

The Church Officers' Gazette

VOL. 30

MARCH, 1943

No. 3

The Church Elder

THE work of the church elder is described by the apostle Paul as "a good work." Certainly it is one of utmost importance. It calls for every qualification of leadership—vision, devotion, firmness, kindness, wisdom, consecration, piety, tact, stability, sound judgment. It calls for one mighty in the Scriptures, full of the Holy Spirit. It calls for all that a man is and all he is capable of becoming through the blessing of Heaven.

One of the chief functions of a leader is to organize and direct the energies of those under his care, so that there will be complete unity of purpose. This is fully as important in the church as in any worldly enterprise.

The danger of division is greater today than in the past. Ours is about the only denomination that attempts to maintain a world-wide organization, directed and maintained under unified control. The leaders of this movement are constantly seeking to safeguard the unity of our work. "Elect in every nation, yet one o'er all the earth" must continue to be true regarding the remnant church of God. As difficulties increase, with international strife, with greatly restricted communication between countries, the problem of unity becomes more serious.

It cannot be solved by human devisings. More than ordinary diplomacy or statesmanship is needed to maintain sincere, warm brotherly love and Christian fellowship throughout the entire household of God. Each church must be so nourished and built up, so established, strengthened, settled, so

be a matter of wonder to the world that no material crisis, national or international, can paralyze the program of the church. No fiery dart of hatred should be able to cause a rift in her shining armor. No evil root of bitterness should be allowed to trouble and defile.

But the church in general is made up of local congregations in particular, with elders as overseers of the flock of God. A denomination is only as strong as its individual churches. Able leadership is needed for each one of them. Division in the world-wide church can never come so long as each group of believers has the true spirit of brotherly love. For such a condition each elder needs to pray and labor. Everything depends upon it. Any division in any congregation of the saints brings deadly peril to the entire movement. How watchful, how zealous, therefore, the

elder must be. What a high calling is his! Who is sufficient for it? "Our sufficiency is of God."

Like Paul, the care of the church rests upon him constantly, and he is to warn every one under his charge night and day with tears. In the spirit of the true Shepherd he is faithfully to watch for souls, as one who must give account.

"THE Lord has given us in His word definite, unmistakable instructions, by obedience to which we may preserve union and harmony in the church. Brethren and sisters, are you giving heed to these inspired injunctions? Are you Bible readers, and doers of the word? Are you striving to fulfill the prayer of Christ, that His followers might be one? 'The God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus, that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God.' 'Finally, brethren, be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace shall be with you.'"

—*"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 248.*

exhorted, warned, admonished, that it will present an unbroken front to the world. It must be so enlightened with the world-wide vision of the everlasting gospel that it will seek earnestly to be all things to all men. There are no frontiers to the kingdom of God. Christ is not divided.

The church is to carry on her work in war as well as in peace. It should



Rapid Advance of the Third Angel's Message by Air and Land Forces

Suggestive Program for Sabbath Service, March 6, 1943

OPENING HYMN: "Come, Thou Almighty King," No. 3 in "Church Hymnal."

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalms 37:23-40. PRAYER.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERING FOR LOCAL MISSIONARY WORK.

HYMN: "Tis Almost Time for the Lord to Come," No. 182.

READING: "Combined Radio-Bible Courses."

HYMN: "O, Spread the Tidings Round," No. 526.

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

Broadcasting the third angel's message over the radio is something which, a few years ago, would have seemed preposterous; but today we behold a marvelous work in progress. This work calls for the co-operation of every person who believes the message. Comparatively few of our leaders stand behind the microphone and address the "radio audience of the air," but there is need of personal follow-up in every community, to visit the listeners who have become interested, to tell them how to enroll as students in the Bible schools, from which they will regularly receive Bible studies and literature in consecutive order. There is also great need that groups of church members complete the Bible Service Training Course, as arranged by the General Conference Home Missionary Department, whereby the members are qualified to give Bible studies or to answer questions which may arise in following up the radio work.

We are happy to present the excellent article by Elder R. J. Christian, who is developing an extensive and fruitful combination of broadcast and Bible study course. We are watching the work in the Atlantic Union with interest and satisfaction. The influence of this good work is spreading and the plan is becoming established

in other sections of the field. Churches which are not in touch with the plan, but desire further particulars, should write to the conference home missionary secretary. For a long time we have been training lay Bible instructors, and many hundreds of church members have completed the course and been awarded the certificate. In some instances, however, there has been neglect to make use of the instruction by finding openings for Bible studies and engaging regularly in this work. The Radio Bible School not only furnishes a complete series of Bible studies in printed form, but makes many openings for additional Bible studies. Thus God's plan of training the church members for lay evangelism has come to be greatly enlarged and broadened. Let all redouble their efforts at this time, that the talents of every member of the church may be utilized in finishing the work.

GEN. CONF. HOME MISS. DEPT.

Wanted—A Messenger

THE Lord Christ wanted a tongue one day,

To speak a message of cheer
To a heart that was weary and worn
and sad,

Weighed down with a mighty fear.
He asked for mine, but 'twas busy quite,
With my own affairs from morn till night.

The Lord Christ wanted a hand one day
To do a loving deed;

He wanted two feet on an errand for Him.

To run with gladsome speed,
But I had need of my own that day;
To His gentle beseeching I answered,
"Nay."

So all that day I used my tongue,
My hands, and my feet as I chose;
I said some hasty, bitter words
That hurt one heart. God knows,
I busied my hands with worthless play,
And my willful feet went a crooked way,

While the dear Lord grieved, with His work undone.

For the lack of a willing heart!
Only through men does He speak to men,
Dumb must He be apart,
I do not know, but I wish today,
I had let the Lord Christ have His way.

—Author Unknown.

Combined Radio-Bible Courses

BY R. J. CHRISTIAN

Home Missionary Secretary, Atlantic Union

THESE are truly significant days for all Christian people. It has been said that in these days, "when the war is at its worst, the church must be at its best." As we build for the best days of the church, we must build with our eyes firmly fixed, not only on home fields and home bases, but even unto the uttermost parts of the earth. For a certainty these are the days of the angel of Revelation 14:6, of whom it is written, "I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."

Ours is a universal movement. We have come to the day when this everlasting gospel must be carried speedily to all them that dwell on the earth. We take great pleasure in contemplating the fact that our message is being preached and our literature is being printed in more than 820 different languages today. But the work is still unfinished. As Seventh-day Adventists we need to evaluate carefully and examine critically our methods, our zeal, our courage, our breadth of understanding, in the light of *how*, *where*, and *when* we are to give the message. We must be a united people in sounding the "voice in the wilderness"—the voice that is to call back to Christ honesthearted men and women from all ranks of life, from all localities of the earth, from among all peoples.

"Our work is plainly laid down in the word of God. Christian is to be united to Christian, church to church, the human instrumentality co-operating with the divine, every agency to be subordinate to the Holy Spirit, and all to be combined in giving to the world the good tidings of the grace of God."—*Christian Service*, p. 14.

We are told through the Spirit of prophecy: "We are to be consecrated channels, through which the heavenly life is to flow to others. The Holy Spirit is to animate and pervade the whole church, purifying and cementing hearts."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, p. 20. "Every follower of Jesus has a work to do as a missionary for Christ, in the family, in the neighborhood, in the town or city where he lives. All who are consecrated to God are channels of light. God makes them instruments of righteousness to communicate to others the light of truth."—*Id.*, Vol. II, p. 632.

Our vision must not be limited in preparing the way for the second advent of our Lord. It must be comprehensive. "As the rays of the sun penetrate to the remotest corners of the globe, so God designs that the light of the gospel shall extend to every soul upon the earth. If the church of Christ were fulfilling the purpose of our Lord, light would be shed upon all that sit in darkness and in the region and shadow of death."—*Mount of Blessing*, p. 69.

There has never been a time when the proclaiming of the message was more urgent than it is now. The challenge of the great cities of the earth is a tremendous one. The challenge of the rural homes and the small urban communities is such that we must foster plans to reach out everywhere to present the truth.

A Plan to Meet the Challenge

We cannot, in the space of this hour's service, enumerate or give careful study to all the avenues of service now open before us as a people. We shall, however, endeavor to bring to your attention one of the most effective plans now in operation in North America, which is soon to be extended to the other lands of the Western Hemisphere. I refer to the radio work, and particularly to the combination of radio broadcasting with Bible correspondence courses.

Such a plan has been in use for some time by the Voice of Prophecy from Los Angeles, where the nation-wide radio work is being carried on. In addition to this general coverage, several of our union conferences and a number of our local fields are carrying on less extensive broadcasts and Bible study plans.

In our earnest desire to reach the millions of New York City, we have combined with the radio program what is known as the Twentieth Century Bible Course. The incentives which inspired the development of this course are founded in statements from the Spirit of prophecy, as follows: "We must give the message quickly." "By thousands of voices all over the earth, the warning will be given." "The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening."—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 611, 612.

Our Bible Course consists of a set of thirty Bible studies, adaptable to different types of missionary service. The lessons are in printed form, and each set, or lesson, consists of one page for the letter of introduction, one page for the lesson proper, two pages of notes, and the test sheet.

Conducted From Conference Office

At the present time a number of conferences in the Atlantic Union are conducting a Bible school, with enrollments reaching as high as five thou-

sand students. In order to maintain a unified procedure throughout the entire conference, the school is operated under the leadership of the home missionary department and is conducted from the conference office. An office is set up for carrying on the school, keeping its records, correcting the papers, answering questions, and for all other procedure necessary in connection with its efficient and orderly conduct. The lessons are secured through the local Book and Bible House.

Securing Lists

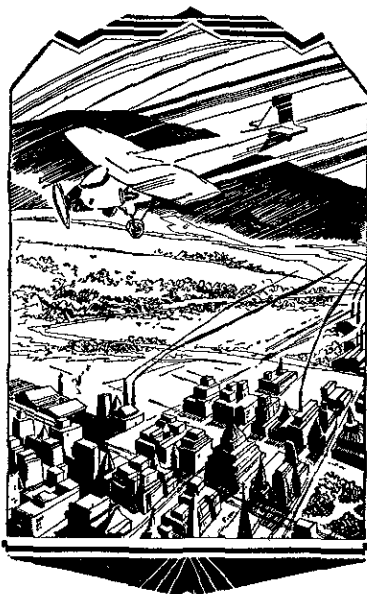
One of the most fruitful fields of enrollment is found in the subscription lists of our various periodicals, such as *Present Truth*, *Signs of the Times*, *Watchman*, *Message Magazine*, *Life and Health*, *Liberty*, and *Health*. An appropriate letter which definitely connects the Bible course with the periodical, is written. With this letter an enrollment card is enclosed, which offers the course free to all those who will return the card with their names and addresses. So far it is our experience in the Atlantic Union that this has been a productive field for enrollments, and hundreds of encouraging letters are being received from those who are taking this course.

The office secretary in charge of one of these conference schools wrote as follows:

"For the past few weeks we have been dealing with what we believe to be the most crucial part of our studies, namely, the Sabbath. The response to these studies has been really heartening. To our queries, 'Would you appreciate meeting a Sabbathkeeper?' 'Would you enjoy attending a Sabbath service?' the answers have been almost one hundred per cent 'Yes,' the few exceptions coming mostly from shut-ins."

Adaptations Possible

In three conferences of the Atlantic Union the school is separate from any conference or church radio program, while in one conference of our field the school is carried on almost entirely through WHN, a large radio station in New York City. The lessons are so designed that they may be used in a conference-wide Bible school plan such as the one suggested here, or by our laity in the quiet at-



mosphere of a private home in connection with the holding of cottage meetings or Bible studies, or by our lay preachers in the holding of lay-preacher efforts.

Many Waiting to Be Gathered In

Surely the hour has come when not only are men's hearts failing them for fear, but "all over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in."—*"Acts of the Apostles," p. 109.* This is evidenced by the fact that since the turn of the century 17,000,000 Americans have joined new religious cults—cults ranging from the esoteric to the spurious. With the coming of the war this exodus from the recognized and established churches has been greatly accelerated. Twelve million of the above-mentioned 17,000,000 Americans are deserters from Roman Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant churches. It is claimed that "Psychiana" has won 600,000 converts in sixty-seven countries of the world in the past decade. Father Divine, of New York City, claims over a million converts in the same decade. Jehovah's Witnesses claim millions of converts during the same period of time. This great migration from the better-recognized churches should cause us to think seriously of the mighty challenge that confronts us who are custodians of the blessed truth of God for the perishing world. Is it not possible—yes, is it not probable—that many of these millions could have been turned toward our church and its blessed truths, had we been more active in our missionary zeal and enthusiasm? Beautiful, symmetrical, powerful truths are not sufficient in themselves. They are as a light under a bushel, until we, as members of the church, lift the bushel and set the candlestick of divine truth high, that its light may be seen by all men.

New Turns to Old Methods

Every war crisis is attended by a turning of men's hearts toward the Bible and a sense of spiritual values and considerations. Shall we not, as Seventh-day Adventists, recognize in the events taking place about us won-

derful opportunities to evangelize for Christ? Our methods must continually be improved. Rapid advances must be made by air over the radio, as well as by the land forces. Carrying out wise plans adapted to present-day conditions, the men, women, and youth of the advent church, endowed with the Spirit from on high for the giving of the divine message of God, will be irresistible.

In the twenty-first chapter of Luke's Gospel we have a picture of conditions identical with those confronting us today, and with it we find the admonition, "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." In this connection let us read the following statements from the Spirit of prophecy: "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."—*"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 117.* "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!"—*"Education," p. 271.*

This uniting of efforts is required on the part of everyone. God requires "the harmonious action of a peculiar people, a people chosen by God and precious. Every man is to stand in his lot and place, thinking, speak-

ing, and acting in harmony with the Spirit of God. Then, and not till then, will the work be a complete, symmetrical, whole."—*"Testimonies," Vol. VI, p. 293.*

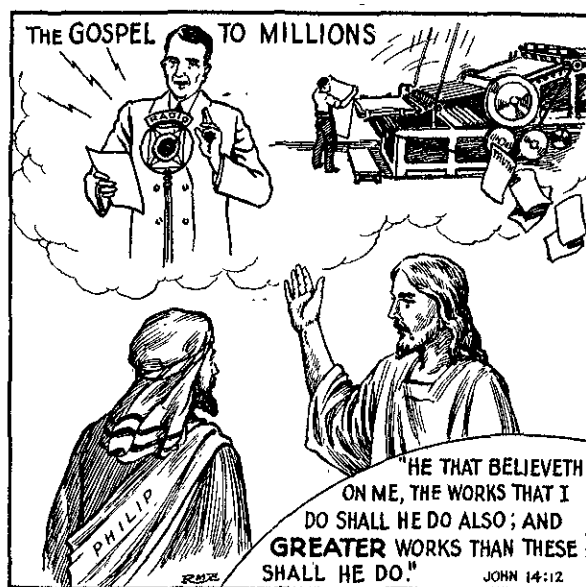
So often we sing—

"There's a place for every worker
In the vineyard of the Lord,
Where with all our powers united,
We can toil with one accord.

"There's a place, oh, may I find it!
Where my mission I can fill,
Be it humble or exalted,
May I hold it with a will."

May the Lord help us as during this year of 1943 we seek, under God, most earnestly, most prayerfully, most diligently, for vision and understanding of that portion of the work that we can best do for our Lord.

For the fullest success in carrying on such a radio and Bible study plan as we have described, it is necessary to make personal contact with those who become interested, and to interview men and women with a view to getting them to enroll for the studies. Recently while in New York City, I was shown a letter which had just been received from a young woman who completed her study on the Sabbath truth, and which stated that while she recognized the seventh day as the Sabbath of God, yet, because of her training and because of the fact that her church held worship on Sunday, she supposed she would have to continue the practice. Here was a case where we needed a trained lay worker to call on the young woman and tactfully present the importance



of obeying what God says, irrespective of her former training and the stand of her present denomination. We must furnish the agencies through which God can work in the giving of this message.

An Appeal From the Messenger of the Lord

"My dear brethren and sisters, I speak to you in words of love and tenderness. Arouse, and consecrate yourselves unreservedly to the work of giving the light of truth for this time to those in darkness. Catch the spirit of the great Master Worker. Learn from the Friend of sinners how to minister to sin-sick souls. Remember that in the lives of His followers must be seen the same devotion, the same subjection to God's work, of every social claim, every earthly affection, that was seen in His life. God's claims must always be made paramount. Christ's example is to inspire us to put forth unceasing effort for the good of others.

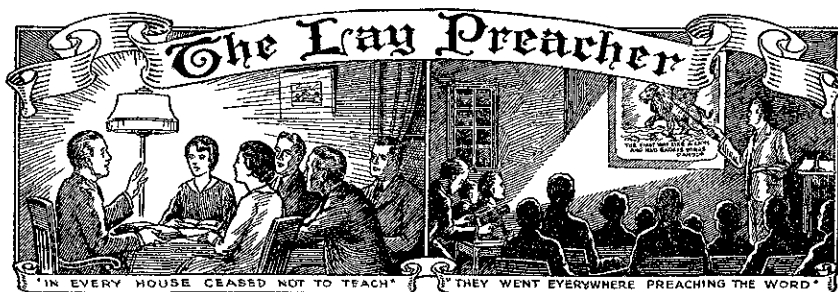
"God calls upon every church member to enter His service. Truth that is not *lived*, that is not *imparted to others*, loses its life-giving power, its healing virtue. Everyone must learn to work, and to stand in his place as a burden bearer. Every addition to the church should be one more agency for the carrying out of the great plan of redemption. The entire church, acting as one, blending in perfect union, is to be a living, active missionary agency, moved and controlled by the Holy Spirit."—*Id.*, Vol. VIII, p. 47.

We also read that "indifference in the Christian life is a manifest denial of the Saviour." The apostle Paul states, "He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth." Rom. 9:28. Realizing our part in making ready the way of the Lord, shall we not, as brethren and sisters in Christ, rededicate our hearts and lives for the full measure of loyal service? Let us co-operate with those who are broadcasting the message over the air by calling attention to the radio programs and securing enrollments for the Bible courses, and thus go forward with the land forces, as they move on from home to home with the printed page and the open Bible. The armies of the world march forward in mecha-

nized warfare, which has aptly been termed the "blitz." The gospel does not advance in this way, for it is "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

Today men's hearts are troubled, perplexed, and dismayed. Let us go to them, bringing the message of peace, the message calling men and women back to the way of repentance and resulting in courage, confidence,

and victory through Christ. Thus the message by air and by land shall reach a speedy climax, and Jesus will come. In that glad day when the records of all are made bare, may we have so lived, so labored, so dedicated and consecrated our hearts and our lives to our Maker that we may hear from His lips, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. . . . Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."



The Pastor's Co-operation With the Lay Preacher

THERE are hundreds of men and women in our churches who are capable of doing successful lay preaching work but are not now doing it. It is the responsibility of the pastor or district superintendent to convince these potential lay preachers first of the importance of this work and then of the fact that they can do such work. At the same time the work must have the moral and financial backing of the entire church. There is much a church can do to make such a program successful. We might have an isolated case of lay preaching here and there, but if we are to measure up to the Lord's plan and purpose for His church we should surely see a much larger and more effective program of lay preaching systematically carried on than we now see.

This larger, more effective lay preaching requires planning. It requires a work of preparation in the church. First the pastor must have a vision of what might be accomplished. He should then prepare a stirring sermon in which he outlines the place of the laymen in the finishing of the work. Examples of successful lay work should be cited. The program he has in mind for the church should then be clearly stated. The church should be told of the need (1) of men and women with a burden for souls to respond personally to the

call to service, (2) for the entire church to back the program with prayers and in other ways, such as distributing literature or handbills whenever necessary, (3) to support the work financially by the purchase of equipment. After having laid this groundwork, he should give every member in the church an opportunity to respond. Sheets of paper should be prepared in advance, listing these three propositions, with a place for checking each one. The members should then be asked to sign these slips and check the part they wish to have in the program. These sheets will then furnish the pastor valuable information, which he should utilize to good advantage. An offering should be taken to purchase literature and equipment.

In addition to this public presentation the pastor who is really interested in such a soul-winning program will find that a personal visit with some of his prospective lay preachers will cause them to decide to engage actively in the work. It may be necessary to show them that they can do it. Some of these hand-picked workers may be the most successful.

The equipment which may be purchased may include a set of films such as the twenty-four Bible School of Evangelism films prepared by J. L. Shuler, sufficient projectors to care for the needs of the lay preachers, literature to create interests, and Bible School of Evangelism lessons to

place in the hands of those who attend the meetings. We have some laymen who can conduct large public meetings in halls and churches without the aid of the filmstrips and projectors, but there are many of our laymen who would be greatly helped by the use of such equipment; and there are many who would perhaps never make a start without this aid, who would become effective workers by using it. The use of the film helps to secure attendance, creates interest, and impresses the truth upon the mind. The use of the projector is also of value in relieving beginners of embarrassment in addressing audiences. Those who have used the projectoscope testify to its effectiveness. Some conferences have one or more sets of filmstrips which they lend to laymen in the conference. But if the church has several laymen engaged in the work, it should purchase its own equipment. By working out a rotating schedule, the church can supply a large number with one set of films and several inexpensive projectors. If projectors were made available in some of our larger churches, there might be scores of members holding meetings in churches, schools, halls, and homes.

In every community doubtless there are opportunities that might be taken advantage of immediately by our laymen. The pastor should help in planning to enter these openings. But he may have to provide other opportunities for giving studies. He can accomplish this through systematic literature distribution. A plan we believe ideally adapted to this very work is the Bible Readers' Circle program. This is a plan for working every home in a given county or section of a county with well-selected literature sent through the mail. We recommend that "dark" counties near the church be worked by this method. As requests come in as a result of this program, laymen should go into the communities and group several families together to form community Bible schools, using Bible School of Evangelism films and lessons in conducting a series of meetings in a home or some other central meeting place. Results indicate many requests for studies or meetings. In some places the workers should distribute literature from house to house, in this way securing openings for Bible

studies—a tried and proved method of creating interests. There are hundreds round us who need this message and who are hungry for something better than they have. Why should not our churches plan to take them this message through lay preaching?

H. E. MCCLURE.

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A Profitable Lay Preachers' Institute

"LEARN the Message; Live the Message; Preach the Message" was the motto of the fourth annual institute for lay preachers held early in the year at the West Indian Training College in Mandeville, Jamaica. Not once has the conference felt the least regret for financing a lay preachers' institute; to the contrary, this annual institute has been made an affair of general interest to the entire field, and is considered one of the most important meetings in the year's program. Every district pastor and minister, every departmental leader and conference officer, attended the institute from beginning to end.

A general workers' meeting was held simultaneously with the institute in which plans were laid for the new year. The time following the lunch hour, while the lay preachers were in their daily study period, was found to be ideal for the workers' meeting. This gave opportunity day by day for discussing the progress of the institute and did much to bring success to the institute plan as a whole.

More than four hours a day were spent in actual "practice preaching."

The entire group of lay preachers, ministers, and workers, totaling nearly sixty, was divided into three smaller groups; and after the devotional hour each morning two hours were devoted to practice preaching in the smaller groups. Each lay worker was allotted eight to ten minutes for presenting a brief sermon. One of the ministers then made pointed and helpful criticisms. This procedure was followed again in the afternoon. In the evening, however, all the groups met in the chapel, and six men, two selected from each group, spoke before the audience made up of delegates and visiting friends. This was a fine experience which intensified the determination to profit by the daily study period for improving their sermons and sermon material.

In order that the regular institute program might be initiated on the very day set for the opening, those in charge of the institute mailed twenty recent numbers of *Present Truth* two months in advance to each man planning to attend the institute, with the request that at least twelve sermons be prepared before the opening day of the institute. In nearly all cases this request was complied with; thus the time of the institute could be devoted to actual methods of preaching rather than to the study of sermon outlines. One hour a day was all that was given for sermon study, and that mainly for incorporating new thoughts, texts, stories, and ideas into their previously prepared sermons.

One of the conference requirements



"Lay Preachers' Institute in Jamaica"

of every lay preacher who attended the institute was that he hold at least one effort, consisting of at least sixteen meetings, during the year. Many of the lay preachers conduct three successful efforts in a year's time.

The lay preachers' institute supplied needed preparation and inspiration. It was a spur for a successful year of lay evangelism. As the re-

sult of the work of lay preachers in the Jamaica Conference 505 members were added to the church in 1941, and our goal for 1942 is 700. Our lay preachers in Jamaica are determined to "Learn the Message; Live the Message; and Preach the Message."

D. V. POND,

*Home Missionary Secretary,
Jamaica Conference.*

Missionary Leadership

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Yourtown

CAN the Seventh-day Adventist church be easily located by strangers visiting your city? Where will non-Adventists, traveling salesman, Mr. John Doe, whose wife is a believer and member of the church back home, be able to find announcements about the location of your house of worship?

Mrs. Doe has informed her husband that Elder Blank will speak to your congregation on Sabbath. Mr. Doe has confidence in Elder Blank, likes to hear his messages, and has decided to hurry over for meeting at *Yourtown*.

Where will he find out about Adventist services in *Yourtown*?

Does the *Yourtown Daily News* carry an announcement of Seventh-day Adventist meetings in its weekly church section? Do papers give the address of your church?

No? Well, why isn't this information found regularly in *Yourtown* papers? If it isn't there, the officers of your church should see that it appears. Failure to grasp this opportunity may very definitely be hiding one's light under a bushel.

Is your house of worship listed in the church directory that appears in transportation stations and hotel lobbies located in *Yourtown*? Is the information available in the telephone book, city directory, or at civic clubs?

How will a person who wishes to worship with you find the address of your meeting place? How will he get the information? From the police? From the fire station? or by mere chance from a taxicab driver?

In some places, Adventists appear to be hiding away from the world?

Now and then letters of complaint and appeal come to us from those who hope that something can be done to remedy a situation that is unnecessary and is to be deplored. Note the following portion of a letter that came in recently:

"At the present time I carry a church directory, which I used today. I rode the bus out to the old address, 885 Orchard, but the church had moved to some other part of the city. A filling-station attendant told me that the new address was Upton and Door, but forty minutes later I was told in that neighborhood that the church is out near Woodlawn cemetery. Taking a taxi, I reached there in time to find the meeting being dismissed. It seems to me there should be a movement among the Adventists to get themselves better labeled, so that they can be found. My home city newspaper directory carries about thirty-five churches in the Saturday issue, but there is no reference to the several Seventh-day Adventist churches in the city. The hotel directories seldom give the information, and it is not often possible to get the information from the telephone directory. The Y. M. C. A. can sometimes direct to our church, but not always. It seems to me that the telephone directory would be most satisfactory, the information being listed under 'S' instead of 'A.' Hotel directories are often satisfactory, but are too costly. Certainly we should get free announcements through the newspapers, the same as other churches."

How will Mr. Doe find the Seventh-day Adventist church in *Yourtown*?

We are rightfully interested in distributing much literature. May many

millions of truth-filled pages be added to an ever-increasing flow until the whole land is covered. We preach missionary sermons, we give time and money generously. Shall we not label our goods and identify each meeting place? It is time to arise and publicize our name, advertise our services, and make it possible for people to find Seventh-day Adventist places of meeting easily. Begin by having regular notices in the church column of your city papers. This will surely be missionary work of great importance. Our churches should be announced to the world by every legitimate means possible. Let us come out of hiding into the light of public acquaintance. Let people know who we are and where we are.

R. G. STRICKLAND.

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Stop Every Leak

IN volume seven of the "Testimonies" definite caution is given in regard to avoiding debt, and we are told, "Watch the little outgoes. Stop every leak. It is the little losses that tell heavily in the end. Gather up the fragments; let nothing be lost. . . . Small leaks have sunk many a ship."—*Pages 206, 207.*

In view of such admonition, we do well to remember the great loss which occurs in unused supplies of Ingathering papers. Each year thousands of dollars from the Lord's treasury are spent so that Ingathering workers may have material with which to make the proper presentation of the needs of our world-wide work to their prospects. Various supplies are furnished free to local congregations, with confidence that all items sent out from the publishing house will be used carefully so that nothing will be wasted. Forethought in the handling of all these helps is absolutely necessary, and conscientious care should be used in distributing them.

There have been instances when, at the close of the Ingathering campaign, hundreds of papers and an alarming number of pieces of printed matter are left on the shelves and are wasted. This oversupply is not due to waning interest, but rather to lack of careful planning and checking with the previous year's records. Exercise care to see that churches do not order more supplies than necessary.

Every leftover Ingathering magazine represents that much taken from the Lord's treasury. Money that could serve useful purposes elsewhere has been spent in purchasing stock and printing material that only clutters basement bins, church closets, pulpit desks, corners in homes, or other stowaway places. Information contained in such printed matter would help remove much prejudice and lead to investigation and acceptance of truth if allowed to do its appointed work. Ingathering magazines printed in English and numer-

ous foreign languages come into this class. Colored churches have a magazine especially prepared for their use; also there are solicitors' booklets and cards, can wrappers, and instruction leaflets. Cannot a serious effort be put forth to prevent waste in these items?

This year the Ingathering campaign starts several months earlier than heretofore—the opening date being May 1. In ordering supplies let us give careful thought to economy and the avoidance of waste.

R. G. STRICKLAND.

News From Soul Winners

Loyalty and Faith Rewarded

(Experiences Reported by Elder Hans Struve, Secretary, Home Missionary Department, Southern European Division)

ALWAYS HAPPY.—“My captain, I beg you to release me from my duties tomorrow, because I am an Adventist and therefore cannot work on that day.” These words were spoken by one of our valiant brethren. He can neither read nor write; but he understands the language of Canaan, that is, the language of the Bible. He carries the Holy Scriptures in his mind and heart. Unfortunately his request was not granted, and when on the Sabbath following his request he refused to perform his customary duties, he was put into prison for several days. Our brother accepted the punishment gladly. His face revealed an inner peace; he was happy and joyful.

One day the captain visited the prison and stopped at our brother's cell. Our brother stood at attention. When the captain asked, “Are you happy?” he answered, “Yes, my captain, I am always happy.” His countenance, radiant with happiness and contentment, confirmed the truth of his words.

“Well, we shall see!” The captain gave orders to the guard to leave the rather large window of our brother's cell open during the following night. He thought that the piercing cold would make the man less happy. But our brother prayed to God, and on his wooden cot, covered with only two

blankets, he peacefully fell asleep. The cold did him no harm.

“Are you still happy?” the captain asked, visiting our brother the next morning in his cell.

“Yes, my captain. I am always happy,” said our brother, and again his eyes and face were beaming.

“Well, we shall see!” The captain left orders for our brother to be further punished. Not only was his window to be left open, but even one of his blankets was to be taken away from him. However, our brother cheerfully spent the night under one blanket.

“Still happy?” asked the captain the next morning.

“Yes, my captain, I am always happy.” The joy on the face of our valiant soldier was still the same.

“Well, we shall see tomorrow!” said the captain. He ordered that the soldier sleep with the window open and without any blanket at all. Accordingly, his blanket was taken away from him. Our brother had only his hard wooden cot. But he knelt and asked the Lord for His protection. His prayer was heard; a warm wind blew, filling the soldier's cell with comfortable warmth.

“Still happy?” asked the captain in the morning.

“Yes, my captain, I am always happy.” The joy on his face had in no wise become dim.

“For the last four days,” said the captain, “I have been trying to make you change your mind, but this is impossible. You may have your Saturday free!”

Rejoicing greatly, our brother left the cell. His faith and his willingness to make sacrifices had brought him victory.

Are you also “always happy”?

UNDISTURBED BY BOMBS.—“Please come and eat!” says a woman to her husband, who works as Bible instructor and mission treasurer in a beautiful seaport.

“Please don't disturb me. I do not have time, for I am working on my balance sheet and cannot find 20 centimes,” answers her busy husband.

The hours slip by, and, as often before, the woman has to eat her supper alone. It is ten o'clock in the evening, time to retire, and again the wife calls to her husband, and his answer comes back, “Leave me alone, dear. I am working on my balance sheet, and since I have not yet found the 20 centimes, I must go on with my work.”

It is eleven o'clock. The streets are dark. Suddenly a siren howls its alarm. Many bombers have arrived, easting death and destruction on city and harbor. Because of the atmospheric pressure of rushing bombs, the house is shaken in its foundation and sways to the right and to the left. “Please come to the shelter,” the wife cries. “Our lives are in danger!”

“I do not have time,” says the treasurer. “I am working on my balance sheet, and the 20 centimes are not yet found.” And while the wise woman seeks the protection of the shelter the husband remains at his work. He is not disturbed by the whistling bombs nor by the roaring airplanes. Not even the shaking of his house disturbs him. He thinks only about his work. Before this night is over, his balance sheet must be right.

It is three o'clock in the morning. Finally the balance sheet is right. Feeling happy and content, the treasurer goes to bed. At four o'clock there is a second alarm. Again great squadrons of airplanes bombard city and harbor. Again the treasurer's wife calls, “Please come to the shelter!”

“Let me sleep now,” he replies; “my balance sheet is right, I have found the 20 centimes, and I am tired.” And soon he is sound asleep.

That is the kind of wood out of which this missionary worker and many others are hewn. Although we do not exactly approve of the way

this brother acted, it is nevertheless worthy of admiration that even outward conditions threatening his life were not able to keep him from doing what he considered his duty. A sense of duty and confidence in God kept the man at his post.

UNDAUNTED COURAGE.—“Well, so you want to be free on Saturday, do you?”

“Yes, my captain.”

“Then you must be willing to have your head shaved.”

These words were spoken in a conversation which was carried on between an officer and one of our soldier-brethren who asked to be free on Sabbath. As the brother declared himself ready, the barber of the company was called. First he cut the brother's hair, and then he shaved his head. Nevertheless, our brother was not free on Sabbath. As he did not perform his duties on Sabbath, he was

sent to prison, but was set free after two or three days. The following day our brother went again to the officer and asked permission to be released from his official duties on Sabbath.

“Do you not yet have enough with your clean-shaved head?” asked the captain.

“The apostle Paul was willing not only to lose his hair, but even his whole head for the sake of the faith,” was the courageous answer.

“Are you really willing to do that, too?” asked the captain. “I am a Catholic, but I cannot comply with the requirements of my church, for I must eat pork when it is served on Friday.”

“I would be willing to fast for forty-eight hours, if I found myself in such a position,” said our brother.

“Well,” said the captain, “then you may have your Saturday free.”

Query Corner

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

QUES.: Is it proper for book depositories in our churches to be open on the Sabbath for the convenience of those members who cannot attend services at any other time? Should they purchase missionary supplies, Sabbath School Lesson Quarterlies, books, tracts, and magazines on the Sabbath?

ANS.: Sabbathkeeping is just as necessary in the church as it is away from the church. True observance of the Lord's day calls for attendance at divine worship (holy convocation) and special activity in Heaven's service—faithfulness in labor that is not for ordinary pleasure or profit, but which definitely advances the kingdom. In this work category are included such acts as visiting and ministering to the sick, engaging in evangelistic efforts, distributing gospel literature or announcements of meetings, planning campaigns for soul winners—assigning duties to be borne and making statements as to the exact part each person will play, both in personally carrying out the program and in sharing financial responsibility. Religion is not divorced from money. When a person becomes converted, so does his pocketbook, and he is willing to give himself and his

possessions for the advancement of God's kingdom.

In discussing certain phases of the church missionary program we are called upon not infrequently to ascertain definitely what part each member will play. Consequently, during missionary services leaders seek to know who will finance distribution of a given number of pieces of literature or series of literature, such as *Signs of the Times*, *Watchman*, *Liberty*, and *Present Truth*.

Usually those who finance such a program are the persons who distribute the messengers of truth or who provide for the gospel-filled periodicals' being mailed to friends or relatives. Such a work is evangelical in nature and is altogether proper on the Sabbath and in the Lord's house. However, the exchange of money should be cared for in an appropriate manner. Those who wish to make an offering for financing the distribution of a given number of pieces of gospel literature, to be put out by themselves or by others, do so by placing their contribution in a special envelope supplied for that purpose. This envelope, placed in the regular offering, thus reaches the church missionary secretary. Such an arrangement does

away with money-changing, buying, and so-called selling in the sanctuary, but does not abolish the missionary organization plan or spirit.

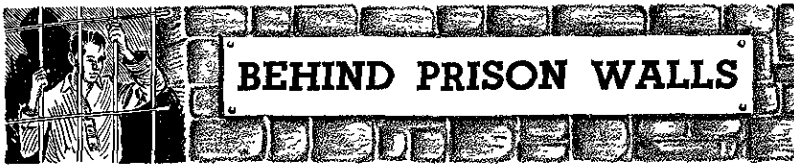
Having responded to a call for missionary service in the matter of literature distribution, the worker waits to be furnished with his supplies, paid for by the church-order-envelope plan. All supplies are sent to the missionary secretary, who keeps them in orderly store, perhaps in the literature depository of the church, ready for distribution on the Sabbath, but *not for sale* on the Sabbath. The money transaction is cared for prior to the Sabbath by means of the church envelope, which is merely placed in the offering plate when the usual collection is taken.

To explain further: The union or conference home missionary secretary visits your church in the interest of evangelism. He points out soul-winning advantages in circulating many copies of the *Signs of the Times*. Since you of course want to do as much for God through this medium as you can, you promise to pay for and distribute ten copies of the *Signs* each week. Perhaps you indicate this purpose by putting your name on a card with the number of copies you will use weekly. Thus you assist in organizing your church for missionary service, which is true Sabbathkeeping.

After the Sabbath you place \$12.50 in the church order envelope, thus making it possible to have ten copies of the *Signs* sent, week by week, to your church missionary secretary, who delivers them to you. When the offering is received the next Sabbath you place in the plate your envelope containing \$12.50 for ten *Signs* weekly. But the papers have not yet started coming. When they do, you receive them from the secretary, perhaps in a pigeonhole designated for such purpose, from the literature depository, or directly from the missionary secretary; but you make no purchase.

We do not buy periodicals or tracts or books or anything else in the church on the Sabbath. On Wednesday evenings or when services are held on other week nights, the purchase of gospel literature at the book depository is legitimate. But no sales or purchases of literature should be permitted in the church on the Sabbath day.

R. G. S.



A Prisoner's Personal Experience

(Part 3)

"AFTER a few days, perhaps a week, of study and feasting upon this spiritual find, I left a note at a deputy's office inquiring whether I could secure some more literature of the kind I had found in the Christian Science library—*Signs of the Times* and the lessons by J. L. Shuler. When in a few days the deputy of the prison met me, we had a few words together, and he gave me some other literature. About one month later he sent for me one evening, to be exact, the night of February 12, 1940—a night I shall remember as long as I live and for which in the new earth I shall thank God. When we separated at eleven-thirty, the deputy presented me with a copy of 'Daniel and the Revelation,' by Uriah Smith. This book will ever be one of my most precious treasures. Very soon thereafter I was rejoicing in a faith that I knew was lifting me above the material things of this life, far above the prison atmosphere, into the very presence of my Lord and Christ.

"The next book which came into my hands was 'The History of the Sabbath,' by J. N. Andrews. I studied this large volume prayerfully and carefully, making complete notes on each chapter. The truth which came from God's word was impressed upon my heart and mind. I knew I had found that for which I had longed—the truth about God's divine law and the Sabbath commandment. All my views on evolution fell to pieces under the light of the truth of God as the Creator of heaven and earth and the fourth commandment which identifies God as the Creator. Christ, my Lord and Saviour, was not only real to me but He was near.

"One day while reading a copy of *Present Truth* I noticed an announcement in regard to securing similar literature by writing to the Home Bible Study League, Mount Vernon, Ohio. I asked and received permission to write. Some days passed with-

out answer. I did not lose faith, but believed that I would receive a reply to my letter. One day I was called from my cell to see a visitor. I thought perhaps my son had found some way to visit me, and I hastened to the visiting room. The guard on duty asked me whom I was expecting. I told him I did not know anyone who would come to see me, except my son. After I had waited for some time, the porter appeared with a man, who, he said, wished to see me. I had never seen the man before, and I made the fact known to the guard. I was skeptical; in fact, I did not care to have any of my former associates visit me, nor did I want any of my friends of former years to send anyone to see me. But a new experience was in store for me."

Watch for Part 4, telling how the prison became a mission field where others find Jesus and peace.—*Articles sent in by Anol Grundset, Home Missionary Secretary, Ohio Conference.*

Baptized in Prison

It was on a holy Sabbath day that the local pastor took three visiting ministers through the great steel gates of a State prison. The men, admitted into the entrance room, stood for a moment gazing at the two solid brick walls and the massive gates which enclosed them.

After signing their names and writing in the prison record book the reason and authority for their calling, through the second gate the visitors were ushered into the prison yard, which was perfectly clean, with neatly kept grass lawns. The officer in charge remained at the gate until two men dressed in prison garb appeared and led the way to a special room where there were chairs and a table.

In that room the men opened the good old Book of life and enjoyed a study on the everlasting love of Jesus. The Spirit of God drew close to them all, and there behind those solid walls, shut in from the outside world, six brethren knelt in prayer and praised the Creator for the

mighty power by which he could save.

The story would not be fairly told unless we step back some time and briefly relate how one of these men was brought in touch with the message that is lifting men and women out of the pit of sin the whole world around.

A man from the country, sent to prison for a short term, received weekly from some zealous person the *Signs of the Times*. In turn the man passed on the good news to a fellow prisoner serving a long-term sentence. The man serving the long term made application to meet a minister representing the people who circulate the *Signs*. When the minister had studied with him, he fully accepted the message, completely surrendered his all to the Christ of Calvary, and requested baptism. Arrangements were made with the authorities, and the solemn rite was conducted inside the prison. Today this man rejoices in the blessed hope and prays for the Saviour to come quickly. To him heaven will be freedom.

So far as we know, this experience is unique in the history of Australia, there having been no other person baptized in an Australian prison.

It was Paul who asked God's blessing on the house of one who visited him in prison. We read his words in 2 Timothy 1:16: "The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain." It was Jesus Himself who said when He gave the parable of the last judgment, "I was in prison, and ye came unto Me." Matt. 25:36. Truly the gospel brings a spiritual refreshing to these needy souls; and inasmuch as we do it or do it not unto "one of the least of these" we do it or do it not unto Jesus.

Much more could be written, but we say with confidence that some of the saints in heaven will be called from both physical and spiritual prisons.

T. A. MITCHELL,
Home Missionary Secretary,
Australasian Division.





A VERITABLE flood of new books issues from the presses of the world constantly. Most of them are useless for any practical purpose in connection with the work and workers of the threefold message. Once in a while, however, there are books which our regular workers or lay workers, church officers, and others in our churches will be benefited by reading. It is with the hope of bringing these to the attention of our people generally that this monthly feature is continued in the CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE. We would not have it understood that the review in these columns of any book that is mentioned is designed to convey the thought of approval of all its contents. In many books there will be incidental statements contrary to our faith. This is to be expected. When a book as a whole, however, is considered to be useful for some specific purpose, it will be reviewed here. When you order any of these publications, your own Book and Bible House will doubtless be glad to serve you. CARLYLE B. HAYNES.

"THE CHRISTIAN AND THE WAR," by Charles Clayton Morrison. Willett, Clark & Co., Chicago. 1942. 145 pages. Price, \$1.50. This book is by the editor of *The Christian Century*, and therefore well written. It deals with the predicament of the Christian when his country is at war. It rejects both the militarist and the pacifist positions. It gives a modern analysis of the problem of the man with a Christian conscience in dealing with this whole matter of war. Its insight into the problem is very searching, and it raises hopes in the beginning that a real solution will be found for the problem of conscience. That hope is not realized. The book gets just nowhere, and consequently is disappointing, terribly disappointing. This should not be taken as meaning, however, that the book is useless; on the contrary, it is one of the notable contributions to the thinking on this subject, and is almost a "must" for the one who wishes to be up to date along this line of thought. It is highly stimulating.

"DARE TO DECIDE," by Ralph W. Neighbour. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1942). 135 pages. Price, \$1. This book comprises a group of nineteen evangelical sermons by the associate director of the LeTourneau Evangelistic Center, New York City. The author's gift of phrasing and illustration will be found helpful.

"FISHING FOR MEN," by H. W. Ellis. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1941). 187 pages. Price, \$1.50. This book includes a scheme of organization for bands of "fishermen," together with a program for winning those who are lost and for enlisting the unenlisted church members in the service of Christ. Mr. Ellis is a Southern Baptist evangelist.

"AFTER THE RESURRECTION—WHAT?" by L. R. Scarborough. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1942). 121 pages. Price, \$1. Doctor Scarborough, president of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, has produced in this book an inspirational volume covering a "reverent study of Christ's immortal forty days between His resurrection and ascension: His appearances, words, deeds, teachings, His glorified body, as we find them set out in the Gospels, the Acts, and the epistles." The book is concisely and clearly written.

"A COURSE IN BIBLE DOCTRINE AND MISSIONS FOR JUNIORS," by Hilda I. Copley. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1942). 69 pages. 35 cents. This is a teachers' manual for use in the week-day Bible school and daily vacation Bible school, prepared for the junior group. It contains thirteen mission stories, some of which are truly thrilling.

"ALONG THE HIGHWAY OF PRAYER," by Mrs. A. T. Robertson. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1942). 73 pages. 35 cents. This booklet contains thirteen chapters dealing with types of prayers in the Bible. Contains much helpful material.

"MOVIE MAD AMERICA," by U. E. Harding. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1942). 55 pages. 25 cents. This is one of the most blistering indictments on the whole motion picture industry that I have been privileged to read.

"SOME HINTS FOR FRUITFUL BIBLE STUDY," by Charles G. Finney. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1942). 27 pages. 25 cents. This is a reprint of Finney's "Rules by Which Scripture Declarations and Promises Are to Be Interpreted."

"BIBLE QUIZ PROGRAMS," by Mabel H. Hansen. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1941). 45 pages. 25 cents. This booklet contains a series of eight Bible quiz programs, any of which may afford a half hour of profitable entertainment.

"DOES THE BIBLE SANCTION WAR?" by Harold Snider. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1942). 156 pages. Price, \$1. There are helpful things in this volume, although of course there are some positions taken which are indefensible. The book is, however, a contribution to the rapidly growing literature on the question of war which Seventh-day Adventist workers would find helpful.

"THIS BUSINESS OF BEING CONVERTED," by Ralph G. Turnbull. Fleming H. Revell Co., New York (1942). 160 pages. Price, \$1.50. This book contains a series of carefully prepared addresses on salvation through Jesus Christ. It is inspirational and practical. It is written simply and with a devout spirit. Mr. Turnbull is pastor of Elgin Chapel in Winnipeg, Canada.

"EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH," by Harold J. Ockenga. Fleming H. Revell Co., New York (1942). 256 pages. Price, \$2. This book contains expository addresses on Paul's Epistle to the Romans. These addresses were first heard over the radio by a large New England audience. They are simple and understandable, and although not comparable to the more profound commentaries on Paul's most important epistle, they will be found very readable.

Weekly Church Missionary Services

March 6

ECHOES FROM THE BIBLE SCHOOL OF THE AIR

Key Thought for Leaders: "The third angel's message will go forth, not in whispered tones, but with a loud voice."—"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 252.

The radio, like the printing press, telephone, electric light, and other modern inventions, is here to stay. It has passed the experimental stage and has become an important part of modern life. Lecturers, schools, politicians, governmental agencies, preachers, and a host of other leaders, educators, and promoters are using the radio to bring information to the public.

Radio has become a fourth dimension for the promulgation of the third angel's message, supplementing in a powerful way the efforts of the preacher, the writer, and the personal worker. More than fifty of our local evangelistic workers are making use of the radio, and in addition to these efforts there is the nation-wide denominational broadcast known as the Voice of Prophecy.

Our church members everywhere can assist in making these broadcasts more effectual by—

1. Praying for the success of the broadcasts.
2. Supporting the broadcasts by contributions.
3. Publicizing the broadcasts by distributing announcements and Radio Logs, and by telling their friends about the broadcasts.
4. Helping in the music and in various ways of following up the interest.
5. By writing to stations expressing appreciation of the broadcasts.

Thousands are daily hearing the message of truth over the radio, and many are enrolled as students in the Bible correspondence school, whereby Bible studies are conducted by mail, accompanied by appropriate literature. Since the field of radio endeavor is seemingly limitless at present, church members in every community can have a part in this good work. If you do not know just how to begin, write the home missionary secretary of your conference for instructions. There is a place for every believer in this work which is helping to give the "loud voice" of the message.

From the "Mailbag of Radioland" we glean a few excerpts from letters sent in by persons in all parts of the country telling what the broadcasts mean to them:

"I heard your broadcast tonight for the first time, and am thankful I did, as you gave me an insight into the very verses of Revelation which have puzzled me for a long time. I am eager to learn much more about the last book in the Bible, so please send me your Bible course."

"We have been listening to your program and like it very much. Please send us the book you mentioned and enroll us in your Bible course. (Six names were signed.) We are all members of a Catholic church, but are fairly well discouraged with it as far as the truth is concerned. We hope to hear from you soon."

The next quotation is taken from a letter written by a faithful Seventh-day Adventist who is helping to spread the radio invitation of free Bible lessons: "I have been out this week in the interest of the free Bible lessons. In five miles of driving everyone I met signed except one family. I think that is remarkable. Surely this is the sealing time, and God is searching out the honest hearted. I am the only Adventist in this community, excepting one other sister. She has twenty-three names on her list, and I have thirty-two."

Let every church member endeavor to secure a large list of enrollments in "the Bible School of the Air," and at the same time keep up the studies in the Bible Service Training School so as to be ready to answer questions and give a personal Bible study whenever opportunity is given.

March 13

NOAH'S CARPENTERS

Key Thought for Leaders: "There are many who profess the name of Christ whose hearts are not engaged in His service. They have simply arrayed themselves in a profession of godliness. . . . Prayers, exhortation, and talks are cheap fruits, which are frequently tied on; but fruits that are manifested in good works, in caring for the needy, the fatherless, and widows, are genuine fruits."—"Christian Service," pp. 95, 96.

For one hundred and twenty years in the antediluvian age Noah stood before the world as "a preacher of righteousness;" and while "giving his warning message to the world, his works testified of his sincerity." He not only proclaimed God's message for his day, but day by day for one hundred and twenty years he and his workmen engaged in the slow and laborious process of building an immense structure on dry ground which could be of use only in tempestuous waters, such as never had been seen. Did you ever stop to think about Noah's carpenters and what became of them? How many carpenters there were we do not know, but we are told that "on account of the great size of the trees, and the nature of the wood, much more labor was required than now to prepare timber, even with the greater strength which men then possessed."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 95.

Surely these carpenters who worked on the ark for so long and who heard Noah preach with power must have had special opportunity and must have been impressed to be saved in the ark. Yes, this is true, but the facts are that not one sought refuge in that great boat which he had helped to make. We read that some of the carpenters did believe at one time, but some died, and others backslid and joined the ridiculing crowd. Only eight persons were saved in the ark—Noah and his family. Noah's carpenters worked for the day's wage, but they ignored the true significance of what they were doing.

We are told that as it was in the days of Noah "so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." Can it be that any of the builders of the "ark of safety" today are making a profession but are not in heart preparing to be admitted into the "ark" before the overwhelming "flood" sweeps over the earth? It is a solemn thought. Let us heed the lesson taught by Noah's carpenters. It is a great privilege to have a part in building the great structure of eternal truth in this generation; but as we build, let us show by our daily life that we believe what we teach. Of Noah it is said that "he gave the world an example of believing just what God says. All that he possessed, he invested in the ark. . . . Every blow struck upon the ark was a witness to the people." So let us give our lives and our all; and in everything we do—whether distributing literature, giving Bible studies, lay preaching, or ministering to physical needs—make every act demonstrate our belief in the great message of salvation to a lost world.

That there is need of caution to God's builders of today is indicated by the following admonition: "Our works are not in accordance with our faith. Our faith

testifies that we are living under the proclamation of the most solemn and important message that was ever given to mortals. Yet . . . our efforts, our zeal . . . do not compare with the character of the work."—"Testimonies," Vol. II, p. 114. "Our faith should be prolific of good works; for faith without works is dead."—*Id.*, Vol. IV, p. 145.

March 20

THE VOICE OF DORCAS

Key Thought for Leaders: "At Joppa . . . there lived a woman named Dorcas whose good deeds had made her greatly beloved. She was a worthy disciple of Jesus, and her life was filled with acts of kindness."—"Acts of the Apostles," p. 131.

The life and work of this "worthy disciple of Jesus" who was a member of the early Christian church have been perpetuated through all the years, and today the work of Dorcas is represented by thousands of Christian women in the churches of the advent movement. It is fitting that "the voice of Dorcas" should be heard in our midst occasionally, telling of the great scope of physical, temporal, and spiritual need which is under her observation, of what the Dorcas members are doing to meet the need, of further help and co-operation required on the part of all church members, and calling for a prayerful interest in behalf of special cases.

The characteristic of the true Dorcas is stated in few words, as one whose "skillful fingers" are "more active than her tongue." Therefore the voice of Dorcas is not often heard in public places; but there are times when this voice should be heard. The missionary service period at this time is allotted for this purpose.

March 27

MISSIONARY EXPERIENCES

Key Thought for Leaders: "Everyone who is connected with God will impart light to others. If there are any who have no light to give, it is because they have no connection with the Source of light."—"Christian Service," p. 21.

The shining light operates without noise or commotion. It is a steady, silent influence which banishes darkness. So with the Christian life which is to shine brighter and brighter, even unto the perfect day. It is our business to let the light shine, through the daily affairs of life and in wider spheres as may be involved in following the "lighted way."

The story is told of a young novice in one of the preaching orders of the Middle Ages who was eager for the time when he might begin to preach. He was expecting some definite transition from ordinary to public life. But his wise and experienced teacher desired to give him a practical lesson in preaching, which he would never forget.

"Come with me, and we will preach today," he said to the young man. Joyfully teacher and pupil went forth to the village. As they walked through the narrow streets the teacher gave a coin to a beggar, spoke a word of sympathy to a poor widow, and dried the tears of a weeping child. The children followed him, and the parents begged for his blessing. After a long walk the two turned again toward the monastery. "But when are we going to preach?" asked the young man, somewhat anxiously.

"We have been preaching all the time," said the teacher; "we have been preaching by service and thus following in the footsteps of the great Master, who 'went about doing good.'"

Our missionary activities during the past week or month may not have taken us far from home; nevertheless, not a day passes without varied opportunities for service. This is the time for relating our missionary experiences for the glory of God and the encouragement of one another.



Young People's Department of Missionary Volunteers



NOTES TO OFFICERS

March

M. V. Week—March 13-20

SOCIETY executive committee, study the suggestions made on page 28, regarding your committee's responsibility as a Prayer and Personal Workers' Band. Supply every member of the committee and the leader of every Prayer and Personal Workers' Band with the three following M. V. Leaflets: No. 24, "An Hour With Christ;" No. 5, "Glorious Partnership in Soul Winning;" No. 20, "Personal Work." Let every officer of the Missionary Volunteer Society sense the responsibility that God has laid upon him as a leader of youth and do his best as a personal soul winner that all the youth of the church may be brought to Christ during this Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer.

A. W. P.

Duty and Privilege of Officers

SOCIETY officers, following Missionary Volunteer Week it is your privilege to help the youth in your society maintain and deepen the experience in Christ gained during this special week. In your Prayer and Personal Workers' Band and in individual devotions, remember these young people before the throne of grace, and then do all you can personally and as a society to make them welcome in your midst. Those who have not been baptized should join a baptismal class, which will meet from week to week and receive instruction preparatory to baptism. Each youth should become a society member; he should be encouraged to follow the Bible Year and the Morning Watch; and he should become an active member of one of the M. V. service bands.

You will find other helpful suggestions and directions for work during this special week under "The Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer," page 28.

M. W. M.

Indoctrinate the Youth

"NINE million young people in the United States—more than half our population between the ages of 16 and 20—never darken any church door except to attend a wedding or a funeral," said Dr. Clement T. Malan, superintendent of public instruction for Indiana. Of that nine million, how

many reside in your community? How many are connected with the families of your church?

Never was there a greater need than now to win these youth to Christ and to the fundamental truths of the Bible. Why not extend your Youth Crusade to your quota of this nine million? The Standard of Attainment and the Study and Service League are intended to bring the doctrines of the Bible to youth in your community as well as to those in your society. Indoctrinate the youth in the truths of the third angel's message and stabilize their thinking regarding Adventist belief and practice, so that when they are called to serve their country in one way or another, they will have a faith and hope which will carry them through, and they will have learned to explain clearly the basis for their faith and belief. Examination questions will be sent to your conference M. V. secretary in May and November. Every Junior should earn a Standard of Attainment and every Senior a Study and Service League Certificate.

M. W. M.

Your Church—

THIS?

This is the way the church sometimes looks to the M. V. leader when he opens the meeting. The leader would just as soon speak to a woodpile as to empty benches. There is no inspiration in vacant pews. Be regular.

OR THIS?

This is the way it ought to look at every service and it will if each one does his part by coming himself and bringing a friend or relative. We have about fifty members in this society, and if everyone came to the meeting, the room would look like this. The best way is to hide the empty benches with people. Try this out!

—Lake Union M. V. Department.



A Poster

In the porch of the little parish church in England where Mr. Gladstone worshiped when he was at Hawarden Castle, there was posted a notice containing counsel to church worshipers, which is worthy of being inscribed on the gateway of every Christian church. The following is a transcript:

"ON YOUR WAY TO CHURCH

"On your way to the Lord's house be thoughtful, be silent, or say but little, and that little good. Speak not of other men's faults; think of your own, for you are going to ask forgiveness. Never stay outside. Go in at once. Time spent inside should be precious.

"IN CHURCH

"Kneel down very humbly and pray. Spend the time that remains in prayer. Remember the awful presence into which you have come. Do not look about to see who is coming in, nor for any other cause. It matters nothing to you what others are doing; attend to yourself. Fasten your thoughts firmly on the holy service; do not miss one word. This needs a severe struggle. You have no time for vain thoughts. The blessed Spirit will strengthen you if you persevere.

"AFTER CHURCH

"Remain kneeling and pray. Be intent. Speak to no one until you are outside. The church is God's house even when prayer is over. Be quiet and thoughtful as you go through the churchyard.

"ON YOUR WAY HOME

"Be careful of your talk, or the world will soon slip back into your heart. Remember where you have been and what you have done. Resolve and try to live a better life."—J. R. Miller.

Topics for April

Senior

- 3 Further Training for Service
- 10 The M. V. and the Church Service
- 17 Service as a Master Comrade
- 24 Nature Club

Junior

- 3 Tobacco, Your Enemy
- 10 Building a Healthy Mind
- 17 Is Self-Control Worth While?
- 24 Do You Need Glasses?



Senior Meetings

March 6

The Missionary Volunteer and Missionary Volunteer Week

BY F. G. ASHBAUGH

Note to Officers

TODAY, the week before Missionary Volunteer Week, we are to discuss with the young people their relation to this special week appointed for them, the purpose of Missionary Volunteer Week, and what young people can do to make the week successful in their own lives and in the life of the M. V. Society. The strength of the society is equal to the combined strength of the individual members. It would be helpful for the whole society to study M. V. Leaflets 5, "Glorious Partnership in Soul Winning," and 20, "Personal Work." If you have not done so before, organize today the prayer bands which will meet this week and next and carry on personal work thereafter.

The M. V. and M. V. Week

THERE are some things on my heart today that I wish to share with you young people. We are approaching another Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer, and the blessing and help we receive will depend very materially upon our mental attitude. If you welcome this week and look forward to it with pleasure, you are probably in a good spiritual frame of mind. If you look forward to it with fear, dread, and discomfort, if you "hate to testify" and do not like meetings "where they make you get up," etc., then you should be very much concerned, because all these things are danger signals. May I make some suggestions which may help you to enjoy this Week of Prayer and profit from it greatly?

SELF-EXAMINATION

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." 2 Cor. 13:5.

Here, then, is a divine pattern, a heaven-sent admonition regarding our mental attitude. "Examine yourselves"—self-examination. Why? To find out whether we really are in the faith or not. Perhaps this is the only sure way of knowing that we are in the faith. The point is not whether we are in the church, although that is important, but whether we really belong to Christ and are also "in the faith."

With this the Spirit of prophecy agrees. "Let everyone examine himself, to see whether he be in the faith. Let the people of God repent and be converted, that their sins may be blotted out when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. Let them ascertain wherein they have failed to walk in the way that God has marked out, wherein they

have failed to purify their souls by taking heed to His counsels."—"Testimonies," Vol. VIII, p. 103.

One of our early ministers was sent this message: "You will receive more strength by spending one hour each day in meditation, and in mourning over your failings and heart-corruptions and pleading for God's pardoning love and the assurance of sins forgiven, than you would by spending many hours and days in studying the most able authors."—*Id.*, Vol. I, pp. 433, 434.

There are a number of very definite things in which we should examine ourselves. You will doubtless think of many more.

"Am I keeping the Sabbath holy and guarding carefully its edges?" "Do I listen to the right kind of radio programs?" "Do they help or hinder me spiritually?" "Even if the programs are not harmful, do I spend too much time on them or time that I should devote to more important things, such as the study of my lessons, study of the Bible, prayer, missionary work, home duties?"

"What is my reading program?" "Is it systematic?" "Does it include fiction and exciting stories that lead the mind away from God?" Novel reading will shut thousands out of the kingdom of God. The spiritual sensibilities are blunted, the mind is paralyzed and benumbed to holy things. The novel-reading habit is the greatest evil in which the youth can indulge. It is fatal to Christian growth. "Examine yourselves" on your reading program.

Then there is the vital question of association. Worldly influences often are brought into the life in subtle ways. Ideas that at first shock and repel, are gradually tolerated or even embraced because of the influence of one who does not honor God's holy law. God's word forbids (for our own good) association with unbelievers which may lead to marriage, as well as forbidding the marriage itself. If we do not take the first wrong step, we shall surely be kept from taking the last one. "Examine yourselves" sincerely and conscientiously on your association.

This is also a good time to ask the question, "What should I do with my life?" "What should my lifework be?" If this coming Week of Prayer can help you to settle this vital matter, it will be very much worth while. Your life belongs to God by creation. Your life belongs to Christ by redemption. Since you are doubly His, bought and paid for, why not give Him His own property—yourself?

THE LAODICEAN MESSAGE

Any program of helpfulness for the week to come must include an attitude

of humility and dependence on God. A brief glance at the Laodicean message will be helpful in giving us a view of our needs. The testimony to the Laodiceans is found in Revelation 3:14-22. (Read.)

"I was shown that the testimony, to the Laodiceans applies to God's people at the present time, and the reason it has not accomplished a greater work is because of the hardness of their hearts. . . . The heart must be purified from sins which have so long shut out Jesus. This fearful message will do its work. . . . It is designed to arouse the people of God, to discover to them their backslidings, and to lead to zealous repentance, that they may be favored with the presence of Jesus, and be fitted for the loud cry of the third angel. As this message affected the heart, it led to deep humility before God. . . . 'God is weighing His people.'"—*Id.*, p. 186.

"Some lean upon an old experience. . . . They seem to think that a profession of the truth will save them. . . . Lukewarm professors of religion . . . are a stumbling block to unbelievers."—*Id.*, p. 188.

"The Lord calls for a renewal of the straight testimony borne in years past. He calls for a renewal of spiritual life. The spiritual energies of His people have long been torpid, but there is to be a resurrection from apparent death.

"By prayer and confession of sin we must clear the King's highway. As we do this, the power of the Spirit will come to us."—*Id.*, Vol. VIII, p. 297.

"The greatest deception of the human mind in Christ's day was, that a mere assent to the truth constitutes righteousness. In all human experience a theoretical knowledge of the truth has been proved to be insufficient for the saving of the soul."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 309.

Gold is faith and love; white raiment is a spotless character; eye-salve is the grace of God—the very things we need most.

"If God abhors one sin above another, of which His people are guilty, it is doing nothing in case of an emergency. Indifference and neutrality in a religious crisis is regarded of God as a grievous crime, and equal to the very worst type of hostility against God."—"Testimonies," Vol. III, p. 281.

Shall we not make an effort to respond, to seek God with all our hearts during this Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer? Just listening to someone preach is not enough. We must pray. A genuine revival comes only in answer to prayer. "The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place."—*Id.*, Vol. VIII, p. 251.

CONVERSION AND SANCTIFICATION

The steps in conversion are clear to us all. We must be born again by the Holy Spirit and the word of God. We must surrender our hearts to God,

confess our sins, make restitutions, etc. Then we are justified by the grace of God, but we must not be satisfied here. Regeneration must take place. Study these things until you understand them. Sanctification is the work of a lifetime and must be going steadily forward. Study and pray until you get out of the dead level of an old and unsatisfactory experience.

YOUTH-FOR-YOUTH EVANGELISM

There is one more burden on my heart, which I will share with you at this time. The Bible and the Spirit of prophecy picture a great living, dynamic, youth-for-youth evangelism in the last days. Would that we could be gripped by the urgency of this work, by zeal in soul winning as were Christ, Paul, Isaiah, and many others of Bible days.

Listen once more to the familiar challenge to youth evangelism. "The Lord has appointed the youth to be His helping hand."—*Id.*, Vol. VII, p. 64.

"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!"—*"Education,"* p. 271.

"I have a deep interest in the youth. . . . I long to see them helping one another to reach a higher plane of Christian experience."—*"Messages to Young People,"* p. 15.

"Even though pastors, evangelists, and teachers should neglect the seeking of the lost, let not the children and youth neglect to be doers of the word. . . .

"Let young men, and women, and children go to work in the name of Jesus. Let them unite together upon some plan and order of action. Cannot you form a band of workers, and have set times to pray together and ask the Lord to give you His grace, and put forth united action?"—*Id.*, p. 197.

"Satan is a vigilant foe. . . . He well knows that there is no other class that can do as much good as young men and young women who are consecrated to God. The youth, if right, could sway a mighty influence. Preachers, or laymen advanced in years, cannot have one half the influence upon the young that the youth, devoted to God, can have upon their associates."—*Id.*, p. 204.

"Young men and women, God calls upon you to work, work for Him. Make an entire change in your course of action. You can do a work that those who minister in word and doctrine cannot do. You can reach a class whom the minister cannot affect."—*Id.*, p. 207.

"I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven." Matt. 18:19. This scripture is the basis for prayer bands. There is added power in unity.

The plan for prayer bands with "set times to pray together" was revealed to Mrs. E. G. White as a basis for evangelism.

This year thousands of our fellow advent youth are amid the perils of the battlefield; they are meeting the temptations of camp and field. Shall we not all seek God while He may be found and call upon Him while He is near?

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March 13

Prayer, the Secret of Spiritual Power

BY MEADE MACGUIRE

Order of Service

Opening and Devotional Exercises

SONG: "Can the World See Jesus in You?" No. 34 in "M. V. Songs."

INVOCATION.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

REPORTS OF SOCIETY BANDS.

SONG: "Reverence," No. 31.

PRAYER, including prayer in unison.

DEVOTIONAL CHORUS: "Into My Heart," No. 30.

Study Topics

"Prayer, the Secret of Spiritual Power."

"Knowing His Will."

"Becoming Channels."

"Petition."

"Intercession."

Conclusion

Relating of personal experiences of answered prayer.

SONG: "The Larger Prayer," No. 26.

BENEDICTION.

Prayer, the Secret of Spiritual Power

WHAT is real prayer? We have often heard the statement, "Prayer is communion with God." Let us consider a moment just what that means. We may converse with our human associates, who are mere acquaintances, but our most intimate conversation, or communion, is with those whom we know the best and love the most. Doubtless many converse with God in a formal way, but real prayer, which is the secret of mighty power, is the result of intimate, loving friendship with God.

Prayer has three chief forms which we speak of as communion, petition, and intercession. With many the prayer experience seems to be chiefly petition, or asking God for things, but this is evidence of a very superficial experience, and we are told that there is no blessing for the one who prays for himself alone. In order to be a power in the life, prayer should begin with communion. We gain this close friendship with the Lord just as we do with others, by listening to Him, talking to Him, and cultivating the consciousness of His presence with us moment by moment.

If we have a human friend whom we love very much, we like to know his plans and his desires, and then we do our best to please him. If he is a good friend, he feels just the same toward us, and so we find our greatest joy and happiness in this fellowship and intimate association together. Without this relation with God, we cannot know the secret of power through prayer.

Perhaps this story may help us to understand such an experience better. Dr. Wilbur Chapman was holding some evangelistic services in England. He wrote to a friend saying, "I have learned some great lessons concerning prayer. At one of our missions the audiences were exceedingly small. But I received a note saying that an American missionary was going to pray God's blessing down upon our work. He was known as 'Praying Hyde.' Almost instantly the tide turned. The hall became packed, and at my first invitation fifty men accepted Christ as their Saviour. As we were leaving, I said, 'Mr. Hyde, I want you to pray for me.' He came to my room, turned the key in the door, dropped on his knees, and waited five minutes without a single syllable coming from his lips. I could hear my own heart thumping. . . . I felt the hot tears running down my face. I knew I was with God. Then, with upturned face down which the tears were streaming, he said, 'O God!' Then for five minutes at least he was still again; then, when he knew that he was talking with God, there came up from the depths of his heart such petitions for men as I had never heard before. I rose from my knees knowing what real prayer was."

Knowing His Will

OUR most valued friends in this world are those whose ideals, principles, and purposes are in harmony with ours. It is the same with Jesus. If we know Him, we shall love Him and shall long to co-operate with Him in carrying out His divine plans for this world.

If we are careful to obey Him and do whatever He wants us to do, He promises to do whatever we ask of Him. "Whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight." Many people keep the commandments, at least in an outward, formal way; yet they do not have much power nor many striking answers to their prayers. But this verse includes more than outward commandment keeping. There is no commandment which says, "Thou shalt not smoke cigarettes," or "Thou shalt not go to the movies or other places of worldly amusement," yet we know that these things are not pleasing to Him. If we continue to please ourselves rather than our Master, we cannot expect Him to answer our prayers.

If we really love Jesus, we shall consider it our highest duty and joy to study His word diligently so as to know His will, and then we shall delight to obey Him. The promises of the Bible make it plain that supernatural power is assured when our prayers are in harmony with God's will. "This is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us; and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him." 1 John 5:14, 15.

When we study God's word we learn at once that it is His will that we pray. He tells us to "pray without ceasing." And again He says, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

Nothing causes Satan so much fear and anxiety as prayer. Therefore his great concern is to keep us busy with other things so that we shall neglect secret prayer. He does not care how much we work or study if only we do not pray. Someone has said, "Satan laughs at our toiling, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray." In "Testimonies," Volume I, page 346, we read, "At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan's whole host trembles."

It is very plain that if we love God and desire to do His will, our very first duty is to study His word diligently every day, so that we may learn just what His will is. Since so much is said in the word about prayer, we shall understand that by much prayer we are to become channels through which God will work mightily to accomplish His purposes. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it." John 14:12-14. If we do not receive the answer to our prayers, we are not meeting the conditions on which answers are promised.

Becoming Channels

THE fact that our world is the lesson book of the universe, and that God has paid such an infinite price for our redemption, should convince us that God is longing to manifest His almighty power more and more to reveal His love and mercy to lost men. But God does not carry on this work alone. He has chosen to take those who accept salvation into partnership with Him in His great work for sinners. Each disciple of Christ should be a channel through which God can perform miracles of love and grace. "It is a part of God's plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask."—"The Great Controversy," p. 525.

How disappointed and grieved our heavenly Father must often be because we do not meet the simple conditions which would enable Him to use us mightily. If the world could only see among the young people today experiences like those of Joseph and Daniel and his companions, many would surely be deeply impressed. In these closing days of probation we are assured that God desires to manifest His power through His children as never before. Earnest, persevering prayer would make us such channels for His use. This is illustrated in the experience of Joshua.

"The Spirit of God inspired Joshua's prayer, that evidence might again be given of the power of Israel's God. Hence the request did not show presumption on the part of the great leader. Joshua had received the promise that God would surely overthrow these enemies of Israel, yet he put forth as earnest effort as though success depended upon the armies of Israel alone. He did all that human energy could do, and then he cried in faith for divine aid. The secret of success is the union of divine power with human effort. Those who achieve the greatest results are those who rely most implicitly upon the Almighty Arm. The man who commanded, 'Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, moon, in the valley of Ajalon,' is the man who for hours lay prostrate upon the earth in prayer in the camp at Gilgal. The men of prayer are the men of power."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 509.

Petition

I HAVE a little god, or image, made of clay which I brought from the land of the Tibetans. I have often talked to children about prayer, and after showing them this idol, I have asked, "Would you like to have this for your god?" Of course, the very idea seems absurd to them, and they answer, "No." When I ask them why, they have many answers, but the most conclusive seems to be that this god cannot answer prayer. I then ask whether their God can answer, and they cry enthusiastically, "Of course He can!" I say, "Very well, just tell me some of the prayers He has answered for you." The change in their expression is interesting. They look surprised and crestfallen. After all, it is disappointing to find how few people who call themselves God's children can relate really striking answers to prayer.

Why is this? We say that God is our Father. Children ask their earthly fathers for things every day and get them. Our Father in heaven loves us more than our human parents, and He is almighty. He has made wonderful promises! "Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Matt. 17:20.

I think most Christians can tell one or two really striking experiences of answered prayer in their lives, but if God is willing to do such things for us once or twice, would He refuse to do them every day if it were for His glory and our good? I remember a student who had done his best, but still did not have money to go to college. I suggested that he read Psalm 37:4, 5. "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass." He claimed the promise and God provided the money. Many of our colporteurs have wonderful answers to prayer, and some have remarkable experiences in Ingathering, thus proving that the Lord is glad to have us claim His promises and to do for us what we could not possibly do for ourselves.

I believe God is eagerly looking all the time for a channel through which He can work mightily for souls. What do you suppose would happen if every member of this society would today resolve that he would give God a chance? Wouldn't it be interesting if each member were to keep a record of definite answers to prayer? Then in a few weeks you might have a testimony meeting to relate these experiences and praise the Lord for His blessings!

Intercession

I THINK we are safe in saying that the supreme aspect of prayer is intercession, or pleading for the salvation of souls. This is the experience which brings us into the closest fellowship with Jesus, for it is the work in which He is constantly engaged. When we share with Him in making intercession for lost souls, we are pressing close to the heart of God.

The Scripture says, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." Mal. 4:5. In the book of James it is emphasized that the outstanding characteristic of Elijah was prevailing prayer. Evidently the same spirit is to possess God's people in the last days. Three great miracles in answer to Elijah's prayers were: Fire from heaven, rain from heaven, resurrection of a dead child.

These are our three greatest needs today—fire from heaven which will bring a mighty revival and reformation among God's people; the latter rain from heaven, which will bring the loud cry; and spiritual life for many of our loved ones who are dead in trespasses and sins.

Everywhere we go we meet many who are mourning over the loved ones who have drifted out into the world. Soon probation will close and all our prayers and tears will be of no avail for them. Why should we not go to God for them now as Elijah did? He knew the child was dead, but he loved him and faced the issue alone with God. Why should we not feel the

same confidence in regard to our unsaved loved ones? We have the assurance that "He who turns the hearts of men as the rivers of waters are turned, can bring the most selfish, sin-hardened soul to surrender to Christ."—*"Testimonies," Vol. IV, p. 537.*

Another thrilling illustration of real intercession is given in Matthew 15. Here was a heathen woman, one of the people whom the Jews hated and despised. She had heard of Jesus and of His power to heal all manner of diseases. Her daughter was "grievously vexed with a devil." Because she got no help from the heathen gods, she determined to appeal to Christ. He had brought His disciples there to teach them a lesson. He wanted them to see the contrast between the cold, heartless, manner of the Jews and His own loving sympathy toward these poor, needy people.

Though Jesus appeared to ignore her and be indifferent to her petition, she was not discouraged. She urged her case with increased earnestness as she fell at His feet and cried, "Lord, help me." After thus testing her faith, the Saviour turned to her and said, "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt." He clearly implies that He will not deny anything to that kind of faith. "Her daughter was made whole from that very hour."

Now if Jesus would do that for the poor Canaanite woman, why would He not work just as great miracles for you and me if we would manifest the same faith? And would it not please and glorify Him to do it? Why not resolve that by His grace we shall become channels for the mighty power of God, that our lives may glorify Him?

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If we regard iniquity in our hearts, if we cling to any known sin, the Lord will not hear us; but the prayer of the penitent, contrite soul is always accepted. When all known wrongs are righted, we may believe that God will answer our petitions. Our own merit will never commend us to the favor of God; it is the worthiness of Jesus that will save us, His blood that will cleanse us; yet we have a work to do in complying with the conditions of acceptance.—*"Steps to Christ," pp. 95, 96, pocket edition.*

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PRAYER and faith are interwoven like silk threads and rubber in elastic ribbon. They can reach farther than they appear. They are like two cogwheels which, when working in unison, start the whole machinery of the kingdom.—*William P. Pearce.*

March 20

Personal Consecration Essential in Service

BY GENEVIEVE GRAHAM KIME

Order of Service

Opening and Devotional Exercises

SONG: "Living for Jesus," No. 32.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

REPORTS OF MISSIONARY WORK.

OFFERTORY.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN SERVICE.

DEVOTIONAL CHORUS: "Give Your Heart to Jesus," No. 33.

M. V. PLEDGE, in unison.

SONG: "Have Thine Own Way, Lord," No. 39.

SCRIPTURE.

Study Topic

"Personal Consecration Essential in Service."

CONCLUSION.

SONG: "I Have Promised," No. 37.

BENEDICTION: Ps. 19:14.

Note to Leaders

During this Missionary Volunteer hour, it is the aim to emphasize the fact that personal consecration is an essential factor in service for the Lord. Without it, service would be in vain. In making the topic today practical, personal experiences are used to set forth the principles in action. It is hoped that each young person who has surrendered his heart to his Saviour during this special Missionary Volunteer Week will daily reconsecrate himself to serve the Lord in every opportunity that may come to him.

Personal Consecration Essential in Service

THERE is no calling which yields such rich and soul-satisfying results as the call to win souls to the Master. Great service in any line demands preparation, training, and devotion, but the call to win souls demands the very essence of these three qualifications.

As we seek to understand how we can better fit our minds and hearts to be used as instruments in the hand of God for this most important of all work, it will be well first to devote these next few minutes to deep searching of heart and to prayer for the ability to concentrate on the problem of the hour. May God grant us His Spirit as we seek fresh supplies from the throne of grace.

Every Seventh-day Adventist is potentially an active soul winner. Inversely, one who is not a soul winner is hardly a Seventh-day Adventist. Is that too high an ideal? I think not. We may not all give Bible studies, but we can all live the truth, and there is no more potent witness than that of a godly life.

When my husband and I first went out to the Netherlands Indies, the great question in my mind on board ship was, How shall I prepare heart and mind so that the least possible

time shall be lost in getting into the swing of God's great program? How shall I be able to contact these foreign people, make friends, and win them to our Lord in the shortest possible time?

This was made a subject of prayer for the ensuing seven weeks while en route to our new home. And friends, therein lay the very secret. Whenever we align our lives with God's great program and seek His guidance, the roughest place is already made smooth, the greatest mountain is scaled, for has He not promised help and guidance with a never-failing fulfillment of His promises? With this preparation of heart as a background for our new venture in living with people of another tongue, it was simply amazing how quickly God took us at our word, and almost before we were ready, we found hungry souls clamoring for our time and help.

The first thing we bought was a piano, and the first thing we did after paying for it was to consecrate it to the Lord and to the help of His people. The Lord did not keep us waiting long. Within the week of the purchase of the instrument two women came seeking lessons. One woman was not interested in religious topics. When the other woman took her first lesson in piano, it was successful in two ways, for the lesson began with the key of C and ended in a short study in Daniel, the second chapter. This continued throughout the first nine months and ended in a thrilling baptism. By this time we were well acquainted with the people of the community, and many were having Bible studies. We were scarcely conscious of that first period when one must make acquaintance with an entire city and people of strange customs and language.

The language barrier is one that terrifies many and is probably the chief reason in the back of the mind of many when they refuse to think of foreign service. Once more the Lord was just waiting for a willing heart and mind. He has promised the needed strength of mind; he has also promised that the gift of tongues shall be in His church. With two new languages to master, we went once more to Him and asked for whatever help it was His will to impart. We worked and studied and tried to talk, and it was but a short time until the new languages were a source of great satisfaction. Power of memory and all the characteristics necessary to this accomplishment came from Him when He found a willing heart and mind. Talents were added after consecration of a given time had been allotted to His use and in waiting for His Spirit. O friends, tell me why so many neglect this simple rule for a successful life in Him.

The Spirit of prophecy advises us to consecrate ourselves to God in the morning. One more thing that we can do is to consecrate the day. He

has so graciously given. If we consecrate the *life* and the *day*, He will gladly accept the gift, and His name shall be glorified before the sun sinks behind the western horizon.

When we travel and are planning for travel, we begin to consecrate to God the time employed en route, and we ask Him to bring us into contact with the very persons whom He has arranged for us to meet so that the time will be most profitably employed.

When each day begins with a consecration to the Lord, we throw ourselves into the great program that God has made for that day. He has a thousand ways of bringing about circumstances that will work out to the furtherance of His kingdom. He can bring us into contact with other souls who are reaching out their hands to Him in supplication for truth. This has happened so often that we make it a regular rule of faith to do this very thing whenever we make a trip which involves any free time. For example, when we were beginning our late attempt to flee from the invaders of our adopted country, we consecrated the trip to God, asking Him to help us not only to escape but to use this unusual trip to bring us into contact with souls who were in the out-of-the-way places which we should necessarily pass through, who otherwise might never hear the words of life. Once more He took us at our word, and He not only helped us escape the notice of the bombers overhead, but brought us into contact with Mohammedans in remote districts to whom we were able to tell the simple story of a soon-coming Saviour, under circumstances so novel that they listened with rapt attention. We know that the witness spoken of in Matthew 24:14 must be given even in the remotest kampongs, and we know that the honest in heart will respond. By consecrating this escape trip, we were able to accomplish that which might not have been done otherwise.

Then on the big Dutch freighter which took us through the dangerous waters of the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic from Cape Town, Africa, to New York, we once more consecrated the otherwise tedious and trying hours to the Master of "ocean and earth and sky," with the satisfying result of being asked to give Bible studies to some of our fellow passengers. When we were only twenty-four hours out, a young engineer asked whether we cared to help him understand Scripture. We assured him that nothing could give us more pleasure. We studied with him and with others daily till we reached safety. The studies helped us forget our troubles, and we hope they will be instrumental in winning souls for the Master. Consecration is a wonderful word. It is the word that stands between a successful, fruit-bearing experience and failure.

Habit plays an important role in the happy Christian experience. Those

who early in their Christian experience give God the moments of the early morning by reading His word first, by talking to Him first, by asking His advice first, by blessing and praising Him first, will find after a few years that they have received a greater blessing than they realized.

Upon receiving this message, one of the first things that was impressed upon me was the necessity of observing the Morning Watch as I have just outlined. At that time it seemed to me incomprehensible that anyone who had not made a special study of the Scriptures could ever get the general plan and a history of the Scriptures straightened out in his own mind. But now, having read the Scriptures through approximately seven times, owing to the habit of the early morning consecration, I find the whole historical setting of the Bible as clear as other simpler subjects, and the philosophy of the Bible shines with a radiance unlooked for in those earlier attempts to grow in holiness and a knowledge of the Scriptures.

The other day, at the close of a service in which we had been telling the story of our escape to a group in our home church, a fine, clean-cut-looking lad in his teens came forward and grasping my hand, said, "Years ago at an M. V. meeting you pleaded with us youngsters to consecrate the first moments of the day to a habit of Bible reading and study. I have always done that since that day, and I just wanted you to know how happy it has made me." I thank God for the encouragement that lad gave when he made that statement. His cleanness of countenance gave evidence to the power and purity which have come into his young life as a result of that early choice. May God bless him!

I remember once during a particularly fruitful period in our mission experience, we had been helping people to see the truth, and we were making so many contacts that we were overworking, since many were coming to us even late at night, and we were under a strain to get in the proper amount of rest and personal study. Suddenly one day I came to the end of my energy. It seemed that peace of mind had slipped away from me. I felt that God had found me so unworthy that He could no longer use me. My own inherent weakness gained the ascendancy. My husband, realizing that we needed a rest, immediately ordered a lunch. We took a few things and some food and sought rest on the other side of the bay. We were so weary that we slept the round of the clock twice, rising only to partake of a little nourishment. Then when the weariness had passed, I awakened one morning about three o'clock. The old depression settled back, and I began to tell the Lord all about how worthless and wicked my heart was. As I recited the ugly facts of my own natural heart, suddenly a gentle power seemed to say, "Yes, that is

just the kind of person you are. There is no good thing in you. You are entirely weak, and without the righteousness of Christ you would be wholly without hope and a useless wreck. But you are the recipient of the grace of Christ, and He will work out in you His character and His holy will. Consecrate yourself to Him anew, and He will cover you with His robe of righteousness and will use you through His Spirit." All the depression immediately departed, and with eyes and heart refreshed I went forth renewed and ready to work for precious souls again. Even a consecrated vacation is of infinite worth.

Once my chum and I went to the beach for a month of rest and reading. We consecrated our vacation to the Lord, and as a result four families were won to the truth.

Sometimes we arise early in the morning too weary to feel that our prayers will ascend or be heard. Faith should take the place of feeling, for God hears our prayers, knows our needs, and receives our thanks and praise. Many fail to realize the blessing that may be theirs by understanding that God's love is not upset by our emotional storms.

Let us continue our practice of consecrating our time, our talents, our appetites, our pleasure, our social contacts—our all—to Him, as He leads us from victory to victory. Let us pray for wisdom, for the Holy Spirit, for love and tact so that we shall reap a precious harvest of godly traits in our own lives and in many souls for the kingdom.

March 27

Youth's Crusade

BY L. A. SKINNER

Order of Service

Opening and Devotional Exercises

SONG.
INVOCATION.
M. V. PLEDGE, in unison.
ANNOUNCEMENTS.
SECRETARY'S REPORT.
PROMOTION OF SOCIETY FEATURES.
INDIVIDUAL MISSIONARY REPORTS (written and oral).
OFFERTORY.
SONG.
PRAYER.

Study Topics

"Youth's Hour of Achievement."
"Helpful Hints for Cottage and Hall Meetings."
POEM: "Shoulder to Shoulder."
ACTUAL STUDY: "The Sign of God in Our Modern World." (The Sabbath.)

Conclusion

SONG.
BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

This work of more direct evangelism should be made very practical. In many societies the Gospel Meeting Band was organized in January, and doctrinal film strips have already been shown by the

band in society meetings, as well as in actual band meetings. This is one of the methods of soul winning used by the youth in the crusade for youth this year. Today have an actual demonstration of the cottage or hall meeting the band plans to hold in the immediate future. As a realistic setting for this program, either the Gospel Meeting Band could assume that the audience is a group of interested people gathered in response to announcement to hear the topic of the evening, or a small group of four to ten could be seated on the rostrum to represent a cottage meeting.

As a special help in giving Bible studies, a series of twenty-eight Bible lectures, entitled *M. V. Crusaders' Filmstrips*, has been prepared on colored films by the Mayse Studio of San Diego, California, based on the revised edition of the doctrinal lessons by J. L. Shuler, called *M. V. Crusaders' Bible Course*. Price of filmstrips ordered directly from the Mayse Studio is \$3 each. Price of *M. V. Crusaders' Bible Course*, printed by the Southern Publishing Association, Nashville, Tennessee, and obtainable through your Book and Bible House, is as follows: Single set; twenty-eight lessons, without test papers, 30 cents; with test papers, 40 cents. Lessons only: 100-900 in unbroken packages of 100, per hundred, 85 cents. One hundred assembled sets (2,800 lessons) without test papers, \$25.75. Aside from being used as the basis for the study in the cottage meeting, a copy of the printed lesson should be given to each interested person in attendance. For further information, consult your conference *M. V. secretary*.

Today it is planned for your society to present the *M. V. Crusaders' filmstrip* entitled, "The Sign of God in Our Modern World" (the Sabbath), by means of the projectoscope. Trained young people from the band should present the film today in preparation for showing it to groups of interested persons later. They should become familiar with the above-mentioned film (pictures and script) and with the *M. V. Crusaders' Bible Course* lesson No. 13 by the same title, which is prepared as a basic help in presenting this film. Of course, if your society is unable to purchase or obtain the loan of a projector, the study may be given by using this *M. V. Crusaders' Bible Course* lesson, the Bible, and charts or diagrams as needed.

Youth's Hour of Achievement

WHEN the young men of the nations are facing danger and death to achieve victory in the cause they believe to be just, it is no time for trifling and weak faith on the part of the youth of the church. God expects more of Christian young people today than church attendance and lip service to the third angel's message.

Young men and women of the remnant church are being sobered today and will respond to an appeal to engage in direct, crusading evangelism. As serious-minded advent youth present the message in homes and halls with enthusiasm and earnestness, God will cause many to respond. The day of small things is past. With fearless faith, Christian youth today may reap great harvests for God.

Missionary Volunteers, if your society is not now engaged in some vigorous evangelistic project, why not place a team of workers in the ranks of Christian soldiers? Find a place to spend your energy for God and His coming kingdom. Time is speeding. All that will endure through the final plunge of the world to destruction

will be the results of service for your fellow men in the name of your King.

This is not just one way; it is now the only way. Young men and young women who find no urge within their heart now to witness for God and give unselfish service may well ponder their own preparation for the second coming of Christ. It is enchanted ground over which we are passing today, and only aggressive warfare waged by individuals will save one from being lulled into a false security.

"All who profess godliness should feel the danger of those who are out of Christ. Soon their probation will close. Those who might have exerted an influence to save souls, had they stood in the counsel of God, yet failed to do their duty through selfishness, indolence, or because they were ashamed of the cross of Christ, will not only lose their own souls, but will have the blood of poor sinners upon their garments. Such will be required to render an account for the good that they could have done had they been consecrated to God, but did not do because of their unfaithfulness.

"Those who have really tasted the sweets of redeeming love will not, cannot, rest until all with whom they associate are made acquainted with the plan of salvation."—"Messages," p. 204.

Let consecration, participation, and separation mark the band of advent youth around the world in this twilight hour. When the powers of darkness have arisen for the final campaign, there should be a corresponding mobilization of Christian youth forces trusting implicitly in God and going forth to tell the good news of salvation to those near and far. Many now in darkness shall see a great light and rejoice.

Shoulder to Shoulder

WHEN a regiment is waiting,
All alert, the brief command
That shall bid them hasten forward,
Do some deed heroic, grand;
If with more than usual peril
Is the undertaking fraught,
Swift a way to quicken courage
Flashes through the captain's thought.

"Close up ranks," he orders briefly;
Quickly the long lines obey,
Each close to the other pressing
In the battle's grim array.
Every eye is on the captain,
Ears intent, his next words watch—
Out they ring, all fear dispelling,
"Elbows touching—Forward march!"

On and on the line advances,
Heeding not the battle's roar,
Heeding not the dangers waiting,
Courage rising more and more,
Till the enemy is vanquished,
And the shout of victory,
Rising midst the noise and turmoil,
Upward floats exultantly.

We together stand as soldiers
Bound to battle for the right;
Now we wait our marching orders,
With the enemy in sight.
What's the lesson for our learning
In the captain's ringing word
Which inspired his men to action
When the brief command they heard?

'Tis the thought that every soldier
Feels his courage threefold grown
When on either side he touches
Valor equal to his own.
Close up ranks, then! Let the weakest
Feel the swift, electric thrill,
And the daring of the bravest
Shall his quickened heartbeats fill.

Close up ranks! Draw close together
For a year of blessed toil;
Christ, our Captain, goes before us;
Nothing can His purpose foil.
For the neighbors, far or near us,
For the Sabbath school and church,
For the labor of the Master,
"Elbows touching—Forward! March!"
—Author Unknown.

Helpful Hints for Cottage and Hall Meetings

GETTING STARTED

Openings for cottage or hall meetings may develop out of house-to-house literature distribution, colporteur ministry, Radio Bible School visits, or personal acquaintance in a new locality. Usually the interest must be aroused; it doesn't just happen.

LOCATION

Choose a home which is comfortable and respected in the neighborhood. If possible, choose a family whose interest is definite and who will help advertise the meetings and strengthen your work. The people should be congenial and of good reputation.

Very often the cottage meeting grows out of a home Bible study. When a family becomes interested, their interest leads them to invite a number of neighbors, who make up an audience of six to twenty.

MUSIC

Music and song should be a feature of cottage meetings. Those present often have favorite songs they like to sing.

CHILDREN

If children are present, a story or two especially for them may be an attractive aid.

PRAYER

The prayer should be simple and directed especially in behalf of the people present.

GET ACQUAINTED

As the contact progresses, those conducting the cottage meetings should become more and more acquainted with the families present. Know enough about them to be interested in their activities and plans. Spend a little time in visiting. Inject yourself tactfully into their lives.

ENTHUSIASM

At all times maintain an enthusiasm for your work. Do not permit the sessions to grow dull or uninteresting. Bring models, exhibits, or curios which pertain to the subject.

QUESTIONS

Always give opportunity for the asking of questions.

VISITING

Visit the homes of all who attend the cottage meeting. Cultivate friendship with them. Supply needs, physical and spiritual, as far as consistent with what you have.

BOOKS

Books and leaflets on the subject may be given, lent, or sold.

RESPONSE

Seek tactfully to ask personal questions in an effort to secure assent and acceptance of truths presented. Make practical applications.

RESULTS

For decisions it will be necessary usually to visit each family personally. When even one of the group accepts the Sabbath and steps out to keep it, the effect of this decision made public, accompanied by a personal testimony, is powerful and usually leads others to the same decision.

ATTEND CHURCH ACTIVITIES

As soon as consistent, lead interested persons to attend Sabbath school, M. V. Society meeting, prayer meeting, and other functions of the church.

PLEASE HOLD IN RESERVE

*For the Senior M. V. Society
Meeting, April 24*

Last May

From the Diary of a Bird Lover

*Adapted from Chicago M. V. Nature
Club Bulletin*

May 1. A light early-morning fog allowed a look at the sun's freckles (spots) with the field glasses. When the fog lifted, mourning cloaks, cressets, and cabbage butterflies dried their wings for flight. The advance guard of warblers and wading birds is here in such numbers as to push the year's bird list over the 100 mark. New birds today:

- 94 Henslow's sparrow
- 95 Western meadow lark
- 96 Solitary sandpiper
- 97 Green heron
- 98 Sora rail
- 99 Bobolink
- 100 Spotted sandpiper
- 101 Piping plover

May 2. A loon called like a musical auto siren, "sol-do-mi-do." Swifts (102) arrived.

May 3. Golden bells and tulips are open in the yard, and marsh marigolds have turned the swamp into a garden. Male pussy willow buds fluff into golden balls. The first oven bird (103) was found scratching on a hillside.

May 5. The ironwood trees are a pitiful sight. They have been girdled

with holes and left bleeding by the now departed yellow-bellied sapsuckers. (Sap turns red as it dries.) New birds today: black and white warbler (104), black-crowned night heron (105), crested flycatcher (106), wood thrush (107).

May 7. In the eastern sky at early dawn Jupiter was followed by Venus and the crescent moon. A double-crested cormorant (108) ventured along the North Shore.

May 8. A robin has four eggs in our garage. These were not here yesterday:

- 109 Yellow throat
- 110 Virginia rail
- 111 White-crowned sparrow
- 112 Kingbird
- 113 Black-throated green warbler

May 9. Field day at Waukegan for the Chicago Ornithological Society. A motorcade of 25 cars carried us out to the prairie where we heard the western meadow larks sing. At the dunes we encountered a flock of hundreds of goldfinches and siskins feeding under the pines. At first glance they resembled dandelion blossoms on a lawn. Warblers were not plentiful.

- 114 Tennessee warbler
- 115 Catbird
- 116 Yellow warbler
- 117 Lincoln sparrow

May 10. A parula warbler (118) showed himself in spite of the cool north wind.

May 11. Now we hear the lovely Baltimore oriole's (119) song from the top of a cottonwood.

May 12. First real warbler wave of the season was blown in by a warm south wind last night. And hear them sing! The morning watch yielded a baker's dozen new ones:

- 120 Chestnut-sided warbler
- 121 Magnolia warbler
- 122 Redstart
- 123 Blackburnian warbler
- 124 Nashville warbler
- 125 Golden-winged warbler
- 126 Red-eyed vireo
- 127 Veery
- 128 Rose-breasted grosbeak
- 129 Scarlet tanager
- 130 Least flycatcher
- 131 Hummingbird
- 132 Nighthawk

May 13. Tonight with the telescope we watched the moon eclipse a star. All day the plum blossoms brought insects, and insects brought numerous warblers into the yard. In the swamp and in the wood we gleaned:

- 133 Lesser yellow-legs
- 134 Greater yellow-legs
- 135 Cape May warbler
- 136 Short-billed marsh wren
- 137 Least sandpiper
- 138 Black-billed cuckoo
- 139 Warbling vireo
- 140 Canada warbler

May 14. Only one new warbler today: Wilson warbler (141).

May 15. This morning I found 40 kinds of birds in one hour—three new ones: mourning warbler (142), black throated blue warbler (143), bank swallow (144).

May 16. "Warbler Day" at Wau-

kegan for the Chicago M. V. Nature Club. We found 16 kinds of warblers at Warbler Glen. The finest was the unafraid and gorgeous black-throated blue. Lunch by a welcome fire among the pines. Our day list included 80 kinds of birds, not to mention flowers and butterflies. These I had not seen since last summer:

- 145 Black tern
- 146 Sharp-shinned hawk
- 147 Whippoorwill
- 148 Yellow-bellied flycatcher
- 149 Louisiana water thrush

May 18. Our robin's eggs have begun to hatch.

May 19. A red-backed sandpiper (150) appeared on the shore.

May 20. Two people brought the strange ribboned "cedar apples" (a form of apple rust fungus).

May 21. Migration is still heavy. Bay-breasted warbler (151), wood pewee (152), great-crested flycatcher (153).

May 22. Our Waukegan M. V. Society held its meeting this afternoon by the lake, with reading, singing, prayer, looking, and listening. There was much to see. My search was rewarded with three new ones for the list: sanderling (154), indigo bunting (155), Connecticut warbler (156).

May 23. A marsh hawk nest was found in the usual place on the flats, with one egg in it. The "buzz" over in the alfalfa was not made by a grasshopper but by a grasshopper sparrow (157).

May 24. In spite of a full moon over Lake Michigan, Brother Lucas and I used the telescope on the polar ice cap on Mars and on Alberio (contrasting red and blue double star in the Northern Cross).

May 25. The cackle of the sora and the soft whistle of the upland plover floated through the air at dusk. The day's gain was a blue-headed vireo (158) and an olive-sided flycatcher (159).

May 26. The black-poll warbler (160) came today—omen of the close of the warbler season.

May 28. A flock of cedar waxwings (161) eating apple blossoms made an unforgettable picture. Lilacs are at their best.

May 29. Southern Michigan offered us wild columbines and the song of the wood thrush. The little screech owl (162) sat at his door on the big maple on the Emmanuel Missionary College campus. The red-bellied woodpecker and bobwhite brought the year's list up to 164.

May 30. The beautiful prothonotary warbler (165) and the old barred owl (166) were found in their usual haunts. That makes 26 kinds of warblers that we have observed this season. Yellow-billed, cuckoo (167) tried to keep out of sight but failed.

May 31. The picture on the last page of the calendar is that of a large sand dune keeping watch over a field of blue lupines as blue as the water of Lake Michigan on the other side of the dune or the bluebird on the fence. And that was May!



Junior Meetings

March 6

Thomas—Who Had to Be Shown

Order of Service

SONG.
SCRIPTURE: Selections from Hebrews 11.
PRAYER.
REPORTS.
OFFERTORY.
TALK: "Thomas—Who Had to Be Shown." (See Notes to Superintendents.)
POEM: "Faith."
OBJECT TALK: "Faith in Jesus." (See Notes to Superintendents.)
OBJECT TALK: "The Lever of Faith"
STORY: "Why Phebe Sue Was Not Afraid."
EXERCISE: "Champions of Faith."
POEM: "Walking."
SONG.
BENEDICTION.

Notes to Superintendents

Talk: Thomas—Who Had to Be Shown.—Tell the two stories of doubting Thomas. He had walked and talked with Jesus here on earth for three years. He knew that his Master always spoke truthfully; yet when Jesus spoke of something that Thomas did not actually know about, he could not believe it was true. (John 14:1-6.) It is all right for us to want to understand, but Thomas's question implied that he did not really believe any such thing was going to happen. If he doubted the word of Jesus, we should not be surprised at the second story (John 22:19-20), when Thomas had only the word of his fellow disciples. Note Jesus' commendation to those who believe even though they have not seen just how the matter is going to turn out.

Object Talk: Faith in Jesus.—(Ask a boy or girl to press the button or move the switch which will turn on the electric lights in the room. Ask what will happen when the button is pressed.) Can anyone tell why the light came on? Do we know all about electricity? No, we know very little about it, but we know some things which it will do. (Have the switch turned off.) Since we know so very little about electricity, why is it we know that by pressing the button we will get the light? Yes, it is because we have done it before, and somebody told us at first that it would do that. (Show a timetable and ask the Juniors to go with you on a trip to some desired distant point. Read the stations listed between your home and that city. Do the Juniors know all about these cities? How do they know they will arrive if they board the train?) Faith in God is not so hard to understand and practice when we call to mind the many ways in which we exercise faith in other things of life. In banking our money, ordering goods by telephone, buying railroad tickets, accepting promises, we must exercise faith. Suppose a man should put his head in the door and say that this building is on fire—what would you do? You would get out as quickly as you could if you believed him and had faith in him, wouldn't you? Faith is the foundation of all our living, of commerce, of everything worth while. Banks do fail and advertisements are not always honest, but our faith in God and in His promises will not be misplaced. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Jesus has told us that if we will give our hearts and our lives to Him, He will turn on a light within us. He has promised to turn our wicked hearts into

good ones. Instead of doing naughty things, we will want to do only those things which are good. We can be changed just as completely as the room is changed when the light is turned on.

Faith

FAITH is the wondrous, living link
That binds the trusting soul to God;
It lights the darkness, smooths the way,
Gives comfort through His staff and
rod.

Faith makes the past an open book;
It trusts His word, yields to His power;
Lays hold of God's almighty hand,
And lives with Him from hour to
hour.

Faith proves His every promise sure;
It feels the final triumph near;
It ever dwells with hope and love,
And casts out every haunting fear.

Faith works by love the soul to cleanse;
It purifies the heart and life;
It triumphs over every foe,
Gives victory in daily strife.

Lord, give me such a faith as this,
That firm my trust may be in Thee;
Help me to keep the narrow way,
For I, in peace, Thy face would see.

—C. P. Bollman.

The Lever of Faith

(Materials: A book, a ruler, and several dollars, or weights of some kind.)

Two hundred and eighty-seven years before our Saviour came to the earth, a wise man by the name of Archimedes discovered the principle of the lever. We will place this book upright on the table or a chair and lay a ruler across it. We find that there is one point at which the ruler will balance. This point is called the fulcrum. Now we will put a dollar on each end of the ruler, and it will still balance at the same point. But if we put two dollars on one end, that end will sink at once, and to make it balance we must shift the ruler and make the light end twice as long as the heavy one, because the heavy end has twice as much weight on it. If we put three dollars on the heavy end, we must again lengthen the light end until it is three times the length of the heavy one. And so we may go on adding dollars and lengthening the light end of the ruler until the heavy end is quite close to the fulcrum, or resting point of the ruler, and still the one weight will balance all the others.

The principle of the lever is of great use in building. A heavy stone or a block of marble which no set of men could lift by their own strength, may be easily raised by fastening it to the short end of the lever, and then the weight of the men at the other end will balance it, as the one dollar balances all the others on our ruler.

Archimedes did a great thing indeed for the world when he gave to it the principle of the lever; but Jesus gave a finer and more valuable revelation when He told His disciples about the mighty lever of faith. Great mountains, He said, can be removed by one having even a tiny grain of faith. (Matt. 17:20; 21:22; Luke 17:6.) People who see before them in the path of duty tasks which are beyond their own strength, have only to make use of the great lever of faith in God, and they will find that their dreaded tasks can be accomplished easily and even pleasantly. People who have heavy burdens of sickness or trouble to bear through life, need only to put the lever of faith beneath the trials, and they will find not only the burden but their own souls carried happily through the years.

This lever of faith is free to all, and those who have tried it testify triumphantly of its power, as does Paul. (Read Philippians 4:13.) James warns us that unless we use this lever we need not expect anything from God. (Read James 1:6, 7; Hebrews 11:6.) Since this lever of faith is such a desirable thing to have, and since it is free to all, let us go boldly to the throne of grace, and ask that it may be given to us.—"Experimental Object Lessons," by Charlotte E. Gray.

Walking

A STEP, and a step, and a step, and a step,
And so we are walking life's way!
The next thing, the next, and the next,
and the next,
And so we are spending each day!
But if each little step is a step with the Lord,
And the next thing is done to His praise,
We shall really be walking by faith, as He said,
And our lives will be full of glad days!
—Frances M. Nesbitt.

Why Phebe Sue Was Not Afraid

PHEBE SUE loved the flowers and trees and everything beautiful; but most of all she loved birds, and they loved her. Often when her mother missed her, she would find her in the garden with birds all about her, some of them eating crumbs from her hand. She was only six years old.

"Mother, may I spend the night over at Aunt Carrie's?" Phebe Sue asked one early summer morning. "She says she likes to have me come to see her, and she has lovely birds and flowers."

"Well, dear, I see no reason why you should not spend the night with your Aunt Carrie. Father is driving by there this morning, and he will take you. You can come home through the woods in the morning. You have come alone many times; but be sure to come early in the morning."

The next morning father had to pass Aunt Carrie's again on an er-

rand. As he drove out of the yard, he called, "Mother' I'll stop at Carrie's and get Phebe Sue."

Aunt Carrie met him at the door with, "Did Phebe Sue enjoy her day?"

"What do you mean, Carrie? Isn't Phebe Sue here?"

"O dear, Jonathan, didn't she come home last night? What could have happened? She's walked between here and home many times. In the afternoon she decided she wanted to go home. I wasn't afraid, and she wasn't, and she started in plenty of time to get home before sundown."

They didn't linger to talk, but started out through the woods the way Phebe Sue had gone. When they came to where the road forked, Jonathan said to Aunt Carrie, "Maybe she pattered along playing with the birds and flowers and then took the wrong road. If she had taken the right one home, she'd be there."

So they started out on the wrong road and finally came to a lumber camp. Two sawmill hands were sitting on a log eating sandwiches, and standing in front of them was Phebe Sue telling them her story. The men explained to Aunt Carrie and father that they were almost frightened when they came out of their cabin at daybreak to see a little girl coming toward them out of the woods alone. They had soon found out who she was and were then about to take her home.

When they reached home, Phebe Sue's mother asked, "But where did you sleep? Weren't you frightened there in the woods alone in the dark?"

"But, Mother, it wasn't dark. The moon was shining bright as day, and I knew God was watching me. I wasn't a bit afraid, because a little bird sang to me all night long. I could see it on a limb right close to me. When I got sleepy, I lay down on the leaves, and as long as I was quiet, the bird did not sing. But every time I moved, it would sing; it sounded as if it said, 'I'm staying with you; don't be afraid.' And I wasn't afraid, Mother, with the moon telling me God was there and the bird singing to me all night."

As mother took Phebe Sue into her arms and held her very tight, a tear dropped on her tousled hair, and mother said to Aunt Carrie and father, "How happy and safe we would all feel if we had the faith of Phebe Sue."

Champions of Faith

(Recitation for twelve Juniors)

I sing the faith of ABEL, when he built
An altar to his God, and on it laid
A sacrificial lamb, to show his guilt—
A debt that he believed by blood was paid—

A type of Christ, the Lamb of God, who died
That guilty sinners might be justified.

I sing the faith of NOAH, who believed
A flood would come, though flood had never been,

And proved his faith in warnings he received,

Preparing for a flood as yet unseen;
Christ is the Ark today, in floods of sin;
May I, like Noah, be by God shut in.

I sing the faith of JOSEPH, rudely torn
From home and father's side, to be a slave;

But God was with him, lonely and forlorn,

And to the youth great revelations gave;

And made him second ruler in the land,
Trusted and true, all things beneath his hand.

I sing a WOMAN'S faith, who laid her child

Among the river rushes, though the law

Demanded he should die; but as he smiled,

Her faith in him a future leader saw;

And God rewarded that fond mother's faith

And saved that infant from the sword of death.

I sing of MOSES and Egyptian nights,
A night when blood of lambs alone

could save;

When o'er the land death sped his deadly flight,

And swept the first-born sons in one vast grave;

And only where the sprinkled blood he saw,

Did he forbear his fatal sword to draw.

I sing the faith of JOSHUA, son of Nun,
Whom God appointed to command the host;

His faith brought victory at Jericho,

And silenced all the Canaanitish boast.

He simply marched around the city wall;

The trumpets blew; he saw the bulwarks fall.

I sing the faith of DAVID, who went forth

Clad in the might of God to meet the foe—

A boasting giant, foaming in his wrath—

And with a sling hurled pebbles laid him low

A shepherd lad, who later was a king,

By faith exchanging for a crown his sling.

I sing the faith the lonely LEPER had,
Who told the Healer if He would, He could;

And in a moment the good Lord was glad

To heal the leper, as he knew He would;

His faith rewarded by a power unseen,

The word of life, the summons, "Be thou clean"

I sing HER faith who washed the Saviour's feet

And kissed them with a holy kiss of love;

Who came behind Him as He sat at meat

And wiped them with her hair, her love to prove.

Some blamed her boldness; but the Master knew

What prompted her—a spirit brave and true.

I sing the faith the DYING THIEF displayed—

A faith that cheered the Saviour's latest hour—

Where "Lord, remember me," he simply prayed,

And proved the gracious Lord's forgiving power,

And heard Him say, "Thou shalt, redeemed from sin,

In time to come, to paradise pass in."

I sing the faith of the APOSTLE PAUL,

Converted from an enemy, to be

A herald to the Gentiles, giving all

His former pride, to traverse land and sea

For his dear Saviour, knowing shame and loss—

A preacher of salvation by the cross.

I sing the faith of SINNERS SAVED today,

Who have the self-same faith as they of old;

Faith in a risen Lord, whom they obey,

And the old story still to sinners told,

And still believed by thousands. Hast

THOU faith?

Dost THOU believe all that the old Book saith?

—William Luff.

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March 13

How to Overcome Temptation

Order of Service

SONG: "Can He Count on You?" No. 49 in "M. V. Songs."

PRAYER.

REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-6, 23, 24; 1 Cor. 10:13.

TALK: "What Is Temptation?"

READING: "The Spider's Sermon."

POEM: "No."

BLACKBOARD TALK: "A Shield Against Temptation."

POEM: "Satan Turned Down."

OBJECT TALK: "How the Bible Helps."

EXPERIENCES. (See Notes.)

SONG: "Yield Not to Temptation," No. 46.

Notes to Superintendents

This topic needs life and illustration to hold the interest of the Juniors. Unless the program is well prepared, sermonizing will defeat its lasting impression.

Bible Year Check: The habit of prayer and Bible study keeps us close to Jesus. When Satan seeks entrance at our heart's door, we will have the courage to say, No. Jesus met the tempter with the reply, "It is written." Let a few Juniors tell what the Bible means to them.

Experiences.—Ask your Juniors to prepare to tell experiences which they have had or which they can glean, illustrating the thought that God helps in every test and has provided a way to overcome.

Study Helps.—Chapter XII, "The Temptation," and Chapter XIII, "The Victory," in "The Desire of Ages."

What Is Temptation?

TEMPTATION is Satan's attempt to make us sin. It is his attempt to put into our minds the desire to take some action which we know to be wrong. Temptation itself is not sin, but yielding to temptation is sin.

You wake up some days feeling out of sorts. Your desire is to answer mother or dad with a cross word, to speak sharply to your brothers or sisters when they have done nothing to merit such treatment. The temptation is to act in just the manner that your worst side tells you to act. But down in your heart you know that your words will bring sorrow and pain to others. If you can throw off your mood, therefore, and greet everyone in a cheerful manner, you are overcoming that temptation. You want to make a high grade on your examination, but there is one question for which you do not know the answer.

Perhaps John, who is sitting on your left, may have the correct answer written out on his paper. You are tempted to read his answer. The temptation is brought on by a desire to make a good grade. But you know, deep down in your heart, that cheating is wrong, that it is stealing, and yet you were tempted just the same. Did you overcome that temptation?

Whether it is a desire to be selfish, a desire to take something that does not belong to you, a desire to hurt the feelings of someone else, or a desire to hurt your own self, it is temptation. Temptations may come to anyone. The sin lies in *yielding*, not in being tempted. Strength of character is shown by the way we resist temptation.

Temptation will lead to sin unless we seek the aid of Jesus, who knows about all the temptations which might come to us. He will help in every test. He has provided a way to overcome.

The Spider's Sermon

HAVE you ever watched a spider spin her web around some unsuspecting fly? Finding himself stopped in one direction, he turns to another, but the spider has thought of it first and has prepared a trap there for the fly. Finally, he is helplessly enmeshed. Then she will generally dart at him and strike him until he dies, and feast on him at her leisure.

When I see a boy (or girl) who goes with bad company and listens to their cheap and vulgar conversation, I think of the spider and her victim.

When I see a boy breaking the Sabbath by going off to fish, to swim, or to play;

When I see one disregarding his father and mother and doing what he knows will grieve them;

When I see one going to the pool hall or the liquor store;

When I see one with a cigarette in his fingers or his mouth;

When I see one going to the theater, where so much evil is displayed;

When I have reason to suspect that he takes money from his father or his employer, which is not his but which he hopes to replace—

Why, I always think of the spider and her victim, because the great destroyer, Satan, is weaving his meshes about every such boy and is dragging him toward an awful end.

No

SOMEBODY asked me to take a drink. What did I tell him? What do you think? I told him—No!

Somebody asked me one day to play a game of cards; and what did I say? I told him—No!

Somebody laughed when I would not swear. Nor lie nor steal; I did not care. I told him—No!

Somebody asked me to take a sail On the Sabbath day; 'twas of no avail. I told him—No!

"If sinners entice thee, consent thou not," My Bible said, and so on the spot I told him—No!

—Amos R. Wells.

A Shield Against Temptation

(Draw on the blackboard, or on a large cardboard, a picture of a shield. Explain that the shield is the strength which we get from Jesus to say, No, to temptations. Draw several arrows representing temptations which come flying at us every day. Call upon Juniors to name different arrows of temptation which come to them. Label each arrow. But they do not harm us, for they strike the shield with which we protect ourselves.)

JESUS was tempted although He was pure, but He never yielded to temptation. Hence He can help each one of us now in our daily temptations by the great deceiver. (Heb. 4:15; 2:18.)

(Tell the story of Satan's master temptation of Jesus in the wilderness; how Jesus withstood the test upon appetite, upon the love of the world, and upon that love of display which leads to presumption. See Matt. 4:1-11. Similar temptations had overcome Adam and Eve, and will overcome us unless we are alert.)

How did Christ meet Satan? With the words of Scripture, "It is written." His shield was the word of God. He knew that for every temptation God had provided help in overcoming it. This shield of the knowledge of the Scriptures we must develop for ourselves, so that we may use it when we are tempted. Careful study of the Bible will help us make this shield. Prayers to our Father in heaven will strengthen the defense, and the Holy Spirit and angels will be sent to help us in time of need. Surrounding ourselves with good companions and keeping away from those places or activities which will not help us, will also strengthen the shield against temptation.

Our Bible story tells us that God talked with Eve, that He gave her fair warning of the tree she must not touch. Don't you imagine that the story would have been far different if Eve had never strayed away from her husband, and if she had called on God in her moment of temptation? How important it is to obey God! This will keep us out of many temptations. Every day of our lives we need to ask God's help in overcoming the temptations we have to meet.

Have you ever noticed the numbers on a railway truck? You might see on one truck 5-3-0. What do these figures mean? They represent what is called the "load limit" of the truck—only five tons, three hundredweight—and it is dangerous to place on that truck any heavier weight. Every person has a "load limit," which God understands. He has promised help sufficient to overcome every

temptation that comes to us. (Read First Corinthians 10:13.)

Satan Turned Down

WHEN Mr. Satan called one day To lead me off to sin, I stood my ground, "No, thank you, sir; I cannot let you in!"

And when he pressed his errand sore, I said, "Excuse me, please; You see, sir, Jesus lives with me— You might as well not tease!"

"I'm hurried, too, and cannot stop To listen to your plea; And furthermore, sir, can't you see I'm busy as can be?"

I simply had to snub him hard, Before he turned to flee; But I am very glad I did— He's not my company!

—Louise C. Kleuser.

How the Bible Helps

(The following talk illustrates the effect of sin on the life, and the change that may be brought about by heeding the Bible. Human efforts are useless in overcoming sin; God has provided divine instruction for us. We overcome through Jesus as we follow His example.)

Objects: A bottle with a screw top (or a Mason jar) half full of water, a pitcher half full of water into which a few drops of tincture of iron and a pinch of powdered nutgalls have been added. This makes a black liquid. Inside the screw top of the bottle, so that it cannot be seen, fasten a piece of cotton, well soaked with oxalic acid; a piece of printed page, a nickel, a flower.

THERE was once a boy who had a dear, sweet mother. He used to kneel down by her side and say his prayers each night; thus he grew up to be a manly little fellow. But when he became older, he met some bad boys, and they taught him many wrong and dreadful things. He began to do things that were not nice, things that made his mother cry. By and by he told lies and then began to steal. His life, that was once as clear and spotless as the water in this bottle, began to be darkened. Sin entered his life and blackened it. (Pour a little of the black water in.) He thought it was big to swear, and to smoke cigarettes, and to drink what the other boys called "liquor." He seemed to do more evil things every day. His life was becoming darkened more and more. (Pour in more water.)

His father and mother thought education would help him. (Put a piece of printed page in bottle.) But the education did not clear up his darkened life. They thought money would help. (Put in nickel.) But it didn't, though they bought him many splendid things and let him travel. They thought the beautiful things of life, such as art and music and flowers, would help. (Put in flower.) But they did no good.

At last he committed a crime and was put in prison. There someone gave him a Bible. He had always had a Bible, which he had neglected in his later life, but now, when everything was so black, he turned to this

Bible for help. He read there about the poor boy who ran away from home and did wrong, just as he had done, and yet was forgiven by his father when he repented and returned to him. He knelt down by his cot in the prison and laid his head on the open Bible (place the top on the bottle, screw it down tight, then place it on its side in an open Bible; close the Bible over it and leave it there for a few seconds; shake it as you put it in), and he cried as though his heart would break. He prayed to God and asked Him to forgive him and to blot out his sins and let him live a new, clean life again.

God answered his prayer. He rose from his cot, and he felt as though a heavy load had been lifted from him, as though the burden of his darkened life had been rolled away. He became a new man from that moment, because in the Bible he had found the good news of God's forgiveness and love, because in the Bible he had found a Saviour and Master. (Take the bottle out; the water will be white.)

There was great happiness in the hearts of his father and mother, and even the angels in heaven rejoiced with great joy because this poor, darkened life had become white and clean again.—*Children's Object Story-Sermons.*

March 20

Weeding the Garden of the Heart

BY BERTHA W. FEARING

Order of Service

SONG: "Would I Be Called a Christian?" No. 45 in "M. V. Songs."
PRAYER.
REPORTS.
OFFERTORY.
SONG: "I Would Be True," No. 58.
TEXTS AND INTRODUCTION.
TALK: "Our Garden."
TALK: "How to Kill Jealousy."
SYMPOSIUM: "Sentence Sermons."
POEM: "Thoughts."
DISCUSSION.
SONG: "How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts?" No. 41.
BENEDICTION: Ps. 19:14.

Notes to Superintendents

Take for your texts Luke 12:15 and Exodus 20:17, building the program according to your Juniors' needs. Be sure to emphasize that when a weed is uprooted, some useful plant must be put in its place. Ask them to name some of the useful habits that may be substituted for envy and jealousy.

Introduction

1. WHAT is the tenth commandment? What does it mean to covet?
2. To what other sins does coveting sometimes lead?
3. How can jealousy and envy hinder the work of a church school or a J. M. V. Society?
4. What did Jesus say about coveting? Luke 12:15.
5. What must we do if we find our-

selves in danger of committing this sin?

6. Who will help us to resist it?

7. What prayer should we pray? Ps. 119:36, 37.

8. Paul says in 1 Timothy 6:6 that "godliness with contentment is great gain." Why do we need both these elements in life?

Our Garden

"WHAT are you doing?" asked Harold as he saw his friend Edward in his garden.

"Digging out weeds," answered Edward.

"Those aren't weeds," said Harold as he came closer; "you are digging up corn."

"Well, when they are in my potato patch, corn plants are weeds," said Edward. "Someone dropped some corn here after the potatoes were planted, and now the corn is taking from the soil the strength that should be raising potatoes."

"But corn is good," protested Harold. "It isn't fair to call it a weed. Thistles and dandelions and such things are weeds."

"Perhaps folks who like dandelion greens would not think they should be called weeds," replied Edward, "and I've heard that camels eat thistles. My idea of a weed is any sort of plant that grows where it shouldn't."

It is not wrong to want a certain position, or to want very much a certain grade in school; but when this desire gets in the wrong place, it becomes a weed. When it interferes with our being happy with someone else over his success, when it makes us moody and disgruntled because we want something that someone else has, this desire is a plant that must be weeded out. It is a weed of envy, or jealousy.

Perhaps you are thinking that there are some things of which we might well be covetous. First Corinthians 12:31 tells us to "covet earnestly the best gifts." Under this heading we might place talents, time, education, health, Christian experience, virtue, money, and many other things which are very desirable; but when we covet talents to be used selfishly, when we are watchful of our time to be used for our own pleasure, or when we desire education or money, not to help others, but only for ourselves, we may be coveting the best gifts, but the spirit of unselfishness is not coupled with them.

There is a Grecian story of a man who killed himself through envy. The citizens in the city in which he lived, had reared a statue to one of their number who was a celebrated victor in the public games. So strong was the feeling of envy which this caused in the heart of one of the hero's rivals, that he went forth every night in order to destroy the monument, if possible. After several efforts he

moved it from its pedestal, but in falling, it crushed him. This is symbolic of the suicidal action of envy on the soul. The weed of envy had crowded out every good impulse in the man's life.

There are some insects that insert their eggs into the bodies of others; at first this act seems to be harmless. But the inserted life begins to grow and feed upon the body in which it dwells. It matures and strengthens itself to the entire destruction of the other. When we first introduce envy into our hearts, it may appear harmless, but it continues to develop and mature until it has devoured the whole of our spiritual life.

Juniors, do you have any weeds growing in your garden? Weed them out before they are deeply rooted, or they will leave a scar that cannot be removed. By clean cultivation, by pulling up the weeds by the roots at the first sign of their appearance, our heart gardens will be free from these intruders that will stifle the growth of the good, productive plants. God will help us uproot these weeds and have a garden productive of helpfulness, unselfishness, kindness, humility, and love.

Thoughts

A NAUGHTY little weed, one day,
Poked up its tiny head.
"Tomorrow I will pull you up,
You baby weed," I said.
But I put off the doing till,
When next I passed that way,
The hateful thing had spread abroad
And laughed at my dismay.

A naughty little thought, one day,
Popped right into my mind.
"O ho," I cried, "I'll put you out
Tomorrow, you will find!"
But once again I put it off,
Till, like the little weed,
The ugly thing sprang up apace
And grew into a deed.

So, boys and girls, heed what I say,
And learn it with your sums;
Don't put off till tomorrow, for
Tomorrow never comes.
Today pull up the little weeds;
The naughty thoughts subdue;
Or they may take the reins themselves,
And someday master you!

—Author Unknown.

How to Kill Jealousy

"THERE were two businessmen—merchants—and there was great rivalry between them, a great deal of bitter feeling. One of them was converted. He went to his minister and said, 'I am still jealous of that man, and I do not know how to overcome it.' 'Well,' he said, 'if a man comes into your store to buy goods, and you cannot supply him, just send him over to your neighbor.' He said he wouldn't like to do that. 'Well,' said the minister, 'you do it, and you will kill jealousy.' He said he would; and when a customer came into his store for goods which he did not have, he would tell him to go across the street to his neighbor. By and by the other began to send his customers over to

this man's store, and the breach was healed."—*D. L. Moody.*

Sentence Sermons

(Pass these out before the meeting starts, requesting that the Juniors read them in order.)

1. "CONTENT furnishes constant joy; much covetousness, constant grief. To the contented, even poverty is joy. To the discontented, even wealth is a vexation."—*A Chinese Sage.*

2. "Cultivate unselfishness. It is a great thing to be generous in the support of every good cause; it is greater to be generous with kindness and good cheer; and greater still to be tolerant in passing judgment on a weak brother."

3. "The secret of being loved is in being lovely, and the secret of being lovely is in being unselfish."

4. "The man who has lived for himself has the privilege of being his own mourner when he dies."

5. "Selfishness seeks to get the utmost amount of good out of the world with the least possible return."

6. "No true Christian will envy another man, for he will realize that in Christ he has all things richly to enjoy."

7. "Envy will eat into the very center of the heart and put an end to all growth, all joy, all freedom. As I would warn a child against the tiger's hidden den, so would I warn myself and you against this all-destroying envy."

8. "Every kind of evil may come from envy, but the commonest evil is that envy which makes us discontented and irritable, ready to speak slightly of the person we envy."

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ALL have trials; griefs hard to bear, temptations hard to resist. Do not tell your troubles to your fellow mortals, but carry everything to God in prayer. Make it a rule never to utter one word of doubt or discouragement. You can do much to brighten the life of others and strengthen their efforts, by words of hope and holy cheer.—*"Steps to Christ," pp. 119, 120, pocket edition.*

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WE cannot but look forward to new perplexities in the coming conflict, but we may look on what is past as well as on what is to come, and say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." "As thy days, so shall thy strength be." The trial will not exceed the strength that shall be given us to bear it.—*"Steps to Christ," p. 125, pocket edition.*

March 27

How Can I Make Prayer Definite?

BY C. LESTER BOND

Order of Service

SONG: "Tread Softly," No. 23 in "M. V. Songs."

SENTENCE PRAYERS.
SECRETARY'S REPORT.
MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

CHORUS: "My Prayer," No. 28.

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECT LESSON.

POEM: "Prayer of Youth."

SYMPOSIUM: "Examples of Private Prayer in the Bible."

TALK: "I Must Tell Jesus That."

SONG: "Just a Little Talk With Jesus," No. 25.

TALK OR SYMPOSIUM: "Conditions to Answered Prayer."

POEM: "A Boy's Prayer."

DISCUSSION: "How Can I Make Prayer Definite?"

SONG: "Father, Make Us Loving," No. 24

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Superintendents

Bring a worshipful atmosphere into the meeting by the use of prayer hymns. *Object Lesson:* Hold a piece of rope, have a small child take hold of the other end; both pull. The result is that the child is drawn to you, and not you to it, showing that prayer draws us nearer to God.

Prayer of Youth

I AM a youth, alive today,
I want to live the Christlike way;
So help me, Lord, in all I do,
Ever to be sincere and true.

Give me a mind so keen and strong
That it will know the right from
wrong;
I make my heart now pure and good—
May I not be misunderstood.

Help me to give my life for others,
Help me to serve my brothers;
And may my life a blessing be
To all of those who have known me.

O, give Thy joy, and peace, and power,
O, may I live from out this hour
A life of faith and victory,
Like Christ who lived in Galilee.

—*Author Unknown.*

Examples of Private Prayer in the Bible

JOB'S EXPERIENCE. (Job 21:15; 33:26-30.) People in Job's day asked, "What profit should we have, if we pray unto Him [God]?" This is an age-old question. Job answers that prayer brings people back to God, puts joy into their hearts, and righteousness into their lives.

SAMUEL'S EXPERIENCE. (1 Samuel 12:19-25.) The people regretted their act in making Saul their king, and confessed their regret to Samuel. Samuel assured them that God was still with them, and promised them that he would continue to pray for them.

NEHEMIAH'S EXPERIENCE. (Neh. 2:1-8.) Nehemiah quickly sent up a silent prayer for wisdom as he answered the king's question. The king granted him all that he asked for.

Long prayers are not necessary for quick results. A prayer like this may be offered by every boy and girl. There is great need of men and women who make the world a better place to live in. God sends opportunities to those who are looking for them.

ABRAHAM PRAYS FOR A CITY. (Gen. 18:22-32.) Prayer in behalf of others is called intercessory prayer.

A SERVANT PRAYS FOR GUIDANCE. (Gen. 24:12.) This servant was sent on a very important errand, to choose a wife for his master's son. Customs in that country in Bible times were different from our customs. Abraham was growing very old, and he wanted to see his son Isaac married to a good girl of his own race; therefore he sent a trusted servant to find the right girl. Read the rest of the story in verses 13-67.

HEZEKIAH PRAYS FOR HEALTH. (2 Kings 20:1-7.)

DANIEL PRAYED THREE TIMES A DAY. (Dan. 6:10.)

CORNELIUS PRAYED IN HIS HOME. (Acts 10:2.)—*Young People's Leader.*

"I Must Tell Jesus That"

WE have been told, "Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend." Every Junior has a close friend to whom he goes in confidence and to whom he opens his heart. God is anxious for us to go to Him in that way and make Him our most intimate Friend.

When we are converted and this friendship with the Master has been formed, we will go to Him with every little thing—our trials and temptations, as well as our joys and victories. This is illustrated in the experience of a converted South African Negro slave, whose godless owner said, "Sam, if you go to hear the Christian missionary again, I'll flog you soundly."

"I must tell Jesus that," was the quiet answer.

Presently, when the cruel slave-owner saw poor Sam kneeling under a tree, the great tears trickling down his cheeks as he told his sorrow to his unseen but ever-present Friend, his heart was strangely moved. Next morning, after giving his orders for the day, he added unexpectedly, "Sam, you may go to the missionary's cabin if you want to."

"I must tell Jesus that, too, master. And I thank you very much." Again Sam was seen hastening to his favorite spot in the woods to pour out his heart in thanksgiving to his loving Companion and Friend.

When Herbert Hoover was an engineer, he would sometimes send assistants several miles away to work. One such, new to the job, knew that he was facing the biggest job that he had ever tackled, but he made up his mind that he was going to do that job. After a while he came up against a problem that was unexpected and

for which he was unprepared. He worried and fretted over it until he became discouraged and wished that he had never tackled the job in the first place. Finally he went to Mr. Hoover and confessed his difficulty. Mr. Hoover was not disturbed in the least. He asked a question or two, then made a few suggestions. The young engineer learned that Mr. Hoover had known that the problem would come up and had already studied out a way to solve it. The assistant went back to work with a light heart and a new determination.

This is a picture of your daily life. You have been set to work by the Master Builder, at the biggest task you will ever face—the task of building a life character. Like most young people, you start out as the young engineer did, full of determination and enthusiasm, resolved to do that job. Then unexpectedly a tough problem looms ahead. It is one for which you are unprepared and for which you have no solution. Oftentimes under these circumstances boys and girls try to work things out in their own way, but finding themselves defeated, become discouraged and wish they had never tackled the job. If you are wise, you will go to the Master Builder, as that young engineer did. You will find that to the Master your problem is no problem at all—He knows the way out of it—and you will come away with new courage and determination to win in the battle of life.

Conditions to Answered Prayer

God has invited His children to come boldly unto the throne of grace, that they may obtain mercy and find grace to help in every time of need. He may be approached any time and anywhere by anybody. There are, however, certain conditions which have a direct bearing upon prayer and the prayer life, and as Christian youth, we do well to think of these things and adjust our lives accordingly.

1. *Ask "in His name."* One of these conditions is pointed out in John 14:6; 15:16. (For an illustration on this point read the narrative in the book, "In His Name," pp. 11-13.)

2. *Ask "according to His will."* (1 John 5:14, 15.) There is only one way by which we may be assured that our hearts will be in harmony with God's will, and that is by having the Spirit of God abiding in our hearts. (Rom. 8:26, 27.) "By the Spirit every sincere prayer is indited, and such prayer is acceptable to God."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 189.

3. *Have an unselfish motive.* No doubt, as we examine our hearts, we will recall times when we have offered prayers that were prompted by selfishness. God cannot grant such petitions. (James 4:3.) He knows what is for our best good, and consequently withholds the answer to such prayers in an endeavor to help us recognize our condition and our dependence

upon Him. (Note the experience of the nobleman of Capernaum as related in "The Desire of Ages," page 200.)

4. *Ask "in faith."* (Heb. 11:6; James 1:6.) Read "Steps to Christ," page 96, pocket edition.

5. *Have a forgiving spirit.* (Mark 11:24, 25.) Let us follow the example of Christ when He said, "Father, forgive them."

6. *Harbor no sin in the heart.* (Isa. 59:1, 21; Ps. 66:18.) When we come to the place in our experience where we turn our backs upon sin and come to God in confession, He will hear our prayers and forgive our iniquities. (2 Chron. 7:14.)

7. *Obey God's law.* (Prov. 28:9.) The very fact that we turn our backs on any part of God's law, separates us from Him. When we obey God's law, we have every assurance that He will hear and answer our prayers. (1 John 3:21, 22.)

A Boy's Prayer

GIVE me clean hands, clean words, and clean thoughts;
Help me to stand for the hard right against the easy wrong;
Save me from the habit that harms;
Teach me to work as hard and play as fair in Thy sight alone as if all the world saw;
Forgive me when I am unkind, and help me to forgive those who are unkind to me;
Keep me ready to help others at some cost to myself;
Send me chances to do a little good every day, and so grow more like Christ.

—William De Witt Hyde.



Perseverance

If you would be a great man, you must be a persevering boy. Your tasks must not make you discouraged. Your little disappointments must not cause you to feel discouraged. It was only after many attempts that Samuel Morse perfected his telegraph. It was after crossing the ocean many times that Cyrus Field laid the first successful Atlantic cable. Perseverance is the fire through which your efforts are tested; the hammer that shapes your character.—"The Boys' World."



THE Educated Person—
understands the basic facts concerning health and disease.
protects his own health and that of his dependents.
works to improve the health of the community.

—The Purposes of Education in American Democracy; Educational Policies Commission.

PLEASE HOLD IN RESERVE

For the Junior M. V. Society
Meeting, April 3

Boys and Cigarettes

Boys are something like grasshoppers. The grasshopper hops because it seems to be the thing to do. Others are hopping all about him. He cannot tell why he hops. When he jumps into the air, he does not know where it may land him. It may be in a stream or in a smoldering brush fire.

Boys smoke cigarettes because it seems to be the thing to do. Others are smoking all about them. They are governed by example. Ask the boy who smokes cigarettes, "Why do you smoke?" and he cannot tell why. One little fellow, being asked by a juvenile court officer, "Why do you smoke?" replied, "Because I want to smell like a man."

Boys smoke because they want to look like men or because they consider it a manly act. They do not know where this habit may land them. If they knew, few would take up the habit.

The detrimental influence of cigarette smoking upon the intellect and morals of the youth is well known to those who have to deal with them. "It is a maker of invalids, criminals, and fools—not men," was the charge brought against the cigarette by no less a scientist than Hudson Maxim, the famous inventor of smokeless gunpowder, maxinite, and other high explosives. He said:

"The wreath of cigarette smoke which curls about the head of the growing lad holds his brain in an iron grip which prevents it from growing and his mind from developing just as surely as the iron shoe does the foot of the Chinese girl."

STATEMENTS FROM MEN OF NOTE

Luther Burbank, who startled the world with the remarkable possibilities in the development of fruits and plants, a work which required great delicacy of touch on the part of those in his employ, said, "Men who smoke one cigar a day cannot be trusted with some of my most delicate work. These men, while able to do the rough work of farming, call budding and other delicate work 'puttering' and have to give it up owing to an inability to concentrate their nerve forces. Cigarettes are even more damaging than cigars, and their use by young boys is little short of criminal, and will produce in them the same results that sand placed in a watch will produce—destruction."

Thomas A. Edison, the great electrical genius and inventor, said, "Cigarette smoke has a violent action on the nerve centers, producing a degeneration of the cells of the brain, which is quite rapid among boys; unlike most narcotics this degeneration is permanent and uncontrollable. No man or boy who smokes cigarettes can work in my laboratories. In my opin-

ion there are enough degenerates in the world without manufacturing more by means of cigarettes."

These serious charges were made by men of national and world-wide repute as scientists, and they are amply sustained by leaders in all professions in all countries.

Mike Donovan, once a familiar figure in athletics, and who was for many years athletic director of the New York Athletic Club, said, "If a boy or young man expects to amount to anything in athletics, he must let smoking and all kinds of liquors alone. They are rank poison to his athletic ambitions."

Grantland Rice, once sports editor of some of the largest newspapers and himself an athlete, said, "My observation has been from close range, close enough to develop facts and not mere theories. I have noticed those who do not smoke have far more energy and much greater stamina, much keener knack of picking up a game. In addition to this I have found that they think quicker and better. A cigarette smoker would have but little chance in any red-blooded competition against one who stuck to training; he would have neither the speed for the short sprint nor the stamina for the long race."

Jess Willard, former world's championship heavy-weight pugilist, attributed his victories to the fact that he had kept away from the cigarette and other health-destroying narcotics. He said, "The boy who wants to win gives the cigarette the go-by."

Fabre, of Montreal, who won the big marathon race in the year 1915, said, "I believe that clean living has played a very prominent part in my success as an athlete. I do not drink, smoke, or chew tobacco; therefore I do not sap my vitality in any way, and I am able to do my best work in every race. If a young man hopes to obtain success as a marathon runner, he must take very good care of his health. I would advise him to keep away from all forms of liquors and tobacco."

Ty Cobb, the great baseball player, recognized the cigarette as the greatest handicap to baseball players. *Hugh Jennings*, manager of the Detroit American League Baseball Club, to which Cobb then belonged, said, "The cigarette habit is one of the worst habits a man or boy can fall into. It has a dangerous effect upon the constitution and will eventually bring a man into declining health. I am pleased to say that Ty Cobb, the greatest player in the country, Sam Crawford, Veach, Tanden, and others, do not use cigarettes."

The once star batter of the Philadelphia Athletics, known as "*Home Run Baker*," gave this message to boys: "If any youngster wants advice from one who does not mean to preach, leave cigarettes and tobacco alone."

Connie Mack, manager of the Philadelphia Baseball Club of the American League, said, "We find that those

players who smoke never amount to a great deal in the profession. Players who should have continued in the game until they were at the age of thirty or thirty-five have had to get out years before their time, as the poison of the cigarette getting into their system has unnerved and weakened them so that they were utterly unfit for the duty they had to perform."

Boys naturally idolize the athlete. Knowing this, advertisers have secured photographs of baseball players to publicize certain brands of cigarettes. It may be of interest to learn how some of these are obtained. Eddie Collins related the following incident. He said, "A few years ago, a company manufacturing certain brands of cigarettes, through a representative called upon John Wagner, the veteran short-stop of the Pittsburgh Nationals. He was very eager to print Wagner's autographed photograph on little cards that could be inserted in the boxes. He offered Wagner \$500 for the use of his name; then \$1,000. Finally, he handed him a blank check, and told him to write in his own figures. 'No,' said Wagner stubbornly. 'Why not?' asked the man in amazement. 'I'll tell you,' said Wagner; 'it isn't worth the money to me to encourage any boy to smoke cigarettes. If my name and picture on a card will have that result, I am not going to sign up, no matter how high you go with your offers.'"

CIGARETTE USERS LOSE OUT

In any profession requiring accuracy, endurance, skill, steady nerve, and good judgment, the cigarette user eventually loses out. Boys smoking cigarettes usually drop behind in their schoolwork, and then they drop out of school because of inability to concentrate the mind upon their studies. Teachers know that the highest state of efficiency can never be attained by the victim of the cigarette habit. Cigarette-smoking boys are not in demand anywhere. They are inefficient and unreliable as a rule.

The question as to what extent boys are injured by the use of cigarettes is certain to come into greater prominence now that the habit has become so general. It has long been recognized that the cigarette exerts a mysterious demoralizing influence over the boy user. In the past we have not known to what to attribute this—wholly. We have known that nicotine is injurious. Some of the symptoms developed by the cigarette victim could not be attributed to nicotine entirely. Later it was discovered that the smoke of the cigarette contains, in addition to nicotine, certain by-products known as aldehydes. Chief among these is furfural and acrolein. The aim of each manufacturer is to produce a cigarette that will so grip the user as to make him a victim of it forever. These by-products are, possibly, even more injurious than nicotine.—*D. H. Kress, M. D. (abridged).*

Smokeless Breathing Air

I'm just a boy, not very high.
But I would know the reason why
A dog or cat of pedigree
Should have advantage over me.
I saw a sign not long ago,
Right at the door of a dog show
'Don't smoke in here, for don't you see
These dogs and cats of pedigree
Are injured by the poisoned stuff
You get in cigarettes and snuff,
Cigars and pipes and all of that,
So with your poison, now please 'scat!'
For if it hurts a dog, you see,
I'd like to know, what about me?
They tell me it will kill a cat,
And I'm more precious far than that.
Now I don't like the nasty smell;
When smoke gets thick, I don't feel well,
If you must smoke, sir, please be fair,
And give us smokeless breathing air

—*Maude M. Aldrich.*

Making Pledges and Making Men

THE story of Abraham Lincoln's temperance pledge is doubtless known to every Adventist youth. He signed that pledge when he was a boy, and always kept it. Almost better than that fact was his willingness to proclaim it. Many have been ashamed to admit that they had signed a temperance pledge. Not so the great Lincoln. And to the friend who persuaded him to do this, he said, "I owe to you more than to almost anyone else of whom I can think."

When a man enters the army, he makes a pledge of loyalty to his country. When a witness is called to testify in court, he has to pledge himself to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. When a man and woman marry, they take a pledge of faithfulness to each other. When a man accepts a responsible position in a bank or any other great financial or commercial institution, he has to "furnish bond," which will be forfeited if he is unfaithful to his duty—only another way of saying that he pledges himself to be upright.

Thus the lives of all of us are full of pledges. According to the way in which we keep or break these pledges, does our character stand among those who know us. And yet one often hears a man or woman say, "I make it a point not to bind myself with a pledge of any kind." It is a silly speech; for whether he realizes it or not, every man who is respected in the community has passed his word, spoken or unspoken, in a thousand directions, to live up to as many obligations. . . .

More today is being said and written upon the will than ever before. Men and women are daily demonstrating that the human will, when striving honestly to unite its force with the divine, is almost irresistible. If a true man only says to himself, "I will do it," and prays steadfastly for help, he can keep his pledge.

Then let us oftener say, "I will accomplish this or that good purpose. I will conquer the difficulties that beset the way." And let us not fear to do this publicly. Your spoken vow will help others.—*Ernest Lloyd.*

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER WEEK

March 13-20, 1943

Including Missionary Volunteer Day

The Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer

THIS Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer has a new and larger significance to the youth, to their parents, and to the officers of the church. Within the past year, thousands of young men have been called into the service of their country, and other thousands of our young people have left their homes to engage in defense work of one kind or another.

Since the last Week of Prayer the eighteen and nineteen-year-old boys have been included within the draft age. The war has taken thousands of Adventist youth away from our homes, and it appears that other thousands must go. They will be hastened from home to camp and, after intensive training, will be sent to the battle fronts. Whatever we are to do for the youth must be done now. We must win the unconverted or backslidden young people to Christ. The church must unite in prayer for them. Thousands of Adventist young men already in the service believe in the efficacy of the prayers of the church. We must pray for them. Parents with burdened hearts desire power with God and wisdom for counsel. This Week of Prayer should be an occasion when the whole church prostrates itself in supplication to God to save our youth. We must not only win the young people for Christ, but we must rally them and train them for His service and help them to see that wherever they may be placed—in factory, camp, or battlefield—they are to be witnesses for Him.

Parents with young people still within reach of the church, and the youth themselves, are expecting this Week of Prayer to bring an experience to our young people in every place which shall deepen their faith and tie them more securely to the advent message.

Aims

THE aims of Missionary Volunteer Week may be stated as follows:

1. To lead the Christian youth of the church into a deeper, more meaningful fellowship with Christ.
2. To reclaim the discouraged and the backslidden for Christ and the service of the church.
3. To win the unconverted to Christ.

4. To challenge our young people to be faithful, courageous witnesses in whatever situation God may place them in this critical hour of the world's history.

5. To stir the whole church with the urgency of saving our young people and training them for God's service.

The General Plan

1. **MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER DAY.** March 13 has been appointed Missionary Volunteer Day and is to be observed in all Seventh-day Adventist churches at the time of the regular church service. It is one of the most important days on the church calendar. The Sabbath morning sermon, prepared by W. G. Turner, is a powerful appeal to the whole church. Upon this day—

a. The work of the Missionary Volunteer society, the department of the church by which the church works for and through its young people, should be explained and its importance magnified. A direct challenge should be brought to the church to arouse now, as never before, to win and train its youth for service, and to help its Missionary Volunteer Society to measure up to its true purpose in these fateful times.

b. A strong appeal should be made to young and old to reconsecrate themselves to the service of God.

2. **DAILY MEETINGS.** It is the plan that meetings shall be held daily if it is at all possible, *in order that the effect of the meetings may be cumulative* and that they may result in repentance, confession of sin, and definite decisions for Christ and His service. Every church officer and every parent should plan to be in the meeting, and should encourage every young person to attend.

Definite Suggestions

1. **PLAN.** Let the church board and the M. V. Society executive committee together lay definite plans for this Week of Prayer *far enough ahead* so that these plans may be followed effectively.

2. **MAKE A SURVEY.** The church board and the executive committee of the M. V. Society should make a careful survey of all the young people, converted and unconverted, connected with the families of the church, in order that they may have an accurate, intelligent understanding of their

problem. M. V. Census Blank 19 can be procured from the conference M. V. secretary for this purpose. Arrangements should be made for someone to interview each young person who may need help. There may be those who have not been attending church or Sabbath school, and who apparently have gone out into the world. Special effort should be made to reach and reclaim these.

3. **ORGANIZE FOR PRAYER.** Let the church board and the executive committee of the M. V. Society organize themselves into Prayer and Personal Workers' Bands. Upon the members of the church board and the society executive committee has been placed a solemn and definite responsibility for the spiritual well-being of the youth of the church. These should be leaders in prayer and personal work. Let prayer lists be made, and let these prayer bands meet regularly for prayer. Why should not the church board and the M. V. Society executive committee regard themselves as permanent organizations for prayer and personal work?

In preparation for this prayer and personal work during the Week of Prayer, the church board should have on hand, and place in the hands of every member of the church board and of the society executive committee, the following leaflets: M. V. Leaflet 5, "Glorious Partnership in Soul Winning," 5 cents; M. V. Leaflet 20, "Personal Work," 5 cents; M. V. Leaflet 24, "An Hour With Christ," 3 cents. The little book, "Fishers of Men," a study in the principles and practices of personal evangelism, could well be used as an outline for study by a permanent Prayer and Personal Workers' Band.

Many a church problem would be solved before it grew to the proportions of a problem, and many a person would be kept for Christ who would otherwise drift out into the world and be lost, if the church board and the M. V. Society executive committee were to function permanently as Prayer and Personal Workers' Bands.

After the church board and the society executive committee have been organized for prayer and personal work, let the church as a whole be organized into prayer bands. Plan definitely for a time when these bands may engage in prayer.

4. **DAILY MEETINGS.** Hold regular,

daily meetings, and unless the one who is to conduct the meetings has better material, let him use the M. V. Week of Prayer studies available in this March issue of the GAZETTE. The weekday studies on preparation for life's responsibilities, perfecting character, how to overcome temptation, why we fall under temptation, and the practical results of prayer, will lay the foundation for fuller consecration and a genuine Christian experience. The material in these studies should be thoroughly mastered in preparation for their presentation. Let the meetings culminate in a call to consecration.

5. USE M. V. LEAFLETS. The church board or the society executive committee should plan to have a supply of M. V. leaflets on hand for free distribution to the young people of the church after each meeting. The following M. V. leaflets are suggested:

Sabbath, No. 38, "Our Youth Called to Service," 4 cents each.

Sunday, No. 26, "I Will Be a Christian Sometime," 2½ cents.

Monday, No. 36, "The Lifework," 3½ cents.

Tuesday, No. 5, "Glorious Partnership in Soul Winning," 5 cents.

Wednesday, No. 28, "Victory in Christ," 3½ cents.

Thursday, No. 19, "The Morning Watch," 2½ cents.

Friday, No. 56, "To Love, Honor, and Cherish," 3 cents.

Sabbath, No. 24, "An Hour With Christ," 3 cents.

These leaflets may be procured from your Book and Bible House, but they should be ordered before the first of March in order to be on hand for use during the Week of Prayer. Their cost is small, but the returns will be big.

6. FOLLOW-UP. a. Before the Week of Prayer closes, a baptismal class should be organized and a regular time appointed for meeting when the group can come together from week to week for instruction preparatory to baptism.

b. All young people should be encouraged to enlist in one of the work bands of the M. V. Society. "When the youth give their hearts to God, our responsibility for them does not cease. They must be interested in the Lord's work, and led to see that He expects them to do something to advance His cause. It is not enough to show how much needs to be done, and to urge the youth to act a part. They must be taught how to labor for the Master. They must be trained, disciplined, drilled, in the best methods of winning souls to Christ."

c. Enlist the Senior young people in the Advanced Study and Service League or in the Master Comrade work. Enlist the Juniors in the Junior Progressive Class work. Do everything possible to hold the youth who have been won to Christ. Do personal work. Let the church board and the M. V. Society executive committee regard all the youth of the church as their field for personal work and soul winning. Nothing can take

the place of a friendly interest in young people.

"Seek to interest them in that which will help them to live the higher life. Do not hold yourself aloof from them. Bring them to your fireside; invite them to join you around the family altar. Let us remember the claim of God upon us to make the path to heaven bright and attractive." Above all, encourage the young people to deepen their devotional life by means of the Morning Watch, by pursuit of the Bible Year, and by engaging in some active missionary enterprise.

Conclusion

IN this hour when the church must have an outpouring of Heaven's power if it is to minister to the needs of parents and youth, let it seek God in prayer.

"A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessing upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer."—*Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887.

Let the differences in the church be put away. Let us seek the lost. If there is in the family one child who is unconscious of his sinful state, parents should not rest. Let the candle be lighted; search the word of God and by its light let everything in the home be examined to see why this child is lost. Let parents search their own hearts, examine their habits and practices. Children are the heritage of the Lord, and we are answerable to Him for our management of His property.

May God make this Week of Prayer the occasion for a mighty outpouring of His Spirit that our youth may be won to Christ and that they may have power to finish the work of the gospel in all the earth quickly. To this end may the Spirit of God teach us to pray.

ALFRED W. PETERSON.

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"He that lives most in prayer, grows most in grace."

✻ ✻

IN those who possess it, the religion of Christ will reveal itself as a vitalizing, pervading principle, a living, working, spiritual energy.—"Christ's Object Lessons," pp. 129, 130.

Missionary Volunteer Day

Sabbath, March 13

BY W. G. TURNER

Vice-President of General Conference for North American Division

Soldiers of Christ

THIS charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, . . . that thou . . . mightest war a good warfare." 1 Tim. 1:18.

We live today in a world at war, nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom, in so large a field that the present conflict is termed global. This kind of war calls for the vigor and enthusiasm of youth. Millions of young people in the years of their strong and virile manhood are called to give courageously and self-sacrificingly of their best for their country.

Paul, in writing Timothy, was referring to another conflict. It, too, was global, and it called for the best in young Timothy, as of every other follower of Christ. This was not against flesh and blood, as are most national conflicts. This was, and is, a war against wicked spirits in heavenly places, and we are all engaged in it. To wage it successfully requires everything that youth possesses, plus the help of the mighty Leader, Christ. He has been through it; He has been victor in it; and He promises to be with each of us as we enter the fray if we will take Him as our Captain.

Whether we shall have some place in the war of nations or not, we cannot avoid entering the great conflict of which Paul writes, which has been the lot of mankind since sin entered the world. None of us may secure exemption from this strife; neither age, nor wealth, nor education, nor work, nor any other thing will give us deferment here. When it is over and the fruits of victory are shared, or the punishments of defeat are inflicted, we shall be on one side or the other. The results will be eternal victory and life, or eternal defeat and death. We shall either gain or lose. Nobody would wish to be the loser.

Provision for victory in this spiritual war has been made for us. We may choose to have a captain lead us who knows no defeat. He has promised to help us against the foe. If we will accept His counsel and avail ourselves of His strength, at the end of our conflict we may say with Paul, "I have fought a good fight, . . . henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." 2 Tim. 4:7, 8.

Paul counseled Timothy to endure hardness as a good soldier. (2 Tim. 2:3.) We are to be trained, disciplined, and directed in ways that Christ, as Captain of our salvation, has Himself successfully tried. We are to be on the victorious side. We will lose if we do not choose Him. We must be Christ's as we onward march.

"Onward, Christian soldiers! marching
as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on
before.
Christ, the royal Master, leads against
the foe;
Forward into battle, see, His banners
go!"

Christianity is a young person's religion. Christ, when He fought His battles for us, was young. His first disciples were probably all young men. Enthusiasm, vigor, and confidence are all required in this warfare, and these belong primarily to youth.

There may be many enemies that confront the youth, but none need overcome us, if we will faithfully do our Captain's bidding. It is essential for us to know our enemies and their plans, that we may intelligently thwart them in their efforts to halt or defeat us. It has always been dangerous to be ignorant of the enemy lest, coming unexpectedly, he finds us off guard and unprepared. Recently this fact in the present World War was tragically revealed at Pearl Harbor. The leaders there had not expected attack. They gave an inadequate alert, and thousands of young men died, scores of valuable planes were destroyed, and great ships were sunk or damaged. Had the leaders been prepared, how different the result would have been!

There may be many enemies. We shall note but four:

1. Purposelessness
2. Indolence
3. False Evaluation
4. Selfishness

1. *Purposelessness.* God has a purpose for each of us. "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*, p. 327.

The great men of God have always recognized this and have shaped their lives by it. They have sought to discover God's purpose and then have determined to follow it. Some folk move, but always in circles. They seem busy, but they never reach a desired end, for at the outset they have no goal. They lack purpose. It is related of Dean Swift, the famous English church leader, that on one occasion his train reached a railroad station somewhat late for an appointment. Jumping hurriedly into a cab, he called to the driver, "Drive as fast as you can." For some time the driver drove along; then the dean called out, "It is time I was there. Where are you taking me?" The cab

driver replied, "I do not know. You didn't tell me where to go. You simply said, 'Drive as fast as you can,' and that is what I have been doing!" The dean was quite late for that appointment because the driver had received no proper direction.

There are many persons, both old and young, who are without purpose in the things of daily life. They are going quite hurriedly frequently, but they do not know where they are going as they have no aim.

We read of Daniel, "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat." Dan. 1:8. Determining not to touch that which he knew was defiling, he consistently followed this principle in all his relationships. He *purposed* that He would serve God.

"Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone,
Dare to have a purpose firm!
Dare to make it known!"

Young people, let us have a purpose in life, and God will bless us as we journey along the way.

"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!"—*Education*, p. 271.

2. *Indolence.* The next enemy is indolence. This is a deadly thing, and there are many under its spell. It is very closely related to laziness, and laziness is not a helpful attribute. God today calls us to activity as soldiers in His army. We are told in "Messages to Young People," page 164: "If the youth today would stand as Daniel stood, they must put to the stretch every spiritual nerve and muscle. The Lord . . . wishes them to reach the highest point of excellence."

There is no place for the indolent in the plan of God, and there is no success to those who are indolent. When Thomas Edison was once asked the secret of his success, he said it was found in 2 per cent inspiration and 98 per cent perspiration. There are many things that may happen to make us indolent.

Mentally, the reading of foolish literature and listening to similar matter coming over the radio, can play a large part in weakening our ability to think. Indolence of mind is a very sad condition for any person to experience in these days of intensity and need.

Physically, the ease and comfort of travel, the lack of sound exercise, the failure to engage in physical work, will lead to indolence. *Spiritually*, carelessness in the matter of prayer or in the reading of God's word will seriously affect our whole life. All these things will unfit us as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.

3. *False Evaluation.* The third enemy is false evaluation. It is said that a century ago the wants of civilized man were seventy-two; the ac-

tual needs, sixteen. Today it is claimed that the wants of men in civilized localities are 484, while their needs are ninety-five. Unfortunately, many folk evaluate life on the basis of their wants, rather than on the basis of their needs.

The question arises, Is the world happier because of the greater variety of luxuries? The answer must be, Proportionately, no! If we conceive of life in terms of motorcars, refrigerators, radios, and such things, we have sadly mistaken its purpose and goal. The greatest thing in life is character, based on the true conception of value centering in Christ. Life is rich and happy only when we find our work creating that which contributes to the purpose of God for us. We need to watch lest we lose the sense of God's desire for us, the development of true character. We need to have a right understanding of true values in our reading, in our recreation, in our work, and in all our relationships with the things of Christ.

4. *Selfishness.* The fourth enemy is selfishness. Selfishness may enter the heart of man to his own destruction. It destroys character; it denies the fundamental fact of Christianity, which is based on love and sacrifice. "Every true, self-sacrificing worker for God is willing to spend and be spent for the sake of others."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 302. "Selfishness is a deadly evil."—*Id.*, p. 308. We all need to watch lest we find what appear to be our own selfish desires becoming primary in the outworking of our daily program.

War calls for sacrifice, and we are engaged in a war. Christ, our Captain, recognizes this, for of Him we read that though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich. (See 2 Cor. 8:9.)

The very motto that belongs to us as young people compels us to be unselfish, for it is not the love of Christ which constraineth us?

These four enemies are deadly. They are but four of many. If we can master these, however, we shall discover victory coming to us along much of life's way. Let us each follow the admonition of Paul to wage a good warfare, and at the end of the journey we shall receive a crown of life placed on our brow by Christ, our Captain.

"Where are you going, youth?
To lift today above the past;
To make tomorrow sure and fast?
To nail God's colors to the mast?
Then, God go with you, youth!"

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WHEN being "somebody" becomes an end in itself, it is a dead end.—*R. A. Anderson.*

Studies for Senior Missionary Volunteers

BY NORMAN W. DUNN

*Young People's Missionary Volunteer Secretary for the
South American Division*

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

Called to a High Destiny

IN the providence of God Seventh-day Adventist youth of this generation are destined to pass through the most severe trials, do the greatest work, and receive the highest honor that has ever been conferred upon the young people of any generation that has ever lived upon the earth. May this Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer bring to the youth around the world the very help they need to prepare them for the experiences that await them in this mighty hour, when the forces of good and evil are preparing for the last great conflict from which the church of God will come forth triumphant.

God Is Depending on You

Today your youthful eyes look out upon a troubled world. As these lines are being written, war is raging among the nations; thousands of ships are being hurled into the depths of the sea; disasters are frequent; and confusion reigns everywhere. Everything indicates that the tempest of the last days, which will sweep away the world and usher in the kingdom of Christ, is upon us. How fitting it is that we should get ready to meet its fury by seeking God most earnestly during this week of prayer. May your spiritual life be deepened and your hearts cleansed from sin so that you may go forth as heroic witnesses for Christ in this last hour when the work of God on earth must be finished.

Called to a High Destiny

"O that young men might appreciate the high destiny to which they are called!"—*"Messages," p. 22.*

The story is told that as Rupert Brooke sailed away to the bitter campaign of Gallipoli, he cried, "Now God be thanked who has matched us with this hour!" In God's great drama of the ages, Seventh-day Adventist youth are to be the last actors. They have "come to the kingdom for such a time as this." How the thought should thrill the heart! What a transforming influence in the life of a young man or young woman is the conviction that he or she was born to live for Christ, born to stand as a witness for Him in the darkest hour of earth's history, born to exert every ounce of his or her youthful energy to the accomplishment of the task that has been placed upon the shoulders of the youth, in carrying

"the advent message to all the world in this generation."

Youthful Talent Needed

"In order that the work may go forward in all its branches, God calls for youthful vigor, zeal, and courage. He has chosen the youth to aid in the advancement of His cause."—*"Gospel Workers," p. 67.*

"Young men are wanted. God calls them to missionary fields."—*"Counsels to Teachers," p. 517.*

"Youthful talent, well organized and well trained, is needed in our churches."—*"Christian Service," p. 30.*

"The church is languishing for the help of young men who will bear a courageous testimony, who will with their ardent zeal stir up the sluggish energies of God's people, and so increase the power of the church in the world."—*"Messages," p. 25. (Italics ours.)*

At the very beginning of this Young People's Week of Prayer, should we not pause to meditate on the urgency of this call from God? There are some lines of work that can be done only by young men and women of clear vision and uncrippled energies. A great unfinished task lies before us which cannot be accomplished without the help of the youth. They possess the talents that are needed to carry the advent message to the very ends of the earth. They are strong and courageous. They can adapt themselves readily to a new and strange environment. They laugh at difficulties and glory in hardships. They blaze new trails, face strange situations, and undertake new enterprises with eager enthusiasm.

"We want to go farther into the interior," said a young missionary wife who had recently returned from a long trip with her husband by muleback over a dangerous narrow trail in the high Andes of South America. It is this urge to go "farther into the interior," to plant the banner of Christ's kingdom in ever-extending areas, that makes the service of youth so valuable to God's cause.

Youthful talent "well organized and well trained" is needed in the canvassing field, in the ministry, in the classroom, in the Sabbath school and church, and especially in the far-flung mission fields. "There is room in the work of God for all who are filled with the spirit of self-sacrifice."

The youth who respond to God's call to consecrate their lives to Him for service in this mighty hour, are placing themselves in line to receive

the highest honor that has ever been conferred upon any generation of young people since the world began.

During this Week of Prayer may God enlarge the spiritual horizon and deepen the Christian experience of the youth around the world, so that they may be heroic witnesses for Christ at all times and under all circumstances, serving God faithfully in small things until called to labor for Him in a larger sphere. Our vision should not be local or provincial, but should include the whole lost world. Let us arise in the power of a new consecration and, in response to God's call for service, say, "Here am I; send me."

NOTE.—At this juncture let the youth be given the opportunity to reconsecrate their lives to God for service wherever He may call.

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MONDAY, MARCH 15

Preparation for Life's Responsibilities

God has given to Seventh-day Adventist youth the opportunity to fill a high destiny in the world. He wants them to become earnest, capable workers, fully prepared to bear life's responsibilities. Before them is opened a path of continual progress, and if they will consecrate their minds and hearts to God's service, they will reach a high standard of usefulness in the great work to which He has called them.

On this third day of the Week of Prayer let the youth pause for a moment and weigh their opportunities and possibilities for service, and their need of a preparation for life's responsibilities.

Mental Training Is Necessary

"God requires the training of the mental faculties. . . . This lays upon us the obligation of developing the intellect to its fullest capacity. . . . The Lord desires us to obtain all the education possible, with the object in view of imparting our knowledge to others. . . . We should not let slip even one opportunity of qualifying ourselves intellectually to work for God."—*"Messages," pp. 173, 174.*

The intellectual faculties are a gift from God—a talent entrusted to us for wise improvement—and we should not feel at liberty to let our mental faculties lie dormant and become crippled and dwarfed by inaction. The instruction given through the Spirit of prophecy regarding this is clear and convincing: "A life devoted to God should not be a life of ignorance."—*Id., p. 169.* "Jesus loves the precious youth; and He is not pleased to see them grow up with uncultivated, undeveloped talents."—*Id., p. 37.* "Young men and women . . . should take advantage of the schools that have been established for the purpose of imparting the best of

knowledge. It is sinful to be indolent and negligent in regard to obtaining an education."—*Id.*, p. 185.

The above expressions should impress the hearts of the youth with the importance of getting an education. Young people who expect to measure up to God's plan for their lives, will have a deep sense of their obligation to improve every talent to the best advantage so as to be able to serve in any capacity and in any place to which God calls them. Educated workers are needed in every branch of the work. They have an advantage over those who lack intellectual training. They can do better work. God places no premium on ignorance.

"If placed under the control of His Spirit, the more thoroughly the intellect is cultivated the more effectively it can be used in the service of God."—*Id.*, p. 173.

If our youth will put their intellectual powers to the stretch, they may become capable, well-trained workers, fitted to carry heavy responsibilities. To this end they should exert every effort while their faculties of mind and body are unimpaired. Let young men and women remember that God claims their service, and that He is not pleased to see them grow up with uncultivated, undeveloped talents.

When the obligation to obtain an education is urged upon the youth, the following excuses are often heard: "I do not have the money." Let no energetic, consecrated young person hide behind such a flimsy excuse. More young people get an education who do not have money than those who do. It is not lack of money that hinders, but lack of vision, lack of ambition, lack of desire, lack of determination. "Let the youth who need an education set to work with a determination to obtain it. Do not wait for an opening; make one for yourselves. Take hold in any small way that presents itself. . . . Be determined to become as useful and efficient as God calls you to be."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 334.

"But," says one, "I do not plan to be a minister, so why spend the money?" Here is the answer given by the messenger of the Lord: "It is a perilous mistake to imagine that unless a young man has decided to give himself to the ministry, no special effort is required to fit him for the work of God. Whatever may be your calling, it is essential that you improve your abilities by diligent study."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 216.

"Let no one imagine that he has no need to study because he is not to preach in the sacred desk. You know not what God may require of you."—*Messages*, p. 186.

Says another, "I do not have any natural ability, so why go to school?" It is not always the most brilliant young men who achieve the greatest success in life. Even youth of ordinary ability who are industrious and persevering often accomplish more

than those who are naturally brilliant, but neglectful of duty. Those who do their best at all times and under all circumstances, who improve each precious opportunity, who bring their powers into vigorous exercise day by day will make advancement; their talents will be increased through exercise, and they will reach a high standard of efficiency. This is what the Lord expects of them.

"It would take too long to get an education," says another. Here is the answer to this objection. "Do not become overwhelmed with the great amount of work you must do in your lifetime, for you are not required to do it all at once. Let every power of your being go to each day's work, improve each precious opportunity, . . . and make advancement up the ladder of progress step by step."—*Id.*, p. 46.

Heart Education Essential

THE training of the mental faculties is of urgent necessity, but this alone will not qualify the youth for the work of God. The heart as well as the head must be trained. In fact, heart education is more important than intellectual training. "They [the youth] should realize that though all the advantages of learning may be within their reach, they may yet fail of obtaining that education which will fit them for work in some part of the Lord's vineyard. They cannot engage in God's service without the requisite qualifications of intelligent piety."—*Id.*, p. 42.

"First the young men who would serve God, and give themselves to His work, must cleanse the soul temple of all impurity, and enthroned Christ in the heart; then they will be enabled to put energy into their Christian effort, and will manifest enthusiastic zeal in persuading men to be reconciled to Christ."—*Id.*, p. 25.

God grant that your hearts may respond to the call to prepare yourselves for life's responsibilities by obtaining all the education possible. Heaven requires this of you. It is sinful to be indolent and negligent in this respect.

But while developing your mental faculties, you must not neglect the education of your heart, or you will meet with infinite loss. Unless you learn daily in the school of Christ, all the knowledge you may acquire from books will not place you in the ranks of the Lord. On the other hand, if you will consecrate yourselves wholly to God, you may reach the highest point of intellectual greatness without danger of self-exaltation, and thus be prepared to carry forward the work which the Saviour would have you accomplish.

NOTE.—Here let the youth express their desire and determination to prepare themselves for a place of usefulness in God's cause.



"PRAYER is the oxygen of the soul."

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

Perfecting Character

THE minds of many youth are confused regarding the nature and processes involved in the development of character. They think that when they are converted, God takes charge, and their personal responsibility ceases. It should be understood, however, that conversion is only the first step in the process by which the child of God becomes fitted for the kingdom of heaven. Before God can put His seal of approval upon an individual, he must have a life like Christ's. This is not the work of a moment as is conversion; nor is character-building entirely the work of God. The individual himself has a part to act.

Character building is the end product obtained by the formation of right habits. Character does not come by chance. It is not inherited from one's parents. It does not come by accident.

How Is Character Developed?

"A NOBLE character is earned by individual effort through the merits and grace of Christ. God gives the talents, the powers of the mind; we form the character. It is formed by hard, stern battles with self. Conflict after conflict must be waged against hereditary tendencies."—*Messages*, p. 99. (Italics ours.)

It is on this point that many Christians become confused. Thinking that the Christian life should be a life of peace, they do not understand why they should experience a constant struggle to overcome their natural tendencies toward evil. Some get discouraged as they feel the promptings of sin in the heart and think that there is no use to try to do right. A clear understanding of two fundamental principles would be a help to such persons:

First, the Christian life is a constant warfare and not a life free from temptation. This is a vital point that every youth should understand. It will never be easy to be a Christian. As long as there is a devil, the child of God will have to endure temptation. We shall have to fight not only against temptations from without, but also against our own natural inclinations and selfish desires which are always struggling for expression. We read in the book "Messages to Young People," page 60, "Those who have tempted the devil to tempt them [by venturing on Satan's ground] will have to make desperate efforts to free themselves from his power." And then as if to encourage us in the conflict, the following words are added: "When they begin to work for themselves, then angels of God whom they have grieved will come to their rescue." You will observe that this divine help does not come to those who do nothing to help themselves. In order to conquer we must

"fight the fight of faith" with all our will power. We must stretch every nerve and exert all our powers to resist Satan that we may conquer through the merits of Christ.

If the Christian is not sufficiently eager to have victory, to strive earnestly to obtain it, he will never be able to free himself from the snares of Satan. It is not an easy matter. Conflict after conflict must be waged. But those who "begin to work for themselves" have the promise of divine aid. "Angels who excel in strength will prevail and wrench them from the power of evil angels." Again we read: "The angels are commissioned to minister unto those who are striving to overcome every wrong habit, and stand clear from the devices of Satan."—*Id.*, p. 27. But the good angels will never force the will of the individual or save him *without his co-operation*. "Jesus will not commission holy angels to extricate [from Satan's snare] those who make no effort to help themselves."—*Id.*, p. 53.

The *second* fundamental principal that should be understood by all who would win out in the battle against Satan, is the place of the will in the Christian experience. The will is the "deciding power" of man. God has given to every human being the ability to decide whom he will serve. The will must not be confused with the taste, the feelings, or the inclinations. One may not feel like obeying God, but he can choose, or *will*, to obey Him. "Pure religion has to do with the will. . . . You will be in constant peril until you understand the true force of the will. You may believe and promise all things, but your promises or your faith are of no value until you put your will on the side of faith and action. If you fight the fight of faith with all your will power, you will conquer. Your feelings, your impressions, your emotions, are not to be trusted, for they are not reliable. . . . You cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire, but you can control the will. . . . By steadfastly keeping the will on the Lord's side, every emotion will be brought into captivity to the will of Jesus. You will then find your feet on solid rock."—*Id.*, pp. 151-153.

Sometimes young people say: "But I just cannot overcome my defect of character. It is impossible." Now what is the trouble? Listen to the words of the messenger of God: "The impossibility lies in your own will. If you will not, then you cannot overcome. The real difficulty arises from the corruption of an unsanctified heart and an unwillingness to submit to the control of God."—*Id.*, p. 99.

It is this unwillingness to yield the whole heart to Christ that causes so many failures in the Christian life. Unless the will is yielded to Christ, there will be no connection with divine power and the individual will be helpless when the waves of temptation press upon the soul. "The surrender of all our powers to God

greatly simplifies the problem of life. It weakens and cuts short a thousand struggles with the passions of the natural heart."—*Id.*, p. 30.

Then why should we hold out any longer against the Saviour? We desire peace and rest in our Christian experience, but how may we obtain peace? Here is the answer: "Peace and rest will come to you as you bring your will into subjection to the will of Christ."—*Id.*, p. 73. So, let us now, today, say to the Saviour, "Not *my* will, but *Thine* be done." Oh, what strength will be ours if we will do this! It will put us in contact with a power that is above all principalities and powers. It will enable us to do God's will.

"As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command, may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 333.

By thus co-operating with Christ through complete surrender of the will and through earnest personal effort to obey Him, the Christian succeeds in forming the habit of obedience, and thus forms a character that is pleasing to God.

"A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next. . . . How important, then, is the development of character in this life."—*Messages*, pp. 100, 101.

May God bless the youth as they now choose to obey Him. Let those who are ready to do this please stand with bowed head while prayer is offered.

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Out of My Heart

OUT of my heart have gone all evil things,

Boasting and harshness and sin;
Gone, just the moment I opened the door,

Ready for Christ to come in.

Out of my heart has gone love of the world,

Pride in its fashions and ways,
When the door opened and Jesus came in,
There to abide through the days.

Now from my heart come kindness and love,

Backbiting words all must cease;
For the entering in of the Saviour of men

Brought love and an infinite peace.

Darkness is gone, and the light of His face

Purges and whiteneth my soul;
While out of my heart come praises to Him,
The Saviour who maketh me whole.

My talents forever shall be His alone,
For service in full or in part;
I pray that His presence with me may abide

And never go out of my heart.

—Mrs. F. E. Crump.

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A good way to relieve the monotony of any job is to think up ways of improving it.—*Reader's Digest*.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

How to Overcome Temptation

You will find our text in Revelation 3:10: "Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation."

Every sincere Christian desires to be an overcomer—to experience in his life a series of overwhelming victories. There is no joy in living a defeated life. Defeats bring sorrow and discouragement to the soul. Satan takes advantage of one who has fallen into sin and tempts him to doubt the Saviour's love and watchcare. Often faith fails, and the soul wanders away from Christ.

Youth are especially prone to become discouraged as they find themselves assaulted by the powers of darkness. Some even think that it is a sin to be tempted, forgetting that the Lord Himself "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." It is not a sin to be tempted. It is a sin to yield to temptation.

We May All Be Overcomers

THE glorious reward which God has promised to His children is bequeathed to those who win in the conflict with Satan. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things." Rev. 21:7. Thank God we can all be overcomers. Provisions have been made whereby all may be victorious over Satan and his hosts. Yes, we may be "more than conquerors through Him that loved us." Rom. 8:37.

In the book "Patriarchs and Prophets," page 421, we read: "Satan attacks us at our weak points, but we need not be overcome. However severe or unexpected the assault, God has provided help for us, and in His strength we may conquer."

Let us not forget the promise in First Corinthians 10:13: "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Then why do we fail? It must be because we do not make use of the abundant means that God has provided whereby we "quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Eph. 6:16.

God Has Made Provision for Us

WHAT are the means which God has provided whereby His children may succeed in their conflict with Satan?

Let us consider briefly four principal means by which we may be victorious when tempted.

1. PRAYER.—It is the privilege of every Christian, when tempted, to lift his heart to God in prayer and receive strength from above to keep him from falling. The following paragraph from "Steps to Christ," page 99 (pocket edition), is worth

memorizing. Why not learn it now? "We may close every door to impure imaginings and unholy thoughts by lifting the soul into the presence of God through sincere prayer." What a precious promise for those who are daily exposed to the insinuations of the evil one. In the book "Gospel Workers," page 254, we are told how to keep in touch with God. "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."

2. BIBLE STUDY.—The weapon used by the Saviour when He was tempted in the wilderness was "It is written." The mind of the Master was filled with the promises of God, which made Him immune to the assaults of the tempter. "Why is it that our youth . . . are so easily led into temptation and sin? It is because the Bible is not studied and meditated upon as it should be."—"Counsels to Teachers," p. 442.

3. FAITH.—We need to have more faith in God. "Without faith it is impossible to please Him." Heb. 11:6. Peter was able to walk upon the water as long as he believed, but when through fear he began to doubt and turned away from the Saviour, he immediately began to sink. "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4.

When recommending to the saints that they put on the "whole armor of God" the apostle Paul added: "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Eph. 6:16. So let us have faith in God as we press the battle to triumphant victory.

4. KEEP OCCUPIED.—"By toil the temptations of Satan might be made ineffectual, and the tide of evil stayed. And though attended with anxiety, weariness, and pain, labor is still a source of happiness and development, and a safeguard against temptation. . . . One of the surest safeguards against evil is useful occupation."—"Messages," pp. 213, 214. We are never in greater danger of falling under temptation than when we are at leisure.

"Satan lies in ambush, ready to destroy those whose leisure gives him opportunity to approach them under some attractive disguise. He is never more successful than when he comes to men in their idle hours."—*Id.*, p. 215. (Italics ours.)

These are the means, or agencies, which God has provided whereby we may overcome the temptations of Satan—prayer, Bible study, faith, and work. These are our weapons against the one who would destroy our souls. Let us use them faithfully. If we fail of overcoming, it will be our own fault, for God has made ample provision for our safety.

Let us form the habit of secret prayer. Let us make the word of God our counsel. Let us have faith in God; He will never fail us. And finally, let us keep busy at useful labor or at missionary work, so that the enemy who lies in ambush may not find such easy access to our souls.

NOTE.—The one in charge should write these four *means of overcoming* on the blackboard and ask the youth to commit the list to memory. Then have a brief testimony service, a season of prayer, and the closing song.

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"On the coast of Spain a great storm was raging, and a wrecked vessel came drifting near the lighthouse. The cries of the perishing seamen were heard in the darkness. The lighthouse keeper, in making his report to the government—which was required by law in the case of a wreck—said: 'We rendered all possible aid from the top of the lighthouse with the speaking trumpet; notwithstanding, the next morning twenty corpses were found on the shore and the vessel had disappeared.' This is too often the case in our preaching. We get into a high pulpit and shout at the top of our voices, but we seldom take the life line in our hands and go down to those who are perishing in the waves of sin, to rescue them ere it is too late."

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OUR life is to be bound up with the life of Christ; we are to draw constantly from Him, partaking of Him, the living bread that came down from heaven, drawing from a fountain ever fresh, ever giving forth its abundant treasures. If we keep the Lord ever before us, allowing our hearts to go out in thanksgiving and praise to Him, we shall have a continual freshness in our religious life. Our prayers will take the form of a conversation with God, as we would talk with a friend. He will speak His mysteries to us personally. Often there will come to us a sweet, joyful sense of the presence of Jesus. Often our hearts will burn within us as He draws nigh to commune with us as He did with Enoch. When this is in truth the experience of the Christian, there is seen in his life a simplicity, a humility, meekness, and lowliness of heart, that show to all with whom he associates that he has been with Jesus and learned of Him.—"Christ's Object Lessons," pp. 129, 130.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

Why We Fall Under Temptations

IN our former study we learned that our heavenly Father has provided the means whereby the child of God may be assured of a series of overwhelming victories in his conflict with Satan. There is no need for anyone to make shipwreck of his faith and go down in defeat when tempted. Christians sometimes fail because they do not understand how to meet the foe and overcome him. In the book "Messages to Young People," page 91, we read: "The work of overcoming is to be the study of every soul who enters the kingdom of heaven."

Why Do We Fail?

DURING this hour let us consider seven reasons why we are often overcome by temptation. A clear understanding of the reason for failure should help us to avoid the things that result in defeat.

1. WE NEGLECT PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY.—"Beware how you neglect secret prayer and a study of God's word. These are your weapons against him who is striving to hinder your progress heavenward."—*Id.*, p. 96.

"When you rise in the morning, . . . if you feel in no danger, and if you offer no prayer for help and strength to resist temptations, you will be sure to go astray; your neglect of duty will be marked in the book of God in heaven, and you will be found wanting in the trying day."—"Testimonies," Vol. III, pp. 363, 364.

"No man is safe for a day or an hour without prayer."—"The Great Controversy," p. 530.

Our usual excuse for neglect of prayer is that we do not have time. But we have time for other things that we consider essential. We take time to do that which will assure us of physical health. We eat, sleep, and take exercise. Can we expect to be strong spiritually if we neglect prayer, which is the breath of the soul, and Bible study, which is our spiritual food? To say that we do not have time to pray is to say that we consider other things more important than prayer. Let us pause for a moment and memorize the following statement from the writings of the Spirit of prophecy relative to this question: "If every moment were valued and rightly employed, we should have time for everything that we need to do for ourselves or for the world."—"Messages," p. 322.

2. WE FOLLOW OUR INCLINATIONS RATHER THAN DUTY.—"If the youth have formed the habit of following inclination rather than duty, they will find it hard to resist temptation."—*Id.*, p. 82.

If we would only learn to stand on the defensive and resist the first in-

sinuation of the tempter, we would be able to eliminate his incomings. But to the natural heart it is more pleasant to follow the inclinations and impulses than to obey God. Hence, we go down in defeat.

3. WE GO VOLUNTARILY IN THE WAY OF TEMPTATION.—There is a proverb which says, "He who avoids temptation, avoids sin." If duty calls us into places where the forces of evil are strongly entrenched, God has promised grace to meet the emergency; but if we go voluntarily in the way of temptation, we have no right to claim His protection. The following statements from the writings of the Spirit of prophecy will make this clear:

"We are to keep away from the temptations by which we are easily overcome."—*"Testimonies," Vol. VII, p. 239.*

"If we venture on Satan's ground, we have no assurance of protection from his power. So far as in us lies, we should close every avenue by which the tempter may find access to us."—*"Mount of Blessing," p. 171.*

"Those who would not fall a prey to Satan's devices must guard well the avenues of the soul; they must avoid reading, seeing, or hearing that which will suggest impure thoughts."—*"Messages," p. 285.*

4. WE REVEAL TO SATAN OUR WEAK POINTS.—"Satan attacks us at our weak points, but we need not be overcome." "Satan cannot read our thoughts, but he can see our actions, hear our words; and from his long knowledge of the human family, he can shape his temptations to take advantage of our weak points of character. And how often do we let him into the secret of how he may obtain the victory over us. Oh, that we might control our words and actions!"—*Id., pp. 62, 328.*

Let us be careful, therefore, lest by a wrong attitude, a careless word, or an act, we reveal to Satan our weak points, thus showing him where to strike. When we feel discouraged, let us act courageous; when we feel inclined to seek forbidden pleasures, let us neither by word nor act reveal to Satan our desires, and thus he will be at a loss to know how to shape his temptations so that they will find a natural response in our hearts.

5. WE DO NOT FULLY SURRENDER TO CHRIST.—"The reason why many find the Christian life so deplorably hard, why they are so fickle, so variable, is, they try to attach themselves to Christ without first detaching themselves from these cherished idols. [Pride, selfishness, vanity, worldliness, etc.]"—*Id., p. 118.*

"The soul that is yielded to Christ becomes His own fortress, which He holds in a revolted world, and He intends that no authority shall be known in it but His own. A soul thus kept in possession by the heavenly agencies is impregnable to the assaults of Satan."—*"The Desire of Ages," p. 324.*

"Yielding to temptation begins in permitting the mind to waver, to be inconstant in your trust in God. If we do not choose to give ourselves fully to God, then we are in darkness. When we make any reserve, we are leaving open a door through which Satan can enter to lead us astray by his temptations."—*"Mount of Blessing," pp. 126, 137.*

6. WE DO NOT FIGHT AGAINST TEMPTATION.—"The example of Christ shows us that our only hope of victory is in continual resistance of Satan's attacks. . . . When they humbly entreat the mighty Conqueror for help, the weakest believers in the truth, relying firmly upon Christ, can successfully repulse Satan and all his host."—*"Messages," pp. 50, 51.*

7. WE DO NOT FORM CORRECT RELIGIOUS HABITS.—"More than any natural endowment, the habits established in early years will decide whether a man shall be victorious or vanquished in the battle of life."—*Id., p. 134.*

"If we would develop a character which God can accept, we must form correct habits in our religious life. . . . Habit will finally make it easy."—*Id., pp. 114, 115.*

Let us not be discouraged if we feel an inclination to do wrong. This is natural. As long as we are clothed in human flesh, we shall feel the promptings of sin; but we need not be overcome. In the constant warfare that must be waged against the natural desires of the flesh, we may have access to the mighty strength of Christ and come out more than conquerors.

May God help youth to avoid these seven reasons for failure in our conflict with Satan. Let us mention them again, one by one.

If we are overcome by temptation, it will be because:

1. We neglect prayer and Bible study.
2. We follow our inclinations rather than duty.
3. We go voluntarily in the way of temptation.
4. We reveal to Satan our weak points.
5. We do not fully surrender to Christ.
6. We do not fight against temptation.
7. We do not form correct religious habits.

NOTE.—Let the youth now express their determination to overcome the temptations of Satan through the mighty power of Christ, made available to all who surrender their lives completely to Him.

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To me the meanest flower that blows
can give
Thoughts that do often lie too deep
for tears.

—Wordsworth.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

The Practical Results of Prayer

Oua text is found in Job 21:15: "Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? and what doth it profit us if we pray to Him?" (Douay Version.)

This question has troubled the minds of many, especially the minds of the youth. What good does it do to pray? Young people sometimes confess that their prayers go no higher than their heads—that prayer is nothing more than a round of mental gymnastics, worth no more than the prayers offered by the pagans, who write their petitions on strips of paper to be "offered" by a prayer wheel, which is driven round and round by the wind. Every time the wheel turns over, a prayer is offered. Such prayers are worthless, of course. But are prayers to God of no greater value? Who is it that suggests to the child of God that prayer is a useless form? Let us read the answer on page 59 of the book "Messages to Young People:" "Satan leads many to believe that prayer to God is useless, and but a form."

Satan well knows that if the child of God begins to neglect prayer, he will soon be cut off from the source of power and will be an easy prey to his temptations. Therefore he makes every effort to keep the followers of Christ away from the place of prayer, to keep their minds absorbed in less important things so that they may not lean upon the mighty Saviour for help and strength to resist the attacks of the enemy.

Nothing Is More Needed Than Prayer

In Volume VI of the "Testimonies," page 47, we read: "There is nothing more needed in the work than the practical results of communion with God." Notice these words, "The practical results of communion." Prayer is a mighty spiritual force. "It is a part of God's plan to grant us, in answer to the prayer of faith, that which He would not bestow did we not thus ask."—*"The Great Controversy," p. 525.*

No wonder Satan would lead us to believe that prayer is a useless form. He knows better than we do the mighty power of prayer. We are told that "at the sound of fervent prayer, Satan's whole host trembles."—*"Messages," p. 53.*

In the light of these statements it is evident that we need to understand more clearly the meaning of prayer. Prayer is not understood as it should be. "In the prayer of faith there is a divine science; it is a science that everyone who would make his lifework a success must understand."—*Id., p. 252.*

Here are five statements to show what prayer is not supposed to do (Id., pp. 247, 248):

1. "Prayers are not to inform God of something He does not know."
2. "Prayer is not intended to work any change in God; it brings us into harmony with God."
3. "It does not take the place of duty."

4. "Prayer . . . will never be accepted by God in the place of our time."

5. "Prayer will not pay our debts to God."

And here are ten brief statements to show the practical results of prayer in the life of the Christian:

1. "Prayer is the breath of the soul."—*Id.*, p. 249.

2. "It is the secret of spiritual power."—*Ibid.*

3. "Prayer brings the heart into immediate contact with the Wellspring of life."—*Ibid.*

4. Prayer "strengthens the sinew and muscle of the religious experience."—*Ibid.*

5. "The strength acquired in prayer to God will prepare us for our daily duties."—*Id.*, p. 248.

6. "Communion with God will impart a moral elevation to the character."—*"Testimonies," Vol. VI, p. 47.*

7. Prayer "is the effectual preparation for all labor for God."—*"Ministry of Healing," p. 58.*

8. "We may close every door to impure imaginings and unholy thoughts by lifting the soul into the presence of God through sincere prayer."—*"Steps to Christ," p. 104.*

9. "Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse."—*Id.*, p. 99.

10. Prayer "is the soul of religion."—*"Messages," p. 268.*

These are some of the practical results of prayer. How much we need to experience these results in our daily lives! Is it any wonder that the Lord should emphasize the fact that "there is nothing more needed in the work than the practical results of communion with God"? and that "no work for the church should take precedence of this"?

Let us consider for a moment the result of neglecting prayer:

1. "Neglect the exercise of prayer, . . . and you lose your hold on God."—*Id.*, pp. 249, 250.

2. "The spiritual faculties lose their vitality, the religious experience lacks health and vigor."—*Ibid.*

3. "The darkness of the evil one incloses those who neglect to pray. The whispered temptations of the enemy entice them to sin."—*"Steps to Christ," p. 94 (pocket ed.).*

4. "Without unceasing prayer . . . we are in danger of growing careless and of deviating from the right path."—*Id.*, p. 95.

5. "Unless this is so [unless we pray], we shall never be successful in . . . overcoming the power of temptation."—*"Messages," p. 248.*

In view of the "practical results" to be obtained in answer to prayer and the consequences if we neglect this most important spiritual exer-

cise, how dare we ever say that we have no time to pray? A great preacher once said, "If you are too busy to pray, you are busier than God ever intended you should be." Every sincere Christian would acknowledge that time spent in prayer is not lost. Someone has said, "If we prayed more, we could plow more."

Let us close with an inspired statement regarding the urgency of prayer: "If you expect salvation, you must pray. Take time. Be not hurried and careless in your prayers."—*Id.*, p. 132.

NOTE.—By standing, let the young people indicate their high resolve to keep the Morning Watch, setting aside a little time each day for communion alone with God. Then have the youth join in a season of prayer to close the meeting.

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Prayer

TRULY, "more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

At a gathering of artists, the question was asked, "How may one most quickly recover inner strength after a period of great exertion?" Different methods were suggested; but when Haydn, the great musical composer, was asked about his method, he said, "In my home I have a small chapel. When I feel wearied because of my work, I go there and pray. This remedy has never failed me."

Of a railroad engineer in Idaho, it was said that no life was ever lost on the train he was pulling. After one narrow escape, passengers rushed to him and thanked him for saving their lives; but he told them to thank God, for He it was who had protected them. "Whenever I climb into the cab," he continued, "I invariably say, 'Lord, this is your train, your business, and I am your laddie, working for you. These are your people. Help me to take care of them.'"

The sultan of Turkey, in 1839, decreed that not a representative of the Christian religion should remain in the empire. Doctor Godell came home to Doctor Hamlin, his fellow missionary, with the sad news: "It is all over with us. We have to leave. The American consul and the British ambassador say it is no use to meet with the antagonism of this violent and vindictive monarch." Doctor Hamlin replied, "The Sultan of the universe can, in answer to prayer, change the decree of the sultan of Turkey." They gave themselves to prayer. The next day the sultan died, and the decree was never executed.

All things are possible through prayer.—*"Alone With God."*

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SABBATH, MARCH 20

A Genuine Christian Experience

DURING this Week of Prayer Seventh-day Adventist young people in all parts of the world have been seeking God for a deeper Christian experience. How fitting it is that they should do this! The solemn hour in which we live demands of both young and old a genuine conversion. A head religion—an outward conformity to the will of God, a profession of religion alone—is not sufficient. We must be truly converted. Our hearts must be changed. We must be "born again" if we are to measure up to God's ideal for us, do the work that He has called us to do, share in the ultimate triumph of the third angel's message and the glorious reward that is promised to the faithful.

Many Not Truly Converted

YEARS ago the messenger of the Lord, Mrs. E. G. White, was shown the spiritual condition of the youth at that time: "From what has been shown me, there are not more than half of the young who profess religion and the truth, who have been truly converted. . . . Many are leaning upon a supposed hope, without a true foundation."—*"Testimonies," Vol. I, p. 158.*

What a tragic situation! "Leaning upon a supposed hope"! And many are in this condition today. They attend church and offer an occasional prayer; they appear to keep the commandments of God; they contemplate with pleasure the religion of Christ; but they are unconverted; their hearts are carnal. Their lives show no good fruit. They do not live the new life. They are making no advancement in knowledge and piety; they are Christians only in name. They are deceived. They regard sin lightly, taking pleasure in worldly enjoyment; they are careless, trifling, and indifferent. Prayer is neglected or engaged in spasmodically, and there is no craving for spiritual things. Of such it is written: "Names are registered upon the church books upon earth, but not in the book of life. I saw that there is not one in twenty of the youth who knows what experimental religion is. They serve themselves and yet profess to be servants of Christ."—*"Messages," p. 384.*

Surely these words should lead us to search our hearts to see whether we are truly converted or merely leaning on a "supposed hope." Do you who listen to these words know by experience what true religion is? Have you experienced the change of heart without which you can never enter the kingdom of heaven? Do you know

whether or not you are truly converted?

What are the evidences of true conversion? Are the feelings a safe criterion? Listen! "Satan leads people to think that because they have felt a rapture of feeling they are converted. But their experience does not change. Their actions are the same as before. Their lives show no good fruit. . . . They do not live the new life. They are deceived. Their experience goes no deeper than feeling."—*Id.*, p. 71.

How May We Know We Are Converted?

MANY young people are troubled over this question. When the clouds of temptation and trial hide the face of God; when they do not feel like praying; when they are not inclined to obey God; when they have no particular desire to testify for Christ; when it requires a struggle to resist worldly influences, they wonder whether after all they have ever been truly converted. How may we know that we are converted? Let us mention a few outstanding evidences of conversion for the encouragement of the youth around the world.

1. AN ABSOLUTE SURRENDER TO CHRIST.—Conversion is not a matter of feeling, or emotion, or desire, or inclination; but a decision to obey God at any cost. "Not my will, but Thine be done" is the fixed attitude of a true Christian.

The difference between one who is converted and one who is not, has been expressed as follows: The sinner says, "Thy way not mine, O Lord." The Christian says, "Thy way, not mine, O Lord." The sinner is determined to have his own way, whereas the Christian accepts God's way and God's plan for his life. "To have the religion of Christ means that you have absolutely surrendered your all to God and consented to the guidance of the Holy Spirit."—*Id.*, p. 30.

2. A POSITIVE REFUSAL TO GRATIFY ONE'S NATURAL INCLINATIONS.—"There is no such thing as following Christ unless you refuse to gratify inclination, and determine to obey God. It is not your feelings, your emotions, that make you a child of God, but the doing of God's will."—"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 515.

We are naturally inclined to follow Satan's suggestions, and unless our inclinations and desires and impulses are constantly under the control of the Holy Spirit, Satan will stir up our evil propensities and lead us to disobey God. "There are young men who will make a failure because they have not determined to overcome natural inclinations, and they will not listen to the voice of God in His word."—"Messages," p. 31.

"We sometimes hear the questions: Am I never to do as I please? Am I never to have my own way? Am I always to be restrained? Can I never

act in accordance with my inclinations?

"The less you follow natural inclinations, the better it will be for yourself and for others. The natural inclinations have been perverted. . . . Satan has brought man into collision with God."—*Id.*, p. 68.

Of course, it is much more pleasant to follow one's natural inclinations than to resist the insinuations of the enemy toward evil, but if we hope to win out in the conflict with Satan we must form the habit of following duty rather than inclination.

3. A CHANGED LIFE.—Some people point to an occasion when they felt

Fitted for Service

Oh, turn me, mold me, mellow me for use;
Pervade my being with Thy vital force,
That this else inexpressive life of mine
May become eloquent and full of power,
Impregnated with life and strength divine.
Put the bright torch of heaven into my hand,
That I may carry it aloft
And win the eye of weary wanderers
here below,
To guide their feet into the paths of peace.

I cannot raise the dead,
Nor from the soil pluck precious dust,
Nor bid the sleeper wake,
Nor still the storm, nor bend the lightning back,
Nor muffle up the thunder.
Nor bid the chains fall from off creation's long-enslaved limbs;
But I can live a life that tells on other lives
And makes the world less full of anguish and of pain—
A life that, like the pebble dropped upon the sea,
Sends its wide circles to a hundred shores.

May such a life be mine!
Creator of true life, Thyself the life
Thou givest,
Give Thyself that Thou mayest dwell in me, and I in Thee.

—Horatius Bonar.

a rapture of emotion—a great change in their feelings, and they think that this is an evidence of conversion. But there is no change in their lives. Are they converted? "When Jesus speaks of the new heart, He means the mind, the life, the whole being. To have a change of heart is to withdraw the affections from the world, and fasten them upon Christ. To have a new heart is to have a new mind, new purposes, new motives. What is the sign of a new heart?—A changed life."—*Id.*, p. 72.

4. STRICT HONESTY WITH GOD AND MAN.—"True conversion makes us strictly honest in our dealings with our fellow men. It makes us faithful in our everyday work. . . . 'Not slothful in business.' These words will be fulfilled in the life of every true Christian. Even though your work may seem to be a drudgery, you may ennoble it by the way in which you do

it. Do it as unto the Lord."—*Ibid.*

5. ENLISTMENT IN CHRIST'S ARMY.—No sooner is one truly converted than there arises a desire to work for Christ in the salvation of souls. "There is no such thing as a truly converted person living a helpless, useless life."—"Christ's Object Lessons," p. 280.

It makes no difference what one's occupation is, whether a farmer, a mechanic, a teacher, or a preacher, if he has consecrated himself wholly to God, he will become a worker for the Master. (See "Testimonies," Vol. VI, p. 423.)

6. THE OUTWARD LIFE—A WITNESS FOR CHRIST.—"If the heart is right, your words, your dress, your acts will all be right; . . . a Christian has victory over his besetments, over his passions."—"Messages," p. 131.

7. A LIFE OF PRAYER AND DEVOTION.—"I would not dishonor my Master so much as to admit that a careless, trifling, prayerless person is a Christian."—*Id.*, p. 131.

"Daily prayer is as essential to growth in grace, and even to spiritual life itself, as is temporal food to physical well-being. We should accustom ourselves to often lift the thoughts to God in prayer. If the mind wanders, we must bring it back: by persevering effort, habit will finally make it easy."—*Id.*, p. 115.

"After the union with Christ has been formed, it can be preserved only by earnest prayer and untiring effort."—*Id.*, p. 118.

We might mention other evidences of conversion, but these seven points are fundamental. Let us summarize them:

1. An absolute surrender to Christ.
2. A positive refusal to gratify one's natural inclinations.
3. A changed life.
4. Strict honesty with God and man.
5. Enlistment in Christ's army.
6. The outward life—a witness for Christ.
7. A life of prayer and devotion.

Let the youth measure their experience by these seven points and determine by God's grace to make a full surrender to Christ, to follow the path of duty rather than inclination, to experience by faith and surrender a complete change in the life, to be strictly honest and faithful in all things, to enlist in Christ's army on behalf of the lost, to bring the outward life into harmony with God's will, and to live a life of prayer and wholehearted devotion to God.

NOTE.—Let the young people consecrate their lives to God. Call for definite decisions for Christ.



TALKING is like playing a harp; there is as much art in laying the hands on the strings to stop their vibrations as in twanging them to bring out their music.—Holmes.

Lessons for Junior Missionary Volunteers

BY HAYES A. DAVIS

Suggestions to Leaders

THE thinking of our boys and girls is deeply stirred by these intense war days, and often the Juniors are confused and perplexed as to the meaning of it all. They find difficulty in harmonizing the expressions of hatred and violence with the principles of Christianity.

It is the purpose of these studies to turn the attention of the Juniors through the war terms which are constantly before them to the great spiritual warfare in which we are engaged, to help them to realize the importance of the part each must play in the final scenes of the great controversy, and to bring them to the point of full and complete surrender to God. In the Scriptures and the Spirit of prophecy many practical illustrations of the Christian's battle are drawn from the life of the soldier and the tactics of warfare. Many of these may be expanded beyond the brief sketches provided here.

The theme song, "The Captain Calls for You," No. 75 in "M. V. Songs," may be used effectively at the beginning of each meeting. This and the other songs suggested must be sung with full attention and enthusiasm if they are to fill their place.

At the close of the very first meeting there is a splendid opportunity to invite the boys and girls to place themselves squarely on God's side. Then as the series progresses, definite appeals can be made on various practical phases of Christian growth.

Junior leaders and teachers, we must feel a special burden during this week to bring our boys and girls into a closer relationship to Christ. Soon they will be on the very battle front against Satan's supreme assaults, where they must know their Bibles, experience real and prevailing prayer, and know Christ for themselves.

As a special preparation for presenting the lessons during this Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer, leaders will find much supplementary help in the following reading: "The Great Controversy," chapters 36 to 42; "Messages to Young People," sections 1 to 3; "Early Writings," pages 282 to 291.

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"LOOKING UNTO HIM," by Frank E. Gaebelein. Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1941). 208 pages. Price, \$1. This is a day-by-day book which contains a message for each day of the year—a message based upon the Bible.

MONDAY, MARCH 15

The Captain Calls for You

THEME SONG: "The Captain Calls for You," No. 75 in "M. V. Songs."

SPECIAL SONG: "Stand Up for Jesus," No. 61 in "M. V. Songs."

BLACKBOARD GEM:

"Christ is calling for volunteers to enlist under His standard, and bear the banner of the cross before the world."—*Messages*, pp. 24, 25.

TEXTS: Rev. 11:18; 12:17; Isa. 55:4; Heb. 4:15.

You have seen the soldiers marching, the long lines of army motors on the highways, the flocks of war birds in the skies. Yes, many of our Missionary Volunteers have already had their homes bombed or have lost loved ones in this terrible war that is



Which Side Are You On?

COME, children, and listen: I'll tell you in rhyme
A story of something that happened one time.

There was war in the land, and each
have heart beat high,
And many went forth for their country
to die;
But words fail to tell of the fear and
dismay
Which swept the small village of Warren
one day,
When the enemy's army marched into the
street,
And their own valiant soldiers were
forced to retreat.
Such hiding, surrendering, and trem-
bling with fear!
When what in the midst of it all should
appear
But Grandmother Gregory, feeble and
old,
Coming out from her cottage, coura-
geous and bold.
She faced the intruders who marched
through the land,
Shaking at them the poker she held in
her hand.
"How foolish!" her friends cried, pro-
voked, it is true;
"Why, grandmother, what did you
think you could do?"
"Not much," answered grandma; "but
ere they were gone
I wanted to show them which side I was
on."

Now children, I've told this queer story
to you
To remind you of something the weakest
can do.

There is always a fight 'twixt the right
and the wrong,
And the heat of the battle is borne by
the strong;
But no matter how small or unfit for the
field,
Or how feeble or graceless the weapon
you wield,
O fall not, until the last enemy's gone,
To stand up and show all which side
you are on!

—Anna R. Henderson.

spreading to every part of this old world like a great forest fire.

What does it all mean to us? As we study our Bibles, we find that this is one of the sure signs that Jesus' coming is not far away. Satan, knowing that he has only a short time to work, is causing men to hate each other and be more selfish.

It means, too, that God's work of saving men and women and preparing them for the earth made new is now to grow stronger and faster; for as the world gets darker and darker with sin, the gospel light is to shine out more clearly. In these last days Satan has declared war on God's people, and so there is a great battle on between good and evil—between those who serve God and those who serve sin.

Every Christian boy and girl, together with each person who is older, is being called to enlist in the army of Jesus. He is the great Captain of our salvation. If we do not enlist for God, we shall surely be taken captive by Satan and used in his army of destruction.

Can you see these two generals? Satan is rallying around his black banner millions of men and women who have been following him. Other millions he is capturing every day by his nets of bad habits, such as drink and tobacco and appetite. He promises big pay and a good time to all his soldiers, but in the end he makes slaves of them, and he knows they will all go down with him to eternal defeat.

On the other side, Jesus is calling for volunteers to carry His glorious banner of love to all the world. He tells us that we shall meet with great difficulties, that there are hard battles to fight, but He promises to go with us, to give us strength to conquer, and to share with us His throne in everlasting victory.

In a time of battle it is worth everything to have a leader upon whom one can depend. Wellington feared Napoleon, for he said that the presence of Napoleon was worth more than forty thousand troops. He was such an inspiration to his men that when he stood with them and ordered them to battle, they would never question his judgment, but would obey implicitly. When we have Jesus as our Captain, we can always be sure that His commands are right. He has never lost a battle or made a mistake.

Some leaders in time of battle send their men to the front lines where shot and shell are bursting, while they themselves stay far back in some well-protected dugout and telegraph their orders to the front. Not so with Jesus. When He went to the cross, He met Satan on the front lines alone. He does not ask us to do anything that He has not done, and He says, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Can we be sure of winning if we join on Christ's side? As sure as God is the great Ruler of this universe;

as sure as the stars are in the heaven; as sure as the Bible is true; as sure as we give ourselves completely to serve Jesus as our Captain, we will win.

Boys and girls, this is the greatest test of our lives. This is the grandest opportunity that has ever come to Juniors. In this great army there is no age limit. Boys and girls will stand in the most important positions to witness for the King of kings. There is an important post of duty waiting for you. The other day I saw a soldier on guard duty near an isolated airfield back in the mountains. Was his work important? Whether he realized it or not, his work may have been just as necessary to victory as another soldier's out on the battle front. The important thing is for us to join the right side and show our colors wherever we are.

(Read poem—"Which Side Are You On?")

Who will say today, "I want Jesus to be my Captain and Leader," and will step over by His standard? Who will say, and mean every word of it—

"By the grace of God,

I will be pure and kind and true.

I will keep the Junior law.

I will be a servant of God and a friend to man?"



Christian Warfare

YOUR own heart is the battlefield for which you are first and foremost responsible. God has given you control of it. You must determine who shall have possession. Look in now and make sure who is entrenched within the citadel. Is Jesus there? Others will know, for if He is there you will be pure, kind, courageous, cheerful, unselfish, and eager to win souls. You will daily grow more like Him.

If He is not there, the first thing to do in this Christian warfare is to demand of the enemy within, an immediate and unconditional surrender of your heart to Christ. If you sincerely request this, he *must* decamp, and Christ *will* come in. But remember this is just the beginning of the struggle.

Set it down as a fact that temptations will not cease. Your enemy is not dead. He is defeated, but he will besiege your heart, and try in every possible way to get you to prove traitor to the new Friend to whom you have given possession. Your part is not to fight the battle, but to study your new General's orders, to obey

them implicitly, and never to interfere with His campaign plans.

The enemy is ever changing his tactics. He has been at this infamous warfare for six thousand years, and you can never hope to keep him out of your heart alone. Do not regard any temptation as dead. Be on guard! And remember new and unexpected temptations are ever emerging from unsuspected sources. When certain temptations lose their power over you, he finds others to use. If he cannot load you to do some great wrong, he will try to entice you to be careless in little things. If he sees you are determined to be a Christian, he will try to make you narrow and fault-finding; he will lead you to judge unkindly those who do not think just as you do; he may try to rob you of your humility by making you proud of being humble. He will be sure to work hard to make you believe that you cannot be a soul winner; and he will work hardest of all to make you feel that you are too busy to take time daily to be alone with God and His word, for he knows that if he succeeds here, he has gained a strategic place in your heart.

So be on guard and keep up your courage. Satan sends temptations to discourage you; but the Lord permits them for you to overcome through Christ. Never dally with temptations, never invite them, but make each temptation an opportunity to gain a new victory, to re-enforce yourself for greater struggles, to let Christ prove in your life that "He is able to keep you from falling."

You may be victorious in every attack of the enemy. Christ overcame; He vanquished sin; and He will repeat that victory in every human heart that will admit Him—in your heart and in mine. . . .

Other Christians will cheer and help you along the way; but now and then there will be battles that you and Jesus must fight all alone, so never let even one known sin separate you from Him. Keep close to Him always, and your Christian warfare will be a series of unbroken victories.—*Matilda Erickson-Andross.*



"BEHIND every cloud there is a silver lining, and beyond every Red Sea there lies a promised land."

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

God's Training Camp

THEME SONG: "The Captain Calls for You," No. 75 in "M. V. Songs."

SPECIAL SONG: "Onward, Christian Soldiers," No. 67 in "M. V. Songs."

BLACKBOARD GEM:

"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!"—"Messages," p. 196.

TEXTS: Rom. 6:16; Ex. 20:12-20; Ps. 139:23; Gen. 39:4; 2 Tim. 2:3, 15.

BEFORE a soldier is ready to go into battle, he must spend months or even years in a training camp. Do you have a brother or some good friend who has entered the Army? Then you know something about life at these training centers. You may have visited one of them and seen the long rows of barracks where the soldiers live, their floors shiny clean and the grounds spick and span. You have seen the men on the drill field, marching in perfect step, and heard the officers ring out their commands. How does it happen that there is such perfect order and that everything clicks like a clock? It doesn't just happen. Week after week and month after month of intensive drilling, strict discipline, and hard work are the secret. Only with such a training could those soldiers hope to be successful in battling the enemy. That is what makes them soldiers.

Do you think it is just as important for Christian soldiers to be drilled and trained? Yes, when we enter God's army, we, too, must go to training camp. Instead of being far away, it may be right in our own homes or in school where we are to drill, for our Captain can be with us anywhere and give us our instructions through His word, the Bible.

One of the first lessons a soldier must learn is to obey and respect his leaders or officers. When the command, "Attention!" is given, he does not ask why or hesitate. Immediately he stands erect, chin in, eyes forward, arms to his side, and silently waits further instructions. "Forward March!" and in perfect formation and cadence the line moves on.

Our great Commander has given us ten commandments which are our standing orders. They are the rules which should guide our every thought and action. We should memorize them and follow them faithfully. Jesus, whose life was in perfect harmony with these commands, is our example. If we are ever in doubt as to whether anything is right or wrong, let us ask ourselves the question, "What would Jesus do if He were in my place?"

(Repeat the ten commandments in concert.)

As we go along in our training, we shall receive special orders and instructions. Our Junior Law is a part of these. We are to obey our parents and teachers, for they are training officers that our Captain has placed over us. Then Jesus speaks to us by His Spirit. We call it conscience. Never should we disobey the voice of our conscience. As we obey these orders cheerfully and quickly, we shall find joy in doing right and being a soldier in Jesus' army.

Have you noticed how neat and trim a soldier always looks? His hair is neatly cut and combed; his uniform is cleaned and well pressed; his shoes are shined; and his face and hands are clean. Yes, each day he must stand in line for inspection, and every point is checked. His barracks must be clean, his bed properly made, his clothes hung neatly in his locker, and his shoes cleaned and in proper line at the foot of his bed. Are not all these things even more important for Christian soldiers? "Order is heaven's first law," and "cleanliness is next to godliness." As our Captain inspects us each day, He sees not only our clothes and our bodies, but He sees our hearts as well. We should not have about our homes or in our hearts anything or any thought that we would be ashamed to have Jesus see and check.

Every soldier has to learn the lesson of co-operation. He must be ready and willing to do "his honest part," from scrubbing barracks floors to peeling potatoes or washing dishes. That is something we can all learn right in our own homes. Filling the woodbox, preparing dinner, hoeing weeds, or sweeping floors—these may seem to us like unimportant things, but they are often the test of our mettle. It was attention to just such trivial and lowly tasks that made Joseph and Daniel and Naaman's servant girl real heroes and heroines for God in days of long ago, and it will be our faithfulness in these same things that will make us ready to take our places in the thrilling days before us.

A soldier would be of very little use if he did nothing more than march in dress parade. He must learn to use his weapons if he is a combat soldier, or if he is a noncombatant, such as a nurse, he must learn how to care for the sick and wounded.

Christian soldiers must not only be good, they must be good for something. Our business is to save souls, to tell them of Jesus and His love, and to show them the way to eternal life. First, we must be real Christians ourselves. We must be acquainted with our Bibles through studying the Standard of Attainment and through daily study of our Sabbath school lessons. Then we must know how to be helpful under any circumstances. This is why vocational honors and nature study are a necessary part of our J. M. V. training.

When you are asked to take a part

in Missionary Volunteer meeting, don't say, "I can't;" like a good soldier, say, "Yes, sir, I'll try." Don't be satisfied with learning *how* to do a good turn; *do* it wherever and whenever you can. Follow John Wesley's rule:

"Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can."

If you are prepared, your opportunity will surely come. If you are not prepared, that same opportunity will pass you by.

Follow the King

WHAT can a Junior chap do
For his country and for you?
What can a Junior chap do?

He can shoo all that's mean;
He can keep himself clean,
Both without and within.
That's one good thing he can do.

His soul he can brace
Against everything base,
And the trace will be seen
All his life in his face.
That's a very fine thing he can do.

He can look to the Light;
He can keep his thoughts white;
He can fight the great fight;
He can do with his might
What is good in God's sight.
Those are excellent things he can do.

And in each little thing
He can follow the King.
He can follow the Christ—the King.
—John Overham.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

Battles We Must Win

THEME SONG: "The Captain Calls for You," No. 75 in "M. V. Songs."

SPECIAL SONG: "Hold the Fort," No. 62 in "M. V. Songs."

BLACKBOARD GEM:

"Death before dishonor or the transgression of God's law, should be the motto of every Christian."
—"Messages," p. 80.

TEXTS: Eph. 6:10-18; Matt. 4:1-11; Prov. 16:32; Matt. 6:13.

GREAT decisive battles are being fought today in many parts of the world, on land and sea and in the air. Millions of brave, strong men are giving their lives to defend their country's flag.

The Christian soldier does not use a gun or sword; he does not take lives, but he must fight real battles. His mission is to save lives. Jesus said, "The Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." Luke 9:56. Our enemy is Satan, and we must fight against the forces of sin, against wrong habits and influences. In Ephesians 6:10-18 we are told about this warfare and the kind of ammunition and armament we must have (read or mention).

What do you think is the greatest battle of all history? Maybe you are thinking of Waterloo, where Napoleon was defeated, or the battle of Verdun in the first World War, in which nearly a million men lost their lives, or more probably you are thinking of the recent battle of Moscow or the siege of Stalingrad. Here is the correct answer in "Steps to Christ," page 43 (pocket edition): "The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought."

How can we fight with ourselves? How this may be done is illustrated in the story of Alexander the Great. Alexander is considered one of the greatest military leaders of all time. Nation after nation fell before his armies, until nearly all the civilized world was under his dominion. He is said to have wept because there were no other worlds to conquer. But one battle he had failed to win—the battle with his own self. He did not conquer his own world of appetites and habits, and this failure spelled defeat for him even in his worldly ambitions. In his pride and willfulness he gave himself over to drunken carousals with bad companions. Finally, on one such occasion, he drank so much wine that he died as the result, and his kingdom was divided. When he was only thirty-two years old, with all the world at his feet, he lost the only battle which really counted. Can we call him truly great?

At about the same age Jesus fought a battle in the wilderness of temptation. His enemy was Satan; His sword, the word of God. There He gained a victory that has meant life for millions of others. "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."

Every moment of every day we must be on guard duty, for temptations will come to us at the most unexpected moments and in the most unlooked-for ways. When we come face to face with a temptation to do wrong, it is easy to weaken and compromise. It takes a real hero to fight it out and win. Satan tries to tell us that we cannot win, so what use is there to try. Then we must remember that we are not fighting the battle alone. God has promised to give us all the help we need, and if we will stay on His side, He will not let us fall.

"Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness, and relies wholly on the merits of the Saviour. God would send every angel in heaven to the aid of such a one, rather than allow him to be overcome."—"Messages," p. 94.

In worldly battles the soldiers use all kinds of weapons: cannon, machine guns, tanks, bombing planes, torpedoes, submarines, and battleships, according to which will be most effective. It makes no difference what method is used, as long as the battle is won. Some battles have been won without the firing of a gun.

Satan is constantly studying how he may overcome us, and he chooses the temptations which he knows will surprise us. An innocent-looking "white lie" or covered dishonesty, or careless language will suit his purpose just as well as some terrible crime, if only we fall. We must learn to hate sin in any form as we would poison, to give it no quarter, and never to retreat.

One of Satan's first methods is camouflage or deception. Have you ever noticed that the theater and the drinking parlors are usually the best-lighted places in town? To attract people to his soul-destroying cinemas and dances, he makes use of the finest music and the most wonderful inventions of science. He would have us believe that sin is beautiful and enjoyable.

Have you heard the story of the Trojan horse? According to this ancient Greek legend, the city of Troy had been besieged for many months, but without success. The enemy had hammered their battering rams against the gates; they had attempted with their ladders to scale the walls and had catapulted great stones into the city, but to no avail. At last a clever suggestion was made. They brought from Greece one of their best sculptors to design and superintend the construction of a great wooden horse so large that a whole company of soldiers with their equipment would be concealed within it. It was mounted on wheels so it could be easily moved. One morning the watchmen on the towers were very much surprised to find that the army had withdrawn during the night, and as they looked out across the bay, they could see the white sails of their ships as they were apparently heading back for their homeland. They were still more amazed to find at the city gates, as if waiting to be let in, the great wooden horse. One lone old man was left with it, and as the people came out to see him, he told them that his people had decided to stop their fighting, and instead had left this token of their good will. When they tried to bring it into the city, they found the gates too small, so they tore down the bricks to make a gap large enough to get it through. That night the soldiers who had been inside the horse came out and, with signal fires, called the ships at sea to return. By morning the army was back again in full force, and, with the wall broken down, they easily took the city.

Let us not allow the forces of evil to get any "Trojan horses" inside our gates. "So far as in us lies, we should close every avenue by which the tempter may find access to us."—"Messages," p. 70. Do not be fooled by the devil's camouflage.

There is another battle I like to think about in this Christian warfare. It is the battle to carry this gospel message to all the world. Our great Commander has given the orders:

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matt. 24:14.

The missionaries who have gone out to the far corners of the world to give this gospel message, are among the world's greatest heroes. See David Livingstone pushing his way into the uncharted jungles of the Dark Continent and dying on his knees for those he loved. See William Carey in India and Adeniram Judson in Burma, carving a way into those fortresses of heathenism. Then think of the hundreds of faithful soldiers of the cross who have pushed on into nearly every country on earth with the cheering message of Jesus' soon coming.

In spite of war and persecution, in spite of Satan's efforts to stop its onward march, this great battle for the saving of souls is going on till the work is done.

Would you like to be a missionary? You can be. Someday you may have the privilege of pushing back some frontier in a heathen land. But until then you can be a faithful soldier right where you are. "There's fighting all along the line."

We can all help to keep God's flag of love flying over the fort. He has given us to hold for Him. During the weeks and months that the fortress of Corregidor at the entrance to Manila Bay was being pounded by enemy bombs and artillery fire, the Stars and Stripes kept flying. During one of the heaviest bombardments the flag was shot down from its staff. In the torrent of shot and shell a brave soldier took the rope in his teeth, climbed to the top of the staff, and soon "Old Glory" was waving proudly again.

Let us always be proud to witness for Jesus and stand up bravely for the right, even though to do so may cost us our lives.



PERSECUTION in its varied forms is the development of a principle which will exist as long as Satan exists and Christianity has vital power. No man can serve God without enlisting against himself the opposition of the hosts of darkness. Evil angels will assail him, alarmed that his influence is taking the prey from their hands. Evil men, rebuked by his example, will unite with them in seeking to separate him from God by alluring temptations. When these do not succeed, then a compelling power is employed to force the conscience.—"The Great Controversy," p. 610.



THE more you know God, the more beauty you will see.—*Ruskin*.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

Sealed Orders

THEME SONG: "The Captain Calls for You," No. 75 in "M. V. Songs."

SPECIAL SONG: "Missionary Volunteers," No. 83 in "M. V. Songs."

BLACKBOARD GEM:

"Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate."—"Steps to Christ," p. 70 (pocket ed.).

TEXTS: Prov. 3:5, 6; Isa. 50:4; Mark 1:35.

THE other day I watched a great gray transport ship, loaded to the limit with soldiers and equipment, pulling away from the wharf and out toward the open sea. Where were they going? I don't know. Neither did any of those hundreds of soldiers on board, for they were under sealed orders. Only the very highest officers knew their destination or their mission. Did the soldiers complain and grumble because they did not know all about it? No, they realized that their own safety and the success of the expedition demanded secrecy, and that those in responsibility would do the best thing for them.

The game of "sealed orders" is most interesting. Possibly some of you have carried out sealed orders at Junior Camp or on some field trip. A series of instructions is prepared by the leaders, perhaps in first aid or in woodcraft. Each stage of the instructions is placed in a sealed envelope and numbered. The leader of the group is given the envelopes but must not open them except at designated locations. As the group completes the instructions in envelope number one, they move on to the next location where number two is opened, and so on until the destination is reached.

While we always have our standing orders which we have already studied about, there are also special orders that come to us as Christian soldiers every day—definite things for us to do and places where we are to go. These are our "sealed orders."

We cannot see into the future. Each day is like one of those sealed envelopes, and as we open it, we shall find many surprises. When we wake up in the morning, what is the first thing we should say to Jesus, our Captain? "This is your servant reporting for duty. What do you want me to do today?" Then as we open our Bibles and read our Morning Watch text, we find our message of inspiration.

Still we do not see everything we are to do that day. Our orders will unfold as we go ahead, and God will lead us in His service. All through the day we must keep in touch with God through prayer, so that we may know what to do.

"Calling car No. 3. Calling car No. 3. Go to Fourth and Pine. Traffic

accident." You recognize this at once as a police patrol radio call. Every minute of the day that an officer is on duty he must have his radio tuned to headquarters so that he can receive his instructions. If he should tune in to some news report or some entertaining program, he might fail to hear his orders, and lives might be lost because of his failure. In just the same way we may keep in tune with heaven every minute so that God can speak to us.

Abraham was a rich man who lived in a luxurious and prosperous town in the valley of Mesopotamia, where the city of Babylon was located. One day God spoke to him, "Abraham, I have a special work for you to do. You are to leave your beautiful home here and go to a land that I will show you." Abraham didn't know where he was going, but the record says he obeyed. These were his scaled orders. The important thing is not where he went or how, but that he obeyed. Because of that he is known today as the "father of the faithful."

When you are tempted to complain or question when you know what God wants you to do, remember the story of Joe:

"Why must I do it, Mother?" whined Joe.

"O Joe, if you would only obey without always asking why!" sighed his mother.

Here grandfather put down his paper and looked over his spectacles.

"Unless you do, my boy, you'll never be like your Uncle Joe," he said.

"Wh—" Joe started to say, but managed to change it into, "What do you mean, Grandfather?"

"I'll tell you a story about him," his grandfather said. "It happened the first summer we spent down at the island. Uncle Joe was about your age then, and was just learning to float before he could swim more than a few strokes by himself; still he could get along pretty well with my hand under his chin. Well, one day, to give him confidence, I took him out into deep water. I was a strong swimmer and thought there was no danger, but just when we got well out, I happened to look back to shore. Well, I hope I shall never be in such a tight place again. There was nothing for it but to leave Joe floating right there. To take him back with me would have taken too long, and he couldn't swim back by himself. Everything depended on his obeying me without question.

"Joe," I said, "I've got to leave you; don't ask why. I'll come back just as fast as I can. Don't struggle; don't lose your nerve; just float until I come back. Can you do it, old man?" He didn't ask why. He didn't struggle or ask questions. He gave a little frightened gulp at first, but then he stiffened right up. 'I think so, Father,' he said. And so I left him and swam away—well, faster than I shall ever swim again, certainly."

"O Grandfather, what had happened?" Joe gasped.

"Your mother, who was only a little thing, had run away from her nurse and tumbled into deep water. I got her just in time; but it was thanks to your Uncle Joe that I did."

"O Grandfather! What did he say when you got to him again?"

"He just gave another of those funny little gulps of his, and said, 'Hello, Father!' He didn't know, of course, why I had left him. I gave him his gold watch the next day. If he hadn't obeyed me absolutely, if he had struggled or clung to me and asked me why, either your mother or he would have been drowned." Joe started for bed without any more "why's."

This morning as we think of what it means to be witnesses for Jesus in these important days, let us say our Junior Law together with new meaning—especially that part about the Morning Watch. No matter how busy we may be, we cannot afford to leave our room without taking time to get our marching orders.



A Moment in the Morning

A MOMENT in the morning, ere the eares of day begin,
Ere the heart's wide door is open for the world to enter in—
Ah, then alone with Jesus, in the silence of the morn,
In heavenly sweet communion, let your duty day be born.
In the quietude that blesses with a prelude of repose,
Let your soul be soothed and softened, as the dew revives the rose.

A moment in the morning, take your Bible in your hand,
And catch a glimpse of glory from the peaceful Promised Land.
It will linger still before you when you see the busy mart,
And like flowers of hope, will blossom into beauty in your heart.
The precious words, like jewels, will glisten all the day
With a rare, effulgent glory that will brighten all the way.

A moment in the morning—a moment, if no more—
It 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 of love,
And walk in heaven's pathway and the peacefulness thereof.

—Arthur Lewis Tubbs.



CERTAINLY in our little sphere it is not the most active people to whom we owe the most. . . . It is the lives like the stars, which simply pour down on us the calm light of their bright and faithful being, up to which we look, and out of which we gather the deepest calm and courage.—Phillips Brooks.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

Victory Parade

THEME SONG: "The Captain Calls for You," No. 75 in "M. V. Songs."

SPECIAL SONG: "We Shall See the King Some Day," No. 96 in "M. V. Songs."

BLACKBOARD GEM:

"He is elected who will put on the armor, and fight the good fight of faith. He is elected who will watch unto prayer, who will search the Scriptures, and flee from temptation."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 208.

TEXTS: Rev. 1:7; Matt. 16:27; 1 Thess. 4:16, 17; John 14:1-3; Rev. 15:2, 3.

THERE is something thrilling about a parade: men in uniform marching in perfect step, bands playing, beautifully decorated floats, flags flying in the breeze, and crowds cheering. The most magnificent parades of history have been those celebrating victory, such as the great Roman triumphs of ages gone by or the Armistice Day celebrations after the last great war.

The most wonderful parade of all, though, is to be put on when the victory is won over sin, and Jesus comes to this world to take His faithful soldiers home to the New Jerusalem, the capital city of the universe. We are each invited to join in this triumphal procession, and don't you think we ought to be looking forward to this trip more than we have ever looked forward to any other in our lives?

When Jesus comes to this earth again, He is not coming as a babe in a manger or as a meek, lowly pilgrim. He is coming as King of kings and Lord of lords. Words cannot describe the glory that will break upon this old world when He comes with millions of shining angels. We shall see the great procession coming, first faraway like a bright cloud in the sky, but as it nears the earth, the glory will increase until all the world is flooded with dazzling brightness many times brighter than the noonday sun.

It will be a joyful occasion to all those who have been faithful to God and have looked forward to Christ's coming, for there they will see for the first time the One who died on the cross for them and to whom they have prayed for victory over sin in their lives.

As trumpets sound their silver notes, Jesus calls to life those who have been faithful unto death, and they rise from their graves with glorified bodies to join the shining ranks. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

This will be the beginning of the great parade to heaven. On a clear

starlit night we can look up into the sky and see thousands of stars. Through our telescopes we can see more clearly the planets, Jupiter and Saturn—the one with its moons, the other with its beautiful rings—and the milky way with its myriads of shining suns. Can you imagine this great triumphant procession going right up through all those beautiful corridors—the streets of the sky—and you in it? Doubtless we shall pass in review before the sinless inhabitants of some of the unfallen worlds. We do not know, nor can we imagine, the exact route we shall travel; but since the “open space in Orion” is known to be the place through which the New Jerusalem will some day descend; it is probable that our journey to heaven will be through it also. Astronomers, as they point their powerful telescopes toward the Orion nebulae in which is found that “open space,” tell us that it is one of the most wonderful mysteries of the heavens. This is really a great lighted avenue through the universe, surrounded by millions of stars and decorated with lacy, gaseous light of different colors. The entrance of this great street is so large that ninety thousand rings the size of the earth's orbit, with our sun in the center of each, could be placed side by side across it and still there would be room to spare. The depth of the giant cavern is estimated to be at least three times that width, or fifty-one trillion miles. This is the way Professor Larkin of Mount Lowe Observatory once described the splendor of that avenue: “Human speech is impotent. Pen of writer, brush of artist, alike are lifeless and inert in any attempt even to describe this interior. Mammoth Cave glories in Kentucky, illuminated by electric lights, are so beautiful that words cannot adequately describe them. What, then, should be said of the mighty cavern in the depths of Orion's nebulae? Torn, twisted, and riven masses of shining gas, irregular pillars, columns, and stalactites in glittering splendor, and stalagmites rising from the mighty floor! The appearance is that of light shining and glowing behind Herculean walls of ivory or pearl, and these, studded with millions of diamond points—shining stars.”

As we come before the New Jerusalem, a great investiture service will be held. We have all attended investiture services and many of us have received our Friend, or Companion, or Comrade pin. In this service Jesus Himself takes charge and bestows the honors. Here is the description of this service as given in “The Great Controversy,” pages 645, 646:

“Before entering the city of God, the Saviour bestows upon His followers the emblems of victory, and invests them with the insignia of their royal state. The glittering ranks are drawn up, in the form of a hollow square, about their King, whose form rises in majesty high above saint and

angel, whose countenance beams upon them full of benignant love. Throughout the unnumbered host of the redeemed, every glance is fixed upon Him, every eye beholds His glory whose ‘visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.’ Upon the heads of the overcomers, Jesus with His own right hand places the crown of glory. For each there is a crown, bearing his own ‘new name,’ and the inscription, ‘Holiness to the



Not Just Enough

Not just enough of peace
Will satisfy my soul,
But peace of heavenly measure,
Abundant and full.

Not just enough of love
To share with those in need,
But love that's overflowing
In kindly word and deed.

Not just enough of patience,
When tried and tried again,
But filled with Thy sweet spirit
To serve my fellow men.

Not just enough of courage
To meet my daily task,
But strength and joy in service,
This is what I ask.

Not just enough of faith—
I full of faith would be,
That I may live on mountain heights
And gain the victory.

Not just enough—ah! more than this,
Enough and then to spare,
If I would bear my daily cross
And be a conqueror.

—Bertha Morris-Wilkins.



Lord.’ In every hand are placed the victor's palm and the shining harp. Then, as the commanding angels strike the note, every hand sweeps the harp strings with skillful touch, awaking sweet music in rich, melodious strains. Rapture unutterable thrills every heart, and each voice is raised in grateful praise.”

After the procession has passed through the pearly gates into the city, the most thrilling event of all takes place. We see the throne of God, and before it a great sea of glass with the glory of God reflecting in it. There are gathered the company of those who have witnessed for God loyally through this last great battle between right and wrong. Who will be there? Yes, I know many Juniors will be there—many young people, as well as older ones, who have witnessed and lived for God, who have been valiant soldiers. What do they do? They sing a victory song to which all the universe will listen with rapture, for no one else can sing that song. It is the song of Moses and the Lamb.

When that parade is ended, we shall not go back to our earthly homes but

to our new eternal homes. There we shall meet those from whom we have been separated in this world by death or other circumstances. There we shall meet with the faithful of all ages; and best of all, we shall talk face to face with Jesus Himself. There where no disappointments or sin will come in to mar our happiness, we shall spend eternity, earning new nature and vocational honors and doing all manner of interesting things. “There every power will be developed, every capability increased. The grandest enterprises will be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations will be reached, the highest ambitions realized. . . . All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's children. With unutterable delight we shall enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings.”—“Education,” p. 307.

We can see the signs fulfilling that tell us that Jesus' coming is very near—“even at the door.” Soon the victory procession will be made up. Do you want to be sure of a place in that great parade? Jesus has sent a personal invitation to you. (Read John 14:1-3; Rev. 22:12, 14.)

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It is by beholding that we become changed. And as those sacred precepts in which God has opened to men the perfection and holiness of His character are neglected, and the minds of the people are attracted to human teachings and theories, what marvel that there has followed a decline of living piety in the church. . . . It is only as the law of God is restored to its rightful position that there can be a revival of primitive faith and godliness among His professed people.—“The Great Controversy,” p. 478.

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THERE are certain conditions upon which we may expect that God will hear and answer our prayers. One of the first of these is that we feel our need of help from Him. He has promised, “I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground.” Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, who long after God, may be sure that they will be filled. The heart must be open to the Spirit's influence, or God's blessing cannot be received.—“Steps to Christ,” p. 95, pocket edition.

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God offers to every mind the choice between truth and repose.—Emerson.



Department of Education



Featuring Home and Parent Education in the
Home and School Association and the Christian Home Council

Hobbies

HOBBIES are as varied as individuals. It would be as impossible for me to choose yours as for you to select mine. A hobby is *personal*—an outward expression of something in which one finds pleasure aside from his regular work.

This month we present a few possibilities to parents, for they are the ones who introduce their children to this fascinating diversion. The interest created by a hobby in childhood or youth, many times determines the future career or adds pleasure throughout life. For a boy it may be books, photography, radio, electricity, woodwork, chemistry, mechanics, collecting different articles, with various crafts growing out of nature study. Girls will more often find their interest in collections of various things, as pins, dishes, spoons; in sewing or other handwork; or in the study of birds, flowers, or other phases of nature. Hobbies may and should be educational as well as entertaining, or recreational.

If your children have not already shown definite choice with regard to hobbies, it is your privilege and duty to lead and direct them in a choice which may have a definite bearing on their future.

Hobbies need not be expensive to afford real joy and satisfaction. Often the greatest reward comes from that which costs only effort and ingenuity. Find out what interests your child; then develop that line if possible. If money is needed at times to carry on the project, let the child earn what he needs to spend on his hobby. It will be much more appreciated, and the experience will be valuable in itself.

As you plan your program this month, an excellent opportunity is afforded for a hobby exhibit in connection with your Home and School meeting.

FLORENCE K. REBOX.

What's Your Hobby?

EVERYBODY should have one. The person without interests outside his work is ingrowing, irritable—a loss to his country and himself. So find yourself a hobby road that leads somewhere. Here are some guideposts.

The basement workroom. It is Mr. Fuller's philosophy that everyone engaged in an always demanding business such as his, needs a constructive hobby to keep his mind and body in balance. Being handy with his hands, he had already done a good deal of odd-job home carpentry when, some time ago, he decided to turn his hobby to real account by building, all by himself, a recreation room in his basement. This, he figured, would not only provide him with the relaxation and change of occupation he sought, but also lead to something of permanent value and usefulness. . . .

We know that if you practice what we preach on the subject of wood-working, you'll reap rich rewards. Not only can you develop a hobby that is entirely worth while for its recreational value, but you can add materially to the personality of your home, and to its comforts. . . . Don't feel that to undertake building furniture you must be a trained cabinetmaker, either, for there are projects possible for the amateur carpenter.

Be your own weather forecaster. It is not only logical but advantageous to know something about weather (which is simply the condition of the atmosphere at a particular place for a definite time); about climate (which is an accumulation of weather for any place or region); and about meteorology (which is the name of the complex science, or study, of weather). Not that you need expect to become an expert meteorologist, but you *can*, within limits, foretell what the weather probably has in store within the next day or so—provided you will

carefully and regularly observe and compare daily variations in *temperature, wind direction and force, atmospheric pressure, and humidity*, as shown by thermometer, weather vane (a flag or a smoke chimney will serve), barometer, and humidity gauge, or psychrometer. Adding to this the observation of conditions you can see—especially the clouds—will not only sharpen your powers of observation and open your eyes to new interests, but will also enable you to do some fairly close forecasting, to your own satisfaction and the envy and admiration of friends. The moon and stars are dependable as prophets of tomorrow's weather; but clouds are the most helpful and reliable of weather signs for amateurs.

Clay modeling: career making. From preschool to high-school age, they love modeling. "Our most popular backyard activity," says Mrs. Eyraud of Bakersfield, California, "is clay modeling; and it's a wonderful answer to the familiar 'Mother, what can I do now?' For a dollar I bought at a local brickyard 100 pounds of fire clay, which I keep ready for use in a five-gallon crock with a heavy wooden cover. To prepare, I put about fifteen pounds in a gunny sack, tie securely, and immerse in water until saturated; then hang up until dripping stops; then put in the covered crock. When the clay is ready to work, we 'wedge' the needed quantity by throwing it repeatedly against a plaster-of-Paris 'bat' (a flat square plaque molded in a cake tin, on which to do the modeling), or any smooth cement or board surface until all air bubbles are driven out and excess moisture is absorbed. We don't waste scraps or discarded pieces, but save and resoak them for future use.

"Tables, stools, and 'bats' are kept under the trees for our and the neighboring children to use whenever they wish. Fruits and vegetables are easy to model into paperweights or table decorations; but often the children prefer to make original funny faces, mounted on high collars. The pieces are not fired but painted with calamine, poster paint, or rich water-color paint mixtures, not washable. Modeling is fun, but who knows when it will unlock the treasure chest of a budding, undiscovered genius? One of our cleverest clay workers is also a fine mechanic. He's on his way!"

A children's library. Realizing the tremendous opportunities for helping,

Hobbies

HOBBIES may and should be both recreational and educational. The possibilities are as limitless as humanity. We give but a few pointers on the way.

Related material is given in certain lessons of our new Parent and Home Education courses, as noted:

Course No. I, Home Education:

Lesson 7—Christian Recreation

Course No. II, Education of the Little Child:

Lesson 10—Clothing; Recreation

Course No. III, Home Education of the School Child:

Lesson 5—The Girl-Woman

Course No. IV, Social Education of the Adolescent:

Lesson 3—Recreation and Work

Home and School Association leaders who desire detailed program suggestions may write to their conference educational superintendents.

guiding, and inspiring that mark the work of a librarian, we find a real thrill in the story of Carol, whose hobby not only has a fine service record, but suggests future possibilities.

When Carol was eight, her daddy (himself a confirmed bookworm) brought her a lot of books. Already she loved books, liked to handle them, enjoyed the contents and wonderful illustrations found in the modern juveniles. When little girls in the neighborhood asked to borrow her books, she began by keeping notes on those lent and returned; but soon she found she would have to have a regular file and complete record system. So, starting with about 150 volumes, she began to lend them to about thirty "subscribers." Her mother helped write up the regulation library cards and make file lists, but Carol kept track of the books, checking them out and in, and in the evening straightened things out and put up labels to indicate the different kinds of books. A card envelope was pasted inside each book, and a supply of two kinds of cards obtained. One, for the subscriber, is filled out with the name, serial number, address, and telephone number; the other bears the title and author of the book. This remains in a book while it is on the shelves; when the book is borrowed, it is stamped with the date due and the name and number of the borrower, whose card, also dated, goes into the book pocket until the volume is returned. It is a simple enough system, but stimulating and fine training.

Now, after three years, Carol has a constantly growing library of 250 "subscribers," an assistant (to check out books, take care of returned volumes, and help the little children make their selections), and a very firm place in the affection and admiration of all who know her. The children all try to take good care of her books, often wrapping them in newspaper on rainy days. They appreciate the informal, homey atmosphere of the library, too. Girls often bring their knitting or other handwork and sit around the fire, chatting. Why not more such libraries, run for children by children?—*Maude Sumner Smith.*

"*Sisters of the Skillet.*" Let your man cook his way to fame, maybe not fortune, but let him have fun making dishes which he enjoys and you will surely like. Many a man has started his cooking because of a superlative desire to re-create a dish which was superlative to him. One man says his real interest in food started when he was a youngster of ten years. Another was born with an unshakable love for the woods and waters of the Northeast. He is an artist at the game of camp cookery; his cooking fires are scientifically constructed of just the right kind of wood; his timing, perfect. Still another, the way he tells it, probably never would have turned into a wild-grape-jelly fiend if it hadn't been for the sport of get-

ting the grapes for his mother back in his short-pants days.

Samplers. A lot of people seem to think that a hobby, to deserve the name, must be nonproductive; an activity carried on wholly and purely for fun and the pleasure of the moment, with no expectation of lasting results or reward. We don't feel that way; never have. There are countless hobbies in which women have found joy, relaxation, an outlet for pent-up energy and emotion, and the various returns that hobbies are counted on to provide; but which have also yielded rich treasures, home accessories, things to keep or give—all objects that will become increasingly valuable through the years.

Samplers can combine information, history, and sentiment. The very making of such record will bring the added thrill of reliving many happy occasions.

Candle-dipping. At one time it was a regular household task; no longer necessary, it is now fun, easy, and costs practically nothing once you can locate an old candle mold or have one made by a local tinsmith. Wicks can be cut from soft white wrapping cord, though regular cotton wicking is better; and the actual material can be either tallow, paraffin, beeswax, spermaceti, or the result of brewing bayberries—which also produce an alluring fragrance. Other odors can be inexpensive volatile oils to the melted wax.

Block printing. A happy hobby. Seeking something distinctive for her new living room, one lady decided to act on her husband's suggestion and "make her own." Ideas for designs are everywhere at hand—but choose a simple one with bold lines to start with. It's a task—and pleasure—to work out the enjoyable details of this creative artistry.

Hooked rugs. To many, a news picture of Bonneville Dam suggested only plentiful, cheap electricity. Mrs. Faber saw in it a pictorial hooked rug. An eye for the artistic will find design suggestions all about.—*Condensed from The American Home, August, 1942.*

A Lesson in Order

A MOTHER writes about her experience in training her little boy in habits of order:

"As a child I was taught very little about order, and what I did learn was through magazines. But I want our child to learn it while young, and I know that the right example is necessary.

"I have a box with shelves in it where he keeps his toys. When he is tired of playing, I take his hand and show him how to carry his toys to the box, and then walk to and from it with him until they are all put away.

"He has a regular time for meals and for going to bed. Every morning after washing his face, I give him a little toothbrush, and I have another. Then I wash his teeth; and when I finish, he tries to do it himself."—*From Review and Herald, May 6, 1915.*

Blind Detours

BY LILLIAN VELIE DUNHAM

"I AM in despair about Marjorie. She is the most obstinate child I ever knew. She seems to oppose every plan I suggest to her," sighed Mrs. Blain to her neighbor, Mrs. Porter. "Did you have a contrary child to cope with in your family?"

"Why, certainly," was the quick answer. "I think nearly every mother of two or three children may count on at least one headstrong little rebel."

"Then would you please tell me how you managed to deal with your difficult child?"

"To begin with, one should try to avoid an open clash with an obstinate child. He resists enforced obedience and, in most cases, makes plenty of trouble for the parent," began Mrs. Porter. "Nancy gave me many anxious moments when my will interfered with hers. I found it so difficult to gain her co-operation that I decided something must be done about it. Often she seemed to object to all suggestions for her behavior, so I knew I had a serious task."

The guest became serious. "You must have solved the problem in some way. Just what did you do to gain control over the child?"

"I decided to avoid open rebellion on Nancy's part, if possible. I did not wish to break her will or to dampen her initiative. To mold her will without friction was my aim. The result was accomplished by taking a different route with Nancy. I called it my 'blind detour.'"

"A 'blind detour'!" objected Mrs. Blain. "Usually they are hateful things. You come upon them unexpectedly, and they take you out of the way, always on a longer route that is poorly paved."

"Exactly. All those things are true of my detour, too; but they also get you where you want to go, and that is what I accomplished with Nancy. I dropped the subject she was opposed to and began talking or doing things interesting to her. When her mind was on something new and inviting, and she was finding it pleasant to agree with me, then gently I would lead up to the thing she did not like. Nearly always I found her willing to co-operate; in fact, she often enjoyed doing so after her interest was aroused."

"Would making cookies and letting Marjorie help or sewing new doll clothes or having a tea party for two or three, be 'blind detours'?" asked Mrs. Blain.

"They certainly would. Just make a list of ten things Marjorie likes to do, and you will find any one of them most acceptable when you wish to change her route. She won't know she is on a detour, but you will. And you'll enjoy the 'trip' as well as Marjorie."—*Condensed from Home Department, 1939.*

The Home Museum

BY M. LOUISE C. HASTINGS

SOMETIMES it seems that as parents have grown out of childhood, they have forgotten what childhood meant to them and have lost the understanding heart toward experiences that are character-building agencies in a child's life. What is the answer?

I wish to bring out the value of having our children interested in outdoor life, and in the possibilities that may grow out of our willingness to have them bring things home and make different collections and set up home museums which, perhaps, the whole family shares in making.

We all have our individual hobbies and interests, and, of course, each is more interested in his own than in another's. When you are studying about the research in the Gobi Desert, why should you care about a few pieces of granite that Johnny has just found? Why? Because you are father or mother, or some other member of the family, and in order to make the home life what it should be, each one is bound to the other to give of himself generously in interest, love, and service. And when we fail in these obligations, the family loses a "togetherness" that is very precious.

"You must come up to my son's room and see his many collections," a mother said to me when I called one day, several years ago. The room was a sight! Oh, it was orderly and clean, but there were several kinds of birds' nests, trays of stones and rocks, a collection of blue-print leaves of many different trees, and so forth. All were interesting and worth while and, best of all, the mother was not only interested but she urged the interest of the whole family in everything there. That boy, now a university graduate, is doing research work somewhere in Africa. You see, you never can tell what a home museum will do to benefit minds that are reaching out to find themselves!

The next thing I've got to have is a microscope," a boy said to me not long ago. "I've already begun to save for it."

"Why do you want a microscope?" I asked.

"Well, you see, my brother and I have a museum up in the attic. We want to use a microscope to see flies' wings and the inside of leaves and such things. We have a club, and all the boys in the neighborhood belong. Each one brings things for our museum. Our teacher is interested and takes us on hikes."

Of course, if mothers care more for perfect housekeeping than for perfect homemaking, this article will not appeal. If they feel that it is more important to have the child's room, or the attic, or the cellar, in spic-and-span order than to have it "mussed up" with outdoor things, something very precious is going to be lost from the life of the home. We keep close

to our children by caring for the things they care for.

Let us provide some suitable place in the house where the children may keep their silken cocoons, and let us be with them when the miracle of springtime shows the beautiful moths emerging. Also let us make frequent visits with our boys and girls to the nearest children's museum, that we may talk about the marvels seen there.

It is well for children and grown folk to spend time out-of-doors, studying the secrets of nature. Time is never wasted when nature is our teacher!

If You Don't Like to Sew

BY MARILYN MADISON

WHEN I find a woman who says she hates to sew, I immediately want to see her sewing tools. Invariably she has dull, "chewy" shears, and is minus scissors and a tape measure. She is bound to have coarse, inferior sewing threads and "bargain" needles that stick in the fabric as if they had first had a bath of glue. Her thimble is too small, and that also is sticky. One or all these things you are sure to find in the sewing basket of the woman who hates or avoids sewing.

Such a woman would save money, find real fun for herself, and have prettier clothes if she would discard all her equipment and start anew with:

1. A good pair of steel shears, seven to eight inches in length.

2. A good pair of steel scissors, with sharp points, and blades three to five inches in length.

3. A substantial, accurate, sixty-inch tape measure that begins with number 1 at each end.

4. A six-inch rule for use at the machine for measuring hems, spacings, etc.

5. All-steel dressmakers' pins, size No. 5.

6. Fine steel, hand-polished needles, sizes 5 to 10, with extra packages of Nos. 7 and 8. Also crewel needles for carrying heavier threads.

7. Black threads in sizes 40, 60, 80, and 100; white threads in sizes 24, 40, 60, 80, 120, 150, and 200; colored sewing threads that have been matched with samples so that colors are correct for the purposes.

There should also be bias bindings and tapes in various colors and textures; hooks and eyes and snap fasteners of good quality in usable sizes. All these essentials to a good sewing equipment are trifles in cost, but important if a woman is to enjoy sewing and get gratifying results.

A maker of fine cabinets or a renowned artist is satisfied only with the best tools of his trade. Why shouldn't a woman, working to create beauty, take care to supply herself with the tools that will secure success for her effort and joy in the work at the same time?

[These same rules apply as you teach your daughters to sew.—ED.]

Good Taste

BY RUTH L. FRANKEL

KATHERINE was nine. She had just arranged some flowers that one of her mother's guests had brought.

"Where shall I put them, Mother?" she asked.

"Anywhere you like, dear," her mother answered. "You have very good taste, and I am sure we shall enjoy them in the place you select."

Katherine stood a moment studying the room, then placed the blue vase of pink roses on a window sill where the combination contrasted pleasantly with the tan curtains.

Anne was also nine. She passionately hated purple and all its "relations," and protested vigorously whenever she had to wear a lavender gingham dress.

"What can you know about it?" snapped her mother. "This is a very nice style, and I think it is pretty."

Anne, sobbing, vowed that never, if she had a little girl, would she make her wear anything she disliked, however pretty she herself thought it.

Children have individual preferences and tastes, sometimes bad; but the wise mother never forces her own personality on her children. She wishes them to be able to decide wisely, so lets them choose whenever she can.

Katherine, selecting a place for the flowers at nine, will at twelve or thirteen appreciate harmony of color in furniture, hangings, and all kinds of things. Her mother is helping her to develop good taste and, more important, confidence in her own judgment.

Anne, forced to give up her own preferences for her mother's, later on will very likely question her own judgment and be slow and dubious about any decisions she has to make, because her mother impresses upon her the depressing conviction that her opinions are so utterly worthless and unreliable that they must simply be ignored. Later she will bewail her child's lack of taste, for which she is to blame; while the wise mother will have the double satisfaction of worthwhile accomplishment and pleasure in her daughter's artistic ability.—*Issued by the National Kindergarten Association.*

❖ ❖

Question.—Yesterday my five-year-old brought a small stone from the back yard and placed it in my bureau drawer on a lace handkerchief. I opened the window and threw that stone as far as I could. I am willing to have him collect things of value and beauty. How can I turn his attention from these common stones?

Answer.—When you threw that stone out the window, you threw something precious from your little son's life. He doesn't care to collect postage stamps nor antiques—only stones. Go right out and find the stone and give your boy a place to keep it, though out on lace necessarily—he cares nothing for lace. Consider for a minute the uninteresting men and women you know. I wonder whether their hobbies were not laughed at in childhood.—*Clipped.*

Home—A Project

BY ETHEL PUFFER HOWES

THE home that is truly "homemade" by the family grows in charm. Parents who are given to complaining that the schools, particularly the public schools, give no scope for their children's individual interests, may well consider what their children would really want to do if they were left alone. Dick would spend a holiday from dawn to dark making pens and cages for his rabbits, if you would let him. Tommy wants the day off for a hike in the swamps after butterflies and moths for his collection. Jim would like to browse for hours in the public library and bring home the books he wants to read—not his school assignments. Marian begs for permission to use the rest of her allowance on a horse from the riding school, or eagerly calls up "the girls" for doubles in tennis at the school or neighborhood playground courts.

Shall parents encourage all this? Or perhaps your children have developed no engrossing, self-activating occupations. Maybe they just mope around, and "What shall we do, Mother?" turns into "Let's go to the movies," because there seems so little opportunity about the house or apartment to undertake anything vital.

May there not be a way which will tie up these insistent drives with home interests and home memories, and at the same time furnish the lagging and passive an incentive to activity? Suppose we can get our children to think of home as an entity which the family can bring into being, make attractive for ourselves and our friends—and their friends—then each one can find within it scope and opportunity for his own talents and interests. Dick, who loves to carpenter for his pets, may take interest and pride in fitting out living room, study, or den with bookracks, window flower-boxes, end tables. He will pass many happy hours in responsible enterprises, and the home place will have charming and useful objects for which you are indebted to him—and he and you both will remember them.

You can't maintain for Marian a horse or a tennis court at home, but a good part of her athletic enthusiasm is her delight in activity with other lively girls. With this stimulus of companionship, she may also get a thrill out of making for the house a new set of chintz covers and curtains—or even in simply "redding up," arranging flowers and ornaments in preparation for having her own special intimates in for a self-run afternoon or evening gathering.

But it is in considering the week-end problem of children who have no spontaneous interests, that the value of the home as an encourager of talents fully appears. Your children may be passive and apathetic for want of insight on your part, or for want of a real motive. They may

have at least minor talents from which they could draw much pleasure—if given a bit of a push. Jane enjoys pictures; perhaps some lessons in water colors would give her pride and pleasure in producing modest sketches which will be hung in your guest room. Jack did excellent modeling in school, and his turtle was deemed good enough for the exhibit. Why not install a table and jar of clay in his room? He will scoff at your desire to put his "stuff" on the living room mantle—but will take more interest and pride in his work and in the room where it finds a place.

Family gardening is a delightful occupation. Encourage the children to study the catalogues with you, help choose the shrubs, bulbs, perennial seeds, and help make the layout for grouping them effectively. The whole garden—"the place"—then is as much theirs as yours. They will feel a personal responsibility for it, and affectionate pride in its beauties.

Nor is it only special individual interests and talents that come to flower in the service of the home. Even bothersome and humdrum tasks have drawing power when it is a matter of home pride. A Boy Scout friend came back from a long-planned trip because he remembered that there was no one else at home to mow the lawn, and he "had to have the place looking decent for the Fourth of July parade."

Children love a charming home; they love to help make it so; and they love best of all having their own special pleasures and chosen occupations welcomed, appreciated, and needed in it.—*Condensed from Child Study.*

Give Him a Hammer and Saw

Don't buy him a sword and a gun,
Whose purpose on earth is to kill;
Don't teach him that murder is fun,
Or something the bosom to thrill.
Don't send him to valley or hill
To slaughter the dove or the daw;
A lesson in youth to instill—
Just give him a hammer and saw.

Just give him some timber of pine;
Just give him a bundle of boards,
And teach him to follow a line.
And teach him a builder's rewards.
Oh, better than rifles or swords,
Than stilling a song or a caw,
The thing that he fashions affords
The boy with a hammer and saw.

He'll work like a beaver, the boy.
He'll learn like the wisest again
The tree of the woods to employ:
He'll fashion a house for the wren,
He'll make you a trinket, and then
He'll figure and study and draw.
He'll learn all the lessons of men,
If you give him a hammer and saw.

So teach him to work and to plan
The pleasure that laboring brings.
So make him a builder, a man,
And not a destroyer of things.
For closer the artisan clings
To family, country, and law
Than soldiers or swordsmen or kings—
So give him a hammer and saw.
—Douglas Malloch.

Helps From Magazines

BY PERLEY R. WADE

As a family we are great magazine readers and have a variety of magazines from the *National Geographic* and *Atlantic Monthly* to the ones for the little children.

After the periodicals have been read, they perform a varied service. The children's magazines and the *National Geographic* are filed intact, as they are often used for entertainment or reference. The others are carefully taken apart and are filed in various boxes under "pictures," "poems," "stories," "recipes," "household hints"—anything worth saving—each box marked with the title of its contents.

When, in studying geography, the children wish to use pictures of certain lands, an informative article can usually be found in the *Geographic*, and often other pictures to go with it will be found in the picture box.

When they have a story to write, and not an idea in their heads about it, they go to the picture box for one that will give them a topic.

As the busy housewife has time, she tries various recipes from the box, and if they prove satisfactory, transfers them to her recipe file.

During the year a use is found for almost everything in the magazines—covers, many of the advertisements, etc., until we all have the habit—when in search of material for any purpose—of turning to our magazine boxes to find it.—*Home Department.*

Suggestions for Birdhouses

BY CHARLOTTE C. JONES

THIS is a good month for the manufacture of homes for returning spring birds. Almost any small wooden box makes a good beginning, and can be nailed to a board back or directly to the barn or garage, in a sheltered place where vines are scheduled to put in their leafy appearance later in the season. Your box will want a sloping roof to shed the rain, and a few tiny holes bored in one end as windows to let in the light, and a larger one, but not too large, for the entrance. If you are inviting wrens, the opening should be not much over an inch in diameter. If you wish to use the same house again next year, hinge one side of the roof or the back or bottom so that it can be cleaned out.

Do not bother to apply a fresh coat of gaudy paint; birds much prefer an obscure, rustic exterior. Twigs or birch bark would be more suitable, and can be applied to both roof and sides if desired. Bark may be used over a tin can, using the cut end pushed back into place and secured at the bottom in order to drain out any rain which may blow in at the doorway. Or a round oatmeal box or carton may be made waterproof with birch bark. A twig placed below the entrance will provide a perch. —*Pilgrim Elementary Teacher.*

The Church Officers' Gazette

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ARE YOU MOVING?

You should notify us in advance of any change of address, as the post office will not forward your papers to you even if you leave a forwarding address. Your compliance in this matter will save delay and expense.

A Woman's Devotion

"We were to spend that night within a few yards of the place where Mrs. Livingstone died. Late in the afternoon we reached the spot—a low, ruined hut a hundred yards from the river's bank, with a broad veranda shading its crumbling walls. A grass-grown path straggled to the doorway, and the fresh prints of a hippopotamus told how neglected the spot is now. Pushing the door open, we found ourselves in a long dark room, its mud floor broken into fragments, and remains of native fires betraying its latest occupants. Turning to the right, we entered a smaller chamber, the walls bare and stained, with two glassless windows facing the river. The evening sun, setting over the far-off Morumballa Mountains, filled the room with its soft glow and took our thoughts back to that Sunday evening twenty years ago, when in this same bedroom, at this same hour, Livingstone knelt over his dying wife and witnessed the great sunset of his life.

"Under a huge baobab tree—a miracle of vegetable vitality and luxuriance—stands Mrs. Livingstone's grave. The picture in Livingstone's book represents the place as well kept and surrounded with neatly planted trees. But now it is an utter wilderness, matted with jungle grass and

trodden by the beasts of the forest; and as I looked at the forsaken mound and contrasted it with her husband's tomb in Westminster Abbey, I thought perhaps the woman's love which brought her to a spot like this might be not less worthy of immortality."—Henry Drummond.

South American Doors Wide Open

NEVER before have people been more anxious and ready to hear the good tidings. Never before have earth's inhabitants been so stirred by present-day happenings. They want to know "what these things mean." Never before has our attractive literature been more appealing to the public eye. Never before have our colporteurs had a more golden opportunity to present the message of salvation in the various countries of the South American Division through our truth-filled literature.

The manager of a busy book and magazine store in La Paz, Bolivia, asked the writer and another missionary, "Do you represent the Adventist Mission?" On learning that we did, he said, "Send your *Atalaya* magazine representative here immediately. I do not want to miss a single copy of this very best of all magazines." On the trains we see fellow passengers discard other reading matter when they can secure Adventist literature explaining the prophecies.

In the attractive city of Manaus, Brazil, situated on the Amazon River, I saw a very influential businessman board the boat with the book "The Great Controversy" under his arm. During the following four days he read two thirds of the book. When asked if he found it interesting, he exclaimed, "This is the best and most interesting book I have ever read. And the magazine, *O Atalaia*, for which I subscribed along with the book, is just as good. This is lifesaving literature."

With a world on fire, God's people have indeed been called to act as lifesavers. Christians will backslide if they do not engage in active, soul-winning labor. Listen: "Where there is no active labor for others, love wanes, and faith grows dim."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 825. An unparalleled opportunity offers itself today. An American businessman, who worked many years in Brazil, said recently,

"The task of lifting the moral and spiritual standards of the Brazilian people rests with you Adventists. You need two hundred mission launches on these rivers instead of but two. You need hundreds of schools where now you have one. You need hundreds of persons to sell your wonderful literature where now you have one." Does that not sound similar to several of Mrs. E. G. White's statements?

In each South American republic, doors are open to Adventist literature. The sale of gospel literature is increasing. In the city of Manaus, which is one thousand miles from the mouth of the Amazon River, a student-colporteur recently sold 18 *contos* (\$900) worth of the wonderful book, "The Great Controversy," completing this work in about ten weeks' time. The sale of Bibles is rapidly increasing. Some Bible societies find difficulty in providing Adventist colporteurs with enough Bibles to fill their orders. The sale of fiction is on the decline. The sale of spiritual literature has come into a new day.

During the recent vacation period, practically all student colporteurs in Chile sold the large subscription book, "The Desire of Ages," and sixteen earned their scholarships.

During recent months, our bookmen in Brazil have sold about 8,000 copies of "The Great Controversy," and 17,000 copies of "Dawn of a New Day," in addition to thousands of small books, such as "The Life of Jesus," and "Prophecy Speaks," and thousands of copies of the *Atalaya* magazine (comparable to the *Watchman*).

J. C. CULPEPPER.

AFTER the battle of Agincourt, in 1415, Henry V wanted to acknowledge the divine interposition. He ordered the chaplain to read from the Psalms. When the words were read, "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory" (Ps. 115:1), the king descended from his horse, all the cavalry dismounted, and the great host of officers and men threw themselves down on their faces in thankfulness for the victory obtained.

Shall we not bow before the Eternal, and give praise to Him who endured the cross, despising the shame, that we might claim victory through His name?

ROBERT HARE.