motion-picture industry or the motion-picture theater. Even in our schools and churches we find profitable and interesting evenings spent seeing the best in motion pictures. The home can be a place to make fast the worth-while ideals expected and developed in the pictures shown outside the home. Here again, discussion often can be more potent than the more formal types of admonition. What father says in the free and easy atmosphere of a family conference generally counts for more than a firm preaching tone in a formal way.

Social standards change. One generation gives youth freedom almost to license. The next generation insists that youth be sedate and restrained beyond their years. But God's standards

do not change. We must use the days in which we live as steppingstones to the higher plane on which God's approval rests. Back of all our desires for integrity and righteousness are correct principles. As the homes of Moses, Joseph, and Daniel inculcated right principles of true conduct in the lives of these men, just so Christian homes can be successful today in establishing high principles in the youth of today.



A Positive Program

(Program for February 11)

BY C. LESTER BOND

SONGS FOR TODAY: Nos. 64, 60, 51, 37, in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

OPENING EXERCISES.

TALK: "The Dos and Don'ts of Religion."

TALK: "God's Program Offers Pleasure."

TALK: "Christianity Intensely Practical."

CLOSING EXERCISES.

Note to Leaders

We would suggest that at the close of this program, a small card and pencil be given to each one present, so that he may signify which line of work he wishes to follow during the year—the Advanced Study and Service League or the Master Comrade Class work. Then collect these cards before the meeting is dismissed. Be sure to organize your study groups at once, so that interest does not have time to lag in any way. Purchase "Outline for the Advanced Study and Service League," price, 15 cents each, through your Book and Bible House, for each member of the class; or "The Master Comrade Manual," price 60 cents each, for each prospective Master Comrade. Both of these books contain information on how to conduct the classwork, the textbooks required, the work to be accomplished, etc. Check cards for both of these classes and a Master Comrade Chart may be obtained through your conference M.V. secretary or Book and Bible House. It would be best to write to your conference M.V. secretary in advance of this program, getting from him details of organization and whatever blanks he can send you, so that you will be ready to organize the interested group immediately.

The Dos and Don'ts of Religion

God's entire plan for the human family has been of the positive nature. He placed man here upon this earth and planned for him to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and find joy and everlasting life in loyalty to his Master. Had man always remembered the positive side of God's plan, there never would have been any negation in his experience. This is

well illustrated with the incident related in the second chapter of Genesis, verse sixteen. "The Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat." This was the positive side of the command. And it was only when man became dissatisfied with the positive program that the negative command was essential and must be applied.

Even after man disobeyed and failed to carry out God's purpose, and the death sentence was rendered, God had a positive program for his redemption and restitution. And so He said to the human family, "Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin." Eze. 18:30. And the same point is emphasized again in Isaiah 1:16-18.

In order to make this positive plan effective, God sent His own Son into the world to be its Saviour. And when Jesus came, He said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." He wants us not merely to live, but to live the abundant life, the life that brings true satisfaction and enjoyment to the heart and that proves a source of edification and blessing to others every day. Not only did God send Jesus to help His children find this abundant life, but He gave them His Book for the same purpose. (Read Deuteronomy 6:24.)

If we obey the command, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth," there will be no inclination in our lives to chafe under the restraint of the negative command, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, . . . thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them;" for we shall already be living out the instruction of the negative command. We shall feel the joy and satisfaction that comes into the life through doing, or in other words, following the instruction of the positive command.

When we enter upon the abundant life through repentance and a surrender of our hearts to the Lord Jesus, He still has a positive program for us, and we find Him saying, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. And to make this more explicit and specific, the apostle James defines true religion thus: "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows

in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

Actually, the only time that a negative command is ever necessary is when we lose sight of the positive,—when we fail to carry out the "dos" of religion. Sometimes young people complain that the church continually says "don't," but offers nothing of a positive nature. The young person who makes this comment loses sight of the fact that Christianity is a positive religion and a positive program.

God's Program Offers Pleasure

WHEN God created the world and beautified the work with His hand, He did not do it just to be filling space or occupying time, but He did it for the pleasure of doing something worth while. The apostle John said, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created." Rev. 4:11.

Man was created in the image of God. Not only is this true of his physical frame, but God implanted in the heart of man a desire for the things that God desired. This was a part of God's program. He intended that man should find true pleasure in living, and that he should really enjoy life every day. As far as God's plan is concerned, it has never been changed. (Read Romans 14:17-19.) According to the text, the kingdom of God is made up of righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Not only did Jesus come into the world to give men life, and that they might have it more abundantly, but He makes it clear that this abundant life is a life of genuine joy. "These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." The only individual in all the world who is genuinely happy is the true Christian, for nothing can bring into the life the measure of happiness that follows the surrendering of the heart to God, and the victory over sin. The psalmist recognized this when he was inspired to write, "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." And the patriarch Job left on record the word, "If they obey and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures."

Following the positive program that God has outlined for the children of men always brings joy and pleasure into the life, so that the one who is a true Christian may safely follow the admonition of the wise man, who said, "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment." The young man or woman who is a true Christian and who finds pleasure in serving Christ, can with confidence follow this admonition, and have no fear of the judgment, because God's ways are made his ways, and his will is swallowed up entirely in God's will. What a privilege it is to be so closely allied with God and His forces of righteousness that one may find his highest delight and pleasure in being good and doing good.

Christianity Intensely Practical

CHRISTIANITY is always intensely practical, adapting itself to the actual experiences of everyday life. The church that fails to recognize this will fail to accomplish what it should for the advancement of God's work and the development of the members within the church, especially its youth. Recognizing this fact, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has provided a positive program for young people which touches all of the actual experiences of life—the physical, mental, social, and spiritual—and endeavors through this means to help its young people to find true enjoyment and service in Christian living.

This program, known as the Progressive Class work, is divided into two fields of activity. One is the Advanced Study and Service League, which has to do with the training of lay Bible workers and evangelists. The other is the Master Comrade work, which has to do with the training of leadership for youth, especially for the Juniors. In recognition of the fact that the fourfold development referred to above is essential in either of these fields, requirements embodying them have been incorporated in both classes.

The Advanced Study and Service League is divided into four units of work, with certain study and demonstration requirements in each of these units. If it is entered into heartily,

the average young person, in connection with his regular work, would be able to complete the requirements of this class within a year's time. However, there is no time limit connected with it, and one can work on the requirements in his leisure, find great profit in it, and be better qualified to conduct cottage meetings, engage in other types of personal endeavor (including colporteur work), and ultimately hold meetings for the public in schoolhouses or halls that might be obtained. The General Conference is looking forward to the time when thousands of young people thus qualified will unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers, and thus do a mighty work in helping to finish carrying the gospel message to all the world in this generation.

The Master Comrade work has to do especially with the training of leaders for our Juniors. One of the greatest needs in the average church today is that of qualified leadership for the Junior boys and girls. Juniors cannot be reached by continual preaching. To save them we must meet them on their own ground and help them to find through their natural tastes and inclinations a fellowship with Christ and a realization of the fact that He is counting on each one of them to enlist in service for Him. Therefore, practically all that is contained in the preliminary outline for Juniors has been embodied in the Master Comrade work. In order to do successful work, a Junior superintendent or Senior young person who would save the Juniors must be familiar with and have a knowledge of these things. So we ask the Master Comrade to become acquainted with the things of nature about him, to qualify in practical nursing, to become proficient as a storyteller, to study adolescent psychology, and above all else to become genuinely acquainted with God through prayer and Bible study. All these activities will be found intensely interesting and profitable by all who qualify in them, besides being the means of serving and helping others.

In addition to these features named, fifty-one Vocational Honor subjects are provided, among which are seven in the recreational field. With the twelve nature subjects which are available and these recreational pursuits, it is believed that any young person may

thoroughly satisfy his recreational need and find the greatest of pleasure through these associations.

Let us as young people appreciate more than ever before the fact that God has a positive program for His people on earth, and also that the church is doing its utmost through the medium of these Progressive Classes to help each one of us appreciate the truth that Christianity is always intensely practical. May we covenant together to use the training thus afforded in a way that will be a blessing to our fellow youth and help give the final message to all the earth.

Habits, Their Value and Their Danger

(Program for February 18)

BY E. W. DUNBAR

OPENING SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 67.

PRAYER: That God will help us to form right habits in our youth.

OFFERING.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

INTRODUCTION.

BIBLE STUDY: "Habits, Good or Bad."

TALK: "Importance of Right Habits."

TALK: "A Self-Wrought Chain," p. 28.

EXPERIENCE: "Snared Into Sinful Habits." (See p. 27.)

TALK: "Valuable or Dangerous?"

TALK: "It's Up to Youth."

POEM: "Help Yourself to Health."

CLOSING SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 628.

Notes to Leaders

By the schedule given in the December GAZETTE, you will note that this program is the first of a series of programs throughout 1939 on health and temperance.

Habits which lead to intemperance and ill-health are extremely dangerous, and the opposite are valuable in proportion. Urge your young people seriously to cultivate the valuable habits.

Introduction

It is no small matter, this formation and evaluation of habits. Nearly everybody feels instinctively that it is right to do right, and wrong to do wrong. The difficulty comes when we make discoveries that certain habits and tendencies in our life are decidedly wrong and that we are quite definitely subject to these habits. The knowledge of what is right and what is wrong is not inborn,—it must be learned.

A darkened mind (and, sadly—many are dark) can never be trusted to say or be certain that a thing is right or wrong. The mind must be made sensitive to right and wrong by a knowledge of God and His ways. Only as we obey God willingly and

gladly is the soul's vision made clear.

Often we hear the expression: "I can't help it. I was made that way!" We cannot help the uniqueness of our native endowment or natural characteristics which come through our heredity, but we can help the 'character' we develop. We can find the best standards; we can follow Jesus in doing right as distinguished from wrong. We cannot choose our heredity, but we can refine the talents and powers which God has given us.

Habit, with its power and force may be made to serve us in our striving for character.

Habits, Good or Bad

JOHN 4:34. Jesus' habits.

Psalms 16:8. David's habits—his strength.

Psalms 119:29, 30; Ephesians 4:25. The habit of dishonesty.

Psalms 19:14. The habit of good words.

Exodus 5:9 (last part). Hate the bad-language habit.

Romans 12:21. Overcome evil with good.

Philippians 4:8. The importance of right mental habits.

Importance of Right Habits

YOUNG people who will put up a fight against evil habits are training their character for real Christian service. Those young people who will not fight for the right, but bow down to evil habits, are weaving a life web of poor materials, which will someday be torn asunder.

(Read "Messages," page 212, "The Web of Destiny.")

"The old palimpsests were material from which the first writings had been erased in order that fresh writing might be inscribed thereon. But none was ever so thoroughly erased that some of the old characters did not show up in the lapse of time, or under certain treatments or conditions. So it is with human souls. What is first written on them by habit and will, may be wiped out and replaced by better things. But the boys and girls who allow their earliest years to contain evil and forbidden words and records must expect a hard fight to erase them, and an appearance of the old evil now and then when least expected. How much better to keep a clean page that needs no rewriting."

It was Judas' habit to be dishonest with the Lord's money. He wanted to be honest, but never made the definite choice on the side of right and honesty. His own evil habit finally drove him to self-murder.

A young man, leaving his home for his first year in the university, promised his Christian mother, who was very anxious that her son's habits should always be clean, "No, mother, I will never form the tobacco habit." When next he saw his mother, a few months later, he was smoking an

occasional cigarette. He assured her, "Never fear, mother; when I find myself getting to the place where I cannot get along without cigarettes, then I will quit." What a foolish thing to say! He has long since passed the place where he cannot get along without tobacco, and probably nevermore will he be able to write with a steady, unshaking hand.

"The habits you form in youth, my lad, will grow with your growth till, at last,

Whether good or ill, they will form a chain

That will bind and hold you fast.

"For habits are but a growth, my lad, A little bit, day by day;

A thought, a word, a deed, and, lo,

A habit has come to stay."

"A story is told of a scholar who had a carpenter living on one side of him and a blacksmith on the other side. The scholar complained that the noise these neighbors made disturbed his thoughts, and he paid them both to move. They moved.

"The next day the scholar was annoyed by the same sounds. He discovered that the two had exchanged places, the carpenter occupying the blacksmith shop and the blacksmith the carpenter shop. The scholar had been concerned about those who moved out, but he had not taken the trouble to see who was moving in.

"Often our attempts to change our habits are like this man's attempt to get rid of the neighbors who disturbed him. Cultivating good habits assures freedom from bad habits. Filling the mind with beautiful thoughts crowds out the impure thoughts."

Let us begin *this week* to form good habits: good reading, no movie theaters, good language, honesty, temperance in eating or drinking and working. Have your habits fighting for you, not against you. And remember that the chains of habit are too weak to be felt till they are too strong to be broken. A habit, good or bad, is like a stone that a child might roll from a mountaintop, but that a giant could not stop.



Help Yourself to Health

THERE'S many a man in our land who thinks he's wondrous wise,
He spends his health in gaining wealth
until he nearly dies;
And when he sees his health is gone,
with all his might and main,
He spends his health regaining health
and starts all o'er again.

We're glad to know of other folk,—we call them truly wise,
They plan their lives to save their health;
it's precious in their eyes.
They aim to eat and drink and dress,
and work and exercise
In harmony with nature's laws,—ill-health to minimize.

Poor foolish folk who squander life and health and worth-while things,
What use to us is wealth or fame when health has taken wings?
So let us help ourselves to health, with all our might and main,
And by the way we eat and drink, a wiser way proclaim.

—Martha W. Howe.

Valuable or Dangerous?

Your Health Habits

SELDOM does one actually "lose one's health." It is usually thrown away. By this we mean that when health slips away before one is aware of it, the loss is often to be charged to neglect or lack of personal health consideration. Nature often allows one to go on for a long time, wasting health and dissipating one's health assets. She gives warning signs of impending disaster, but these are often disregarded or misinterpreted.

If you own a business, you keep books, and every so often you ask for an accounting. The modern system of bookkeeping makes it rather hard to get away with accounts that do not balance. And when a loss or a leak is found in time, it can usually be stopped. Well, do you keep books on your health? Is something undermining your health account, or are you throwing your health fortune away?

You hear the boasting fellow who says boldly, "Nothing makes me sick." Yes, sir, he's the boy who adds the life to night life, and says he is as clear as a bell at 8 A.M., ready for work. He's the fellow who can gorge so at the table as to make an ostrich look sick watching him eat.

He's the one who says, "The doctors don't know anything. Look at me, boys; I am full of pep, and I pay no attention to fool rules."

This little boaster is usually young, or one on whom kind Mother Nature is indulgently smiling—temporarily. She hopes he'll learn better later, and when a little wiser, will tone down a bit and live a sane, peaceful life. But if he persists in his ways, she will lose patience, and exact payment as the price of folly.

Nearly every one starts out in life with a great treasure of health. We carry it with us all the time. Some toss it out rather prodigally at first, but common sense counsels that we conserve it as we get on in years. As age increases, the health reserves should be saved as much as possible, and even added to, instead of being spent with lavish thoughtlessness. One should live regularly, eat, sleep, work, and play regularly. One should exercise, get plenty of fresh air and sunshine, and take a long vacation every year in the out-of-doors.

It is reasonable to presume that health is like every other commodity,—the more you spend, the less you have, unless you have an effective way of adding to your store, or renewing it when necessary.

If you are careless with your health assets in earlier years, you will be short when you need them most.

There will come a time when your body is undergoing stress, when a little extra health savings account will come in very handy. It's justifiable to be miserly in having health, so that old age may be provided for,—an old age with sound teeth, good wind, red cheeks, bright eyes, and a hearty laugh.

Old age is generally dreaded, because it is often the end of a poorly managed business. Life, in such instances, started out with a great spending of a seemingly inexhaustible fortune. It ends in a sharp shortage when resources are most needed.

Just because your body seems to stand all sorts of abuse and your health does not go bankrupt all at once, it does not follow that you will not sooner or later have to pay your creditor, Mother Nature.

There is only one real asset in this world, and that is your health. You can't lose it if you are careful. Take care of it, check up now and then. You have everything in your favor. You have only to eat right, sleep sufficiently, work enough, and play well, and you need not worry about high blood pressure, heart disease, pneumonia, tuberculosis, diabetes, or any other of those ills so common to humanity.

Don't throw away your health fortune. It is valuable; it is the key to all success and happiness. Nothing else is worth while without it. Save it, protect it, renew it, and use it when needed, but don't waste it.—*Herman N. Bundsen, M.D.*

It's Up to Youth

ALL the windows are open in the house of youth. Air blows in from every quarter of the horizon. The freedom and privileges of youth are wide and beautiful, and the pathways diverging out to the far future are very alluring. The dashing spirit of adventure will determine not a few of the choices made by youth. Of all the periods of the life cycle, youth

is precisely the one which cannot afford to be thoughtless, just because it is the period of decision. Whether decisions are made casually, with all available facts before the mind, or reached by impulse, they are decisions, and they make or mar the career.

The highway of gaiety and indulgence at times looks as though it were built and paved for youthful feet. Certainly they throng it. In this meeting we are endeavoring to set up a stop light in the midst of it. We seek to arrest the attention and direct it upon the undisputed fact of the dangers of habit forming.

We agree that right physical habits promote mental superiority. We also know that intellectual power, physical stamina, and length of life depend upon immutable laws. We go so far as to believe that nature's God will not interfere to preserve man from the consequences of violating nature's requirements. Seventh-day Adventist young people who are striving for the mastery of themselves must be temperate in all things. Think for a moment of the Hebrew captives in Babylon. They were men of similar appetites and desires to ours. Placed right in the midst of the seductive influences of the luxurious courts of Babylon, they stood firm. Surely, we today are surrounded with every allurement to self-indulgence. Especially in our large cities every form of indulgence is made easy and inviting. Young people in particular, unsupported by personal observation and indisposed to give a thorough study to a thing, are exposed to skillful propaganda to entice them into such habits as the tobacco and beverage-alcohol habits. Sometimes we interpret conflicting voices as giving us license to indulge the impulse of the moment.

We must remember that God is depending upon His youth. Destiny goes with them. As they go, the church goes. As they go, the country goes. By following the example of the Hebrew captives, of not defiling themselves, the youth will reap the pleasant reward of temperate habits. With their greater physical stamina and increased power of endurance, they will have a bank deposit upon which to draw in case of emergency. There is much real sterling truth in the adage, "Every man

is the architect of his own fortune."

While it is true that the home is, to a large extent, responsible for the stamp of character as well as for the education and training of its sons and daughters, it is still true that their position and usefulness in the world depend to a great degree upon their own course of action. It is true that Daniel and his companions were men of high training and education in early life. Would these advantages alone have made them all that they were? The time came when they were called upon to act for themselves,—when their future depended upon their own course. It was then that they decided to be true to the lessons which they had learned in early childhood. The fear of God, which is the beginning of wisdom, was the foundation of their greatness. The record of the faithfulness of these men has been recorded in the Inspired Word for our blessing today. It is this faithfulness to the principles of temperance which speaks to young men and young women today, bidding them to gather up the precious rays of light that have been given to them on this subject, and to place themselves in the right relation to the laws of health.

The only living ex-President of the United States, Mr. Herbert Hoover, said: "We in America are far behind what a national conscience should demand for the public protection of our children. There is no agency in the world that is so seriously affecting the health, efficiency, education, and character of boys and girls as the cigarette habit; yet very little attention is being paid to it. Nearly every delinquent boy is a cigarette smoker, which certainly has much to do with his being delinquent. Cigarettes are a source of crime. To neglect crime at its source is a shortsighted policy, unworthy of a nation of our intelligence."

A noted sports writer said: "For eighteen years I have been covering all forms of sports for newspapers. Smoking by the young brings a double burden to carry—a burden both physical and mental. Those who do not smoke, but keep in clean training have far more energy, much greater stamina, and much better control of their nerves. Under twenty-five years of age they are developing mentally and physically, and if this develop-

ment is hampered by smoking, the loss can hardly be made up later on. Intemperance has little chance in red-blooded competition against temperance."

May the Lord guide us in perfecting pure and unspoiled characters and sound physical health.

A Health Creed

The Body Is the Temple of the Soul; Therefore—

I WILL keep my body clean within and without.
I will breathe pure air, and I will live in the sunlight.
I will do no act that might endanger the health of others.
I will try to learn and practice the rules for healthful living.
I will work and rest and play at the right time and in the right way, so that my mind will be strong and my body healthy, and so that I will lead a useful life and be an honor to my Maker, my parents, my friends, and my country.

—Missionary Leader.



The Law of Liberty

(Program for February 25)

BY C. T. EVERSON

OPENING SONG: "Give Me the Bible."
(Songs today are listed in "Missionary Volunteer Songs.")

SCRIPTURE: Ex. 20:1-17.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

BAND REPORTS.

DUET: "Living for Jesus."

TALK: "The Law of Liberty."

TALK: "Those Who Keep God's Law."

TALK: "In Christ."

CLOSING SONG: "True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted."

BENEDICTION.

Note to Leaders

In this second program in the series on the Bible, we are endeavoring to make clear the divine origin and purpose of the law of liberty as evinced in the statements and lives of the best thinkers through the ages.

The Law of Liberty

SOME years before Abraham Lincoln went to Washington as President of the United States, he addressed a company of young people in a church in Springfield, Illinois.

He had made a special study of the leading religions of the world, especially with the thought in mind of ascertaining what was the foundation stone upon which each was built. He presented to this group of young people what he found to be the outstanding law of each religion, summing up the results of his study by giving his conclusion about the Christian religion and its fundamental law.

In his comprehensive and logical analysis of matters, he gives us this truly remarkable statement about the

ten commandments, the law of the Christian religion. He said: "It seems to me that nothing short of infinite wisdom could by any possibility have devised and given to man this excellent and perfect moral code. It is suited to men in all conditions of life, and includes all the duties they owe to their Creator, to themselves, and to their fellow men."

Abraham Lincoln is recognized as one of the clearest thinkers that the world has produced; and the above quotation is characteristic of some of his best thinking.

I heard former Senator James Reed of Missouri say that "the ten commandments contain within them all there is of morals and civil government."

William J. Bryan stated the same truth in the following striking language: "Sinai is inseparably connected with the ten commandments given by the Almighty for the instruction of the children of Israel, but now the foundation of law for the civilized world. Like the Lord's prayer, the commandments give us a wonderful illustration of the power of condensation. A few words cover all of the important relations of life."

Mr. Bryan said that Sinai is inseparably connected with the ten commandments. Some one has said that Sinai was the highest and greatest pulpit in all history, for from it God proclaimed the ten commandments. The giving of the ten commandments from the top of Mt. Sinai is one of the outstanding events of all time.

Moses in the fourth chapter of Deuteronomy called attention to the nature of the event. (Read verses 12, 13.)

In Exodus Moses further emphasized the importance of the occasion. (Read Exodus 32:16; 31:18.)

How tremendous was this occasion on which the law was given can be seen by reading Deuteronomy 4: 32, 33. (Read.) Or, as Moffatt translated it: "Ask the days of old, ere ever you were born, ask if anything as great has ever happened or been heard of, from one end of the world to another, ever since the day that God made man upon earth."

An event of such outstanding importance, eclipsing anything that had ever happened upon earth, surely ought to impress us with the great value attached to the ten commandments by Heaven. It is the only writing of which we have any record that God Himself ever executed personally for the benefit of mankind.

Robert Dollar, the founder of the great Dollar Line of steamships found on every sea, said, shortly before he died not long ago at the ripe old age of over eighty-eight years: "Work keeps a man in good health, and when a man has good health he keeps at work. That's perpetual motion, isn't it? My rule for long life is moderation in all things. I eat

less in one day now than I did in early life at one meal. Clean habits, clean thoughts, plenty of exercise, fresh air and sunshine and plenty of work, and last but most important, fear God and keep His commandments." These are the things that made Robert Dollar great. If you are aspiring to become exceptionally useful in this world, do not forget the most important of all of Captain Dollar's recommendations: "Fear God and keep His commandments."

This recommendation that Captain Dollar held as the most important of all he made for gaining success, is taken from the writings of the wise man of the Bible, Solomon. To Solomon the Lord said, "Lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee." 1 Kings 3:12. Solomon outdistanced every other man along the road of wisdom. He climbed to the pinnacle of architectural greatness. The temple of Solomon transcended all earthly structures for grandeur. His riches were so great that he made silver as plentiful in Jerusalem "as stones." 2 Chron. 9:27. His throne was of ivory overlaid with gold. Twelve massive lions studded with precious stones graced the steps leading up to it. The most dainty and appetizing foods gathered from far and near covered his table. He had everything that man's heart could possibly crave.

But when he summed up the results of his long life's experience, he did not place any of his achievements as the outstanding thing to be desired. He summed it all up in those inspired words from which Captain Dollar quoted: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Eccl. 12:13. In the estimation of the wisest man of the ages, Solomon, there is nothing that equals fearing God and keeping His commandments for real peace and contentment in this world, and a passport to the world to come.

When we see what a mighty appeal the law of God made to the wisest of men, we are again reminded of the words of Lincoln: "Nothing short of infinite wisdom could by any possibility have devised and given to man this excellent and perfect moral code."

And the apostle Paul, perhaps the greatest Christian the world has ever known except Christ Himself, put the law in the same exalted place in which Solomon placed it, and in almost the same language. In 1 Corinthians 7:19 we read: "Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God." To make the meaning of the text more apparent, let us read Goodspeed's translation of this verse: "Being circum-

cised or being uncircumcised does not make any difference; all that matters is keeping God's commands." Or as Weymouth puts it, "Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing: obedience to God's commandments is everything."

Solomon said that the conclusion of the whole matter of life is to keep the commandments of God. And Paul says what amounts to the same thing: "Obedience to God's commandments is everything." Between, as it were, these two outstanding characters of the Bible, Solomon of the Old Testament, and Paul of the New, stands Jesus Christ Himself, upholding God's law in the strongest possible language. Matthew 5:18: "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Putting the verse in more modern language, we read it as translated by Goodspeed: "For I tell you, as long as heaven and earth endure, not one dotting of an 'i' or crossing of a 't' will be dropped from the law until it is all observed." As we read the law and ponder over the statement of Christ, we can see how firmly established is the law of God. Not even the dot over an "i" can ever be lost, or the crossing of a "t" ever be removed. It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dotting over an "i" to be lost from the law of God.

Those Who Keep God's Law

BUT the most encouraging part of Christ's statement in Matthew 5:18 is that regarding the reward that comes to the one who keeps God's law.

(Read Matthew 5:19.) The person that will keep God's commandments and teach others to do the same, shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. Or, as Goodspeed translates it: "Any one who observes them and teaches others to do so will be ranked high in the kingdom of heaven."

There is never any question in all the Bible about the value of keeping God's law as a means of basking in the favor of the Most High. Nor does there ever arise anywhere in Holy Writ any question about whether the law should be kept. The law given by God Himself directly to man cannot be put into question. It was not given like other Scripture through the prophets and human instrumentalities, but God spoke directly to men with His own voice, and wrote the law personally with His own finger, making it the most direct instruction that God could possibly give. So the question about the law never hinged on whether God intended man to keep the law, but only on *how* man could keep such a God-inspired law.

Paul expressed man's feeling about the law quite fully when he wrote, in Romans 7:14, "We know that the

law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin."

The trouble is never with the law, but the trouble is always with man. As Paul said in the eighteenth verse, "To will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not." Even when man sees no way out of his helpless condition, he still will admit, "If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good." No matter how low man may fall, he still consents in his own mind to the Bible teaching that the man who follows the ten commandments has found "the better part" in life.

Clear through the Bible up to the last page, the keeping of the commandments is recognized as the whole duty of man.

On the very last page of the Holy Book, we read: "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Rev. 22:14.

In Christ

BUT the Bible does not place before us the law of God and the need of keeping it, and then allow us to sink into despair as we see how helpless we are to follow its exalted teaching. No one has so fully described man's struggle in trying to keep the law and recorded his failures so faithfully as has the apostle Paul. He also has in a beautiful and clear manner pointed out the remedy. He paints a picture of man that all admit is true. If they do not admit it openly, at least they admit it to themselves. "That which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I." Rom. 7:15.

Then he describes the desperation that sweeps over man struggling to do what he knows is right. "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" He sees that man is hopelessly lost if some change is not forthcoming. What is the change that he sees is absolutely necessary? Is it a change that will drive the law out of the program? No, it is not with the law that he can find fault, for "the law is spiritual." It is not the spiritual things that he wants to eliminate from his life, for "to be spiritually-minded is life and peace." Rom. 8:6. But it is sin that needs to be eradicated from the life. "Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." Rom. 7:20. There is no one who can cope successfully with sin but Jesus Christ. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus."

Paul there struck a triumphant note, "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin." Freedom from the power of sin is just what Paul has been longing for, and he finds it in Christ. It is not freedom from

keeping the law of God, but freedom from sin which is the breaking of God's law that Paul has found in Christ Jesus.

In Romans 8:3 Paul admitted that the law was helpless to aid him in his struggles. The law is weak through the flesh. It is not the law that is weak, but the flesh.

Let us take an example. Here is a beautiful, new, sharp ax, and it is especially bought to chop down a tree back of the house. The ax is put into the hands of a baby two years old, and he is asked to chop down the tree. But no progress is made in felling the tree. The trouble is not with the ax, for it is a bright, new ax, but the ax is weak through the flesh, for the baby cannot wield it. Put the ax into the hands of a brawny wood chopper, and the tree is soon felled. So the law is weak through the flesh. The law is the same perfect law that it always has been since God made it, but man's flesh is weak. So the law is weak through the flesh.

But while the law is handicapped through the weakness of man, God has sent man help in the person of His Son. Jesus has the power to condemn not the law, but "sin in the flesh." And by condemning sin in the flesh He furnishes us with the power "that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Rom. 8:3, 4.

When man no longer walks after the flesh, but after the Spirit, the righteousness of the law is fulfilled in him by Jesus Christ Himself living His life within him. As Paul stated in Galatians 2:20, "Christ liveth in me," and when Christ liveth in us "the requirement of the law might be fully met in our case." Rom. 8:4, Goodspeed.

Some years ago there was standing in a coal office on West Madison Street, Chicago, a man looking at a bundle of five hundred dollars in bills, lying on the counter. The man who owned the money was telephoning in a booth, and had forgotten to take care of the money. When he came out and saw the stranger, and the money on the counter, he turned pale, but was thankful that this was an honest man in the office looking at the roll of bills. He little knew that this man had been one of the greatest robbers this country has ever known. He had been in prison in almost every State in the Union. He had spent the best part of forty years serving time. He stole in prison as well as out. While he was in prison, on one occasion a farmer sold sixty-two chickens to the warden of the prison for Thanksgiving. When the warden counted them, he found there were only sixty. The farmer contended there were sixty-two, for both he and his wife had counted them twice. This prisoner, while the farmer was delivering the chickens,

slyly pushed two of them under a bushel basket right under the eye of both the warden and the farmer, and had them for dinner the next day. He had stolen so much that he could not find a city in which to remain overnight. As soon as the police heard he was in town, they hurried him out. The police hunted him down so fiercely that he did not know where to go. He became so worried and worn out that he slipped into the Pacific Garden Mission for a short breathing spell from the officers. While there he heard men who had once led criminal lives give their testimony of how wonderfully Christ had saved them. He became impressed, and when the call was made, he went forward and gave his heart to Christ. He was converted in a mission that was only two blocks from where he had cracked a safe and stolen \$20,000.

As soon as he gave his heart to Christ, he went to work at a very humble job as a janitor in a downtown building in Chicago. Before he was converted, he would not work, even in prison, if he could possibly avoid it. But when Christ came into his life, he was willing to do the hardest kind of work as long as it was honest. It was while working as a janitor for a large office building that he came into the coal office and saw the roll of bills lying on the counter, and the man that owned the money away telephoning. But Christ was so fully enthroned in his life that the hand that could not resist stealing before his conversion was now absolutely in the control of the Master of all things.

If Christ can take a man who has for many years been breaking the eighth commandment, and control his life so that this commandment is fully lived out in his life, He can live out all the ten commandments in the life of the person who is willing to invite Him in to take complete charge of his life.

So in Christ the law of the ten commandments is not a yoke of bondage, but it is the law of liberty (James 2:12), for it sets us free from the law of sin and death.

Ten Minutes With Your Bible

Keep the Commandments

Question.—On what is eternal life conditioned?

Answer.—"If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." Matt. 19:17.

Ques.—How many commandments should we keep?

Ans.—"Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all Thy commandments." Ps. 119:6.

Ques.—How long will the law endure?

Ans.—"Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in nowise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." Matt. 5:18.

Ques.—Of how much is he guilty who breaks but one commandment?

Ans.—"For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." James 2:10.

Ques.—Who are called "blessed"?

Ans.—"Blessed are they that do His commandments." Rev. 22:14.

—Canadian Watchman.



Junior Meetings

Playing Fair With Our Family

(Program for February 4)

BY LEO THIEL

OPENING SONG: "No. 233 in 'Christ in Song.'"

PRAYER.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SYMPOSIUM: "Children and the Home."

POEM: "Mother, Home, Heaven."

TALK: "Ideals in the Christian Home,"

(see p. 16).

TALK: "The Home a Partnership."

CLOSING EXERCISES.

Mother, Home, Heaven

THREE words fall sweetly on my soul
As music from an angel's lyre,
That bid my spirit spurn control
And upward to its source aspire;
The sweetest sounds to mortals given
Are heard in mother, home, and heaven.

Dear mother! ne'er shall I forget
Thy brow, thine eye, thy pleasant smile
Though in the sea of death hath set
Thy star of life, my guide awhile,
Oh, never shall thy form depart
From the bright pictures in my heart.

And like a bird that from the flowers,
Wing-weary seeks her wonted nest,
My spirit, e'en in manhood's hours,
Turns back in childhood's home to rest,
The cottage, garden, hill, and stream,
Still linger like a pleasant dream.

And while to one engulfing grave
By Time's swift tide we're driven,
How sweet the thought that every wave
But bears us nearer heaven!
There we shall meet, when time is o'er
In that blest home, to part no more.

—Brown.

Children and the Home

(Quotations are from "Ministry of Healing.")

1. WHAT part do children have in the home?

"Children as well as parents have important duties in the home. They should be taught that they are a part of the home firm."—Page 394.

2. How does God regard children and youth?

"The children and youth, with their fresh talent, energy, and courage, . . . are loved of God, and He desires to bring them into harmony with divine agencies."—Page 395.

3. Do children always appreciate the care their parents give them?

"Children are sometimes tempted to chafe under restraint; but in after-life they will bless their parents for the faithful care and strict watchfulness that guarded and guided them in their years of inexperience."—Page 394.

4. How should home and mother appeal to the children?

"The home should be to the children the most attractive place in the world, and the mother's presence should be its greatest attraction."—Page 388.

5. What depends on home influences?

"The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences."—Page 349.

6. How did Jesus spend His early years?

"The importance and the opportunities of the home life are illustrated in the life of Jesus. He . . . spent thirty years as a member of the household at Nazareth. . . . He lived as one of us, sharing the home life, submitting to its discipline, performing its duties, bearing its burdens."—Page 349.

The Home a Partnership

THE real home is a partnership. The parents are the older members of the firm. But none the less important are the junior, or younger, members of the organization.

In every well-regulated business there must be a clear understanding of what each one is to do. One man is in charge of the advertising. Another man is in charge of the buying. Some one else sees that the store or firm is always clean and well cared for. Some one else attends to the lighting and the heat.

But in this same business there are times when one man's ideas are not enough. There are meetings of all the members of the firm. Each man's ideas are presented and considered. Finally some decision is made that seems best to all present.

The home has many resemblances to the successful firm. Father and mother are the older members of the partnership. Their experience and wisdom count for a great deal. Their plans and advice should be carefully considered. The younger members are not unimportant simply because they are young. They, too, have a part to play.

The wise man suggests that it is good for children and youth to bear burdens. The younger partners of the family firm can early begin to show that they are partners. The boys can tend the chickens, feed the goats, and if somewhat older they can learn to milk the cow. The girls can help mother with the housework, wash dishes, sweep and dust, and be generally mother's little helpers.

Even our boys and girls who live on crowded city streets can prove themselves helpful. By being careful in crossing streets, by returning home when they are supposed to be at home, by caring for brother or sister, and by being always helpful and sweet, it is possible for boys and girls to show that they truly are members of the household firm. They can be partners with father and mother and also be fellow servants of the Master.

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Why I Want to Be a Companion

(Program for February 11)

BY BELLE F. MAYS

OPENING SONG: "Do Your Bit," No. 84 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

TALKS AND DEMONSTRATIONS. (See "Notes to Superintendents.")

CLOSING SONG: No. 24 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Superintendents

Place the following outline on the blackboard or on a large sheet of cardboard. As each part is given, a symbol of the part may be placed after it; for example, a bluebird sticker or picture after No. 1.

COMPANION RECORD

Name. (Fill in the name of the society.)

REQUIREMENTS

1. HAVE A VOCATIONAL HONOR.
Talk: "Bird Study."
2. MEMORY WORK.
Repeat the names of the books of the Bible, Matt. 5:1-12, and Rev. 14:6-12.
3. BIBLE YEAR.
Poem: "The Better Land."
4. HAVE A JUNIOR READING COURSE CERTIFICATE.
Talk: "The Little Wolf."
5. HAVE A CHRISTIAN HELP CERTIFICATE.
Talk: "A Good Turn."
6. FIRST AID.
Neckerchief Drill.
7. NATURE.
Talk: "God's Neon Signs."

Be sure to organize a Companion Class today, if you have friends ready for the work. Write your conference M. V. secretary for details and suggestions on organization.

Bird Study

A VOCATIONAL HONOR may be obtained in any one of a number of subjects. One of the most interesting studies, however, is that of birds. It is remarkable that every bird is designed by the Creator for the particular place in which it lives. If you will notice closely, you will see that birds that remain among the branches of the trees have white bars upon their wings. This gives the same ef-

fect in looking at the bird as seeing light through the branches of the tree, and makes the birds hard to locate. Sparrows are dull-colored, and some of them are streaked, like the grasses and the ground where they spend much of their time.

The number of existing species of birds in all probability is over ten thousand.

The bones of adult birds are not filled with marrow like the bones of animals, but are hollow and filled with air. Thus they are rendered very light, a bone of a goose being barely half the weight of a rabbit's bone of the same size after the marrow has been extracted. The bones in the wing are jointed in a way to give great strength together with lightness.

The eyes of a bird are very wonderful. It can start from away up in the sky, fly down faster than you ever thought of running, and alight on a swaying green bough without looking a bit excited. If you should run toward anything as fast as a bird flies toward it, you would not be able to see it distinctly at all. A bird's eye changes the focus much faster than does the eye of a human being. As the bird flies, it is constantly changing the focus of the eye, so that things are seen distinctly every minute as it comes nearer. That is why a gull or a kingfisher can drop into the water and catch a fish. A bird has a third eyelid, which is hung across the inner corner, and moves out sideways to cover the eye. This is very thin, and acts as a delicate, filmy curtain to the eye of the bird, especially when it wants to look at the sun. The lower lid of a bird does much more work than the lower lid of a person. Instead of standing still and letting the upper lid come down to meet it, it moves up over the eye. When a bird sleeps, its upper and lower lids are closed, but when it winks, it is the little side curtain which is drawn across the eye.

The ears of a bird are not on the outside of its head, but under the feathers in a little opening on each side, which leads down to an eardrum very much like the eardrum of a human being. However, birds hear much better than we do. A bird puts its ear to the ground and hears the earthworm wriggling in its hole.

Then, if it is patient, it will catch the worm.

Though they are small, birds eat a great deal. One day a man watched a little yellow palm warbler eating its dinner. The bird stayed around this man's house for four hours, and all the time it was eating at the rate of forty insects a minute. That is, it ate about nine thousand six hundred insects in those four hours. If it were not for the birds, insects would multiply so fast that the earth would be devastated.

The birds can teach us many things—how to be neat and clean; how to sing; how to live together joyfully and in peace; and how to build lovely homes.

The national bird of the United States is the bald eagle, which has a white head, neck, and tail. Its length is about forty inches, the stretch of wing about eight feet.

Bible Year

THE Junior Bible Year assignment is to read the Old Testament. The Bible teaches us the way to "The Better Land."

The Better Land

"I HEAR thee speak of a better land;
Thou callest its children a happy band;
Mother, oh, where is that radiant
shore?
Shall we not seek it, and weep no more?
Is it where the flower of the orange
blows,
And the fireflies glance through the
myrtle boughs?"
"Not there, not there, my child!"

"Is it where the feathery palm trees
rise,
And the date grows ripe under sunny
skies?
Or midst the green islands of glittering
seas,
Where fragrant forests perfume the
breeze,
And strange, bright birds on their
starry wings
Bear the rich hues of all glorious
things?"
"Not there, not there, my child."

"Is it far away in some region old,
Where the rivers wander o'er sands of
gold,
Where the burning rays of the ruby
shine,
And the diamond lights up the secret
mine,
And the pearl gleams forth from the
coral strand?
Is it there, dear mother,—that Better
Land?"
"Not there, not there, my child!"

"Eye hath not seen it, my gentle boy;
Ear hath not heard its deep songs of
joy;
Dreams cannot picture a world so fair:
Sorrow and death may not enter there;
Time does not breathe on its fadeless
bloom,
For beyond the clouds, and beyond the
tomb,
It is there, it is there, my child!"
—Felicia Hemans.

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"A MAN'S book company is an index to his soul."

The Little Wolf

THE Little Wolf is a coyote, and this is his life story from the time he is a cub until he has a family of his own. The coyote is a marauder—a sheep stealer—but he is also an interesting personality.

It was winter. Snow covered the ground. The little wolf had no heated home, and his body had to furnish all his warmth. That required food. Food was hard to find. He found the carcass of a dead sheep, from which he pawed the snow. He tugged and pulled off frozen shreds of hide and meat. After eating from one side of the sheep until the pickings were poor, he wheeled to the other side. Instantly the snow flipped up around one of his feet. A trap clinched his toes with a click. He sprang away, only to go sprawling on his side. Another trap snapped in the snow and closed its jaws on his shoulder. It clung to his fur until he wrenched away, leaving a tuft in its wicked grasp.

He bit at the iron trap on his foot, but his teeth were useless against it. The frosty iron plucked at his lips and peeled the skin from his tongue. Frantically he jumped and pulled and bit. He yelped at first, but his voice seemed to be telling his enemies where they could find him. He lay quietly a few moments. Pain surged in his foot. The loss of freedom frightened him even more than the pain. Freedom was as necessary as breath, freedom to fight or flee.

In agony he bit at his broken toes, which stuck out below the curved jaws of the trap. One toe dropped into the snow. When he had rested again he lunged once more with all his strength. The second toe tore off, and away he went to higher country. Fortunately for him, only two toes had been caught. Sharp pain ran up his leg, and again he remembered his mother's warning—how terrible was man.

Yet where could he find food, now that winter had come, except where man was? Man's farms covered the prairies where his ancestors once fed on the dead left by the game herds as they moved to and fro. What else could he do but catch the animals on the farms?

Little Wolf had an interesting life. If you would find out what happened to him, read the Junior Reading Course book.

A Good Turn

THE Christian Help Certificate that the Companion receives shows that he has done something to help some one every day. This "good turn" that he does for some one else is more than what courtesy and good manners require of him.

One Sabbath morning the pastor of the church stated that he had two thousand cards announcing his evening meeting, that he wished distributed that afternoon.

It was a hot day, just the kind of day on which Juniors might like to take a nature walk along a shady path beside a tumbling stream. But that afternoon there were two carloads of Juniors on hand, all with a mind to distribute those cards.

A baby blue jay had fallen out of its nest just outside the window. A Junior girl saw it. She also saw a cat sneaking around awaiting an opportunity to pounce upon it. It was getting late in the evening. She made a nest in a box for the wee bird, and settled it nice and cozy near enough the kitchen stove to keep it warm. In the morning, when she took it outside, there was the mother bird waiting for it. So she placed it on the grass and watched the mother bird give it a lesson in flying and also feed it some worms.

A Junior who receives the Christian Help Certificate shows a spirit of helpfulness in lifting the burdens of others in the home and in the community.

"BEAUTIFUL THINGS"

"BEAUTIFUL faces are they that wear
The light of a pleasant spirit there,
It matters little if dark or fair.

"Beautiful hands are they that do
The work of the noble, good, and true,
Busy for them the long day through.

"Beautiful feet are they that go
Swiftly to lighten another's woe
Through summer's heat or winter's snow.

"Beautiful children of rich or poor,
Who walk the pathway sweet and pure
That leads to the mansions strong and sure."

Neckerchief Drill

To be given by a leader and six girls, each wearing a neckerchief. They march onto the platform and form in groups of twos; and leader steps forward and recites:

"These are some of the many things we have studied in our First Aid class: First-aid treatment for cuts, stings, burns, and broken bones. Our neckerchiefs have a very practical value. (Here three of the girls remove the neckerchiefs from their partners, holding them out in front of them as a triangle.) Our group will demonstrate some of their many uses."

"First—sling for broken arm."
(The leader then faces the group of girls and counts 1, 2, 3, as three of the

girls demonstrate upon the other three, each making the same move, to count. As they finish, all face the audience for a moment. Then they remove the sling also to count. The girls who have demonstrated this part then hand the triangular neckerchiefs to their partners and they stand holding them in front of them waiting for the next command from the leader. For the third demonstration, the first set of three girls again does the work. For the fourth, the second set.)

"Second—Triangular bandage for the hand."

"Third—Triangular bandage for the head."

"Fourth—Bandage for injured jaw."
"Fifth—Wear over face as a smoke mask." (All six take part.)

"Sixth—Use as a life line." (The girls tie the ends of their neckerchiefs together to form a life line, the leader takes hold of the last neckerchief, and they march from the platform.)

God's Neon Signs

BRIGHTLY colored lights shot out from the northern horizon one January night. Many people in London thought half their city was aflame. They soon realized that they were watching the northern lights.

The aurora borealis was said to be more brilliant on that night of January 24, 1938, than it had been for three centuries. French farmers seeing the red and yellow lights said fearfully to one another, "It is war!" Portuguese peasants rushed from their homes, fearing the end of the world had come.

Observers in the United States declare the recent displays of northern lights to be the most brilliant since 1870.

On a clear winter night, the aurora borealis is a beautiful sight. At first a yellow or reddish glow may be seen along the northern horizon. It becomes brighter and brighter until great streamers begin to flash upward from the fiery arch. At times the sky is aflame for several hours with multi-colored lights. Suddenly the rosy clouds fade away, leaving the sky to the stars again.

Magnetic storms invariably accompany these displays. Scientists are able to produce in the laboratory, effects similar to the aurora by passing electric currents through rarefied gases or a partial vacuum. Neon signs, so popular today, were developed according to this principle.

So the aurora borealis may be called God's neon lights, blazing the power and majesty of heaven across the sky.

Many years ago, as he cared for his sheep, the psalmist David exclaimed: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork."

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Habits, Their Value and Their Danger

(Program for February 18)

BY E. W. DUNBAR

OPENING SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 67.

PRAYER: That God will help us to form right habits in our youth.

OFFERING.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

BIBLE STUDY: "Habits, Good or Bad." (See p. 20.)

TALK: "Importance of Right Habits." (See p. 20.)

TALK: "A Self-Wrought Chain."

STORY: "Ned's Grandfather."

EXPERIENCE: "Snared Into Sinful Habits."

TALK: "Some Habits Are Double Robbers."

POEM: "The Bad-Habit Family."

SYMPOSIUM OR READING: "Valuable Health Habits."

PLEDGE: "A Health Creed." (See p. 22.)

CLOSING SONG: "Christ in Song," No. 628.

Note to Superintendents

Please read the "Notes to Leaders," p. 19.

Ned's Grandfather

NED was watching grandpa put on his shoes.

"Why do you turn 'em over and shake 'em before you put 'em on?" he asked.

"Did I?" said grandpa.

"Why, yes, you did; but I didn't see anything come out. I have to shake the sand out of my shoes 'most every morning."

Grandpa laughed. "I didn't notice that I shook my shoes, Ned; but I got in the habit of shaking my shoes every time before putting them on when I was in India."

"Why did you do it there?"

"To shake out scorpions or centipedes or other vermin that might be hidden in them."

"But you don't need to do it here, for we don't have such things."

"I know; but I formed the habit, and now I do it without thinking."

"Habit is a queer thing, isn't it?" said Ned.

"It's a very strong thing," said grandpa. "Remember that, my boy. A habit is a chain that grows stronger every day, and it seems as if a bad habit grows strong faster than a good one. If you want to have good habits when you are old, form them while you are young."—G. B. F. Hallock.

Snared Into Sinful Habits

A WRITER recently told of once finding an Indian among the pines, kneeling on the snow and arranging a miniature lane of pine branches and twigs. After completing two little hedges, the Indian constructed a small arch in the middle and set up twigs on either side, leaving but a small opening in the center. The man who had been eagerly watching the work of the Indian was rather puzzled at this, and asked, "What is it you are making?"

"I am making a snare for rabbits," he replied.

"But where is the snare?" the man asked.

"Oh, I don't put the snare in for a couple of weeks yet," said the Indian.

"Then what is the use of your present arrangement?" the man demanded.

"Ha! ha! I first make the rabbits familiar with the environment," he said, laughing. "They will come tonight and be very suspicious and wary of this. Next night they will come a little closer, and so on, until they find there is no danger. Then they will begin to nibble at these twigs." And he touched the arch in the center. "Then, when they start eating the twigs, I shall put in my snare, arranging it cleverly in the middle of this little arch, and then I shall catch a rabbit every night."

"What a lesson," said the man. "It seemed to see the great enemy of souls laying his snares and sins for the unwary. Familiarity with the environment of sin, the presentation of the idea, the parleying with the tempter, little beginnings—nibblings at the temptation, finally the snare put in cunningly, and then the soul caught."

This is a graphic picture of the way in which the devil snares men's souls and leads them away into the bondage of sinful habits.—*Christian Observer*.

Some Habits Are Double Robbers

AMONG some of the bad habits which appeal to some younger boys and girls are habits of intemperance which include smoking, eating between meals, etc. As Junior Missionary Volunteers we should make up our minds that we will always be faithful to the first point of our pledge which is "By the grace of God I will be pure." In view of the fact that many boys who smoke quit school because they get behind in their studies, it is clear that tobacco seriously interferes with the educational plan of the country, thus robbing its victims of mind and money.

The director of the Indiana State Reformatory at Jeffersonville, Indiana, some years ago told to what depths of slavery a tobacco-soaked victim may be plunged. A young man of twenty-one years was sent to the institution. Soon

after his arrival he made a request for tobacco, which was denied him, as smoking was not permitted there. He said he had used tobacco in different forms since he was eight years of age. Then he made a request to be transferred to the State penitentiary, knowing that all inmates there were furnished tobacco. This request was also denied. The next move this young man made was to plan deliberately to be sent there, and he accomplished his purpose by murdering another boy. While passing from one building to another with the rest of the boys, he dropped out of the double line, stepped behind his marching partner, and plunged a shoe knife into his back, wounding the boy so that he died in twenty minutes.

An investigation showed that the murderer did not dislike the boy he had killed, and had no hard feelings against him; that he had no other motive for the crime than to be sent where he could have tobacco. Boys and girls, let us beware of anything that has such a terrible effect upon its addicts.

Sir Robert Baden-Powell, a great Boy Scout leader, has said: "I have known a great many young soldiers ruined in health by cigarette smoking, and they have had to be turned out of the army because they were not fit to face the enemy in active service."

General Pershing of the United States Army designated Captain Woodfill as the greatest hero in the American forces in France during the World War. This man did not use tobacco. Sergeant York, another great hero, the young man from the mountains of the Southland, is also a total abstainer from tobacco. It was not necessary for these brave men, and many thousands like them, to be bolstered up by cigarettes to make them brave in the face of danger.

Benjamin Franklin said: "I never saw a well man exercising common sense who could say that tobacco did him any good."

Another interesting fact that has come to light on the tobacco habit shows us the dangers to the lives of soldiers that have resulted from this habit. During the Great War, when the German submarines were proving a terror to the allies, some one learned that about every so often a submarine would come to the surface to permit smoking, as no smoking was allowed

inside the submarine. The allies took advantage of this in spotting submarines from airplanes and in bombing them. For instance, an officer in a naval air station on the English coast one morning stuck a pin in the middle of the North Sea map, and said, "They will be needing a smoke right about there. In three hours they will emerge, and the reason will be tobacco. Search this area and you will find a submarine." At about the place and time decided upon, a German submarine was discovered. The news was wirelessly to the allied destroyers and the submarine was rammed. There were only six survivors. How many Germans lost their lives in this way because of slavery to the tobacco habit, which drove them from safety beneath the water to danger on the surface, will probably never be known.

How thankful we should be that as Junior Missionary Volunteers we know the truth of the dangers of the cigarette habit!

A young bank employee wrote out some of his reasons for not smoking, as follows: "My body is too good for the cigarette. My work is too important to allow its interference. I know that cigarette smoking would hurt my basket-ball playing, my track work; yes, even my swimming. It would make me more liable to take diseases and increase my chances of dying in a fight for life should I become a victim of sudden accident or become compelled to undergo a serious operation."

A well-known athlete on the Pacific Coast was taken to a hospital for an operation. The surgeon who was to operate asked him if he used tobacco or liquor. When he answered that he never had used either, or coffee, or tea, the surgeon said, "You are as good as well, then. You will get along all right."

It is true, boys and girls, that a noble character does not come to us by accident. Character is formed by hard, stern battles with ourselves and by the grace of God. God gives the talents and the powers of mind. We form the character.

A Self-Wrought Chain

THERE is a story of a smith of the Middle Ages, who was taken prisoner and confined in a dungeon. Because of the knowledge his craft had taught him, he carefully examined the heavy links that bound him, expecting somewhere to find a flaw that would show a weak place which could soon

be made to yield. But presently he dropped his hands hopelessly. Certain marks told him that the chain was of his own making, and it had always been his boast that a chain of his workmanship could not be broken. There are truly no chains so hard to break as those of our own forging, but they are not hopeless. The worst possible habits will yield to human resolution and strength from above.

The Bad-Habit Family

How the Bad-Habit Family Got Into Kingdom Health!

ONCE on a time, there wandered to
The gate of Kingdom Health,
A sad, Bad-Habit family,
In search of fame and wealth.

The guard, advancing, barred the way,
And cried, "Be off with you!
We have no place in Kingdom Health
For such a sorry crew."

And all their pleadings were in vain.
"I shall not let you in
Until you mend your ways," he said.
"All right, sir, we'll begin!"

So Carrie Coffee and her friend,
Poor nervous Trudy Tea,
Drank only milk, and soon their cheeks
Were glowing rosy.

Young Willie Won't-Wash found it sport
To take a daily scrub.
He played he was a whale and had
The ocean in his tub.

And Tommy Toothache never failed
To brush his teeth at night
And morning, too, and so his smile
Became a pleasant sight.

And Sammy Slump held up his head
And straightened out his spine.
My! He was proud because the girls
All thought him strong and fine.

Tired Lily-Up-Late went to bed
At eight instead of ten.
And took a nap each afternoon.
She felt ambitious then.

Thin Tillie Tonsil and her twin,
Frail Addie Adenoid, spent
A short time in a hospital
And gained fifteen per cent.

Said Wilbur Wetfoot to the duck,
"You need not laugh at me
Because I keep my feet dry now;
It's best for boys, you see."

And Constance Candy ran away
From bad "Between-Meals-Sweets,"
For too much candy is not good
For boys and girls to eat.

Small Wallace Whiner changed his way
Of speaking, and the boys
Who never liked him much before
Now offered him their toys.

Then back they marched to Kingdom
Health.

The gate was open wide,
And this GOOD-HABIT family
Ran joyously inside.

—Hygeia.



Valuable Health Habits

1. VENTILATE every room you occupy, and let in as much sunlight as possible. Sun bake mattresses and covers thoroughly once a month.
2. Keep your feet clean, dry, and well shod.
3. If you are an indoor worker, be sure to get recreation outdoors.
4. Sleep in fresh air always—in the open if you can.
5. Hold a handkerchief before your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, and insist that others do likewise. Shake hands with others, provided your hands are clean.
6. Always wash your hands before eating.
7. Do not overeat.
8. Eat freely of fruit and of leafy and coarse vegetables.
9. Eat slowly; chew thoroughly.
10. Drink six to eight glasses of water daily.
11. Evacuate thoroughly, regularly.
12. Stand, sit, and walk erect.
13. Avoid contact with diseased persons.
14. Keep the teeth and gums clean.
15. Work, play, rest, and sleep in moderation.
16. Keep serene. Worry is the foe of health. Cultivate good companions.
17. Avoid self-drugging.
18. Have your doctor examine you carefully once a year. Also consult your dentist once or twice a year.

—Selected.

The Spade Confirms the Bible

(Program for February 25)

BY ALFRED W. PETERSON

OPENING SONG: "Jesus Is Coming Again," No. 100 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 13:19-22; Daniel 12:4.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERING.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

INTRODUCTORY TALK BY SUPERINTENDENT: "Rocks Which Unlocked History."

TALK: "Abraham's Homo in Ur."

TALK: "On an Assyrian Brick."

TALK: "The Hittites, a Forgotten People."

CLOSING SONG: "Faith of Our Fathers," No. 50 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

Rocks Which Unlocked History

OF ANCIENT EGYPT, BABYLON,
AND ASSYRIA

BEFORE the nineteenth century, no living man knew very much about the civilization of ancient Egypt, Babylon, or Assyria. In these countries, a high degree of civilization developed, but with the passing of the centuries all had been forgotten. No one could read the ancient writings on the monuments of these countries; so men could only surmise what the writings on the monuments said. About the beginning of the nineteenth century great scholars of the world began to doubt the historical accounts of the Bible regarding these ancient people, and said that

the Bible stories were mere legends and myths which were interesting because they were the folklore of the Hebrews, but that they could not be trusted as sources of history. It is interesting to remember in this connection that more than 600 years before Christ, God had shown the prophet Daniel that in the time of the end, about 1798, knowledge would be increased. The book of Daniel itself was to be sealed until this time. Twenty-three centuries passed, and the world came to "the time of the end" when the knowledge of the Bible was to be greatly increased. But about this time, when scholars began to attack the divine origin of the Bible and to discount its truthfulness, startling events began to take place.

In the year 1798, Napoleon Bonaparte of France set out on a campaign to conquer Egypt, and in 1799, while some of his officers were making an excavation for the foundation of a fort near the Rosetta arm of the Nile, they found a stone on which were inscribed three different kinds of writing. This stone was of granite, nearly four feet tall and about two and a half feet wide and almost a foot thick. One face of the stone was smooth and was divided into three parts, one above the other, and upon each part was writing. The writing on the lowest portion was in Greek, the language which the scholars of that day could read, but the writing on the other two portions was strange and had no meaning for them. The officer took the stone to General Menou, who took possession of it. When Napoleon was defeated and compelled to surrender to the English, this precious stone was surrendered to the English General Turner, and was eventually placed in the British Museum in London, where it may be seen today by those who visit that place. The most famous scholars in Europe began to study the inscriptions on this rock, and finally Doctor Thomas Young successfully translated the inscriptions and laid the foundation for the translation of many other inscriptions on the monuments in Egypt.

These ancient inscriptions cut in stone were the means by which ancient kings, proud of their achievements, left records of their deeds for succeeding generations to read. God had a hand in this, for these inscriptions in later centuries were to verify the historical record in God's word.

Later, another important discovery was made. In the year 1835 a British army officer, named Henry Rawlinson, was stationed on the western frontier of Persia near Behistun, which was situated at the foot of a precipitous peak some 17,000 feet high. The original name of this place was Bagistana, which means "place of the gods." On the face of this great cliff, about 500 feet up from its base, Darius I, king of Persia, had carved a great inscription in

three kinds of ancient writing. Mr. Rawlinson was much interested in these inscriptions, even though he could not read them, and decided to make a copy of them. The task involved much labor and great risk, for not only was the inscription some 500 feet above the base of the cliff, but below the cliff was a chasm about 350 feet deep. By means of ladders and ropes and other equipment, he succeeded in making a copy of the lettering on the great face of this cliff.

It took him four years to do the work. After he had made a copy, he spent eighteen years studying, and finally was able to make a translation of the strange characters which he had copied. Five of the panels cut into the rock were in the Persian language, with which Mr. Rawlinson was acquainted, and from this he was able to decipher the other panels which were in the Median and Babylonian languages. In his translation, he used the same plan which had made possible the reading of the Rosetta stone. This cliff with its inscription is now known as the Behistun rock. "The value of the Behistun findings did not consist in what was written upon the face of the cliff, but rather in the fact that the reading of the languages there found made available to scholars another great field of ancient literature," so that new the inscriptions upon the ancient monuments of the Persians and Assyrians could also be read.

So in the few years which followed the beginning of "the time of the end," a vast field of study lay open to students of antiquity, and archeologists went to work in earnest. Many books have been written by these men who have been digging in the ruins of ancient cities where have been found vast libraries of tablets, which not only give the political history of the countries, but record the customs of the people, their habits of living, their methods of doing business, descriptions of their homes, copies of their laws, and many other things that help us to know with a fair degree of accuracy what the ancient Egyptians, Babylonians, and Assyrians did, and how they lived.

Our program today shows how some of these ancient writings throw new light upon the Bible and prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that the Bible record is a reliable and true record of ancient times.

Abraham's Home in Ur

BEFORE men had begun to dig in the mounds found in Egypt and Persia, very little was known about some of the names mentioned in the Bible. For example, in the eleventh chapter of Genesis, we find a passage which says that Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran,

and some others, and "went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan." Until recent years, the reader of this chapter had no means of knowing whether "Ur of the Chaldees" was a district, or a large city, or a little village.

In 1854 there was located at Basra a British consul by the name of J. F. Taylor. Mr. Taylor decided to dig into a low mound situated on a desert waste about halfway between Baghdad and the Persian Gulf. This mound was called by a name which means "the mound of pitch." Mr. Taylor engaged some natives and dug for a part of two seasons, and though he merely scratched the surface of the mound, yet he brought to light a great number of clay cylinders, clay tablets, and many marked bricks. "These he shipped to the British Museum, and when the authorities there had deciphered the inscriptions on the cylinders and tablets, it became known that the mound of pitch undoubtedly covered a portion of the site of the long-lost City of Abraham, Ur of the Chaldees." Later excavations revealed a staged tower which formed a part of a temple area, which was built somewhere between 2,300 and 2,180 years before Christ. This tower was a little more than 200 feet in length by 150 feet in width and had an original height of over 70 feet. Three great stairways led to the top, which was crowned by a small sanctuary surrounded by trees and flowers which ornamented the terraces. This tower, with a portion of the surrounding land, was enclosed in a great brick wall, and all the territory within this brick wall was called the sacred area. Here were the government offices, where people paid their tithe and rent and taxes. Here were recorded the legal documents covering the renting of houses, the buying and selling of real estate, marriages, and all other documents that were intended to be a legal record. All these documents of Abraham's time had to be drawn in legal form, signed and sealed, and witnessed in a prescribed fashion.

"Within the sacred area was also the famous 'boys' school' in which were found many lessons of school-boys who lived four thousand years ago. It was the custom in Abraham's

time for the teacher to inscribe the lesson on one side of a small clay tablet, and the schoolboy, turning the tablet over, attempted to reproduce the lesson on the other side, and to this day may be clearly seen the evidence of the clumsy efforts of boys to correct errors they had made. Not only could some of the boys who grew up with the boy Abram solve problems in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, but they could extract square and cube roots of numbers. They had lessons in grammar and could draw maps of their city."

In the ruins of this mound of pitch were found exquisite pieces of silver and gold ornaments with precious stones. "The mechanics of Ur had produced the earliest four-wheeled vehicles. Musicians played on beautifully designed harps and other stringed instruments. Scholars were already writing long chronicles from which the Greeks were later to borrow extensively, and which we may read today."

Some, perhaps, have thought that Abraham, as a boy, grew up in a tent and was clad in skins, but these excavations show that the middle-class citizens of Ur lived in thirteen or fourteen room houses which had many comforts and luxuries. These houses had fireplaces, servant's quarters, and a chapel where the household worshiped, besides other living rooms. "We now knew that Abraham spent his boyhood in a great city,—a city that was the greatest center of education and culture of the then-known world. The country about Ur was a 'farmer's paradise,' a rich soil, watered by a great system of canals and irrigation ditches, supported great flocks and herds, which were the principal wealth of the district. . . . If we picture the city in which young Abraham was reared, the culture he knew, and the educational advantages which were open to him there; if we know that during the formative years of his life he was constantly rubbing shoulders with men who could read and write, with expert craftsmen, and with men engaged in trade and commerce, it would seem passing strange that a man of the spiritual and mental stature of Abraham were other than an educated, broad-minded, sophisticated citizen of the world." We can

understand how much it meant to him to leave his home at the call of God and turn his face toward Canaan to become a pilgrim and a wanderer in the earth, that he might spread the knowledge of the true God to the heathen tribes of Canaan.

On An Assyrian Brick

Up until 1883, scholars studying the life of ancient Egypt had seen no evidence that mortar had ever been used by Egyptians, and some of them were attempting to discredit the Bible story of the use of mortar during the time of Israelite slavery. In an article dated April 22, 1916, Doctor Kyle tells how on a winter's day in 1908 he went to make an examination of Professor Naville's excavation at Pithom, and looked in amazement at the thick, well-preserved mortar in the walls of store chambers of that monument of Israelite slavery. "A little mortar seems a little thing, but such incidental touches of exactness in the Biblical records inspire confidence in the whole record."

Doctor Kyle cites also another bit of proof of the accuracy of the Bible. "In the Yale collection of Babylonian and Assyrian antiquities is a brick from Assyria upon which still clings the bitumen which was used instead of mortar; as it is said of the Semites who 'journeyed east and found a plain in the land of Shinar,' and 'they used brick for stone, and slime [bitumen] for mortar.'"

The Bible is true in every detail, and the archeologists, digging into these ancient mounds, are accumulating evidences which verify the Bible story.

The Hittites, a Forgotten People

OVER 3,700 years ago there lived a people called the Hittites. They are first mentioned in Genesis 15: 18-21. Altogether, the Hittites are mentioned in the Scriptures about forty times, but with the passing of the centuries, all evidence of their existence was covered with the dust of ages and all memory of these Hittites dropped from the minds of men.

Following the beginning of the "time of the end" many modern critics of the Bible said that the Hittites mentioned in the Bible were a mere legend without foundation in

fact. They pointed out that there was no evidence in existence that the Hittites had ever lived, and so a controversy arose over the Hittites and over the truthfulness of the Bible. About 1905 a German archeologist by the name of Hugo Winckler began to dig in the mounds and rocks of Asia Minor. Many tablets were found which have proved of great importance to historians. In the summer of 1907, excavating was done on the slope of a mountain which had been a fortified citadel, in which were found the remains of royal archives which indicate that this fortified place was the capital of an ancient civilization. Documents found in these excavations have furnished abundant proof that the Hittites did exist and that the center of their power was in Asia minor. In his exploration, Doctor Winckler "uncovered the ruins at Boghazkeui and brought to light, in addition to architectural ruins and a treasury of inscriptions in Hittite hieroglyphs, also tablets of cuneiform script. Among these latter was found the Hittite copy of the same treaty of peace between Rameses II and the 'Kheta.'"

In 1931 Doctor Kurt Bittel discovered more than two hundred fifty fragments of cuneiform tablets, many of which had been used as filling in the walls. Not all of these tablets have been translated yet, but when they are, no doubt much clearer light will be thrown upon the history of this ancient people. "What these tablets, now being translated and carefully studied, may yet reveal concerning the Hittites, and what vast and amazing additions to learning may come with the decipherment of the Hittite hieroglyphs themselves, an event which certainly cannot much longer be delayed, no one can tell. Already there is this important result: no one is saying now that 'no such people as the Hittites ever existed.'" In the same way wherever excavations are being carried on in Bible lands, the Bible is being proved true.

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I NEVER allow myself to become discouraged under any circumstances. The three great essentials to achieve anything worth while are: first, hard work; second, stick-to-itiveness; third, common sense.—*Thomas A. Edison.*

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.

Our Faithful Youth in Mexico

THE Young People's Missionary Volunteer secretary in Mexico recently sent us some of the experiences through which our youth in this country are passing, in their loyalty to Christ, and in their witnessing to the truths of the message among their fellow countrymen:

"In our childhood and our school days we were taught to receive with reserve anything foreign, if it came from outside our borders. Experience teaches us that the work of the missionaries coming to us has not been in vain. We see hundreds of young people entering into our ranks, leaving behind their old ideas and purposes, and accepting in their place the infinite love of Christ, which makes all people one in the blessed hope of a soon-coming Saviour. This message makes such a change in the lives of those who accept it, that we learn to love those from whom we were, without good reason, estranged. We now have a new experience, and we are thinking only of how we may give this message to those who are in darkness.

"It will be difficult for you to understand the gratitude that fills our hearts when we discover the great blessing that has come to us by the acceptance of the truths which so transformed our lives. We thus become living witnesses to those who still live in sin.

"The young people of this country are enthusiastic in the great work of giving the new-found truth to others. From house to house they go, sowing the seeds of truth, thinking of the inspired words, 'Freely ye have received, freely give.' Even to remote places, into the mountains, among the wild tribes, the untiring steps of youth go, carrying the gospel for this time.

"Many of our young people do not return, but fall under the cruel hand of the assassin, who attempts in this way to stop the preaching of the truth of a crucified and risen Saviour. But our young people who have given up their all, do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. They remain faithful unto death. Thus the purpose of these satanic agents is frustrated. Soon others, full of zeal, enter to continue the work the first were forced to lay down.

Experience has demonstrated that our youth do not fear death, when it comes to giving their testimony for the truth. Our young people are often pressed by their parents to give up their faith, but the parents fail in this.

"Recently I was a witness to the unchristian means that a father used to get his daughter to give up this message. He said: 'If you become an Adventist and are baptized in this church, don't call me any more your father, or ever enter this door again. And the part of the inheritance that was to be yours will be lost to you forever. You must choose which it shall be, the Adventist Church, or your father; your new faith, or your inheritance.' And which do you think she chose? Ah! my dear friends, this young sister chose the better part, which shall not be taken from her. She chose to turn from an earthly father to her heavenly Father, who extended His loving arms to accept this willing offering of so young a life. She left her home, to follow in the footsteps of Him who left all for a lost world.

"She went out into the Sierra Madre Mountains to work in behalf of those who were not so fortunate as she. She started a small school on a farm many miles back in the hills. Here she found a new home that the Lord had for her; she found a Christian father; she found a Christian mother; she found many sincere Christian friends; and how happy she is in her new work! Thank the Lord for the sincere young people who are willing to forsake all for the love of their Saviour."

The Dusuns Calling

FROM British North Borneo, Director G. B. Youngberg gives some of the experiences which have come to them in their mission work, especially among the Dusun people:

"We had great difficulty in obtaining a suitable location for the school. This country is governed by a trading company, and while religious liberty is supposed to be a policy of the government, it is so cumbered with regulations that it is quite limited in operation. However, we have been able to obtain a suitable location, though quite small in extent, and hope soon to be able to open our school.

"We have received from Dusuns living in the mountains, several urgent

calls for teachers, and it grieves us that we have not the men to send to them. This emphasized the crying need for a school in which to train Dusun young people to work for their own countrymen. Could you visit our Dusun brethren, I am sure that you would be impressed by their faithfulness to the principles of the message. Very few of them ever backslide. Even the government officers testify to the good character of our converts. It is only necessary for a Dusun to prove that he is a member of our church to obtain exemption from such things as the native liquor tax. In the next few years we expect to see a large increase in believers among these people."

Into Mountain Districts of North India

IN reporting work carried on by Missionary J. F. Ashlock and helpers in the mountain districts of the Northwest India Union, F. H. Loasby writes:

"He has entered a number of hill territories, particularly the Jainti and Garo Hills. Here, with Brother Rajee and other faithful helpers, he has spent days, or weeks, as the case may be, in reaching these mountain people, many of whom are very responsive to the message. There are thousands of these hill dwellers; many of them are turning from heathenism, or, better stated, from their animistic practices, and many of them listen readily to the message we have for them.

"There is a vast amount of work to be done in these hills, and one may easily have visions of reaching not only the near-by tribes, but also the mountain dwellers in the deep recesses of these mountain ranges, some of whom are head-hunters to this day and against whom it was necessary, only a short time ago, to send a government expedition, to correct these evil tendencies. Brother Ashlock has ambitions, and not without reason, of reaching even these distant tribes.

"It is very encouraging to know that five were recently baptized from the Jainti Hill people. These people had been keeping the Sabbath for one full year before baptism, and a number more among these same people are now prepared for baptism. The total number baptized from among the people of Shillong and surrounding districts, up to the present time, is nineteen."

A Dedicated Son

MISSIONARY A. P. RITZ, writing from Bangkok, Siam, passes on an interesting experience of a young man, Chinese, who recently returned to Siam from an eight years' stay in China as a student:

"While there he became a Christian, and attended church regularly.

On reaching home last year he began attending our Chinese church. He has a cousin here who is one of our members. Then some months ago I went to visit the parents, in company with our leading Chinese evangelist. The father told us that he wanted his son to join our church. Then he explained his reasons.

"He said that in 1905 he, with four of his friends, attended Adventist meetings in Singapore, conducted by Elder Jones, who, with his wife, opened our work there. He said that he came near joining our church, but that about that time Dr. Sun Yat-sen came to Singapore to get men to go back to China with him to establish the new revolutionary government. He said that he weighed the matter as to which he should do, and finally he and another man decided to cast their lot in with the new China movement. Two others of the five did join our church, one of them Brother C. M. Lee of Singapore, who was a delegate to the General Conference in 1936.

"Sometime later, in China, this man married a young woman who had been graduated from medical school, and a year later their first child was born—the young man mentioned above. He said that he and his wife desired that their son grow up to be a deliverer of the Chinese people, as Abraham Lincoln was for the slaves of the United States. So they gave him a name meaning 'deliverer.' On the eighth day after his birth they called in all the Christian ministers for many miles around, that they might bless their son. One of them suggested baptism, but the parents said they would rather wait until he was old enough to understand what it meant. And so, he said, he now wanted the boy to join our church because he knew it was right, and he hoped his boy would yet prove to be one to deliver people from sin.

"After relating this story the father requested that we pray. The evangelist and I prayed and then the father prayed, probably for the first time in many years. God's Spirit was present, and when we rose all were weeping. The son quickly embraced his father, and wiped his tears, and then did the same to his mother. We trust that God's Spirit will yet have His complete will with this entire family. The boy is surely a good-hearted, truly refined young man, and will, we believe, make a good worker for God."

Took His Beating, Continuing On

THE following experience, took place in or near Mokiang, Yunnan Province, Southwest China. Hu Bendjeng tells it. It all came about as the result of services held by Missionary C. B. Miller:

"One day when I went into the country to visit a Sabbath school, I

met a very earnest believer. In appearance he was not different from the ordinary country farmers round about, but when I learned what the Lord has done through him, and of his spirit of willing sacrifice, I was greatly moved. After we had talked together for a few minutes, this brother invited me to his home. On the way he told me the following interesting story:

"I am a very humble, stupid person. All I have known all my life is to go to work when the sun comes up, and toil all day with my face to the yellow soil and my back toward heaven, and to rest when the sun sets. When I have a good harvest, I am happy; and I have thought of little else. When sickness came, I knew nothing but to call upon the evil spirits. In this ignorant state, like one in a daze, I passed twenty years.

"One day an evangelist came to our village and preached that there is a true God in heaven, who is the Creator of all, and who rules over all things on earth; and that all on earth should trust in Him. This was all very new and strange to me, but I continued to go day after day, listened, and believed. Then I began telling the Bible truths that I had received to my relatives and friends.

"One day eight or nine hundred people were present at a meeting on the mountainside. The next day, for what reason I do not know, the headman of the village sent some one to arrest me. He said, 'Why did you gather a thousand people on the mountainside yesterday?' I replied, 'We came together to worship the God that made heaven and earth, and His Son Jesus, the Redeemer of the world.' I also gave him a tract and a New Testament, but not understanding very much of the truth at that time, I did not dare to try to tell him very much. The result was that I

was beaten and severely injured. Moreover, I was forbidden to again hold meetings or preach the gospel, and was told that if they found out that I did so, they would punish me more severely. Several brethren helped me to my home. However, I still believed that I ought to obey God rather than man; so I again held a meeting on another mountain. At that time some one said, 'He is an ignorant farmer of this place. How can he have such courage?'

"This faithful young man has not ceased his witnessing, but still continues his voluntary service for God."

The White Man Listened In

MUCH of our advancement among the Indians of the Lake Titicaca region is made by establishing schools in places where but little, if any, gospel work has been done. Of late branch Sabbath schools are also being used to reach those who have not heard the message of truth. This word recently was received from Superintendent G. F. Ruf:

"The matter of branch Sabbath schools has met with a good response. One of our workers began such a Sabbath school a few months ago, and now it has grown to be an independent one. He has begun another. He goes to this place Friday evening and holds a good meeting with the people at the beginning of the Sabbath, and then on Sabbath morning early, conducts the branch school, returning to the home Sabbath school in time for its opening. We think that this shows a real missionary zeal. Branch Sabbath schools are springing up in many places, and we believe that this will lead to reaching large numbers of Indians in our field who have not known of Jesus' love. Our baptized membership is now over 6,000.

"We have more full-time (nine months) schools this year than ever before, and some of these are outgrowing their quarters. In one school there are more than 150 matriculated, in another over one hundred. The people are now coming for counsel and help in the building of larger schoolhouses. In spite of the good numbers that have attended our Indian training school the last few years, we have an acute dearth of teachers. Our training schools have an enrollment of around 190, and a fine spirit prevails.

"A white man visited a school directed by one of our Indian boys. He listened for over an hour to the teaching. Then he rose and said, 'Very well, very well, I will send two of my children to your school.' Now he has three of his children sitting beside Indian children learning from an Indian teacher not only reading and writing, but also the story of the gospel."

MISSION BOARD.

