

# The Church Officers' Gazette

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## The People Whom God Sees Though We See Not

**T**HEN spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: for I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city." Acts 18:9, 10.

These words were spoken to Paul when fierce opposition beset him in every city which he entered to preach Christ and His truth. Enemies followed him to stir up and prejudice the people. He had "reasoned in the synagogue" at Corinth "every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks." But soon the unbelieving so resisted his work in their synagogue that it became necessary to find another place of meeting. It was here, "when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed," that "he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles." And so the Corinthian church was raised up largely from among heathen idolaters. God made known to His servant that He had many children in Corinth among the worshipers of false gods. For these Paul, the veteran missionary, earnestly labored. He worked at his trade to support himself and others, in the effort to find these lost sheep Christ claimed, those "other sheep I have, which are not of this fold."

### "I . . . Know My Sheep, and Am Known of Mine"

It is the search for honest souls who are hungering for they really know not what, that impels us all on in our service for God. The great sin of Israel of old was that they shut themselves up to themselves, selfishly appropriating the light God had shed upon them to be passed on to

others, instead of seeking out those who were famishing for the bread of life. Little by little they departed from God, losing sight almost altogether of the fact that there were people of other nations to be taught concerning the one true God, the Creator, who in His love for all, sought through His goodness to win them unto repentance and life.

We who are confronted with the prevailing iniquity that surrounds the true people of God in these days of modern apostasy, should draw lessons from the conditions in the days of Israel's great apostasy during the reign of Ahab. This message is given us:

### Many Knees Not Bowed to Baal

"The apostasy prevailing today is similar to that which in the prophet's [Elijah] day overspread Israel. In the exaltation of the human above the divine, in the praise of popular leaders, in the worship of mammon, and in the placing of the teachings of science above the truths of revelation, multitudes today are following after Baal. Doubt and unbelief are exercising their baleful influence over mind and heart, and many are substituting for the oracles of God the theories of men. It is publicly taught that we have reached a time when human reason should be exalted above the teachings of the word. The law of God, the divine standard of righteousness, is declared to be of no effect. The enemy of all truth is working with deceptive power to cause men and women to place human institutions where God should be, and to forget that which was ordained for the happiness and salvation of mankind."—*"Prophets and Kings," pp. 170, 171.*

### Apostasy Not Universal

And in such a time as this, what are we to whom has been given the light of truth in Sabbath reform, who

know what the result will be to those who thus set aside the oracles of God and exalt the commandments of men above the precepts of Jehovah, to do? Shall we, as we realize that there are many souls among the lawless multitudes whom God sees and calls His own, be inspired with the same zeal with which the heart of Paul was inspired? Let us not forget the purpose for which God has called us into existence at this crisis hour—that we may be missionaries, church officers, leaders, and believers, one and all. He would have us search for those among the multitudes with whom the Spirit of God is still working. Listen to these encouraging words:

"This apostasy, widespread as it has come to be, is *not universal*. Not all in the world are lawless and sinful; not all have taken sides with the enemy. God has many thousands who have not bowed the knee to Baal, many who long to understand more fully in regard to Christ and the law, many who are hoping against hope that Jesus will come soon to end the reign of sin and death. And there are many who have been worshiping Baal ignorantly, but with whom the Spirit of God is still striving."—*Id., p. 171.*

### An Encouraging Promise

The same One who spoke to Elijah at Horeb, to Paul at Corinth, speaks these assuring words to us. Shall we not seek for these precious jewels? Can anything be more urgent or important than for us to be used of the Lord in guiding these dear ones of His into the pathway of truth and life?

"As those who have an understanding of Bible truth try to seek out the men and women who are longing for light, angels of God will attend them. And where angels go, none need fear to move forward. As the

result of the faithful efforts of consecrated workers, many will be turned from idolatry to the worship of the living God. Many will cease to pay homage to man-made institutions, and will take their stand fearlessly on the side of God and His law."—*Ibid.*

Could a greater incentive be given us than is contained in this promise, an incentive that urges us on in our labors of love for lost ones who are to be reclaimed for the Lord?

T. E. B.

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### Be Confident

THE disposition of world events today is such that general instability is attacking every form of faith. Faith in promises is perishing, faith in all forms of relationship is waning, faith in men is at a low ebb, and faith in God is vanishing. The result is a general spirit of despair, and a surrender of belief in goodness, mercy, progress, in spiritual values, and in any form of redemption of the human race. All this will lead to an eventual and universal adoption of erroneous ideas, hateful philosophies, and false religion beyond anything yet conceived. "Many have no faith in God and have lost confidence in man."—*"Ministry of Healing,"* p. 145. On this basis we can see the way prepared for a fulfillment of such prophecies as that found in Revelation thirteen.

We should not give undue study to such thoughts. It is better to dwell on the constructive, inspiring side of positive faith.

### We Must Have Faith Always

"You will ever find with the true Christian a marked cheerfulness, a holy, happy confidence in God, a submission to His providences, that is refreshing to the soul."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. III, p. 377.

Even in these crisis times we must preserve and develop a cheerful confidence that will inspire hope wherever we are, and whatever happens. We are all Christ's ambassadors, and ambassadors do not run away in despair. They hope on and work on to the last. We owe a duty to the community to serve and to inspire.

### We Must Have Faith in God

One of the most striking instances of faith in God against outward evidence is the life of Abraham. We are told, "Just such faith and con-

fidence as Abraham had, the messengers of God need today." But what kind of faith did he have? "With only the naked promise that his descendants should possess Canaan, without the least outward evidence, he followed on where God should lead, fully and sincerely complying with the conditions on his part, and confident that the Lord would faithfully perform His word."—*Id., Vol. IV, p. 524.*

We have much evidence of God's ripening purpose on earth. Let us have faith and comply with all God's requirements for His church.

### Special Appointments for December

Annual Week of Prayer,  
December 6-14  
(Offering, Sabbath, the 14th)

Christian Stewardship Day,  
December 21

Elementary Schools Offering,  
December 28

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering  
(China), December 28

### We Must Have Faith in Each Other

It is satanic work that seeks to undermine men's faith in men. Today, as individuals, we are called upon to make momentous decisions. It will become easy to criticize the other man at my elbow. We must not cultivate this spirit. "This spirit will constantly be striving for the mastery to the close of time. Satan is seeking to foster it, in order that brethren in their ignorance may seek to devour one another."—*"Testimonies to Ministers,"* p. 189.

The church must stand united in a brotherly confidence that has its source in God and in His Christ.—*W. H. Lowe, in British Advent Messenger.*

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### Ingathering and Soul Winning

[While this may be a little late for Ingathering, yet there are other contacts with people when their attention may be as profitably drawn to the message as while soliciting funds for missions.—*EDITOR.*]

HARVEST Ingathering gives a wonderful opportunity for soul-winning contacts. I believe one ought to cul-

tivate the ability to make the approach in solicitation in such a way as to attract the individual to the message.

I had another profitable experience with the chief executive in a large office. There were at least fifty office workers, two of whom I had to pass before seeing the manager. When I was ushered in before a polished and refined gentleman, I approached him by giving my name, and saying, "I am a Seventh-day Adventist minister." That is as far as I got. He said, "Oh! yes. Just a minute," and then left the room. In about three minutes he returned with a check for ten dollars. I thanked him, and he asked me to be seated. He proceeded: "You were here last year about this time and handed me a little paper called Harvest something." I said, "Yes, Harvest Ingathering." "Well," he said, "when I had finished my work that day I sat down and read that paper from cover to cover, and I felt ashamed that I was doing so little for such a great work." He then rose and came and stood before me. I also rose and we stood facing each other. He whispered, "I am sort of a heathen myself. I do not belong to any church." I took his hand and said, "My brother, God wants you more than he wants your money." He squeezed my hand and quickly left the room.

B. A. SCHERR.

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## SPirit OF PROPHECY DAY

### Suggestive Program for Sabbath Service, November 30, 1940

OPENING SONG: "He Leadeth Me," No. 677 in "Christ in Song."

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 Chron. 20:20; Hosea 12:13.

QUESTION-AND-ANSWER EXERCISE: "Sister White Answers a Few Inquiries Regarding Her Work," by A. L. White.

PRAYER.

OFFERING.

SONG: "Higher Ground," No. 489 in "Christ in Song."

READING: "Light in the Darkness," by W. H. Branson.

READING: "How Shall I Study the Spirit of Prophecy?" by A. W. Peterson.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND APPEAL: The Spirit of Prophecy Reading Plan.

CLOSING SONG: "Faith of Our Fathers," No. 678 in "Christ in Song."

BENEDICTION.

#### Note to Leaders

Owing to the fact that the first Sabbath in December, the seventh, is the opening date of the 1940 Week of Prayer, our regular first-Sabbath missionary service for the month of December has been set back a week, and therefore falls on Sabbath, November 30—November having five Sabbaths this year. Furthermore, in accordance with General Conference action, it is recommended that the Sabbath service for that day, November 30, be devoted to the topic of the Spirit of prophecy. Three excellent articles, written by W. H. Branson, A. W. Peterson, and Arthur L. White, have been furnished as suggestive service material.

During the summer months renewed efforts have been made, in connection with the camp meetings, to make our believers better acquainted with the gift of the Spirit of prophecy, and with the wonderful volumes which God has given to us as a people through this gift. This good work should be followed up, and "Spirit of Prophecy Day" constitutes a fitting climax before the close of the year to further

cement and enlarge the activities of previous months.

"By a prophet the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved." Hosea 12:13. Even so, when, in these last days, the time came for the gathering of God's flock, God placed the prophetic gift upon His chosen instrument. Never before has the church come to such a supreme hour as this. The eternal destiny of every man, woman, and child is soon to be sealed. In such an hour we truly need the guidance of God's word and the light that shines through the writings of the Spirit of prophecy.

One of the greatest factors in the unprecedented success and advancement of this movement which has so miraculously embraced the whole world, one reason why this movement has triumphed over so much opposition and prejudice, why its adherents have cheerfully endured persecution and even death, why unity has been maintained through its growth into a world-wide organization, why the hearts of God's people of every nation and tongue are joined together in one common brotherhood and sisterhood, has ever been the assurance that God is the leader of this people, that they are not only a people born of prophecy, but that God still speaks to them through the prophetic gift.

In the early days of the advent

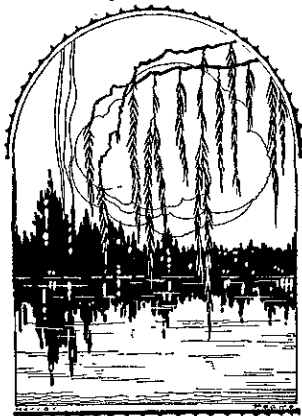
movement, this ringing challenge from God's messenger came to us: "Press together, press together, press together." How much more do we need that admonition today! The enemy of truth cannot defeat the remnant people of God so long as they remain united in love and truth.

The leadership of this movement, sensing the vital importance of each church member's receiving at this time the help and encouragement God intended for us in the Spirit of prophecy, has prepared a definite, systematic reading plan. During 1940 "The Great Controversy" and "Ministry of Healing" have been the two books recommended, and thousands of our believers have carefully studied these inspiring volumes. For 1941 two other books are recommended—"Patriarchs and Prophets" and "Messages to Young People." The latter book, while particularly for the youth, contains excellent reading and helpful counsel for parents. Weekly and monthly outlines will appear, as last year, in our various periodicals, and a complete sheet covering the two books will also be prepared.

On "Spirit of Prophecy Day" an effort should be put forth to enlist our people in the new reading program for 1941, and encourage them to follow it. Those who do not already possess the books should be urged to procure them. A personal testimony from someone who has followed this year's program will stimulate and inspire others to join in the new program for 1941.

Every Seventh-day Adventist home should be supplied with as many of the volumes of the Spirit of prophecy as possible. Our churches should have a full set of the books in their libraries for the use of those who have not yet been able to secure them for their own homes. As we continue and renew our study of these precious writings, great blessings will come to each home, hearts will be warmed, missionary activity will be advanced, and the work of making ready a people to meet their God will be perfected.

STEEN RASMUSSEN.



## Sister White Answers a Few Inquiries Regarding Her Work

It is a very common practice today to publicly interview individuals of prominence. Through the questions asked and the replies given, much interesting and useful information is gained. During her lifework, Ellen G. White was frequently asked questions regarding her call and work as God's messenger to the remnant church. We find here and there in her own words the answers to many inquiries, a score or more of which are here presented in interview form.

**INQUIRY:** Won't you tell us first, Sister White, about your home, your parents, and your early experience.

**SISTER WHITE:** "I was born at Gorham, Maine, November 26, 1827. My parents, Robert and Eunice Harmon, were for many years residents of this State. In early life they became earnest and devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In that church they held prominent connection, and labored for the conversion of sinners, and to build up the cause of God, for a period of forty years. During this time they had the joy of seeing their children, eight in number, all converted and gathered into the fold of Christ. While I was but a child, my parents removed from Gorham to Portland, Maine."<sup>1</sup>

"At the age of eleven years I was converted, and when twelve years old was baptized, and joined the Methodist Church. At the age of thirteen I heard William Miller deliver his second course of lectures in Portland, Maine. I then felt that I was not holy, not ready to see Jesus. And when the invitation was given for church members and sinners to come forward for prayers, I embraced the first opportunity, for I knew that I must have a great work done for me to fit me for heaven."

"Most of my father's family were full believers in the advent, and for bearing testimony to this glorious doctrine, seven of us were at one time cast out of the Methodist Church. . . .

"From this time, up to December, 1844, my joys, trials, and disappointments were like those of my dear advent friends around me."<sup>2</sup>

**INQUIRY:** What special experience did you have in December?

**SISTER WHITE:** "At this time I visited one of our advent sisters, and in the morning we bowed around the family altar. It was not an exciting occasion, and there were but five of us present, all women. While I was praying, the power of God came upon me as I had never felt it before. I was wrapped in a vision of God's glory."<sup>3</sup> "At this time I had a view of the experience of the advent believers, the coming of Christ, and the reward to be given to the faithful."<sup>4</sup>

**INQUIRY:** How were you led into public work?

**SISTER WHITE:** "In a second vision, which soon followed the first, I was shown the trials through which I must pass, and that it was my duty to go and relate to others what God had revealed to me. . . . I prayed earnestly for several days, and far into the night, that this burden might be removed from me, and laid upon someone more capable of bearing it. But the light of duty did not change, and the words of the angel sounded continually in my ears, 'Make known to others what I have revealed to you.'"<sup>5</sup>

**INQUIRY:** Will you tell us something of how you began your work of writing?

**SISTER WHITE:** "Early in my public labors I was bidden by the Lord, 'Write, write the things that are revealed to you.' At the time this message came to me, I could not hold my hand steady. My physical condition made it impossible for me to write. But again came the word, 'Write the things that are revealed to you.' I obeyed; and as the result it was not long before I could write page after page with comparative ease. Who told me what to write, who steadied my right hand, and made it possible for me to use a pen?—It was the Lord."<sup>6</sup>

**INQUIRY:** Please tell us more about the visions.

**SISTER WHITE:** "As inquiries are frequently made as to my state in vision, and after I come out, I would say that when the Lord sees fit to give a vision, I am taken into the presence of Jesus and angels, and am entirely lost to earthly things. I can see no farther than the angel directs me. My attention is often directed to scenes transpiring upon earth.

"At times I am carried far ahead into the future and shown what is to take place. Then again I am shown things as they have occurred in the past. After I come out of vision I do not at once remember all that I have seen, and the matter is not so clear before me until I write, then the scene rises before me as was presented in vision, and I can write with freedom. Sometimes the things which I have seen are hid from me after I come out of vision, and I cannot call them to mind until I am brought before a company where that vision applies, then the things which I have seen come to my mind with force."<sup>7</sup>

**INQUIRY:** How do you find time to do so much writing?

**SISTER WHITE:** "I am very busy with my writing. Early and late, I am writing out the matters that the Lord opens before me. The burden of my work is to prepare a people to stand in the day of the Lord."<sup>8</sup>

"Through nearly the whole of my long experience I have endeavored, day by day, to write out that which

was revealed to me in visions of the night. Many messages of counsel and reproof and encouragement have been sent out to individuals, and much of the instruction that I have received for the church has been published in periodicals and books, and circulated in many lands."<sup>9</sup>

**INQUIRY:** Tell us a little more about the writing. Did the Lord direct you in the exact wording of your messages?

**SISTER WHITE:** "Although I am as dependent upon the Spirit of the Lord in writing my views as I am in receiving them, yet the words I employ in describing what I have seen are my own, unless they be those spoken to me by an angel, which I always enclose in marks of quotation."<sup>10</sup>

**INQUIRY:** Surely you must have had literary assistance in preparing the many articles and books for publication. Won't you explain this to us?

**SISTER WHITE:** "While my husband lived, he acted as a helper and counselor in the sending out of the messages that were given to me. We traveled extensively. Sometimes light would be given to me in the night season, sometimes in the daytime before large congregations. The instruction I received in vision was faithfully written out by me, as I had time and strength for the work. Afterward we examined the matter together, my husband correcting grammatical errors and eliminating needless repetition. Then it was carefully copied for the persons addressed, or for the printer."<sup>11</sup>

**INQUIRY:** How about this part of your work in later years?

**SISTER WHITE:** "As the work grew, others assisted me in the preparation of matter for publication. After my husband's death, faithful helpers joined me, who labored untiringly in the work of copying the testimonies, and preparing articles for publication. But the reports that are circulated, that any of my helpers are permitted to add matter or change the meaning of the messages I write out, are not true."<sup>12</sup>

**INQUIRY:** Now, Sister White, we would like to ask a few questions about the writings themselves. We observe that in the Testimonies you have published many messages of a personal nature. Why is this?

**SISTER WHITE:** "Since the warning and instruction given in testimony for individual cases applied with equal force to many others who had not been specially pointed out in this manner, it seemed to be my duty to publish the personal testimonies for the benefit of the church. In Testimony 15, speaking of the necessity for doing this, I said: 'I know of no better way to present my views of general dangers and errors, and the duty of all who love God and keep His commandments, than by giving these testimonies. Perhaps there is no more direct and forcible way of presenting what the Lord has shown me.'"<sup>13</sup>

**INQUIRY:** But how are these per-

sonal testimonies written years ago of importance to us today?

SISTER WHITE: "When the Lord singles out individual cases, and specifies their wrongs, others, who have not been shown in vision, frequently take it for granted that they are right, or nearly so. If one is reproved for a special wrong, brethren and sisters should carefully examine themselves to see wherein they have failed, and wherein they have been guilty of the same sin. They should possess the spirit of humble confession. If others think them right, it does not make them so. God looks at the heart. He is proving and testing souls in this manner. In rebuking the wrongs of one, He designs to correct many."<sup>14</sup>

INQUIRY: Is belief in the Spirit of prophecy vital to one's being a good Seventh-day Adventist?

SISTER WHITE: "It is Satan's plan to weaken the faith of God's people in the Testimonies. Satan knows how to make his attacks. He works upon minds to excite jealousy and dissatisfaction toward those at the head of the work. The gifts are next questioned; then, of course, they have but little weight, and instruction given through vision is disregarded. Next follows skepticism in regard to the vital points of our faith, the pillars of our position, then doubt as to the Holy Scriptures, and then the downward march to perdition. When the Testimonies which were once believed, are doubted and given up, Satan knows the deceived ones will not stop at this; and he redoubles his efforts till he launches them into open rebellion, which becomes incurable, and ends in destruction. By giving place to doubts and unbelief in regard to the work of God, and by cherishing feelings of distrust and cruel jealousies, they are preparing themselves for complete deception. They rise up with bitter feelings against the ones who dare to speak of their errors and reprove their sins."<sup>15</sup>

INQUIRY: You would then consider it essential for new converts today to understand your work?

SISTER WHITE: "As the end draws near, and the work of giving the last warning to the world extends, it becomes more important for those who accept present truth to have a clear understanding of the nature and influence of the Testimonies, which God in His providence has linked with the work of the third angel's message from its very rise."<sup>16</sup>

INQUIRY: But, Sister White, there are a few things in your writings that I find difficult to explain to my own satisfaction.

SISTER WHITE: "Satan has ability to suggest doubts and to devise objections to the pointed testimony that God sends, and many think it a virtue, a mark of intelligence in them, to be unbelieving, and to question and quibble. Those who desire to doubt will have plenty of room. God does not propose to remove all occasion for

unbelief. He gives evidence, which must be carefully investigated with a humble mind and a teachable spirit; and all should decide from the weight of evidence. God gives sufficient evidence for the candid mind to believe; but he who turns from the weight of evidence because there are a few things which he cannot make plain to his finite understanding, will be left in the cold, chilling atmosphere of unbelief and questioning doubts, and will make shipwreck of faith."<sup>17</sup>

INQUIRY: How are your messages related to those of the prophets of old?

SISTER WHITE: "In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of prophets and apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the Testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will, and the course that He would have them pursue."<sup>18</sup>

INQUIRY: What relationship, then, do your writings sustain to the word of God?

SISTER WHITE: "The word of God is sufficient to enlighten the most beclouded mind, and may be understood by those who have any desire to understand it. But notwithstanding all this, some who profess to make the word of God their study, are found living in direct opposition to its plainest teachings. Then, to leave men and women without excuse, God gives plain and pointed testimonies, bringing them back to the word that they have neglected to follow. The word of God abounds in general principles for the formation of correct habits of living, and the Testimonies, general and personal, have been calculated to call their attention more especially to these principles."<sup>19</sup>

INQUIRY: Can you make the point of relationship a little clearer?

SISTER WHITE: "Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light."<sup>20</sup>

INQUIRY: Occasionally, Sister White, we hear reports of what you were supposed to have done or said, but

we cannot find the statements in your books. Many of these reports seem questionable, and yet we do not know just how to relate ourselves to them.

SISTER WHITE: "To all who have a desire for truth I would say, Do not give credence to unauthenticated reports as to what Sister White has done or said or written. If you desire to know what the Lord has revealed through her, read her published works. Are there any points of interest concerning which she has not written, do not eagerly catch up and report rumors as to what she has said."<sup>21</sup>

INQUIRY: What do you consider the most convincing test by which to judge your writings?

SISTER WHITE: "Let the Testimonies be judged by their fruits. What is the spirit of their teaching? What has been the result of their influence? All who desire to do so can acquaint themselves with the fruits of these visions. . . .

"God is either teaching His church, reproofing their wrongs, and strengthening their faith, or He is not. This work is of God, or it is not. God does nothing in partnership with Satan. My work . . . bears the stamp of God, or the stamp of the enemy. There is no halfway work in the matter. The Testimonies are of the Spirit of God, or of the devil."<sup>22</sup>

INQUIRY: In case you should pass away, Sister White, what about your writings?

SISTER WHITE: "Whether or not my life is spared, my writings will constantly speak, and their work will go forward as long as time shall last."<sup>23</sup>

INQUIRY: We can see where our workers, of course, should have your books; but how about their use by the rank and file of Seventh-day Adventists?

SISTER WHITE: "The volumes of 'Spirit of Prophecy'\* should be in every family, and should be read aloud in the family circle. More than one half of our people know little or nothing of the contents of these books, and they are losing much by their neglect.

"The 'Testimonies' contain instruction which meets the case of all, both parents and children. Should these be read aloud to the entire family, the children as well as the parents would be benefited by their counsels, warnings, and reproofs. While these are placed out of sight and neglected for the reading of fictitious, sensational literature, both yourselves and your children will be retrograding mentally and spiritually."<sup>24</sup>

INQUIRY: Have you anything to say regarding those who take an indifferent attitude toward the Spirit of prophecy?

SISTER WHITE: "Through His Holy



\* The five volumes of the Conflict of the Ages series, Mrs. White's amplification of the conflict story from its inception to its close, replaced this earlier four-volume set bearing the title, "Spirit of Prophecy."

Spirit the voice of God has come to us continually in warning and instruction, to confirm the faith of the believers in the Spirit of prophecy. . . . Time and trial have not made void the instruction given, but through years of suffering and self-sacrifice have established the truth of the testimony given. The instruction that was given in the early days of the message is to be held as safe instruction to follow in these its closing days. Those who are indifferent to this light and instruction must not expect to escape the snares which we have been plainly told will cause the rejecters of light to stumble, and fall, and be snared, and be taken."<sup>25</sup>

INQUIRY: Then, Sister White, we take it that the counsel we find in your books will be of vital importance to us in the coming crisis.

SISTER WHITE: "Perilous times are before us. Everyone who has a knowledge of the truth should awake, and place himself, body, soul, and spirit, under the discipline of God. The enemy is on our track. We must be wide awake, on our guard against him. We must put on the whole armor of God. We must follow the directions given through the Spirit of prophecy. We must love and obey the truth for this time. This will save us from accepting strong delusions. God has spoken to us through His word. He has spoken to us through the testimonies to the church, and through the books that have helped to make plain our present duty and the position that we should now occupy. The warnings that have been given, line upon line, precept upon precept, should be heeded. If we disregard them, what excuse can we offer?"<sup>26</sup>

A. L. WHITE,  
Secretary, Ellen G. White  
Publications.

#### SOURCES

- <sup>1</sup> "Life Sketches," p. 17.
- <sup>2</sup> "Early Writings," pp. 11, 13.
- <sup>3</sup> *Id.*, p. 13.
- <sup>4</sup> "Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 655.
- <sup>5</sup> *Id.*, Vol. I, p. 62.
- <sup>6</sup> *Review*, June 14, 1906.
- <sup>7</sup> "Spiritual Gifts," Vol. II, pp. 292, 293.
- <sup>8</sup> "Writing and Sending Out of the Testimonies to the Church," p. 15.
- <sup>9</sup> *Id.*, p. 12.
- <sup>10</sup> *Review*, Oct. 8, 1867.
- <sup>11</sup> "Writing and Sending Out of the Testimonies to the Church," p. 4.
- <sup>12</sup> *Ibid*.
- <sup>13</sup> "Testimonies," Vol. V, pp. 658, 659.
- <sup>14</sup> *Id.*, p. 659.
- <sup>15</sup> *Id.*, p. 672.
- <sup>16</sup> *Id.*, p. 654.
- <sup>17</sup> *Id.*, pp. 675, 676.
- <sup>18</sup> *Id.*, p. 661.
- <sup>19</sup> *Id.*, pp. 663, 664.
- <sup>20</sup> "Colporteur Evangelist," p. 37.
- <sup>21</sup> "Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 696.
- <sup>22</sup> *Id.*, p. 671.
- <sup>23</sup> "Writing and Sending Out of the Testimonies to the Church," pp. 13, 14.
- <sup>24</sup> *Review*, Dec. 26, 1882.
- <sup>25</sup> *Review*, July 18, 1907.
- <sup>26</sup> "Testimonies," Vol. VIII, p. 298.



"SOME Christians are like canned fruit—sealed tight to keep from working."

## Light in the Darkness

BY W. H. BRANSON

WE have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place." 2 Peter 1:19.

The darkest of all dark places is the future. We can learn from history what has taken place in the past; the present is known to us; but the future is dark and obscure. The world knows not what new peril may spring forth tomorrow, knows not what new devices the devil may have invented in an effort to ensnare the feet of men and lead an increasingly greater number to destruction.

But for the Christian the curtain that separates the present from the future has been drawn aside, and a flood of light streaming forth from the throne of God has been shed upon his pathway. "Ye, brethren," said the apostle Paul, "are not in darkness. . . . Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." 1 Thess. 5:4, 5.

This light that thus illumines the pathway of the child of God is the "word of prophecy." It has pleased God from the earliest history of His church upon earth to keep open between Himself and His people a channel of communication, so that He might at all times be able to guide them safely through the dangers with which they were surrounded.

Thus when the king of Syria took secret counsel with his men to set a trap for the armies of Israel, warnings were sent the king of Israel by the God of heaven through His prophet Elisha, telling him that he should not pass such and such a place. Thus were the armies of Israel spared, and thus were the plans of their enemies brought to nought.

In interpreting Pharaoh's dream, Joseph gave a divine warning of an approaching famine, and as a result, food supplies were stored up that furnished sustenance not alone to the inhabitants of Egypt, but also to the patriarch Jacob and his entire family during the years when no food was produced. Without this gracious provision they would have died during the famine.

Just so all through the history of the world God has raised up men and

women upon whom He has bestowed the gift of prophecy and whose messages have brought to the church just the instruction, counsel, and guidance that was needed at the time. Much of what these prophets wrote was of local, temporary import only, and their messages have not been preserved and handed down to succeeding generations. Their writings did not become a part of the Bible canon, nor were the messages given by them intended to supersede what had been written in the Scriptures. Their work was to give the church guidance through present crises, and to show them how to avoid current dangers.

Nor was this work to cease with the close of the revelations that were to make up the Bible canon.

"In harmony with the word of God, His Spirit was to continue its work throughout the period of the gospel dispensation. During the ages while the Scriptures of both the Old and the New Testament were being given, the Holy Spirit did not cease to communicate light to individual minds, apart from the revelations to be embodied in the Sacred Canon. The Bible itself relates how, through the Holy Spirit, men received warning, reproof, counsel, and instruction, in matters in no way relating to the giving of the Scriptures. And mention is made of prophets in different ages, of whose utterances nothing is recorded. In like manner, after the close of the canon of Scripture, the Holy Spirit was still to continue His work, to enlighten, warn, and comfort the children of God."—"The Great Controversy," p. viii.

Of all the dark periods through which the church has had to pass, the present and the immediate future are by far the darkest. Just as the darkest hour of night immediately precedes the dawn, so it is with the night of sin. Today, as never before, moral darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people. The only possible comparisons that can be made are to the conditions that prevailed before the flood and in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. But even the wickedness of those days, when "every imagination of the thoughts of his [man's] heart was only evil continually," will be so far surpassed by that of the last days that it will almost pale into insignificance. This generation is to pass through the crisis

of the ages, and sinners, hitherto restrained to some degree by the Spirit of God, are to finally fill up their cup of iniquity.

During the perils and darkness of earth's closing days, which period we have now entered, the church will have to endure bitter persecution as well as the scoffing and jeering of a godless world. Every device of Satan will be brought into play in an effort to shake the faith of God's people in His promises of protection, and a final and determined effort will be made to destroy the church of God and rid the earth of His followers. It will be a period of moral darkness comparable only to the physical darkness of Egypt, which, we are told, could be felt. We are to pass through perilous times, and if ever the church of Christ upon earth needed special guidance and counsel from heaven, it needs such guidance now. Surely it would not be reasonable to suppose that God would deal differently with His people in this crisis hour from the way in which He has dealt with them in past ages. There is no reason to expect that the channel of communication between heaven and earth, so long kept open, will be closed during earth's darkest period.

From the earliest beginnings of the movement that was ordained of God for the giving of His final appeal to the nations, the light of the gift of prophecy has been manifested in the remnant church. Through the writings of Sister E. G. White it has pleased God to send to His church just those messages of counsel, warning, and admonition that have been needed to unify, guide, and safeguard its members. Scores of times, while the servant of God still lived, the church was saved from suffering untold harm and from making serious mistakes, by the voice of prophecy in its midst.

Today the one through whom God chose to manifest this gift to the church rests from her labors. The audible voice of the gift of prophecy is no longer heard among us. But this fact does not in any way deprive the church of the benefits of this gift. In the messages of the ancient prophets recorded in the Bible, and in the volumes written by Sister White, is to be found instruction which, if heeded, will meet every situation and serve as a protection to the church in every crisis.

In this time of darkness and peril our people should take full advantage of this wonderful gift through which God has revealed His special counsels to His church for this special time. The "Testimonies" of the Spirit of prophecy throw light upon almost every portion of the Scriptures, and help us to understand that which would otherwise remain difficult and obscure; they give counsel on every phase of human relationship; they

point out the dangers that immediately confront the church, and show how they should be met. Thus the light still shines amid the darkness, and thus God's people become children of the day, walking in the light that shines forth from His throne.

Let us diligently study the writings of the Spirit of prophecy, and treasure the counsels there given to guide us through the darkness and gloom of these last days.



### How Shall I Study the Spirit of Prophecy?

IN its onward march with the advent message to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people in this troubled world, the church—"the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard"—must meet the maneuverings and assaults of a desperate foe. The church militant, which is to become the church triumphant, has been given precious gifts for its onlaring needs. In this last hour of its conflict, the church needs the encouragement and guidance which God has given to it in the gift of the Spirit of prophecy. This gift is for the whole church in the whole world. Wherever the dragon makes war with the church and the remnant of her seed which keep the commandments of God, there is to be found the testimony of Jesus, the Spirit of prophecy.

Not only is this precious gift of encouragement and instruction for the leaders of the advent movement, but it is for each member of the church. It is for us personally, individually, because God "thinks of us individually, and knows our every necessity." And what a great loss we suffer unless we avail ourselves of the use of this gift. Indeed, there is not much purpose in God's giving gifts to His church unless we receive them and apply them to our own personal problems. How eagerly ought the Christian to listen to the still small voice of the Spirit when it speaks to him through these precious writings, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." Today the Christian finds himself perplexed in a terrible, disjointed

world. He is beset on every hand by weird theories and strange philosophies of life. His safety lies in cherishing and following the counsel of God.

How shall I study the Spirit of prophecy to get the greatest benefit? In our study we should ever be mindful that the Spirit of prophecy was given to the church to bring its members "back to the word that they have neglected to follow."—"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 663. So the Spirit of prophecy is to lead us into a fuller study of the word.

In what spirit should I study the Spirit of prophecy? If one is to study the Spirit of prophecy in connection with the word, then the counsel that is given the Christian regarding the study of the word should apply in his study of the Spirit of prophecy. Regarding the study of the Bible, we read, "There is but little benefit derived from a hasty reading of the Scriptures. One may read the whole Bible through, and yet fail to see its beauty or comprehend its deep and hidden meaning. One passage studied until its significance is clear to the mind, and its relation to the plan of salvation is evident, is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained. Keep your Bible with you. . . . Scripture must be compared with scripture. There must be careful research and prayerful reflection. . . . Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given."—"Steps



to Christ," pp. 90, 91, pocket edition.

"There is much reading of the Bible that is without profit, and in many cases a positive injury. When the word of God is opened without reverence and without prayer; when the thoughts and affections are not fixed upon God, or in harmony with His will, the mind is clouded with doubt; and in the very study of the Bible, skepticism strengthens. . . . In order to arrive at truth, we must have a sincere desire to know the truth, and a willingness of heart to obey it." —*Id.*, pp. 110, 111.

He who approaches the study of the Spirit of prophecy with a reverent and obedient heart will find that encouragement and instruction which will build him up and lead him in the way of life everlasting.

There are many methods for the study of the Spirit of prophecy which the advent believer may pursue with profit, but his method of study will depend upon his purpose. The following are suggestive methods:

1. For the one who wishes to make a general survey of the writings of the Spirit of prophecy, we would suggest the plan of *consecutive* reading; that is, he will read one book after another in order to familiarize himself with the contents. Perhaps he will wish to begin with "Early Writings," and read the counsel that came to the church at different stages of its development.

2. Another may wish to read the writings of the Spirit of prophecy topically. That is, he may wish to find out what the Spirit of prophecy has to say on the subject of "Christian Education," or "Success," or "Angels." In that case, he will take the "Index to the Writings of Mrs. E. G. White," which can be secured from any Book and Bible House, and will follow the references given in the "Index," noting on a slip of paper those which set forth the ideas or principles which he may wish to study further. Only those who have followed the "Index" as a guide in the study of the books of the Spirit of prophecy, have known the joy of exploration which comes to the thoughtful searcher.

3. For the student who wishes to dig deep for the precious jewels of the word, we would recommend a *correlated* reading of the Spirit of prophecy with the Bible. Is there

some text of Scripture upon which you would like to focus the light of all that has been written in the Spirit of prophecy regarding it, in order that you may better understand the text? We would recommend that you turn to the "Index," in which, beginning on page 9, you will find Bible texts arranged in order, with full references to the Spirit of prophecy comment on each text. The writings of the Spirit of prophecy act as a magnifying glass to help us discover meanings and beauties in the word which might otherwise escape us. This study of the word under the strong light of the writings of the Spirit of prophecy will deepen one's Christian experience and enlarge his faith.

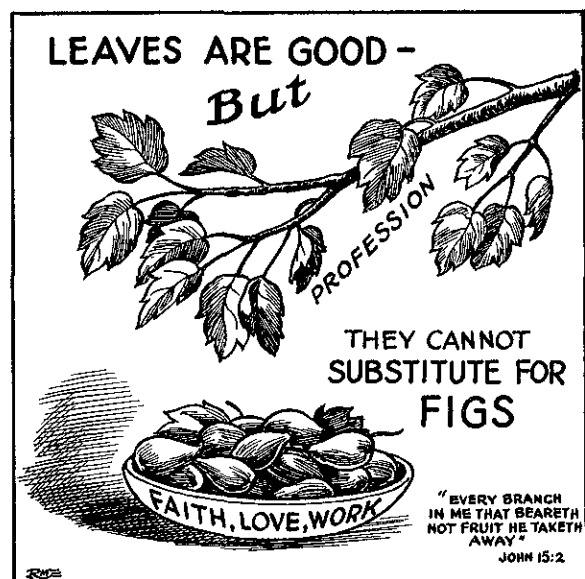
4. Another method of study is the pursuit of the *Spirit of prophecy reading program*, outlines for which are carried in the *Review and Herald* and in the *Youth's Instructor*. This reading program gives direction to the study of the two books which are chosen for reading for the year. For 1941 these books are to be "Messages to Young People" and "Patriarchs and Prophets." Never before have a people of any generation faced the problems which the Christian faces just now. Our young men are confronted with the prospect of compulsory military training. They will be taken from our homes and from our churches and placed in the army cantonments for training. There they will face problems in maintaining Christian experience. They must dis-

criminate between the false and the true in recreation, amusements, and association. They will face tests regarding the bearing of arms and regarding Sabbathkeeping. Thus to our young men will be brought the severe tests of the crisis of the end. Our young women, the sisters and friends of these young men, will face many of these problems as well. Never before has a book been given to the youth of the advent movement comparable to this wonderful volume, "Messages to Young People." It has counsel for every problem in Christian living. It is God's book to youth and to their parents for such a time as this.

"Patriarchs and Prophets," with its story of the experience of the people of God in their journey from Egypt to Canaan, contains principles to guide God's people today in their journey to the Promised Land. It is a wonderful book. How much we all need to study these two great books! Parents need them. Young people need them.

But whatever method we pursue in the study of the Spirit of prophecy, let us heed the voice of the Spirit speaking to our hearts in counsel, encouragement, reproof, and exhortation, which we need so much. May every individual in every church in every place determine to study faithfully during 1941 the blessed volumes which God has given to us through the gift of the Spirit of prophecy.

ALFRED W. PETERSON.





## Missionary Leadership

### Past and Present Accomplishments and Future Prospects

WE are presenting in this last issue of the GAZETTE for the present year a most interesting and enlightening record of the faithful service and busy activities of our large army of lay workers throughout the North American Division and the world field during the year 1939. We believe that as our church officers and other leaders give study to these figures and contemplate what they mean in actual missionary endeavor, their hearts will be filled with profound gratitude to God for using our believers throughout the world field in such a marvelous manner for the advancement and finishing of His work.

Of our world membership, which at the end of 1939 was approximately 450,000, the number reported as taking part in some feature of lay activities is 197,126, or 45 per cent of the entire membership. A number of overseas divisions have a considerably higher reporting percentage than 45 per cent. In fact, Inter-America leads the world field, with 68 per cent. The Far East is second, with 65 per cent; and Southern Europe is third, with 53 per cent.

#### North American Report

We shall now briefly analyze the two summaries. We are presenting first the North American report for 1939 as compared with that of the year 1938.

It will be noticed at a glance that the report indicates excellent gains in practically every item. For some strange reason there was a decrease in literature distributed. During certain years we have a much larger supply of small literature, while dur-

ing other years larger pieces of our publications are circulated. We feel, however, to urge that very careful study be given to the increased distribution of all kinds of publications, both small and large.

As a result of the missionary activities of our believers, a total of 4,365 new members were added to our churches during 1939 as against 4,019 in 1938. It is encouraging also to note that a larger number of churches are continually observing the first-Sabbath service, and also the weekly church missionary church service. Funds received from the first Sabbath for missionary purposes also show a very fine increase.

In connection with the report, we further wish to call attention to the fact that during 1939 there were 1,241 Dorcas Societies in operation—an increase over the previous year of 61. We call attention to another article, in this same number of the GAZETTE, which bears upon the very worth-while work being done by our Dorcas Societies throughout the country.

#### The World Summary

Let us now turn to the world report also for the year 1939, which indicates that nearly 3,000,000 Bible readings or gospel meetings were held. More than 4,000,000 missionary visits were reported; 3,200,000 persons were given needed help; 1,000,000 treatments were given; 1,200,000 pieces of clothing were distributed; and 21,800,000 pieces of literature were either sold, lent, or given away. As a result of this and other activities, 12,556 new members were added to our churches. As far as the Dorcas and welfare organizations are concerned, there has also been an encouraging

gain in 1939 over 1938, as more than 300 new organizations have been added throughout the world field.

#### Present Attainments

Gleaning a few figures from the very latest reports—those for the first quarter of 1940 for the world field, and for North America for the second quarter of the present year—we are pleased to announce that the excellent gains of 1939 over 1938 are continuing also in 1940. During the first quarter of 1940, 2,494 new church members were added as a result of lay activities throughout the world field. There are gains in twenty-five of the twenty-seven items for the quarter. The North American report for the second quarter is encouraging in that 2,123 members were added as a result of the missionary work of our lay members, compared with 1,448 during the second quarter of 1939. The literature circulation shows another upward trend—4,154,000 pieces of literature were distributed during the second quarter, as against 2,990,000 during the corresponding quarter of a year ago.

#### Future Possibilities

While these figures tell in unmistakable language of the faithfulness and increasing efficiency of the laity in advancing the tidings of the kingdom of God, we feel that the record should show still greater accomplishments for God. Realizing that there is but a short time in which to warn the world and find the precious jewels scattered in the far corners of the earth, we trust that the encouragement which these figures bring to our hearts will challenge our church officers to plan for a much greater work during 1941.

We wish to take this occasion to express to all church officers, as well as to our members generally, our profoundest appreciation of the very remarkable way in which lay evangelism has been carried on during the past year, and we are persuaded that we shall see a much more complete fulfillment of the situation as stated by the messenger of the Lord, that "the time is coming when there will be as many converted in a day as there were on the day of Pentecost." May the sound of the loud cry swell into a harmonious chorus, and may the church of God everywhere arise and finish its appointed task.

STEEN RASMUSSEN.

Items	1939	1938	Gain or Loss
Bible Readings .....	443,031	425,297	17,734 G
Missionary Visits .....	1,387,333	1,215,850	171,483 G
Persons Taken to Sabbath School .....	543,887	511,553	32,334 G
Persons Helped .....	850,924	836,663	14,261 G
Treatments Given .....	202,780	203,356	576 L
Hours Christian Help Work .....	1,967,423	1,698,192	269,231 G
Articles of Clothing Given .....	812,805	796,315	16,490 G
Bouquets and Fruit Baskets .....	472,365	437,704	34,661 G
Literature Distributed (pieces) .....	14,960,372	15,986,890	1,026,518 L
Letters Written .....	301,212	293,232	7,980 G
Added to Church .....	4,365	4019	346 G
Per Cent Reporting Membership .....	45%	42%	3% G
1st Sabbath Service Observing .....	1,320	1,292	28 G
Weekly Service Observing .....	1,663	1,586	77 G
1st Sabbath Offering .....	\$166,096.83	\$127,287.32	\$38,809.51 G

## Departmental Activities

### Dorcas Society Activities

WHILE it is not possible, at the time this report is being prepared, to give complete totals of Dorcas Society activities for the entire year of 1940, we take pleasure in giving the summary for the first quarter of the year. We ask our readers to kindly bear in mind that these figures, excellent as they are, will be trebled and possibly quadrupled when reports for the other three quarters are available.

The number of church Dorcas Societies represented in the first quarter's report is 1,265. Each society represents on an average possibly twenty-five active members, which means from twenty-five to thirty thousand women of the Seventh-day Adventist Church united in serving the Master by aiding the sick, afflicted, destitute, and needy of all kinds found in every community.

This fine army of Christian women reported 113,686 hours spent in service in this particular phase of church work, during the first quarter only. This is the equivalent of 14,210 days, of eight hours each, or 2,368 weeks of six working days—a vast amount of work crowded into twelve actual weeks.

The number of garments which the Dorcas Societies distributed is 80,276; and of this number 14,659 were either made from new cloth or were mended and repaired second-hand garments. A very low estimate of the commercial value of each of these garments given away would be twenty-five cents, but even at this figure the total would mount up to more than three thousand dollars expended.

Quilts and comforters form one of the main items in the stock on the Dorcas Society shelves, and 1,449 were made by the Dorcas workers. At three dollars apiece, which is a very low valuation of these conscientiously made articles, this would represent an investment of more than four thousand dollars.

Four thousand baskets of food supplies were given out, and 2,723 meals were furnished to worthy poor. The number of persons who received help, in the way of either food, clothing, or

medical attention, was 14,760; and the number of family groups benefited by Dorcas ministry was 3,459. There were 685 special cases of need—situations which required something out of the ordinary—such as medicines, eyeglasses, crutches, etc.

Three thousand pounds of bandages were shipped to our medical relief stations in the China war zone or to mission stations in interior Africa. This item alone represents much work in gathering up cast-off linen and cutting and rolling it into proper shape.

The Dorcas workers distributed 75,442 pieces of truth-filled literature in connection with their work. No doubt these workers distributed many more pieces of literature in the general church missionary work, but this figure represents Dorcas contacts alone.

Dorcas work is designed to break down prejudice and prepare the way for more direct contact in awakening an interest in the third angel's message, and these workers are always on the watch for souls and are faithful in discharging their obligations to minister to spiritual needs. During the first quarter of the year 103 persons, found through Dorcas contacts, were reported as definitely interested in studying the Bible and searching for light.

In the great missionary program of the church, the Dorcas Society activities are coming to occupy an ever-enlarging place, and this work is worthy of the enthusiastic cooperation of the entire church.

HOME MISSIONARY DEPT.



### Does Prison Work Pay?

REGULAR visits to those in prison were included with other charitable activities when Jesus outlined the work characteristic of those whom He will welcome into His kingdom. To the surprise of the redeemed, He will say, "I was in prison, and ye came unto Me." Matt. 25:36.

"But some of them in prison are there for life, and we could never hope to get them into the church," is a thought that might arise. "It seems such a hopeless task." "They won't appreciate us." "They are not interested in religion," and kindred suggestions may summarize the attitude of many.

The fact is, however, that prisoners are more susceptible to singing and Bible studies than the average individual not found in such a forbidding environment. They are for the most part interested and really appreciative listeners.

A brother in St. Joseph, Missouri, began visiting the city jail several months ago and as a direct result has added about twelve members to the little Sabbath school there. It happened on this wise: A prisoner who was interested in the Bible studies gave our lay preacher the name and address of his wife and his family of eleven children. He sent home instructions that all the children should attend the little Adventist church. Practically the entire family now come to Sabbath school, and they bring visitors with them. A recent study in the home of this same prisoner was attended by fully forty-five persons.

Another inmate at St. Joseph, later transferred to the State prison at Jefferson City, writes words of appreciation in the lines that follow:

"I cannot find words to express to you the consolation that I derived from the services which you and your co-workers held while I was in jail. It is my wish that God may let His richest blessing rest upon you all in the services of His holy name. I assure you that I shall always keep in remembrance the things that were spoken to me."

An expression of faith is seen in a letter of gratitude from still another prisoner. He says:

"I can see the hand of God patiently loosening the knots and straightening

out this hopeless snarl because I have asked Him to do so. And you, my friend, have endorsed my request, and your dear wife and friends have also asked Him to see me safely through.

"I thank you for your fellowship, your beautiful songs. My fellow prisoners greet you. You are always in my prayers."

Some other denomination works with the same prisoners, and they try to gain favor with them by promising deliverance through prayer, without a corresponding effort at the correction

of their lives. The natural result was disappointment on the part of the prisoners and ultimate contempt for the religious workers.

Our brother met questions on the time of imprisonment and the hope of release by saying, "I am not here to try to get you out; the Lord will take care of that. What I am anxious about is that you learn here how to live so that when you get out you won't get back in again."

And, strange as it may sound, it worked. LOUIS B. REYNOLDS.

## Missionary Leaders' Round Table

### Why Report?

ALTHOUGH as a people we deplore the idea of war and bloodshed, we do thrill at the thought of victory. Men like Napoleon Bonaparte, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Richard the Lionhearted, George Washington, Ulysses S. Grant, and others are not remembered because they wore great warriors, but because they were great victors. They accomplished what they set out to do.

Perhaps few realize that some of the great victories of these men were the direct result of an efficient system of securing reports. How could any great war of the past have been won without the espionage system? How could wars be fought today without observation balloons, scout planes, and numerous other means of obtaining reports of the positions, fortifications, and activities of the enemy, which enable the leaders to know the proper course to pursue—whether to take the offensive or the defensive?

It will be remembered that during the earlier part of the present war a great German liner left Mexico laden with cargo. Immediately a British agent stationed in Mexico reported to England just when the liner left port. Aware of the liner's speed, England knew where and when to send out a man-of-war to capture her. Although the German crew scuttled the liner rather than allow it to be captured, the victory was definitely England's. Why? Because of a fine reporting system.

Aviators would not dare leave on their transeontinental flights without

reports of the weather along their routes. Their very lives and the safety of their planes depend upon reports.

It is plain to be seen that great victories and the success of great enterprises depend to a great extent upon reports which make it possible for generals and other executives to be kept informed on every detail.

And surely if God's great army expects victory in the battle for truth, there must of necessity be maintained a thorough reporting system. Without our present reporting system, how would we know that there are approximately 500,000 Seventh-day Adventists in the world today; that they are working in 387 countries and islands; that they are operating 159 sanitariums and dispensaries; that 512,124 patients have been cared for in one year; that 3,451,961 garments have been distributed to the needy in one year; that the estimated value of relief administered in North America in one year amounts to more than one million dollars?

But a reporting system alone is not sufficient. Every member of every Seventh-day Adventist church throughout the world must become a regular, accurate reporter in order for the system to produce the desired results. The individual members report to the church, the church reports to the local conference, the local conference reports to the union conference, the union conference reports to the division conference, and the division conference reports to the General Conference. And so the leaders

of our spiritual warfare keep their finger tips on the progress of the work in every village, hamlet, town, and city throughout the world, and thereby know just how to plan for the work. They will know, for instance, whether each church is warning its own community, thus heeding the charge of the blessed Saviour to preach repentance and remission of sins in His name among all nations, "beginning at Jerusalem."

Reporting inspires one to greater missionary endeavor. The report blank is a measuring stick for one's Christian experience, for without works faith is dead. When the missionary secretary distributes the report blanks each Sabbath, and you run your pencil down the line to mark just what you have done for the week, you see yourself as you really are. You know then whether your faith is a pretense or whether you are really living a life of service. So it really pays to report, not only for the sake of the General Conference and the success of the work, but for your own sake.

### A Word to Missionary Leaders

If missionary leaders find it difficult to get the members to report, perhaps the secret will be found in seeing that each member has something definite to do, thus making it possible for all to have something to report. But first of all you must have faith in them. Our church members are good people; they love to do good deeds; but often they are at a loss to know just what to do or where to begin. But with your vision of the work, your genuine interest in the home field, you will have no trouble in getting your members interested and started to work. Do not, however, start them out with too heavy a load, if they have not been used to engaging in missionary endeavor. They must be trained to work. A farmer who trains a colt breaks it in gradually—first to the bridle, then to the saddle, then to carry light loads, then to carry heavier loads. Otherwise the colt would balk, and would kick over the traces. The same law holds good in training Christian workers. Begin by getting the church members to give out one tract a week, or a copy of the *Youth's Instructor*, to visit a sick friend, or perhaps give away an article of clothing. They will enjoy

doing it, and what is more, they will become enthusiastic about reporting what they have done.

Please don't stop there. Do not simply report once in a while or when you have time. Do not report every other Sabbath. *Report every single Sabbath.* Do not let anything crowd it out. If ministers from your local conference, or even from the General

Conference, visit your church and have a message to impart during the church missionary service, give the time to them, but reserve a few minutes at the beginning of the service for reporting. In this way reporting becomes a habit. Then and only then will it fill its rightful place in the general scheme of missionary endeavor.

MINNIE MITTS.

## Church Missionary Organization

### Organize for Service

A CHURCH that is organized for service is a working church. A working church is a growing church. We have many faithful missionary workers in our churches, but God's plan for His church is that every member become a worker. We are convinced that this is possible only as we follow the blueprint outlined for us. The successful, happy way is the denominational way. What does it mean for a church to be organized for service? In outlining the denominational plan, we will present a few important needs and some points to be remembered.

There should be an appointed missionary leader and an appointed missionary secretary. The church board, in fulfilling its duties as a missionary committee, is responsible for enlisting every member in service by appointing the following leaders to enlist and train them:

1. Class-band leaders. These must be the best personal workers and soul winners in the church, who will be trained by the home missionary leader to give personal spiritual help to every member of his band. By class bands we refer to the same group as study together in the Sabbath school. The band leaders may or may not be the Sabbath school teachers, but each one must be capable of enlisting the members of his band in service.

2. Bible-evangelism leader to help the class-band leaders in enlisting and training members in giving Bible readings and holding cottage meetings and lay efforts.

3. Literature-ministry leader to enlist and train the members of class bands in a systematic literature program, and in the sale of magazines,

small books, and home workers' books.

4. Welfare and Dorcas leaders for enlisting and training the members in Christian help work.

A weekly missionary service should be conducted. This is not a preaching service, but it gives the class-band leaders their weekly direct contact for gathering reports and giving out literature and supplies. It also affords the missionary leader an opportunity for missionary announcements and for promoting the current soul-winning activities.

The monthly church missionary service should include the taking up of an offering for home missionary work, and the monthly missionary report. We appreciate the cooperation of our pastors in giving our churches on this day the service topics that will educate our people to become soul winners.

The CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE should be furnished to pastors, elders, missionary leaders, missionary secretaries, Bible evangelism leaders, literature ministry leaders, welfare and Dorcas leaders, and class-band leaders.

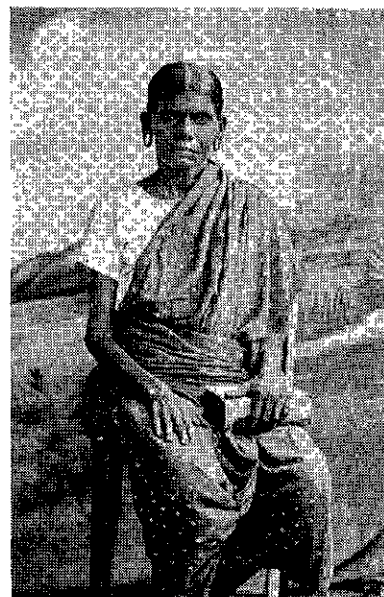
We appreciate the fact that in some of our smaller churches the elder will be the home missionary leader and also the Bible evangelism leader. The missionary secretary will also be appointed literature-ministry leader, and perhaps in rare instances may serve as welfare and Dorcas leader. In some of our smaller conferences one man serves in three or four departments, but he has distinct responsibilities in every department. In just the same way we are asking that in our smaller churches these responsibilities be assigned, and it is our desire to launch an educational pro-

(Continued on page 14)

### Neighborhood Evangelism in India

ANNAMAI is a crippled sister who lives in South India. She was a Hindu by birth, and grew to maturity in the atmosphere of heathen superstition and prejudice against Christianity. But because she was a cripple, her own people refused to care for her; so she lived in a small house on the other side of town. Close to her house lived a native Seventh-day Adventist sister—a home missionary in her neighborhood. Soon friendship was established between the two, which led to personal witnessing in regard to the Christian's joy and hope, and gradually the way opened for Bible studies. Annamai is now happy in the third angel's message, and is looking forward to the second coming of the Saviour. She has renounced all her heathen habits and practices, and her life is a testimony to the power of the gospel. Although a cripple, and in very poor circumstances, she attends the Sabbath services regularly, and pays her tithe. We are glad that our Indian sisters realize their responsibility to watch for souls and are gathering with Christ. It is time that every member of our churches everywhere search through their neighborhood to find souls who are honest in heart and longing for light; and when we find them we must remove from their eyes the bandages of

(Continued on page 14)



Annamai, Formerly a Hindu, Now Rejoices in the Truth

## Weekly Church Missionary Services

### December 7—Visiting the Sick

"I was sick, and ye visited Me!" Matt. 25:36. These are the words of heaven's King in that final separation of the righteous and the wicked, when eternal destinies are fixed. But those to whom the recognition is given are astonished. It seems there must be some mistake, for, to their comprehension, Jesus was never sick, and certainly there never was opportunity to visit Him under such circumstances. Hence, they incredulously ask, Lord, "when saw we Thee sick, . . . and came unto Thee?" The answer is immediate and positive; there has been no mistake in the accrediting: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Verse 40. Jesus endured the griefs, the sorrows, the afflictions of the entire human family; there is not a human experience through which He has not passed. Today, even in the heavenly courts, He is "touched with the feeling" of human infirmities, and He expects and watches to see who of His redeemed and loving children are ministering, in His stead, to the sick and needy on every hand.

In "The Desire of Ages" there is a very solemnizing statement, found on page 640: "All the days of your life I [Jesus] was near you in the person of these afflicted ones." Do we see Jesus in those confined to beds of sickness? Do we fully sense the importance which the Saviour attaches to even a visit? Some, yes, many, are ever ready to respond to the call for such ministry in the cases of need found on every hand, but there is another class who respond reluctantly or not at all. Referring again to the quotation from "The Desire of Ages," we find the concluding sentence to be this: "But you did not seek Me. You would not enter into fellowship with Me. I know you not!" It is a serious matter to be so blind as not to see the blessed privilege of serving our Master through the person of the afflicted ones about us.

Visiting the sick is our appointed service, and there will never be a time this side of the great divide

when there will not be opportunity for such ministry. There is need of giving careful and prayerful consideration to all that is involved in visiting the sick. Such a visitor should never go forth without being freshly equipped with courage, joy, and comfort obtained at the throne of grace. He is to be the mirror to reflect the love and compassion of the Great Physician; he is to "speak a word in season to him that is weary;" he is to convey the glad tidings of deliverance from sin and its awful penalty, and to plant hope within the despairing soul.

More than this, a visit to the sick should involve the use of remedial agencies for the relief of pain and suffering, as far as practical. The blessing of God upon the intelligent application of simple treatments based on natural laws governing the body, often produces marvelous results. Every Christian should be "understandingly efficient" in regard to these simple laws of health, and to this end the health-study circles should be operating in all the churches. There is a great lack of knowledge in regard to the health principles which have been entrusted to the remnant church in order that all may "prosper and be in health," and may render the broad and helpful service called for in "visiting the sick."

### December 14—Why Report?

A fundamental and persistent aim in the layman's missionary movement is this: "Every member of the church a worker, and every member a reporter!" Maintaining this high ideal sometimes seems almost like "hitching our wagon to a star," for as yet it has never been fully reached. Nevertheless it is a worthy aim, and one which will never be abandoned. We have come much nearer to getting every church member to engage in missionary work than to getting these same working members to report their doings conscientiously and faithfully. Far too often we hear the exclamation by some weary soul, "Why report? If we do the work for God, that is enough. I don't propose to let my left hand know what my right hand

does!" On page 11 of this issue of the GAZETTE is found an article entitled, "Why Report," which is written by a wide-awake church missionary secretary. We would advise that it be read carefully, as it affords a good balance for the objections.

Elder J. A. Neilsen, home missionary secretary in the Northern California Conference, furnishes the following timely suggestions:

"Everybody does it! What? Reports. We report on the condition of the weather, week-end visits, interesting letters received, auto trips, and many other things. Yes, we all report. But what, and when, and where? There is one work more important than anything else in this world, and that is the giving of the third angel's message, which involves many lines of personal endeavor familiar to every church member. Did you report the missionary visits you made last week, or the Bible studies you gave? What about the literature you distributed on that auto trip? You reported to your friends about the trip in general; why not report to the church missionary secretary the amount of literature you handed out? Or, did you hand out any? That may be a little embarrassing to report, but the antidote for such embarrassment will lie in actually doing something next time, and by repeated doses, complete recovery will be possible within a short time.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, . . . *whatsoever things are of good report*; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Phil. 4:8. Yes, we all report many things, in many ways, to many people; but only an average of about 40 per cent of the church members throughout North America report the work they do for God."

Any business concern which did not receive full 100 per cent reports from its employees would soon be bankrupt, and not only would the firm fail, but the employees would be stranded without a job. In doing business for God there must be system and order. It is true that there is a "record kept on high," where there are no omissions and no mistakes, where every neglected opportunity to do service for God is recorded, and where "every act of love, every word of kindness, every prayer in behalf of the suffer-

ing and oppressed, is reported before the eternal throne, and placed on heaven's imperishable record;" but unfaithfulness in duty to supply the church missionary secretary with regular reports is also recorded, and is placed on the opposite side of the ledger.

A new year is soon to be ushered in—the year of 1941—when, as never before, it is urgently important that—

**"EVERY CHURCH MEMBER BE A MISSIONARY WORKER, AND EVERY WORKER A STEADY REPORTING MEMBER."**

#### December 21—Missionary Experiences

We are drawing toward the close of a year of wonderful experiences and fruitage in soul winning. The faithful witnessing of the lay members, through the various channels of missionary work, such as lay preaching and Bible work, Harvest Ingathering and Missions Extension, Dorcas Society endeavor, and extensive literature work, has resulted in the winning of about three thousand souls to the truth. We praise God for what He has accomplished through human instruments yielded to His control.

Let us pause for a moment to contemplate the picture of what awaits the soul winner in the near future. This picture is painted by the Spirit of prophecy, and is portrayed as follows:

"The redeemed will meet and recognize those whose attention they have directed to the uplifted Saviour. What blessed concourse they will have with these souls! 'I was a sinner,' it will be said, 'without God and without hope in the world; and you came to me, and drew my attention to the precious Saviour as my only hope. And I believed in Him. I repented of my sins, and was made to sit together with His saints in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.' . . . Others will express their gratitude to those who fed the hungry and clothed the naked. 'When despair bound my soul in unbelief, the Lord sent you to me,' they say, 'to speak words of hope and comfort. You brought me food for my physical necessities, and you opened to me the word of God, awakening me to my spiritual needs. You treated me as a brother.'"—*Gospel Workers*, p. 518.

It will be of mutual encouragement to speak and to hear of the experiences which the individual members of the church have to tell. A few moments are allotted for these inspiring reports. "Ye are My witnesses," saith the Lord; and "in His temple doth everyone speak of His glory."

#### December 28—The Call to Organize and Advance

Elder W. H. Branson, vice-president of the General Conference, makes the following very important statement: "Next to evangelism itself, the matter of organizing the church so as to put every member to work is the most important problem before this denomination." This is a problem which calls for wise and discerning leadership, with perpetual watchcare and discernment.

"The church of Christ on earth was organized for missionary purposes, and the Lord desires to see the entire church devising ways and means whereby high and low, rich and poor, may hear the message of truth."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI, p. 29. We are also warned that "time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work."—*Id.*, Vol. IX, p. 27. That we are on the verge of the eternal world is very certain. Prophecies are being rapidly fulfilled before our very eyes. Now is our time of opportunity to organize the forces in the church to do a larger work in 1941 than has been accomplished in 1940, even though the record of the current year is most encouraging.

With the many lines of missionary endeavor connected with the proclamation of the truth, there is "a place and a work for everyone." How many members of your church were not included in the missionary-band organization this year? Compare your lists, and make a study of each member whose name does not appear on the band report cards, to see what line

of service he or she is best qualified to do successfully, and how to wisely and tactfully secure his cooperation.

Band leaders should study the records of the report cards for the year, and express appreciation for what has been accomplished, with encouragement to continue with greater diligence. We now stand on the verge of the annual election of officers, and many changes in leadership will occur; but on this, the last Sabbath of the year, hold aloft the banner of church missionary organization, and call for reenlistment and for new recruits from the missing membership. Everything possible should be done to strengthen the band organization, and also the organization for instruction and training in all the various phases of personal missionary endeavor. May this last missionary service in the year be indeed a rally call to more thorough organization and to greater advance.

"If discipline and order are necessary for successful action on the battlefield, the same are as much more needful in the warfare in which we are engaged as the object to be gained is of greater value and more elevated in character, than those for which opposing forces contend upon the field of battle. In the conflict in which we are engaged, eternal interests are at stake."—*Id.*, Vol. I, p. 649.

#### Organize for Service

(Continued from page 12)

gram in order to have all these important leaders trained in their duties.

We are behind in training our people. Pray that the Lord will raise up leaders in our churches who will take their responsibilities seriously. We are asking the cooperation of every church board in appointing leaders who will seek to become efficient in enlisting and training the church members for service. L. E. ESTER.

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#### Neighborhood Evangelism in India

(Continued from page 12)

prejudice, tradition, and superstition, so that they "may behold wondrous things" in God's law. Ps. 119:18.

E. D. THOMAS, *Home Miss. Sec., Southern Asia Division.*





# Young People's Department of Missionary Volunteers



## OFFICERS' NOTES

December

### Just Around the Corner

**W**HAT is just around the corner? The end of the old year! Down through the many months of 1940 the young people of your society have had "nip-and-tuck" experiences in observing the Bible Year and the Morning Watch. Some have grown weary in well-doing at times; some may have fallen by the way. But whatever their state during the past year, every young person is ready to make his last turn around the corner out of the old year into the new. Will all of them finish the year in a strong way—by observing the Bible Year and the Morning Watch as faithfully the last day as they did the first day of the year?

What are they going to do in 1941? Will they go right on swelling the great army of youth who are observing these devotional features? Now is the time to lay plans for next year's enrollment. Those who faithfully pursued these devotional features during the past year will sense their value and will undoubtedly enlist for 1941. Those who did not enlist at the beginning of the past year missed something, and it is the responsibility of the leaders to help them see what they missed, and to help them realize what they will gain if they take up the Bible Year and Morning Watch habits. Let us give these devotional projects an unusual impetus at the very beginning of the new year.

D. A. OCHS.

### How to Make the M.V. Society a Success—No. 12

#### Rounding Out the Work for the Year

No society can be considered a successful society if the things which it is expected to promote are permitted to run at loose ends. The society executive committee should check frequently on the progress made in the various phases of activity in the society. As the end of the year approaches, the committee should endeavor to complete any unfinished part of its year's program. All records should be properly entered, and the necessary supplies should be secured, so that they may be on hand for use by the new officers as they



take up the work of the society for the new year. It would be well if the society executive committee sought counsel from the conference Missionary Volunteer secretary regarding binding off its year's work. The society executive committee should check up to see that all reports required from the society by the conference are sent in.

Throughout the year the executive committee should take account of its financial status. Perhaps some project involving finance was undertaken, and the executive committee should watch lest the funds for this project fall into arrears. A word regarding the finances of the society might be given here. The youth of the church should be interested in all the financial problems of the church, and each should share according to his ability in the support of the church; and the officers of the society should remind the young people of this whenever the need arises. The young people should be interested in the support of the denominational foreign mission program throughout the world. It is true that the young people give in the Sabbath school and share in the regular offerings of the church, such as the Annual Offering and the Midsummer Offering, but it is a policy of the Missionary Volunteer Department that the interest of the young people as a society shall be tied to the foreign mission program of the denomination. Also there are local society projects which need financing. There must be funds on hand for literature distribution, for flowers for the sick, for society supplies, etc.

The policy adopted by the Missionary Volunteer Department requires

that the offerings of the Missionary Volunteer Society shall be divided equally between the foreign mission program and the local society's projects. That is, half of the offerings are to be sent on to the conference as foreign mission offerings from the society, and the other half is to be kept in the church for the society's use in carrying on its own projects.

So, rounding up the year's work, the society executive committee will check up to see how its projects have been carried through, and will endeavor to finish its work before the year closes. A successful society is one that does the work that it starts out to do.

A. W. P.

### The Annual Week of Prayer

THERE is not another week in all the program of denominational endeavors that is more important than the annual Week of Prayer. Surely we have reached a time that should bring every young person in the advent ranks to a realization of the need of a closer walk with God through prayer. The Week of Prayer is designed for that very purpose.

The world over, every Seventh-day Adventist institution, church, and company is setting aside this week for study, meditation, and prayer. The advent believers in every land—young and old alike—are gathering daily to seek the Lord for a deeper spiritual experience. Will the young people in your society and church receive that blessing which God has in store for His people during this annual convocation? That depends upon the leadership. What are you to do to make this week profitable?

1. You are to lay definite plans at an early date in cooperation with the pastor and the elders of the church and with the Missionary Volunteer leader of the conference.

2. You are to call your Missionary Volunteer executive officers together to make tangible plans.

3. You are to organize prayer and personal workers' bands to meet daily.

4. You are to arrange meetings at such times that it will be possible for all your young people to attend.

5. You are to put forth every effort to make it possible for your young people to take their stand for Christ.

6. You are to work with the pastor and elders in conducting baptismal classes for those who surrender their hearts to God.

7. Last, but not least, you are to endeavor to carry the spirit of the



week throughout the year by urging all to enter upon a permanent devotional program, and observe the Bible Year and the Morning Watch and from other inspiring devotional habits.

D. A. OCHS.

### Outgoing Officers

THE passing of this old year presents a real challenge to good leadership in the Lord's work, for good leadership truly knows how to bridge successfully the gap from the old year to the new without any interruptions—without causing the Lord's work in the society to suffer in any way. Do you know that this is the month in which to demonstrate your spirit of Christian leadership?

Many changes will be made perhaps in your own society—changes in leadership, committee, and band personnel. Hold steady during these changes. What are you to do? You are not to bring all society activities to a close. The Lord's program does not terminate with the passing of the old year. You are to give the work of the society a new impetus with the closing of the old year. Remember that your year's work is not completed until you have accomplished the following:

1. Made a survey of all the past year's activities—Bible Year, Morning Watch, Reading Course, Study and Service League, Standard of Attainment, Advanced Study and Service League, Junior Progressive Classes. Are all who followed these projects completing them by December 31, 1940?

2. Seen to it that there is no interruption in the Missionary Volunteer activities—Progressive work, Christian help work, sunshine and literature bands, etc. Encourage all to carry on; then assist the incoming officers in every way possible.

3. Checked on the record book with all its information—society membership, minutes of the meetings, the cash account. Is everything brought up to date? Have you neglected anything? Are you now ready to turn over all records to your successor at the required time?

4. Sent all required information to your local conference office by January 10. Of course, your work of the year will not be complete without this item. Your conference Missionary Volunteer secretary is required to send this record of the past year to the union Missionary Volunteer secretary, who is required to send it on to the General Conference Missionary Volunteer Department. Can they all depend on you at the close of 1940?

5. Assured the incoming officers of your cooperation. If you are not one of the 1941 officers, remember that you have a place to fill for the Lord. Never fail to give your successors your prayerful support. This they desire of you; this the Lord requires of you; this is an indication of your good leadership.

D. A. OCHS.

### Pass It On

Now is the time to lay definite plans to pass it on. Pass what on? One of the most important things in all the Missionary Volunteer projects—the Morning Watch. The Morning Watch Calendar for 1941 is laden with many Bible promises. This little booklet should be in the hands of thousands the world over—old and young, rich and poor, believers and unbelievers. All will find this guide to morning devotions for 1941 filled with the very thing that will help them to live the life that counts.

Let us resolve to increase the circulation of the Morning Watch Calendar as never before, by—

1. Urging societies to purchase them at an early date and in large quantities.

2. Distributing them in hospitals and sanitariums.

3. Placing them in hotels, Y.W.C.A.'s, and Y.M.C.A.'s.

4. Encouraging teachers of Sabbath school classes to give them to the class members.

5. Encouraging Sunday school superintendents to supply them for their class members.

6. Urging our school administrators to place them in the hands of students in the school homes.

7. Using them as greeting cards.

8. Encouraging dealers in greeting cards to put them on sale.

9. Encouraging members of business houses to supply employees.

10. Placing them in waiting rooms of doctors' offices and encouraging the doctors to accompany them with Bibles.

11. And, last, but not least, by encouraging every young person of the advent movement to obtain a calendar and to observe diligently the Morning Watch during 1941.

D. A. OCHS.

### The Holidays—Gifts

THE holidays are days when we desire to give happiness to others. Holidays are charged with joyous memories, but this year we come to a holiday season darkened by suffering and privation in large areas of the world. And as this shadow makes its influence felt in our hearts, every Missionary Volunteer cannot help feeling that the world needs Christ today more than it ever needed Him before.

This holiday season ought to be different. Officers, encourage the youth of the church to celebrate this season of the year in as simple a manner as possible. Instead of wastefulness and extravagance, let there be frugality. Let every Missionary Volunteer, as far as possible, use this opportunity to make Christ more real in this suffering world. Send the Morning Watch Calendar for a Christmas or a New Year's greeting; give Missionary Volunteer gifts—a good book such as "Alone With

God," or "Messages to Young People," or any of the M. V. Reading Course books. These will bring a lift, and will be a gift that will last in the heart of the recipient for many a day. Enclose a Missionary Volunteer leaflet, with its message of hope and cheer, in letters which may be written; put Morning Watch Calendars in hospitals, in hotels, in Y.W.C.A. and Y.M.C.A. dormitories. Perhaps the society executive committee could definitely plan some project for placing our books and other literature appropriate for Christmas in the hands of those of the community who are in need of encouragement in a time like this.

A. W. P.

### The Life That Counts

The life that counts must toil and fight;  
Must hate the wrong and love the right;  
Must stand for truth by day and night—  
And this the life that counts.

The life that counts must aim to rise  
Above the earth to sunlit skies;  
Must fix his gaze on Paradise—  
And this the life that counts.

The life that counts must hopeful be;  
In darkest night make melody;  
Must wait the dawn on bended knee—  
And this the life that counts.

The life that counts must helpful be;  
The cares and needs of others see;  
Must seek the slave of sin to free—  
And this the life that counts.

The life that counts is linked with God,  
And turns not from the cross—the rod;  
But walks with joy where Jesus trod—  
And this the life that counts.

—Author Unknown.

### Buckle Down

BUCKLE down and meet it, whatever it may be;  
Nothing's very easy, though we make it so with glee.  
Buckle down and face it, with the sunshine on your shield.  
If you buckle down and meet it, there's a chance that it will yield.  
Buckle down! What magic in that challenge to our strength.  
The call that comes to every man of energy at length.  
Buckle down in earnest if you want to win the goal;  
Buckle down to duty if you care for heart and soul.  
Buckle down and beat it with the force of all your will;  
Buckle down and conquer every shadow of the ill.  
No one makes a highway to the dreams that shall come true.  
Till he buckles down in earnest to the things there are to do.

—Baltimore Sun.

### It's a Good Thing—

To be blind when others are looking for trouble.  
To be dumb when others are engaging in scandal.  
To be deaf when others are spreading gossip.  
To be busy when others are waiting for luck to break.  
To be pushing when others are hunting for pulls.  
To be tolerant when others are contentious.  
To be charitable when others are caught in mistakes.

—Selected.



## Senior Meetings

### Around the Family Altar

(Program for December 7)

BY C. A. RUSSELL

OPENING SONG: "Tread Softly," No. 196 in "Christ in Song."

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalms 139:1-12.

PRAYER: Followed by the Lord's prayer in unison.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

TALK: "The Family Altar."

RECITATION: "A Ballad of Trees and the Master."

TALK: "Answers to Prayer."

RECITATION: "Pray."

TALK: "The Priceless Privilege of Prayer."

RECITATION: "My Prayer," p. 25.

CLOSING SONG: "Just for Today," No. 563 in "Christ in Song."

CLOSING PRAYER.

#### Note to Leaders

In the opinion of the one preparing this matter, it does not seem that the topic lends itself easily to the discussion type of program; and hence the older form has been followed. It will be observed that the material used has not been restricted solely to family worship, but we have felt free to enlarge upon the topic to include the thought of prayer in its broader aspects. We hope this study may result in inspiring greater joy in family devotions, and in quickening the prayer life of the individual.

#### The Family Altar

THE family altar—what is it? Why is it? Where is it? Vital questions, these. An altar is a place for worship. In olden times when sacrifices were offered an altar was erected upon which the offering was placed. This offering, a clean animal without blemish, was slain by the sinner, thus showing that the end of sin is death, and was consumed upon the altar. The sinner, in bringing his offering and confessing his sin, showed his faith in a Saviour to come who could actually take away sin. In prayer we confess our sins to God in the name of Jesus, who bore our sins on the cross and died as our substitute to pay the penalty for our sins.

Now, on this side of the cross, we do not build altars and burn sacrifices upon them. We come to God in humble prayer around our family altar, our place of worship in the home.

Never should we allow this altar to become broken down. We often call this sacred occasion "family worship," and well we may. Here the family may be gathered together, and for a little time be shut in with God. His word is read and studied, and reverently all bow in prayer. It is the privilege of all to join in this service. Even the little ones may be taught to lip out their simple prayers to Jesus. Temptations, dangers seen and unseen, perplexities, and problems beset our way. Who would dare to enter upon the new and untried way each day without first thanking God for His continued keeping, protecting power, and asking Him for guidance, protection, and wisdom to meet the problems of the day? Never should this be neglected, and in the years to come, the sweetest memories of home will cluster around the family altar.

Prayer is the breath of the soul. We must have air constantly or we die. So it is with prayer. "Pray without ceasing." We must ever be in such an attitude of heart and mind that a prayer may escape our lips instantly in time of need. Prayer at the family altar is not sufficient to meet the needs of the day. But prayer, communion with God, just talking with our Friend, is as essential to daily Christian growth as is the drawing of the breath of life. So prayer is the breath of the soul.

"What a wonder it is that we pray so little! God is ready and willing to hear the sincere prayer of the humblest of His children, and yet there is much manifest reluctance on our part to make known our wants to God. What can the angels of heaven think of poor helpless human beings, who are subject to temptation, when God's heart of infinite love yearns toward them, ready to give them more than they can ask or think, and yet they pray so little, and have so little faith? . . .

"The darkness of the evil one encloses those who neglect to pray. The whispered temptations of the enemy entice them to sin; and it is all because they do not make use of the privileges that God has given them

in the divine appointment of prayer. Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence?"—"Steps to Christ," pp. 94, 95, pocket ed.

A very touching and beautiful morning prayer is recorded on page 70 of this same little book: "Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee."

One of the most tender and inviting appeals to prayer we quote also from this precious little volume, as follows: "Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears, before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children. 'The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.' His heart of love is touched by our sorrows, and even by our utterances of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds, He rules over all the affairs of the universe. Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice. There is no chapter in our experience too dark for Him to read; there is no perplexity too difficult for Him to unravel. No calamity can befall the least of His children, no anxiety harass the soul, no joy cheer, no sincere prayer escape the lips, of which our heavenly Father is unob-servant, or in which He takes no immediate interest. 'He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.' The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watch-care, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son."—Page 100.

We cannot understand how God can know us and love us and care for us just as though there were not another soul on the earth. But we are finite; God is infinite. Wonderful! Precious! True!

Just another brief quotation from the same beautiful little book: "Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary, in order to make known

to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him."—*Page 93.* We should open the heart to God as to a friend. A friend has been defined as "one who knows all about you and loves you just the same." And such a friend is God, for surely He knows all about us, and we know that He loves us just the same.

### A Ballad of Trees and the Master

INTO the woods my Master went,  
Clean forspent, forspent.  
Into the woods my Master came,  
Forspent with love and shame.  
But the olives they were not blind  
to Him,  
The little gray leaves were kind to Him:  
The thorn tree had a mind to Him  
When into the woods He came.

Out of the woods my Master went,  
And He was well content.  
Out of the woods my Master came,  
Content with death and shame.  
When death and shame would woo  
Him last,  
From under the trees they drew Him last:  
'Twas on a tree they slew Him—last  
When out of the woods He came.  
—*Sidney Lanier.*

### Answers to Prayer

READ Luke 11:9, 10. Put with this the wonderful promise found in 1 John 3:21, 22; 5:14, 15.

God's promises are sweeping, but not unconditional. Ask and ye shall receive—what? The identical thing we ask for? Not always. He who knows what is best for us far better than we ourselves know, will, in response to our request, give us what we ask for, or, withholding that, give us something better. How do I know this? I read, "No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly," "if we ask anything according to His will." We dare not demand of God something which is not in harmony with His divine will. And we must be living in all good faith, doing His will as He reveals it to us in His word and by His Spirit. We must "keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."

Known sin clung to, cherished in the heart, severs the connection between us and heaven. The instrument here on earth may click, but no message goes through, for the wires are cut. The only prayer that a man living in known sin can utter with any promise that it will be heard and

answered is the cry, "God be merciful to me a sinner." (Read Ps. 66:18; Prov. 28:9.) Living in sin is like striking a blow in the very face of God, and how can a man lift up one hand to strike and the other to pray?

The following incident, taken from "Real Prayer," by Cortland Myers, well illustrates this point.

"Someone asked a Christian woman who had once been a member of the church why she had given up her relation to the church of Christ and apparently to Christianity. She said, 'Because I don't believe the Bible.' He said, 'Why don't you believe the Bible?' 'Because I tried its promises and found them untrue.' He said, 'I would like to have you tell me one single promise in the word of God that you have tried and found untrue.' She replied, 'Does it not say somewhere in the Bible, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them"?' He said, 'It says something that sounds like that.' 'Well,' she said, 'my husband was very ill. I asked God to restore my husband to health. I believed He would, but my husband died. Did not that promise fail? He said, 'No, the promise did not fail.' 'But does it not say, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them"?' 'It says something that sounds like that.' 'Well,' she said, 'just what does it say?' He replied, 'It says, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. [Emphasis ours.]' Are you one of the "ye's"? Are you one of the people to whom the promise was made?' She said, 'Wasn't it made to all professing Christians?' He said, 'Certainly not. God tells us exactly to whom He makes this promise.' She said, 'I would like to know to whom it was made, then.' He opened his Bible and read: "'Whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.' Were you keeping His commandments? Were you doing the things that were pleasing in His sight? Were you living to the glory of God in all things?' She said, 'No, I was not.' 'Then the promise was not made to you.' 'No, it was not.' 'It did not fail, then, did it?' She saw her error and came back to God."

George Mueller, of Bristol, England, that man of God who did such a wonderful work in establishing orphanages to care for helpless children, said he had had definite answers to 30,000 prayers in the same day that the requests were made. He kept a record of the prayers, and then checked them off his book when the answers came. Mr. Myer, in his book, pages 60-62, cites an incident in the life of this great man of prayer, as told by the captain of an ocean liner:

"In crossing the ocean on one of our voyages my whole life was revolutionized. We had on board a man of God, George Mueller of Bristol. I had been on that bridge for twenty-two hours without leaving it. I was startled by someone tapping me on the shoulder. It was George Mueller. 'Captain,' he said, 'I have come to tell you that I must be in Quebec on Saturday afternoon.' This was Wednesday. 'It is impossible,' I said. 'Very well, if your ship can't take me, God will find some other way. I have never broken an engagement in fifty-seven years!' 'I would willingly help you, but how can I? I am helpless.' 'Let us go down into the chartroom and pray.' I looked at that man of God and thought to myself, 'What lunatic asylum could that man have come from?' I never heard of such a thing. 'Mr. Mueller,' I said, 'do you know how dense this fog is?' 'No,' he replied, 'my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God who controls every circumstance of my life.' He knelt down, and he prayed one of the most simple prayers. I muttered to myself, 'That would suit a children's class where the children were not more than eight or nine years old. The burden of his prayer was something like this: 'O Lord, if it is consistent with Thy will, please remove this fog in five minutes. I believe it is your will that I should keep the engagement which you made for me in Quebec for Saturday.'

"When he had finished, I was going to pray; but he put his hand on my shoulder and told me not to pray! 'First, you do not believe that He will answer our prayers, and second, I believe that He has already answered my prayer; therefore there is no need whatever for you to pray about it.' I looked at him, and

George Mueller said this: 'Captain, I have known my Lord for fifty-seven years, and there has never been a single day that I have failed to gain an audience with the King. Get up, Captain, and open the door, and you will find that the fog is gone.' I got up, and the fog was indeed gone.

"You tell this to some people of a scientific turn of mind and they will say: 'That is not according to natural laws.' No, it is according to spiritual laws. The God with whom we have to do is omnipotent. Hold on to God's omnipotence. Ask believingly. On that Saturday afternoon, I might add, George Mueller was in Quebec on time."

God never failed him, nor does He fail any other man when purity of life and power of faith make the demand.

### Pray

Pray, father, pray  
In faith and earnestness.  
Do not delay;  
Our God will surely bless.  
And from His bounteous store will He  
bestow  
Rich blessings as you walk this vale  
below.

Pray, mother, pray;  
Nor faint, nor doubt, nor fear;  
And some glad day—  
It may be far or near—  
The answer that you crave will come to  
you;  
Just to yourself and to your God be true.

Pray, parents, pray.  
Your children's wandering feet  
Will some glad day  
Walk heaven's golden street.  
'Tis only through our persevering prayer,  
Through faith, that we may hope to see  
them there.

C. A. RUSSELL.

### The Priceless Privilege of Prayer

It pays to be a Christian. What must he give up? Not one thing need be left behind that would make him more happy, more useful, more contented. He may choose the finest people for his associates, and be spared the influence of the low, the degrading, the immoral, the criminal; he may enjoy the best in literature, and avoid the poison of the popular novel; he may be inspired by pure, lofty, and harmonious music, and be saved from the cheap jargon of jazz, rag, and swing; his recreation may include clean sports and games, and enjoy God's handiwork in the great world of nature, and escape the lure of the theater, the dance, and the circus. And so in every avenue of life the best is his, while the cheap, the coarse,

and the rowdy do not touch him.

Yes, it pays to be a Christian. If there were no heaven to gain, and no hell to shun, it still would pay.

Among the Christian's most priceless of privileges is prayer. "Much prayer, much power; little prayer, little power; no prayer, no power." Prayer is the channel through which connection is made between our heart and the heart of God. How dare we neglect to exercise this precious privilege?

"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."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VII, p. 42.

"In every family there should be a fixed time for morning and evening worship. How appropriate it is for parents to gather their children about them before the fast is broken, to thank the heavenly Father for His protection during the night, and to ask Him for His help and guidance and watchcare during the day! How fitting, also, when evening comes, for parents and children to gather once more before Him, and thank Him for the blessings of the day that is past!"—*Id.*, p. 43.

"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.

"Fathers and mothers, however pressing your business, do not fail to gather your family around God's altar. Ask for the guardianship of holy angels in your home. Remember that your dear ones are exposed to temptations. Daily annoyances beset the path of young and old. Those who would live patient, loving, cheerful lives must pray. Only by receiving constant help from God can we gain the victory over self."—*Ministry of Healing*, pp. 392, 393.

The preciousness of the prayer life is beautifully expressed by J. R. Miller in his "Week-Day Religion," page 79, as follows: "True family worship is a fountain that brings streams of holy influences into every part of the household. It is a vase of perfume that sheds fragrance over all. It softens asperities. It quells anger. It quiets impatience. It settles differences. It subdues evil passions. Hearts that are drawn together at God's feet every day cannot get very far apart. The frictions of the day are forgotten when all voices mingle in the same heavenly song. As the tender words of inspiration fall with their benign counsels, all feeling of unkindness melts away. The altar in the midst wondrously hallows and sweetens the home fellowship. Besides, it puts new strength into every heart. It comforts sorrow. It is a shield against temptation. It smoothes out the wrinkles of care. It inspires strength for burden bearing. It quickens every religious sentiment and keeps the fires burning on every heart's altar."

The wonderful part of all this is the fact that we may gain an audience with the King of the universe any time and anywhere. We may make the appointment.

"We may commune with God in our hearts; we may walk in companionship with Christ. When engaged in our daily labor, we may breathe out our heart's desire, inaudible to any human ear; but that word cannot die away into silence, nor can it be lost. Nothing can drown the

soul's desire. It rises above the din of the street, above the noise of machinery. It is God to whom we are speaking, and our prayer is heard.

"Ask, then; ask, and ye shall receive. Ask for humility, wisdom, courage, increase of faith. To every sincere prayer an answer will come. It may not come just as you desire, or at the time you look for it; but it will come in the way and at the time that will best meet your need. The prayers you offer in loneliness, in weariness, in trial, God answers, not always according to your expectations, but always for your good."—*"Gospel Workers," p. 258.*

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## Enlist Now in Christ's Service

(Program for December 14)

BY THEODORE LUCAS

SONGS: Nos. 35, 36, 49, 61, 62, 64, 75, 82, 83, in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

OPENING EXERCISES.

SCRIPTURE READING.

PRAYER.

SONG.

LEADER'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

SYMPOSIUM: "Enlist Now in Christ's Service."

TALK: "Can You Keep Rank?"

POEM: "The Youth's Challenge."

EXPERIENCE: "God Is Always on the Side of Right."

SPECIAL MUSIC.

TALK: "Charged With Joy."

POEM: "Bear the Tidings."

CLOSING SONG.

BENEDICTION.

### Notes to Leaders

This program is to appeal to the youth in such a way that they will enlist now for efficient service in the finishing of God's work. Let us make this a "youth-for-youth" movement. God has definitely called the young people of this church to volunteer for service, to enlist under His standard, and to bear the banner of the cross before the world.

Every young person, with varying degrees of talent, should be reached and be caused to feel that he or she has a responsibility in the closing days. "Enlist Now" is a challenge to every Missionary Volunteer Society officer, and should call forth greater effort than ever before for the youth of our denomination.

God is calling us to united missionary work. The Missionary Volunteer Society is an organization which affords many avenues for service. Having a membership in this organization is a privilege which is not to be esteemed lightly. God is counting on every Missionary Volunteer

to do his duty. Only in this way can our society fill its place in the world-wide movement; only in this way can it enjoy its highest success; only in this way can the most benefit be received from it.

### Enlist Now in Christ's Service

MANY years ago the messenger of God wrote: "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come,—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin! How soon, in place of a possession here, with its blight of sin and pain, our children might receive their inheritance where 'the righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever.'"—*"Counsels to Teachers," p. 555.*

In this time of decision we must choose whether we will march with Satan's army to disappointment, defeat, and eternal shame, or whether we will enlist in God's army and in the end sing the song of victory. "Choose poverty, reproach, separation from friends, or any suffering, rather than to defile the soul with sin. Death before dishonor or the transgression of God's law, should be the motto of every Christian."—*"Messages to Young People," p. 80.*

"Today He is calling for young men and women who are strong and active in mind and body."—*"Counsels to Teachers," p. 538.*

"You know not to what responsibility you may be called. You know not where you may be called upon to give your witness of truth. Many will have to stand in the legislative courts; some will have to stand before kings and before the learned of the earth, to answer for their faith."—*"Fundamentals of Christian Education," p. 217.*

"God calls for those who will be workers together with Him. Connected with Christ, human nature becomes pure and true. Christ supplies the efficiency, and man becomes a power for good."—*"Messages to Young People," p. 35.*

"God might have committed the message of the gospel, and all the work of loving ministry, to the heavenly angels. He might have employed other means for accomplishing His purpose. But in His infinite love He chose to make us coworkers with Himself, with Christ and the angels, that we might share the blessing, the joy, the spiritual uplifting, which results from this unselfish ministry."—*"Steps to Christ," p. 79, pocket ed.*

"The Lord will cooperate with all who earnestly strive to be faithful in His service, as He cooperated with Daniel and his three companions. Fine mental qualities and a high tone of moral character are not the result of accident. God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them."—*"Messages to Young People," pp. 147, 148.*

### Can You Keep Rank?

"ALL these men of war, that could keep rank, came with a perfect heart to Hebron, to make David king over all Israel." 1 Chron. 12:38.

There are many examples given us in Bible history of men who enlisted in God's service—men with perfect hearts who could keep rank, men who could keep in step with the movement. Let us consider for a moment a few of these. Read:

Hebrews 11:7—Noah

Hebrews 11:8-10, 17—Abraham

Hebrews 11:23-26—Moses

Christ called not only these; He calls us also to be witnesses for Him, to give evidence in our lives that He has power to save from sin. We should be wide awake, earnest, and enthusiastic in bearing our testimony upon the side of right. God's work in this world is going to be done, and it is going to be done by willing human agents who consecrate themselves wholly to Him. Can He count on you to do your part faithfully? Can He count on you to keep your heart perfect before Him, and keep rank with His movement?

The men spoken of in our text had the privilege of witnessing the greatest event of that time—that of seeing David made king. Young men and young women of today may look forward to witnessing the greatest event of all time—that of seeing Jesus crowned king of the universe. It all depends upon their keeping step and having pure hearts.

### The Youth's Challenge

JUST now is the time for service;  
No promise of future is made.  
Just now, lest evil days coming  
Endanger foundations we've laid.

The hours of the year fast fading  
Have brought us its sorrow and joy;  
New paths now open before us  
With duties our life to employ.

I have some been helped by our mission  
As onward we passed through this year?  
Then cherish the blest remembrance,  
And in the good work persevere.

If good deeds are few we recall,  
And pleasures have quite filled our days;  
Enlist now to serve for Jesus,  
We will find to serve Him it pays.

Our days may be few or many,  
Our eyes filled with gladness, or dim,  
But serving with Christ is pleasure,  
And happiness always with Him.

BURTON CASTLE.

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"OUR neighbor is everyone who is the property of God."

## God Is Always on the Side of Right

WHEN Abe Lincoln was a young man he ran for the legislature in Illinois, but was badly defeated. He then tried business and failed, and it took him seventeen years to pay the debts of a good-for-nothing partner. He again tried politics, and ran for Congress and was defeated. He tried for an appointment to the United States Land Office, but didn't get it. He sought a place in the United States Senate, but was again unsuccessful. He ran for the vice-presidency in 1856, and lost; but in the face of these discouragements and failures he forged ahead and was elected to the Presidency in 1860, and became one of our country's greatest men. Lincoln said, "God is always on the side of right."

It pays to have the definite assurance of being on God's side. Enlist now on His side, and let Him direct your life.

## Charged With Joy

I PRESUME everybody has known someone whose life was genuinely radiant. Joy beamed out of his eyes; joy bubbled over his lips; joy seemed fairly to run from his finger tips. You could not come in contact with him without having a new light come into your own life. He was completely charged with joy.

If you look into the lives of such happy persons—not those who are sometimes on the mountaintop and sometimes in the valley, but people who are always radiantly happy—you will find that each one of them spends a great deal of time in prayer, alone with God and in service for others. God is the source of all joy, and if we come in contact with Him and let Him guide us in blessing others, His infinite joy comes into our lives. . . .

The story is told of a beautiful young woman who one night noticed a poor, blind fiddler playing for money in the street. The girl took the violin and in the old man's stead played melodies that touched the hearts of the passers-by and caused them to drop their gifts into the blind man's tin cup. This not only proved a real blessing to the man in need, but brought great joy into the life of the young woman.

Too often we are inclined to think that the greatest happiness is experienced as a result of business prosperity or by satisfying our own desires. While it is right that we should be prosperous and have the things which

tend to temporal comfort and happiness, let us not lose sight of the greater joys that come into the life as a result of being a help and blessing to others.

A discouraged young doctor in one of our large cities was visited by his father, who came from a rural district. "Well, son," he said, "how are you getting along?"

"I'm not getting along at all," was the answer. The old man's countenance fell, but he spoke of courage and patience and hope.

Later in the day he went with his son to the free dispensary. He sat by in silence while twenty-five unfortunates received help. When the door had closed upon the last one, the old man burst out, "I thought you told me you were doing nothing. Why, if I helped twenty-five people in a month, I would thank God that my life counted for something."

"There isn't any money in it, though," complained the son.

"Money!" the old man shouted. "What is money in comparison with being of use to your fellow men and a help in the cause of God?"

Yes, it is loving service that affords the greatest pleasures. Have you discovered this fact for yourself? If not, may God give you a vision of the world's great need, and lead you into that consecrated service which will result in untold joy.—*C. Lester Bond.*

## Bear the Tidings

THERE are souls who grope in deepest despair;  
There are souls who have lost their way—

And without the light  
In the darkness night  
They wander with none to stay.

There are other souls who have seen the light;  
They are souls who have found the way—  
And the darkest night  
Finds them with the light,  
For the Lord is now their stay.

But what should they do who have found the way?  
And what should their attitude be  
Toward those who are lost?  
Should they count the cost  
Of laboring faithfully?

Hurist now, Christian, and gird up the loins,  
And bear the glad tidings to all  
Of the coming King  
Who to them will bring  
Relief from things which enthrall.  
BURTON CASTLE.

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"A SMILE is contagious, but the board of health doesn't object."

## God's Love Demonstrated

(Program for December 21)

BY MARJORIE WEST MARSH

HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

SCRIPTURE: John 3:16; Luke 2:8-20.

HYMN: "Come and Worship," No. 266 in "Christ in Song," or, "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night."

LEADER: We think of Christmas as a time of rejoicing because of God's gift of Jesus Christ to the world. Jesus came that He might demonstrate God's love to us, that He might help us to understand God's will for our lives. He gave Himself in service and sacrifice, that others might know the true way of life.

"Never can the cost of our redemption be realized until the redeemed shall stand with the Redeemer before the throne of God. Then as the glories of the eternal home burst upon our enraptured senses, we shall remember that Jesus left all this for us, that He not only became an exile from the heavenly courts, but for us took the risk of failure and eternal loss. Then we shall cast our crowns at His feet, and raise the song, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.'"—*"The Desire of Ages," p. 131.*

If ever we needed to recall the story of Christ's birth and life, His spirit, and His teaching, we certainly need to do so now, when He is being crucified afresh in so many parts of the world. His spirit must take possession of our hearts. His birth can mean little to us unless we are born again in His likeness. His life and His teaching must be studied and practiced daily. His crucifixion and death can become a spiritual force in our lives only as we stand solidly for the same things for which He stood, as we are willing that selfishness shall be daily crucified and buried, so that the new life in Christ may transform and bless our own lives and the lives of those with whom we meet.

After Jesus had begun His ministry and had been baptized by John, He went one day to Nazareth, where He had lived as a boy. On the Sabbath day, as He was accustomed to doing, He went to the synagogue and read the Scriptures. He read from Isaiah, as recorded in Luke 4:18, 19. This is considered as the declaration of His mission to the world.

FIRST READER (reads from the Bible): "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me; because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor." "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

SECOND READER: "As He [Jesus] passed through the towns and cities, He was like a vital current, diffusing life and joy wherever He went. The followers of Christ are to labor as

Ho did. We are to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and comfort the suffering and afflicted. We are to minister to the despairing, and inspire hope in the hopeless."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 350.

THIRD READER: The gospel of Jesus has not been restricted, but is going to all peoples of the earth. The Seventh-day Adventist denominational work is being conducted in 820 printed and oral languages, in 404 countries. The young people of our own denomination held more than 684,650 Bible readings and gospel meetings during the year 1939, gave needed help to more than 1,099,000 persons, wrote more than 158,000 missionary letters, and distributed 5,595,528 pieces of missionary literature.

LEADER:

"We thank Thee for our ease from strife  
That frees our mind of simple wants.  
Lord, may a sacrificial life  
Be our response."

HYMN: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," No. 390 in "Christ in Song." (Use entire hymn, or just the third stanza.)

FIRST READER: "He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised."

SECOND READER: The love of God causes us to try to give spiritual help and guidance to the many who are held captive by superstition, ignorance, and vice.

THIRD READER: Through the medium of the many Young People's Missionary Volunteer Societies, the Sabbath schools, the churches, the missions, the schools, the hospitals and sanitariums, the publishing houses, and the many other agencies, the Seventh-day Adventist denomination has put forth earnest efforts to present the message of salvation to those who know it not. Thousands of copies of the Bible and other literature have been distributed. Nearly 3,000 Dorcas and Welfare Societies have been organized under our denominational work, aside from the many missionary bands connected with the Young People's Missionary Volunteer Societies in which 31,000 young people take part.

LEADER:

"Because the Master is not here  
With His own hand today  
To feed the hungry multitudes who  
Through life's busy way,  
He gives the task to you and me; He  
Bids us hear their cry.  
He says that if we turn from them  
We also pass Him by."

HYMN: "Christians, Lo, the Star Appeareth." (Tune: "Jesus Calls Us.")

"Whoso bears his brother's burden,  
Whoso shares another's woe,  
Brings His frankincense to Jesus  
With the men of long ago."

FIRST READER: "He hath sent Me . . . to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." "And He said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God

to other cities also: for therefore am I sent. And He preached in the synagogues of Galilee."

SECOND READER: "Jesus tho Helper."

"He is ready to aid when we pray;  
He will do what we ask Him to do.  
When we show Him our plan, when we  
tell Him our task,

He will help, if our hearts are true;  
For His love is deep, and His arm is  
strong,  
And His hand will guide us our whole  
life long.

"There is never a hill too high  
For our questing feet to climb,  
Nor a road too rough if we have  
Him by,  
Our comrade, all the time,  
For His love is true, and His arm is  
strong,  
And His hand will guide us our whole  
life long."

—Nancy Byrd Turner.

HYMN: "Joy to the World," No. 895 in "Christ in Song."

THIRD READER: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

LEADER: "Christmas is coming. May you all have wisdom to make it a precious season. Let the older church members unite, heart and soul, with their children in this innocent amusement and recreation, in devising ways and means to show true respect to Jesus by bringing to Him gifts and offerings. Let everyone remember the claims of God. His cause cannot go forward without your aid. Let the gifts you have usually bestowed upon one another be placed in the Lord's treasury. . . . In every church let your smaller offerings be placed upon your Christmas tree. Let the precious emblem, 'evergreen' suggest the holy work of God and His beneficence to us; and the loving heart work will be to save other souls who are in darkness. Let your works be in accordance with your faith. . . . Let there be recorded in the heavenly books such a Christmas as has never yet been seen, because of the donations which shall be given for the sustaining of the work of God and the upbuilding of His kingdom."—*Review and Herald*, Dec. 9, 1884.

"Unless we remember the lowly, whose pleasures are few and small,  
We deserve not to be included in the  
Christmas joy at all.  
For it was they whom Jesus most  
lovingly sought to aid.  
And he'll have the brightest Christmas,  
who has some sacrifice  
made!"

HYMN: "As With Gladness Men of Old," No. 267 in "Christ in Song."

CONSECRATION: "God's Love Demonstrated in Our Lives." (Call for testimonies of past and present blessings, and of determination of young people for future service.)

AND human love its prophecy and sign,  
Interprets love divine. —Whittier.

OFFERTORY.

READING: "The Singing Army."  
BENEDICTION.

## The Singing Army

THE war was not so surprising to the people of Hopeh Province as was the coming of John Dennis, the fighting Irishman. It was young Dennis's first commission.

The board had conferred long over his appointment to the war-torn Chinese field. Some members had contended that John Dennis's love of a fight was second only to his love for the gospel. That his love for the word came first, young John had proved in many ways. And perhaps the third of his passions was one for song.

He was a hearty lad, and was filled with determination to win Hopeh Province to God. He had the misfortune of arriving in China at about the same time as the enemy. Both of them were to wage a fight, but there was a difference in the stakes involved. His was a fight of giving; the enemy proposed to take.

John was grievously saddened by the war which had befallen the people about him. The board members had said of him that he loved a fight. But they had left the statement unqualified. What John liked was a good fight, a fair fight.

"Put up two men equally matched, or give a man a fight for the good, and 'tis all very well," he would say, "and something to stir the heart of a man in his breast. But there's nothing fair about war. It's an uneven match. The aggressor never attacks until he feels he's outgrowing his jeans; then he tries to bully the weaker country into giving up to his strength. And for all the sadness of it, the weaker country can't give in without a struggle, for he has his own treasures to protect, the treasures of his family, his heart, and his country."

"Then what would you do, Mr. Dennis, to strike out this greed in men's hearts that makes war?" he was sometimes asked.

And John would smile wryly. "You'll think it impractical," he'd say. "You'll laugh at me for the dreamer I am. But I'd teach men to pray and sing. If a man would sing and pray each day consistently, hate couldn't live in his heart."

So John's first act on arrival at Hopeh Province was—to sing. Having obtained directions, he went down the dusty road—a bag in each hand—singing lustily, apparently oblivious to the curious gazes and the handful of round-eyed, ragged urchins that followed him to the mission steps.

And the song that John Dennis sang was that lively, rollicking "Brighten the Corner Where You Are." He sang it first in English, and he put his whole soul into it. Arrived at the door of the mission, he turned to face his following. On the outskirts of the little group were several old men and old women, and one Ling Tao, a searcher after wisdom.

John Dennis, facing them with a



widespread grin, went into his song in their own tongue.

"Brighten the corner where you are,  
Brighten the corner where you are—"

His grin spilled over, and lightened the pinched faces of his small audience. John Dennis continued to sing—as long as they would listen.

"Nothing like teaching them while they're willing to accept," he thought to himself.

The group began to sway with the music. They cheered, and now and then picked up a phrase and carried it along with him for a while. Then Ling Tao, who had looked on without a smile, stepped forth.

"We do not want your religion," he said. "Take it back to your homeland. For centuries my people have lived with wisdom. We need only wisdom."

"And what is wisdom, my friend?" asked John Dennis. "Is it greater than my song?"

"It is better to keep your mouth shut and seem the fool, than to open it and remove all doubt," quoted Ling. "We begin to see things clearly when we lose sight of ourselves." "Life is not a goblet to be drained, but a measure to be filled." These and many others are the words of my fathers. They are all we need for the fuller life of which you prate."

"Words of wisdom, indeed," agreed John Dennis. "You have much to teach me, my friend. Will you come tomorrow and give me more of the wisdom of your people?"

Ling Tao was taken back. He had not expected such easy acquiescence from the big man with the square chin. He squinted his eyes up at him, as if trying to make measurement.

"Ling Tao will come again," he said. Then he repeated, "We do not need the religion you bring. We seek only the greater wisdom."

Well, John Dennis continued to sing throughout the village. And the song took hold. He smiled as he heard the melody broken off midway when he passed by, as if the singer felt half guilty to be caught singing.

Those who liked to sing best began to gather round John Dennis; and one day, with the eagerness of a new conquest, he began to sing before them his best-loved composition. Would it, he wondered, creep into their souls as it had crept into his? If it should, his battle here among yellow men was nearly won. For John Dennis's favorite work was the majestic "Messiah" of Handel.

At first they handled it awkwardly, as children fumble with heavy tools too big for their strength. But gradually it began to take hold. There were no set practice hours, but when evening fell they began to gather—men and boys, and gradually soprano and contralto voices—lured by the power of song. And the great heart and voice of John Dennis led them.

Ling Tao kept his word. Great was the wisdom of his fathers which he brought to John Dennis. But this

John noted, that more and more the footsteps of Ling Tao faltered at his doorstep. He had sent back to the States for a pair of glasses for Ling, but the mails were slow, and the weeks drew out into months.

It was one evening as the people of Hopeh were gathered about singing the great Hallelujah Chorus that Ling Tao appeared suddenly among them.

"Is it wisdom," he cried to John Dennis, "for you to stand here leading my people in song with the enemy at your door? For not a mile distant a company of foreign devils is making camp."

The fighting blood rose in John Dennis. He was angry clear through—not, as Ling Tao thought, because the news had been brought to him, but that anyone with war in his heart should interrupt his singing. Then, as quickly as he had been angered, he regained control of himself. He swung his chorus into "Brighten the Corner."

While they sang with all their hearts, John Dennis fashioned a crude sign, which announced to the enemy: "This Is a Jesus Chapel." Then he went back to his singing, with the sign proclaiming from the front gate why they sang.

They were still singing when the enemy came to the mission. But this is the strange part of the story. Eight of the company of the foreign enemy were Christian, too. Silently, caps in hand, they crowded in behind the startled Chinese. And when the group swung again into the chorus, the eight grinned and lifted their voices with the rest. The words were different, but the tune was the same, and the feeling in the hearts of all was the same.

Before the eight soldiers went away, they hugged John Dennis, and they fairly tied up their tongues trying to tell him, in the assorted words of both countries, how glad they were to find a Christian home in that strange land of China, where they had been sent by the great war lords who sang not nor prayed each day.

And when they left, they gave what they had to give—bags of oats and dollars—to the enemy with whom they had lifted their voices in song. No longer were they enemies, but citizens of the same heavenly kingdom.

So inspired was John Dennis with the power of his song that the next day he began organizing an army of volunteers, which thereupon marched two hundred strong upon the Hotel, many leagues distant, where they sang the "Messiah" twice from start to finish. For three hours there was no talk of war in that part of —. In reverent silence all who could crowd within the great ballroom listened to the inspired music of Handel.

The bravery, devotion, and skill with which China has resisted one of the great modern military machines is one of the glorious pages of human

history, and it is men with courage like that of John Dennis who have led them through the fires of war. In the fact that in that great ruthless machine that would crush them there are men who love to sing the same songs, lies the pity of war.

As John Dennis marched with his singing army back to the mission, the hand of Ling Tao was heavy on his arm—so that Ling might not stumble so much on the way—Ling Tao, who for many years had bowed before the wisdom of his fathers.

At the mission John Dennis found a small package from his home church in America. It contained a pair of far-vision glasses for Ling Tao. Ling put them on, and an expression of great wonder came over his face.

"These," he said, "and the singing down there, these things are not the wisdom of saying; they are the wisdom of doing. To my hallowed fathers, all honor be given. But before the greater wisdom of the God of doing, I bow. May I be a humble servant of that greater wisdom?"—*Louise Hannah Kohr.*

## After Christmas

Why need the warmth of Christmas cool,  
The splendor fade away?  
Christ was not born to leave us all;  
He came on earth to stay.  
His angels chant, "Good will to men,"  
Not once, but every day.  
Could we but see the wings that weave  
Their gold upon life's gray.

—*Edith Lovejoy Pierce.*

## Bethlehem

THIS little town changed all time's numbering,  
That years might mark new cycles for the earth.  
There, one night, destiny stood strangely poised,  
Then gave man's days a rich increase of worth.

More, Bethlehem has changed the maps of men.  
Old conquests and their glories, turning dim  
Give place to brighter, farther boundaries;  
The kingdoms of this world accede to Him!

My times, my goings, all my purposes  
Admit a motive dominating them.  
However far I range in time or space,  
Behind me, and beyond, is Bethlehem!

—*Elinor Lennen.*

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"SMALL kindnesses, small courtesies, small considerations habitually practiced in our social intercourse, give a greater charm to the character than the display of great talents and accomplishments."

❖ ❖

"LOOK over the whole creation, and you shall see that the band or cement that holds together all the parts of this great and glorious fabric is gratitude."

❖ ❖

"SILENT influence is the greatest factor in life."

## Retrospect and Prospect

(Program for December 28)

BY ALFRED W. PETERSON

### OPENING EXERCISES.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 41:6-13.

### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

### SYMPOSIUM.

SONG: "Thy Life Within Me," No. 318 in "Christ in Song."

### TESTIMONY AND CONSECRATION

#### SERVICE.

CLOSING SONG: "Soldiers of the Cross," No. 627 in "Christ in Song."

### BENEDICTION.

### Notes to Leaders

The program today is intended to offer an opportunity for presenting some of the most interesting and inspiring experiences which the members of the Missionary Volunteer Society have had during 1940 in pursuit of the work carried on by the society. It would be well if the secretary would give a brief but comprehensive review of the work which the society has attempted to do and of what has been done in the way of distributing literature, holding gospel meetings, giving Bible readings, and carrying on other projects which the society has been fostering. It would also be profitable if the leader were to make a brief statement regarding the things that the society undertook to do at the beginning of the year.

The symposium which is provided for will require considerable planning and careful thought in order to bring out the best and most inspiring experiences to be found in the society's work during the year. Let the talks be pointed and brief, but not too brief. In the testimony and consecration service which follows, encourage everyone to participate and tell some brief experience in connection with the society, or some victory which he has gained during the year.

The youth of the church have come to solemn times; so let us make this testimony meeting a challenging one—one which may lead to decision. If there is a pastor in the church, it would be well if the executive committee would invite him to take charge of the testimony meeting which is to follow the symposium and the song, but be sure that he understands the purpose of the testimony service. Ask him to make a five-minute introductory statement to begin it.

### Introductory Remarks

(By the Leader)

WHEN the leader states the purpose of this meeting, he may tell something of the projects which the society has endeavored to carry forward during the year, and review the achievements of the society in its endeavors to accomplish its work. Let the leader mention individuals whose service in the society has been outstanding.

The purpose of this program today is to share experiences; so urge each one, when the time comes for the testimony meeting, to share his experience with the others.

### Symposium

1. THE most wonderful Morning Watch text of the year.

2. The greatest blessing that came to me this year during my reading of my Bible.

3. A summary or appreciation of the most helpful Missionary Volunteer Reading Course book read during the year.

4. The most interesting experience I have had this year in giving a Bible study.

5. The story of the influence of a paper or tract given out this year.

6. The most satisfying visit to the bedside of a sick person.

### The Testimony Service

It is suggested that the one who leads the testimony service spend five minutes in summarizing what lies before the youth of the church. Youth finds itself today in a world full of perplexity, suffering from the appalling effects of war, with its graves, disease, and famine. Adventist youth cannot be indifferent to the need of the world for Christ, and in these times God is depending upon the youth to bring hope to burdened hearts and help to burdened hands. God is depending upon the youth of the advent movement to finish His work in the earth. What a comforting thought it is that in this time He gives us the promise of His presence. Isa. 41:10; 43:1, 2.

After the testimony meeting, bow in a season of prayer. Let prayer be offered for Adventist youth in the war-devastated areas, that their faith may not fail, that a new hope may lay hold upon their hearts, and that they may see in the happenings about them the evidences of the soon return of the Lord Jesus.

At the close of the consecration and prayer service, let the leader, or the one who has had charge of the testimony service, make a statement regarding the need for greater earnestness in carrying forward the work of the Missionary Volunteer Society during the year 1941. Let this appeal be closed with a repetition of the Missionary Volunteer Pledge, which reads: "Loving the Lord Jesus, I promise to take an active part in the work of the Young People's Missionary Volunteer Society, doing what I can to help others and to finish the work of the gospel in all the world."

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THE world is a looking glass, and gives back to every man the reflection of his own face. Frown at it, and it will in turn look sourly upon you; laugh at it and with it, and it is a jolly, kind companion.—*Thackeray.*

### Margaret Resolves

(Continued from page 30)

made you decide that, dear?" she asked quietly.

"Oh, I never can keep them; so what is the use of making any?" Margaret replied. "Here I have been trying to list my resolutions for 1941, and I have so many on the list that I could not even remember what is there, much less try to keep them all."

"Well, of course, that is up to you, Margaret," her mother replied, "but let us think about it just a little bit. It seems that you object to resolutions because your list is too long and you say you would never be able to keep them. If we could find a way to cut down the list so that you might be able to remember them, would you still object to making resolutions?"

"No-o," replied Margaret, shaking her head a bit doubtfully, "but I don't see where I can get any assurance that I can keep them, and there isn't a thing that I can cut off the list and still have it at all complete."

Mother put down the finished mending and looked earnestly at her daughter. Then she spoke: "What is it that your resolutions emphasize the most?"

"Oh, the good qualities that I wish I had, but haven't," Margaret replied with a smile.

"That is just it, daughter. If you put down the qualities which you wish to develop in your life, the list will not be anywhere as long as it is now, and you won't have to think of so many details, but just keep the guiding principles in mind as a sort of yardstick to measure your actions. So instead of resolving to take care of the baby when mother is tired, you will have it and many other similar resolutions included in the resolve to be kind to others."

"Well," Margaret said slowly, "that would cut down my list a great deal, but I still fear that I would not be able to live up to my resolutions. I try, but I never seem to be very successful. So what good would it do to make them?"

"It is always good to try, dear, but we never can do such things in our own strength. God is the source of all good, and if we ask Him, He will help us to attain unto these desirable graces which you would like to build into your character this coming new year. I would suggest that you ask Him to guide you in making your resolutions, and then give you grace and strength to be victorious on these points."

"Mother, you always know the answer, don't you?" Margaret exclaimed as she went to make her resolutions alone with God.

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"THE power to 'purpose in the heart' is the spinal column of personality and the measure of manhood."



## Junior Meetings

### Around the Family Altar

(Program for December 7)

BY C. A. RUSSELL

OPENING SONG: "Junior Prayer Band Song," No. 27 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

PRAYER: Followed by the Lord's prayer in unison.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

REPORTS.

OFFERING.

READING: "The Altar of Prayer."

RECITATION: "My Prayer."

TALK: "A Beautiful Picture."

READING: "Prayer Changes Things."

CLOSING SONG: "An Evening Prayer," No. 121 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

CLOSING PRAYER.

#### Note To Superintendents

This program may be varied by having the Junior superintendent and one of the Senior Missionary Volunteers give as talks both parts suggested as "Readings." When a story or an illustration is to be given, the speaker could pause, and call on a Junior, who has previously prepared, to tell it in his own words. In this way a number of the Juniors may participate in the program. The quotation selected from the *Youth's Instructor* may properly be read by the one who renders that part of the program.

#### The Altar of Prayer

We have many and precious privileges to enjoy, but none of these can compare with that of talking with God. We call it prayer. He always listens, and He always answers, unless we are hiding sin in our heart. And even then, if we are truly sorry and ask Him to forgive us, He has promised to cleanse our lives from sin. "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.

Read Isaiah 1:18.

Praying is getting acquainted with God. How long do you think it would take for you to get really well acquainted with someone if you never spoke to him? It seems wonderful that the great God who created everything, and keeps everything going as it should, can find time to hear us when we pray. And He invites us to talk with Him. "Come now, and let us reason together." It is just as if He said, "Come, My child, just draw your chair up close beside Mine, and let's talk things over, just you and I alone."

Jesus said: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find;

knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Matt. 7:7, 8. Notice, He doesn't say that He will always give us the very thing for which we ask. Sometimes we might ask for something which is not for our good. He knows better than we do what is best. But in answer to our prayer, He will give us either what we ask for, or something even better. "No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." Ps. 84:11.

A mission worker in the city of Chicago was talking to a group of boys on the subject of prayer. He was seeking to impress them with the fact that the Lord always hears and answers our prayers. After he had illustrated his talk by quoting several incidents, he thought he would see whether the boys were being duly impressed, and he said, "Now, boys, does the Lord always hear you when you pray?" They all nodded their heads. That seemed too general; so he picked out one little fellow, and, looking him squarely in the eyes, said, "But, Willie, does the Lord always hear you when you pray?" The little fellow promptly answered, "Yes." Still not quite convinced that Willie, or the other boys either, fully comprehended what he was trying to impress upon their minds, he said, "Now, Willie, you say that the Lord always hears you when you pray. Does He always answer your prayers?" The little fellow thought a minute, and then once more looking into the eyes of his questioner, said, "Yes, the Lord always hears me when I pray, and He always answers. Sometimes He says, 'Yes,' and sometimes He says, 'No,' but He always answers."

We must always ask in harmony with His will, and be sure that no cherished sin, unconfessed and unforgiven, hinders the answer to our prayer. The psalmist cautions: "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." To regard iniquity in the heart is to think, say, or do things which we know are wrong, and keep on in this way, instead of confessing all our wrongs to God, quitting our evil way, and being forgiven.

Enoch was a noble man of God. The Bible tells us that "Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him." A very brief story it is. At family worship one morning the father was reading this particular story of Enoch, and since it is so brief, he feared that perhaps his little son would fail to comprehend its meaning. The father started to explain to the little fellow what was meant by "walked with God." He

had not gone very far before the little boy stopped him, saying, "Why, daddy, that's easy. I know what that means. You see, daddy, Enoch and the Lord were good friends, real good friends—such good friends that they took many, many walks together. And one day when they had taken a long, long walk, they were nearer to the Lord's home than they were to Enoch's home; so the Lord took Enoch home to live with Him, and he has been with Him ever since."

As Enoch went about his work, he often lifted his heart to God in silent prayer. So may we. "While engaged in our daily work, we should lift the soul to heaven in prayer. These silent petitions rise like incense before the throne of grace; and the enemy is baffled. The Christian whose heart is thus stayed upon God cannot be overcome. No evil arts can destroy his peace. All the promises of God's word, all the power of divine grace, all the resources of Jehovah, are pledged to secure his deliverance. It was thus that Enoch walked with God. And God was with him, a present help in every time of need."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 249.

#### My Prayer

Let me be a little kinder,  
Let me be a little blinder.  
To the faults of those about me;  
Let me praise a little more.

Let me be when I am weary  
Just a little bit more cheery;  
Let me serve a little better  
Those that I am striving for.

Let me be a little braver  
When temptation bids me waver;  
Let me strive a little harder  
To be all that I should be;

Let me be a little meeker  
With the brother that is weaker;  
Let me think more of my neighbor  
And a little less of me!

—Author Unknown.

#### A Beautiful Picture

CAN you imagine a more beautiful picture than a Christian family in a Christian home engaged in worship? The father, the head of the household, is seated in an easy chair with the Book in his hand, reading some beautiful lesson from the word. Mother sits close by with little Elsie in her lap. George and Henry are sitting between father and mother. There is an air of cheerful reverence. Father pauses to explain some hard word or some passage that perhaps is not quite clear to the children. Or perhaps it is the Sabbath school lesson for the Juniors that is being studied. All have their Bibles except little Elsie, who soon will be old enough to read for herself. The texts are looked up by all, and one reads aloud. The

meaning is made clear, the questions are answered, and illustrations are used. Then all kneel reverently in prayer. Father, mother, and each of the children in turn offer their earnest and simple prayers to God. Or, perhaps, after father's prayer all unite in the beautiful prayer that Jesus taught us, "Our Father which art in heaven." They thank God for His love, His mercy, His protection. They ask Him for power to do right and to be kept from falling into sin. They pray for the success of His work all around the world. They pray for forgiveness through the blood of Jesus—all in His name.

No matter how hurried we are, or how pressing our work, the sacred hour of worship should not be forgotten or neglected. If friends are with us, or if a stranger drops in, let them see that family worship is as much a part of the daily program as is eating or sleeping.

One day when I was a boy at home, a poor fellow, out of work and with no home, asked if he might stay overnight with us. As was to be expected, father and mother said, "Yes," for, after all, he was somebody's boy now grown up. Before breakfast father got the Bible. Mother and I sat down. So did the stranger. He paid respectful attention while father read the lesson. I was getting curious. Would the "tramp" kneel with the family? As we turned to bow before our chairs, I peeped to see what he was going to do. Almost to my surprise, I saw him bury his face in his hands as he knelt by his chair. He took no other part in the worship, but as we rose from our knees, I thought I saw the trace of a tear in his eye. Perhaps he was reminded of his mother's prayers of long ago.

One of my dearest friends was called as a missionary to a foreign field. While there he laid down his life in unselfish service. His daughter, now attending one of our schools, wrote of her father's life for our own *Youth's Instructor*. The title of her story is, "Memories of a Missionary Father." In speaking of worship in the home she said: "Morning worship was so punctual when he was at home that our next-door neighbor told mother that he learned he could set his watch by the time 'Brother Moore' began singing the song for worship. He said that the first morning he

heard the singing he was dressing. He happened to look at his watch, and it was exactly seven o'clock. The next morning he was eating breakfast, and wondered what time it was. He noticed that again it was exactly seven.

The third morning he was still in bed when he heard daddy begin the song, and, now out of curiosity, he looked at the clock, only to find that again it was exactly seven. It was that way every morning, for daddy never failed to start worship promptly at seven." Now that the father is sleeping, his faith and prayers are surely a comfort and an inspiration to the daughter.

### Prayer Changes Things

PRAYER doesn't change God; it changes us. God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His purpose for us, His plan for our life, is always the same. But He never forces us to do anything against our will, or our choice. God never made anyone do anything. He points out the right way and warns against the wrong way, and then we must choose. No, prayer doesn't change God, but it does place us in such a position of heart and mind that He can do for us just what He longs to do.

The Bible is filled with stories of the most wonderful answers to prayer. We think of some of them; you will think of many more. There was a crisis in the battle. Joshua needed more time, that the enemies of God might be defeated. He prayed; the sun stood still, the day was lengthened, and God's enemies were destroyed.

Daniel prayed in the lions' den, and God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths.

Jonah prayed from inside the great fish which had swallowed him, and he was thrown out on the shore.

Daniel prayed for light, and while he was still praying an angel came to give him skill and understanding.

Elijah prayed from Mt. Carmel, and fire came down from heaven and consumed his offering, melted the stones of the altar, and tongues of flame drank up the water from the ditch that surrounded it.

Jesus prayed as He stood before the sealed tomb of Lazarus. Then they took away the stone. Jesus cried out, "Lazarus, come forth." He came.

The Lord is pleased to have us bring to Him not only the big things which perplex us so, but the little things as well. At a camp meeting years ago, I had been asked to speak at the regular forenoon hour. The one who was to have had that service was suddenly called away. I had very little time for preparation, and so I hurried to my tent to study. I reached up to get my Bible from off

the shelf. I ran my hand along the shelf, but could not seem to find it. I stepped up on a chair, but there was no Bible on the shelf. There was none on the table, nor, in fact, anywhere around the tent. I began to grow nervous. The time for the service was rapidly approaching. What should I do? I went to the dining tent. Perhaps I had laid it down there. But no Bible was to be found.

The thought suggested itself, "Go to the book tent and borrow a new one; it will read just like yours," but when one has but a brief time to prepare, he feels the need of his own Book with which he is familiar. Returning to my tent, I looked about once more, but to no avail. I dropped on my knees and said, "Lord, you know where my Bible is, and I don't. If you want me to have my own Bible for use in the service so soon to come, please help me find it." I left the tent and walked as straight as if I were being led by the hand, to the tent of a family on the opposite side of the campground. I had called there a few minutes the evening before, and had really forgotten all about it. There was my Bible on their table. I said, "I walked as straight as if I had been led." I think I was led by an unseen hand.

I shall never forget a beautiful sight I once saw at one of our schools during the Week of Prayer. There were two brothers in the school. One was a fine Christian boy, the other, a rollicking, happy-go-lucky sort of fellow who didn't seem to care about religion. His brother, of course, felt keen anxiety for him. Other students in the school as well as members of the faculty were praying for him. The week was nearly over; yet he had made no response and seemed to be more reckless than ever.

At the close of one of the meetings a call was made. Those who desired to give their hearts to Jesus and any others who had wandered away from Him were invited to remain after the meeting. About forty of the young people stayed, while the others withdrew. Among those who left the room was this young man. He was going through a struggle—that was plainly evident—but he tore himself away from the influence of the Spirit, and closed the door behind him. Then, after a little talk with those who remained, we all knelt in prayer. While thus engaged, I noticed a young man get up and quietly withdraw from the room. I wondered a bit, but supposed that some duty called him. It did. During the prayer the first young man's name was mentioned by one student after another, all pleading with God to work upon his heart by His Holy Spirit.

Just after we had risen from prayer, the door opened once again, and the young man who had withdrawn stepped into the room, and immediately behind him came the one for whom we had been praying. He walked across the room to where his

brother was sitting, and, throwing his arms about his brother's neck, confessed, "I just can't hold out any longer. I have been fighting against God. I know it and you know it, but I must have help." The effect upon that group of young people of this immediate answer to prayer was profound. We engaged in another season of prayer. The young man was fully converted and a little later joined the baptismal class.

Yes, prayer, our most wonderful and precious privilege, does change things. God always hears, and He always answers if we are sincere. "Sometimes He says, 'Yes,' and sometimes He says, 'No,' but He always answers."

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## Enlist Now In Christ's Service

(Program for December 14)

BY THEODORE LUCAS

SONGS: Nos. 35, 36, 49, 61, 62, 64, 75, 82, 83, in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

### OPENING EXERCISES.

QUOTATION: "Each has his place in the eternal plan of heaven. Each is to work in cooperation with Christ for the salvation of souls. Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 326, 327.

### LEADER'S REMARKS.

STORY: "Two Missing"—"Go Ye."

POEM: "Service."

TALK: "Wanted—A Worker."

STORY: "Pull Hard."

POEM: "A Junior's Prayer."

CLOSING SONG.

BENEDICTION.

### Notes to Superintendents

Our topic this week gives a special invitation to all Junior Missionary Volunteers to enlist now under the banner of our King in service for Him. Display such mottoes as: "God Needs You."

God needs pleasant, happy J. M.V.'s, those who really know and live out the Junior Law, those who serve with a smile. God is depending upon them to work for Him. They have a work to do that no others can do. (More material may be secured from the Senior program.)

The poems were written especially for this program by Burton Castle.

### "Two Missing"—"Go Ye"

SOME years ago I was a guest at a small wedding dinner party in New York City. A Scotch-Irish gentleman, well known in that city, an old friend, spoke across the table to me. He said he had heard recently a story

of the Scottish hills that he wanted to tell. And we all listened as he told this simple tale. . . .

It was of a shepherd in the Scottish hills who had brought his sheep back to the fold for the night. As he was arranging matters for the night, he was surprised to find that two of the sheep were missing. He looked again. Yes, two were missing. And he knew which two. These shepherds are keen to know their sheep. He was much surprised, and went to the outhouse of his dwelling to call his collie.

There she lay after the day's work with her own little ones. He called her. She looked up at him. He said, "Two are missing"—holding up two fingers. "Away by, Collie, and get them." Without moving, she looked up into his face, as though she would say, "You wouldn't send me out again tonight? It's been a long day. I'm so tired—not again tonight." And again, as many a time doubtless, "Away by, and get the sheep," he said. And out she went.

About midnight a scratching at the door aroused him. He found one of the sheep back. He cared for it—gave it a bit of warm food, and the like. Then out again he went to the outhouse. There the dog lay with her little ones. Again he called her. She looked up. "Get the other sheep," he said. I do not know if you men listening are as fond of a good collie as I am. Their eyes seem almost human to me sometimes. And hers seemed so as she looked up and seemed to be saying out of their great depths, "Not again—tonight. Haven't I been faithful? I'm so tired—not again!" And again, as I suppose many a time before, "Away by, and get the sheep." And out she went. About two or three, again came the scratching. And he found the last sheep back, badly torn. No doubt it had been down in some ravine or gully. And the dog was plainly played out. And yet she seemed to give a bit of a wag to her tired tail, as though she would say, "There it is. I've done as you bade me. It's back."

And he cared for its needs. Then, before lying down again to his own rest, he thought he would go and praise the dog for her faithful work. You know how sensitive collies are to praise or criticism. He went out and stooped over with a pat and a kindly word, and was startled to find that the life tether had slipped its hold. She lay there lifeless, with her little ones tugging at her body. . . .

Our Master stands here today. Would that you and I might see His

face with the thorn marks of His trip to this earth. He came to save His sheep. Shall we not give our lives in service even as He did?—*S. D. Gordon, in "Quiet Talks on Service."*

## Service

THERE are pressing obligations  
Which the Master bids us pay;  
They are things of worth eternal  
Which should have our thought each day.

Love, He bids us, give to any  
Whom we meet, and whoso'er;  
"Love your enemies," He tells us,  
Just as much as friends so dear.

Service loyal, true, and constant,  
Is a debt we always owe,  
For each day renews our duty  
To our neighbor here below.

Watchful we are told to ever  
Be of self and others, too;  
Striving sin to fully conquer,  
Keeping others' good in view.

We must keep our hearts uplifted  
To our Master all the while,  
Then the tempter cannot snare us,  
Nor our souls with sin beguile.

BURTON CASTLE.

## "Wanted—A Worker"

God never goes to the lazy or to the idle when He needs men for His service. When God wants a worker, He calls a worker. When He has a work to be done, He goes to those who are already at work. When God wants a great servant, He calls a busy person. Scripture and history attest this truth.

Moses was busy with his flocks at Horeb.

Gideon was busy threshing wheat by the press.

Saul was busy searching for his father's lost beasts.

David was busy caring for his father's sheep.

Elisha was busy plowing with twelve yoke of oxen.

Amos was busy following the flock.

Nehemiah was busy bearing the king's wine cup.

Peter and Andrew were busy casting a net into the sea.

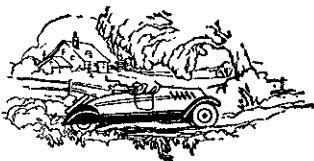
James and John were busy mending their nets.

Matthew was busy collecting customs.

Saul was busy persecuting the friends of Jesus.

William Carey was busy mending and making shoes.

"England expects every man to do his duty." This was the message that Lord Nelson signaled from his flagship to every person in his fleet. That message meant that each one should



give his individual attention and highest skill to the work he had been asked to do. It called the captains to be faithful commanders; the marines to do their best at the guns; the sailors to be careful in sailing the vessels; the cabin boys to be prompt and dependable messengers.

Just as England expects loyalty from her subjects, so God is counting on every Missionary Volunteer to do his duty. Only in this way can our society fill its place in the world-wide movement; only in this way can it enjoy its highest success; only in this way can you receive the most benefit from it.

### A Junior's Prayer

My Saviour, I am happy  
To give to Thee my all;  
So teach me now to labor  
And listen to Thy call.

I know that my companions  
Need courage, for the way  
Is oft beset by trials  
Throughout each busy day.

Give strength, O Lord, for service;  
Give courage for my need.  
Incline my heart to love Thee,  
For this to Thee I plead.

I would be pure, my Saviour;  
I would be true to Thee;  
So hold me in Thy keeping,  
That I might serve for Thee.

BURTON CASTLE.

### Pull Hard

A BUSY businessman sat at his desk, reached for his telephone, and filed a message with the telegraph company. These were the words: "George, my work compels me to remain here. Surely sorry, but pull hard. I'll be with you in spirit." Signed, "Dad."

A thousand miles away a young athlete read his father's message just as his crew was about to enter the great annual boat races. He folded the little piece of yellow paper and pushed it into his pocket. Then he took his place at the oars.

Everything was ready; every muscle was tense; every mind was intent. The signal was given. They were off! Amid cheers, music, and shoutings, the rowers pulled and tugged as evenly as clockwork. Noiselessly the shells glided through the sheet of water with great speed.

Finally, the goal hove in sight—but George's craft was not in the lead. George had been silent. Suddenly he thought of his father's message. Immediately he shouted, "Pull hard, boys! Pull hard! My dad said so!" George shouted the command so earnestly and with so much meaning that every man seemed to gain new vigor. They pulled and pulled and pulled. Slowly and steadily the craft pushed its nose forward, until the race was won.

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 9:24-26 that we are engaged in a race in which we all can win. This race requires us to give our lives in service here, and our reward shall be eternal life.

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## God's Love Demonstrated

(Program for December 21)

BY MARJORIE WEST MARSH

SONG: "Silent Night!" No. 93 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

PRAYER.

OFFERTORY. (With music of "They Brought Their Gifts to Jesus.")

REPORTS.

POEM: "Everywhere Christmas Tonight!"

SUPERINTENDENT'S TALK: "Christmas."

SONG: "Little Town of Bethlehem," No. 91 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:8-20.

SONG: "Away in a Manger."

POEM: "Star of the East."

SONG: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks," No. 121 in "Joyful Songs."

COMMENT: "Seek and Find."

SONG: "Dear Little Stranger," No. 44 in "Joyful Songs."

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-10.

SONG: "We Three Kings of Orient."

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:11.

COMMENT: "Giving."

POEM: "What Can I Give Him?"

STORY: "Sam Coplon."

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:21.

SONG: "The Holiest Name," No. 217 in "Christ in Song."

POEM: "Remembering."

SONG: "Come and Worship," No. 266 in "Christ in Song."

BENEDICTION.

### Everywhere Christmas Tonight!

EVERYWHERE, everywhere, Christmas tonight!  
Christmas in lands of the fir tree and pine,  
Christmas in lands of the palm tree and vine,  
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,  
Christmas where cornfields lie sunny and bright,  
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!

For the Christ child who comes is the Master of all;  
No palace too great, no cottage too small;  
The angels who welcome Him sing from the height,  
"In the city of David, a King in His might."  
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!

Then let every heart keep its Christmas within,  
Christ's pity for sorrow, Christ's hatred for sin,  
Christ's care for the weakest, Christ's courage for right,  
Christ's dread of the darkness, Christ's love for the light;  
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!

—Phillips Brooks.

## Christmas

TODAY we shall hear again the old story of the first Christmas. As we worship together, let us give thanks because of the great gifts Jesus and His Father have made to the world. Let us forget all selfish thoughts, and try to find the true spirit of Christmas. Let us earnestly pray that we may daily demonstrate God's love to the world as He has so wonderfully demonstrated His love to us.

We all know that December 25 is not the actual date on which Christ was born. In Luke 2:8 we are told about the shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks by night when the angels appeared to them to announce Christ's birth. Palestine is a warm country, its climate resembling in many respects the climate of California. It has its rainy season from early November to March, and its dry season the rest of the year. The shepherds, in order to safeguard their flocks, remain night and day with them during the dry season. It was doubtless during this season that Christ was born.

However, the actual date does not matter with us. We can have the "spirit" of Christmas—the spirit of love and unselfish service—all through the year, and that is what counts. So even though we know that December 25 is not the real birthday of Christ, we can give our gifts of love and service, and thank our heavenly Father for the Saviour of the world at any time during the year, and especially when all the world is thinking of Him.

### Star of the East

DARK was the hour, long years ago.  
And silent was the night,  
When in the east, o'er Judah's hills,  
There rose a wondrous light.

Bright was the star the shepherds saw,  
A shining band above,  
Whose beams led on to Bethlehem,  
The mystery of love.

Low were the songs the angels sang,  
That beautiful night of old,  
As seraphs from the heavenly choir  
The joyful tidings told.

Soft were the whispered words they spoke,  
As fast the shepherds trod  
The rugged path to Bethlehem,  
The road that led to God.

Low was the manger where He lay,  
A humble cattle shed;  
But angels with the wise men there  
Bowed low before His bed.

High in the heavens see now He reigns,  
A prophet, priest, and king,  
As angels with His saints below  
Unite, His praise to sing.

—D. A. R. Aufranc.

### Seek and Find

As we think once more of the Christmas story, we are reminded again that if we are to find the best that life has to offer, we must go in search of it—even as the shepherds, so the story tells us, went in search of the Christ child. If they had not been willing to go in quest of Him, they would never have found Him.

## Giving

WHO gave gifts when Jesus was born? Did they expect anything in return? The shepherds gave. The wise men gave. Who made the greatest gift of all? The Father. (Quote John 3:16.)

How do we give gifts to Jesus on His birthday? Of all the gifts you are giving this Christmas, how many are for Jesus?

What kind of gifts did the wise men bring? The purest gold, the finest perfumes they could get. Do we always give our best to Jesus; or do we give what we cannot use? It is always assumed that these men, being wise, did more than just bring gold and frankincense and myrrh to Jesus. Under such great inspiration they must have given also that best gift of all—their lives.

This story reminds us that no place is too humble or lowly for God's gifts to be found there. God speaks to people many times as they go about their everyday living. The folk about whom the Christmas story is written were not people who were doing anything unusual—just simple, common folk, carrying out the humble tasks which made up their daily lives. But they recognized God's gifts and appreciated them.

"Love's royal Christmas gift, cradled

In a stable in Bethlehem town—  
Shepherds came, kneeling, adoring,  
While the glory of heaven shone down;  
This gift comes to all through the ages,  
This Christ of life's everyday road—  
If we go, like the shepherds, to meet Him,  
He will make in our hearts His abode."

## What Can I Give Him?

WHAT can I give Him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd,  
I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man,  
I would do my part—  
Yet what I can I give Him,  
Give Him my heart.

—Christina Rossetti.

"Not what we give, but what we share,  
For the gift without the giver is bare."

## Sam Coplon

HIS name is Sam Coplon, and he lives in Brooklyn. After the Spanish-American War he went to a place in the Adirondack Mountains, in New York State, to regain his health. He came to know the people well, and how poor they were. They treated him kindly, and he truly appreciated it.

Mr. Coplon had a store in the mountains where he lived. When Christmas came, and he saw how poor some of the children were, he wanted to do something for them. So he took some toys from his store and went into the hills to give them to the children for Christmas. Of course the children who received them were very happy. The next year he took more toys and visited more people. When he moved to Brooklyn, he continued to return to the mountains every Christmas to give gifts to the needy people. Then he

began to take clothing and food for the older people, too. Soon he had so many families on his list that he needed help. This was given him by welfare workers and church people. Manufacturers of toys which Mr. Coplon sells have become interested, and every year they give gifts of toys for these poor children. Now he has many people besides himself finding happiness in giving gifts.

We, too, can find joy and happiness in giving gifts to the needy at Christmastime and all through the year.

## Remembering

TODAY our hearts  
Have love in them  
As we remember  
Bethlehem.

Today to all  
The world we sing  
In joyful mood,  
Remembering.

Good will to men—  
So much good will—  
Is born to earth  
Each Christmas still.

—Claude Weimer.

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## I Resolve—For 1941

(Program for December 28)

BY THELMA M. DURRELL

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

SCRIPTURE READING: David's resolutions—Psalms 101. (A few remarks on these verses may be desirable.)

PRAYER: For guidance through the coming year of 1941.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

OFFERING.

SPECIAL MUSIC OR SONG BY CONGREGATION: "Do Your Bit," No. 84 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs."

READING OR DIALOGUE: "Margaret Resolves."

SYMPOSIUM: "The Junior Missionary Volunteer's Resolutions."

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

## Note to Superintendents

The purpose of this program is to inspire a desire in the Juniors to build into their characters those ideals which will make them true Christians.

## The Junior Missionary Volunteer's Resolutions

(Consult the "Junior Missionary Volunteer Handbook," chapter V, for further comments on the Pledge and the Law. It would be well for the leader to draw the conclusions, but the other sections should be given to different members of the society, so that the topic may be presented in symposium form.)

### The Junior Pledge

BY THE GRACE OF GOD—it is only through God's grace and help that one

can accomplish any good thing; so we find that this is a resolve in itself to keep close enough to God to receive of His grace.

I WILL—this forceful phrase expresses determination to cooperate with God.

BE PURE—in word, thought, and deed—clean in mind as well as body, for as a man "thinketh in his heart, so is he." Prov. 23:7. Sir Galahad said, "My strength is as the strength of ten, because my heart is pure."

AND KIND—courteous and thoughtful of others.

"Be kind, little maiden, be kind.  
In life's busy way you will find  
There is always room for a girl who smiles,  
And with loving service the hour beguiles;  
A lass who is thoughtful as she is fair,  
And for others' wishes has a care;  
Who is quick to see when the heart is sad,  
And is loving and tender to make it glad;  
Who loves her mother, and lightens her cares,  
And many a household duty shares;  
Who is kind to the aged and kind to the young,  
And laughing, and merry, and full of fun.  
There is always love for a girl who is sweet,  
Always a smile her smiles to greet.  
Then be kind, little maiden, be kind."  
—Adelaide Bes Evans.

AND TRUE—honest with yourself and those with whom you come in contact.

"Can you tell when a counterfeit coin  
Is tossed on the counter to you?  
Of course you can tell, for you know every  
Time that it strikes it doesn't ring true.  
Do you know that a counterfeit life  
(That's a life that is sham through and through)  
Is as simply detected in everyday strife  
As the coin, for it doesn't ring true?  
If you want to be Christian men,  
To be honored in all that you do,  
Just make up your mind that ten times out of ten  
You will always be found to ring true.  
Ring true in your contests and games on the field,  
In your homes, with a crowd or few;  
Though others may try their short-comings to shield,  
Yet always remember, ring true."  
—Author Unknown.

I WILL KEEP THE JUNIOR LAW. The Junior Law expresses in detail the principles contained in the Junior Pledge.

I WILL BE A SERVANT OF GOD AND A FRIEND TO MAN. To be a servant of God, one must obey all His commands and serve Him joyfully at all times. He is a loving Master, and One that is generous in His dealings with those who serve Him. If we are true servants of God, we shall be a friend to man, for God is the truest friend that man ever had, and He desires His servants to truly represent Him. To be a friend of man one will be a good neighbor at all times, doing only those things which will benefit those around him rather than harm them in any way.



When forming our New Year's resolutions, let us give consideration to the Junior Pledge, and endeavor to make its principles the ideals of our lives.

### The Junior Law

1. **KEEP THE MORNING WATCH.** Meet and talk with God the first thing every morning. This is a most ideal way of starting the day right. It has been very fittingly said that: "The morning is the gate of the day, and should be well guarded with prayer. It is one end of the thread on which the day's actions are strung, and should be well knotted with devotion. If we felt more the majesty of life, we should be more careful of its mornings. He who rushes from his bed to his business, and waiteth not to worship, is as foolish as though he had not put on his clothes, or cleansed his face, and as unwise as though he dashed into battle without arms or armor."

Each day let us remember—

"A moment in the morning—a moment, if no more—  
Is better than an hour when the trying day is o'er.  
'Tis the gentle dew from heaven, the manna for the day.  
If you fail to gather early, alas, it melts away.  
So, in the blush of morning, take the offered hand or love,  
And walk in heaven's pathway and the peacefulness thereof."

—Arthur Lewis Tubbs.

2. **DO MY HONEST PART.** Just what does it mean for us to do our honest part? In our work, it means to do willingly and cheerfully those duties which come to us—doing them promptly and to the best of our ability. On the playground, it means playing the game fairly and squarely with all that there is in us, cheerfully losing the game as well as modestly winning in a good sportsmanlike way. In the church also there are duties which a sincere J. M. V. will do his best to fulfill. Your family, teachers, church leaders, and playmates are all looking to you to do your honest part in your relations with them. Won't you resolve that during 1941 you will live up to their expectations in this respect?

3. **CARE FOR MY BODY.** "You can get along with a wooden leg, but you can't get along with a wooden head. The physical value of man is not so much. Man as analyzed in our laboratories is worth about ninety-eight cents. Eleven bars of soap, lime enough to whitewash a chicken coop, phosphorus enough to cover the heads of a thousand matches, is not so much, you see. It is the brain that counts, but in order that your brain may be kept clear, you must keep your body fit and well."—Dr. Charles Mayo.

Does someone say, "It is *my* body and *my* health that are concerned, and I'll do as I please"? Paul answers them in 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17. (Read.) Thus we see that we are not our own, and we can serve our Master best only with a healthy, strong body.

4. **KEEP A LEVEL EYE.** Honesty is the best policy, and it is only as we are honest that we can look unflinchingly into the eyes of our companions.

### A BOY'S BEST RULE

"Be honest, lad, in word and deed,  
In all you say and do;  
Treat others in your walk of life  
As you'd have them treat you!  
Don't steal another's precious time,  
Or blot a spotless name—  
You may not think that stealing; 'tis  
Dishonest just the same.

"Be true—there's nothing half so grand  
As character of truth;  
Let never trace of falsehood stain  
The glory of your youth.  
Let every thought you harbor be  
As clear and pure as day,  
Sincerity of purpose gleam  
In every word you say.

"Be brave—don't be afraid to stand  
Up boldly for the right,  
And evil firmly to oppose  
With all your fearless might;  
For real courage only fears  
What it is wrong to do—  
To live a hero's life, my lad,  
Be honest, brave, and true!"

—Author Unknown.

5. **BE COURTEOUS AND OBEDIENT.** Courtesy and obedience are the outward evidence of love in the heart—love for God and for our fellow men. A cheerful greeting, a smile, a kindly deed, will show forth a Christian spirit. If we love God, we shall recognize His authority, follow His guidance, and obey Him. Obedience to all those who have authority, and respect for all who are older than we are, as well as *courtesy* to all, are Christian attributes to be earnestly sought after. Let us always obey God first, and keep in mind His command, "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

6. **WALK SOFTLY IN THE SANCTUARY.** Do you steal in church? Some irreverent folk, through their noisy actions, steal the service from those about them. It has been said that reverence is the alphabet of religion. As you cannot acquire knowledge without the knowledge of the alphabet, so you cannot acquire an experience in the religious life without the spirit of reverence. So let us remember this, and resolve always to be quiet and "walk softly in the sanctuary."

7. **KEEP A SONG IN MY HEART.** Music is magic. It was in the waiting room of the Union Station in Chicago. The long wooden benches were hard, and the stone floor was cold. The people were tired, worried, anxious, unsmiling. The crowd was milling and hurrying here and there in thoughtless confusion. They all seemed to lack something. At that moment a young man came striding through the door whistling loudly. Heads turned slowly as if searching for something. The young man felt the gaze and became embarrassed. He stopped whistling, and in a few seconds disappeared. But something had happened to that crowd. They had

been transformed by that whistling. A woman smiled, and an old man laughed out loud. A child began to sing. It was as if some magic wand had been waved over the station.

One who sings or whistles is happy, and if he is happy, he will spread cheer and gladness. If a song is ever present in the heart, there will be no room for evil thoughts. Singing praises to God is as much an act of worship as is praying. Good music exalts the spirit and lightens our burdens.

8. **GO ON GOD'S ERRANDS.** Our only purpose in life should be to do God's work as He reveals to us His pleasure. It may not be in some conspicuous office in the church or in the mission field. If we will do faithfully the smaller, commonplace duties in the home and the church, these very activities will prepare us for greater service. Following is a tale of a lad who served God. It is the story of "The Boy Who Helped His Mother."

"As I went down the street today,  
I saw a little lad  
Whose face was just the kind of face  
To make a person glad.  
I saw him busily at work  
While blithe as a blackbird's song  
His merry, mellow whistle rang  
The pleasant street along.

"Just then a playmate came along,  
And leaned across the gate,  
A plan that promised lots of fun  
And frolic to relate  
'The boys are waiting for us now,  
So hurry up,' he cried.  
My little whistler shook his head,  
And, 'Can't come,' he replied.

"'Can't come? Why not, I'd like to know?  
What hinders?' asked the other.  
'Why, don't you see?' came the reply,  
'I'm busy helping mother.  
She's lots to do, and I so like  
To help her all I can;  
So I've no time for fun just now,'  
Said this dear little man.

"'I like to hear you talk like that,'  
I told the little lad.  
'Help mother all you can, and make  
Her kind heart light and glad.'  
It does me good to think of him,  
And know that there are others  
Who, like this manly little boy,  
Take hold and help their mothers."

—Author Unknown.

By bringing these eight points of the J. M. V. Law definitely into our New Year's resolutions, we have made considerable progress in the development of a true Christian character. Surely those who conscientiously seek God's help in making these principles the ideals of their lives will strengthen their own experience and bring happiness to those around them.

### Margaret Resolves

(This may be used as a reading or adapted for a dialogue.)

"MOTHER, I don't believe I shall make any New Year's resolutions this year," announced Margaret, who was sitting in the living room with her mother while she finished up the weekly mending.

Her mother looked up. "What  
(Please turn to page 24)

## 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.

### From Caves of the Mountains

FROM the Kenya Colony, East Africa, this word comes of entering among another tribe in which hearts are being touched with the love of Christ, a tribe dwelling in the fastnesses of the mountains. Pastor S. G. Maxwell tells us of the cave dwellers:

"Years ago the battle for the pastures raged over the lowlands of North Kavirondo. The strong, warlike tribes drove the weaker tribes hither and thither. The El Konyi, called the 'Elgoni' by the Europeans who do not always listen carefully to African names, fled to the rock fastness of Mount Elgon. This giant of Africa rises some 14,000 feet above sea level. Scattered over its eastern slopes are many caves. These have formed places of refuge for the defeated Elgoni for many generations.

"Formerly they did not cultivate their ground, but lately many are doing so. They do not bury their dead, but leave them out for the wild beasts to devour.

"Little has been done for this tribe by missions. They lie off the beaten track. Their homes are not easy of access. Not all now dwell in caves, but some still do. We visited these caves recently. In one of them was a family with all their cattle. The entrance was protected by thorn bushes. The man had divided off a section for living quarters, and one could just crawl in there. The cave forms excellent protection from the heavy mountain rain. The temperature was neither hot nor cold—one of nature's air-conditioned chambers.

"The president of the local tribunal had invited us to work among these people. We found a large school building in process of erection. The president was hauling the trees from the forest with his oxen.

"A lively group of youngsters are meeting for school in an unfinished house. The old folk gathered while we were examining the school, and they listened intently while the word of God was explained.

"The words of the prophet are once again being fulfilled: 'After will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.' Jer. 16:16."

### Our Missionary Doctors

It is important that well-trained physicians be sent forth among the people of overseas lands, for without this training doctors cannot cope with emergencies and conditions which are sure to confront them. It is likewise of great importance, and of heartening encouragement, that these medical missionaries, largely trained in our own denominational schools, are prepared also to lead the interested ones into Bible truths, bringing to them the "one thing" most "needful"—the healing of the soul. Doctor C. Paul Bringle, of the Maun Medical Mission, Bechuanaland Protectorate, South Africa, writes:

"We have enjoyed our four years of work here at Maun. They have given us the pleasure of seeing the work develop from the first beginnings to what is becoming more promising every day. I believe we have won the confidence of the majority of the native people, and the Europeans have taken us in with open arms. Where for practically two years it was difficult to get permission to do any kind of major surgery for the natives, now we have the hospital full and usually have several major surgical operations scheduled. And now they are even beginning to come to the hospital to have their babies, which is indeed a victory over their native customs and traditions. The hospital and outpatient work has doubled in the last two years. As the work has grown, I believe all of us here have grown with it. Some of the experiences have taught us invaluable lessons, although they sometimes seemed about to break us in the teaching process.

"The thing for which I am most thankful and which makes me the happiest is that we are beginning to see some fruit from the gospel seed sowing. This has been hard uphill effort, but it is beginning to show progress. We have had four baptisms, and three, perhaps five, are ready for baptism now, making nine to enter into church fellowship.

"While I like to do surgery and enjoy making a scientific diagnosis, prescribing treatment, and seeing a patient recover from his sickness, yet I am most interested in helping these people to a knowledge of salvation.

So I can truthfully say that I enjoy my baptismal classes three times weekly more than any other one thing."

### Before They Got Up

FROM the Gold Coast, West Africa, Missionary J. Clifford tells us of some intensive evangelistic work being carried on there by the brethren and sisters. He writes:

"One church that was on the down grade was encouraged to begin local evangelistic work. Led by the visiting missionary, they spent several days in 'open air' preaching, and then continued the work themselves with the help of their teacher. In time two new companies were raised up. In relating their experiences these believers told how, in one town, the people invariably disappeared when they went there to preach. So our members rose at four o'clock in the morning and preached through the thin walls of the huts.

"Another group of workers went to a mining town thirty miles distant. They chose what is deemed a difficult field, but rejoice that their faith was rewarded in that seven souls took their stand for the truth.

"Pastor S. B. Essien with lay workers from Tarkwa went into the Central Province to visit an isolated member who has suffered much for her faith. They held special services for the townspeople each morning and evening. Some who could read brought their Bibles; others asked questions, and before our workers left, a company of eighteen believers had been established (with five others in a neighboring town in hitherto unentered territory). Now our lone sister has others to unite with her in Sabbath worship.

"From the Accra and the Koforidua districts, where the effects of the recent earthquake were most serious, come reports that the people are awakening from their usual self-satisfied state and are inquiring after the truth. In the Koforidua district forty-two persons during the past month have accepted the message."

### Along the Mongolian Border

MISSIONARY OTTO CHRISTENSEN, who with his wife was accomplishing a good work in Southern Mongolia, and who, on account of his wife's health, was called as director to the Sai-Pei Mission across the Chinese border, tells of recent experiences in this new language area:

"We are enjoying our work in China very much in spite of our handicaps in the language. Thank the Lord that if we go forward He helps us. Being asked to take over the work here, I immediately began trying to preach in the language, and found it necessary to put forth intensive study. Although I have not yet mastered the language, it is be-

coming much easier, and I am constantly preaching and preparing souls for baptism, as well as baptizing. We hope to have nearly twenty-five baptisms in this new field before the end of the year. I am especially urging the workers to instruct carefully, and to be sure the candidates are fully converted, and not to think too much of numbers.

"The Lord has wonderfully blessed the bookwork in this field. Last year's record has been doubled. Two pairs of colporteurs have made a record here in this mission for China. One pair took 600 subscriptions lacking seven, for the *Signs* magazine in one month. This means sales amounting to nearly \$1,200.

"Our Harvest Ingathering has also been especially blessed of the Lord. We have worked only five, and some only four, weeks, and every chapel except one has gone over its goal. I recently had the privilege of baptizing two young men who had been won as a result of the Harvest Ingathering work in other years. They are now at our middle school, and their father, who is manager of the British American Tobacco Company, has expressed his hope of a change in work, so that he also can obey the truth. We thank the Lord that labor for Him is not in vain. Remember us in your prayers."

### The Medical Book Saved Lives

BROTHER JOSE T. PEREZ, who is laboring in Mexico, relates his experiences at a medical missionary institute in seeking to relieve the people of their sicknesses, and gives evidence of how the Lord is able to use others, even in places where better conditions prevail, in the use of simple remedies in relieving pain and distress:

"I desired to obtain the book ["Practical Guide to Health"] for myself to study carefully. By sacrifice I saved sufficient money to purchase the book, and began to study how to treat the sick.

"A short time after that, a messenger came to me from a place twenty-four miles distant to ask me to go to aid a man suffering from a kidney disease. I told the messenger that I had never treated anyone. But he replied, 'I know that you have a book that tells how to treat disease.' I told him that I would go and do what I could in the name of the Lord. In the book I found a treatment which proved to be effective, and in a few days the man was well.

"A little later there was an epidemic of typhoid fever in our district. It rapidly spread from family to family. I studied the book to learn how to stay this epidemic, and carefully followed the instruction. I treated not only the members of our church, but others in the district, and not one died.

"We also had an epidemic of a form of intestinal trouble, and many

persons died. I wrote to the superintendent of the mission and told him that we needed a doctor to help us save the lives of the people. The superintendent was not at home, and I did not receive an answer to my letter. Already fifteen people had died, and I decided that I would have to do what little I could. In this medical book I found a treatment for this disease. We had to make a long journey to buy the remedy suggested, and when we returned we found that three more people had died during our absence. We began to give the treatment prescribed in the book, and after that not one sick person died.

"A director of the Agrarios came to me with a cut reaching from the forehead to the back of his head, received from a machete. No doctor was in the district, and two days had passed since he was cut. The blood had clotted and dried. The people heard that we could do something to help this man. They came to call me, and I said to them: 'If you believe that I can do something for him, I will go.' I took along some disinfectants, and found the man suffering greatly. I first thoroughly washed his head and this wound. It was indeed a task, because the hair was thoroughly matted with blood. The man was not a Christian, but while I was treating him, I talked to him about the truth. The wound healed, and this man is grateful for the help we gave him. He is now a member of our church. When we planned to build a clinic, he promised to give us all the timber we needed. We had the clinic

all completed except the floor when I left to come to this institute. There is no doctor in that district. This clinic will be a great blessing to the people while we follow the instruction the Lord has given us concerning simple treatments."

"A wounded soldier lay on his deathbed in a London hospital. The chaplain talked to him about the divine Substitute, and the surrendered life. He listened, caught the words, his lips moved in prayer, and then as the light darkened he raised his hand and called, 'Lord Jesus, I surrender.' Like the thief by the side of Christ on Calvary, that man will be remembered when Christ comes in His kingdom. But had either of them lived on, it would have been necessary for them to demonstrate their faith in Christ by life, word, and action."

### Obtained a New Heart

MISSIONARY A. J. JACOBSON, of Rarotonga, South Seas, tells of the transformation in the lives of an aged couple recently won by our missionaries there:

"Peau, who is now sixty years of age, until he became an Adventist a few months ago had not been to church six times in his life. One of his chief occupations was the manufacture of bush beer, made from fermented pineapples, oranges, etc., and which develops a high percentage of alcohol. Peau was found by the police, taken to court, and fined several times. After each arrest he went back, made more beer, and paid his fines from its sale. This continued until he came under the conviction of the Spirit of God during the meetings conducted by our missionaries. Once he heard this message, he decided to change his habits, and he prayed to God for strength to gain the victory. It was a real struggle, but he was able to renounce the old life entirely, and is now a faithful church member. He has also sold his pigs and bought a cow.

"When people of another denomination saw how Peau was reforming, they came to him suggesting that he go to their church, but he said, 'No, a pair of horses could not prevent me from going to the Adventist church.' One of the deacons of the other church finally said that the gospel of the Adventists was a powerful gospel if it could change a man like that.

"His wife has also experienced a real change of heart and life, and testifies that hitherto her home was always dirty. With a husband who brewed and drank beer, she, too, was careless and dirty, never cleaning her house. But now she says, 'I clean it every day.' Her countenance beams with the light of the new life. With the apostle Paul we can well say that they 'are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.'"

MISSION BOARD.

