

# The Church Officers' Gazette

Vol. 30

DECEMBER, 1943

No. 12



## Young People's Department of Missionary Volunteers



### NOTES TO OFFICERS

#### Following Up the Week of Prayer

**L**EADERS of youth in the church, that is, M. V. Society officers, should never forget the challenge of the following statement found in "Gospel Workers," page 210: "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."

Young people who have just recently given their hearts to Christ should be integrated into the life of the church and the young people's society. Let the society officers counsel with the church elder regarding ways in which these new converts can be used in the church and in the service. Arrange for them to join some society band and to obtain a personal experience in Christian service.

There are perhaps other young people who have surrendered their hearts to God but have not been baptized. Let the members of the society executive committee take a personal interest in these. Pray for them and encourage them. Associate them in some prayer band and see that they are enrolled in a baptismal class. If your church does not have a pastor, perhaps some mature young person with a well-grounded Christian experience could conduct this baptismal class. Some years ago a girl organized a Prayer and Personal Workers' Band, which won fourteen people to the truth. These people were so thor-

oughly instructed in the principles of the advent message that all the minister had to do was to examine them and baptize them. For Juniors, there is the inexpensive "Baptismal Manual for Juniors," a copy of which should be put in the hands of each Junior enrolled in the baptismal class so that he can make preparation for the regular class study. The "Senior Studies in Bible Doctrines" is a good outline for a Senior young people's baptismal class. Both of these pamphlets are procurable through your Book and Bible House.

A. W. P.

#### Binding Off the Year's Work

THE society executive committee should plan to receive an annual report from the various society secretaries—the secretary-treasurer, the devotional and educational secretaries, the social secretary, the band leaders, and any others who have been assigned to a particular task by the society executive committee. Before the year closes, all record books should be brought up to date and copies of reports sent on to the conference M. V. secretary. If there are any unpaid bills, these should be paid. Certificates should be requisitioned from the conference M. V. secretary for those who have finished such courses as the M. V. Reading Course, the Bible Year, or the Spirit of Prophecy Reading Course. If there are Juniors or Seniors who have finished their requirements in the different Progressive Classes, plans should be made for an investiture. Counsel with the conference M. V. secretary regarding the completion of the Junior and Senior Progressive Class work in your society.

Good leaders are good finishers. Therefore, let the work of your society be bound off.

A. W. P.

#### Enrollment Day

THE M. V. Society executive committee should lay large and definite plans for M. V. Society Enrollment Day. Missionary Volunteers constitute that splendid group of youth around the world from whom are recruited those heroic pioneers who blaze new trails in mission fields. Therefore M. V. membership is a meaningful relationship and the central thought for Enrollment Day should be "World Fellowship." Let the pledge be featured in this meeting. It would be well in a society which is not too large if the roll could be called and if each member came forward and signed the new society membership registry. Let this be a time of enrolling new members also. Not only is the M. V. Society a world fellowship but also a friendly fellowship with the local society. Make much of and make meaningful M. V. Enrollment Day, which comes January 1, 1944.

A. W. P.

#### Morning Watch

DECEMBER is the time for a vigorous promotion of the circulation of the Morning Watch Calendar. The Morning Watch is that quiet time in the morning with God without which no soul can grow sturdy and robust in its Christian experience. Therefore, see that every member of the M. V. Society and every young person connected with the families of the church has a Morning Watch Calendar. Plan with the pastor of the church for an announcement of the Morning Watch and urge the placing of a Morning Watch Calendar in every family at least, though every individual member of the family who is able to read ought to have his own copy.

(Please turn to page 7)



## Senior Meetings

December 4

### The M. V. and His Tithe, Offerings, and Church Expense

BY M. V. CAMPBELL

#### Notes

The topic for today is the last in the series on Helping the Church. We hope that today, if he has not done so before, every Senior will realize his duty and privilege in respect to tithe, offerings, and church expense. The M. V. is responsible not alone to his church but to his God.

For further reading and study: "Messages to Young People," Section X, "Stewardship."

### The M. V. and His Tithe, Offerings, and Church Expense

In studying our financial obligations to God and to the church, we may well review a parable which the Lord related while here on earth. (Read Luke 12:16-21.)

This story is frequently called the parable of the foolish rich man. He was not foolish because he made provision for his own future. His folly consisted in the fact that he was covetous. He wanted all his increase for himself. He laid up treasures for himself and was not rich toward God. Covetousness is often considered an aristocratic sin, a dignified, borderline sin. God, however, regards it as one of the worst sins. He lists covetousness with other sins of the deepest dye. (Read Ephesians 5:5.)

The man in the parable was selfish. God did not reprove him for building more barns, but He did feel keenly the fact that the man forgot his partner—God. God furnished the rain and the sunshine without which no grain would grow or come to maturity. (Read Deuteronomy 8:17, 18.)

The foolish rich man planted, reaped, sold, and built granaries. He put all the money in his pocket. He was a robber. He ignored God, his partner. God is a wonderfully generous partner. He does not ask for an equal share of the increase. He furnishes most of the capital but asks for only one tenth of the returns. The robbery of his partner brought a fearful punishment to the foolish rich man. God said, "This night thy soul shall be required of thee; then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" The man was dependent upon God not only for his financial wealth, but also for every breath and every heartbeat. If God had neglected him even a trifle he would instantly have suffered illness. When God totally neglected him as a result of his total neglect of God, the man's life ceased to exist.

God does not punish every covetous and selfish man as He did this one, but it is certain that thousands, even millions, of people are suffering from the curse of God because of their selfishness and their systematic robbery of God. These people might just as well have the blessing of God rather than His curse if they would but recognize the claim of their partner and give Him the portion which is His due. In Malachi 3:8-10 God sets forth both a curse and a blessing. We may all choose which we will receive. (Read text.)

The rewards which we receive from the Lord because of faithfulness in

tithing are not always measured in silver and gold. They are not always received in this life. In the new earth, however, those who are faithful in this life will walk on streets paved with gold. Their houses will be built with gold and garnished with precious stones. But thousands, even in this life, have received rich financial returns through faithfulness in the payment of tithe.

Jacob, when he left his home, fleeing from the wrath of his brother Esau, was a penniless exile with only a staff in his hand. He had no pillow for his head but on his journey slept in the open and used a stone for a pillow. While thus destitute of any earthly wealth he made a promise to God, "Of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee." Gen. 28:22. Let us notice the result. Turning to the thirtieth chapter of Genesis (verse 43), we find him a man of wealth and day by day his riches were increasing. He had remembered his partner, God. He had kept his promise and of all that God gave him, he returned to the Lord one tenth.

God is a partner who will help you. Earthly partners will stand by you while you are in prosperity, but frequently they will leave you in adversity. We are promised that God will be with us whether things are well with us or whether we are in trouble. (Read Psalms 50:14,15.) Here we are reminded that if we pay our vows to God as Jacob did, then when we are in trouble we may feel free to call upon God and He will deliver us. This is a wonderful promise which should greatly encourage the tithpayer.

What is the tithe? This question is answered in Genesis 28:22. "Of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee." The tithe is one tenth of all that we receive. When a soul first accepts the truth he may also pay tithe on his substance. (Prov. 3:9, 10.)

Our substance is property, real estate, our interest in a business, our bank account, our securities, or it may be a farm, stock, and machinery. We may honor the Lord by tithing all or any of this which we possess as well as our increase, which consists of salary or commission or interest on money which is loaned, or the net income of a farm or business. Let us honor the Lord with our substance as well as with our increase and God has promised that if we do so our barns will be filled with plenty. No man has ever profited financially by withholding the tithe which belongs to God.

"Whenever God's people, in any period of the world, . . . robbed God in tithes and in offerings, they were made to realize that they were not only robbing Him but themselves; for He limited His blessings to them, just in proportion as they limited their offerings to Him."—"Testimonies," Vol. III, p. 395. We have the choice of going through life with God pouring out His blessings upon us, or we may rob Him and have His curse.

#### OFFERINGS

When we have given the Lord our tithe we are not generous to Him. We are merely giving Him what is already His. In addition to our tithe we should give free-will offerings generously from the nine tenths which remain. The Bible is full of admonitions to us to give free-will offerings. At the close of the parable of the foolish rich man Jesus said, "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

To be rich toward God we should give Him not only our tithe but our offerings as well. No man is made poor by his offerings to God. (Read Proverbs 11:24.) We should recognize our responsibility to

support the local church to which we belong. . . . None of us could worship in a church with joy and happiness knowing that other members pay all the expense involved. Even though we may not be as wealthy as other members of the church, we should even from our poverty give some offering to church expense, and through sacrifice assist in the world-wide mission program of the denomination.

Liberality is not a natural trait. "Liberality is not so natural to us that we gain this virtue by accident. It must be cultivated. We must deliberately resolve that we will honor God with our substance; and then we must let nothing tempt us to rob Him of the tithes and offerings that are His due."—*Id.*, Vol. V, p. 271.

Jesus does not count the generosity of our offering by the sum which we contribute, but by the amount we have left after making the contribution. The mites of the poor widow indicate that it is not the size of our offering that brings God's approbation but the willingness and gladness with which we give it and the proportion which its value bears to what we have left.

It should be a great pleasure to each of us to pay our tithe regularly and to give our offerings liberally. We should remember that we are giving both our tithe and our offerings to Jesus.

\*\*\*

December 11

### A Heavenly Land

BY LEE CARTER

#### Order of Service

SONG: "My Jesus, I love Thee," No. 43 in "M. V. Songs."

SCRIPTURE READING: Rev. 22:1-5, 14.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

REPORT OF MISSIONARY WORK.

OFFERTORY.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN SERVICE.

SPECIAL MUSIC or "I'll Be a Voice," No. 40.

TALK: "Our Society Conducts Its First Meeting."

BIBLE STUDY: "What and Where Is Heaven?" (See Notes.)

TALK: "A Free Home."

APPEAL by Leader.

PRAYER OF RECONSECRATION.

SONG: "Meet Me in the Homeland," No. 108.

BENEDICTION.

#### Note

In order for this program to be a success, all parts must be brief and thoroughly prepared. The M. V. Crusader's Bible Course may be secured from your conference Book and Bible House. The lesson "What and Where Is Heaven?" should be used as a basis for the Bible study. If possible, use the new M. V. Crusader's film on this study.

### Our Society Conducts Its First Cottage Meeting

GEORGE BROWN is a "live wire" in our local M. V. Society. Two weeks ago while distributing temperance numbers of the *Youth's Instructor*, he met Mr. Smith, a railroad employee, who manifested an interest in what George was doing by asking various questions relating to youth and the problem of intemperance. In the conversation, George referred to the Bible teaching that drunkards cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.

"I guess nobody knows where heaven is, or what it is like," said Mr. Smith, "but it certainly wouldn't be a decent place very long if they let 'boozers' in." Then George saw an opportunity.

"Say, Mr. Smith, you should see and hear our illustrated Bible study on the subject 'What and Where Is Heaven?' The young people's society to which I belong has a film strip showing Bible texts and pictures, and, well, it just makes heaven and the new earth real and easy to understand."

"Where can I go to see it?" queried Mr. Smith.

"If you like, a few of us can come over some evening when you are at home and show it to you right in your own house," said George.

"Fine!" was Mr. Smith's reply. "I am home three nights a week. How about next Thursday evening?"

"We shall be glad to come," George responded.

We surely had a wonderful time. We were a bit nervous at the beginning, but the Smiths were so friendly we soon felt at home with them. Marjory's suggestion that we sing their favorite hymn for them was well taken, and then it was just natural to suggest that a few moments be spent in prayer before we began the study about heavenly things. George proved to be a good master of ceremonies; William handled the machine perfectly. I made one or two blunders in my Bible study. I know I should have done better and am determined to improve next time. Oh, yes, the Smiths invited us to continue with these Bible studies every Thursday evening.

We are so glad George found this family, and it seems we can hardly wait for our next appointment. We do hope we can lead these people to the truth. And really, our whole society is interested in this undertaking and is showing renewed interest in finding other souls for whom we can labor.

NOTE.—The above article was written by I. C. Pound, the president of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. It was not his purpose to recommend that the subject "What and Where Is Heaven?" be used as the first topic necessarily for a series of cottage meetings.

## A Free Home

It is natural for the human heart to long for a home—a beautiful building surrounded by trees, flowers, and rolling pastures and fertile fields. Not so many years ago word went out that many sites for just such homes were going to be given away in a certain part of our country called the Indian Territory. President Harrison issued a proclamation that at noon on April 22, 1866, the territory known as the Oklahoma District was to be opened for settlement.

Tens of thousands of home seekers flocked to the boundary line of this district. A few minutes before noon on the day designated by the President, a great mass of humanity surged back and forth in front of the boundary of this new territory. The people were waiting impatiently for the signal to be given when they could rush in and seek out their home sites. They had heard many interesting stories of this wonderful country, and they were eager to find a home in this better land. As the signal sounded, a shout went up from the throng, and the seething mass of humanity lunged forward. Men on foot, on horseback, on bicycles, in wagons, were hurrying across the country in search of that beautiful spot they had envisioned as their future home. Scores lost their lives in the mad rush and the fights that followed. Some picked out beautiful home sites, but many failed.

Christ our King has proclaimed that soon, yes, very soon, another territory is to be opened for settlement by the inhabitants of this world. Those who have been privileged to view this heavenly land bring thrilling reports of its beauties and wonders. But there are very definite restrictions on those who would enter this better land. They must have clean hands and pure hearts. This better land is not to be spoiled with the

curse of sin. There will be neither death nor crying there.

Is it not strange that men and women work so desperately and feverishly hard for a home that shall soon be destroyed, and yet completely ignore God's invitation to a home in the earth made new? Let us set our affections on that better land.

## Closing Remarks

By Society Leader

Read the comments on Rev. 22:20, found in "Daniel and the Revelation," pp. 775, 776.

NOTE.—At this point the leader might make an appeal calling for those who, with him, will resolve by the help of God so to live day by day that they may have a home in the earth made new, to express this determination by standing. While the young people are standing, a short prayer of reconsecration should be offered.



December 18

## The M. V. Takes Inventory

BY ALFRED W. PETERSON

### Order of Service

#### OPENING EXERCISES.

TITLE M. V. PLEDGE, in unison.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matt. 13:31-50.

#### PRAYER.

REPORTS FROM PROMOTIONAL SECRETARIES AND BAND LEADERS regarding the work for which they are responsible.

LEADER'S STATEMENT regarding the purpose of this meeting—to review the activities of the society.

#### TALKS AND SYMPOSIUM:

Service Band Activities.

Reading Courses and Recognition of Those Qualifying for Reading Course Certificates.

Progressive Class Work and Vocational Honors.

#### SPECIAL MUSIC.

#### TALKS OR SYMPOSIUM:

The Bible Year's Most Interesting Scripture.

Personal Workers.

Blessings of the Morning Watch.

DISCUSSION: "How Can We Increase the Effectiveness of Our Society?"

#### CLOSING EXERCISES.

### Notes

The purpose of this meeting is to—

1. Show what lines or kinds of work the society has carried on throughout the year.

2. Show what progress was made in the lines of work undertaken.

3. Stimulate interest in the various activities of the society.

4. Increase the number participating next year in the work of the society.

Let the society executive committee plan the program for this meeting very carefully and let those who are to have a part be notified and carefully instructed regarding the purpose of the meeting and how to prepare so that thorough preparation may be made.

Encase as many as possible in the preparation and presentation of the material for this meeting. Participation increases interest. Personal experiences are more interesting than merely talking about a project. Therefore, feature personal experiences. Let the talks be short and lively. Let the promotional secretaries of the society render brief reports in connection with the various parts. For example, let the devotional secretary report on the number who have been pursuing the Bible Year and the progress they have made; then let the person who is to talk about the most interesting scripture follow. The society executive committee should use this

program as a means of encouraging the members of the society to complete the things they have undertaken and to interest others in the various society activities in 1944.

Let the society executive committee plan for a spirited discussion of the topic "How Can We Increase the Effectiveness of Our Society?" Let the leader present the true and fundamental objectives of the M. V. Society, namely:

1. Youth to work for other youth.
2. Youth to help and inspire the church by means of their faithful service.
3. Youth to work for those not of our faith.

## Service Band Activities

HAVE the leaders of the various bands give a brief statement of the work which the bands have been doing during 1943, and plan to have several members of these bands tell some personal experience connected with their band work.

EXAMPLE: 1. A girl of twelve lived in the same apartment house in which a tailor lived and carried on his work. Every Sabbath on her way to Sabbath school she stopped to tell the tailor that it was Sabbath and invited him to attend church. The tailor always made some excuse, but when the girl would return from Sabbath school she would point to the scraps on the floor, and tell him she wished he would go to Sabbath school instead of working at his trade. Eventually circumstances shaped up in such a way that the man actually went to Sabbath school and became interested and finally accepted the truth and gave his heart to God. In a testimony meeting where new converts were telling how they had been brought into the church, this man told of the faithful witness of this girl and how through her he was led into this truth.

2. The story of a paper. Let some members of the society tell of the work of the band in distributing literature. Perhaps some paper that has been given away has gone through an experience similar to that *Signs of the Times* which was pasted as wallpaper on a cabin wall where, when the occupants of the humble home sat down to eat, the man read the papers that had been pasted up and became interested and wrote to get some of our books. He eventually accepted the truth. There is life in God's word. Perhaps there are members of your society who know interesting stories about books or papers that have been distributed during the past year. God often moves in strange ways to bring people to a knowledge of the advent message.

3. If there are young people who have been selling our books, have them tell their experiences.

## Reading Courses

*The most interesting book to me in the 1943 M. V. Reading Course.*

Let the one chosen for this part tell briefly but vividly some incident in one of the Senior Reading Course books.

FOR EXAMPLE, in "Rubber's Goodyear," beginning on page 5, is sketched the first contact which Mr. Goodyear had with rubber. Mr. Goodyear, who, with his father, had failed in the hardware business, was intrigued by the sign which read, "Roxbury India Rubber Company, Inc., New York Branch," and stepped into the store to meet Mr. Lowenstern who interested the bankrupt in a rubber life preserver which had a valve that did not work very well. With almost his last money, Mr. Goodyear bought the life preserver and took it to his home, which had been pretty well stripped of furniture in order to buy the necessities of life for his family. As he studied the obstinate valve he determined to make a better one and sell it to the rubber company. Later he went back to New York with a perfect valve. But this time he found Mr. Lowenstern dejected and listless because all his rubber articles had melted down in the summer heat. But you read the story.

On pages 196-201 we find the story of this great man's death. In spite of sickness, Mr. Goodyear felt he must go from Washington to New Haven to be with his sick daughter, Cynthia, but when he reached New York and learned that his daughter had died, the shock was too much for his feeble health. Mr. Goodyear was prostrated. He sent for his brother-in-law, Mr. De Forest, and then the doctor sent for Mrs. Goodyear. The great inventor's Christian spirit is revealed in his last hours when he made a last request of his wife. "Fanny, I have a final charge for you," he said. "I have suffered much from Horace Day, but I want you to carry my word of forgiveness to him." His great heart had no room in which to harbor ill feelings.

### Progressive Class Work and Vocational Honors

*The animal which interested me most.*

LET the one assigned to this subject tell about the animal which to him was most interesting in his study. For example, perhaps it was a squirrel, and he observed its eating habits or he watched it carry its young away from the nest. Perhaps it was a prairie dog. Let him tell some interesting observation about it. Maybe it was an opossum. But whatever animal it was, let the speaker tell some interesting thing he has observed about the animal or some interesting incident in connection with the animal.

*Bird Study.* Let someone be chosen who has completed his Vocational Honor in bird study to tell of the habits of some bird or some interesting incident observed in connection with this bird. Perhaps he could tell about the feeding table or the bird bath, or perhaps he has seen a robin driving off a blue jay; or mocking birds, a crow.

Have all those stand who have completed the requirements for some Vocational Honor. Perhaps others could be encouraged to tell interesting things in connection with their study for a Vocational Honor. Care should be taken, however, that things done in connection with this part of the program be appropriate for the Sabbath day.

### The Bible Year's Most Interesting Scripture

TELL or read the incident in the scripture that has been the most interesting and inspiring to you during your reading of the Bible thus far in 1943. What was there in the scripture that particularly arrested your attention?

**ILLUSTRATION:** In my reading of the Bible again this year, the first 18 verses of 2 Kings 2 had special interest for me. I was interested in—

1. The persistence of Elisha who would not be turned from his purpose to stay close to Elijah, lest he miss the sight of Elijah's translation.

2. The miraculous mantle which is a symbol of the power that accompanies the individual who surrenders himself without reservation to God's call.

3. The translation of Elijah as he was borne away to heaven in that glory chariot with its bright horses.

4. The power that came upon Elisha when the symbolic mantle fell upon him.

5. The unbelief of the sons of the prophets who insisted that search be made upon the mountains for Elijah. Someday you and I, if we are faithful, are to have the awesome experience of being translated as did Elijah.

Have all those stand who have been reading their Bibles this year. There may be others in the society who would be willing to tell of some other scripture which was most interesting to them. Perhaps there are those who have completed the Bible Year requirements and at this time could be presented with their Bible Year Certificates.

### Personal Workers

*Report by the Prayer and Personal Workers' Band*

LET someone tell an experience in which there has been a definite answer to prayer.

How many people have been baptized, whom the young people of your society helped win to Christ?

### Blessings of the Morning Watch

"*The Most Helpful Text*," that is, the one that has meant the most to me thus far in the 1943 Morning Watch Calendar. (Perhaps two or three young people could be assigned this topic.)

1. Quote the text.

2. What is its special message which has been so helpful to you?

3. To what experience in your own life has it particularly applied?

**ILLUSTRATION:** The Morning Watch text for Friday, October 23, was Romans 8:32. (Read.) Some years ago, the writer was visiting in the home of Pastor and Mrs. R. L. Jones, at Gitwe Mission, Ruanda Urundi, Belgian East Africa. It was the time for evening worship, and a number of friends had come to. The scripture reading for this home vesper service was from Romans 8, and included this remarkable verse. We were discussing the message of the text informally, and Mrs. Jones told about the visit of H. T. Elliott in their home some years before, when he had visited Gitwe Mission. She said that he had read that text. At that time there were many problems at the mission, and the workers were undergoing hardship and were facing discouraging circumstances. She said that the message of this text to her at that time was God's eagerness to give to her, along with His gift of Christ, all things. In this time of perplexity her faith reached out and appropriated this promise, and in the months which had passed since Elder Elliott visited them God had richly blessed them in response to their faith. Whatever we may have given up for Him, He more than makes up to us.

(Ask how many have tried thus far during 1943 to keep the Morning Watch with Christ. Perhaps there are those who would be glad to bear a testimony of the blessing that has come to them through the year in the observance of the Morning Watch.)



December 25

### The Blessedness of Giving

BY NORA MACHLAN BUCKMAN

#### Order of Service

SONG: "The First Noel," No. 108 in "Church Hymnal."

READING: "Unto You a Saviour," "The Desire of Ages," pages 43-49.

INVOCATION.

OFFERTORY.

SPECIAL MUSIC: (Numbers taken from the "Messiah" are especially fine.)

TALK: "The Blessedness of Giving."

TALK: "The Given Away Christmas."

SONG: "O Come, All Ye Faithful," No. 105 in "Church Hymnal."

BENEDICTION.

#### Notes

The story of the birth of Christ is told most beautifully in the chapter taken from "The Desire of Ages." Select someone who is a good reader to give this and have appropriate music played softly during the reading. If done well it will be most impressive.

It would be well for the persons giving the talks to study them carefully and give them as talks instead of reading them. As they prepare their talks,

if they will read the portions on the life of Christ from "The Desire of Ages," they will have a complete picture of the purpose of sacrifice and true giving. Emphasize the idea that the true spirit of giving is giving one's self.

### The Blessedness of Giving

"Who gives himself with his alms feeds three, Himself, his hungry neighbor, and Me."

Here is the key to genuine giving. Jesus set the example by giving Himself. It was in His power to use divinity to save Himself from the awful death that He suffered, but He chose the most difficult path, for us.

Those who truly follow in His footsteps are filled with the same love that filled the Saviour's heart. This love was manifest in His followers even at His birth. The Magi who came to worship Him were learned men who studied the laws of nature and the stars. They were deeply impressed at sight of the beautiful star which heralded Christ's coming and they searched diligently until they discovered its meaning. When they learned its true significance they immediately set out to find the babe. And when they found Him they gave their gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They had been among the first to welcome the Redeemer. Their gift was the first that was laid at His feet. And through that gift, what privilege of ministry was theirs! The offering from the heart that loves, God delights to honor, giving it highest efficiency in service for Him. If we have given our hearts to Jesus, we also shall bring our gifts to Him. Our gold and silver, our most precious earthly possessions, our highest mental and spiritual endowments, will be freely devoted to Him who loved us, and gave Himself for us.

Through the years there have always been those who were willing to give possessions—anything but themselves. But the best gift we can give the Saviour is our heart and our life.

Tonight, stop a moment and analyze your own ideas of giving. Do you give to get? or do you give because of the love in your heart, never thinking of reward? Even the angels of glory find their joy in giving—giving love and tireless watchcare to souls that are fallen and unholty. Heavenly beings woo the hearts of men; they bring to this dark world light from the courts above; by gentle and patient ministry they move upon the human spirit, to bring the lost into a fellowship with Christ which is even closer than they themselves can know.

Somehow the joy of giving is contagious; and if we give from hearts full of love, those to whom we give catch the inspiration and in turn give in the same spirit.

While we must not forget those about us, especially those in need, our uppermost thought should be, "What shall I give Him who has given so much for me?"

I once read of a group of church people who decided that much of their giving had been merely to keep up with the Joneses or to return a favor given them the year before and they decided that this year their gifts would be for the Lord. The money that usually went for knickknacks and useless gifts was spent in feeding the poor and bringing cheer to the shut-ins and helpless. Then a lovely service was arranged in the church and the members went forward one by one to deposit their gifts for Him. A consecration service was held at the close and many gave themselves to serve Christ throughout the year to come. This gift is the dearest to the heart of the Master. If we will give ourselves fully to Him, His joy is complete.

And the personal satisfaction that comes from this type of giving is priceless. We are blessed ourselves when we strive to serve others.

## The Given Away Christmas

ANGELA sank wearily into the chair and stifled back the tears. She reread the note that Miss Morton had sent by the two little foreigners standing before her. It told her briefly of Miss Morton's accident and her inability to carry on the Christmas program for the group at the mission. But the worst of it all was the last sentence. "Is it asking too much to request you to stay over for the tree and service Christmas morning?" Not to be home Christmas morning! It was unthinkable. She had never been away before and she knew her family would be terribly disappointed.

She dismissed the children and turned to the girls. "Miss Morton has been hurt and can't arrange the Christmas program. She wants me to take over. Oh, I don't see how I can do it."

Joan spoke up quickly. "You can't, Angela. Think of your family. Anyway, those foreigners don't appreciate all the effort it would take. You just finished saying nothing short of an earthquake could keep you from going home at Christmas."

"I know, but they are counting on it so and some of the parents are coming to hear about the Christ child for the first time. It's a wonderful opportunity. Little Ike says his mother is so happy that the father has decided to come. She thinks maybe when he hears about Jesus that he won't drink and beat them any more."

"Well, I'm going to supper and then with the gang caroling. Better come along." Gail said as she rose to go.

"No, I'll have to think it over. Anyway, I couldn't eat."

When they had all gone Angela knelt by her bed. She could hear the carols in the distance and see the stars shining brightly in the heavens. She buried her face and let the tears flow freely for a while. Then she prayed and asked God to help her have the courage to do what she felt she must. She arose and knew she would stay. She ran downstairs and called her mother long distance and explained the situation. Her mother would be able to satisfy the youngsters, she knew, and she would get home by Christmas evening.

When the girls came in they could tell by Angela's shining face that she had decided to stay and give the Christmas program for the poor at the mission. They secretly admired her but didn't see how she could do it.

Christmas morning came and Angela was rushing from one place to another to complete the arrangements of the program. The children crowded around her as she put the last present on the tree and patted the tinsel here and there. As she sent them all to their seats and started them singing "Silent Night, Holy Night," a feeling of gladness swept over her and she felt grateful for the opportunity to do this for her Master.

During the talk about the Christ child she was sure she had seen Mr. Dominiski wipe a tear from his eye. She prayed for him silently as she concluded the program.

Later, when she was seated at last at her own table, she asked her mother how she had ever managed to persuade the children to delay their Christmas until she could get there.

"Oh, it wasn't hard," her mother said. "I suggested that we spend the morning making and doing things for other people so that's just what we did. Jerry picked out nuts and Marjorie made three kinds of candy."

"And daddy cut the biggest pumpkin all up," piped Sammy.

"Yes, and I made four pumpkin pies," her mother continued.

"What did you do with all the things?" Angela asked.

"Two pies and candy went to the Barneses, and a pie and some candy to old Grandma and Grandpa Jones. They all appreciated it so much and the children got so much fun out of doing it that we decided it was the best Christmas ever."

(Continued on page 7)



## Junior Meetings

December 4

### The Golden Link

BY MARJORIE WEST MANSIE

#### Order of Service

SONG: "The Larger Prayer," No. 26 in "M. V. Songs."

PRAYERS by several Juniors, followed by chorus, "Into My Heart," No. 30.

REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

SONG: "Reverence," No. 31.

BIBLE STUDY: "The Morning Watch in the Bible."

TALK: "Alone With God."

SKETCH: "The Jewel in the Dark," p. 16.

DISCUSSION OF PLANS for Distribution of 1944 Morning Watch Calendars.

SONG AND BENEDICTION: "My Prayer," No. 28.

#### Notes

The golden link that connects and binds together our chain of experiences with the life of Christ is the Morning Watch. What if this is a weak link? Remember the adage, "A chain is no stronger than its weakest link." How about strengthening this golden link? Have your members really proved the value of the Morning Watch?

Discuss the Morning Watch in your society meeting at least once each month during the coming year. At this time, present the topic for the month, and discuss the thoughts to be studied. Pray especially for the blessings suggested for the month.

Give out Morning Watch Calendars in the society meeting. Make this an impressive ceremony if you have a small society. Arrange for further distribution of the calendars—in hotels, Y. M. C. A.'s, or other institutions. Remember, the Morning Watch may be the golden link which will bind straying souls to Christ. For further suggestions read M. V. Leaflet 19, "The Morning Watch." Prayer Poem (by Henry van Dyke):

"Lord, the newness of this day  
Calls me to an untried way;  
Let me gladly take the road,  
Give me strength to bear my load;  
Thou my guide and helper be—  
I will travel through with Thee."

### The Morning Watch in the Bible

1. What time did the psalmist set apart for prayer? Ps. 5:1-3.

2. Did Jesus follow this practice? Mark 1:35.

3. How earnestly did the psalmist pray? Ps. 88:1, 2, 13; 119:145-148.

4. What earnestness characterized the Saviour's prayers? Heb. 5:7; Matthew 26.

5. Compare our need with Christ's need when on earth. John 15:5; 5:30.

6. When does the Lord renew His mercy to us? Lam. 3:22, 23.

7. What should our petition be? Ps. 90:14, A. R. V.

### Alone With God

PERHAPS one of the greatest needs of the Christian today is to get alone with God. There is no other phase of the spiritual life that Satan so delights to attack persistently and if possible interrupt as our quiet time with God. Do not meet other people, even those

of your own home, until you have first met the great guest and honored companion of your life, Jesus Christ. Meet Him regularly. Meet Him with His open Book of counsel before you; and face the regular and irregular duties of each day with the influence of His personality definitely controlling your every act.

It is said that Turner, the great artist, was once visited by two friends who desired to see one of his pictures. Before they were allowed to enter the studio where the picture was on view, he left them in a room with the curtains closed so as to exclude the light. He apologized for the apparent discourtesy by telling his visitors that they had to have their eyes emptied of the outside glare before they could really appreciate the beauty of his picture. It is a good thing to turn aside from the excitement and turmoil of modern life, and seek some quiet place for communion with God.

It is Mr. McConkey who tells the following incident: "On the shores of Lake Huron, one day, a little group of us were standing on the dock waiting for the arrival of the steamer. All about us was a babel of voices. Presently the young clerk said, 'Come into the fish house.' (The dock was at a fishing village, and there was a little warehouse where the workers packed their fish.) We went in with him, and he shut the door and said, 'Listen!' As we stood there we could plainly hear the sound of the approaching boat, the peculiar intermittent beating of the paddles of a side-wheel steamer. Then we walked out of the door to the wharf, where the people were talking, and the sound of the approaching steamer could not be heard. Again with a friend we went into the room, and again we heard it clearly and plainly. We were in the place of stillness. There were no voices about to distract, or disturb, or break the silence, and there we could distinctly hear the approaching steamer. We went out and sat down upon the wharf, and in a few minutes the smoke from the funnels arose above the island. 'What a lesson!' we thought. 'When we get alone in the chamber of communion with God, we can hear the voice of God; God can reveal His mind to us as He can nowhere else.'"

◆ ◆

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 an one, rather than allow him to be overcome.—"Messages," p. 94.

December 11

## Why We Trust the Bible

BY BERNICE C. BOND  
Order of Service

SONG: "Give Me the Bible," No. 59 in "M. V. Songs."  
SENTENCE PRAYERS.  
SECRETARY'S REPORT.  
MISSIONARY REPORTS.  
OFFERTORY.  
SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Tim. 3:14-17.  
STORY: "God's Promises."  
STORY: "A Bible Wins a Village."  
POEM: "The Book for Boys." (Page 54 in "Choice Poems.")  
CHECK UP ON BIBLE YEAR CHART.  
MEMORY GEM. (See Notes.)  
SONG: "Living Bibles," No. 52.  
BENEDICTION.

### Notes

Aim to encourage daily Bible reading and to instill into the hearts of the Juniors complete trust in the Bible. Discuss the progress that has been made as indicated on your Bible Year Chart, check off all portions which each Junior has read, and encourage all to complete the work they have started and look forward to another trip through the Bible during 1944. For further suggestions see M. V. Leaflets 18 and 15, "Bible Study" and "On the King's Highway."  
*Memory Gem:* "The study of the Scriptures is the means divinely ordained to bring men into closer connection with their Creator, and to give them a clearer knowledge of His will. It is the medium of communication between God and man."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 69.

### God's Promises

MRS. SIMPSON was going away to be gone for some months. She knew fifteen-year-old Mary would be very lonesome. Just before she left she put into her hand a little daily memorandum book, saying, "Mary, I first thought I would give you a wrist watch to help you keep happy while I was gone, then I decided to give you this book of promises."

What do you suppose Mary did with the book? She might have put it away and kept it very carefully so that it would not be lost, or she might have forgotten all about it or paid no attention to it. Not she. The minute she returned from seeing her mother off, she ran for her promise book. The first thing she saw was, "Look in your lower dresser drawer and you will not be lonesome this evening."

What a promise! Not be lonesome! Why, it wasn't possible. It did not take her long to get to the drawer, and there she found a box of chocolates and one of the very latest Junior Reading Course books—the book she had been longing to read.

The next thing she knew father came in from an official board meeting and it was way after bedtime. Lonesome? Why, she had not thought of it.

The next morning her promise book said, "If your work is all done by ten o'clock, there is fun ahead."

How she flew around! Before ten her room was in order, the living room was dusted and in order, and her other vacation duties were all taken care of. She had scarcely finished when "Honk, honk," came a call; and there was Dr. Uncle Charlie, who called, "Are you

ready? Cannot wait a minute, for I must be at Elsdon by noon, and it is some spin."

This was just a beginning of that wonderful promise book. Before long it became so interesting that Mary began looking ahead and could tell days ahead what the promise for any day was.

There was one that at first did not interest her as much as the others. It read, "When you are discouraged or lonesome, come back here;" and the promise leading to it was, "If you will sit in the chair by my worktable and follow directions you will find new courage."

The first time Mary came to that promise something had gone wrong, and, oh, how she wanted mother. She sat down in the chair as directed, and saw on the table a little pile of cards with this message on top, "Take just one at a time, but keep it for future use." She took up the top card and it read, "Learn Isaiah 41:13, the last clause."

Mary looked around, and there right in front of her was a beautiful new Bible with her name on the outside. As she lifted it, underneath lay a picture of her mother that just seemed to speak to her.

Her eyes filled with tears for a moment, then she turned to her Bible and read the words, "I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." At first it seemed as if mother were speaking; then as Mary repeated the words over and over she seemed to grow strong, and she knew it was God talking.

Many times during the summer she went to that chair. Every time there was a new promise to learn, and each time she went out of the room feeling strong and happy. Before she realized it she found that the promises she had learned came into her mind just when she needed them and helped her, oh, so much. Before mother returned, Mary had come to know that although the promise book had given her a happy summer, the very best of all was the new promise Book with which she had become acquainted.

When mother returned, the picture and the Bible were transferred to Mary's own room, but the best gift of the summer was the collection of wonderful promises of God stowed away in her mind and heart, hers forever.  
—Selected.

### A Bible Wins a Village

A MISSIONARY was preaching in a village in India where missionaries had never been before. He was talking about the need of worshipping the true God and telling how Christ saves, when a man interrupted him by saying, "You need not go on with this explanation; none of us worship idols; we believe only in the true God and in Jesus Christ."

The missionary asked whether the man spoke for any but himself, and those around at once answered, "We all believe on Jesus Christ."

Then came the question how this had happened.

Some years before, a New Testament

had been given to one man, who had had no other teaching about Christianity; through reading the Gospels he had led the whole village to the light.

He declared himself ready to do anything to show his faith, and asked for a New Testament in another language so that he might teach some to read for themselves who could read only that tongue.

\*\*\*

December 18

## Your Will Power

BY D. A. OCHS  
Order of Service

SONG: "I Will Follow Thee," No. 44 in "M. V. Songs."  
INVOCATION.  
MISSIONARY REPORT.  
SECRETARY'S REPORT.  
OFFERTORY.  
SONG: "My Daily Prayer," No. 22.  
SCRIPTURE READING: Deut. 11:26-28; Prov. 4:20-27; 23:26.  
DIALOGUE: "Ruth and Orpah." (See Notes.)  
STORY: "A Decision."  
SONG: "Yield Not to Temptation," No. 46.  
SYMPOSIUM: "Men of Will Power."  
DISCUSSION AND CONSECRATION: "How I Can Exercise Christlike Will Power in My Life." (See Notes.)  
CONSECRATION SONG: "I Have Promised," No. 37.  
BENEDICTION.

### Notes

During adolescence the will awakens to a new realization of its own powers; that is, the functioning of the will comes under conscious direction. "Heaven help us and the boy who does not learn to choose for himself during his teens," said W. H. Burger. Character is the sum of one's choices. It is therefore important that the Junior shall have continuous opportunity to choose, to make decisions for himself. He should understand the place of the will in making these decisions and in carrying them out. This program is intended to bring the Juniors not only face to face with such essentials as the educational and devotional features of the Missionary Volunteer work, and face to face with a Christian experience, but also to help them in making the proper decisions and in exercising the will power in carrying out these decisions.

*Dialogue: "Ruth and Orpah."*—The interesting story of Ruth and Orpah (Ruth 1) may be arranged as a helpful dialogue, with the use of will power in making right or wrong decisions and the result of such decisions emphasized.

*Discussion and Consecration: "How I Can Exercise Christlike Will Power in My Life."*—After laying a good foundation, give opportunity to the Junior to exercise this will power by choosing to observe the educational and devotional features. Above all else he should be given the opportunity to make that supreme decision—giving all and taking all. ("Steps to Christ," pp. 69, 70. All references to "Steps to Christ" in this program will be given in the Pocket Edition.)

### A Decision

SANDY and Johnnie, two intimate Junior pals, grew up under like environments. That is, they had the same church, home, and school opportunities—religious, cultural, and educational advantages. There came a time, however—that time which comes to all Juniors—when they found themselves standing at the fork of life's way where a decision was inevitable, where the exercise of will power was essential.



Here the boys paused one spring evening while on their way home together from the little church school. Here they were met by an older acquaintance. Soon this acquaintance daringly brought from his overalls' pocket a package of cigarettes. "Have one, Sandy," said he. "Have one, Johnnie." The two boys stood for a moment in silence, just looking at each other. For an instant their inner consciences were rebelling against even the thought of being approached by such a suggestion.

"Ah," continued the intruder, "don't be a sissy! Be a man! Join me!" The struggle intensified in the hearts of the two boys, and the tempter brought yet stronger pressure. Finally Johnnie began to reason within himself saying, "Well, why not try just one?" So, reluctantly, he reached forth his hand and took one—just one. In a moment the rings of smoke ascended and he unconsciously assumed that pose so common to those who try to make themselves believe that success lies in a cigarette.

Sandy stood with bowed head saying to himself, "I will be pure and kind and true. I will keep a level eye." Now the two joined in a last attempt to get Sandy to yield. After a continual urging, Sandy, looking up into Johnnie's face and into the eyes of the acquaintance, said, "Boys, I will not smoke." Then he again bowed his head, and repeated to himself the pledge signed at the opening of that school year: "I promise by the help of the Lord to abstain from the use of tobacco in any form."

From time to time Sandy continued to exercise his will power by making right decisions, usually in keeping with the things he had learned at home and school. Presently he made another, his greatest decision of all: he chose to surrender his life to Christ. He was baptized and became an earnest church member.

Years passed by and Sandy made other decisions. "I will finish college," he said. And this, too, he realized. Finally his decision led him to the gospel ministry, where he proved himself a valiant worker for God.

But what about Johnnie?—a cigarette addict, a slave to liquor, truly a failure as far as success in this life is concerned, and surely a failure in the Christian life. It truly pays to exercise the will power in making right decisions. It pays to exercise the will power in carrying out these decisions.

### Men of Will Power

ISAAC NEWTON, after spending long years on an intricate calculation, had his papers destroyed by his dog, Diamond, and then cheerfully began to replace them. Carlyle, after he had lent the manuscript of the "French Revolution" to a friend, whose careless servant used it to kindle the fire, calmly rewrote it. Only truly great men can do that.

Daniel Webster was very bashful and awkward as a boy. Speaking in public was a task he hated. However, he saw

his weakness and set out to conquer it. He became one of our greatest orators.

Jackson earned the name "Stonewall" because of his tremendous will power. When a boy, he determined that he would master every weakness he had—moral, mental, and physical. To harden himself to the weather he went without an overcoat. On account of dyspepsia he lived on stale bread and drank buttermilk. He made it a rule to go to bed at nine o'clock, and he went on the stroke of the clock. It is no wonder he was called "Stonewall." We must remember he was also a man of prayer. Is will power alone enough?

"Why, sir," said John C. Calhoun in Yale University when a fellow student laughed at him for his intense application to study, "I am forced to make the most of my time that I may be well prepared when I am in Congress." At this statement, his friend laughed the more, but John Calhoun quickly exclaimed, "Do you doubt it? I assure you if I were not convinced of my ability to reach the national capital as a representative, I would leave college this very day."

A friend of Holman Hunt was looking in wondering admiration at Hunt's great picture of Christ knocking at the door, when he suddenly exclaimed, "There is one thing lacking in your picture." "What is it?" inquired the artist. "The door swings on its hinges, but it has no handle." "Ah, that is not a mistake," replied Mr. Hunt; "the handle is inside; it is from within that the door must be opened to Christ standing without."

A young Englishman inherited a vast estate just when his wild nature was yielding to dissipation. The great legacy served only to hasten his progress to ruin. Within a few years the last dollar of his money was gone. One day, in his deep despair, he rushed out of the house resolved to do something desperate. Reaching an eminence that overlooked the estates which were no longer his, he stopped, entranced by the panorama spread out before him. He sat down to reflect. Then and there, with mighty difficulties and apparent impossibilities before him, he resolved to regain the estates which his immorality had wasted. A load of coal was dumped at a fine residence near by; he sought and obtained the job of carrying it into the cellar. Other menial work was offered, and he did it. Step by step, onward and upward, he advanced, until he became a reliable, prosperous, and influential man.



December 25

## The Blessedness of Giving

### Order of Service

OPENING EXERCISES.  
SUPERINTENDENT'S INTRODUCTION: "The Spirit of Christmas."  
SCRIPTURE READING: The story of Christ's birth, from one of the Gospels.  
TALK: "The Blessedness of Giving," page 41.  
STORY: "The Given Away Christmas," page 5.  
STORY: "The African Girl's Gift."  
CLOSING EXERCISES.

### Notes

This, of course, is a Christmas program. It might be well to preface the program proper with a short talk on the true Christmas spirit. Bring out the thought that although we do not believe that the baby Jesus was given to the world on Christmas Eve, yet, at the season of the year when the whole world is turning its mind toward the greatest of all gifts, it is altogether fitting and proper that we should study the true meaning of this marvelous gift and strive to learn lessons of unselfishness and sacrifice from the Bethlehem story. The entire program is built on the theme of giving.

Songs for today: Nos. 90 to 93 in "M. V. Songs."

We hope you have planned some worthwhile project for your Juniors so that they may experience the fact that it is more blessed to give than to receive, even at Christmastime.

## The African Girl's Gift

It was Christmas Day in a mission station in Africa. All the Christians from the country round about had come together to bring gifts to Him whose birthday it was—not to receive presents, but to give.

These Christians were too poor to be able to give much. But out of their meager possessions they gave what they could.

At last came a sixteen-year-old girl's turn. From the folds of her tattered old dress she drew a silver coin worth eighty-five cents. To the missionary who knew the great poverty of his people the sum looked so large that he feared the girl must have stolen it. Then, too, she had acted as if she did not want anyone to see who gave the silver coin.

After the service the missionary very quietly asked the girl to tell him how she had got so much money. She did not want to tell, but at last she told the story.

In order to give her Lord the most generous present she could, the girl had sold herself to a planter to be his slave for the rest of her life. He had paid her eighty-five cents, and she took every penny of it to Christ on His birthday. "But this, it is not so much for me to do for Him, who did so much for me," she said very modestly when the missionary commended her.

I cannot tell you the rest of the story of the black girl. I suspect that the missionary with his own money bought her back out of slavery, and I suspect she used her freedom to tell others about her Christ. I cannot tell you the black girl's name, though her story is a true story. But I suspect that a girl who so loved her Christ would rather be known as a Christian than by any other name.—Selected.

## Morning Watch

(Continued from page 1)

The Morning Watch may well be used as a holiday greeting. Envelopes may be ordered through the conference with the Morning Watch booklet so that it can be sent out to friends as a regular holiday greeting. Let the M. V. Society lay plans to place the Morning Watch Calendar in hotel rooms as a companion to the Gideon Bible. Usually the management of the hotel is glad to have the calendar placed in the hotel rooms.

You may be interested to know how the circulation of the Morning Watch printed in English has grown in recent years:

1938	.....	124,199
1939	.....	121,315
1940	.....	137,204
1941	.....	135,000
1942	.....	164,905
1943 (5 months)	.....	160,493

A. W. P.

## The Given Away Christmas

(Continued from page 5)

Sammy jumped up and down, trying to attract attention because everyone was talking at once. "Let's vote to have a delayed Christmas every year."

Everyone agreed. When they had cleared the table, they all made a dash for the Christmas tree to open the presents that had been waiting for them all day.

## American Temperance Society

### Temperance as Outlined in the Spirit of Prophecy

BY D. E. ROBINSON

OPENING SONG.

PRAYER.

REPORT OF SECRETARY.

OFFERTORY.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY LEADER.

TOPICS: "Mrs. E. G. White as a Temperance Worker."

"Definition and Importance of Temperance."

"How Habits of Intemperance Are Formed."

"Our Responsibility to the Tempted."

"Seventh-day Adventists in the Forefront," page 16.

CLOSING SONG.

### Suggestions to the Leader

Owing to restrictions on the use of paper, this month's program has been so prepared as to conserve space. It would be well for five persons to be selected, each to be responsible for the presentation of one topic. If the society is large enough, the references cited may in turn be read and commented on by others. The success of the program is largely dependent upon individual study and research, but this is not entirely a detriment, as it will tend to fix the subject better in mind. In the Introductory Remarks the leader may point out the importance of becoming acquainted with every phase of the precious instruction that has been given especially to guide the members of the remnant church, both in their own individual relation to God and in their collective work in finishing God's work on earth. And in that work, as will be seen, the cause of temperance fills an important place.

### Mrs. E. G. White as a Temperance Worker

PERHAPS the largest attendance at any Seventh-day Adventist camp meeting during Mrs. White's life was that of the one held at Groveland, Massachusetts, in 1876. It was estimated that there were 20,000 people in attendance on Sunday afternoon. Mrs. White spoke twice that day on the subject of temperance. Some members of the Haverhill Reform Club who were present, invited her to speak on the same subject the following evening at the city hall, promising an audience of at least a thousand people. It is reported that the hall, with a capacity of about eleven hundred persons, "was filled to its utmost capacity with the very elite of Haverhill's society, pro-

fessional men of all classes, officers of the city, and the most intelligent of the people."—*Review and Herald*, Sept. 7, 1876.

At Christiania (now Oslo), Norway, in November, 1885, by request of the president of a temperance society, she spoke on the subject in the soldiers' military gymnasium, the largest hall in the city, to an audience of about 1,600. "Among them was a bishop of the state church, with a number of the clergy; a large proportion were of the better class of society."—*Historical Sketches*, p. 207. Of her unique presentation of the subject it is recorded:

"From the secretary's opening remarks it was evident that the people expected a regular campaign address, full of statistics and stories about the crusade; and when they saw that the subject was to be argued from a Bible standpoint, they were at first astonished, then interested, and finally deeply moved. There was no smiling, no noisy applause. All seemed to feel that the subject presented was too solemn to excite merriment."—*Id.*, p. 211.

These incidents illustrate her intense interest in the subject of temperance, and the resultant welcoming of her presentation by ministers of other churches and other temperance workers.

### Definition and Importance of Temperance

MRS. WHITE urged temperance "in all things." Read the comprehensive definition of the term as used by her in "Patriarchs and Prophets," page 562, paragraph 1.

Another comprehensive definition of temperance is found in "Education," page 102, paragraph 3.

"With our first parents, intemperate desire resulted in the loss of Eden. Temperance in all things has more to do with our restoration to Eden than men realize."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 129, par. 2.

Temperance is essential to the great work of overcoming. Read "Testimonies," Volume IV, page 215, paragraph 1.

Therefore a work of education is essential, even among "those who profess to believe the special truths for this time." Read "Counsels on Health," page 449, paragraph 1.

Of the lesson we should learn from the experience of Daniel in the court of the king in Babylon, read "Testimonies," Volume IV, page 570, paragraphs 1, 2.

For a presentation of the values to be received in the practice of temperance, read "Testimonies," Vol. IV, page 35, paragraphs 3, 4, and "Education," page 206, paragraphs 3, 4.

### How Habits of Intemperance Are Formed

IN 1875 at a time when temperance societies were very active, Mrs. White was shown "that the giant power of intemperance will not be controlled by any such efforts as have been made." Upon whom is the great responsibility placed for the evils of intemperance? ("Testimonies," Vol. III, p. 562, par. 2.) Where does intemperance begin? (*Id.*, p. 563, pars. 2, 4.)

Point out how many of the efforts to put down intemperance are "not directed to the right point." ("Ministry of Healing," p. 335, pars. 1-3.)

Coming "closer home," what practical question does inspiration ask regarding the "tables spread in Christian households"? ("Testimonies," Vol. III, p. 569, par. 3.)

For a physiological explanation of the relation between the so-called milder stimulants and the stronger ones, read "Testimonies," Volume III, page 487, paragraph 2.

### Our Responsibility to the Tempted

As a people we should be individually deeply in earnest about the rescuing of souls for the kingdom of Christ. Note one way in which we may be instrumental "in rescuing hundreds, yea, thousands from ruin." ("Testimonies," Vol. VI, p. 110, par. 1; p. 111, pars. 1, 2.)

Note the inference in the foregoing paragraphs that there has been a decline in some ways, in the work of temperance. Is this in harmony with God's program for His remnant church? (*Id.*, p. 112, par. 2.)

What classes of people are said to be in "deadly peril" and why? How could they be helped, and with what result? ("Testimonies," Vol. VI, p. 256, par. 1.)

A ministry in the home is opened before us, in helping the youth, who

(Continued on page 16)





## The Vine and Fruit-Bearing Branches

### Suggestive Program for Sabbath Service, December 4, 1943

OPENING SONG: "Christ for the World," No. 452 in "Church Hymnal."

SCRIPTURE READING: John 15:1-8.

PRAYER.

READING: "Abiding in Christ," by R. G. Strickland.

SONG: "Work for the Night Is Coming," No. 446 in "Church Hymnal."

MISSIONARY REPORT FOR THE MONTH.

OFFERING FOR LOCAL MISSIONARY WORK.

CLOSING SONG: "I Love Thee," No. 343 in "Church Hymnal."

BENEDICTION.

### Note to Leaders

Napoleon's drummer boy was asked to "beat a retreat" before Marengo. To the one who had brought the message the little lad said, "Sire, my master never taught me how, but I can beat a charge that will wake the dead. . . . Shall I beat it now?" When he heard it Napoleon was so thrilled that he ordered the drums to beat an advance. As a result Marengo was added to the long list of Napoleon's victories.

During the eleven months of 1943 have we as leaders been sounding the call to advance? We must in these stirring times beat only a forward move in the war against sin. The reading of today emphasizes the thought that not only should each one bear fruit, but *much* fruit. The Home Bible Study League, Bible studies, missionary correspondence, invitations to gospel services, the Bible correspondence school, literature distribution, the circulating library, visiting

the sick and the aged, comforting those who mourn, visiting those behind prison walls are some of the fruits which appear in the life of one who is connected with the True Vine. Like the little drummer boy of old, shall we not arise and move forward as a mighty army to do our part, realizing that "the night cometh, when no man can work."

GEN CONF. HOME MISS. DEPT.

### Abiding in Christ

BY R. G. STRICKLAND

**I** AM the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:5.

Like the vine spoken of in the text, Christ is our source of strength. He is thoroughly rooted in purity and holiness, and from His divine being vital powers flow forth freely unto all who are joined to Him in a constant, unbroken relationship. It is necessary that those who would be like their Lord enter into a personal, intimate relationship which will completely join them to their Master, just as a branch, in order to live, must remain attached to the vine.

A full realization of the fact that Jesus is our support, our source of life and strength, our daily dependence, that in Him only is there victory over every besetment, is the Christian's hope for triumph against those many sins that so easily beset.

Union with Christ means much more than abounding life for the branch. Such a relationship involves many things:

1. The branch, in order to live, must

remain connected with the vine. Severed from the vine, the branch dies. Just so the Christian must abide in Christ if his experience is to remain vital and living. The moment he is separated from the Lord, that instant he begins to die.

2. Union with Christ does not withdraw a Christian from the world and cut him off from common interests, any more than union of the branch with the vine excludes it from contact with the sun that shines upon all vegetation. Showers may fall, drenching rain descend, winds blow, and lightning flash; but the branch is not severed from the vine. These elements of nature represent the experiences of life, but no storm of adversity, disappointment, or discouragement can destroy the usefulness of the branch that is joined to the True Vine. Not any circumstance of life can deaden one's Christian experience so long as he remains united with Christ.

3. As the vine sends life-giving fluid into all its branches, so also must the Christian receive his very life from Christ.

4. The branch that is connected with the vine has no alternative as to the kind of fruit it will bear. It will bear the fruit of the vine. The Saviour recognized this principle when He said, "For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes." Luke 6:44.

The Christian cannot profess to be joined to Christ and at the same time manifest in outward adornment and daily conduct the evidence that something has severed the branch from the vine.

5. The branch does not choose its

own way of growth. These decisions are determined by its connection with the vine from which it receives its life-giving fluid. When that fluid is withheld from the branch, it dies. No Christian can hope to abide in Christ and at the same time determine his own way of living. Jesus is the Life-giver. He imparts His life to all who will yield their will to Him; thus the Christian comes to know the truly rich meaning of those words of Paul, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." Gal. 2:20.

6. The life-giving flow passes from the vine into its branches not merely in order that the branches may become sturdy and strong, but that they may become fruit-bearing branches. Being joined to the vine, the branch receives its life from that unfailing source. Just so the Christian whose life is joined to the True Vine will receive of the fountain of Christ's life and will become a sturdy, fruit-bearing branch.

7. It is not enough that the branch merely bear fruit. Our text speaks of *much fruit*. Abiding in the Lord causes one to become so strong spiritually that he will not only bear fruit in season, but will bring forth *much fruit*, yielding in abundance those delights of Christian service that alone satisfy Heaven.

8. Proof of discipleship lies in abundant fruit bearing. Soul winning is a natural result of association with Christ, the great Seeker and Saviour. No one can be intimately connected with our Lord who does not catch the spirit of His inspiration and tap the source of His soul-winning power. It is by this abundant fruit bearing that poor, weak human instruments demonstrate God's power to strengthen and enable surrendered, willing souls.

It is our privilege to be joined to the Vine, to abide in Him, so that we share His nature, His life, His power, becoming soul-winning branches that bear much fruit.

\*\*\*

"KINDNESS ennobles; cruelty degrades. The greatest men and women, and the best, are such as note a little fallen bird, and, stooping, place it back within its nest."

### A Pastor's Suggestion

J. H. MCEACHERN, of Pomona, California, refers to a leaflet recently prepared by the General Conference Home Missionary Department, as follows:

"The tract known as 'Friend in Need Series No. 10,' entitled 'A Message of Hope for Those Who Mourn,' is very timely, and I would like to obtain more copies. I intend to make use of it on funeral occasions and also keep a supply of them on hand in the church

for use in general missionary work."

The suggestion may be of interest to other pastors. It would be well to order a package of a hundred leaflets through your Book and Bible House and keep a supply on hand. These are days which call for messages of hope and cheer for those who mourn, and oftentimes a "word in season," whether verbal or printed, will prove of eternal value.

GEN. CONF. HOME MISS. DEPT.

## Missionary Leadership

### Bible Correspondence Course

ONE of the most encouraging methods, with far-reaching results, for bringing the message to many who might not otherwise be reached, is through the Bible correspondence course. There are approximately 150,000 persons in North America now studying the truth through this means. Thousands of these are enrolled with the Voice of Prophecy. Thousands more are taking the studies through the contacts developed from the message given by local evangelists in many of the conferences.

Side by side with the radio work of following up the interest the broadcasts create, is the task of properly taking care of the many other thousands of those who are definitely interested through our literature. Distributed either by mail or personally, our literature is continually reaching a class of people who want to go deeper into Bible study. We are able to take care of some of these interests locally through Bible studies or cottage meetings; but there are many more that can be caught in the gospel net through the Bible correspondence school conducted from many of our conference offices. Most local conferences are now prepared to follow up all persons who enroll in Bible correspondence courses.

To help in seeking out these interested ones, the various missionary periodicals, such as the *Signs of the Times*, the *Watchman*, and other English and foreign papers, are printing in their regular issues a brief advertisement calling attention to a free Bible correspondence course. The

names thus received are sent to the local conferences in which the interested ones reside.

We must take full advantage of this wonderful opening and pray earnestly that God will bless our efforts through these various channels. We can co-operate fully with the Voice of Prophecy in every locality or city where the broadcast reaches. We can pass out the radio log and also personally invite our neighbors to listen in to these broadcasts. It would naturally be expected also that this would be done in behalf of any of our local broadcasts. We must do everything we can to get our friends, relatives, and neighbors to listen in. Some of this can be done by correspondence with friends or relatives at a distance.

As examples of the words of appreciation sent to the Voice of Prophecy regarding their Bible correspondence course, we quote as follows:

"Words cannot be found that will fully express the value of these lessons. I wish everyone in the world had the chance I have had to take them. They have led me much closer to Jesus. Will you kindly arrange for a representative of your work to call on me."

"I will try to keep the Sabbath day as God commands, because Christ gave the commandments to us and told us to keep them."

"These lessons have taught me much truth and have brought me closer to Christ. I have learned the truth regarding the Sabbath. I would like to be baptized into the true church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Please pray for me."

"Words can never express my candid opinion of the value of these lessons. I have now learned the true facts of the Bible. This is the truth I have long hungered for."

"We enjoy your program so much. Would it be possible for you to discuss the Sabbath question? So many people say there is no day to keep. We would certainly appreciate it if we could get your views on it."

"The correspondence course has opened my eyes to so much Bible truth

that I would not want to be without it as long as I am able to study. I believe firmly that Jesus is coming soon and I want to see Him."

"I am sharing my literature with a friend who says that she has found much comfort from the books. I have given her 'Bible Readings' and 'Daniel and the Revelation,' besides the Bible lessons and some little books. Thank you very much for all your kindness."

W. A. BUTLER.

ent truth, and are determined, with God's help, to keep the light shining that we may win many souls from darkness. My husband has regained his normal health, and though he has not fully accepted these precious truths as yet, he is convinced that he owes his life in a definite way to God's answer to prayer, and he plans in the near future to keep all God's commandments."

W. A. BUTLER.

## News From Soul Winners

### Through a Remarkable Answer to Prayer

DURING a recent visit among the churches of the Inter-American Division I learned of the very interesting experience of a woman in Tierra Blanca, Mexico, who was led to accept the truth of the third angel's message. This woman and her husband sang appropriate and heart-touching musical selections in connection with one of the revival meetings which we held. The experience as related by this sister is as follows:

"My husband, a railroad engineer, became very ill. Since there was nothing more that the doctors could do, he was given up to die. All the neighbors were very kind and did everything they could to help us. As we were Roman Catholics we naturally prayed to Saint Mary and the other saints. When it became apparent that my husband was at the point of death, I became desperately in earnest in my intercessions for him. Casting aside the idea of help from any particular saint, I prayed most earnestly that God would heal him through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and divine Saviour. God heard my prayer and answered in a most wonderful way. None could doubt that my husband had been divinely healed.

"This was such a remarkable experience that the neighbors gathered around me and asked which of the saints I had prayed to. I replied that I had been impressed to pray to Jesus Christ, the 'Saint of saints,' for I believed that He alone could heal my husband, and I felt in my soul the as-

surance that He would hear my prayer to Him direct, without the intermediary of any of the saints of the Catholic Church. The neighbors seemed to be much impressed by this testimony and the tangible evidence that my prayers had been heard and answered. From that time on I studied my Bible as never before, praying most earnestly that God would guide me into all truth and light.

"I discovered that the doctrine of praying to the saints was not founded on the word of God, and therefore I discarded it. In further study of the Bible I discovered the truth of the second coming of Christ. It was not long until I came in contact with Seventh-day Adventists, and they supplied me with their literature and also conducted Bible studies on topics that I had not known or understood. Soon the wonderful truths taught by Seventh-day Adventists became clear and forceful to me. I was convinced that God was leading in this whole plan, and I felt a great burden to bring this precious truth to my neighbors.

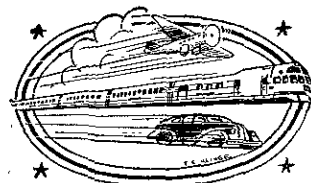
"I continued to pray and study and after a short time I accepted the new light and united with the church. Then I called my neighbors together and presented to them the precious truths that had enlightened my own heart and life and home. Sometimes as many as twenty-five persons would meet together for a Bible study. As time went on one after another of these neighbors accepted the third angel's message and withdrew from the Catholic Church. We are now a happy group, rejoicing in the light of pres-

### The Second Harvest of Souls

A FELLOW worker and I had held a tent effort in the railway colony of one of India's large cities. Assisted by two Bible instructors, we had worked hard. Some had been interested, and the effort had been closed. We had felt that all who were "honest in heart" had been gleaned at the end of the effort.

All the workers who had been associated in the effort had been transferred to other places of labor in the course of time. Our lay members of the city, however, had from time to time left literature in the homes of the people at the colony. After I had been away some seven months from this city, I received a letter from the minister who had taken my place there. He said that a man had been baptized from the very railway colony in which we had held our effort. This man came into the advent truth from Roman Catholicism, his testimony being that he had come to keep the Sabbath as a result of the tracts and papers that had been left at his door Sabbath by Sabbath. These were the papers that had been faithfully deposited in the colony by our earnest lay people.

This is but one instance of how, through the faithful and persevering distribution of literature, our laity succeed where the paid worker often fails. It should also teach us the lesson that no place, no matter how thoroughly worked, should be regarded as fruitless. Every field is capable of yielding fruit till probation closes.—  
*A Mission Worker.*



## Church Missionary Officers' Round Table

### An Exchange of Experiences, Problems, Suggestions

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

#### Christian Help Work Defined

*Speaker—A conference secretary-treasurer:* I have received an inquiry for consideration at the round table. It is this: "What constitutes Christian help work? Is it proper to report such items as helping a friend to wash dishes?"

*R. G. Strickland, secretary of the General Conference Home Missionary Department, replies as follows:* Missionary work is any kind of helpful service rendered with a *missionary motive*. It does not include ordinary duties performed in the usual routine of daily living; neither does it embrace family obligations, such as parents caring for children or grown children supporting aged parents. Certain social obligations are discharged by non-Christians and Christians alike. These usually are not connected with a missionary undertaking, though it is true that careful attention to such matters builds for confidence and friendship that may open doors wide for missionary services.

If a person visits a friend and finds illness in the home, unexpected company, or some condition which has thrown an unusually heavy burden upon the friend, and undertakes to help carry the burden, this would be doing missionary work. But if a person calls for a social chat and finds that conversation can be carried on more pleasantly by joining in a short dish-washing effort, this may be a case of personal pleasure seeking with no missionary motive.

No one should have much real difficulty in determining what he does in the self-sacrificing spirit of missionary service. Note 4 on the back of Home Missionary Blank No. 1 defines "Hours of Christian Help Work" as follows: "This item should give the number of hours spent in distributing announcements for evangelistic meetings, driving cars for Ingathering solicitors, etc., and in other branches of work, such as supplying the *needy* with food and fuel, helping those who, because of age, illness, or other untoward circumstances, need assistance in

housework, gardening, farmwork, care of children, important errands, sitting up with the sick, etc." Perhaps we can determine what is proper to report as missionary work by a simple rule like this: If I do it for Christ, it is missionary work. If I do it only for my own benefit or pleasure, it is not missionary work.

#### Securing Supplies

*Speaker—A church missionary secretary:* I am perplexed as to the ordering of supplies. Should I care for orders placed by individuals and also for the various departments of the church?

*We will let Elder Butler, home missionary secretary of the Chesapeake Conference, come to the assistance of this missionary secretary:* In some places there seems to be a misunderstanding in the matter of ordering supplies. This may be considered under two divisions—supplies ordered for individuals and those ordered for departments.

The missionary secretary is business agent for the church. He is in reality the Book and Bible House representative in the church and has an account with that organization as well as with church members and church departments. The missionary secretary accepts orders for merchandise from church members and orders such from

the Book and Bible House, keeping a duplicate of the order. He will order the material sent to the member direct or to himself to be distributed by him and collection made. He also acts for the departments, for the plan provides that the secretaries of the various departments order through the missionary secretary all merchandise for which a charge is made. The secretary has a record of all transactions, and supplies are ordered sent direct to him or to the respective departmental secretaries, as may be arranged. His books should show monthly, quarterly, and annually the total business done with church members and with the departments. This is an easy matter if he keeps a duplicate of all his orders, checks receipts of supplies, and files his bills from the Book and Bible House.

Another important feature of the missionary secretary's work is to anticipate needs and remind the departmental secretaries that it takes time to order and receive supplies. Campaign materials should be planned for and ordered before they are needed. Standing orders on Sabbath School Quarterlies, Picture Rolls, memory verse cards, etc., would avoid much confusion and disappointment. Otherwise in some places weeks have slipped away without the current quarter's supplies being on hand, the work of the church naturally suffering as a consequence. The missionary secretary is a busy person and of necessity should be systematic—system-at-it.

\*\*\*

"It's not where you are, but what you are."

## Weekly Church Missionary Services

December 4

#### CHRISTIAN WEATHER VANES

*Key Thought for Leaders:* "The Lord calls for soldiers who will not fail nor be discouraged; but who will accept the work with all its disagreeable features. He would have us all take Christ for our pattern."—"Christian Service," p. 240.

Someone has said:

"It's easy enough to be pleasant  
When life moves on like a song,  
But the man that's worth while  
Is the man who can smile  
When everything goes dead wrong."

The Christian life is beset by obstacles and difficulties which test our strength and endurance. The Saviour said that this would be true, for He told His followers, "In the world ye shall have tribulation," and then added, "but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." He has passed over life's rough way before us, but He never failed nor became discouraged. So He expects His followers, His soldiers, to accept life's disagreeable features, when they cross their pathway, without failure or discouragement.

There are some Christians who might be called "fair weather vanes." They make a great flutter in favorable breezes, but are useless in heavy storms. It is



said that Mr. Spurgeon, the evangelist, went to the country to visit a friend who had built a new barn, and on the barn was a cupola upon which they had put a weather vane with this text of Scripture on it: "God is love." Spurgeon said to the man, "What do you mean by putting those words on the weather vane? Do you mean that God's love is as changeable as the wind?" "Oh, no," was the reply: "I mean to show that God is love *whichever way the wind blows.*" It is well for the worker for God to place on the weather vane of experience the recognition of God's love as a signal which will serve as a safe guide to all men. Whichever way the wind blows, let us never fall nor be discouraged, knowing that our service for God, whether in fair weather or foul, is not in vain in the Lord.

December 11

**CALLED AS FRIENDS AND NOT AS SERVANTS**

*Key Thought for Leaders: "I call you not servants; . . . I have called you friends."—Jesus.*

The words of Jesus recorded in John 15:15, are filled with comfort and assurance for every Christian. A modern version of the text is rendered thus: "I do not call you slaves any longer, for a slave does not know what his master is doing, but now I call you friends, for I have made known to you everything that I have learned from My Father." (Goodspeed Translation.) How vastly different is the relationship between a servant, a slave, or a friend. How gladly do we seek to please and to serve our friends. And Jesus, the Son of God, has taken us into the sacred relationship of friends; and it is His wish that we bring to Him spiritual fruit as a token of our love and the outgrowth of His fellowship.

The story is often told of the old slave who was placed upon the auction block and sold to the highest bidder. He had long proved his worth as a faithful and trusty servant; but as such he had no choice as to his future, he knew nothing of his master's plans. But, as the story goes, he was finally turned over to his new master, who spoke kindly to him. Sad and dejected, despairing and hopeless, he scarcely heard his master's greeting until he caught the words, "I have paid the price and you are mine. But you are no longer a slave; you are free to go where you wish and live your life, not as my servant but as my friend." Gradually the situation dawned on the poor slave's mind, and falling on his knees before his benefactor, he exclaimed, "Oh, Master, I will be your slave forever!" The greatest joy of his life was to serve the one who had set him free and treated him as a personal friend. Just so, service for Christ in behalf of others becomes the greatest joy and pleasure to those who have been purchased and redeemed through the precious blood of the Son of God.

A little boy was asked by his teacher to give the meaning of the word "friend." The little fellow hesitated a moment in finding a way to express his thought, and then replied, "Well, a friend is one who knows all about you and likes you just the same." It was the highest

thing in friendship his brief life had taught him, and he had found the secret of true friendship. Jesus not only calls us friends, but he is a "Friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Well may we testify in the words of the familiar hymn—

"I have a Friend so precious, so very dear to me,  
He loves me with such tender love, He loves so faithfully;  
I could not live apart from Him, I love to feel Him nigh,  
And so we dwell together, my Lord and I.

"He knows that I am longing some weary soul to win,  
And so He bids me go and speak the loving word for Him;  
He bids me tell His wondrous love, and why He came to die,  
And so we work together, my Lord and I."

December 18

**STEADFAST VS. STUCKFAST**

*Key Thought for Leaders: "We should fight the good fight of faith, and be found 'steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.'—'Testimonies,' Vol. V, p. 521.*

There are some Christians who seem to mistake the meaning of the word "steadfast," and act as though it were "stuckfast." They have high regard for Paul's injunction to the Corinthian Christians. Be "steadfast, unmovable," but somehow manage to forget that the very next phrase reads, "always abounding in the work of the Lord." The meaning of the admonition is to be *steadfastly abounding* in the Lord's work; never stuckfast and immovable.

We are nearing the close of the year. It is well to examine our record of the past twelve months and see whether the footprints of Christian service reveal a *steadfast course and spontaneous abounding* in all good works. Or, is the trail of our footprints lost at some turn of the road where the pleasures of life or the burdens and responsibilities suddenly obscured our vision and our feet became stuckfast, so that we have been left behind in the Christian race while others have bounded on? Just now God's Holy Spirit will melt the icy formalism which holds us, and set us on our *steadfast* way, so that we may once more abound and rejoice in the Master's service.

There is one very important matter which should receive careful consideration at this time, for it has a bearing on our *steadfast* course in the coming year, and that is the renewal of our subscriptions for our church paper, the *Review and Herald*. During the entire month of December the publishers announce the special features of the *Review* for 1944 and make special offers on subscription price. It is essential to progress in the Christian life that the *Review* reach every Seventh-day Adventist home and that every issue be read by every member of the church. Never yet has the subscription list reached the aim of the average of one subscription for every family. We cannot be satisfied with anything less than this very reasonable aim. We think nothing of huying the daily or weekly newspaper and current news magazines. By this means we keep in intelligent touch with the world events which are of great significance to every well-informed person. A just sense of humiliation would be experienced by the person who remained ignorant of what is occurring day by day, just because he remained "stuckfast" in his own little sphere and did not have sufficient interest to buy or to borrow the daily news. Just so, the church member who fails to keep abreast of the onward march of the message of truth, through reading the church newspaper, the *Review and Herald*, will be embarrassed through lack of current information and

will fail to keep abounding in the work of the Lord.

Check through the list of families in the church; see that everyone who is financially able subscribes for the paper. Further than that, make a list of the members in the church who are not provided with the paper through subscription or do not have access to it through a loan of friends, and raise a fund to supply the need. A live Dorcas Society will be willing to add this to their project list. The tending of the papers each week should be encouraged. An effort should also be made to allow the members to purchase the paper at five cents a copy, if that is preferred or necessary. Anyway, let all steadfastly work toward every Seventh-day Adventist being a faithful reader of the *Review and Herald* during the coming year.

December 25

**SYMPOSIUM: EXPERIENCE, PRAISE, AND THANKSGIVING**

*Key Thought for Leaders: "Our joy in the Lord and our efficiency in His service would be greatly increased by recounting His goodness and His wonderful works in behalf of His children."—"Christ's Object Lessons," pp. 299, 300.*

We have reached the last Sabbath in the year, and this is the time for relating individual missionary experiences to the glory of God and the encouragement of fellow travelers in the upward way. Surely every instant of this brief period allotted to personal testimonies will be used for the purpose intended.

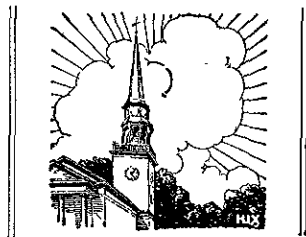
We have passed through a year of precious blessings, and many are rejoicing in the light of truth because of the loving sacrifice performed by the children of God in distributing literature, caring for the sick, giving Bible studies, introducing the Bible Correspondence Course, inviting to gospel services, and witnessing in a thousand ways by daily life and conduct. Not a single effort put forth in love and faith has been heeded. The seeds of truth which have been sown will be watered by the Holy Spirit, and we have the definite promise that God's word "shall not return . . . void." Let us be of good courage, and bear a testimony of praise and thanksgiving.

It is said that in a testimony meeting a Christian in the prime of life spoke of his many trials and discouragements and seemed utterly cast down. Following him an aged brother rose to his feet and in clear, thrilling tones, cried: "Brethren, I feel like going on, the Lord being my help." His words proved an inspiration to every heart and led to the composition of the following verses:

"I am a Christian pilgrim, and journey to a land  
Where, robed in royal garments, the Lord's anointed stand;  
In Jesus' blood, these saved ones have washed their garments white,  
And soon I hope to meet them in yonder land of light.

"I feel like going on, brother, I feel like going on;  
I'm on my way to Zion, and I feel like going on."

—*"Excellent Songs," No. 68*  
(E. O. Excell).





## Department of Education



Featuring Home and Parent Education in the  
Home and School Association and the Christian Home Council

### Know Your School Better

#### The Church's Part in the Education of our Boys and Girls Today

CAN you give another gain  
Which you do not first obtain?  
Learn, if you would teach!  
By example you must show  
Where you would have others go:  
Practice what you preach!

—Warner Willis Fries.

#### Notes to Leaders

SINCE we are a part of everyone we meet, how careful we should be always to exert the right influence. Studying this school year to "Know Your School Better," we find certain definite factors bearing on the education of our boys and girls. We have already considered the parents' part; this month we study the church and its work. The article which Elder Bietz has prepared should be thoughtfully presented, followed by a practical discussion based on the questions he has listed.

The messenger of the Lord has instructed us, "Let all share the expense" of the church school; just so should all share the spiritual responsibility which the church bears toward the "lambs of the flock." May every member of the church welcome this opportunity to emphasize the church's need of its children. A sense of security—of belonging—will do much to steady our boys and girls in the unstable world of today. Let us ever bear in mind that we must not only win, but hold, our children for God and His work.

The Week of Prayer has made its appeal to the children, and many of them at that time decided for Christ. Much counsel and guidance will need to follow; and as older members of the church family, we here find our opportunity to help. May the Lord richly bless us all as we endeavor to represent Him aright to our children and youth.

FLORENCE K. REBOK.

"I know my hand may never reap its sowing,  
And yet some other may;  
And I may never even see it growing—  
So short my little day,  
Still must I sow, though I go forth  
with weeping;  
I cannot, dare not, stay.  
God grant a harvest, though I may be  
sleeping  
Under the shadows gray."

#### What Can You Do?

THAT's what the world is asking you,  
Not who you are,  
Nor what you are;  
But this one thing the world demands—  
What can you do with brain or hands?

What can you do? What can you do?  
That's what the world keeps asking you  
With trumpet tone,  
And that alone!  
Before success can come to you,  
The world must know what you can do.  
—Author Unknown.

### The Church and Its Youth

BY ARTHUR L. BIETZ

Pastor, Berkeley, California, Church

WHETHER or not the church will hold its youth should be our very first interest and consideration. There is no endeavor into which the church can enter that will net greater or more lasting results. In our young people we have at our very doors a missionary field of the greatest magnitude; and we may be sure that the church that is unable to save its own youth by making Christianity attractive cannot hope to save the world.

In the time of youth the soul is most sensitive to God. If we fail to hold our boys and girls during their most susceptible years, how can we hope to win them back later? It is far better to be brought up in Christ than to be snatched from the fires of sin after youth has passed. We have tended to put too much emphasis on the cataclysmic type of conversion from sin and not enough stress on the beautiful and natural unfolding of the spiritual life through a process of education in co-operation with the working of the Holy Spirit.

In the program of education for its boys and girls the church should have a clear comprehension of their basic needs, and make a sympathetic and persistent effort to meet these needs. Too often the approach to Christianity is made apart from the actual needs. It was characteristic of Jesus that after He had diagnosed an individual's malady, He proceeded to supply the remedy. We shall do well to follow this pattern with our youth.

There are six basic needs of youth, which spiritual guides and leaders will do well to remember:

1. Their need to find themselves.
2. Their need to find God.
3. Their need to find a lifework.
4. Their need to find a life mate.
5. Their need to find Christian fellowship.
6. Their need to find a clear Christian solution to the basic problems of life.

Unless the church proceeds with a specific strategy to win and hold its youth, it will fail. Planning for their salvation should be just as detailed as planning for the evangelization of nonbelievers. Nothing should be left to chance. The plan of approach must be well integrated and faithfully pursued. The church must have a goal, toward which it should work constantly. It must show itself indispensable to the life needs of youth. Until this is done, the appalling loss from our ranks will continue.

The church cannot and must not lay the full responsibility for its youth upon the church school. This has often been done, and the church has lost contact. The church school is not devoted entirely to spiritual activities; it also deals with secular instruction and training. The church is the only institution in the world that devotes its entire time and energy to the development of Christian character. It must therefore fill a unique place. The establishing of a church school does not release the church from its God-given guardianship of its children.

The leaders in the church's work for youth should study how to make Jesus attractive, alive, and "real." They should consider what manner of approach is most effective to the athletic type, to the student and lover of books, to the clean-cut lad with high ideals, to the girl who has her head filled with thoughts of boys and love dreams, to the girl who loves a "good time," to the practical-minded boy, some of whom may already have become members of the church by baptism. Church membership of youth does not end the church's responsibility; that responsibility must be continuous and progressive.

Most of the boys and girls of the church should make their decisions for Christ in the grammar-school level. Decisions for lifework are largely made during the academy age, but preparation for the chosen lifework becomes specific and final in the college training. Young people's leaders should follow a definite plan to aid the youth in making these decisions. Denominational work as a life career should be stressed; it should be made attractive and appealing. Many of our boys and girls today are not planning to enter denominational work or to give their lives to Christian service at home or in the mission fields. This does not speak well for the future of our world-wide mission program.

There are certain natural cycles in the maturing of youth which are periods of decision for Christ. Surveys on the age levels of conversion indicate four definite age groupings: 9-10, 12-13, 15-16, and 18-19. Different appeals for decisions should be made according to the experience and understanding of these various age levels. There should be the social appeal, which is so strong in Christ's teaching. The appeal to the idealistic and the heroic is most fruitful at the junior age. The emotional appeal should be made at the age when the heart is most easily touched. The intellectual ap-



proach must be made when doubts begin to make themselves manifest. In working with young people we should make group and personal-interview appeals; decisions are made in response to both types.

Leadership is of most vital importance in the educational work of the church. The pastor or elder is the natural leader in work for the salvation of youth, but he must have the co-operation of the parents in the home. The wise pastor or elder will know and love the children in his congregation, and they will know him as their friend. He will keep in close touch with their interests. To them, he personifies the work of the church; if he fails them, any work for them is greatly hampered. It is during the early years of a child's life that impressions for or against the church are made, and these early impressions often remain a lifetime.

There are five points that a pastor will need to consider in planning the work for the youth of his church:

1. Those in the church who are equipped to be successful leaders of youth.
2. "The importance of the parents' work" and their need of "a training for its sacred responsibilities."
3. The needs of various age groups.
4. The laws that govern life and growth.
5. The correct methods of teaching.

It is never best for the pastor to be confined to one class or division in the Sabbath school. Like the leaven, his influence should permeate every part of the school. As a faithful pastor, he should be present at least thirty minutes before the school opens, giving encouragement and inspiration to the leaders of the various divisions. His eyes should be constantly open to note progress—or a lack of it—in every part of the school. When a leader is failing, he should be helped; if he cannot be helped where he is, he should be removed to a position that he can fill and another put in his place. The relationship between the pastor and the leaders of youth must be cordial and mutually helpful. He must have ideas and plans to present for consideration at the leaders' meetings, while holding his mind open to their suggestions. A wise pastor will institute a program of guidance for all youth leaders of the church. The Sabbath school or the Missionary Volunteer Society that is without the advice and counsel of the pastor is in a most unfortunate situation. The pastor must show not only an active but also an intelligent interest.

The choice of leaders for the various educational and spiritual activities must be carefully made. *The best talent of the church should be reserved for the children and the youth.* The leaders chosen should be intelligent, sympathetic, companionable, and they must have a personal religious experience as a basic requirement. There are many who make excellent workers for adults, but who are not psychologically or emotionally

equipped to work for youth. Leaders of youth need a sense of humor; they should be likable, able to get along with people; they should have a deep devotion and love for the church—and for the youth—and skill in teaching.

The question of proper avenues for the educational evangelism of the church now arises. The Sabbath school affords a natural opportunity for an effective program of instruction. The Missionary Volunteer Society can become a live influence in Christian nurture. The church should plan constructively to enter into the work, worship, and play of its young people. Participation of boys and girls in the life of the church should begin early. All leaders of youth groups and activities should be members of the general committee under whose guidance every phase of church work is planned and executed.

The church that holds itself aloof from youth's problems is doomed to early failure. It should feel a whole-hearted interest and concern in everything that affects youth. Sympathy and understanding should be clearly evident. The youth of Germany are said to have left the church because it was out of sympathy with their hopes and aspirations and did not offer a challenging program for them. For this reason Nazism has gained a strangle hold on youth. The Seventh-day Adventist Church must not get out of touch with its youth!

In the educational program of the church, youth must have an opportunity for individual thinking. The youth's programs should not revolve around a cut-and-dried formula. This does not quicken thinking; it stultifies it. Unless youth are allowed and encouraged to do their own thinking in the church, they will do it outside the church. The church leaders should work for a program of *insulation* instead of *isolation*; no one can be insulated against wrong thinking unless he has been taught to do right thinking. Too much of the work for youth has discouraged instead of encouraged thinking. It is not enough to let youth read prepared articles at their gatherings. Solutions to their problems must come through their own thinking and personal contact with God. Too often these problems are approached in the light of the adult writer's youth of twenty or thirty years ago. Assign challenging, thought-provoking topics to youth, and then let them work out their own solutions. These will usually prove more satisfactory than answers offered by those who do not fully understand problems of today's youth. This program of challenging the thinking of youth has been followed in our church work over a period of years, and the results have been most gratifying. *There is nothing so dead as the presentation of another's thinking which has not become one's own.* Let youth feel the warmth and life of their own thoughts and solutions. Wisely guided youth discussion groups should be encouraged.

Sabbath afternoons are an excellent time for this type of service. Let the pastor lead in these discussions, giving the youth a prominent role.

One of the best sources of education is missionary activity. We learn by doing. Action is a fundamental law of life. Let youth get into well-planned and directed activity, and they will grow in knowledge and in grace. With the right introduction and leadership, the program of progressive classwork as carried on by the Missionary Volunteer Societies affords an excellent opportunity for recreation and development in physical, social, scientific, and spiritual lines. This will so captivate the mind and occupy the time and boundless energies of the children and youth that there will be no desire and no time for harmful or questionable activities or amusements. Beginning with the small children in the home, this program is expanded to meet their growing needs and interests through later childhood, youth, and maturity.

In the religious education of the church the reading of youth should be strongly emphasized. The library should have books that touch vital youth's problems. Get the best books and they will be read. Many youth's libraries are completely out of date; they do not touch present-day issues. Every Missionary Volunteer Society should have a committee *which functions* to supply a variety of new, challenging youth's books.

Youth are ready to respond to an intelligent, well-planned, spiritual program in the church. The approach should be positive rather than negative. Let us not be like the mother who said, "Go and see what Tommy is doing and tell him not to do it."

The church that has internal peace and harmony will find it easy to work for its young people. On the other hand, it is said that every time division arises within the church, a generation of its youth is lost. Let sincerity and the love of Christ dominate the leaders of the youth. Let them pray, work, and plan effectively; the youth will respond and will vitalize every phase of church life and work.

#### Topics for Discussion

1. What type of adult person exercised a helpful influence in your youth?
2. How are periods of questioning and doubt to be handled?
3. What type of books should be provided for youth?
4. How can we best help young men and women to make right life choices?
5. How can evangelism be carried into the Sabbath school and the Missionary Volunteer Society?
6. How can we create a passion for the souls of youth?
7. How can we develop a right atmosphere for youth?
8. What are some of the failures of the church in meeting youth's problems? Do we judge our boys and girls by adult standards?
9. What part should prayer take in the work for youth?
10. Does the church have a duty to train parents for effective work for youth?
11. What effect will parents' criticism of the church have on the children?

## The Jewel in the Dark

Junior M. V. Topic, December 4

"Did you learn your Morning Watch text this morning, Carl?" Mrs. Brock inquired of her son as he came bounding in from his paper route.

"Yes, Mother," he answered as he prepared for the evening meal. "It's easy this time—a little short one. Don't see much use learning them, though; I forget them in a few days. But Miss Parker is a good teacher, and I'll do it to please her."

"Each one is a jewel, my boy," replied his mother. "Tuck them away in your memory, one by one; you will find them of value someday—real treasures in time of need."

Supper over, Carl did several small tasks, while his mother listened with interest to his account of the day's program. "I would like to go to the library and read awhile, Mother," he said presently. "There's a book there about all kinds of musical instruments that I want to see." The consent gained, he promised to be back before nine o'clock.

It was cozy and warm in the reading room, and after looking over the heavy book he had chosen, Carl curled up in a corner to read the boys' mechanical magazine. The curfew rang for nine o'clock; one by one the other readers left the library; lights were turned out; the great doors were locked securely. The boy was left unnoticed, sound asleep in the dark building.

With a sudden start Carl awoke three hours later. Where was he? Oh, yes! In a panic he sprang up, stumbled on a bookrack and fell. Then all was quiet. He listened intently. The clock ticked. The tree branches swished against the building outside. What could he do? The door was locked; the windows were all high, with brambles and rocks beneath. His throat was smarting. His eyes stung. Smoke was choking him! His keen ear caught the sound of an ominous crackling and snapping that froze the blood in his veins and terrorized him. Should he run at the price of bruises and humps? Where? The building was on fire, and he was alone in it. If discovered, he would be held for setting it on fire, and nobody would believe his story. One thought after another raced through his mind. He sobbed in distress and groped about frantically. Then as if a voice spoke to him came the words of the texts he had so faithfully learned, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." "Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee." Calmed and cheered as if by a friendly presence, Carl straightened himself courageously and said aloud, "I will trust." His brain cleared; in his mind he could see the long room, the bookshelves at the left, the librarian's desk at the right, the telephone! "Why didn't I think of that before?" he eagerly gasped.

The crackling became more noticeable. The smoke choked him. He expected any moment to see flames burst from the closet in the corner from which the smoke was pouring out, and destroy the treasures about him. At last he found the desk. Where was the telephone? It was not there! He sank into a chair, and as he did so his hand caught in a cord. The telephone! Yes. "I'll call Mr. Randolph. He'll know I am all right." Mr. Randolph was his employer. The man was just preparing for bed, and was indeed surprised to hear Carl Brock's voice at that time of night. "I'm locked in the library, and there is a fire here; I can hear it," said the boy breathlessly. Before Carl could grope his way to the door the sirens assured him the firemen were coming. A key unlocked the door. "Over there in that corner," screamed Carl. A burst of flame saluted the men as the door was opened, but the great streams of water mastered them, leaving the blackened walls and water-soaked furniture to tell

the tale. "A narrow escape," said the chief. "Good work, little chap! How did it happen?" he asked, laying a kindly hand on Carl's shoulder. Carl trembled with excitement and cold. He could scarcely speak, the relief was so great. He stammered out his story. Just then Mr. Randolph made his way through the crowd, and cordially spoke his approval of his young employee, whose presence of mind had saved the valuable building and its contents as well as his own life. All at once Carl found himself the hero, but he managed to slip away in the darkness, and in a few minutes a panting, excited boy ran up the steps of home to be met by an anxious mother. In a few words he stammered out his story, ending with, "I'll never object to learning the Morning Watch texts after this! They were jewels all right, and they shone in my mind so that I knew just what to do!"

Mrs. Brock listened with glad surprise as Carl told of the new courage given him just when he most needed it. "They were mighty valuable just then, Son," she replied. "They're always valuable in some way."

## Our Responsibility to the Tempted

(Continued from page 8)

need the right kind of influences as a substitute for the pleasures they may find in the questionable resorts in the world. Is the suggestion found in "Ministry of Healing," page 354, paragraphs 4 and 5, practical? Does it suggest a line of Christian endeavor that has been neglected?

Some years ago Seventh-day Adventists conducted in some of the larger cities a work, through homes and institutions, in which special efforts were put forth to help those who had fallen through intemperance. Is it possible that such a work could be revived, in the light of the instruction found in "Ministry of Healing," page 172, paragraph 2?

Can such a work be carried on successfully by trusting to the power of the will alone? ("Ministry of Healing," p. 179, par. 3, to p. 180, par. 3.)

## Seventh-day Adventists in the Forefront

AS "Gospel Workers" may not be as easily found as other writings from which we have made selections, we quote the following:

"Of all who claim to be numbered among the friends of temperance, Seventh-day Adventists should stand in the front ranks. For many years a flood of light concerning the principles of true reform has been shining on our pathway, and we are accountable before God to let this light shine to others. Years ago we regarded the spread of temperance principles as one of our most important duties. It should be so today."—"Gospel Workers," p. 384.

"It is a masterpiece of satanic skill to place men where they can with difficulty be reached with the gospel."—"Counsels on Health," p. 432.

Note the earnest appeal for a "revival of the temperance work" among us found in "Counsels on Health," page 432, paragraph 3.

What prediction made forty years ago regarding the result of "this terrible evil" is being fulfilled today? What kind of army is called for? What scripture shows the responsibility of those who are indifferent to the plight of the tempted? ("Ministry of Healing," p. 346, pars. 3, 4.)

What class among us is especially capable of accomplishing much in the cause of temperance, if united in a "firm, decided army"? ("Counsels on Health," p. 441, par. 1.)

Closing appeal found in "Testimonies," Volume VII, page 258, paragraph 3.

## Lincoln as a Lad

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, as a lad, was known for his readiness to help his neighbors. Once, though dressed in his best clothes, he got down into the mud and lent his great strength to unload and lift up an overturned cart, while others, unwilling to get splashed, stood around advising. We may not be able to follow Lincoln in his great deeds, but in such a deed as this any boy can imitate him.—Selected.

# The Church Officers' Gazette

## Subscription Rates

United States and Canada	
Yearly subscription	\$1.10
Clubs of two or more copies to one address, one year, each	.95
Foreign Countries Where Extra Postage Is Required	
Yearly subscription	1.25
Clubs of two or more copies to one address, one year, each	1.10

EDITOR	ROGER ALTMAN
Associate Editors	Robert G. Strickland, Alfred W. Peterson John E. Weaver
Assistant Editors	Mrs. Grace D. Mace, Mrs. Marjorie W. Marsh, Mrs. Florence K. Rebock
EDITORIAL COUNCIL	
M. E. Kern	H. T. Elliott

## 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.