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Messages to Modern Christians From the Seven Churches of Revelation

BY ERNEST LLOYD

IN no part of the Scriptures do we find a clearer statement of what our Lord requires of His disciples today than in the messages to the seven churches which appear in the first three chapters of Revelation. Nowhere do Christians find a more correct standard by which to examine their condition, or rules by which to guide their conduct. Here are revealed to us those moral diseases which are not only imperiling the very life of the church in these days of materialism and strife, but which are working destruction almost without being suspected. No part of the Bible deserves more attention today than these Revelation messages.

Each epistle to the churches closes with a promise of reward to those who are victorious in the Christian conflict. "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." "He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saying he that receiveth it." "To him will I give power over the nations." "The same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels." "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, . . . and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God: . . . and I will write upon him My new name." "To him that overcometh

will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne."

Such are the exceeding great and precious promises which are made to those who come off "more than conquerors through Him that loved" them in the fight of faith, and which, though distributed among the churches, will all be fulfilled in each individual victor.

Let us now take up the epistles to the churches, separately, and mark well the outstanding lessons they contain for us in this time of spiritual crisis.

Ephesus

"Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith He that holdeth the seven stars in His right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil; and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: and hast borne, and hast patience, and for My name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate." Rev. 2:1-6.

What a church and what a character! They labored for Christ; they were called to suffer persecution, and instead

of apostatizing, endured their sufferings with patience; they maintained a strict and holy discipline, and removed from among themselves the evil characters and impostors! He commended them for their good, but "nevertheless," said He, "I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

The lesson taught us in the record of this church is that no measure of attainment in churches or individual members will satisfy our Lord while any defect in other things is present. Here was a church that excelled in so many duties that we should have expected to hear nothing but the language of unmixed commendation. We are ready to say, If such a church was rebuked for deficiency, what shall be said of us?

"At the first, the experience of the church at Ephesus was marked with childlike simplicity and fervor. The believers sought earnestly to obey every word of God, and their lives revealed an earnest, sincere love for Christ. They rejoiced to do the will of God because the Saviour was in their hearts as an abiding presence. Filled with love for their Redeemer, their highest aim was to win souls to Him. They did not think of hoarding the precious treasure of the grace of Christ. They felt the importance of their calling; and weighted with the message, 'Peace on earth, good will

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YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

of Missionary Volunteers



NOTES TO OFFICERS

Binding Off the Year's Work

TRUE leaders pride themselves on their ability to finish in a proper way the tasks which they have undertaken.

As the end of the year draws near, the society executive committee will encourage every member of the society and every band leader to finish and bind off the year's undertakings. It will see that all secretaries have their records up to date, that all reports are properly made out and sent on to the conference M. V. secretary, that all debts are paid, that the M. V. library is in good shape, and that a society record book, application for membership cards, M. V. leaflets, M. V. promotion charts, etc., are on hand ready for the incoming officers.

But the society executive committee will do more than attend to the material things as it prepares to close its work for the year. It will plan a meeting of the society, at which time each promotional secretary and each band leader will present in a concise, enthusiastic way a report of the activities for which he has been responsible during the year. This meeting will be planned in such a way that it will be an inspiration to all present. Society members will be asked to be prepared to tell the text in the Morning Watch which was the most helpful to them. Someone will be asked to give a brief review of the most interesting M. V. Reading Course book or to tell the most interesting episode in the book. Another will tell the most interesting incident found during his pursuit of the Bible year. Some members of bands will tell the most thrilling experience in service which came to them during the year. Promotional secretaries will prepare simple graphs to illustrate trends in the lines which they have promoted.

Has this year been a better year for the young people of your church than former years? Why? How many young people of your church and of your community have been baptized during the year? The influence of this kind of meeting in December—deeply spiritual, inspiring, informative—will carry over into next year.

So, bind this year's work off in a strong way.

A. W. P.

December 30

THIS date is open for your arrangement of topic and program. You may wish to hear reports from the various society bands, to bind off devotional or educational features, etc. Plan early and well for this date.

Do It!

Do it because it is right;
Not for the sake of the pay,
Or because you are asked and don't like to refuse,
Or because it's the easiest way.

Do it that you may grow strong;
Learn to use all of your power,
To do the unpleasant and find in it joy,
To make the best use of each hour.

Do it without being asked;
Because you see somebody's need;
A hundred strong hands will take up the task,
If you will take courage and lead.

—Author Unknown.

Crusaders' Corps in 1945

THE Missionary Volunteer Crusaders' Corps has received a fair share of attention by most Missionary Volunteer societies throughout North America during the year 1944, but without doubt there are greater possibilities for this phase of our youth's endeavor. Many more Missionary Volunteers should be taking an active part in personal evangelism. In other words more of our youth should be engaged in giving Bible readings and conducting cottage meetings among their neighbors and friends. The fact that during 1944 a number of older juniors have had very successful experience in soul winning through this type of work gives evidence that it is not too difficult a work for our youth.

May we remind you of the fact that the Missionary Volunteer Department has provided the twenty-eight printed lessons in the Crusaders' Bible Course, and in order to facilitate in the presentation of these subjects by our young people, the Missionary Volunteer Crusaders' films for use in the S V E tri-purpose projector have also been prepared and are available for any who may desire them. The printed lessons should be ordered through your Book and Bible House at 85 cents per hundred of any one lesson, or 30 cents a single set. The films should be ordered directly from the Mayse Studio, Box 25, San Diego 12, California, \$4 each.

As important and as simple as this phase of our Missionary Volunteer work is, we must bear in mind it will not carry on by itself. Leaders of the Missionary Volunteer Society must continually emphasize its importance and lay plans to give direction to it in connection with the society work. Some societies have found it very helpful to have the Crusaders' Corps meet regularly each week for study and practice in presenting different Bible subjects. No doubt the work would be strengthened in other societies through such a plan.

Let us endeavor to make the year 1945 the greatest soul-winning year in our Missionary Volunteer history.

C. LESTER BOND.

Gifts

It is nearly holiday time, and everywhere we hear, "What kind of gift should I give to my friend this season?" Yes, friends of soldiers are asking that question, mothers and fathers, Junior and Senior Missionary Volunteers throughout the world are repeating that question many times. And so we thought you would appreciate a few suggestions in regard to gifts at this holiday season.

If you are thinking of a small, inexpensive, and yet very valuable gift for a friend, I know of no better one than the 1945 de luxe Morning Watch booklet. You will appreciate its attractiveness, and its daily devotional gems will be cherished. A special envelope is given to you free for mailing, should you desire.

Now, if you are thinking of a more expensive gift, how about the 1945 Missionary Volunteer Reading Course books? These are wonderfully interesting and inspiring, for youth and for boys and girls too. These books—found in the various courses—Senior, Junior, and Primary—will meet the need of a gift to any friend, young or old. Then there are other books—devotional, missionary, travel, etc., and Bibles.

If your friend is definitely interested in the Progressive Class work, you may wish to give him a beautiful new Vocational Honor scarf, which will be a lasting remembrance, or some of the equipment needed to carry on various vocations or other phases of Progressive work.

All these gifts that have been suggested may be purchased from your Book and Bible House or your conference Missionary Volunteer secretary.

I almost forgot to suggest that your Missionary Volunteer Society itself should have a holiday gift too, and I am going to suggest one or two or even a set of the Missionary Volunteer banners. These banners make your society room attractive and forcefully remind of the Aim, Motto, and Pledge. They are made of beautiful green-and-gold felt, and may be ordered from the United States Poster Company, 330 H Street, N. E., Washington, D. C. They are priced as follows: Aim, \$5; Motto, \$5; Senior Pledge, \$9; Junior Pledge, \$7.50; Junior Law, \$7.50.

This season let us give gifts that are lasting, worth-while gifts that are more than just a passing fancy. Books live on and on; mottoes do too.

C. H. LAUDA.

Christmas Caroling

CHRISTMAS time is caroling time. Caroling is a heart-warming, joyous experience for both singers and hearers.

Missionary Volunteers will find fun
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SENIOR MEETINGS

December 2

A Great Task

A Small People

A Little Time

BY T. J. MICHAEL

Order of Service

SONG: "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations," No. 80 in *M. V. Songs*.

PRAYER.
REPORTS OF MISSIONARY SERVICE.
SECRETARY'S REPORT.
OFFERTORY.

MUSIC.
TALK: "The Great Commission."
TALK: "The Task."
TALK: "The Challenge of an Unfinished Task."

SONG: "The Youth of the World," No. 36.
BENEDICTION.

Note to Leaders

The material for this program was prepared eighteen months before publication. The war now rages in Europe, Asia, and the Pacific. Without doubt developments of a major and even a catastrophic nature will have taken place before December, 1944. It may be necessary, therefore, for society leaders to adapt this material as existing conditions will indicate. Fundamental principles will stand, and only minor adjustments may be needed to make the program material fit appropriately into current needs.

The Great Commission

BEFORE Jesus left the disciples to ascend to His Father, He gave to them the great commission, as it is found in Mark 16:15. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." This commission was to be binding on every disciple of Christ until the work shall have been finished.

The apostle John in vision saw in the last days of earth's history an angel flying "in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." Rev. 14:6. The preaching of the gospel is here referred to as taking place in the time of the end.

God might have chosen an angel to take the "good news" of Christ and His saving love to all the world. Probably had He used an angel, the preaching of the gospel would have been more expeditiously and efficiently accomplished. But the reference to an angel in this verse in Revelation 14 is no indication that there has been any change in the terms and purpose of the great commission. The reference to the angel without a doubt is made to indicate the swiftness and power with which the message would be taken to the whole earth. Angels, as we understand their ministry, are not preachers. The everlasting gospel is to be preached "to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." The responsibility, therefore, is one that rests upon men and women right through until the work is

completed, and we are not left in any doubt as to just whom this responsibility rests upon. When Jesus spoke the words of the great commission, He was speaking to disciples, and He said "Go ye." A "disciple" is one who follows a great teacher.

Every professing Seventh-day Adventist is undoubtedly a follower of the Master Teacher. Upon every Seventh-day Adventist in particular and upon every Christian in general, therefore, devolves the responsibility of going to "preach the gospel to every creature." No one is excused. The parable of the talents makes clear to us that everyone has been given his task, his responsibility, together with the ability to encompass the task. Our great Commanding Officer says, "Go ye." He expects us to comply with the marching orders, and we must be sure that in the grand victory parade which will take place at the coming of the Lord, none of us will be found to have disobeyed, or neglected, the orders of the Commander-in-chief. Circumstances change. It will become increasingly difficult to accomplish the task. But the commission still stands, and it will stand till the work is finished.

The Task

To all the world the everlasting gospel is to be preached—to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. This is a stupendous task. The preaching of the gospel has been in progress for a long while. Many denominations and church organizations have been engaged in preaching the gospel, and under the blessing of God, many millions of people in most of the lands of earth have been brought to a saving knowledge of Christ as a result.

But in Matthew 24:14 Jesus talks about "this gospel of the kingdom"—not a nominal gospel, not a gospel of social uplift, as so many professing Christians are satisfied with these days, but a special gospel, "this gospel of the kingdom," a gospel that deals in a special way with the kingdom which Jesus is so soon to set up. This is a special gospel message for the last days of earth's history, because when it has been preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, "then shall the end come."

We believe that to Seventh-day Adventists in particular has been entrusted the privilege and responsibility of taking this gospel of the kingdom to all the world. A comparatively small people, numerically, we are among the very small denominations. A small people, with the largest task imaginable! And what is more, this small people must accomplish this stupendous task in a limited time. Referring to these very days in which we live, Jesus, in Luke 21:32, makes this challenging statement: "This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled."

How we should admire and respect the pioneers of this movement. About seventy years ago, when they caught the

vision of the responsibility that rested upon this people, there was only a handful of believers, not more than five thousand church members; and this whole membership at that time was here in North America. But our pioneers were not disobedient to the heavenly vision. They understood that the great commission in a special manner had been placed upon this people, and that small people with amazing faith and courage set themselves to the task of taking the gospel of the kingdom to the whole world in this generation. Their faith has been honored by God. The Lord has done wondrous things through His humble, believing people. There are now over a hundred times as many Seventh-day Adventists as there were when this people began to lift up its eyes to behold the world field. There are approximately thirty thousand denominational workers of various kinds, and these are laboring in over eight hundred languages in well over four hundred different countries and island fields.

Well might we sing, "To God be the glory, great things He hath done." In many ways the extent of the work being done by Seventh-day Adventists is an amazement to other denominational leaders and onlookers. A few months ago a prominent official of a missionary organization became aware of the amount of money voted for the support of our world mission enterprise for this year, and he exclaimed, "How can you do it? How can such a small people as you are undertake so much?" It was a privilege to explain that it is because we have a message that *must* go to all the world in this generation.

The Challenge of an Unfinished Task

AMAZING though the accomplishments of Seventh-day Adventists have been in proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom throughout the earth, the task is by no means completed. At the present time we are confronted with a vast, unfinished task. There are large areas here in the United States of America and Canada that have not been worked by the herald of the advent message. There are two hundred and fifty million Moslems to whom this denomination has scarcely begun to preach "this gospel of the kingdom." Vast areas and multitudes of people in India, in China, in Japan, and in other sections of the earth have not yet been reached. Time is hastening on. "This generation" is rapidly approaching its close. The unfinished task, great though it is, *must* be accomplished. It *shall* be accomplished. Jesus declared, "This gospel of the kingdom *shall* be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."—Matt. 24:14.

Before the rapidly approaching end of this old earth's history, the work shall be finished by this people. Jesus said so, and it *must* be so.

In Isaiah 11:11 we find God speaking through His servant the prophet these assuring words: "It shall come to pass in *that day*, that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people." The Lord, the great

God of the universe, is setting His hand to do something! When God sets His hand to a task, can we, dare we, have any doubt about the outcome? Surely, it shall be accomplished. When will it be done? "In that day." That expression in the Scriptures invariably refers to the time of the end, the days in which we are unmistakably living now. In this generation, in this last generation, God has promised that He will set His hand to accomplish through His children that which may seem humanly impossible.

In the *Review and Herald* of November 10, 1885, we were given, through the Spirit of prophecy, the following encouraging message: "God will soon do great things for us. . . More than one thousand will soon be converted in a day." It takes us about twelve days now to convert a thousand. But God has promised to accelerate our work so that twelve days' work will be done in one. But, as though God saw that even that acceleration would not suffice, He said through His servant twenty years later: "The time is coming when there will be as many converted in a day as there were on the day of Pentecost."—*Id.*, June 29, 1905. Three thousand a day being reached by the "gospel of the kingdom" and won into the kingdom of God!

That is what we can expect when God sets His hand in a special way to the work of gathering out from all the lands of earth the remnant of His people. And this means the mission lands, the Moslem lands, India, China, and the islands of the sea. Notice this: "In heathen Africa, in the Catholic lands of Europe and of South America, in China, in India, in the islands of the sea, and in all the dark corners of the earth, God has in reserve a firmament of chosen ones that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 139. A multitude from these as yet unfinished areas will come, and the number is so great that God inspired His servant to describe them as "a firmament of chosen ones." How that should encourage and inspire our hearts!

But as has already been suggested, God will, right through to the end, use human instrumentalities for the accomplishment of the task. The responsibility rests upon us, and especially upon the young people of this movement. In this dreadful conflict known as World War II the nations depend upon their youth to do the fighting. Youth by the millions respond and are to be found in the forefront of the battles raging on land and sea and in the air. It is not unnatural, therefore, or unreasonable to expect that in the greatest battle of all, the great controversy between the forces of the King of kings and the forces of the enemy of God, the youth should be called upon to carry the major load.

Soon, much sooner than many now expect, this denomination will be confronted with the greatest challenge, yes, the greatest crisis, in its history. God will open wide the doors of fields and lands that are now closed. The cry will come for missionaries to be sent in larger numbers than we have ever sent them before. "From quarters where we least expect will come voice urging us forward in the

work of giving to the world the last message of mercy."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VII, p. 14. The need will be so great, the opportunities for service will be so numerous at home and abroad, that every young man and woman among the advent people should be prepared to respond to the Macedonian call. Oh, yes, there will be difficulties, seemingly insurmountable ones; but we are told, "Advance we must, though the Red Sea be before us, and impassable mountains on either hand."—*Life Sketches*, p. 298.

A small people, a tremendous task, and a very little time in which to accomplish the task. Following the Battle of Britain, when the Royal Air Force, vastly inferior in numbers, successfully drove back the great and powerful German air force from over Britain, Winston Churchill made that memorable statement, "Never have so many owed so much to so few." The day is not far distant when a multitude on the sea of glass in the New Jerusalem will similarly rejoice in what has been accomplished for them by the comparatively few who have faithfully preached the gospel of the kingdom to all the peoples of earth. But the task is so great, and at best our numbers are so few, that there rests upon every man or woman the solemn responsibility of carrying out the great commission, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." God has set His hand to finish the task. Will you set your hand also to that same task, now? Will you?

December 9

Ellen G. White

BY ARTHUR L. WHITE

Order of Service

SONG.
SENTENCE PRAYERS.
REPORTS OF MISSIONARY ENDEAVORS by service bands and by individuals.
SECRETARY'S REPORT.
OFFERTORY.
TALK: "God Calls His Messenger, Ellen G. Harmon White."
TALK: "The Voice That Molded the Denomination."
SYMPOSIUM: "Mrs. White as Others Knew Her."
SONG.
BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

In planning the program on the life of Mrs. E. G. White, there is perhaps more material available than on the life of any other of the Seventh-day Adventist pioneer workers. Many sources of information are readily accessible, and where there is opportunity the program can be broadened, either by the addition of one or two talks suggested below, or by other talks which might be developed.

The times in which Mrs. White began her ministry have been emphasized in the preceding programs this year. Her work began just at the critical hour of the period when things were taking shape after the great disappointment.

With this very brief review of the influence of Mrs. White's life and work upon the denomination, many of the young people will turn with interest to the several biographical works available, and many will read with particular interest the little book *His Messenger*.

ADDITIONAL INTERESTING TOPICS

Two or three interesting stories might be told, based on detailed accounts found in well-known books. A few topics are listed:

"The Story of the Secret Sign." in *Divine Predictions Fulfilled* (Gilbert), pp. 266-281; *Spirit of Prophecy in the Advent Movement* (Spicer), pp. 116, 117.

"Saved From Pantheistic Teaching." in *Abiding Gift of Prophecy* (Daniells), pp. 330-342.

"The Providential Move to Washington, D. C." in *Abiding Gift of Prophecy* (Daniells), pp. 343-353; *Spirit of Prophecy in the Advent Movement* (Spicer), pp. 96-108.

"Establishing the Australian Missionary College." in *Abiding Gift of Prophecy* (Daniells), pp. 308-321.

"What Others Say About the Spirit of Prophecy." in *Spirit of Prophecy in the Advent Movement* (Spicer), pp. 37-48.

"Traveling the Narrow Way." in *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. II, pp. 594-597; *His Messenger* (Wheeler), pp. 117-122.

God Calls His Messenger, Ellen G. Harmon White

MANY excellent sources are available for the subject matter of this talk. Reference is made to *Life Sketches of Ellen G. White* and *His Messenger* for the following outline:

1. Childhood of Ellen Harmon. LS 17-19; HM 11-14.
2. Conversion and Preparation for the End of the World. LS 20-25; HM 15-20.
3. Helping Others to Get Ready. LS 41-42; HM 21-24.
4. The Disappointment of October 22, 1844. LS 60-63; HM 21-29.
5. God Sends a Message of Hope. LS 64-68; HM 31-35.
6. Telling Others. LS 69-73; HM 37-41.
7. Marriage to Elder James White. LS 97.

Other sources: *Life and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, pp. 9-46; *Christian Experience and Teachings of Ellen G. White*, pp. 13-90; *Founders of the Message*, pp. 199-207; *They Also Served*, pp. 83-92; *Pioneer Stories*, pp. 133-140, 187-203; *Lessons in Denominational History*, pp. 104-106.

The Voice That Molded the Denomination

Few had the privilege accorded Mrs. E. G. White of watching the work of the Seventh-day Adventists grow from its humble beginnings following the "great disappointment" to a well-developed denomination conducting its work around the world. Not only did she witness this phenomenal growth but, as God's chosen messenger for the remnant church, it was her privilege to participate actively for seventy years in the establishment of its various branches.

She was present at the Sabbath conferences of 1848 when the foundations of doctrine were laid. And that same year she heralded the call for the publication of the third angel's message through the press. She helped to fold and address the little *Present Truth* sent out in 1849, and gave encouragement that the publishing work would grow till its influence would be felt around the world. The visions led her to call for organization in our work, and she witnessed the forming of local churches and State conferences in the late fifties, and the General Conference in 1863.

We were called into our great health work through the revelations which were given to Mrs. White, and Seventh-day Adventists came to gain a broad conception of the message influencing heart, mind, and body in preparing a people to meet the Lord.

Schools were started in response to the Spirit of prophecy counsels. Beginning with the college established at Battle Creek, in 1874, this work has grown till our educational work encircles the globe.

With the establishment of schools the way was opened for the training of workers to follow in the footsteps of J. N. Andrews, who pioneered our foreign missionary work, going to Europe in 1874.

Over and over again the concept of the work before this people was broadened, as Ellen White told of the visions in which she witnessed the extent to which the message must grow. All through the years the counsels came, leading the people on past serious pitfalls and intriguing but dangerous side lines. There has ever been kept

before us the one great objective of preparing the people to meet Jesus.

The work of presenting the Spirit of prophecy messages was a large one. Pains-takingly Mrs. White toiled day after day in writing out that which was shown to her. The counsel for individuals was presented in personal letters. Many views dealt with matters of concern to churches and conferences and the work as a whole. Such counsel was sent out in letters, duplicated manuscript form, or put into print in our papers and nearly twosome books.

And it was not alone with her pen that she bore Heaven's messages to the church. A great deal of the instruction was given orally. There were private interviews with individuals; there were the council meetings attended by many or few. There were the discourses in our churches, at our camp meetings, at the General Conference in session, and many times at general gatherings of non-Adventists. At such times Mrs. White spoke in other churches, in theaters, and in opera houses. It was not uncommon for her to speak to two or three thousand people. Sometimes six or seven thousand heard her, and the largest gathering she ever addressed was fifteen thousand at the Groveland, Massachusetts, camp meeting. Her voice carried well, and she spoke clearly, distinctly, forcefully, and convincingly, gripping the hearts of her hearers.

Mrs. White's work took her not only to various points in the United States but across the seas, first to Europe, where she labored for two and one-half years, from 1885 to 1887, building up the cause in the central, southern, and northern countries. Then in 1891 she was asked to visit Australia, and she spent nearly nine years in pioneer work on the island continent. While she was there the work was organized; a college and sanitarium and health food factory were started; and Australia became a home base for missionary service in the South Pacific.

The last fifteen years of Mrs. White's life were spent at her quiet Elmhaven home in northern California, not far from the St. Helena Sanitarium. During this period ten books were written, hundreds of articles were furnished to our papers, and Mrs. White made a number of trips to Loma Linda, to Nashville, and to Washington, D. C., helping to strengthen and build up the work. Her life came to a close in mid-summer of 1915, at the good age of eighty-seven.

As she laid down her pen for the last time, she left not a worldly fortune but a monument in the form of her writings. These, through the years, have been published in many languages. The helpful devotional work *Steps to Christ* is read in fifty-nine languages and has a distribution, which runs close to the five-million mark. *The Great Controversy*, in twenty-seven languages, has entered more than a million homes. Around the world, whether in China, the United States, or South America, the detailed counsels of *Gospel Workers* give safe guidance to the minister. The doctor and the nurse in Europe, Asia, and the Americas search the pages of *Ministry of Healing* for a true portrayal of the great principles of healthful living. The youth of the denomination on seven continents study the inspired counsels of *Messages to Young People*. Seventh-day Adventists in every walk of life in every land know well that "in these days" God "speaks to them by the testimonies of His Spirit" (*Testimonies*, Vol. V, p. 861), giving instruction and information which will help them in meeting the great issues of the present and the future. There was never a time in the history of Seventh-day Adventists when these books were more sought after than at the present, never a time when so many rolled from the presses, never a time when the counsel was more needed than now.

Surely Ellen White's contribution to the church was a priceless, enduring gift with its influence felt through every year of its history, in every branch of its work, and in the home of every member.

★ ★

If we do but one third of that which we have entrusted talents to do, the other two thirds are working against Christ.
—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI, p. 439.

Mrs. White as Others Knew Her

It is in Mrs. White's own home that people became best acquainted with her, so let us in imagination call on her at the little cottage on Wood Street in Battle Creek. We come with such natural questions in our minds as: "What was Mrs. White like? Did she have the same problems we all do? Was she wealthy, or was she poor? Did she ever smile?"

The year of our visit is 1859. There are five in the family: three boys, ages five, nine, and twelve. We find Mrs. White to be a young woman of thirty-one and her husband six years older. Mrs. White appears to be a thoughtful mother, a careful housewife, a genial hostess. She is a woman of conviction, but gentle in manner and voice. We soon learn that she is of a cheerful, buoyant disposition and can enjoy a hearty laugh. Christianity to her is a practical, joyous experience.

We are given a ready welcome and we learn that many visitors are entertained at this home. The home life is quite normal, except, of course, Elder and Mrs. White are frequently absent as the needs of the cause of God have called them into the gospel field.

As Mrs. White is called away by some pressing duty we ask if we may look into the little black leather-covered diary we see in the stand. Here we find the day-by-day pictures of Mrs. White's life.

The very first entry is for Sabbath, New Year's day. The page is full as Mrs. White describes the meetings held morning and afternoon and tells about the baptism at the intermission. We leaf through the pages, pausing now and then to read the full entry. We find that she divides her time between her home duties as mother, neighbor, and friend, and her public work of speaking and writing. Some days she was not feeling well, others are crowded with busy activity. There is the record of the three-week trip early in January to visit the churches in northern Michigan, followed by the joyous home-coming on January 26. Then there are sewing and writing which must have early attention, some visiting to be done at homes where poverty haunts and sickness afflicts. On certain days we find her at the Review office helping the girls in the folding room.

At last spring comes with its warmer weather, and Mrs. White is often in the garden with her boys, setting out shrubs and plants. There are trips to town to do the shopping, and Mrs. White is sometimes accompanied by some of the sisters who valued her judgment in the selection of goods.

Sabbaths are pleasant days, with the time divided between meetings, the quiet hour of reading with her boys, and the walk beside the near-by river or through the woods. Her eye always catches the beautiful. She enjoys the serenity of the lake, the power of the relentless ocean, and the majesty of the mountain.

Although there are frequent periods of disappointment, sorrow, and suffering, Mrs. White endeavors to be cheerful, recognizing that a Christian represents his religion by his attitude.

Fifty years pass by before we make a

second visit to the White home. We find Mrs. White living in California at the edge of the beautiful Napa Valley, not far from the St. Helena Sanitarium. Her home is a well-constructed, eight-room house, located on a little knoll. On the south and west is a beautiful valley with orchard, vineyard, and garden. On the north and east are mountains, and between the home and the mountains are large pastures and hayfields and more orchard.

The family has changed much during the fifty years. Mrs. White is now eighty-one years of age and Elder James White has passed to his rest. She is surrounded in her home by members of her home and office family—earnest, Christian individuals who assist her in copying her letters, in the preparation of her books, and in keeping the home.

Oftentimes Mrs. White begins her work at two or three o'clock in the morning, sometimes at midnight. Seldom does she remain in bed resting after a revelation is given to her. She dresses, goes to her writing room, builds a fire in the fireplace, and, pulling her writing chair over in front of the fire, works while others sleep, penning the counsel and instruction for the church which God has given her.

Two meals are served in the home: breakfast and a late dinner early in the afternoon. The family are engaged in literary work, and this meets their needs well. If members of the family desire a little lunch in the evening, they are at perfect liberty to go to the kitchen and select what they wish. Mrs. White presides at the table, which is amply spread with wholesome, appetizing food. She has never believed in a skimpy or meager diet. Her table represents the principles of healthful diet, as they have been presented to her in vision. The table is well supplied with vegetables, fruits, grains, nuts, milk, and cream—many of them products of her own farm.

Of course, Mrs. White's time is taken up very largely with her writing, the handling of her mail, receiving callers, and counseling with her office workers. After dinner, if it is a pleasant day, she will go out for a drive in the carriage, gaining a little relaxation and recreation. We might find her, too, about the place, out at the barn to see how the animals are doing, down at the garden to notice the progress of the crops, or in the flower garden, admiring the roses, the pansies.

We learn that Mrs. White takes an active interest in the neighbors. If there is sickness and the need of help, she at times sends her own housekeeper over to give treatments. If times are hard she may share food and clothes with those in need.

We are at perfect ease in the White home, whether at the table, in the parlor, or out in the garden. Mrs. White is neither prying nor snoopy. Though the home is comfortable there is no indication of extravagance. The home expense is minimized that there may be more means available to advance the work of God. We observe that although she is often heavily pressed with work in writing and speaking, life about the home is very normal. Mrs. White's experience as God's messenger does not lift her above

the common interests of life. She is ever ready to speak a word of courage, of hope, and of cheer, ever watchful to drop some little seed which will bear fruit in the heart of one who has not yet surrendered to God.

As we leave, we say to ourselves, we have learned to know Mrs. White not alone as God's messenger but also as a sensible, earnest Seventh-day Adventist, mother, neighbor, and friend.



JOINT TOPIC FOR SENIORS AND JUNIORS

December 16

The New Earth

BY MRS T. G. BUNCH

Order of Service

OPENING AND DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES.

TALK: "I Go to Prepare a Place for You."

TALK: "Many Mansions."

TALK: "I Will Come Again."

CLOSING EXERCISES.

Notes to Leaders and Superintendents

Never in the history of man have human beings longed more for certainties and the assurance of realities beyond this life than they do at the present time. The uncertainties, dangers, and destruction not only in war areas but even in so-called neutral countries, have infused adults and even children with a tense restlessness and feeling of insecurity. Thousands of young people are forced to face and meet tragic deaths. Parents, wives, brothers, sisters, and children are compelled to face the sorrow of untimely and permanent separation as far as this life is concerned, and long for some ray of light promising definite reunion in a land where there will be "no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain."

When the disciples faced the reality of separation from their loved Master, He comforted them with the assurance (1) of His mission to go and prepare a place for them, (2) the promise of a future home, for "in My Father's house are many mansions," and (3) the positive pledge of His return to "receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Surely the time has come when our own faith should claim anew this threefold promise, realizing with renewed joy the imminent fulfillment of our hope. With this a positive, living experience in our own lives, the aim of this program will be realized, namely, to inspire others to look up in faith and hope, knowing that heaven is a real place and very soon we shall enjoy its happiness and peace.

For further helpful material, see the following: *The Great Controversy*, Chapter 42, "The Controversy Ended"; *Early Writings*, first chapter, "My First Vision," pp. 13-20; *Bible and Other Stories*, by Dorothy White, Christian, topics—"The Journey to Heaven," "God's Beautiful City," and "The New Earth," pp. 221-225.

Songs for Today: Choose from Nos. 104-112 in *M. V. Songs*.

"I Go to Prepare a Place for You"

THE scene is that upper room in old Jerusalem. Evening shadows have already faded into night—a night of dark foreboding and fear to that little group of young men. For some time they have been fearful of the malignant hatred of their countrymen. They had followed their Master to Jerusalem with marked reluctance, had even tried to dissuade Him from coming. Now their fear bor-

ders on panic as He informs them of His departure from them. They are homeless and penniless; even the shelter of this upper room is theirs just for the evening, thanks to the hospitality of a friend. Seeking to comfort them Jesus says, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

The disciples were fearful that they would never see their Master again. The thought of being separated from Him after three years of such intimate association was overwhelming. Christ sought to reassure them. He promised that even though He went away He would be working for them, preparing a permanent home for them. He also gave them something to do while waiting. "While He was building mansions for them, they were to build characters after the divine similitude."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 663. "A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 332. But in this work He did not leave them alone. He promised all the help necessary from heaven to aid them in the attainment of this goal, so they would be ready when He came back to earth again.

"I go to prepare a place for you." Let us not fail to claim the promise as given to each one of us individually. "The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watchcare, not another soul for whom He gave His beloved Son."—*Steps to Christ*, (pocket ed.), p. 100. A place prepared for me, planned for me, designed to satisfy every longing desire for a perfect home. "Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children."—*Education*, p. 18.

Many Mansions

"LET your imagination picture the home of the saved, and remember that it will be more glorious than your brightest imagination can portray."—*Steps to Christ* (pocket ed.), p. 86. Unlike the cities of our world, with buildings crowded together, the streets are broad and lovely with trees and flowers, the main street with the crystal clear river of life flowing from the throne of God, and parks—but we can go no further, for our mental capacities fail us. "Neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."

To help us visualize that wonderful place He gives us two distinct revelations. He tells us of some things we will not see or experience in that fair land. "There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain." No funerals, no cemeteries, not even any sickness. The eyes of the blind will be opened; the deaf will hear; the dumb not only will learn to speak but will be given voices to sing; the cripples will all be whole; and the feeble and

aged will renew their strength. Then as the marvelous relief of being freed from such burdens and fears begins to arouse our feeble imagination, He adds new promises for us to ponder. There will be no wars, no bloodshed or strife. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain." Isa. 11:9. And there will be no dangerous animals to fear, for He tells us that the lion and lamb, the wolf, the leopard, the bear, the cows and calves will all feed gently together, so gently that little children will play among them and lead them around 'at will.

Having gained our whole attention by talking about undesirable things which we know about and are anxious to leave behind, He now would lead to more wonderful revelations of the things He has planned and prepared:

"In the city of God 'there shall be no night.' None will need or desire repose. There will be no weariness in doing the will of God and offering praise to His name. We shall ever feel the freshness of the morning, and shall ever be far from its close. . . . The light of the sun will be superseded by a radianec which is not painfully dazzling, yet which immeasurably surpasses the brightness of our noontide. The glory of God and the Lamb floods the Holy City with unfading night. The redeemed walk in the sunless glory of perpetual day."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 676.

Then He tells of the lovely walls and gates and foundations, all garnished with priceless gems, the streets paved with pure gold—"and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass." The city, of course, is made up of the homes and the people that live in them. Can your imagination grasp a palace of such precious material? In a vision Mrs. White saw the new earth, and she said: "There I saw most glorious houses, that had the appearance of silver, supported by four pillars set with pearls most glorious to behold. These were to be inhabited by the saints. . . . I saw another field full of all kinds of flowers. . . . I saw a field of tall grass, most glorious to behold; it was living green, and had a reflection of silver and gold, as it waved proudly to the glory of King Jesus."—*Early Writings*, p. 18. (Especially for the Juniors, present this paragraph more fully, and perhaps other parts of this chapter.)

Have you some talent, some secret ambition you long to develop? Perhaps you love music or the study of astronomy but lack the facilities and opportunity to study now. "There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body.

"All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's redeemed. . . . With undimmed vision they gaze upon the glory of creation,—suns and stars and systems, all in their appointed order circling the throne of Deity. Upon all things, from the least to the greatest, the Creator's name is written, and in all are the riches of His power displayed."—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 677, 678.

Perhaps amid the rush, noise, and confusion of the present you long for quiet and time to enjoy the lovely things of life—exquisite, restful music, beauty spots of nature, "quiet resting places" away from city life, a place where you may plant and watch things grow.

"There will be music there, and song, such music and song as, save in the visions of God, no mortal ear has heard or mind conceived."—*Education*, p. 307. "There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside these living streams, God's people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 675. The meek shall inherit the earth. "They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them." Only the most wealthy on this earth can afford the luxury of both city and country homes, but that is to be included in our eternal inheritance. Our home in the New Jerusalem will be made ready for us, but later we shall personally have the privilege of building our homes in the country. Build and inhabit—not build, and another inhabit. No more rented homes, apartments, or rooms—no more mortgages foreclosed. We may build that perfect home we have dreamed about, and we may live there forever; we may landscape our grounds and plant vineyards. Does that sound real? Jesus is preparing just such a place for you and for me.

"I Will Come Again"

How reluctant the disciples were to see Jesus leave, "It is expedient for you that I go away," "I will come again." A positive promise, but they found it difficult wholly to believe Him.

After Jesus left the disciples they missed His personal presence, and their conversation and thoughts were constantly about His promise to return, until, as Paul records it, "our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ." Phil. 3:20. This was also the experience of those who were preparing to meet Him in the 1844 movement, and it will be the experience of those He receives when He returns. "A fear of making the future inheritance seem too material has led many to spiritualize away the very truths which lead us to look upon it as our home. Christ assured His disciples that He went to prepare mansions for them in the Father's house. . . . Human language is inadequate to describe the reward of the righteous. It will be known only to those who behold it. No finite mind can comprehend the glory of the Paradise of God."—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 674, 675.

"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Young friends, will you think about it and pray and talk about it until you experience the reality of the promise?

"We must be there. We must bask in the forgiving smiles of God, to whom we have become reconciled, and sin no more; we must have access to that exhaustless fount of vitality, the fruit of the tree of life, and never die; we must repose under the shadow of its leaves, which are for the service of the nations, and never again grow weary; we must drink from the life-giving fountain, and thirst nevermore; we must bathe in its silvery spray, and be refreshed; we must walk on its golden sands, and feel that we are no longer exiles; we must exchange the cross for the crown, and feel that the days of our humiliation are ended; we must lay down the staff and take up the palm branch, and feel that the journey is done, we must put off the rent garments of our warfare, for the white robes of triumph, and feel that the conflict is ended

and the victory gained; we must exchange the tollworn, dusty girdle of our pilgrimage for the glorious vesture of immortality, and feel that sin and the curse can never more pollute us. O day of rest and triumph, and every good, delay not thy dawning! Let the angels at once be sent to gather the elect. Let the promise be fulfilled which bears in its train these matchless glories. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."—*Daniel and the Revelation* (1918), p. 776.



December 23

The Meaning of Christmas

BY ALICE LA BONTE

Order of Service

OPENING EXERCISES.
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TIME MUSIC.
TALK: "No Room" for Christ."
POEM: "Through the Ages."
READING: "The Incomparable Christ."
OFFERTORY READING: "The True Spirit of Christmas."
OFFERING.
CLOSING EXERCISES.

"No Room" for Christ

THIS is the month in which the world celebrates the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem's stable. Many scholars are agreed that Jesus was not born in wintry December. However, if the Christmas season points people to that One who left the courts of glory, came into this world of woe, and took upon Himself the form of man to be our Saviour, then we shall be happy.

Multitudes celebrate Christmas but seemingly overlook the real message of the birth of Christ.

"The angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10, 11. The real message of the birth of Christ is that He was born to be a Saviour. The one who does not know Him as a personal Saviour does not know of the "good tidings of great joy" of which the angels sang.

A little boy, while walking down the street with his father, noticed that the billboards advertising Christmas shopping spelled Christmas, X-m-a-s. After a moment's surprise he tugged on his father's hand and said:

"Daddy, why do they spell Christmas, X-m-a-s?"

Puzzled, daddy grunted, "I'm sure I don't know, son."

"But why, Daddy? Why?" continued our little hero in real boy style. Then suddenly an idea struck him, and tugging hard on his father's hand once more, he asked:

"Is it because they have crossed Christ out of Christmas, Daddy? Have they crossed Christ out?"

And, startled, daddy replied thoughtfully, "Maybe so, son. Maybe so."

We all know that the reindeer sleighs and Santa Claus climbing down chimneys are traditional. But we all admit that there is a spirit of giving manifested at the Christmas season; and what we need to learn anew is the spirit of giving that was manifested when heaven gave all. True love and giving are linked together.

"For God so loved . . . that He gave." John 3:16.

He gave His Son. It was an unspeakable love that thought it. Jesus is the unspeakable gift to us.

For centuries the Jews had looked for the coming Messiah. Before Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden a deliverer had been promised. (Gen. 3:15.) At different times and in various ways the promises and prophecies of a coming Messiah were repeated by the prophets and patriarchs of the Old Testament. "When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son." Gal. 4:4.

And yet they had so misinterpreted the prophecies and the Holy Scriptures that when He came "there was no room" for Him in the inn.

Think of it and marvel! He had been the Creator. (John 1:1-3, 14.) He had made the world; He came to His own earth, and yet there was "no room" for Him! Wherever you read in the Gospels, that same fact stares you in the face—"no room."

Since they didn't want Him and had no room for Him, the great of earth, the religious leaders, did not hear the angel's song. But the lowly shepherds heard it. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger." Luke 2:14-16.

At this Christmas season is there room in our hearts for Christ? Is the message of peace ours? Do we manifest the true spirit of giving?

The wise men who had studied the scrolls of the prophets saw the star "and when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshiped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." Matt. 2:11.

Was Christ born in vain? The message of the heavenly melody was, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace." But peace among nations does not exist. History records one war after another, until today it seems that the cup of hatred is filled and dripping with blood. Thank God there are multitudes, however, who know that peace that passeth all human comprehension and understanding. (Phil. 4:7.) While the heavens about are reverberating with shot and shell, the drouing of airplanes and the rattling of machine guns, while many are dying, let us remember the words of Jesus in John 14:27, which says, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

How very many are using Christmas merely for commercial purposes. Some years ago Richard Harding Davis told of seeing a saloonkeeper place a holly wreath over the door of his saloon at Christmas time. Mr. Davis mentioned

this as "one of those little things, commonly unnoticed, that had vast significance in its unconscious irony." Think of all the celebrating, the eating, the drinking, and the carousing that will go on at this season. This man used a Christmas decoration for a place where poison, misery, degradation, and physical and eternal death were sold at a price!

Think of people using Christmas for selfish purposes! Instead let us remember the reason for joyfulness. "Unto you is born this day . . . a Saviour." Many do not like to think of Christ as a Saviour. Many will celebrate Christmas, but in their thoughts will be nothing of the lowly Man of Galilee who was born in a manger and died on the cross.

In the midst of all the Christmas celebrations don't miss the real message and meaning of Christ's birth. He came to be your Saviour from sin. Do you know Him as such? If you do, if there is room for Him in your heart, then you will have a merry Christmas in the full sense of the word.—*Abbreviated from R. H. Nightingale.*

Through the Ages

PEACE on the earth:
Joyfully sang the angels long ago;
They could not know
That when two thousand years had rolled
their way
The golden age of peace would still delay.
Peace on the earth?
Ah, no—not yet:
The nations of the world are sore beset
With fears and dark unrest; we do not see
Signs of the dawn, the peace that was to be.

Good will to men.
And yet it comes—that day expected long
When earth at length shall learn the Beth-
lehem song;
When sounds of war in every land shall
cease
And men shall own as Lord the Prince of
Peace.
O blessed time!
And so the angel hymns still sweetly chime,
And still on hearts boastful of many locks,
The Christ Child knocks.

—Margaret Hope.

The Incomparable Christ

MORE than nineteen hundred years ago there was a Man born contrary to the laws of life. This Man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which He lived; that was during His exile in childhood.

He possessed neither wealth nor influence. His relatives were inconspicuous, unimportant, and had neither training nor education.

In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled the doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon the hilltops as if they were pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep.

He healed the multitudes without medicine and without money.

He never wrote a book; yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about Him.

He never wrote a song; yet He furnished the theme for more songs than all the song writers combined.

He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students.

He never practiced medicine; yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near.

He never marshaled an army, or drafted a soldier, or fired a gun; yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under his orders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot being fired.

Every seventh day the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes

wend their way to worshipping assemblies to pay homage and respect to Him.

The names of the past proud statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone; but the name of this Man abounds more and more. Though time has spread nineteen hundred years between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet He still lives. Herod could not kill Him, Satan could not seduce Him, death could not destroy Him, and the grave could not hold Him.

He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and feared by devils, as the living, personal Christ, our Lord and Saviour.—*Selected.*

The True Spirit of Christmas

[This is to be given just before the offering is taken, which should be used to help some worthy endeavor in your community.]

THE Christmas season is here again, the time celebrated as the birthday of Christ. Its observance has become customary and popular throughout the world, both by Christians and the unbelieving world. "With youth, those of mature age, and even the aged, it is a period of general rejoicing, of great gladness." True, the event of Christ's birth is one that has never been superseded. And, though the twenty-fifth of December is supposed by some to be the exact day, "yet there is no certainty that we are keeping the veritable day of our Saviour's birth. History gives us no certain assurance of this. The Bible does not give us the precise time. Had the Lord deemed this knowledge essential to our salvation, He would have spoken through His prophets and apostles, that we might know all about the matter."

After all, when the world at large celebrates the day, does it really show honor to Christ? Is it not true that many "refuse to acknowledge Him as their Saviour, to honor Him by willing obedience to His service"? Is it not often a day of selfishly giving that one may receive, showing "preferenc to the day, but none to the One for whom the day is celebrated, Jesus Christ"?

May we all have wisdom to make this a precious season. May we find ways and means of showing true respect to Jesus by our thoughts of Him and of those who need Him. May "there be recorded in the heavenly books such a Christmas as has never yet been seen," because of the work we shall do for God and the upbuilding of His kingdom, remembering that "inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

The offering will now be received. It will be used to cheer the poor at this Christmas season. We thank you for what you give for the sake of the Christ Child.

(The quotations are taken from *Outline Studies From the Testimonies*, first published in *Review and Herald*, Dec. 9, 1884.)



NOTHING with which we have to do is really small. The varied circumstances that we meet day by day are designed to test our faithfulness, and to qualify us for greater trusts.—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 222, 223.

NOTES TO OFFICERS

Christmas Caroling

(Continued from page 2)

and friendly fellowship this Christmas season if they will organize a singing band, not for the purpose of soliciting money, but for the purpose of bringing cheer and pleasure to others.

Now that Ingathering comes at another time of year, let us sing with only the thought of making friends for ourselves and the church we love and represent.

Perhaps an appropriate card could be prepared for handing out from door to door, which would express the "Best Wishes from the Young People's Society of Missionary Volunteers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church." The people would remember the singers and their good will when they came to sing at Ingathering time. Perhaps persons appointed with each caroling band could give a Christmas number of the *Signs of the Times* or *Watchman* with the card.

The singing of advent songs at twilight during Christmas time for this pure fun of bringing pleasure to others has vast possibilities.

A. W. P.

Gratitude

Be grateful for the kindly friends that walk along your way;
Be grateful for the skies of blue that smile from day to day;
Be grateful for the health you own, the work you find to do,
For round about you there are men less fortunate than you.

Be grateful for the growing trees, the roses soon to bloom,
The tenderness of kindly hearts that shared your days of gloom;
Be grateful for the morning dew, the grass beneath your feet,
The soft caresses of your babes and all their laughter sweet.

Acquire the grateful habit, learn to see how blest you are,
How much there is to gladden life, how little life to mar!
And what if rain shall fall today and you with grief are sad;
Be grateful that you can recall the joys that you have had.

—Edgar A. Guest.

Prayer of Youth

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

Give me a mind so keen and strong
That it will know the right from wrong;
May I not be misunderstood.

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

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

—Author Unknown.

YOUTH is too good for some things—too good to lie, to cheat, to steal, to poison its body, to damn its soul. "I cannot do that, for I am the son of a King!" It is a good slogan for youth. Make yourself a sharer in the aristocracy of God.—*O. G. Herbrecht.*



JUNIOR MEETINGS

December 2

The Junior, a Missionary in His Home Community

BY ERIC B. HARE

Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "Missionary Volunteers," No. 83, in *M. V. Songs*.
 SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:13-16.
 PRAYER.
 SPECIAL SONG: "Happy, Loyal Juniors!" No. 57.
 LEADER'S OPENING REMARKS.
 OBJECT TALK: "The Two-Legged Salt Shaker."
 EXERCISE: "Bible Clues."
 EXERCISE: "Bible Clues on Light Bearers."
 QUIZ: "Who Said?"
 STORY: "The Timid Ingatherer."
 POEM: "My Mission."
 DISCUSSION: "The Junior, a Missionary Volunteer in His Home Community."
 SONG: "Do Your Bit," No. 84.
 BENEDECTION.

Leader's Opening Remarks

THE word "missionary" comes from the Latin word *missio*, which means "to send," and therefore a missionary is one sent on a mission.

In Matthew 28:18-20 (read) we have Christ's commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations," which made His disciples foreign missionaries and sent them to Asia, Egypt, Africa, Persia, and India.

In Acts 20:16-18 (read) we have a special commission given to Paul which constrained him to cross the ocean and take the gospel to Europe.

Before the disciples could be foreign missionaries they needed to become home missionaries; so the first sermon Christ ever preached gave to His disciples, and to all who would believe on Him, a message and a mission, right at home. "Ye are the salt of the earth. . . . Ye are the light of the world. . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

When we repeat our Pledge, "By the grace of God, I will be pure and kind and true," we promise, "I will be a servant of God and a friend to man." In these beautiful words we accept our mission and pledge ourselves to fulfill it.

When we repeat our J. M. V. Law we again remind ourselves of this special home missionary commission when we say, "I will go on God's errands." Would you like to be a missionary to Burma or Africa someday? Would you like to be a doctor or a nurse in China or New Guinea someday? Then find your place and fulfill your mission today, right here at home, because "the light that shines the farthest shines brightest nearer home."

The Two-Legged Salt Shaker

ARTICLES NEEDED

A glass of water.
 An envelope marked "SIN" containing a few grains of tannic acid and a few crystals of iron sulphate.

A salt shaker with about half a teaspoon of oxalic acid in it. (A nickel's worth of these chemicals from the drugstore will be sufficient.)

THE LESSON

Let this glass of clear water represent the hearts of the boys and girls around us. (Open up "SIN" and put it on a piece of paper so that all can see.) Sin

doesn't look horrible, sometimes it is even attractive, and little by little boys and girls yield to temptation and let sin come into their hearts. (Put tannic acid and iron sulphate into the water.) Then before they realize it their hearts are black with sin. Is there any hope of making their hearts clean again?

In this salt shaker I have a certain kind of salt. Let me sprinkle some into this black water and see what happens. (Sprinkle and stir.) Soon the blackness is all gone and the water is clean again.

J. M. V.'s are two-legged salt shakers. God wants them to be so pure, so kind, so true, that their lives will influence others to get rid of sin and be pure and kind and true also.—*Abbreviated from Westphal's Visual Surprise Sermonettes.*

My Mission

I WAS longing for a mission;
 Fancy made it something grand—
 Something that would win the praises
 Of the world on every hand.
 So I squandered time in waiting
 For the chance that never came,
 Quite forgot to think of others
 In my longings after fame.

But one day I had a vision
 Of the needy ones near by,
 Of the hearts that starve with hunger
 Till they faint and fall and die—
 Starve for little deeds of kindness,
 Or a word of hope and cheer,
 And the smiles that cost so little,
 But can make it heaven here.

Then it was I found my mission.
 Knew what work God meant for me,
 And I cried, "Forgive my blindness,
 Now at last, thank God, I see!"
 And my heart that had been selfish
 In its longings to be great,
 Saw wide fields of labor waiting
 For me just outside my gate.

So I seek to scatter sunshine
 In a dark and cheerless place;
 Loving words have given courage,
 Smiles have cheered the tearful face.
 In the joy of helping others,
 God's good time I waste no more,
 Since my life has found its mission
 Waiting at the very door.

—Eben E. Reaford.

Bible Clues

MAYBE the most outstanding property of salt is its preserving power. In Burma fish are covered with salt and they do not decay. Here are some clues to the names of people who have been like preserving salt in their localities. Put your hand up as soon as you guess who it is.

I'm thinking of a man who lived in 1898

B. C.
 He was a righteous man.
 He had two daughters.
 He lived in a very wicked city.
 His name begins with "L."
 God decided to destroy the city, but would not destroy it until this man and his family got out.

The man's name was ———.

I'm thinking of another man who lived

in 2348 B. C.

At that time the world was very wicked.

God decided to destroy the whole world,

but had to find a way to save this man.

He had three sons and three daughters

in-law.

God told him to build a big boat.

His name was ———.

(If you can find some local person whom God has used to bless or preserve someone else, make up some clues that will lead up to this name.)

Bible Clues on Light Bearers

THE work of a light is to shine and dispel darkness. (Exhibit different lights—candle, oil lamp, ancient lamps—and tell where and how they were used, emphasizing that their only use was to light up the darkness.) Now, here are some clues to people who have been lights. Put your hand up as soon as you know their names.

I'm thinking of a little girl whose name is not known.

She lived in the days of Elisha.

She was always bright and cheerful and obedient.

She noticed that her mistress was often sad because her master was a leper.

She tried to cheer them up by telling about the miracles Elisha performed.

Her master was healed.

We call her ———.

I'm thinking of a little lad who lived

near the sea of Galilee.

We don't know whether he went to school

or not, but he loved to listen to Jesus and

followed Him all day long when He was

near by.

One day his mother gave him five little

barley cakes and two small fishes for his

lunch.

He heard Jesus asking for some food and

gladly gave all his lunch.

With it Christ fed 5,000 persons.

Do you know his name?

(Find some local boys and girls whose

lights have shined and make up some clues

about them. This will be the most interest-

ing of all.)

Quiz

WHO SAID?

TO WHOM was it said?

WHEN AND WHERE was it said?

"First be reconciled to thy brother, and

then come and offer thy gifts." Matt. 5:24.

"Whosoever shall smite thee on thy right

cheek, turn to him the other also." Matt.

5:39.

"Love your enemies, bless them that curse

you." Matt. 5:44.

The Timid Ingatherer

A TIMID girl who had just heard the news of the soon-coming Saviour felt that she *must* tell others. Choosing the poorest section of the city in which she lived, she went out Ingathering. In response to her knock at the door of a ramshackle house, a woman with a baby in arms greeted her. The girl asked her if she would "take these papers," and explained that they were religious literature. The woman did not want the papers, but the girl smiled sweetly and seemed so embarrassed that she took the lot—all she had. Inside her poor little home there was not much room, but she placed this gift of literature high up on the top of the old-fashioned kitchen safe.

Weeks later, on a cold winter day, she sat by the kitchen stove rocking her baby wondering how she could stop the wind that was whistling through the cracks in the clapboard walls. If she only had some paper! But she had none, and there was no money. They were too poor to even take a daily paper. But just then she saw the pile of papers on top of the safe. In a few hours that Seventh-day Adventist literature was pasted on the walls—sideways, upside down, any way.

Another day as she sat by the stove rocking the baby, her eye caught something on one of those papers pasted sideways. She put the baby down and got up and read the article to the end of the page, but it was not finished there; so

she hunted until she found the conclusion, and climbed up on a chair to read the last word.

She had the third angel's message there on her walls! And she read it and accepted it. Not only so, but she carried the good news to her neighbors, and the organization of a church resulted.

But of course the timid girl never dreamed that the papers she so diffidently gave with a smile to a poor woman living in a poor little house would ever amount to anything worth mentioning!—*Youth's Instructor*.

The Junior, a Missionary Volunteer in His Home Community

MISSIONARY work we can do as home missionaries:

Suggestions:

Doing cheerfully our chores in the home.

Finding and doing other helpful deeds. Christian help work outside the home.

Taking part in Sabbath school and Junior Missionary Volunteer Society meetings.

Distributing tracts, *Signs of the Times*, etc.

Doing our part in Missions Extension Week, Week of Sacrifice, Ingathering campaigns, etc.

December 9

Mrs. Ellen G. White

BY C. A. RUSSELL

Order of Service

OPENING SONG.

PRAYER.

REPORTS OF MISSIONARY WORK.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

OFFERTORY.

SONG.

INTRODUCTION.

SYMPOSIUM: "Ellen G. Harmon White."

CLOSING SONG.

BENEDICTION.

Introduction

The story which we have to tell today is in some respects the most remarkable, the most wonderful, the most thrilling of any thus far in the series. We hope you will remember the study on "Spiritual Gifts" given in one of our July programs. There it was shown that the last, or "remnant," church would be keeping the commandments, all ten of them, and would have the "testimony of Jesus," which is the "Spirit of prophecy."

It is interesting to notice that the very year which brought the great disappointment, 1844, brought to the seekers for light and truth not only the beginning of the judgment in heaven and the Sabbath truth but also the revelations from God through the Spirit of prophecy. No wonder we want to study the truths which we hold as a people and the work of the leaders whom God raised up to proclaim these truths to the world. This is the one hundredth anniversary of that wonderful year.

Ellen G. Harmon White

ELLEN HARMON was born in Gorham, Maine, November 26, 1827. A little later the family removed to Portland, where

her childhood was spent. When only nine years of age, as she and her twin sister with another schoolmate were crossing a common, an older girl who had become angered threw a stone which struck Ellen in the face, breaking the bridge of her nose. She was unconscious for some time and was carried home where she lay in a stupor for three weeks. Her health was so affected that she was unable to attend school regularly, and so her formal education was limited.

In 1840 William Miller came to Portland and gave a series of lectures on the soon coming of Christ. The Harmon family with Ellen accepted the message.

About this time, at a special revival in the Methodist church, she accepted Christ as her Saviour and was baptized in the ocean, the minister consenting to do this for twelve of the candidates who requested immersion in place of sprinkling.

In 1842 Elder Miller returned to Portland. Many thronged to hear him; some believed, while others scoffed. Finally the Harmon family, with some others, were dropped from the Methodist church. When the great disappointment came they were distressed and, of course, were ridiculed by their former associates; but they never lost faith in the promises of God, but spent much time in prayer and in the study of God's Word.

THE FIRST VISION

It was near the close of the memorable year 1844 that the wonderful experience occurred which we are about to relate. Ellen was visiting a friend, Mrs. Haines, in Portland. At family worship as five of them, all women, were kneeling in prayer, the power of God came upon her, and she was given a vision of the journey of the advent people to the city of God. (This, her first vision, will be found recorded in *Early Writings*, pages 13-20, also in *Life Sketches*, pages 64-68. You will want to get one of these books and read it. It will surely thrill you.) When she came out of the vision and related to the others what she had been shown, they were amazed and all praised God together.

Ellen was only seventeen years old at this time, very timid, and afraid to meet strangers. In a second vision about two weeks later she was encouraged and told, "Make known to others what I have revealed to you." She naturally shrank from the responsibility but accepted it as coming from the Lord. This was the beginning of a life of unselfish ministry, which lasted until she went to her rest at the age of nearly eighty-eight.

MARRIAGE

In 1846 Miss Harmon and Elder James White were united in marriage. You will recall the story of Elder White's work as given in one of the July meetings. Their work is closely interwoven with the rise and growth of the movement, and cannot be separated from it.

HER WRITINGS

The writings of Mrs. White do not form an Adventist Bible, as some opposers have claimed, but instead constantly turn the reader to the Word of God as the source

of all true wisdom and understanding. In her various writings something like fifteen thousand references to the Bible are made. Next to the Bible itself I know of no book which so beautifully tells the story of Bethlehem's manger and of Calvary's cross with all the wonderful and touching incidents between as does *The Desire of Ages*. And I know of no other which so clearly and tenderly points the sinner to his Saviour as does the little book *Steps to Christ*, which is read in fifty-nine languages.

CONDITION IN VISION

The Bible describes the physical condition of a prophet while in vision. They are at first weak, then supernaturally strengthened, and they do not breathe. (Read Daniel 10:15-19.) Their eyes are open. (Read Numbers 24:3, 4.)

It is interesting to note that Mrs. White's condition while in vision was exactly in harmony with this description. Usually the first indication was the expression "Glory!" Often this was repeated, and usually for the third time, each as though from a greater distance. She would seem weak for an instant, then suddenly was strengthened until a strong man could not so much as bend her arm. Her eyes were always open, not with a vacant stare, but with a natural expression. And there was no breath. One might say, How could she speak without breath? She was filled with a Higher Power who spoke through her.

Every test of her physical condition that friends or enemies could think of was carried out. Once a minister held his hand over her mouth, and at the same time pressed the nostrils together between thumb and finger, and held her thus for ten minutes. She was not affected in the slightest degree. A mirror was held close to her face for several minutes, and not a trace of moisture appeared.

Upon one occasion a spirit medium, a doctor who had boasted that he could bring her out of a vision in one minute, was invited to make an examination. While doing so his face turned white and he trembled like a leaf. "Let me out of here," he cried; "she doesn't breathe." And out he went.

"On several occasions, while in vision, Mrs. White held a Bible on her outstretched hand and twice she held Bibles open for quite long periods of time.

"One experience often referred to, carries us back to the early part of the year 1845 and had to do with the large Harmon family Bible, weighing eighteen and one-half pounds. One morning at her own home in Portland, Maine, while in vision, Ellen Harmon stepped over to a bureau upon which rested the large volume, picked it up, placed it on her left hand, and then, extending it at arm's length, held the closed book with ease for half an hour. During the vision, in short exclamations, she referred to the value of the Word of God. Under ordinary circumstances she was unable to pick up this book, for she was in frail health and at that time weighed only eighty pounds. She was in no way fatigued by the experience. . . . [This Bible is still in existence in the White Estate office, and many persons have tried to hold it extended for

even one minute, and were glad to put it down.]

"At a little later time, in 1846, while attending a Sabbath afternoon meeting at the Thayer home in Randolph, near Boston, Massachusetts, Mrs. White, in vision, held a 'heavy, large quarto family Bible.' Otis Nichols, an eyewitness, gives an account of what took place. With the Bible 'open on one hand and lifted up as high as she could reach, and with her eyes steadily looking upward,' Mrs. White 'declared in solemn manner, "The inspired testimony from God," or words of the same import. And then she continued for a long time while the Bible was extended in one hand, and her eyes looking upward and not on the Bible, to turn over the leaves with her other hand and place her finger upon certain passages, and correctly utter their words with a solemn voice. Many present looked at the passages where her finger was pointed, to see if she spoke them correctly, for her eyes at the same time were looking upward.' . . . There were also other occasions when Bibles were held by Mrs. White while she was in vision. . . .

"Such phenomenal exhibitions in connection with the early visions had a definite place in establishing the confidence of the believers in their divine origin before there was opportunity for the development of fruit by which the claims of the Lord's messenger might be judged."—*Arthur L. White, The Prophetic Gift in Action.*

On January 12, 1861, the Seventh-day Adventist church in Parkville, Michigan, was dedicated. Elder White preached the sermon, and at its close, Mrs. White arose and gave a stirring exhortation. As she sat down she was carried away in vision. At the close of the vision she arose and, looking over the congregation, said:

"There is not a person in this house who has even dreamed of the trouble that is coming upon this land. People are making sport of the secession ordinance of South Carolina, but I have just been shown that a large number of States are going to join that State, and there will be a most terrible war. In this vision I have seen large armies of both sides gathered on the field of battle. I heard the booming of the cannon, and saw the dead and dying on every hand. Then I saw them rushing up engaged in hand-to-hand fighting. Then I saw the field after the battle, all covered with the dead and dying. Then I was carried to prisons, and saw the sufferings of those in want, who were wasting away. Then I was taken to the homes of those who had lost husbands, sons, or brothers in the war. I saw their distress and anguish."—*M. E. Olsen, Origin and Progress of Seventh-day Adventists, p. 240.*

After speaking these words she said, "There are those in this house who will lose sons in that war." All this was three months before the war between the States began. One year later Elder Loughborough spoke in that same church. He recalled the statement. Two men said they had each lost a son in the war already.

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS

Sister White was a very forceful speaker. Her words were well chosen and

spoken with strong emphasis. Her voice was low in pitch and had wonderful carrying qualities. At the great 1909 General Conference held in Takoma Park I purposely stepped to the outside of the great tent filled with thousands of listeners. At that distance and in spite of many people milling around I could hear distinctly every word.

The most striking part of her features were the eyes—large, dark, expressive, penetrating, yet kind. In my boyish fancy the first time I saw her I felt that she could read every thought in my mind. Later as I grew older I knew, of course, that this was not true, unless the Lord should reveal it to her. As I looked into her eyes the thought always came to my mind, Those eyes have looked into the very face of Jesus. They have seen the King in His beauty in heavenly vision. It was indeed a privilege to see and hear and know the messenger of the Lord.

In addition to her public ministry a large part of her time was spent in writing. She was a constant contributor to our various periodicals, and the author of thirty-seven books. Many of these have been translated into foreign languages.

HER DEATH

Mrs. White survived her husband for a third of a century. She died in her home in St. Helena, California, in mid-summer, 1915, at the advanced age of nearly eighty-eight years. Services were held at Elmshaven, her California home. The body was then brought to Battle Creek, Michigan, where the funeral service was held in the Tabernacle, which was filled to its capacity of thirty-five hundred. She was laid to rest beside her husband in Oak Hill Cemetery, to await the call of the Life-giver. Though she rests from her labors the influence of her life of devotion goes on.

Now that the voice is silent, the pen laid aside, we should tenderly cherish the instruction given to us through the gift of the Spirit of prophecy.



In a Class by Themselves

In one of the large cities of America a man was looking over books in a second-hand bookstore. "He asked for the religious books, and was directed to a miscellaneous assortment in the back of the store. . . . He remarked to the proprietor that he saw none in which he was interested. Being asked what author he preferred, he said, 'Mrs. E. G. White.' 'Oh, that's different,' he replied. 'Her writings are not classed with those back there at all. We have them here in the front with the Bibles. They are in a class by themselves.'"—*Pacific Union Recorder, July 25, 1934.*



December 16

The New Earth

(The topic for both Juniors and Seniors is presented on pages 6 and 7 in the Senior section.)

December 23

The Meaning of Christmas

BY ALICE LA BONTE

Order of Service

OPENING EXERCISES.
CHRISTMAS MUSIC.
INTRODUCTION BY SUPERINTENDENT.
SYMPOSIUM: "The Spirit of Christmas."
READING: "Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh."
READING WITH MUSIC: "God's Gift to Men."
POEM: "Gifts."
OFFERTORY READING: "The True Spirit of Christmas." (See Senior topic, p. 8.)
OFFERING.
CLOSING EXERCISES.

Introduction

In just a few days now, many people will be asking, "What did you get for Christmas?" Our great concern, however, should be, What shall we bring to Jesus? We want to give Him all that we have to give. How can a Junior who has so little give anything to Jesus who has so much? The only way we can give to Jesus is to give to people here on earth. What can we give? (Present a few thoughts on each of the following.) We can give (1) love, (2) service, (3) work, (4) talents, (5) time, (6) money, (7) obedience, (8) kindness. To give as Jesus gave, we must give what He gave in the way in which He gave. Jesus gave His life for us every day He was on earth. We shall not need to die on the cross as He did, but we can give our lives every day in deeds that are kind, words that are helpful, and thoughts that are pure.

"The service that seems to you small
Is great in the eyes of the Lord.
He knows and will give the reward
He promised for each and for all.

"Give as you would if the angels
Bent on you a questioning look,
Give as you would if the Master
In His hand your offering took."

There is one gift which must be made before we can really give any of the precious things we possess. We must give ourselves; and when we have done this, everything we value will be given to be used as God directs. Life is God's best gift to us, and it is the only gift we can give in return.

The Spirit of Christmas

1. THE spirit of Christmas means *humility*. The simple family, the exclusion from the inn by the crowd, the humble stable, the bed in the manger, the swaddling clothes of the peasant—all point to the humility of the One who had been the Lord of glory and equal with the Father. Truly He "made Himself of no reputation."

2. The spirit of Christmas means *unselfishness*, for the Lord Jesus who came to earth in human form laid down the glory that He had with the Father, not for His own sake, but that He might redeem you and me. On the cross it was said of Him, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save."

3. The spirit of Christ means *service*, for we read that not only did the Lord Jesus make Himself of no reputation, but He "took upon Him the form of a servant." The Old Testament speaks of Him as God's Servant, and He Himself testified, "I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me."

4. The spirit of Christmas means *sacrifice*. The Lord Jesus in all His humility and unselfishness and service went all the way to the cross. He was willing to give all, that you and I might have life. He took our place.

5. The spirit of Christmas means perfect *obedience* to God. The Lord Jesus expressed this constantly in His earthly life, and we find it climaxed in the garden when He prayed, "Not My will, but Thine, be done."

6. Beyond all, the spirit of Christmas is *love*—infinite and matchless love—the love of the Father that gave His only-begotten Son, and the love of the Lord Jesus that brought Him down from glory so that we might not perish, but have everlasting life.

NOTE.—After the last one has spoken, let all say in unison—"The spirit of Christmas means"—then in turn say their italicized word.

Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh

MANY years ago in the dim light of a stable in ancient Bethlehem three men knelt before a Child. Across the trackless desert from the east they had come, these wise men, following a star to seek a King. There in the manger they found Him, and "when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matt. 2:11.

There is a beautiful significance to these gifts of the magi. They were prophetic of every phase of the life and experience of the Christ. Gold, the symbol of power and royalty, was indeed a fitting offering to One who was born King of kings and Lord of lords.

Frankincense is a resinous substance, pure white in color, which is obtained from the bark of a certain tree in Arabia. It will burn a long time with a steady flame. It is the symbol of holiness and purification, and was used in the burnt offerings of the ancient sacrificial services. By this did the wise men with divine insight recognize in the Babe of Bethlehem the great High Priest who is "touched with the feeling of our infirmities." Heb. 4:15.

Myrrh is the perfume of sorrow. It is an aromatic gum the fragrance of which is greatly increased as it is crushed. It was one of the ingredients of the oil of holy anointing, and was also used as an embalming fluid. This the magi offered to the Saviour, whose crushed and broken life would send its sweet fragrance far down the centuries, that the world might know the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom He sent. (See John 17:3.)

Earth children today have not to seek a manger to spread before an infant King their gifts. The King is in His Father's house, far above the sky that lies so blue over Bethlehem and the desert of the east. He would have His children who would be wise offer Him greater riches than the treasures of the magi—the gold of their faith, which shows itself in their loyalty and obedience to all the things which the King commandeth; the white frankincense of their hope, which works itself out in tender service and ministry to even the least of the children of the King; and the myrrh of their love, by which is proved their willingness to lay down their lives for His sake. (See John 15:13.)

These are my only riches; these I bring
As wise men brought their gifts in days
of old;
My hope, my love, my faith, these for my
King—
Greater than frankincense and myrrh and
gold.

—Mildred Wood Harris.

God's Gift to Men

[It is very effective to have the singers out of sight as they sing their songs, interspersing the reading.]

"ANGELS attend Joseph and Mary as they journey from their home in Nazareth to the city of David. . . . But in the city of their royal line, Joseph and Mary are unrecognized and unhonored. Weary and homeless, they traverse the entire

length of the narrow street, from the gate of the city to the eastern extremity of the town, vainly seeking a resting place for the night. There is no room for them at the crowded inn. In a rude building where the beasts are sheltered, they at last find refuge, and here the Redeemer of the world is born.

["Luther's Cradle Hymn"—Soprano and alto duet.]

"Men know it not, but the tidings fill heaven with rejoicing. With a deeper and more tender interest the holy beings from the world of light are drawn to the earth. The whole world is brighter for His presence. Above the hills of Bethlehem are gathered an innumerable throng of angels. They wait the signal to declare the glad news to the world. . . .

["O Little Town of Bethlehem"—Mixed quartet.]

"In the fields where the boy David had led his flock, shepherds were still keeping watch by night. Through the silent hours they talked together of the promised Saviour, and prayed for the coming of the King to David's throne. 'And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.' . . .

["While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"—Mixed voices or solo.]

"Then the joy and glory could no longer be hidden. The whole plain was lighted up with the bright shining of the hosts of God. Earth was hushed, and heaven stooped to listen to the song—

'Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, good will toward men.'

"O that today the human family could recognize that song! The declaration then made, the note then struck, will swell to the close of time, and resound to the ends of the earth. When the Sun of Righteousness shall arise, with healing in His wings, that song will be re-echoed by the voice of a great multitude, as the voice of many writers, saying, 'Alleluia, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.'"

["Joy to the World"—mixed voices or congregation.]

(Quotations taken from *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 44-48.)

Gifts

THEY brought their gifts to please a baby King.

Their fragrant incense and their glittering gold.

What gifts can I put in His hands today

For Him to love and hold?

What can I offer from my heart's full cup

To please a Christ, grown up?

What can I give Thee, Master? and I hear

His voice in answer: "Inasmuch as ye

Have done it unto one of the least of these,

Ye have done it unto Me."

Each thought for others, each small kindness shown,

He claims them for His own.

They are such selfless gifts He asks of me:

The little common deeds of everyday;

Small services my hands can find to do;

The words my tongue can say.

Strange gifts, it seems, to lay before a King,
Yet ALL He bids me bring.

—Grace Noll Crowell.

Bird Cafeteria

If you would become intimately acquainted with the fascinating personalities of "the Lord's tiny poultry," I heartily recommend that you set up a bird cafeteria. For those who are explorative and seeking a new world to conquer, here it is.

Several centuries ago John Heywood remarked, "Better one byrde in hand than ten in the wood." Some time later Cervantes plagiarized the idea and made it read, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the hush." But let us paraphrase it a bit by saying this, "A bird at the cafeteria just outside the window is worth several in a distant tree where they and their ways cannot be observed to nearly the same pleasant advantage." When someone said that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, he could also have added that the principle works equally well with birds.

There are times in the year when it is extremely difficult for many birds to find the wherewithal to satisfy their hunger, especially during the drought of summer and in the snow and ice of winter. If every person who is inconsiderate of the needs of birds were to spend some foodless days in the cold, ice-covered fields and woods, what a warming up toward the feathered creatures there would be on the part of humans!

The cafeteria may be of many different types. Secure a board a foot square, nail pieces of lath about it for a rim, fasten a suet stick ten inches long to one corner, and you have a serviceable food tray. Then fasten it to a window ledge, the top of a post, or the branch of a near-by tree. If you have a clothesline on a pair of pulleys out to a high tree or pole, why not hang a tray on it and run it out part way? Seeds and grains, rolled oats, bread crumbs, cracked grain, and suet are all good bird foods, usually inexpensive. In the winter some birds need suet to provide warmth and energy against the cold. It will surprise you what a variety of feathered population will regularly call at your house after they once learn of your hospitality. And you will also become intimately acquainted with your friends' likes and dislikes, their friendships and passions, yes, and even their table manners. There are some beautiful lines that tell us: "Birds in their little nests agree." It may be that they agree in their nests fairly well, knowing what a calamity a "falling out" might prove. But at the cafeteria table their manners are not always exemplary. The longer one keeps the cafeteria in business, the more fascinating the project becomes, for birds will patronize it at all seasons of the year. Migratory birds will linger about it; those nesting will build near it, and some birds, gaining confidence in it, will winter around it. So open a bird cafeteria for the company of scores of loving birds who will come to you, and you will find a new world of interest to thrill your life. STANLEY JOHNSON.

EVERY man must live with the man he makes of himself; and the better job he does at that, the better company he will be able to keep.—Hudson Maxm.

★ Home Missionary Department ★

The Secret of Success

Conquering and to Conquer

BY E. E. ANDROSS

A PICTURE of wondrous beauty is presented to us by inspiration in *Prophets and Kings*, page 725: "Clad in the armor of Christ's righteousness, the church is to enter upon her final conflict. 'Fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners,' she is to go forth into all the world, conquering and to conquer."

"The church which our Lord at His coming is to receive to Himself will be 'a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.' Then she will look forth 'as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.'"—*The Great Controversy*, p. 425.

"Unto you that fear My name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings." *Maj.* 4:2. At that time the promise contained in 2 Samuel 23:4 will be fulfilled through His church, which employs to carry His message to the world: "He shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds." "Quietly and gently the daylight breaks upon the earth, dispelling the shadow of darkness, and waking the earth to life."

Again we have a similar view of the remnant church presented by the prophet Hosea: "Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth." *Hosca* 6:3.

But what will be the result of the outpouring of the Spirit of God in the latter rain? An abundant harvest of souls such as was reaped at Pentecost is promised. "Let Christians put away their dissensions, and give themselves to God for the saving of the lost. Let them in faith ask for the blessing, and it will come. The outpouring of the Spirit in apostolic days was the 'former rain,' and glorious was the result. But the 'latter rain' will be more abundant."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 827.

Suggestive Program for Sabbath, December 2, 1944

OPENING SONG: "Take My Life and Let It Be," No. 273 in *Church Hymnal*.
SCRIPTURE READING: Daniel 12:3; Psalms 128:5, 6; Mark 1:17-20.

PRAYER.
SPECIAL MUSIC (or, No. 344, "Anywhere, Dear Saviour.")
READING: "Conquering and to Conquer," by E. E. Andross.
MISSIONARY OFFERING.
CLOSING SONG: "Lead On, O King Eternal," No. 362.
BENEDICTION.

Beauty, Purity, Power

There are three distinguishing characteristics of the remnant church mentioned in the Song of Solomon 6:10 that it will be well to consider:

1. "*Fair as the moon.*"—What in nature could be more beautiful than the silvery white moon when it shines forth from a cloudless sky? I shall not soon forget the beauty that frequently greeted our eyes in the tropics as we looked up at the full moon through the fronds of the royal palms! Our hearts were drawn out in reverent contemplation of God's wonderful goodness. It is not surprising that the gospel prophet Isaiah calls upon us

Stir Me

STIR me, O stir me, Lord; I care not how,
But stir my heart in passion for the world;

Stir me to give, to go, but most to pray;
Stir, till the blood red banner be unfurled
O'er lands that still in heathen darkness lie,
O'er desert where no cross is lifted high.

Stir, O stir me, Lord, till all my heart
Is filled with strong compassion for these souls,

Till Thy compelling "must" drive me to prayer,
Till Thy constraining love reach to the poles,
Far north and south, in burning, deep desire,
Till east and west are caught in love's great fire.

Stir me, O stir me, Lord! Thy heart was stirred
By love's intensest fire, till Thou didst give
Thine only Son, Thy best-beloved One,
Even to the dreadful cross, that I might live;
Stir me to give myself so back to Thee
That Thou canst give Thyself again through me.

Stir me, O stir me, Lord, for I can see
Thy glorious triumph day begin to break;
The dawn already gilds the eastern sky!
O church of Christ, awake! awake!
O stir us, Lord, as heralds of that day!
The night is past, our King is on His way.
—Selected.

saying, "Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things." *Isa.* 40:26.

2. "*Clear as the sun.*"—When the revolor beheld a great multitude of the redeemed stand before the throne "clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands," the question was asked, "What are these which are arrayed in white robes? . . . And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." *Rev.* 7:9, 13, 14.

The robe of Christ's righteousness with which the church is clothed is as pure as the sunbeam's robe of light, which can receive no stain from earth's pollutions. "The righteousness of Christ, as a pure white pearl, has no defect, no stain, no guilt. This righteousness may be ours."—*Mrs. E. G. White in Review and Herald*, Aug. 8, 1899.

"By His [Christ's] perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life. This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness."—*Christ's Object Lesson*, p. 312.

3. "*Terrible as an army with banners.*"—"Ye shall receive power," said Jesus, "after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth." *Acts* 1:8.

"Let us remember that a Christlike life is the most powerful argument that can be advanced in favor of Christianity. . . . Not all the books written can serve the purpose of a holy life."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, p. 21.

"Unity of action is necessary to success. An army in battle would become confused and be defeated, if the individual soldiers should move according to their own impulses, instead of acting in harmony under the direction of a competent general. The soldiers of Christ

also must act in harmony. A few converted souls, uniting for one grand purpose under one head, will achieve victories in every encounter. . . .

"Obedience to every word of God is another condition of success. Victories are not gained by ceremonies or display, but by simple obedience to the highest General, the Lord God of heaven. He who trusts in this Leader will never know defeat. Defeat comes in depending on human methods, human inventions, and placing the divine secondary. Obedience was the lesson that the Captain of the Lord's host sought to teach the vast armies of Israel,—obedience in things in which they could see no success. When there is obedience to the voice of our Leader, Christ will conduct His battles in ways that will surprise the greatest powers of earth."—*Id.*, Vol. VI, pp. 133, 140.

Fall Into Line

Today the world is perishing in sin. At this time "the word is given from the throne of God, 'Every man to his work, each to do his best.'"—*Special Testimony, Series A, No. 11, p. 30.*

"Sound an alarm throughout the length and the breadth of the earth. Tell the people that the day of the Lord is near, and hasteth greatly. Let none be left unwarned. . . . According to the light we have received above others, we are debtors to impart the same to them. The day star has risen upon us; let us flash the light upon the pathway of those in darkness."—*Mrs. E. G. White in an Appeal for Missions, p. 16.*

Qualifications Essential for Successful Labor

1. *Consecration.*—Standing high among these essentials I would place consecration of body, soul, and spirit to God. "The secret of success is the union of divine power with human effort. Those who achieve the greatest results are those who rely implicitly upon the Almighty Arm."—*Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 509.*

Nothing can be of greater importance for the individual Christian, and for the church, which is Christ's body (Eph. 1:23), than wholehearted surrender to God. "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor. 6:19, 20.

It was when the early church placed all upon the altar at Pentecost that the Spirit of God descended upon those assembled in the upper chamber, "and they

were all filled with the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:4.

How may we know when our consecration is complete? "Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Of whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? If we are Christ's, our thoughts are with Him, and our sweetest thoughts are of Him. All we have and are is consecrated to Him. We long to bear His image, breathe His Spirit, do His will, and please Him in all things."—*Steps to Christ (pocket ed.)*, p. 58.

"Those who consecrate body, soul, and spirit to God, will constantly receive a new endowment of physical, mental, and spiritual power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own Spirit, the life of His own life. The Holy Spirit puts forth His highest energies to work in heart and mind. The grace of God enlarges and multiplies their faculties, and every perfection of the divine nature comes to their assistance in the work of saving souls. Through co-operation with Christ, they are made complete in Him, and in their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence."—*Gospel Workers, pp. 112, 113.*

2. *Prayer.*—In order to live holy lives we must hold unbroken communion with God. "There is nothing more needed in the work than the practical results of communion with God. We should show by our daily lives that we have peace and rest in God. His peace in the heart will shine forth in the countenance. It will give to the voice a persuasive power. Communion with God will impart a moral elevation to the character and to the entire course of action. Men will take knowledge of us, as of the first disciples, that we have been with Jesus."—*Testimonies, Vol. VI, p. 47.*

Jesus lived in unbroken communion with His Father. Here we find the secret of His wonderful life. "From hours spent with God He came forth morning by morning, to bring the light of heaven to men. Daily He received a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. In the early hours of the new day the Lord awakened Him from His slumbers, and His soul and His lips were anointed with grace, that He might impart to others. His words were given Him fresh from the heavenly courts."—*Christ's Object Lessons, p. 139.*

3. *Faith.* — "The greatest victories gained for the cause of God are not the result of labored argument, ample facilities, wide influence, or abundance of

means; they are gained in the audience chamber with God, when with earnest, agonizing faith men lay hold upon the mighty arm of power.

"True faith and true prayer—how strong they are! They are as two arms by which the human suppliant lays hold upon the power of Infinite Love. Faith is trusting in God,—believing that He loves us, and knows what is for our best good. . . . Truth, uprightness, purity, are pointed out as secrets of life's success. It is faith that puts us in possession of these. Every good impulse or aspiration is the gift of God; faith receives from God the life that alone can produce true growth and efficiency."—*Gospel Workers, p. 259.*

4. *Courage.*—Shortly before his death, Moses said unto Joshua "in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage. . . . The Lord, He it is that doth go before thee; He will be with thee, He will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed." Deut. 31:7, 8. Following the death of Moses, the Lord said to Joshua, "Only be thou strong and very courageous." Joshua 1:7.

"Hope and courage are essential to perfect service for God. These are the fruit of faith."—*Prophets and Kings, p. 164.*

5. *Love.*—If we would achieve the highest degree of success in our ministry in behalf of others, we must develop integrity, energy, self-control. Jesus is to be our example, not only in the spotless purity of His life, but in His patience, courtesy, gentleness, and in the winsomeness of His disposition.

Writing of our blessed Saviour, the psalmist said, "I delight to do Thy will, O my God; yea, Thy law is within my heart." Ps. 40:8. "Love beautified and ennobled all His actions. Love is of God. The unconsecrated heart cannot originate or produce it. It is found only in the heart where Jesus reigns. 'We love, because He first loved us.' In the heart renewed by divine grace, love is the principle of action. It modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, subdues enmity, and ennobles the affections. This love, cherished in the soul, sweetens the life, and sheds a refining influence on all around."—*Steps to Christ (pocket ed.)*, p. 59.

The End Approaching

"The end of all things is now close at hand: therefore be sober minded and temperate, so that you may give yourself to prayer. Above all continue to love one another fervently for love throws a veil over a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:7, 8, Weymouth's translation.

As we look out upon this distressed, distracted, and grief-stricken world today, we can see clearly that the end is rapidly approaching, while thousands are on the very verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in. What are we doing to save the lost in this crisis hour? Every word, every act, should tend to elevate, to refine, to ennoble.

The Last Message of Mercy

The threefold message of Revelation 14 calls out from the world a people of whom it is said, "Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." "They are holding in their hands the bread of life for a famishing world. The love of Christ constraineth them. This is the last message. There are no more to follow; no more invitations of mercy to be given after this message shall have done its work. What a trust! What a responsibility is resting upon all to carry the words of gracious invitation!"—*Testimonies, Vol. V, pp. 206, 207.*

The message that God has given to this people is not an experiment, it is not subject to change. We need more light, but not new light. Every additional ray of light that God graciously sheds upon our pathway will only make the old truths, that through the years have become so precious to us, shine forth with ever-in-

creasing beauty and luster. "The faith and feelings of men may change; but the truth of God, never. The third angel's message is sounding; it is infallible. . . . It is as certain that we have the truth as that God lives."—*Id., Vol. IV, p. 595.*

"Suppose Christ should abide in every heart, and selfishness in all its forms should be banished from the church; what would be the result? Harmony, unity, and brotherly love would be seen as verily as in the church which Christ first established. Christian activity would be seen everywhere. The whole church would be kindled into a sacrificial flame for the glory of God. Every Christian would cast in the fruit of his self-denial to be consumed upon the altar. There would be far greater activity in devising fresh methods of usefulness, and in studying how to come close to poor sinners to save them from eternal ruin."—*Id., Vol. V, p. 206.*

"Still the heavenly universe is waiting for channels through which the tide of mercy may flow throughout the world. The same power that the apostles had is now for those who will do God's service."—*An Appeal for Missions, p. 32.*

"Channels only, blessed Master;
But with all Thy quickening power
Flowing through us, Thou canst use us
Every day and every hour."

★ Missionary Activities ★

A Call for Medical Missionaries

THE Seventh-day Adventist Church has been given a complete message—a message that if given in all its fullness, when accepted and obeyed will fit its members for the coming of the Lord. The world is sick, physically, mentally, and spiritually, but the message we are to carry has power to bring healing to all its ills. If any part of the message is neglected or ignored, complete healing cannot result.

Very early in the history of our church the health message was given to our people. More than eighty years ago Mrs. E. G. White wrote, "I saw that it was a sacred duty to attend to our health, and arouse others to their duty. . . . I saw that we should not be silent upon the subject of health, but should wake up minds to the subject."—*The Story of Our Health Message, p. 67.*

Following those early days a constant stream of health knowledge poured from

the pen of Mrs. White, and at the present time this church has a vast amount of instruction on health, which, when studied, practiced, and passed on to others will bring rich blessings to the church. "Genuine medical missionary work is bound up inseparably with the keeping of God's commandments. . . . This is the ministry which God's people are to carry forward at this time. This ministry, rightly performed, will bring rich blessings to the church."—*Testimonies, Vol. VI, p. 266.*

At times in the history of the third angel's message, the health work has gone forward with great strength and power, contributing its part in the development of a people waiting to meet their Lord. There have also been periods of indifference and apathy to its great and important messages. The time has surely come for greater medical missionary activity. The end draws near; Christ is coming

soon. As we approach the end the health phase of our message grows in importance. World conditions today demonstrate its importance. As a church too many of us are indifferent to our health message. Many of our people are still ignorant of the health principles which, if obeyed, would bring rich blessings to God's church and open paths and doors now closed.

The Lord has blessed this denomination with medical institutions where health workers are scientifically trained to care for the sick, as physicians, nurses, dietitians, and physiotherapists. As a result of these health institutions, hundreds and thousands of such workers are found in our ranks today. In many churches there are scores of such qualified potential teachers of health.

In view of the growing number of trained medical workers, there is danger that the majority of our church members will feel inclined to excuse themselves from responsibility, leaving the burden of medical missionary work to this smaller group. But we are told that "the medical missionary work should be a part of the work of every church in our land" (*Id., Vol. VI, p. 289*); and further, "We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work."—*Id., Vol. VII, p. 62.* While the medical missionary work must have especially trained and qualified leadership, every member has a place in the medical missionary program. This instruction does not give any of us an excuse to shun our duty.

From the writings of Mrs. White I quote: "I wish to tell you that soon there will be no work done in ministerial lines but medical missionary work."—*Counsels on Health, p. 533.*

"The health reform is one branch of the great work which is to fit a people for the coming of the Lord. It is as closely connected with the third angel's message as the hand is with the body. . . . To make plain natural law, and urge the obedience of it, is the work that accompanies the third angel's message, to prepare a people for the coming of the Lord."—*Testimonies, Vol. III, p. 161.*

There is, therefore, a definite duty, first, of the medically trained to instruct and teach health principles and practices to church members; second, the duty of each church member, including our young people, to seek for greater knowledge and better training that each one may share in the medical missionary program of the church.

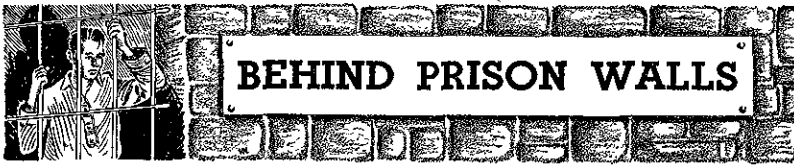
"Many, even of those who profess to be-

lieve the special truths for this time, are lamentably ignorant with regard to health and temperance. They need to be educated, line upon line, precept upon precept. The subject must be kept fresh before them. This matter must not be passed over as nonessential. . . . The conscience must be aroused to the duty of practicing the principles of true reform."—*Counsels on Health*, p. 449.

A caution should here be given, since probably there is no branch of our work in which so many dangers lurk. Quackery and faddism are rampant in the land. Avoid following every "wind of doctrine" in health. To do so will only bring dis-

credit and dishonor to the work of God. Our safety lies in following the blueprint closely. The book *Ministry of Healing*, by Mrs. E. G. White, outlines a safe health program for the church. The Medical Department of the General Conference stands ready at all times to give counsel and guidance in co-operation with the home missionary leaders of the church.

Preparation for medical missionary work is a first responsibility. It is folly to attempt to teach others or help others physically if we know little or nothing about it ourselves. "Let our people show
(Continued on page 18)



Letters From Prison

THE following story is a modern version of Paul writing letters in prison, and proves that a consecrated Christian is used to further the cause of Christ when he is able to rise above adverse circumstances. At the outbreak of the present war a young medical student of Aberdeenshire expected to go to China, under the C. I. M., but became, instead, a commissioned officer in the British army, was taken prisoner in France and eventually sent to a concentration camp somewhere in Germany. Why? Here was an earnest Christian, prepared for missionary service, now immolated in a prison camp. Here is the way he reacted. First he wrote: "I am here in Camp ———. We meet for Bible readings, have prayer gatherings and wonderful times together. The camp is ripe already to harvest." More letters followed, from which these are excerpts: "Words fail to express the joy of the Lord Jesus as He has revealed Himself in these last few weeks, and I thank Him for those whose prayers have made this possible.

"God has blessed us richly of late. I now have a gospel meeting and hymn sing every Sunday and a prayer meeting and a Bible study every day. . . . Quiet times are hard as there are eighty-four men in my room. I ask that what is going on be made known to people who will thank God for His blessing and concentrate prayer on our difficulties and needs.

"These are happy days, the presence of the Lord Jesus being very real and daily more precious. The gospel meet-

ings are alive, and two fellows have come to know the Lord. Pray for us. I feel the need of more power to deal with inward sin and for a more powerful testimony. We need prayer that we might be more prayerful, that the Bible might mean more to us, and that we might be as severe with sin in our own lives as we are in condemnation of it in others."—*Missionary Review of the World*, August, 1942.



Does Prison Work Pay?

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

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

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

Some time ago one of our brethren began visiting the city jail in his city, and as a direct result added about twelve members to the little Sabbath school

there. It happened on this wise: A prisoner who was interested in the Bible studies gave our lay preacher the name and address of his wife with a family of eleven children. He sent home instructions that all the children should attend the little Adventist church. Practically the entire family attended Sabbath school and brought visitors with them. A later study in the home of this same prisoner was attended by fully forty-five persons.

Another inmate of this same jail, later transferred to a State prison, wrote the following words of appreciation:

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

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

"I can see the hand of God patiently loosening the knots and straightening out this hopeless snarl, because I have asked Him to do so. And you, my friend, have endorsed my request, and your dear wife and friends have also asked Him to see me safely through.

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

Some other denomination worked with the same prisoners, and they tried to gain favor with them by promising deliverance through prayer, without a corresponding effort at the correction of their lives. The natural result was disappointment on the part of the prisoners and ultimate contempt for the religious workers.

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

And, strange as it may sound, it worked.—*Home Missionary Gazette*.



WE do our best; then with perfect confidence leave the issue with God. And then the lines of the face will grow smooth again; the heavy heart light; the mind, beset with anxious calculations and forebodings of evil, will be buoyant and free.—A. H. K. Boyd.

★ News From Soul Winners ★

Results of a Consecrated Christian's Faithful Efforts

THE outstanding success of the apostle Paul's work was largely due to his training of the believers to be his fellow laborers in the gospel.

I am glad to report that many of our workers in Africa are following this good example and are ever keeping in mind the statement, "God expects personal service from everyone to whom He has entrusted a knowledge of the truth for this time. Not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, but all can be home missionaries in their families and neighborhoods."—*Testimonies, Vol. IX, p. 30.*

I wish to relate the results of the faithful efforts of a native Christian woman. While attending camp meetings during the first part of the year with Elder J. G. Siepman in the North Bantu Mission field, it was my happy privilege to meet this good sister in her home.

This woman was a very active missionary in her neighborhood. She never missed attending Sabbath school and always brought others with her. She was a real friend to the women of the neighboring villages. Even the wife of the chief had become a regular member of the Sabbath school. The lessons she learned each Sabbath were taught to the chief and made him, a good Lutheran, think more of his spiritual needs and the needs of the people (two thousand or more in number) of whom he was the leader. The chief also saw real progress in the children who attended the Seventh-day Adventist school, as well as in the Christians who were Seventh-day Adventists.

At the time of our camp meeting in this chief's area, he sent a man to tell us that he was very anxious to see us before we left the place. Our native worker took us over to his place. We were invited into his lovely home, and he made a number of inquiries about our work, our belief, and our educational system. We were then asked if we would address his pupils in the school near by. We agreed and on entering the big school we found more than six hundred students in attendance, with a number of teachers. They sang songs of welcome, after which both Elder Siepman and I gave short talks. The chief then got up and gave the most challenging appeal I have ever heard. He

said that if the people in his area were lost it would be our fault. Then addressing the students, teachers, and friends who were there, he said, "It is our duty to obey and believe what the white missionaries of the Seventh-day Adventist church teach."

The chief is a man of good character and is doing all he can to help us teach his people. He has opened the doors for us to enter and help them. The brethren are now laying strong plans for work among these people.

All this has come about as the result of the work of this consecrated Christian woman, who has been faithful in rendering personal service in the neighborhood for several years.

J. M. HNATYSHYN, *H. M. Sec.,*
Southern African Division.



The Power of the Gospel

WE have a brother named Davamony (a jewel of penance), the only son of his father. When Davamony accepted the gospel and turned from Hinduism, his father came to him and said, "My dear son, I pray that you do not accept the new religion. We do not want Christianity in our village. Our family gods will become angry. Our village people will despise us. It is a disgrace to become a Christian. You please give it up. You stay in our house. You need not do any work. I shall give you free food, and I shall also give you whatever you want. Even if you want another wife, I shall select a girl for you. [The father thought this inducement would turn him against Christianity.] Please give up the new religion."

Our good brother Davamony said in reply, "My dear father, I will not give up my Jesus. I want you to accept Him as your Saviour, too."

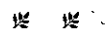
This made his father very angry, and he said, "In that case you are not my son any more. You shall not stay in my house. Get out as quickly as possible." The father asked Davamony's wife to go back to her father's house. As a rule, in many homes different members of the family live together in their father's house. So Davamony's wife left her husband and went to her parents' home, and she stayed there for three months.

Another day one of Davamony's sisters came to him and said, "My brother, you please give up that new religion. I shall give you a gift of two hundred rupees [about \$63]. Please do not accept that new religion."

But Davamony said to his sister, "I shall not sell my Jesus for the perishable money. I will not, and I cannot, give up Jesus. I want you, my sister, to become a Christian, too." The sister returned home feeling sad. Thus Davamony was rejected by his father, wife, sister, and other relatives. In spite of this our good brother lived a Christian life.

His father told his friends and relatives that his son Davamony had died three months before; but the people found Davamony alive, and they came and told him what his father had said. Our good brother said to them, "Yes, what my father told you is true. I was dead and buried in the watery grave three months ago when I was baptized, and now I am a new man because the old man is dead."

One day Brother Davamony was singing some songs from his Christian song-book. His father went to him very gently and said, "My son, please sing those songs once more." Davamony sang some of those songs to his father, and they touched his heart. Davamony said to him, "You please come along with me to our church. There you will hear some more beautiful songs." His father agreed to this. The following Sabbath the father went to the Sabbath school with his son Davamony and listened to the songs. The father was very much impressed with all that took place in the church that day. At the close of the meeting the father told his son Davamony that he would also like to become a Christian. What a change has taken place in the old father's heart! This has brought great joy to his son Davamony. Now the old father is going to our church regularly. He is also very much interested in the music and takes a great delight in it. Regular Bible studies have been given him. Soon the father will be baptized. Thank God for the gospel message, which transforms lives in a wonderful way even in heathen India. E. D. THOMAS.



A Remarkable Prayer

ONE of the most remarkable reports from the battlefield of the present World War is the account of the prayer of a marine on the Solomon Islands. It is contained in a letter written by Lieutenant W. Wyeth Willard, a naval chaplain at

Guadalcanal, to his wife; and it tells how he overheard one of the defenders of that bloody battle area praying on the eve of an American attack against the Japanese. The young man, whose name is not given, pleaded: "Dear Lord, if anyone falls in battle tomorrow, may it be I, because I know Christ as my Saviour and Lord! Give some of those poor fellows who do not know Christ another chance, and take me, if it be Thy will, O Lord!"

What a glorious zeal for the salvation

of souls! This young marine was so personally, vitally eager for the conversion of his fellow soldiers that he asked more time in which they might be brought to Christ, even though it might mean his own death. By contrast, we realize that too many who call themselves Christians, far from being willing to die in order that others may be brought to Christ's grace, are hardly ready to live in Christian testimony.—*The Walther League Messenger*.

★ Missionary Leadership ★

Unstinted Gift of Leadership

(Concluded from November)

THERE was no advantage which human training and culture could give him which could serve as a substitute for the experience in self-forgetfulness, tenderness, long-suffering, which was given him by his training as a shepherd.

Of the need and value of this training of the world's greatest leader, the gift of prophecy informs us:

"In all who have been chosen to accomplish a work for God the human element is seen. Yet they have not been men of stereotyped habits and character, who were satisfied to remain in that condition. They earnestly desired to obtain wisdom from God, and to learn to work for Him. Says the apostle, 'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.' But God will not impart to men divine light, while they are content to remain in darkness. In order to receive God's help, man must realize his weakness and deficiency; he must apply his own mind to the great change to be wrought in himself; he must be aroused to earnest and persevering prayer and effort. Wrong habits and customs must be shaken off; and it is only by determined endeavor to correct these errors, and to conform to right principles, that the victory can be gained. Many never attain to the position that they might occupy, because they wait for God to do for them that which He has given them power to do for themselves. All who are fitted for usefulness must be trained by the severest mental and moral discipline; and God will assist them by uniting divine power with human effort.

"Shut in by the bulwarks of the moun-

tains, Moses was alone with God. The magnificent temples of Egypt no longer impressed his mind with their superstition and falsehood. In the solemn grandeur of the everlasting hills he beheld the majesty of the Most High, and in contrast realized how powerless and insignificant were the gods of Egypt. Everywhere the Creator's name was written. Moses seemed to stand in His presence, and to be overshadowed by His power. Here his pride and self-sufficiency were swept away. In the stern simplicity of his wilderness life, the results of the ease and luxury of Egypt disappeared. Moses became patient, reverent, and humble, 'very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth,' yet strong in faith in the mighty God of Jacob."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 248, 251.

When Moses was finally disciplined and matured and trained for his great task, he had learned the lesson of humility to such a degree that he considered himself entirely unprepared for the work which forty years before he thought himself quite ready for. This is set before us vividly in the following:

"The divine command given to Moses found him self-distrustful, slow of speech, and timid. He was overwhelmed with a sense of his incapacity to be a mouthpiece for God to Israel. But having once accepted the work, he entered upon it with his whole heart, putting all his trust in the Lord. The greatness of his mission called into exercise the best powers of his mind. God blessed his ready obedience, and he became eloquent, hopeful, self-possessed, and well fitted for the greatest work ever given to man. This is an example of what God does to strengthen the character of those who trust Him fully, and give themselves unreservedly to His commands.

"A man will gain power and efficiency as he accepts the responsibilities that God places upon him, and with his whole soul seeks to qualify himself to bear them aright. However humble his position or limited his ability, that man will attain true greatness who, trusting to divine strength, seeks to perform his work with fidelity. Had Moses relied upon his own strength and wisdom, and eagerly accepted the great charge, he would have evinced his entire unfitness for such a work. The fact that a man feels his weakness, is at least some evidence that he realizes the magnitude of the work appointed him, and that he will make God his counselor and his strength."—*Id.*, p. 255.

The gift of leadership is all about us. Let us set about discovering it, training it, setting it to work.

CARLYLE B. HAYNES.

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Call for Medical Missionaries

(Continued from page 16)

that they have a living interest in medical missionary work. Let them prepare themselves for usefulness by studying the books that have been written for our instruction in these lines. These books deserve much more attention and appreciation than they have received. Much that is for the benefit of all to understand has been written for the special purpose of instruction in the principles of health. Those who study and practice these principles will be greatly blessed, both physically and spiritually. An understanding of the philosophy of health will be a safeguard against many of the evils that are continually increasing."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VII, p. 63.

In the providence of God, our denomination has a vast amount of health instruction available to the layman. Every member, or at least every family, should own the book *Ministry of Healing*, by Mrs. E. G. White, and possess an intelligent knowledge of its contents. It is a treasure house of rich knowledge that will bring blessings to body and soul when studied and obeyed. There are other books by the same author: *Counsels on Health*, *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, and *Medical Ministry*—books of great value to seekers after truth. Our physicians, nurses, and other health workers have given us many valuable books with specific instruction on the care of our own health and how to help others in times of illness. *The Story of Our Health Message*, by D. E. Robinson, recently off the

press, is an inspirational volume, which gives an excellent account of the early history and growth of the health movement in the church. It could be read with profit, especially by those who are called to lead out in medical missionary work in the church.

JOHN F. BROWNSBERGER, M. D.

(To be continued)

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Survey of What the Year Has Wrought

(Continued from page 20)

You are locked in a deadly conflict; you are at war with sin. No one dare expect his officers, the ministers and church leaders, to do the work that God places upon the shoulders of each church member. What is your field of service? You have a place that you alone can fill.

Are you able to do lay preaching? Is this your line of labor? Then forward, brother; hesitate no longer. Souls await your service. Do not fail them.

You, sister, what about those neighbors who want Bible studies? Do not wait for some well-equipped teacher. Take the training yourself. Hold cottage meetings; give Bible studies wherever there is an opening.

Is light and hope of eternal joy brought to those shut up behind prison walls? Have you remembered the outcast? Whose work is it to visit the jails, the prisons, and penitentiaries, there to preach and sing and pray? Is that your field of labor? If it is, join the prison band and go forward in the name of the Lord.

Are there sick among you, whose pain-filled, weary, and long hours could be shortened and made light by loving, thoughtful ministry? Are you the one who can give that help? Do not wait for others.

See the needy. They hunger and shiver with cold. They roam from place to place for lack of shelter. Your place is there with Dorcas. Why withhold your aid? Everyone in her place. Are you in yours? Sweil the ranks of Dorcas; join your talents to your sisters'; enlarge that field of service. Do not delay; press in now.

Win souls by correspondence. How many times letters with spiritual strength could be sent in systematic effort to lead some dear soul to Christ. Where is your Correspondence Band? Join it now if you can write, and all your time is not devoted to some other branch of Christian service.

Those foreign-speaking people. Are they made aware that Christ Jesus soon will come? Do you gather in their children for a story hour? Have truth-filled pages of literature in their own tongue been given regularly according to plan? Are they invited to Bible studies, cottage meetings, or public services? What are you doing for the foreigner within your door? Join the home-foreign band and work. Do it now—if that's your sphere of service.

Books and tracts, periodicals and pamphlets, scattered like the leaves of autumn, will do their work silently and well. Is that the place to which God has called you? Better hasten, brother, sister. Fall in with the colporteur ranks. Advance with the army of the Lord. Don't put it off. There is no better season.

Somewhere there is a place for you, for your special talent in this last struggle against sin. Find that place; fill it faithfully. Make no excuse, but work till Jesus comes in triumph and glory. Then let us all go home.

And so today let us survey the year that is past. What have we done for God? Then with courage and consecration go forward in soul-winning victory for God. Let us double this church membership in one year.

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COURAGE is the child of Faith; and Faith is the daughter of Love.—Arthur W. Spalding.

Weekly Church Missionary Services

December 2

POWER FOR WITNESSING

Key Thought for Leaders: "When we bring our hearts into unity with Christ, and our lives into harmony with His work, the Spirit that fell on the disciples on the day of Pentecost will fall on us."—Testimonies, Vol. VIII, p. 246.

God's promise to His church, that its members should receive power that would enable them to become soul winners, is not contingent upon material resources, social advantages, educational privileges, or any of those numerous and, of themselves, desirable qualities, but rather upon the presence of heavenly strength. The text reads, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8.

No one will contend that God's Spirit is given only to college graduates or to seminary students. His presence and acceptance are for "whosoever will." Atonement was made in behalf of all mankind. Those who, among the nations of earth, yield their lives to His sanctifying grace and mercy will be cleansed of their un-Christlikeness and become ready for a bestowal of that manifestation which is His power to win souls—the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Ghost comes not as a special favor upon a select few who bask in its grace but upon all Christ's disciples, thereby empowering them—every one—to witness for Him.

This divine presence is bestowed according to condition of heart, surrender to God. The Holy Ghost may come upon the poor (who heard Him gladly) or upon the rich; it will manifest itself through a college professor or an unlettered shepherd; educational advantages are not prerequisite for reception of the Holy Ghost.

God pleads, "My son, give Me thine heart." It is the condition of heart rather than of pocketbook which makes one ready for the reception of heavenly power.

When the gift of the Spirit is bestowed, it comes upon its recipient for the purpose of making him a witness.

Not all can witness alike or in the same place, or before the same kind of people. But all who have His Spirit will witness for Him. Absence of witnessing is because the Spirit is absent. The Spirit is an active, never-resting power, which leads Christ's disciples into soul-winning service. You are God's witness if you are His disciple. He gives you His power for witnessing regardless of your position, condition, location, education. So long as you are among men you are His witness.

One man sits all day at his cobbler's bench mending shoes, but finds time to drop words of courage that bind up broken hearts.

Another builds houses during the day, and in the evening spends time with neighbors, building for God through Bible studies.

A housewife keeps an immaculate house but carries on such a soulful correspondence with lads overseas that she leads two to Christ.

A delivery man places tracts in the packages deposited in people's homes, praying that some will accept Christ. By this means three families are induced to attend church services, and finally come into the faith.

Piloting a ferry between islands, the captain finds time to talk to his passengers about Jesus, with the result that a church is established on one of the islands he regularly touches.

The Spirit does not lead all to witness by equal means, but all who have the Spirit of God are in possession of sufficient power to bear witness for their Lord wherever they are.

You are Christ's disciple. You are to bear witness. He has given you the power. Let that power use you.

December 9

FAITHFULNESS REWARDED

Key Thought for Leaders: "Whatever the hand finds to do should be done with thoroughness and dispatch. Faithfulness and integrity in little things, the performance of little duties and little deeds of kindness, will cheer and gladden the pathway of life; and when our work on earth is ended, every one of the little duties performed with fidelity, will be treasured as a precious gem before God."—Testimonies, Vol. IV, p. 591.

Faithfulness in little things is as important as faithfulness in big things. In fact, Jesus said, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." There are no nonessentials in the life of the true Christian.

At one time a minister questioned a lady as to how she came to accept the truth as taught by Seventh-day Adventists. Her answer was very significant: "I suppose the publishing department would say it was through reading. Of course, I had Bible Readings for the Home Circle and I learned the doctrines from it, but that is not what interested me at first." Then she went on to tell how she lived next door to a Seventh-day Adventist family and watched their daily lives. She noted their regularity at Sabbath school and church services, their faithfulness in attending prayer meeting, and the order and Christian atmosphere about the home. She was so impressed with the smooth functioning of the household machinery and the kind demeanor manifested by her neighbors that when they invited her to attend the Sabbath school with them she was ready to go to see what there was in their religion that could order a home like that.

It is doubtful that this family of Adventists ever knew of the influence their lives had on this neighbor, but in the kingdom they will be rewarded for their faithfulness.

The missionary activities of the remnant church are outlined by the Lord, both in the Bible and in the Spirit of prophecy. The avenues of service are many, and all are essential in order that the many and varied classes may be reached by the last invitation of mercy. There may be some who are inclined to feel that some of these activities are unimportant. Others may feel that unless they can serve in some presumably important position, they will not be bothered with the smaller things. To take such a position is disastrous, both to the work and to the spiritual experience of all who take it. Jesus gladly accepted the most humiliating service in order to make the last mighty appeal to the heart of His betrayer, as well as to the hearts of the other disciples. His condescension and humility were rewarded by the conversion of the eleven.

It would, perhaps, have been distasteful to many of us to enter into conversation with one of low rank and character. Jesus found joy in it, and the woman at the well found the fountain spring of salvation. She, in turn, brought the message to her city. It is not the amount of missionary work done that is rewarded, but the faithfulness with which it is done. Many times the colporteur is tempted to leave the last house on a long and dusty road, because he is weary and the distance is great. And, anyway, the others have not bought any books, and why should he believe that they will at this last house? He is urged on, however, by the Spirit of the Lord, and is rewarded, for possibly they not only buy the book but finally accept the truth.

The Scriptural admonition is, "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that." This is good counsel. Every believer should be prepared to spread the truth in every way possible. Church literature campaigns, periodical subscriptions, special literature on specific topics, as temperance, religious liberty, are all vital and important,

but not sufficient. It is equally imperative that every housewife be supplied with literature to give to the callers at the door.

Every factory or office worker going back and forth on the streetcar or bus should be supplied with suitable literature to hand out as the occasion presents itself. Neighborly kindness is a little thing in itself, but it bears a mighty weight in connection with the standing of Seventh-day Adventists in a community. Just a word of thoughtfulness in time of sorrow, a bit of helpfulness in time of sickness, will many times break down the most stubborn prejudice and pave the way for Bible studies.

God has given to all at least one talent, and to every man his work. "When the appeals of the Holy Spirit come to the heart, our only safety lies in responding to them without delay. When the call comes, 'Go work today in My vineyard,' do not refuse the invitation. 'Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.' It is unsafe to delay obedience. You may never hear the invitation again."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 281.

J. O. MARSH.

December 16

REPORTING—A DUTY AND A PLEASURE

Key Thought for Leaders: "Angels keep a faithful record of every man's work."—Testimonies, Vol. I, p. 198.

What would you think of a soldier who, while on special duty in the darkness of the night, met an enemy, overpowered him, and saved the camp from a surprise attack; yet in the morning when coming off duty failed entirely to report his experience of the night to his commanding officer? You would say that while he might be a good soldier, a faithful watchman, yet he was negligent in duty because he did not report the matter so that necessary precaution might be taken.

The church is engaged in a great battle for King Jesus. Many are on the firing line, watching for souls. Is it not right that you should report your work while on guard? The officers of the church must know how the battle is going, and they can know this only as you report your work. If you have done spying in the enemy's camp and have left some literature there, tell of it. If you have taken a prisoner for Jesus, tell it.

An idea prevails in the minds of some that they ought not to tell what they have done. This is a mistaken idea which, if carried to its logical conclusion, would entirely disorganize our work and reduce it to hopeless confusion. If it is wrong for one to tell what he has done, it would be wrong for all. No person would then take any responsibility in directing any lines of work, because he would not know what others were doing. But the work of the Lord is not so ordered. In Mark 6:30 we read that the apostles, when returning from a missionary tour, told Jesus all they had done. Another good text on reporting is found in Acts 14:27: "When they . . . had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them."

Your report is not boasting but simply a confession of what God has enabled one of His willing children to do.

A gentleman, whom we shall call Mr. Thomas, was once on board a ship, and down in his little cabin he heard the cry, "Man overboard." There was a general rush to the deck; but Mr. Thomas remained below and held his lamp up to his cabin window. The light from that window enabled the sailors to cast the life line right to the drowning man. It was a small matter to hold a lamp to the window, but someone has related the incident, and it has inspired hundreds to be faithful in little things. Is your personal report too small to pass on? Be sure it is big enough for God to use to press another into service, and in this way you will be fulfilling His command to provoke one another unto good works.

We should never forget that it is God who works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Whatever we may accomplish for the carrying forward of the work of God is wholly due to the operation of the Spirit of God. Let us say with Paul, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." But let us not fall to make our boast in the Lord. Let us gladly tell in other words what God accomplishes both for us and through us.

That is what missionary reporting really is. It is telling to others what the Holy Spirit is enabling us to do. We should tell others that they may rejoice with us and, through our reporting, be encouraged to engage in service for the Master.

In the early days of mission work in Africa some of the missionaries of other denominations desired to keep Seventh-day Adventists out of the territory. Therefore they requested the government not to allow Seventh-day Adventists to open any mission stations in South Africa. The request went to London. In London reports are kept of the work done by every denomination in the British Empire, and these reports were all looked over by the officials who had to consider the request. The result was that the request was refused. *And the reason given was that Seventh-day Adventists were doing more missionary work proportionately than any of the other denominations.* How did those officials know that the Seventh-day Adventists were doing more missionary work? Oh, someone had reported it!

"A report is borne to heaven of every successful effort on our part to dispel the darkness and to spread abroad the knowledge of Christ. As the deed is recounted before the Father, joy thrills through all the heavenly host."—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 154.

If heaven keeps such a faithful, accurate report of the acts of every person, we certainly cannot bring up any argument against reporting, for it has its origin in heaven. By reporting, we check up on ourselves, and it usually stimulates us to do more.

God may use our reports in some special way. We may never know just how, but if we pass in our reports faithfully in the spirit of service, they are certain to be a blessing.

December 23

MISSIONARY EXPERIENCES

Key Thought for Leaders: "The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence."—The Great Controversy, p. 612.

Some time ago one of our lay members was soliciting a businessman for Ingathering in one of Nebraska's southeastern cities. This man seemed unusually interested in the Ingathering magazine and in the Bible. This opened the way to send him further literature, the *Present Truth*, and later the *Signs of the Times*, being used to create a greater interest. This man read the papers with interest, but the truth did not take hold of his heart. One day a daughter-in-law visited his home and was attracted to a copy of the *Signs* lying on the table. She began to read from it, becoming more and more interested in what she found in the magazine. She asked if she might not have the paper to take home. From this time on she became a reader of the *Signs*, studying the truths as found in the Bible. Before long she became a baptized member of this church. While in attendance at the last Nebraska camp meeting, she had the privilege of relating her experience and expressing her joy in the truth she had learned to love so dearly. She had been face to face with much opposition in the home, but today she is beginning to witness the power of God as it softens the heart of him who made it so difficult for her to keep the true Sabbath of God. Does it not pay to follow up the interest created in Ingathering? We may not know now the results of our contact, but the records of heaven that never err will cause us to rejoice in the eternity to come, for there will be fruit.

Recently we were privileged to see baptized in Nebraska four persons brought into the truth through the work of the Bible Study Correspondence School. Some months ago a family living in the central part of the State enrolled in the school announced over the air. The wife enrolled against the wishes of the husband. He had been studying the various philosophies but cared nothing for religion. The wife faithfully followed the lessons and became deeply interested. Somehow or other the earnestness of this wife had its effect upon the husband and he occasionally studied with her.

Returning from the field one day, he found his wife earnestly studying the lessons. Leaning over her shoulder he read questions

from the test paper asking about the Sabbath. He then asked his companion, "Wife, what are you going to do about this? How are you going to answer it?" Her reply was that if she answered it she would keep it. That resolution has been kept, and today husband and wife rejoice to be counted members of the conference church in Nebraska.

The work of the correspondence school has been blessed of the Lord. A score and more have given their testimony favorably to the Sabbath. Thus far, eight of our students have been baptized into the church. One has been reclaimed on profession of faith. Five at the present time are known to desire baptism. The Lord has blessed this ministry of the printed page. Many souls will be garnered into the kingdom as a result of this far-reaching plan. The seed is now being planted that will find its culmination in the promise given through the messenger of God, that thousands would be converted in a day. Ought not every Seventh-day Adventist to be earnestly engaged in the blessed responsibility of searching for those who will be saved? This is our God-given privilege, and every church member expecting to enter heaven will need to find his place in this great soul-winning work. From *The Great Controversy*, page 612, we learn that in this day "servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven."

E. E. HAGEN.

December 30

SURVEY OF WHAT THE YEAR HAS WROUGHT

Key Thought for Leaders: "Do something, do it soon, with all thy might;

An angel's wing would droop if long at rest;

And God Himself, inactive, were no longer blest!"

—Quoted in *Testimonies*, Vol. V, p. 308.

The year 1944 has been one of the most momentous years in human history. Battles have been fought around the world; and one-time conquerors, expelled from the land that they overrun, feel the humiliation of defeat; oppressed peoples, liberated from bondage, joyfully set about rehabilitating their country; broken families begin to find their way together; and millions breathe free air again.

What about the arrival of our Lord? Has 1944 been a great year of victory for the church of Christ? Valiantly, men and women on hard-pressed Christian battle fronts around the world have thrown their whole souls into this final, this last-hour drive against sin; they spare nothing—time, talent, energy, friends, homes, possessions, have all been sacrificed that the banner of Jesus Christ might float in triumph o'er all the earth, bringing liberation to oppressed multitudes who have long been held enslaved, driven by hate and lust and greed, coerced at the will of a vast army of cruel overlords sent by Satan to subjugate and liquidate all races of mankind.

Long has the conflict raged, and now it surges toward a climax. God is counting on every Christian soldier to occupy his or her place and to advance. Ringing along the line, our orders have been clear and oft repeated to every man: Advance—dislodge the enemy—forward!

Where is your church in this great conflict? You are in the Lord's army. Heaven expects every member to take an active part. Your brothers and sons, your daughters and relatives, your friends and neighbors and fellow countrymen, many of them are captives of the enemy, bound by sin, driven on at the hand of prejudice and misunderstanding.

Forward to the rescue of these captives! What has been your response to the battle call? How many have been set free? Have any of the liberated souls been added to your ranks? Your company of Christian soldiers ought ever to be increasing, swelled by a constant influx of persons brought over from the land where sin holds sway.

This is no time to wait for others to do the work that has been assigned to you.

(Continued on page 19)

★ Department of Education ★

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

Polishing Stones for the Temple

Courage

The Courage Makers

In days like these, when hearts are tense
With fear and hurt and dread,
How sweet to find some note of cheer,
Some precious balm to spread
Upon the aching hurts of those
Beside us in the way.
God grant us in a time like this
Courageous words to say!

There's grump and gloom and fret enough,
And thorns for all to glean;
But optimistic courage songs
Are few and far between.
There's nothing like a song and smile
To put the "blues" to rout.
Let's reap a crop of courage from
The gloom that's round about!

The gracious God, who in His might
Formed both the world and you,
Has grace and skill and love enough
To see us safely through.
God bless the noble souls who find
A rose with every thorn,
A star to light the darkest night,
A song for each new morn!

—Norma Youngberg.

Notes to Leaders

The opposite of courage is fear. For these very days we read, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Courage comes with a feeling of security; it is an outgrowth of experience.

It is the parents' daily privilege to surround their children with a sense of "belonging" that will beget courage—courage to meet temptation, to live for God; yes, even to die for Him. How our hearts thrill to the heroism of our Adventist youth who stand firmly for principle in this present conflict! But back of each courageous act someone has planted in the heart the seeds that now bear fruit. Let us look well to our planting.

As you plan for and conduct this study, make courage a very practical topic.

FLORENCE K. REBOK.

Fourth Meeting on Character Study

Courage

I. WHAT is courage?

A. "That quality of mind which enables one to encounter danger and difficulties with firmness and without fear and timidity."
"It is the opposite of fear and timidity."

B. Fear is a most detrimental emotion and a leading factor in mental diseases. Courage promotes health and prolongs life. MH 241.

C. Fear characteristic of last days. Luke 21:26.

D. Courage founded on confidence. Joshua 1:9; 2 Tim. 1:12.

II. Why is courage needed?

A. Necessary to success in life (MH 497, 498); in God's work. PK 164.

B. Children, to finish work in face of greatest difficulties, must have courage. GC 610.

C. Spirit of home molds character. MH 394.

D. Build into character now for time of trouble. GC 622.

III. How develop courage?

A. Talk it, act it, live it.

1. What parents are, children will become. MH 371.

a. Mother is first teacher. MH 378.

b. Parents teach continually, whether they realize it or not.

c. Courage is sterner virtue father should enforce in family. MH 391.

2. Teacher must be what he wishes students to become. CT 65.

B. Help child really know power of God—gives courage.

1. Tell stories of God's power in creation.

2. Tell stories of His care for Israel.

a. During plagues.

b. Crossing Red Sea.

c. Providing water and food.

d. Pillar of cloud—shade by day, light by night.

e. Crossing Jordan.

f. Defeat of enemies—Jericho wall, etc.

3. Tell how Son of God came to save us.

Sinless life, triumphs over temptation, miracles, etc.

C. Make real the sense of God's presence.

1. Banish fear, which makes timid child's life a burden. Ed. 255.

2. Fix promise of Psalms 34:7 in child's mind.

3. Fear reveals unbelief. DA 336.

4. Jesus and disciples in storms on Galilee. DA 335.

D. Help child realize sincere prayer connects him with mind of Infinite; lifts suppliant above discouragement and doubt. GW 320-322.

E. Give child heroes of courage:

1. Noah

2. Moses

3. Gideon

4. David

5. Daniel

6. Three Hebrews

7. John the Baptist

8. Paul

9. William Miller

10. Ellen G. White

11. Present-day missionaries

12. Pioneers

13. Men in armed services who stand for principle.

F. Keep before child Christ's sure triumph over Satan, with reward to faithful.

G. Build faith into child's character. 1. Hope and courage are fruits of faith. PK 164.

2. Knowledge of God's past dealings, appreciation of prophecies of future, banish doubt and fear.

3. Personal experience.

a. Victory over besetments.

b. Answered prayer.

c. Protection from danger.

d. Leading in way should go.

H. Be firm with child.

1. Firmness needed in "most difficult" work. Ed. 292.

2. Firmness essential in character training. 5T 45.

3. Lacking in character—indulgence, petting. 5T 45, FE 28.

4. Make rules few, well-considered, enforced. Ed. 290.

I. Encourage child.

1. For want of, children become disheartened, changeable, failures. FE 32.

2. Preserve self-respect, inspire courage. Ed. 291, 292.

3. Mistakes, faults, difficulties conquered are steppingstones to success. Ed. 296.

4. Commend whenever can; make happy as possible. CT 114.

5. Train child to expect temptations—meet with courage. FE 28.

6. Determine to do right because it is right. PK 490.

7. Better request than command. Ed. 290.

J. Do not frighten child. (Bible teaches "Fear not.")

1. Ghost stories, goblins, wicked fairies, etc.

2. Accidents or experiences that scare or frighten (avoid if possible).

3. Stories and pictures of wars, atrocities, etc.

4. Fear of punishment—teach obedience through love, not fear.

K. Never allow yourself to become discouraged.

1. Despondency is sinful and unreasonable. PK 164.

2. Lesson from ten spies. 5T 376-378.

3. Satan presents sins to discourage. Remedy: faith, prayer, work. PK 164.

4. Never express discouragement. MH 251, 252.
- L. Do not discourage child.
 1. Easily pleased, easily made unhappy. MH 388.
 2. Rule with kindness, compassion. Matt. 18:10.
 3. Better a millstone about neck than to offend little one. Luke 17:2.
 4. Frequent censure creates discouragement, hopelessness—often concealed under indifference or bravado. Ed. 291.
 5. Faultfinding fatal to effort. Ed. 291.
 6. Do not censure, but encourage dull, ignorant child. Ed. 292.
 7. Avoid public reproof and punishment. Ed. 293.
 8. Children with peculiar temperaments not to be blighted by discouragement. Help by forbearance, sympathy. Strengthen to overcome defects. CT 116.
 9. Your child needs courage. You are the one to give it.

Add to blackboard chart
(See August GAZETTE)

CHARACTER

6. Parents are responsible for the character of their children—by example and by discipline. FE 28.

TRAITS

4. Courage.
 - a. Founded on confidence. Joshua 1:9; 2 Tim. 1:12.
 - b. Necessary for success. MH 497, 498.
 - c. Necessary for serving God. PK 164.
 - d. Promotes health, prolongs life. MH 241.

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War News and the School Child

BY LAURA GRAY

MARY, thirteen, brought home a good report except for one subject, social studies, against which was written, "Takes very little interest in what goes on in the world."

"Mary, how did you manage to fail in that?" I asked.

"We had a test all about the war, and I knew hardly anything."

"Why not? We certainly hear enough broadcasts."

"I seldom listen," she replied, a distressed look on her bright young face.

"But you should listen," I said weakly, realizing this was feeble advice.

Then eleven-year-old Tommy came in. His report bore almost the same remark.

Why should this be—in a home to which almost every news broadcast came?

"Aren't you interested in your country's war?" I asked.

"Of course, Mom," he answered, "but I get all mixed up."

How could I help the youngsters to

overcome this weakness? As I thought about it I realized that such a confusing mass of names and events with repetitions are broadcast over the radio that unless boys and girls are helped a little we cannot blame them for shutting their ears in self-defense.

An old scrapbook of Mary's filled with pictures of those five babies up in Canada, neatly pasted in, gave me an idea for making a day-by-day scrapbook. After supper that night their father and I talked the matter over with the children, and found them glad to start the undertaking.

Two inexpensive books were bought and the work began. As soon as the paper arrived there was a dash to look at it, and claims made on pictures and maps. I, too, made a scrapbook, and have found it a great help in understanding the continually changing situations.

We selected a picture of President Roosevelt, gave it a page to itself and left the next page blank—to add items of interest about him as they came along. We did the same with Prime Minister Churchill and other great war leaders. I tacked up an especially clear map beside the breakfast nook. After the paper was read pictures and scraps of news were cut out and pasted in the scrapbooks. The daily cartoon was in such demand our scrapbooks took turns having it. Remarks about the pictures naturally led to interesting talks about the news. When a place was mentioned we found it on the map and tried to learn something more about it.

A few days after we started this Tommy ran in beaming. "Today I knew all about the Lease-Lend Bill—hardly any of the other kids did!" he boasted.

We cut down on broadcasts, and when we did turn the radio on we listened, instead of using it as an accompaniment for reading or conversation. When an important speech was broadcast we dropped everything and gave it our full attention—except that some of us engaged in knitting, sewing, or some other handiwork. The children are at liberty to slip out if they wish, and they often do. But more and more I find them remaining, as their knowledge of names of places and people and of the war aims of the countries involved increases. It is my job to steer away from the too horrible, to stress the good—the courage of our armed forces and those of our Allies, and the value of democracy.

The result of this family get-together—listening to the radio—has been wonderful. Gradually the children are being led to take a real interest in the history-making events happening in the world today. It has clarified their parents' own understanding of world matters, too, and has proved to be another link to bind the family together in a common interest.

Tommy is making another scrapbook of planes—all the different kinds—and is alert for new ones. Mary has been particularly interested in pictures relating to the WACS and WAVES, but more recently "Production on the Home Front" has occupied her. We have set aside a bookshelf for our scrapbooks, and we call the collection our Victory Library.—National Kindergarten Association.

Christian Fortitude in Action

BY CHARLES LEE PADDOCK

IF the men and women of tomorrow are to be stalwart, courageous, and true, we must somehow implant the seeds of courage, loyalty, and determination in the hearts of the boys and girls of today. The children in our homes ought to see in us every day in the week, living examples of Christian fortitude in action. The boys and girls in our churches must learn that "with God all things are possible." The little fellows playing in our back yards must learn how to persevere—to get up and try again when they fall.

How is this valuable trait to be built into the lives and the hearts of our boys and girls? In some countries they would kill a lion, cut out its heart, dry and desiccate it, and feed it to the children along with their other food. That would make them lionhearted. If courage could be bought in capsules or pills and taken as the miracle-working vitamin concoctions of today, we should all be willing to see that the boys and girls got their required daily dosage. Courage cannot be bought on the American market, or in any other part of the world.

Some children have a long line of courageous ancestors, but not all are so fortunate. The child who has a courageous father and mother surely has an advantage. He not only hears about determination and perseverance but sees his parents calmly and courageously solving the problems which arise in the average home. He sees their fortitude when perplexities or discouragements come. He sees them doing what to him, in his weakness, seems impossible. Of course it strengthens him. Maybe only one parent will have this trait, or maybe neither will possess it. In that case the child may have teachers who do. But if both parents and teachers live and talk courage, the child will grow up believing that all things are possible.

One afternoon several decades ago, a discouraged little boy came home from school to tell his troubles to his mother. The teacher had sent him home with a note saying it was useless for him to go to school—it was just a waste of time; he was "addled," and could not learn anything. If that courageous mother had agreed with the teacher she might have put the boy to work in some shop or on a farm, and we might never have heard of Thomas Edison. She assured him that he was not inferior to other boys, that he too had brains and ability, and that he could and would do great things. That one speech did not change his life. She lived and talked courage; she directed the lad, and inspired him to try and try again. When even his father lost hope in him, she kept the little flame of courage burning in the boy's soul.

Fanny Crosby, blinded in babyhood by the family physician's mistake, faced plenty of obstacles. Yet an atmosphere of courage must have pervaded the Crosby home. It would be interesting to know just what that mother told her little girl, and what sort of life she lived. At any rate, someone inspired her to the extent that at eight years of age she wrote:

"Oh, what a happy soul am I!
Although I cannot see,
I am resolved that in this world,
Contented I will be;
How many blessings I enjoy
That other people don't.
To weep and sigh because I'm blind,
I cannot and I won't."

Her courage was breathed into more than eight thousand hymns, which have been a blessing to millions.

The Bible is largely a record of the lives of men and women of courage. Imagine what courage it required for Noah to work for a century building a large boat on dry land, in a country where it had never rained. Moses needed hope and courage to lead the stubborn, weak-kneed, faithless Israelites from Egypt to Canaan. Where did he get his courage? Faith in God and the knowledge that God had called him kept him true; but where did he get the courage for his task? He had a faithful, trusting, hopeful, resolute mother, who was determined that her boy was not to be killed as the king had decreed; and who taught him faithfully during those early, tender years. Where did Daniel and the other Hebrew boys get their courage? In their character building had been placed the qualities of faith and courage that could face the fiery furnace and the lions' den. They must have heard a lot about this at home—they must have seen real religion in action. They must have had parents who were courageous, trusting, God fearing.

One never gets entirely away from the influence of a Christian home and godly, courageous teachers.

I know a boy who is never defeated. If he cannot go through an obstacle he goes around. But he gets there. Where did he get that trait? In his home. Many were the stories of courage told to him—stories of Daniel, David, the three Hebrews, and Esther. He loved to hear about Lincoln, the Wright brothers, Thomas Edison, Columbus, Westinghouse, Alexander Graham Bell, Florence Nightingale, and others. He heard of courage in story form; he saw it in action. Rain did not stop those parents from going to church. Some little difficulty did not change their plans.

Books of biography should be in every home. What inspiration has come from reading of the Judsons, the Moffats, of Carey, John G. Paton, Mary Slessor, and many others. I have read again and again the lives of Lincoln, Gipsy Smith, Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, Livingstone, and many other heroic souls. Of course, in an Adventist home we should have the biographies of James and Ellen G. White, Loughborough, Bates, and other pioneers. There are many books of short biographies of men and women who have done great things for fellow men and for God. They always inspire.

Some children meet every little difficulty with a sickly "I can't." That attitude must be changed by precept and example. We must show the child that he can. Others have, and he can. He knows we can, and he will come to believe that he can. And, of course, he must learn as soon as possible that when man comes to his extremity, God will, if invited, step in to help.

In listing characteristics essential to success, none would leave out courage. Whether or not we think it essential, the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy plainly teach that it is. Space does not permit a large number of quotations, but we read in *Prophets and Kings*, page 164, "Hope and courage are essential to perfect service for God."

Of the difficulties which Israel must meet in their journey to the Promised Land, Moses said, "Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." Deut. 31:6. Read also verses seven and twenty-three.

Similar instructions were given in the first chapter of Joshua: "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Verse 9. Read also verse eighteen, and the twenty-fifth verse of the tenth chapter.

"Men of stamina are wanted," we read in *Ministry of Healing*, page 497, "men who will not wait to have their way smoothed, and every obstacle removed, men who will inspire with fresh zeal the flagging efforts of dispirited workers. . . . Those who would win success must be courageous and hopeful. They should cultivate not only the passive but the active virtues. . . . They must possess the courage of a hero to resist evil. With the charity that endures all things, they need the force of character that will make their influence a positive power." That should be evidence enough that we need this important characteristic in our make-up if we are to succeed.

It is not difficult to imagine the plight of anyone in this topsy-turvy old world who has not genuine courage in his heart.

We must have it, and plenty of it, whether in denominational or secular work, if we are to meet successfully the problems of today and tomorrow.



The Folly of Fear

BY R. L. HUBBS

FEAR is perhaps the most universal and powerful human emotion. It is the great spoiler and enemy of man's happiness. Like a shadow with a drawn sword, it haunts both old and young. It paralyzes the mind, blurs the thoughts, disrupts digestion, extracts accuracy from the muscles, robs life of its zest, happiness, and joy. It is man's greatest intellectual adversary.

While it robs millions of earth's inhabitants of the delight of living, it should leave virtually untouched the real Christian. In the ninety-first psalm the consolation of "He shall give His angels charge over thee" blesses those who dwell in danger. In the twenty-third psalm, "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: . . . surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life" gives hope to the hungry. To those troubled about the future Christ says, "Take therefore no thought for the morrow"; to the tired He says, "Come unto Me and rest."

As one travels about, how few of the thousands of people he sees are free from fear. They are worried, annoyed, irritated, and anxious. But to the Christian, old or young, comes the word, "Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 481.

We may sometimes feel that we have given up much for our belief in Christ. What we have given up is nothing compared to the peace we have received. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Tim. 1:7.

Thus, while we cannot save ourselves, we can surrender ourselves lest we become slaves of fear. It was Bryant who said:

"He who, from zone to zone,
Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight,
In the long way that I must tread alone,
Will lead my steps aright."
—Condensed From *Atlantic Union Gleaner*.



It Takes Courage

- To live according to your convictions.
- To stand up for an absent person who is being abused.
- To be what you are, and not pretend to be what you are not.
- To refrain from gossip when others around you delight in it.
- To say No squarely and firmly, when those around you say Yes.
- To live honestly within your means, and not dishonestly upon the means of others.
- To dress according to your income and deny yourself what you cannot afford to buy.
- To speak the truth when by a little prevarication you could get some special advantage.
- To refuse to knuckle down and bend the knee to the wealthy, even though you are poor.
- To stay home evenings and try to improve yourself when others are out "having a good time."
- When mortified and embarrassed by humiliating disaster, to see in your ruins the elements of future success.
- To remain in honest poverty while others grow rich by questionable methods which you could easily use yourself.
- Not to bend the knee to popular prejudice, but to stand firmly erect while others are bowing and fawning for praise and power.
- To be a real man, a true woman, by holding fast to your ideals when it causes you to be looked upon as strange or peculiar.
- To be talked about and yet be silent when a word would justify you in the eyes of others, but which you cannot speak without injury to another.
- But it always pays.

—*The New Success*.



COURAGE, hope, faith, sympathy, love, promote health and prolong life. A contented mind, a cheerful spirit, is health to the body and strength to the soul. "A merry [rejoicing] heart doeth good like a medicine."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 241.

Messages to Modern Christians (Concluded from front page)

toward men, they burned with desire to carry the glad tidings of salvation to earth's remotest bounds. And the world took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus. Sinful men, repentant, pardoned, cleansed, and sanctified, were brought into partnership with God through His Son."

But after a time other things were allowed to absorb their attention. Their zeal for Christ and the extension of His message began to wane. Their sin was a *leaving of first love*. Their religious affections had abated; their spirituality had declined; their joy was not so lively nor their love so ardent as it once was, and, notwithstanding their labor and patience and external holiness, the Lord rebuked them. How fearfully common today is this decline in spiritual fervency! The language of Christ to us all is, "Go on unto perfection." Which of our churches can compare with this at Ephesus, and which of them should not hear the words of Christ addressed to them—"Repent, repent"?

The True Gold

SOME years ago, in the Ivory Coast, after the people heard the preaching of a man named Harris, they destroyed their idols and accepted Christianity.

They built a spacious church and purchased a large English Bible, which they placed in the pulpit. Untaught and illiterate, they prayed and sang to God week by week, and longed for someone to teach the Bible to them.

A missionary heard of them and came to visit them. He conducted a service in the church, but since he did not teach from the Bible the people did not accept his message. Later a worker from another church called on them and invited them to become members of the church he represented; but as he did not teach from the Bible the invitation was not accepted.

Recently one of our members had occasion to pass through this town. He met the leader of the group, and as they talked he began to refer to the Bible. Our member was using a French Bible, but as they compared the two it was found that the message was the same from each. As the Bible was studied the leader exclaimed, "You have the true gold, I must call all my people that they may know it." The other Christians of the group were called. They eagerly listened to the message, for they had a great reverence for the Word of God. Many expressed their joy.

"You have taken my own razor (Bible) and shaved me clean," one said.

"We have been waiting for this for years," said another.

These people could scarcely be persuaded to let our member leave them unless he would promise to send a missionary. They are waiting anxiously for someone to teach them the way of life.

J. CLIFFORD.

True to God

ONE evening I was camping in a traveler's bungalow in South Travancore. It was ten o'clock and I had just returned after a day in the villages. I was preparing to retire when a young man on a bicycle rode up to the bungalow and handed me a letter. In the dim light of the lantern I recognized the young man as one whom I had baptized a few days before.

The letter was from our Indian evangelist, stating that the young man had been ordered from his home by members of his household who were bitterly opposed to his baptism. He had been beaten severely with a broomstick to hasten his departure. For this young man, following Christ meant giving up his home and loved ones; yet Verampettan was willing to make the sacrifice. Despite being cajoled, threatened, and pleaded with, Verampettan has remained true to God and is today happy in his new-found hope of a coming Saviour.

ROBERT H. PIERSON.

Superstition, the Enemy of the Gospel

SUPERSTITION is one of the greatest enemies of the gospel in heathen lands. Some time ago I paid a visit to the Yellagiri Hills in South India, where we had a number of Christians living who were seeking to work for those who knew not Christ in the surrounding villages.

One of our members, a nurse, had been treating a little village girl who had been ill for some time. However, one day when she went to attend the little sufferer, the parents refused to let her into the hut. The father and mother had resorted to one of their old heathen customs of casting lots before their deity to see whether or not the child would live. The "reply" had been negative, so the family refused to do anything further, and superstition claimed another little victim. What a challenge to those who bear the cross of Christ to press the battle courageously against the ramparts of the evil one!

ROBERT H. PIERSON.

Confession Influences a Mohammedan

AT the afternoon service in the Seventh-day Adventist church in Singapore one Sabbath in 1938, five candidates were being examined for baptism. One of the candidates stood up and related his experience. He had formerly been a church member but had lost his way and had grievously sinned. During his apostasy he had slandered and criticized the members of the church. In his testimony he confessed his sin and in deep humility asked forgiveness. Following his confession he was baptized.

During the service a Mohammedan was passing the church and out of curiosity stepped inside to see how Christians conducted their meeting. No one saw him enter or leave, but he heard the confession of the backslider and witnessed his baptism. He saw the expression of peace and joy that came to the reclaimed man. Two days later he wrote the pastor of the church, W. W. R. Lake, requesting Bible studies. He said, "For many years I have traveled in India and Malaya, seeking a religion that would bring peace. When I heard the testimony and saw the joy that came to the man in the church, I knew he had in his heart what I wanted. Perhaps that is what you mean by Christianity. If so, then I want Christianity. I want what that man has in his heart." After some months of earnest studies the Mohammedan man was prepared for baptism and experienced in his life the joy of sins forgiven and a new life in Jesus Christ.

V. T. ARMSTRONG.



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