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No. 5

Messages to Modern Christians— From the Seven Churches of Revelation

BY ERNEST LLOYD

Philadelphia

TO the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: . . . Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept My word, and hast not denied My name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." Rev. 3:7-10.

This is one of the seven churches to which no language of censure is addressed. They were not distinguished by opulence, but what is infinitely preferable, by godliness. They were tried by severe persecution, but they kept the word of Christ's patience, and though feeble as to all the constituted worldly power, and not very strong in numbers, they still maintained their steadfastness and kept their hold upon the truth with a martyr's grasp. Amidst all opposition and discouragement they were exhorted still to persevere, by the assurance that they should be aided by divine help in their religious profession, and that even their persecutors should be compelled to do them honor.

The lesson to be gathered from the history of the church is *that eminent godliness, and especially immovable*

steadfastness in the face of opposition and persecution, is the way to honor.

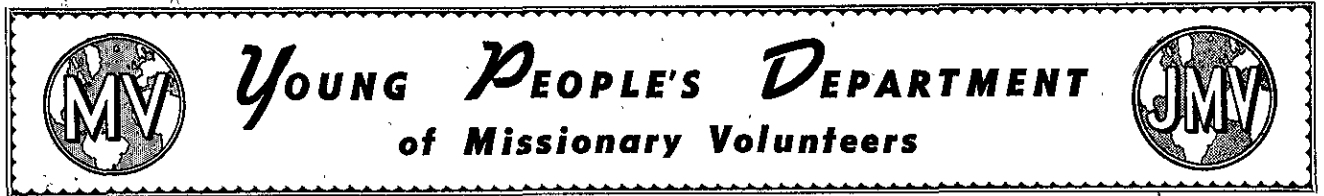
There are many intimations scattered through the Word of God that the church is destined to high distinction in the earth and to receive a tribute of respect and honor from the nations. The prophecies are full of the most glowing descriptions of this kind; and why has she not yet received this promised tribute of respect? Simply because she has not fulfilled the condition on which it is to be granted, and that is, eminent and consistent godliness. When she shall be seen as the tabernacle of God with men, and as having the glory of God; when she shall rise from the dust and put on her beautiful garments; when she shall be radiant with the light of heaven and be adorned with all the beauties of holiness, then shall she be as a "crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God." "Their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the Lord hath blessed."

As yet the church, so far from gaining that honor and esteem which are so often referred to and so divinely promised, has been too much an object of contempt and derision, not that God has failed in His promise, but that she has failed in the terms upon which alone she can expect to be esteemed. The Christian religion has not yet generally appeared in that sublime majesty, that heavenly glory,

that spotless purity, that effective benevolence, which alone can command the reverence of mankind. Let her be so seen, and then, though she may be too holy for the carnal heart to love, she will command respect and admiration. Men will not turn from her with disgust and aversion, as from a spirit of falsehood and mischief; they will not insult and despise her but will consider it as a species of profanity to treat her with rudeness and scorn. It is the feeble, distorted, and crippled form in which she has too generally appeared; the worldliness of her spirit, so strangely contrasted with the heavenliness of her profession; the loftiness of her pretensions, with the lowness of her practice, that has brought upon her the derision which it has been so often hitherto her lot to receive.

Who ever saw or heard of a Christian who united in his character all the beneficent, righteous, and gentle virtues of the gospel profession; whose very name was a guaranty for whatsoever things are pure, just, honest, true, lovely, and of good report; who added to his faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity—where, and when, did such a character exist, or one approaching such a standard, who did not receive the respect even of his enemies, if he had any? God will compel men to do him homage. Yes, the greatest persecutors have sometimes paid involuntary homage to eminent and consistent piety, and in every age and

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NOTES TO OFFICERS

What to Do in Summer

SUMMERTIME is joy time, and this season for Missionary Volunteers ought to be made happy, joyous, and profitable. The summer season makes possible many activities that cannot be engaged in during the winter. The society executive committee ought to plan very definitely to capitalize on good old summer.

What can Missionary Volunteers do? Well, hobby groups can be formed in which young people can associate together while making excursions to the hills, the woods, the swamps, the seashore, or to places of historical interest, to study birds, insects, trees, shrubs, or do other things that are interesting and worth while. Hiking and bicycling groups can be organized. And don't overlook the possibilities for fellowship and joyous activity in some Vocational Honor project. You can organize singing festivals, chorus groups, and outings of one kind or another.

All these should be carefully planned in every detail by the society executive committee, so that they may provide a maximum of recreation, enjoyment, and profit.

The book *Recreational Plans for Missionary Volunteers*, available through your conference Book and Bible House, is brimful of suggestions for outdoor activities and games. Make this summer a season of delightful, profitable fellowship and M.V. activity. A. W. P.

No Camp Meetings

The war effort is making it impossible to hold camp meetings this summer. Your M.V. Society must help make up for the loss which young people will sustain in not attending camp meeting. Every resource of the society ought to be marshaled to make up in spiritual influence and power what will be missed at camp meeting. The society executive committee should undertake to get in touch with every young person connected with the families of the church. Let special prayer bands be organized and personal work done. Let the society plan consecration services from time to time during the summer when decisions will be made by young people who have not yet joined the church, or when young people who have become careless and backslidden may be reclaimed. With proper planning the M.V. Society can be a mighty spiritual influence in the church to win and to hold the youth. A. W. P.

No matter how small your lot in life, there's enough room on it for a service station.—PRISM.

When They Come Back

STUDENTS are coming back to the home church. Let the M.V. Society welcome them with a glad hand. The executive committee ought to plan an exercise or perhaps a service to welcome them and make them feel at home. And don't forget to utilize their energies and talents in your society activities. A. W. P.

The Society Sponsor

ONE of the most vital and important offices in the church is that of the M.V. sponsor. If your church has failed this year to elect such a person, take it up with the pastor or the church board. At the General Conference Autumn Council of 1943 it was voted to recommend to the field that an elder, or other qualified person of the church board, who understands the true objectives of the M.V. Society, be elected by the church to act and be known as the Young People's sponsor. This man is to serve as a guide and counselor to the leaders and other officers of the society, and also because of his sympathetic understanding of youth and their problems, is to be one to whom the young people of the church can look for special guidance and counsel. He, in turn, is to work closely with the church board and the conference M.V. secretary. He is a member of the society executive committee. Cultivate his acquaintance. Use him. Make the most of his help. A. W. P.

There's No Getting Around It

You have to have an alert, always-on-the-job executive committee to produce a successful society. That committee is the brains, it does the planning, and it helps execute the plans. Much of the worth of the society executive committee depends on its chairman, the M.V. leader. He calls this committee together at least once a month for a long meeting. He probably has found that it is a good idea to have this meeting on a regular night each month, say the first Monday evening in the month, so the committee members can plan on that evening and be present. He calls for a short committee meeting each week, perhaps just preceding the society meeting, when a prayer service can be conducted, or just after the meeting. He prepares for each committee meeting an agenda, and has in mind a solution to each problem and need to be discussed. He is always open to suggestions and ideas from his committee and society members, and seeks their counsel and advice in every major problem and need.

The executive committee is composed of the society leader and assistant leader, the young people's sponsor, the secretary-treasurer, the pianist, the chorister, and

the librarian, the Junior superintendent, the leader of the church missionary organization and the elder or church pastor or both. At the first committee meeting of the year, these members select three secretaries—the educational, the social, and the religious secretaries—and the leaders of the service bands, all of whom become members of the committee also.

In this committee the programs are planned in advance, perhaps as far as a quarter ahead, the recreational program of the year is outlined, the Ingathering campaign organized, the reports of the service bands received, the society funds appropriated for missionary endeavors, and nominations made for vacancies occurring during the year. So there is no getting around it; you must have a good society executive committee.

JEWEL HATCHER.

Attention to Reading

IN our complex world many influences are brought to bear upon children and youth which help to make or mar their lives. No doubt one of the greatest factors in character building is that of reading matter.

Many of the popular publications of the day are filled with sensational stories that are educating the youth in wickedness and hence leading them down to destruction. Mere children in years are old in the knowledge of wrongdoing all because they have been allowed or possibly encouraged to read the wrong type of literature. There is grave danger that even the children and youth of our own church may become deeply attached to this type of reading, and consequently the leaders of the youth's department have for many years endeavored to stem this trend through the selection of typical worth-while books. These have been placed in our reading courses, not with the idea that they would satisfy completely the needs of our children and youth, but because they would give direction to our young people in their reading habits.

We believe that the books for 1945 are among the best that have ever been selected, and a complete set of all three courses should be in every Missionary Volunteer library. However, the young people should be encouraged to build libraries of their own, for in this way they will naturally refer again and again to these interesting books. Most parents are willing to help their children and youth with the purchase of worth-while books if the matter is only called to their attention. That responsibility in the local church rests upon the leaders and the educational secretary of the young people's society.

In recent years we have come far short of even placing a complete set of

the books in each church. The record indicates that the sales have not equaled the number of churches, and when we take into account that many families do buy the books for their young people, it is self-evident that a great many Seventh-day Adventist youth do not have access to the reading courses at all. This situation must be corrected, and we are counting on you to give strong promotion to this important matter.

Horace Mann once said: "A house without books is like a room without windows. No man has a right to bring up his children without surrounding them with books, if he has the means to buy them. It is a wrong to his family. Children learn to read by being in the presence of books. The love of knowledge comes with reading and grows upon it. And the love of knowledge, in a young mind, is almost a warrant against the inferior excitement of passions and vices."

The educational secretary in every society will do well to keep the M.V. Reading Course books prominently before the members of the society and encourage them to read the books and to use them for reference in the development of talks which they may be called upon to give in connection with society meetings.

C. LESTER BOND.

Promotion of Offerings

ANY going concern must have money with which to finance its activities. Every M.V. Society ought, therefore, to promote the giving of offerings for society use.

Let the society executive committee study the matter of financing its work. Offerings should be taken to pay for:

1. Literature for use by the Literature and Correspondence Band.
2. Postage and wrapping.
3. M.V. leaflets to be distributed among society members.
4. Society supplies, such as the Secretary's Record Book, books for keeping the minutes of the various bands, and other current expenses of that kind.
5. A filmstrip projector and films to be used in connection with Crusader efforts.
6. Flowers and baskets for shut-ins and others.
7. Expenses for social and recreational projects.

By careful planning and promotion the M.V. Society can finance a well-balanced program of activities. The secretary-treasurer, in counsel with the executive committee, should plan for the promotion of various offerings. The society funds, of course, are "banked" with the church treasurer, and are disbursed only upon action of the society executive committee.

A. W. P.

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Topics for June

- 2 THE SECOND COMING and My Social Conduct
- 9 Choosing a Life Mate
Junior—Teamwork
- 16 THE ADVENT CENTURY in the South Seas
- 23 Reverence
- 30 Open—Consecration Service



SENIOR MEETINGS

May 5

The Second Coming and My Lifework

BY J. H. RHOADS

Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "Living for Jesus," No. 32 in *M.V. Songs*, or "Give of Your Best," in *Christ in Song*.

PRAYER.
ANNOUNCEMENTS.
OFFERING.

REPORTS.
SPECIAL MUSIC: "Speak, My Lord," No. 73 in *M.V. Songs*.

TALK: "For Self or Service?"
TALK: "How Long Will You Live?"
TALK: "The Passion for Gold."
READING: "What Then?"

CLOSING EXERCISES.

Notes to Leaders

God is calling all youth to a life of service for Him. Whatever their choice of lifework, they can make it count for Christ. If you have time today, it might be well to discuss appropriate Christian vocations. M.V. Leaflets 36, *The Lifework*; 37, *How Shall I Choose My Calling?*; and 38, *Our Youth Called to Service*, will be helpful and might well be handed to each youth today. Request in advance all attending the M.V. meeting to bring pencil and paper, or be prepared to supply all.

Leader's Introductory Comment

THREE eternally important decisions confront every young man and woman. There is no escaping them. They cannot be delegated to parents, teachers, or friends. They should not be put off until middle life or old age. They should not be postponed until experience can ripen. They should be made in the years of youth. These three supremely important decisions are concerned with our *God*, our *life's companion*, and our *lifework*.

Over these three vital decisions balance the destiny of every young life. Unless they are made wisely, life may end in disappointment and tragic failure. God's will and way must be sought and found in all three aspects of youthful decision. It is fitting that we should earnestly pray for heavenly guidance each day, that our choices may be approved of God. As we are led in prayer, let us all pray silently that we may know and accept God's plan for us in the matter of these three great choices, and especially in the choice of a lifework, which we are discussing particularly today.

For Self or Service

Two young men sat in the end of a coach, the one a minister and the other a student in the university.

"In what field are you studying?" queried the preacher.

"Oh," replied the lad, "I'm taking a course in business management."

"And what are you going to do with your education when you have finished your course?" asked the man of the Bible.

Without hesitation came the emphatic reply, reinforced by a quick stroke of his fist on the arm of the seat, "I'm going to hit the world for all there is in it!"

Such is the decision of those who leave God out of their reckoning. The whole future horizon is filled with an obsession for the gratification of self. Life consists for millions in the sordid exercise of getting—getting for self the wealth, honor, and pleasure of a few perishing years. What small, unsatisfying lives are lived by those who have not known Jesus and who are ignorant of His return!

But life dedicated to God does not terminate with the grave. The hope of eternity and the joy of salvation change significantly the motive and purpose of the career.

"An oil company needed a man in China. They named the qualifications: First, he must be under thirty years of age; second, a college man with adequate international training; third, he must have some knowledge of the Chinese language; fourth, he must be a leader.

"A member of the firm said: 'I know the man we need. He is twenty-eight years old, has degrees from three American universities, has studied Chinese for three years; he is a real leader. He is now receiving \$600 a year as a missionary in China.'

"A representative of the oil company crossed the Pacific to see this man. He was offered \$10,000 a year, which he declined. Then he was offered \$12,000, and finally \$15,000 a year. He was not interested.

"Why not?" asked the agent. "Isn't the salary right?"

"Yes," was the missionary's reply. "You see, I have a big job and a little salary. I would rather have this than your little job with the big salary."—*The Sunday School Times*.

When those who have toiled for Jesus look into His blessed face, when they stand at the portals of heaven, their one and only source of rejoicing will be in those whose lives have been claimed for Christ through their service.

Gold in heaven is so common and plentiful that it is used for pavement. The masonry of heaven consists of pearls and precious stones. Values there are computed only in terms of souls saved from sin. "He that winneth souls is wise."

How Long Will You Live?

WOULD you like to know the number of years of your existence? Of course it is impossible for anyone to predict the life span of man, for our days are filled with uncertainty.

However, life insurance actuaries have made a careful study of millions of lives and have developed a formula by which the average expectation of life may be determined.

Take your pencil and paper, and do as I tell you:

1. Write down the number 80.
2. Subtract your present age.
3. Multiply the remainder by seven.
4. Divide by ten.

The result is your "average life expectation." (Ask different ones what figure they have, and impress upon them the importance of these few years.) After all, it is not so much how long we live that counts, but how we live, and what we live for.

Truly, life values can be measured only in terms of the cross of Christ. Life becomes meaningful in anticipation of Jesus' return. Souls in whom is perfected the character of the Master are the only things that will be fireproof in the day of judgment. Men and women saved from sin are absolutely all that can be salvaged from the divinely kindled last conflagration. In view of this consideration, what will you do with your life?

The Passion for Gold

BACK in 1933 an Englishman by the name of Dixon emerged from old Abyssinia with an ingot of ancient gold which he sold to a firm of London gold dealers for 1,200 pounds sterling.

The story goes thus: Dixon had been a slave trader and a diamond prospector, as well as an officer under King Menelik of Abyssinia. He had made his way back into that little-known land, that he might seek fortune. Tropical fever raged among the black Arabs. Even the sheik of the tribe was afflicted and upon learning that the white man was among them, demanded that he visit him and cure him of the malady. Fortunately for Dixon, the sheik recovered, and in token of the latter's gratitude he gave Dixon a map showing the location of the cave in which are preserved the treasures of the queen of Sheba.

With four slaves Dixon made his way, after many weeks and much effort, to the stone door of the prized cave. Upon entering the cavern Dixon found rows of alabaster boxes and chests lining the walls, filled with golden utensils, ingots, sheets, and nuggets. There he was surrounded by the wealth of an empire but was without transportation or physical strength to bear it away. He was able to escape that fever-ridden country with only one twenty-pound bar. Now past sixty years of age, Dixon has plunged again into the depths of Africa to bring back the treasures of antiquity.

Gold has always had a strange allure-ment, but when life is yielded to Christ and the hearts of men yearn for His return, the quest becomes a search for souls and not for perishing treasure. Jesus, His sacrifice, and His glorious return provide the incentive to heroic and adventuresome missionary service.

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"SERVICE is rent we pay for the space we occupy on earth."

LET it be the study of your life to bless and save others.—*Messages to Young People*, p. 23.

What Then?

AN old man, crowned with honors nobly earned,
Once asked a youth what end in life he sought.
The hopeful boy said, "I would first be learned;
I would know all that all the schools e'er taught."
The old man gravely shook his head;
"And when you've learned all this, what then?" he said.

"Then," said the boy, with all the warmth of youth,
"I'd be a lawyer, learned and eloquent;
Appearing always on the side of truth,
My mind would grow as thus 'twas early bent."
The old man sadly shook his head;
"And when you've done all this, what then?" he said.

"I will be famous," said the hopeful boy;
"Clients will pour upon me fees and briefs;
'Twill be my pleasant task to bring back joy
To homes and hearts near crushed by darkest griefs."
But still the old man shook his reverend head;
"And when all this is gained, what then?" he said.

"And then I will be rich, and in old age
I will withdraw from all this legal strife;
Known in retirement as an honored sage,
I'll pass the evenings of an honored life."
Gravely again the old man shook his head;
"And when you've done all this, what then?" he said.

"And then—why, then I know that I must die;
My body then must die, but not my fame;
Surrounded by the fallen great I'll lie,
And far posterity will know my name."
Sadly again the old man shook his head;
"And after this, all this, what then?" he said.

"And then, and then——" but ceased the boy to speak;
His eyes, abashed, fell downward to the sod;
A silent tear dropped on each blooming cheek.
The old man pointed silently to God,
Then laid his hand upon the drooping head;
"Remember there's a place beyond," he said.

—Author Unknown.

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May 12

"Through Nature to Nature's God"

BY J. D. HAYNES

Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "O Worship the King," No. 75 in *Church Hymnal*.

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalms 19:1-3.

PRAYER: Thanks to God for the Wonderful world in Which We Live.

OFFERING.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

SONG: "I Sing the Mighty Power," No. 93.

TALK: "Footprints of God in Nature."

TALK: "Nature's Firsts."

TALK: "What Might Have Been."

TALK: "Miracles and Marvels Beneath Us, Around Us, and Above Us."

DISCUSSION: "How Our Society Can Reap the Greatest Pleasure and Benefit from Nature Study."

ORGANIZATION of Nature Group or Announcement of Progressive Class Work on Nature Topics.

CLOSING SONG: "My Maker and My King," No. 71.

Footprints of God in Nature

PAUL, the greatest of Christian philosophers, after Christ, declared: "The invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made." Rom. 1:20. In other words, God has left His footprints on the sands of time, on the rocks, in the earth beneath us, in the flowers and grasses about us, in the ocean's depth, and the starlit dome above, in the intricate mechanism and marvelous function of animate and inanimate things. "Show me your God," demanded the emperor Trajan of Joshua, a Jewish rabbi. "Come out of the house, and see one of His ambassadors," replied the sage. Leading the emperor into an open space, the sage bade him look upon the sun, shining in all its strength. "What! can you not look in the face of the ambassador?" he asked. "Are you blinded by his dazzling presence? How, then, can you look upon the countenance of the King?" No, were it possible for us to pull aside the veil which hides the face of God the Father, we, in our sinful state, could not behold His glory nor live in the presence of God.

But, you ask, what are the functions of nature? Why the endless variety of color and form, or marvel and mystery and miracle, and of wonder-inspiring, intriguing forms and habits of life attached to all the myriad species of the animate world? Why the unvarying laws governing the universe above and the world beneath our feet? There are no less than three prime reasons for all the marvel and mystery of creation about us.

The first, no doubt, was that the Creator's innate, divine love constrained Him to bestow life, that through life and love and the things about him man, as well as the created beings of the numberless worlds of our universe, might know happiness and revel in the good things of God which had been created for his enjoyment.

The second phase of the divine purpose of creation was doubtless that of supplying man with those things which would meet his every need and of placing before him in the variegation of color, in the great variety of tasteful, delicious foods, and the things with which to build his home, his machinery, and his workshop, many tangible evidences of the paternal love of an all-wise Creator.

The third phase of the divine purpose in creation might well have been that of setting before man and all other created beings an endless array of tangible demonstrations in marvel and mystery, designed and calculated to produce adoration toward and for their Creator, to offer undeniable evidence that only an all-wise, all-powerful, eternal God could have and did make all things visible and invisible—even the marvel of a single flower.

Nature's Firsts

Too often, as we review the mechanical and scientific achievements of modern man, we name some man or woman as "the first" to fly across the ocean, or to produce paper, develop the electric

light, or to induce sleep through anesthesia. Centuries before Lindbergh flew across the ocean, the golden plover was making such trips. In fact, the golden plover makes its nonstop flights from Nova Scotia to its terminal in South America, a distance of 2,400 miles, on two ounces of fuel. (NSF 22.)

Thousands of years before man ever succeeded in flying a balloon on land or sea, young, inexperienced spiders were launching and riding their silk-bag balloons over seas to lands afar. (NSF 181.) And, long before Alexander Graham Bell ever saw the light of day, the orb-weaver spider was using a home-spun telephone system to notify him when some insect became entangled in a distant part of his giant, fanlike web. (NSF 175.) Ages before man produced a thermos bottle or discovered the science of insulation against heat or cold, the insects knew and operated this science, and that without ever attending high school, college, or the university. (NSF 118.) Long before man ever thought of a public-nurse system, the ants had their public nurses. These nurses control the temperature, prevent disease, and maintain cleanliness in the ant home. They bathe and exercise the ant children, and care for the eggs and cocoons of the yet unborn. And, strangely enough, these nurses receive a graduate diploma at birth. They are born nurses. They know nothing else and do nothing else. (NSF 123.) Centuries before Benjamin Franklin drew down lightning from the clouds through his kite string, the glowworms, or "lightning bugs," were adepts in producing light without any extraneous materials. Some of these beetles give off enough light to read by. During the Spanish-American War, General Gorgas once performed an operation on a wounded soldier from the light generated by a number of the Cuban species engaged in a bottle. (VFG 83.) Yes, indeed, nature, and not man, holds practically all the "firsts" known on this terrestrial ball.

What Might Have Been and Should Have Been

CHRISTIAN naturalists are convinced that the Creator intended that man should learn many practical and scientific lessons from the study of the homes and habits of the lower animal creation. Had man applied himself, as divinely planned, he might have discovered many wonderful things by which and through which to make his life here on earth more livable, and that centuries before he did discover these very things from this original source. For almost six thousand years lady wasp put on her hourly and daily demonstration of making paper through the mixing of wood pulp and glue. And again, she carried out millions on millions of operations before the medical and scientific world, on how to induce sleep through anesthesia. Had man studied her handiwork and observed carefully these mute demonstrations, these secrets might and should have been a part of our practical scientific knowledge ages before they were discovered. Then, too, he might

have learned to insulate his homes and offices against heat and cold, and might have discovered the thermos bottle for maintaining his foods hot and cold when the temperature was to the contrary. What is more, he might have learned from the mosquito how to build non-sinkable lifeboats ages before he ever built such a craft. Yes, man, every man, every woman, every boy, and every girl might have become wise beyond his years through the study of nature about him. He might have discovered myriads of hidden mysteries important to man—radio, anesthesia, ultracurrency in organization of society, lessons in morals, lessons in marital relations—if only man had been wise enough to study minutely the habits and conduct of the vibrant world of nature about him. And, what is more, if man had always stayed near to nature he never would have strayed away from nature's God.

Miracles and Marvels Beneath Us, Around Us, and Above Us

UNBELIEVABLE as it may seem, scientists assure us that scientific tabulations prove that there are not less than three million insects beneath every single acre of meadow, and many more millions above that same acre. In fact, if the would-be naturalist should learn twenty-five new insects each day, it would take him sixty years to memorize all those which scientists have described and catalogued, to say nothing of studying the marvelous make-up of each insect and his habits and way of life. In comparison to other phases of life, there are fifty times as many kinds of insects as there are of birds and 150 times as many as of four-footed animals. (GJ 3.)

But insects are not only the most numerous of all the groups of created beings; they are also the most interesting. For speed, the deer fly, as proved through motion pictures, can fly as much as 818 miles an hour. (NSF 20, 21.) As athletes, the crickets and common fleas achieve the unbelievable feat of jumping one hundred times their length and height, respectively. If man could equal these feats he would be able to jump over the Washington Monument. (NSF 130.) If man built his bungalow in proportion to the mounds reared by the African termite, according to his size, it would rise over a thousand feet in the air. (VFG 73.) For industry, the insect world has no peer. No wonder Solomon counseled, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise." Prov. 6:6. Scientific observation proves that the ant has domesticated more than six hundred different animals or insects, using some of them for pets, and the plant aphids for milk cows. (NSF 132.) The Polyphemus caterpillar has been found to make not less than a quarter of a million movements of its spinneret in constructing the silk cocoon in which to hibernate. (NH 158.) The June beetle has forty thousand smelling pits on the Moose-antler antennae (NH 162); the Promethea moth has been known to pick up a scent and follow it seven miles through the darkness (NH 80); and one species of

ichneumon fly can smell a grub through two inches of solid wood (NH 94).

Turn your eyes to the "Green Magic" about us. Scientists have calculated that two billion tons of the finest green paint or dye is required to repaint nature with green each year. At the rock-bottom price of three dollars a gallon the cost of materials alone would be over \$1,200,000,000,000 a year, to say nothing of the labor of applying the paint and the dye, a cost of from \$2,400 to \$3,000 for every man, woman, and child on the earth. (NH 160.) Now, reflect upon the probability that the roots of one giant oak, put end to end, would belt the earth at the equator (TGW 20), and that the leaves of the trees, with their many shapes and tints, are the world's greatest factories of real life, transforming sunshine into paint and every other vital material, not only to the tree but to the plant life fed by the falling of the leaves. When you have explored the insect world, the trees, the animal world, with its marvels and mysteries, gazed upon the variegation of color, whiffed the aroma of the flowers, learned the song and the life story of each of ten thousand birds, reflected upon the fact that this wee world is but the footstool of God's great empire universe, filled to the brim with other myriads of wonders and marvels and mysteries, including the systems, satellites, blazing suns, and unnumbered worlds with yet other countless astonishments and intriguing things to meditate upon, you will be compelled to look heavenward and praise the loving heavenly Father and an all-wise Creator and compassionate Saviour for His love to the children of men, as revealed in nature.

Nature Clubs

No society should think of organizing a nature club. Rather, each society should be a nature club. Its members should become amateur naturalists, studying alone or in groups the varied phases of nature, both terrestrial as well as celestial. Each society should have a number of tripod magnifying glasses and, if possible, a good portable telescope. In addition to nature study each society should be alive with hobbyists who collect butterflies and moths, insects, bird's nests, and sundry other collections. Some might profitably accumulate rock and mineral collections and engage in the polishing of polishable stones, etc.

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"HENCEFORTH I ask nothing that all may not have on the same terms."

It is good for us to think that no grace or blessing is truly ours until we are aware that God has blessed someone else with it through us.—PHILLIPS BROOKS.

TOPIC FOR BOTH SENIORS AND JUNIORS

May 19

The Advent Century in Australia

BY E. L. MINCHIN

Order of Service

SONG: "Watchman, Blow the Gospel Trumpet," No. 619 in *Church Hymnal*.
DEVOTIONAL STUDY.
PRAYER.
SECRETARY'S REPORT.
MISSIONARY REPORTS.
OFFERTORY.
SPECIAL MUSIC.
SYMPOSIUM: "The Advent Century in Australia."
SONG: "Sweet Promise Is Given," No. 548.
BENEDICTION.

The Advent Century in Australia

"Do you know the hills with the wattles
gay,
That smell so sweet at the dawn of day,
Where the magpie pipes on the golden
spray.
In the sunny, sunny land of Australia?"

"Do you know the gums where the parrots
fly
And wheel about in the branches high
And flash like a flame across the sky,
In the sunny, sunny land of Australia?"

"Will you come with me where the kooka-
burras call,
Where the tree ferns wave by the water-
fall?
There's joy in the bush for one and all,
In the sunny, sunny land of Australia."

Away down in the southeastern corner of the Pacific Ocean is the Australasian Division of the General Conference. Australia and New Zealand, with their large cities and fertile lands, have a population of nearly nine million Britishers. As we celebrated with our youth and fellow believers in other parts of the world the centenary of the commencement of the advent message, we rejoiced not only that God has made the light of His truth to shine upon us in this far-off corner of His vineyard, but that He is using this field as a base from which the message is going to the great South Pacific area with its countless islands and throngs of native people.

A GREAT WORK TO BE DONE IN AUSTRALIA

While the Australasian Division cannot look back upon a century of progress, yet it was through the early advent pioneers that the light of this message began to shine in this part of the world. In the words of the following hymn the believers in Australia would express their appreciation of the work of those pioneers.

"We thank Thee for the earnest men,
Of sturdy faith and purpose true,
Who bullded in the early days,
And bullded better than they knew.

"We thank Thee for the fruitful years,
The work that broader, deeper grew;
And for the leading that has kept
Us still to God and duty true."

In 1874 the messenger of God was shown that a large work was to be done in Australia, and that it would become a center from which workers would go out among the mission fields.

We do not forget the spirit of our

brethren of America whose hearts were burdened with Australia's needs. It was in 1884 that a decision was reached to send workers to these shores. Many were the sacrifices made that money necessary to finance the venture might be available. The first party sailed in May, 1885, comprising seven adults and four children. "In the following twelve years a great company of other workers followed, making a total of one hundred souls who journeyed across the Pacific Ocean to Australia and New Zealand, in order that the work in its infancy might be fostered and strengthened." From those humble beginnings the work has grown until today we have 21,848 believers found in 451 churches and companies. Hundreds of our young men and women have gone out from our colleges and sanitariums to the great mission fields of the world, particularly those of the South Seas.

The Influence of God's Messenger in Australasia

JUST six years after the pioneers arrived, Mrs. E. G. White reached New Zealand and a little later Australia, and for nine years, traveling, writing, speaking, she lived among the people here. The topic for her first sermon was "The Love of Jesus." This thought was ever uppermost in her mind and was the background of all her work.

From the time that Mrs. White reached this continent on December 6, 1891, till she left this field nearly ten years later, a series of occurrences took place as extraordinary and marvelous as ever were recorded in human history. If all the facts were given to the public, it would be as fascinating a story as was ever written.

One week after her arrival in Melbourne the Australasian Conference opened its session. At that time there were but four hundred and fifty Sabbathkeepers in Australia and Tasmania. The greatest problem of that conference was how to carry the message to the people of this great field. The literature campaign was greatly strengthened, and consideration was given to the beginning of our educational work for the youth, in order that they might be trained as workers fitted to follow up the work of the colporteur. The then colonies were passing through a most severe depression, but, undaunted, Mrs. White led out in the great enterprise of erecting buildings for a school. Her clarion call was always, "Onward, ever onward! until the whole earth shall be lightened with the glory of the Lord," and suiting action to the words, she at the right time pledged £1,000 to the enterprise, not knowing whence the money would come. But here was a life of faith. She trusted her Leader, and the One who had led her to give so liberally sent her the money from far-off South Africa.

What wonderful counsel from the Lord was recorded concerning the work to be done at Cooranbong, a place divinely chosen and marked by the plow furrow of an unseen hand in the destiny of the bush lands that are now Avondale. Avondale school, the pattern college,

was given to Australia under the direct leadership of God through His messenger. At Australia's first camp meeting in Melbourne, in 1894, a decision was made to erect a college. Where should it be established? The whole subject of education was presented to Mrs. White, including the question of industry and the place the physical must have in God's plan. The messenger of the Lord was shown the location and described the land to the brethren, who sought diligently for a place that answered the description. Finally the tract of land was located. It was inspected, and the leading men decided to purchase it. The first payment was made, but there was so much criticism of the project on the part of leading church members that the brethren hesitated to finish the deal. Businessmen were consulted and government officials were sought for advice, and even government experts were consulted. These men examined the land and united in saying that it was very poor and would not support a bandicoot, and that if a jack rabbit wanted something to eat while tarrying there, he would have to take his luncheon with him. But it was upon this tract of land that Mrs. White saw in vision the school should be located. It was here that such great things were to be accomplished. The outlook was discouraging. Our church members were very poor, and it required great faith and strong belief to accept the program as reported by Mrs. White.

The land was purchased, and the fifty years that have passed have marvelously demonstrated the wonderful leading of God in the establishment of this college. The college is practically self-supporting, and apart from the wheat for making the bread, nearly everything needed for its physical maintenance is either grown or manufactured at the college and the health food factory near by.

Some "Firsts" in Australia

THE FIRST SABBATH SCHOOL.—In June, 1885, a mission was established at Richmond by a party sent from America. Realizing the benefits to be gained from a Sabbath school, and that none ever get beyond the study of the things of God, the mission's pioneer workers organized a school and began a regular series of lessons. The minutes of the first Sabbath school, under date of July 14, 1885, read thus: "The first meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Sabbath school was held on the above date. Elder Haskell presided. After singing and prayer the lesson was presented from No. 18 of the *Signs of the Times*. The subject was 'The Saints' Inheritance.' All present united in the recitation of the lesson in one class, which was taught by Elder Haskell. . . . It was decided to commence school in the future promptly at ten o'clock. After the close of the recitation the following officers were elected by suggestion of Brother Israel: Brother H. Scott, superintendent, and Jessie Israel, secretary. Elder Haskell then made a few remarks urging all to be faithful in the discharge of duty."

The minutes, five weeks later, record that these workers had the joy of welcoming to the Sabbath school the first

fruits of their labors, J. H. Stockton and his two children.

In 1901 the Sabbath school work was made a department of each conference. The years have passed since then, and the present membership is 33,432 in the 368 Sabbath schools in Australasia. For the year 1943 these members gave £32,334 toward the extension of mission work. In addition to this, the mission field, with its membership of 15,859 in 391 Sabbath schools, gave £2,156.

THE FIRST CONVERT.—In the report on the first Sabbath school, mention was made of J. H. Stockton as the first fruit of the work of the pioneers in Australia. Here is the story of their contact with him. Personal effort and literature ministry have ever been, in the history of our message, a combination without peer for creating new interest and winning new members. Thus the first fruits in Australia were won. One of our California believers, seeing in a Melbourne directory the name of a person bearing his own surname, sent papers containing the message to this person before the first missionaries came to Australia. This was the means of creating an interest, which was followed up soon after their arrival in Melbourne in June, 1885, when the ministers of the party called on Brother Stockton. Later, letters were exchanged with the friends in California who bore the same name. Mr. Stockton was coach builder to the governor of Victoria, and all his work was done to a high standard. It was while he was engaged in this work that the Adventist missionaries studied with him, and he became a member of that first Sabbath school in Australia.

THE FIRST MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER SOCIETY.—It was in Melbourne, 1892, that the first testimony was written which called for definite work on behalf of our young people. Mrs. White wrote, "We have an army of youth today who can do much if they are properly directed and encouraged. . . . We want them to act a part in well-organized plans for helping other youth."

There was an immediate response in Adelaide, South Australia, on the part of A. G. Daniells, who was laboring there at the time. He organized the first young people's society in the Southern Hemisphere, with a membership of twenty. Twenty-five years later Elder Daniells wrote: "It is a great satisfaction to me now to know that nearly every charter member of that first young people's society is in the message, and most of them are active workers, giving their lives to the advancement of this cause." In half a century that one society has grown to 297 societies with a membership of 6,965, and together with those of the mission field, the societies number 448, with a membership of over 15,000.

Experiences With Our Australasian Youth Today

TODAY our Adventist youth in Australasia have heard the call of these stirring times and are earnestly seeking to do their part in the finishing of God's great work on earth.

OPEN-AIR WORK.—Here is a group of more than twoscore enthusiastic Missionary Volunteers preaching this message in an open-air mission in Melbourne, a city of over a million inhabitants. Every summer this enthusiastic company bears its witness. Can you hear the strains of those beautiful advent songs as the Advent Brass Band prepares the way for the youthful speakers? Frequently the listening crowds are larger than the company we see around the Salvation Army witnesses. A group of smiling, consecrated young men and young women move among the people, giving out papers and speaking words of hope and comfort to those around them.

One evening, in a hotel near by, a native from Sumatra was preparing for bed when the band music attracted him. He dressed and came down to listen. Following the talks he asked, "What Christian body is this?" When informed that we were Seventh-day Adventists, he was delighted. Eleven years ago this young man attended our boarding school in Sumatra for three and a half years. His education had suddenly terminated when his father, a Mohammedan priest, found that his boy had been imbibing Christian teachings. Some months ago he had been evacuated from Dutch New Guinea. On reaching Melbourne he inquired for Seventh-day Adventists, but without success. This young man is now ready for Bible studies, preparatory to joining the church.

A woman had listened very attentively as the subject of prayer was developed. Many proofs that God hears prayers were given from the experiences of our boys, who, when on rafts in the ocean or lost in the jungle, had called on God for help and had been wonderfully delivered. When the meetings closed, the woman dried her eyes and, approaching one of the speakers, said, "I have been greatly touched by your message tonight. Please accept this for your work," and placed a ten-shilling note in his hand. The speaker asked, "Can we send you some literature or help you in any way?" The woman replied, "I do not belong to your church, nor do I live in this state." As she hurried away still unknown to us but known to God, maybe another soul had resolved to be true to God.

Many have requested the *Signs of the Times*, and the company now has a large mailing list.

WITNESSING IN A FACTORY.—A Seventh-day Adventist lad worked in a large bolt factory in Australia. For a number of years this boy has been on fire for souls. He loves this message and finds no greater joy than giving it to others. Frequently he has been out two or three nights a week, giving Bible studies. He had a burden for the men with whom he worked and one day advertised that he would conduct a religious meeting during the lunch hour in the locker room where the men hung their coats and hats. To his amazement more than eighty men crowded into the room the next mid-day to hear him preach. Three times a week for fifteen months his preaching continued until recently our young brother entered our college at Avondale to train

for the ministry. He gave the men the full message and a few months ago, while speaking regarding our mission work, he made an appeal for means to carry on the work of the gospel in the mission fields. One man said, "I will take up a collection for you, Jack." Erelong he came to our brother and handed him £15 for missions, so great was the respect that these men had for a genuine Christian.

A young woman in the factory lost her fiancé three days before they were to have been married. Jack, ever ready to witness for His Master, spoke to this young woman a few words of comfort and told her of the Christian's hope, the result being that he was invited to her home to conduct studies, and within a few weeks she had accepted Christ as her Saviour and was baptized into this message. She herself has now won another young woman in that factory.

LITERATURE WORK.—A young man working at the Sydney Sanitarium has felt the call to visit the homes of the people with our literature. Instead of going to the city on his free day, he takes the *Signs of the Times* and other papers to the homes of the people in a near-by suburb. Every week he visits ninety people who are regular subscribers to the *Signs* and also distributes papers in another one hundred homes. Although he feels unable to give Bible studies himself, he is introducing the people to our pastoral workers.

Surely the Lord marks the faithful and loving service of such young men.

WITNESSING IN THE FORCES.—A young Seventh-day Adventist soldier, while performing his duties in a large hospital in Southern Australia, noticed a wounded soldier in his cot, reading his Bible each morning. This soldier had returned from New Guinea with many other wounded. The Adventist had one day commended this boy for reading his Bible. The sick lad replied, "Oh, yes, a young Seventh-day Adventist soldier in New Guinea taught me to love this Book. I wish I could meet a Seventh-day Adventist." "I am one," replied our lad. Erelong the wounded soldier had been introduced to one of our pastors, and not long ago this young man, who had been reared a Roman Catholic, was baptized into this message—all through the influence of a faithful Seventh-day Adventist boy in New Guinea.

A colonel's wife recently told one of our workers that her husband returned from New Guinea a changed man. He had been a drunkard and a gambler, and had lived a godless life. He came back a Christian. When asked by his wife what had happened to him, he replied: "Up there in New Guinea I associated with six Seventh-day Adventist boys. From what I saw of them and the lives they live, I decided that Christianity was something worth having, and I decided that I was not going to throw my life away. It is because of those lads that you see the change in me."

We thank God for these boys, who, though removed from home and the comforts of life, bravely and lovingly bear their witness for the Saviour whom they serve.

GREETINGS.—The Australasian youth send their greetings. We pray for greater zeal in proclaiming the glorious evangel of the coming kingdom of peace. We join hands and hearts with our fellow youth around the world for the completion of our task, the advent message to all the world in this generation.

Junior M.V.'s in Australasia

Beginning Days

It was in the year 1928 that the boys and girls of Australasia first became acquainted with the J.M.V. work. Perhaps its growth was slow in those beginning days, for no one had had an experimental knowledge of the work. It was really "learn as you go" for the leaders back there. But right from the start it was realized that here was a work that would "answer the need, touch the heart, and train for service" the thousands of energetic boys and girls who would soon be called to fill a wider place in living and giving the third angel's message in the last great hour.

From the small beginnings of taking the Friend course and receiving an insigne has grown a thoroughly organized movement of which Juniors delight in wearing the uniform and adding to that uniform Vocational Honor tokens as they complete the requirements in some particular study or hobby. Nearly three thousand Juniors are connected with the movement, and during 1943 insignia for Friend, Companion, and Comrade were awarded to 381 boys and girls. How happy they are to belong to such a movement is evidenced by the loyalty and co-operation as well as by the expressions of joy at being Junior Missionary Volunteers.

Junior Witnesses

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLD BIBLE WORKER.—Nothing is surer than that God speaks to boys and girls today just as He did in the time of Samuel. He does use them and has a work for them to do. There is the story of eleven-year-old Margaret, who, during the school holidays, sold thirty shillings' worth of books. Each week she visited certain people with the *Signs*, taking her Bible along to help answer their questions. So impressed was this Junior with the fact that the end was near and time was short, that she felt she must help others know the message.

A JUNIOR COMMENCES A SABBATH SCHOOL.—There was Bobbie, who organized a Sabbath school. Each week, gathering in the children, he gave them a sand-tray lesson, one room of the house having been set aside for Sabbath school. That was a sacred room. It wasn't long before Bobbie's school attracted the notice of the conference, and today it is a recognized school.

GOD KEPT THEM TRUE.—Away from church privileges, two Juniors, who had lost their mother through a tragic fire, were cared for by grandma, who was a Seventh-day Adventist. They came to love the Lord, and the Sabbath day was really a delight. Then father wanted

his nine-year-old girl and twelve-year-old boy, for he had a new mother for them. They were given all that heart could wish for in their new home. Sabbath found them in a little room having Sabbath school. This stirred the hearts of their parents, who said such behavior must be stopped. So they were urged, pleaded with, threatened, given work to do on the Sabbath, but all to no avail. These two were determined to be true to God. Finally, it was noticed that their health was failing, and they were sent back to grandma, but you can imagine with what joy, for they could now worship as they pleased.

WINNING FATHER AND MOTHER.—It even happens that not only boys and girls change when they become J.M.V.'s, but homes change, too. Returning from camp, Juniors who had only come in contact with Seventh-day Adventists before said, "Mother, let's worship, as we did at J.M.V. Camp," and so they did. On Friday the children requested, "Let's get ready for Sabbath today," and so they did. Sabbath found mother and father and the children at Sabbath school. The mother said to the J.M.V. Camp superintendent, who was present that day, "It is your Junior camp that has brought us all here today. Our home is a changed place."

Camp Days

"WHAT is that hopping around outside the tent?" asked one leader of another. "Just a wallaby."

A busy day at Junior camp had come to an end. Everything was quiet outside except for the sounds of nature. The wakeful leader thought over the happenings of the day and the plans for the morrow. But those noises outside, what were they? The hopping continued, but what was that grating, gnawing sound? Not being used to the Australian bush, and unable to stand it any longer, the leader at last woke her tent companion. But she only laughed and was out of bed in a moment with a flashlight in her hand. "Here it is," and up in the gum tree sat a beady-eyed opossum, gnawing a carrot to his heart's content. He had discovered where the carrots were buried to keep them fresh. The goanna, too, had found the box of eggs, and they had to be moved to a safer spot.

From the humble beginning of one camp in 1930, fifteen camps are now held in the various conferences each summer. What zeal thrills the camps bring. Could anything be greater in the minds of the boys and girls? At one camp a number of Juniors individually asked for baptism. In another, seven non-Adventists requested the privilege of continuing their J.M.V. work when they went back home. They wanted to know the whys and wherefores of the Sabbath. More than anything else, those camps have molded the lives of the boys and girls and demonstrated to church leaders and parents the value of the Junior Missionary Volunteer work.

"A MAN'S motives will be mercenary or missionary."

May 26

Leaders Wanted

BY C. LESTER BOND

Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "Do Your Bit," No. 84 in *M.V. Songs*.
 PRAYER.
 ANNOUNCEMENTS.
 SECRETARY'S REPORT.
 MISSIONARY REPORTS.
 OFFERTORY.
 SOLO OR DUET: "My Task."
 TALK: "The Need of Workers."
 TALK: "The Master Comrade."
 DISCUSSION.
 ORGANIZATION OF MASTER COMRADE GROUP.
 CLOSING SONG: "I Would Be True," No. 58.
 BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

The progressive classes are filling a real need among the children and youth of the church, and deserve strong promotion and support in your society. It is hoped that this topic will awaken a real interest in this phase of our society endeavor, and be an incentive to the members of your society to prepare themselves as Master Comrades. The class and Vocational Honor requirements appear in the *Master Comrade Manual* and the *Junior Missionary Volunteer Handbook*.

Many societies have found it helpful to organize a Master Comrade Club, which enrolls as members those who have completed the Master Comrade requirements and those who are qualifying for class membership. The club meets at least once a month, or at other appointed times. At the club meetings talks are given on one or more of the Vocational Honor subjects and demonstrations are given in some of these fields. Plans are discussed and laid whereby the members may be enabled to accomplish more than ever before in their efforts to save the Juniors of the church. Hikes and other recreational and social activities which add special appeal are engaged in. The club could help to sponsor the progressive classes in the church school and assist in the direction of the Junior work, especially during the summer months.

The Need of Workers

WHEN Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature," He was addressing the youth of the church as well as those who are older. In fact, the youth of the church can do a work that those who are more mature cannot accomplish. Because of their sympathetic understanding and youthful vigor, Christian young men and women can do far more successful work in reaching their fellow youth, including the Juniors, than can the adults of the church.

For this reason a special appeal is made to the young people who have given their hearts to the Master: "Who of our youth will give themselves to God for the purpose of laboring for the salvation of their fellow youth? Who will put their talents out to the exchangers? Who will feel their sacred accountability and put to use every ability given them of God to win souls? Young men and young women, cannot you form companies, and, as soldiers of Christ, enlist in the work, putting all your tact and skill and talent into the Master's service, that you may save souls from ruin?"—*Signs of the Times*, May 29, 1893.

It is apparent from this comment that there is a real need for the help that the young people can give. Especially is the need apparent among our Junior boys

and girls. They need the friendship of the older youth of the church, but they need more than friendship. They should be able to find that leadership in the Senior young people which will help them to find Christ as a personal Saviour, and at the same time discover the fact that one can be genuinely happy being good and doing good.

You may say, "I have ambitions to accomplish some great thing for God, and find fruitage in souls in a more profitable field where the work will be more interesting." But look where you will, a more productive field cannot be found, nor a more interesting work discovered. Fifty-one per cent of all who become members of the Protestant churches of North America are admitted to church fellowship before they are sixteen years old, and in our own church the peak age for conversion and baptism is twelve years. This emphasizes the fact that the Junior age is the decision age. This period is the one in which the decisions are made that will very largely determine the destiny of the life. How important, then, that such influences be brought to bear upon the lives of our boys and girls as will help to mold in the right way their thinking and practices of living. As Senior young people we can do much to provide this right influence and environment.

The efficient worker for the Juniors must lead as well as train. The one who would succeed in his work for Juniors cannot live a shiftless life. He must live very close to the Great Teacher, to catch His spirit and manner of work.

Those who work for Juniors have a work the importance of which is beyond comprehension. The greatest factor in the worker's success is consecration. Though a person have superior talents, though he be highly educated and have faultless methods, he will be a failure unless God has all there is of him for service for the Juniors. The measure of his consecration will be the measure of his success.

What the work needs is consecrated leaders who have a well-rounded education. It needs earnest, enthusiastic leaders whose lives reflect more and more fully the divine image, whose minds are strong and clear, whose sense of right and wrong shows very close association with the Master, whose touch is sympathetic, whose hearts are young, who know no malice and hold no grudge. It needs leaders who are *truly educated* in the truth we profess, who will use this liberal education in giving the message to others. It needs educated leaders who will keep on growing, that they may not lose the vision which must guide their hands in service.

Workers for Juniors should know that God has called them to the work. God makes no mistakes. He dispenses the gifts of leadership; therefore His call means ability, adaptability—it means efficient leadership to those who will follow in the path He marks out.

One thing we know the Master would have leaders of the Juniors do, and that is to acquire a *sympathetic understanding* of youth. This is a study from which one never graduates. It is "at it,

all at it, and always at it." Without it there is no success; but with it there is no failure for the truly consecrated worker.

And with all these qualifications comes thoroughness in every phase of the work. The technical features must receive their attention, the details come in for their share, and the big spiritual problems are never slighted. The watchword of the successful worker is *thoroughness*.

And as that watchword spurs on the worker from day to day, it spells *perseverance*—another key to success. There must be perseverance in one's personal devotions, in one's effort for self-improvement—in fact, in everything.

May we add one other key? That is *co-operation* with fellow workers in the young people's society and the church. That is one thing the wise worker will secure. It is sometimes difficult for a young worker to remember that the other laborer must not do all the co-operating. If two boards are to be dovetailed together, they must both be notched. Each gives something in order to receive. That is an important lesson. The Master will help every earnest worker who will pay the price to learn how to co-operate.

Socrates once said, "We cannot learn anything from a man we do not like." That is doubly true of the Juniors. The Senior young person who would accomplish anything in his work for and with the Juniors, must first *win their confidence* and demonstrate to them that he is a real friend.

Work for the salvation and training of our Junior boys and girls is the highest type of evangelism and personal missionary endeavor. Shall we not strive to develop more efficiently this phase of our work? It can be done by fostering a strong Master Comrade class throughout the year.

The Master Comrade

THE Master Comrade is a trained leader for Junior boys and girls. To be a real success he must be a leader not only in their devotional meetings but also in their everyday experiences. The Master Comrade class is the climax of this phase of progressive classwork. It is built around the principles laid down in Luke 2:52: "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." That is, it embodies elements which are intended to foster and strengthen the physical, mental, social, and spiritual life of our Junior boys and girls and Senior youth who qualify in this classwork.

In order to make the work of this class as practical as possible, we have embodied in it the requirements that have to do with the preservation and development of health. Many of the requirements have to do with the mental development and the training of the hands in worth-while pursuits. The classwork itself affords an excellent social contact which is helpful to all who participate.

In addition to the requirements which call for the study of the Bible and for Bible memory work, there are other features which are intended to deepen the spiritual life of those who qualify. Es-

pecially is this true of the nature-study requirements. Next in importance to the study of the Bible is nature study. Every member of the young people's society should become better acquainted with the things of God as revealed in the great book of nature about us.

For our Juniors we have three classes: Friend, Companion, and Comrade. These classes are based on the same principles that constitute the foundation of the Master Comrade class. In order that the Master Comrade may develop into an efficient Junior leader, practically all that is included in these Junior classes is made a part of the Master Comrade program.

If this progressive class work is to accomplish what it should for our Junior boys and girls, efficient, well-trained leadership must be provided in every church. For many years we depended entirely upon our church school teachers, and they will continue to bear a very definite responsibility in the promotion of this feature of our church work. However, the task is too heavy and the responsibility too great to be entirely assumed by our church school teachers, who are already overburdened with their schoolwork.

The church turns therefore to the young men and women who are members of our Senior Missionary Volunteer Societies. Many of our churches are responding to this need, and for a number of years have continually sponsored a Master Comrade study group, the members of which qualify for Master Comrade standing. This group of young people during the time of their study, and following their admittance to the class, serve as workers for Juniors in the church. Some of them are elected by the church as Junior M.V. Society superintendents and associates. Others serve as unit counselors and are present at all the Junior Missionary Volunteer meetings, and by sitting with their respective units, aid very definitely in bringing in a spirit of reverence and quiet. They also serve as prayer-band leaders for their units, each unit constituting a prayer band.

They assume the responsibility of directing the members of their unit in their nature study and other progressive class work, including their pursuit of some chosen Vocational Honor. In this way these Senior young people fill a real need in the church long before they qualify as Master Comrades. The experience gained from week to week brings a real blessing into their own lives and proves a real inspiration to the Juniors, at the same time helping them to meet their Master Comrade standing.

Our Junior boys and girls constitute a real challenge. We want to see them saved in God's kingdom. We can be instrumental in bringing about their salvation by doing our part in their training and guidance. How many of you will consecrate yourselves to this phase of our church work, and undertake to prepare yourselves for efficient service by meeting the Master Comrade class requirements?

(NOTE.—You will find additional material in the first chapter of the *Master Comrade Manual*.)



JUNIOR MEETINGS

May 5

The Second Coming and My Lifework

BY J. H. RHOADS

Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "I Have a Saviour," No. 1 in *M.V. Songs*.
 SCRIPTURE: ACTS 1:8-11.
 SHORT PRAYERS by two or three Juniors.
 ANNOUNCEMENTS.
 REPORTS.
 OFFERING.
 TALK: "I Belong to God."
 POEM: "They Gave."
 SNORY: "Neglectful Joe."
 ILLUSTRATION: "Keep It Clean."
 SONG: "Missionary Volunteers," No. 49.

Note to Superintendents

Juniors are not too young to begin planning their lifework. Will it be for self? Or will it be for God? Emphasize that God is counting on them!

I Belong to God

WHEN Bishop Hamlin was a small boy he attended a series of religious meetings. The little fellow couldn't understand all that the preacher said, and sometimes he wished he wouldn't talk so long. One night the minister repeated over and over again the words, "I belong to God." When the boy left the church he kept thinking of those four words. As he went to bed they were still ringing in his ears. He knew that he belonged to his father and mother. He knew, too, that he belonged to a certain town and street, but it had never occurred to him that he belonged to God. He climbed into bed, pulled up the covers, and shut his eyes, but he couldn't sleep. His mind kept thinking the words the minister had spoken. At last he said to himself, "Well, if I belong to God, He shall have all there is of me." Then he threw back the covers and got on his knees by his bedside. There in the quietness of the night and all alone he promised God that he would do the work of the Lord all the rest of his life. God did bless his life in a mighty way. He grew to be a good man and was ordained to the ministry. For many long years he preached Jesus, and thousands gave their lives to Christ when he invited them in his altar calls.

The Junior makes his most important discovery when he learns that he belongs to God, and he makes his greatest decision when he decides to let God rule and control his life.

Now, when a Junior gives himself to Jesus he is giving all his time to Christ, too. God wants Juniors to belong to Him for a purpose. He doesn't want us merely to look at; He wants to use us. He wants us to work for Him.

When Christmas comes and you get a pair of skates, or if you are given a bicycle for your birthday, do you put

those useful articles away in a safe place and keep them there always? No, you don't! You try them out, and you use them as often as you can.

When a Junior gives himself to God, God is happier—happier even than you are when you are given a costly gift! And the angels are happy, too. And I think if we could hear what they say to each other up in heaven, it would sound something like this: "Did you know that Sadie Brown, who lives down there at Loganville, has given her life to Me?" Then the angels are all happy and one of them carefully writes her name in a beautiful book. And another angel asks, "But what are you going to do with Sadie?" Then God answers quickly, with a glorious smile on His kind face, "Oh, Sadie is going to help Me finish My work down there on the earth. I have many things for her to do. I want her to go to a Christian school, where she can learn how to live a good, kind, and helpful life. Then I want her to tell others how good it is to belong to God. Just think how happy Sadie will be when I send Jesus back to the earth and He tells her that Larry and Alice, and Jane and Mr. Swift, and even old Grandma Crane are going to be in heaven because she helped them to know and love Jesus!"

Yes, Juniors, it is good to belong to Jesus, and it is good to work for Him. If you haven't given yourself to Him, won't you do it right now?

"When I enter that wonderful city above,
 Far removed from earth's sorrow and
 fear,
 I hope that somebody will whisper in love,
 It was you who invited me here."

They Gave

ONE man gave lavishly of gold
 And builded tower and town,
 Then smiled content to think his deeds
 Should win him great renown.

Another, poor in worldly gain,
 Gave all within his ken
 Of strength and tenderness and truth
 To help his fellow men.

A record of the rich man's gifts
 Lies on a dusty shelf;
 The poor man lives in countless hearts,
 Because he gave himself.

—CHARLOTTE BECKER.

Neglectful Joe

JOE liked to play. In fact, he would much rather play than work. One morning when father went to work he said, "Now, Joe, when I come home tonight I want to find all the wood split and piled out at the south end of the shed. The ax is under the workbench."

Father went away and left Joe with his thoughts, but the thought of the woodpile didn't stay long with Joe, because Ed and Sam came over just then and wanted him to go swimming with them. After their swim Tom came by with his new kite, and of course they all

had to see how high Tom's kite could fly.

Joe forgot all about the wood and didn't think of it again until he saw father coming down the road with his lunch box in his hand. Usually Joe ran out to meet his father, for, really, he did have the best father in all the world! But tonight—tonight Joe didn't want to see him. There was the wood all scattered and unsplit, just as it was in the morning. Joe was so ashamed that he didn't go to the table but ate only an apple for supper, although he was hungry. *He couldn't face his father! Poor, careless, neglectful Joe!*

When Jesus comes, millions of people won't want to see Him, because they haven't done His work. Multitudes are busy with their own pleasures, and God is not in all their thoughts. What a sad time Jesus' coming will be for those who have lived selfish lives! Only a few will be glad to see Him, and they will be glad because they have faithfully done Jesus' work. Probation time is short, and Jesus will soon return. When that wonderful day comes, will you be able to look up and say, "Yes, Jesus, the work you gave me is all finished?"

Keep It Clean

A GENTLEMAN visiting a certain school announced that he would give a prize to the pupil whose desk he found in the best order when he returned. "But when will you return?" some of them asked.

"That I cannot tell," was the answer. A little girl who had been known for her disorderly habits announced that she meant to win the prize.

"You!" her schoolmates jeered; "why, your desk is always out of order."

"Oh! but I mean to clean it the first of every week."

"But suppose he should come at the end of the week?" someone asked.

"Then I will clean it every morning."

"But he may come at the end of the day."

For a moment the little girl was silent. "I know what I'll do," she said decidedly; "I'll just keep it clean."

So it must be with the Lord's servants who would be ready to receive the prize at His coming. It may be midnight, at cockerowing, or in the morning. The exhortation is not, "Get ye ready," but, "Be ye ready."—*One Thousand Illustrations.*

May 12

God's Wonderworld About Us

BY J. D. HAYNES

Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "He Keeps Me Singing," No. 18 in *M.V. Songs*.
 PRAYER.
 SECRETARY'S REPORT.
 REPORTS OF MISSIONARY WORK.
 OFFERING.
 TALK: "God's Wonderworld About Us."
 TALK: "A Few of the Marvels in Nature."
 DISCUSSION: "Organizing for Nature Study."
 CLOSING SONG: "I Walk With the King."
 BENEDICTION.

God's Wonderworld About Us

WHEN Christ, as creator, came to the beginning of the first holy Sabbath day and looked back upon what He had made during the six working days of creation's week, He was led to exclaim, "How wonderful, how beautiful, how excellent," for as He compared this world and its beauty with the other many worlds He had created and beautified, the Bible tells us in Genesis 1:31, "God [Christ] saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good." But why do you think that God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son made this world so beautiful and with so many wonders? It was that they knew that Satan was to be cast out to this world, was to tempt man, and that man would sin and become separated from the Creator, and that man would need the beauties of nature about him and the wonders and marvels to be found in the habits and life of the lower animal creation to lead Him back to God.

The Spirit of prophecy tells us that as soon as Adam and Eve sinned "the brightness from the face of God departed from the face of nature."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 18. In other words, no rose is so beautiful as it was back in Eden; the grass is not so green; the trees and even the animals about us have been dwarfed by sin. And yet, "even in its blighted state, much that is beautiful remains. God's object lessons are not obliterated; rightly understood, nature speaks of her Creator."—*Ibid.*, p. 18.

A number of years ago an agnostic, a man who claimed that he did not believe in God, was walking over the plains of Texas, in springtime, when presently he came upon a patch of the Texas star, the State flower. The agnostic plucked one of the flowers. He found that the flower had five petals and five stamens and, what's more, five base divisions. Multiplying the number of petals by the number of stamens by the number of base divisions, he had the total of 125. As he stood there in amazement he said, "Here on a scientific ground, are 125 chances to one that this is not mere chance." Looking about him, he found many of the same flowers with the same structural plan. Then he said, "Here is order; here in plan; here is an infinite number of chances against a cipher that these plants had a wise creator, and I have been wrong all the time. There is a God, and He shall be my God."

But the marvels of nature are not intended merely to convince us that someone made all these things. They are to demonstrate to us that the One who made them not only made us but loves us. Mrs. White, speaking by inspiration, declared: "Nature and revelation alike testify of God's love. Our Father in heaven is the source of life, of wisdom, and of joy. Look at the wonderful and beautiful things of nature. Think of their marvelous adaptation to the needs and happiness, not only of man, but of all living creatures. The sunshine and the rain, that gladden and refresh the earth, the hills and seas and plains, all speak to us of the Creator's

love. . . 'God is love,' is written upon every opening bud, upon every spire of springing grass. The lovely birds making the air vocal with their happy songs, the delicately tinted flowers in their perfection perfuming the air, the lofty trees of the forest with their rich foliage of living green—testify to the tender, fatherly care of our God, and to His desire to make His children happy."—*Steps to Christ* (Pocket ed.), pp. 9, 10.

Suppose for a moment that, instead of there being nearly ten million different species of insects, there were only one kind of bug in all the world, one kind of tree, one kind of grass, just one variety of bird, one kind of flower, and just one thing to eat, and that spinach; and that there were no sunshine to reveal the monotony of color about us and no glands with which to taste even the one kind of food the Creator had given us. No, you can't even imagine how bore-some this monotony could be. Then think on the love of Christ, our creator, who made every species of the millions of insects different, every flower distinct, every tree different, every bird a separate creation; who made the thousands of wonderful, appetizing things to eat and gave us glands to appreciate the myriads of flavors and tastes; who provided life-giving air all about us, and the sunshine vitalizing all nature and revealing the beauties of all creation to us; who gave us eyes to behold all these beauties, and ears to hear earth's melodies! Surely we have a great God, a loving Creator, and we should worship and thank Him more for all these wonders, and spend more time studying God revealed in nature.

A Few of the Marvels in Nature

THE few interesting things put into this program are designed to whet your appetite as a Junior to become a naturalist, to study nature because you love nature's God.

Let us go out beneath the starlit heavens and listen to a few of nature's serenaders. A real chorus of thousands of voices seems to be providing the music. Most of the music of the night is coming from Mr. Cricket. He is not singing but rather fiddling. The sound is made by drawing the wing tip across toothed ridges, the vibrations reaching the high pitch of forty-one thousand a second. But the cricket is not only a great musician but also a master magician. By slanting his wings he can throw the sound so that it seems to come from one spot, whereas it is in reality originating in the opposite direction. (*Voices From the Grass*, pp. 96, 97.)

But who are these obliging creatures who carry lamps for us? They are the fireflies, or "lightning bugs." Their light is very potent, coming from such a small flash bulb. One of the South American varieties is called a railroad beetle, not because it has wheels or whistles, but because it has green lights strung along its sides and a red light on its tail. (*Ibid.*, p. 83.) This lighting material in the body of the firefly is so powerful that a frog which had swallowed several of these flies appeared at night to be all lighted up.

From high up in a giant oak the whirl of the seventeen-year locust, or cicada, comes to us. He was born seventeen years ago, dropped from the tree where he was hatched, bored into the ground a depth of about two feet, fastened his proboscis, or sucking tube, into the tender water roots of the great tree, and there remained for seventeen years. He will probably live only about four weeks before the frost sends him the way of all the earth. But while he is here, what music! What fun for us Juniors!

(For more curiosities of nature see the Senior program of this same date.)

Organizing for Nature Study

ONE thing our brief review of God's wonders all around us has done; it has caused us to determine to organize nature classes through our society, to secure a magnifying glass and a telescope if we can, to push ahead in our progressive class work, especially that having to do with nature study, and to resolve that each of us will read and will make personal observations until we come to know God's great wonderworld lying at our very feet or swung in the heavens as the starry worlds above.

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May 19

The Advent Century in Australia

(Please turn to pages 6-8)

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May 26

We Prepare to Serve

BY C. LESTER BOND

Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "The Captain's Call," No. 66 in *M.V. Songs*.

PRAYER.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

DUET: "My Daily Prayer," No. 22.

SUPERINTENDENT'S TALK: "The Need for Training."

TALK: "Fit for Service."

TALK: "The Trained Mind."

TALK: "The Consecrated Heart."

CLOSING SONG: "I Have Given My Heart All to Jesus," inside back cover of *M.V. Songs*.

BENEDICTION.

The Need of Training

DID you boys and girls know that four out of every one hundred people in the world serve as leaders for the other ninety-six of that hundred? This is true in all walks of life. The reason these four people serve as leaders is that they have received a better training and have taken advantage of the opportunities that have come to them from day to day.

How many of you really want to be leaders? Every one of you may be if you will. Whether or not you do depends largely upon your own relations to life, and the way you adapt yourself to the opportunities that come your way day by day.

Some of you have already qualified as members of the Friend class, and you have found interest in doing the things that are required. Possibly you have not looked beyond the time when you would be invested as a member of the Friend class. Being invested was your incentive in working out these requirements. Now you are able to wear the beautiful gold-and-blue insignie which stands for that class. Some of you may have gone a step farther, and as a consequence are now able to display on the lapel of your coat the red-and-gold pin, indicating that you are a member of the Companion class. Some of you may even have completed the work outlined for the Comrade class, and therefore are honored by having the privilege of wearing the golden emblem, indicating Comrade standing. In any case, even though the work in each one of these classes seems complete within itself, it is really intended to be only a steppingstone to the next class.

Some boys and girls are easily satisfied, and because they are they will never develop into efficient leaders. They drop out by the wayside before they hardly get started. After qualifying as a Friend they may go no further; thus all their lives they stay at the foot of the ladder. Only about one sixth of the Juniors who qualify as members of the Friend class go on in their progressive class work and qualify as Companions. In turn, only about one sixth of those who become members of the Companion class qualify as Comrades. Only about one sixth of the Comrades keep right on working until they reach the topmost of the ladder and become Master Comrades. Every one of you Juniors may climb to the top if you will. Of course, it means some perseverance and possibly some hard work, but it is all interesting, and is something that will prove of real benefit, and will help you to be a greater blessing to your young associates and a more efficient worker eventually in God's cause.

Your church—the church to which you Juniors belong—needs the help you can give as trained workers and leaders. The church stands ready to help you receive that necessary training, by providing the class outlines and requirements. But it goes beyond that and provides the leadership to help you boys and girls become leaders yourselves. The church needs every one of you in this program of training, and you need the help that will come to you individually by pursuing the courses outlined.

Let us each pledge anew today that we will be indeed a servant of God and a friend to man, and that in our efforts to meet God's highest expectation for us, we will do our honest part. If we follow such a resolution as this to its logical end, not only will every one of us qualify as a Friend, but we will keep right on climbing in our progressive class work until we reach the very top and become Master Comrades.

Fit for Service

IN our progressive class work there are four outstanding features—the physical, mental, social, and spiritual. I want to

talk with you about the importance of being physically fit. God has called us boys and girls to be His helping hands, and in order to do our best work for Him we must have strong bodies.

The Friend class does not overlook the health phase, and therefore it has requirements that are intended to help us become strong men and women. In order to earn the Health Habit Certificate, we must do ten things. These things must be done not only today but every day, until we become so accustomed to doing them that they constitute habits in our lives.

Our bodies must be kept clean. If at all possible, we should take a full bath every day. If you have a shower in your home, you can easily do this; if not, you can take a tub or sponge bath. This takes only a few minutes and serves as a tonic, helping us to become wide awake and alert for the duties of the day.

The teeth must be brushed thoroughly every morning and evening. This is essential for the preservation of our teeth. It will also help us to keep in good general health, since most of the germs collecting in the mouth are thereby removed.

To bathe the outside of our bodies is not enough; we should bathe the inside by drinking at least six glasses of water between meals during the day. This will help us to resist colds and other ailments as well as to keep our complexion in a healthy condition.

The health habits also include our diet. In living up to them we shall eat fruits and vegetables daily, and avoid eating between meals. To refrain from eating between meals is difficult for some; yet if we practice it we shall be more healthy, and shall develop our will power.

Cultivating the habit of deep breathing is beneficial. In our work and play we should breathe so deeply that we can feel the effects down in the abdomen. And do you not like to see someone who walks correctly and whose posture is good even when seated? This is also included in one of our health habits.

Even though we keep our bodies clean and are careful of what and when we eat, another important item is exercise. We should make sure that we have enough activity each day, preferably out of doors, to bring all our muscles into use. Of course we should not forget that we are expected each day to spend at least one or more hours in useful occupation. Then to cap it all off, we are asked to be in our beds for at least nine or ten hours every night in sound sleep, with the windows of our room wide open.

Have you been following these rules? If not, will you join me now? Let us build up our health together.

The Trained Mind

ONCE, a number of years ago, Herbert Hoover, who later became President of the United States, was in charge of a large engineering project over in China. He had hundreds of men working under him. One day in the assignment of work he gave a certain duty to a young man.

The young man went to his task and, after several hours of planning and labor, found that he could not accomplish the assignment. Again he went over the project, going at it from a different angle, but still found that he could not do the work properly. In despair he went to Mr. Hoover about it. "Don't be discouraged," said Mr. Hoover. "I gave you that work because I knew you could do it. Have you tried this particular method? I anticipated your difficulty and figured out beforehand just what was necessary. Try it this way." Mr. Hoover then explained to the man how the job in hand should be done. With a light heart the young man went back to his work, and in a short time he had accomplished the duty assigned him.

Mr. Hoover has a trained mind. Because of that training he has been able to do many things that have proved a real blessing to the world. We may never be trained along the same lines as Mr. Hoover; yet God wants every one of us to develop mentally. The church wants us to develop in this way; therefore there are provided in our progressive class work many lines of study and activity designed for this purpose. Learning how to tie and use many kinds of knots, learning how to prevent accidents and give first aid, studying nature, and many other activities will help us to be useful now and to grow into useful men and women.

I, for one, am determined to have a trained mind. Will not the rest of you Juniors join me? We can help ourselves and each other by studying the progressive class requirements.

The Consecrated Heart

IN the talks which have preceded mine we have had our attention called to certain things that are very necessary in the life of every Junior. We must care for our bodies and train our minds. But in all such effort that we make we should have one great objective—that of more nearly meeting God's ideals for His children. We can be true Christians and accomplish God's work only when our bodies are strong, our minds keen, and our thoughts clean. God wants all there is of us.

In our progressive class work the requirements provided are intended to give us a training that will help us to give the very best of our lives to God in His work. Our physical and mental training is climaxed in the spiritual features of our work. In other words, our whole program of training in these classes is to help us to become strong Christian boys and girls. At the same time we learn to appreciate the fact that Christianity is a practical thing, adapting itself to all the experiences of our lives.

I hope that every one of us will from this time forward see greater value in our progressive class work, and that each one will enter heartily into its study until at last we all become Master Comrades, well trained for service in God's vineyard.

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"Love is the great antagonist of selfishness."

★ Home Missionary Department ★

MEDICAL MISSIONARY DAY—MAY 5

Universal Need of Medical Missionaries

H. M. WALTON, M.D.
Secretary, Medical Department

JUST as certain mechanical tools are made so as to serve a large number of purposes, just so truly does the medical missionary find a universal field and need for his or her services.

This article is written while the writer is in an overseas division, with the varied needs of mission fields clearly in mind. From hot tropical jungles to cold, wind-swept highlands the need for "good Samaritans" exists.

Particularly in out-of-the-way places it often becomes necessary for those with limited knowledge and training in medical matters to undertake serious matters of emergency relief and to render service in urgent cases of many kinds.

It was evidently in view of such universal need that the counsel was given: "We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VII, p. 62. (Italics mine.)

Through the benefits to our church members from our abundant health literature and through the efforts put forth to give practical training in home care of the sick, our church members, particularly our sisters, have the reputation of being skillful in practical medical lines and are commonly called upon by their neighbors in time of need.

In proof of this general opinion the following interesting incident recently occurred in a small city where a Seventh-day Adventist church was established. In this particular community an influenza epidemic was affecting a large number of the townspeople. As the cases increased, the overworked physicians became greatly distressed because so many of his patients were suffering for the want of ordinary nursing care. He received word that the Adventist women in town were trained in the care of the sick, whereupon he called the pastor of our church and solicited his help. The doctor requested the names of twen-

ty-five members whom he might call upon for help in the emergency. Unfortunately, very few members of that church had sought a preparation in home nursing, and therefore were not qualified to respond to the call and embrace an exceptional opportunity to serve their neighbors and effectively witness for the truth.

That such an opportunity was missed seems most regrettable. Only a thorough preparation will enable our church members to intelligently and successfully cope with epidemics and widespread suffering and need that may occur in days to come.

Let us note the whole paragraph from which the foregoing quoted sentence was taken. "We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work. The world is a lazar house filled with victims of both physical and spiritual disease. Everywhere people are perishing for lack of a knowledge of the truths that have been committed to us. The members of the church are in need of an awakening, that they may realize their responsibility to impart these truths. Those who have

been enlightened by the truth are to be light bearers to the world."—*Ibid.*, p. 62.

With our outstanding denominational health literature and the efforts put forth to acquaint our church membership with the fundamentals of a balanced health program, it does seem that of all people Seventh-day Adventists should be the best informed on the subject. With the advantages of abundant and advanced light relating to healthful living, Seventh-day Adventists should not only be better informed than others, but they should enjoy better health than others. Such, we believe, could be the case if all church members were more faithful in intelligently adhering to the rules of hygienic living.

Responsibility and obligation accompany the advantages of light given, and we do well carefully to consider such statements as the following:

"We should educate ourselves, not only to live in harmony with the laws of health, but to teach others the better way."—*Counsels on Health*, p. 449. (Italics mine.)

"As a people we have been given the work of making known the principles of health reform."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, p. 112.

Such a work on the part of our church membership entails a responsibility and also a privilege. It is one of the ways in which we are to be light bearers to the world, and it is a part of the great commission given by Christ to those who become His disciples.

The bestowal of light relative to health principles becomes a trust. We are told, "God has qualified His people to enlighten the world. He has entrusted them with the faculties by which they are to extend His work until it shall encircle the globe."—*Ibid.*, Vol. VII, p. 51.

As to the relation of this work to the gospel and what it may accomplish, we have this counsel:

"Medical missionary work is the right hand of the gospel. It is necessary to the advancement of the cause of God. As through it men and women are led to see the importance of right habits of

Suggestive Program for Sabbath Service, May 5, 1945

OPENING SONG: "Jesus Calls Us," No. 521 in *Church Hymnal*.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 10:25-37.

PRAYER.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERING.

SONG: "The Great Physician," No. 530 in *Church Hymnal*.

READING: "Universal Need of Medical Missionaries," by H. M. Walton, M.D.

READING: "Relation of the Health Message to the Work of the Denomination," by W. G. Turner.

READING: "The Church Member a Health Educator," by M. Winifred McCormack, R.N.

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

CLOSING PRAYER.

living, the saving power of the truth will be made known. Every city is to be entered by workers trained to do medical missionary work. As the right hand of the third angel's message, God's methods of treating disease will open doors for the entrance of present truth."—*Ibid.*, p. 59.

As one concrete example of the way in which medical missionary endeavor removes prejudice and opens the door of opportunity for the presentation of other phases of gospel truth, the following incident is related. In a recent letter Elder Santiago Schmidt, home missionary secretary of the South American Division, tells of the way in which an initial medical effort served to make possible the preaching of the Word in a city in Brazil. Thus it was that the skillful administration of a few fomentations by a medical missionary became great indeed in its influences in building up a church. We quote from the letter as follows:

"Away off in the interior of Brazil one of our workers came across a group of laborers building a road through the woods and across the mountains. In stopping a moment to talk with them, he learned that the engineer was sick and seemed to be dying. They were far away from a city and had no doctor and no medicine. Since our worker was a trained nurse he asked to see the man, and gave him some fomentations and instructions. This man made a rapid recovery.

"A short time later when we sought to start work in a little town in that same state, persecution was directed against us. An endeavor was made to stir the whole town. It was threatened that our workers and all those who were interested in the new message would be burned and killed. Our brother in charge there went to see the engineer, who at that time was head of the military police in that section. The engineer immediately sent a letter to the one responsible for the opposition, asking him to stop the persecution at once, and telling us to go ahead with our good work. Today we have a representative living in that little town, and on my last visit there we had over two hundred people present at our meetings. One of the new members has offered us a good lot for a church building, and the prefect has also become so interested that he has given us two lots in the center of the town and has urged us to build a church and a school as soon as possible. Surely it is true that the medical missionary work

is the right arm of the gospel message."

Success attends the efforts of all who labor unselfishly and intelligently in medical missionary lines. The union of ministry for the body with ministry for the soul was the Saviour's method of labor.

The need of the hour is for just such work. The world is calling for such serv-

ice. Let members of every church, north and south and east and west, become qualified and then actively participate in the various phases of medical missionary endeavor, which is "the pioneer work of the gospel. It is the gospel practiced, the compassion of Christ revealed."—*Medical Ministry*, p. 239.

The Relation of the Health Message to the Work of the Denomination

BY W. G. TURNER
Vice-President, General Conference

"BELOVED, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." 3 John 2.

Such was the kindly wish of the beloved apostle, written almost two thousand years ago. In his day spiritual prosperity and physical health were recognized as the right and privilege of Christian believers.

During Christ's ministry among mankind He beautifully exemplified concern for both the physical and the spiritual welfare. In the many miracles of physical healing He so lovingly performed, the need of spiritual cleansing was generally emphasized. The recipient of the former was admonished not to neglect the latter, for both were God's wish for man's present and eternal well-being.

"Christ has given us an example. He taught from the Scriptures the gospel truths, and He also healed the afflicted ones who came to Him for relief."—*Counsels on Health*, p. 544.

In the beginning of human life man was created perfect in body and spirit. "Man was formed in the likeness of God. His nature was in harmony with the will of God. His mind was capable of comprehending divine things. His affections were pure; his appetites and passions were under the control of reason. He was holy and happy in bearing the image of God, and in perfect obedience to His will. . . . His countenance bore the ruddy tint of health, and glowed with the light of life and joy."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 45.

Created perfect physically and provided with food adequate to impart health and strength, men lived well and long in the early days of time. It is interesting to note, in Holy Writ, that of the first nine men mentioned in the genealogy of the patriarchs, excluding Enoch, each lived a life in excess of seven hundred years. With the advent of sin the human race lost its original spiritual conception of God, and man-

kind also began to lose physical strength and longevity. Rapid indeed was the shrinkage of the life span for the successors of Noah. As the spiritual experience declined, so the physical suffered.

We now live in the last days. These are noted as days "when iniquity shall abound." These are days when many of the human race are destroying themselves for lack of knowledge. With all the vaunted progress in science—medical and otherwise—the world is rapidly losing its hold on God spiritually and its hold on life physically.

It is not God's will that we should perish. He is the Author of life, and He delights to see His followers prosper in health and in spirit. To call men back to the first principles and to prepare this generation to reveal the blessings that associate themselves with His will, He invites His disciples to follow the old paths in these last days. Such will lead to obedience to the principles of healthful living for the strengthening of the body and to rich spiritual experience for the upbuilding of the soul.

The editor of the *Review and Herald*, writing in 1903, said, "This denomination is a voice in the earth to prepare the way of the Lord, and it must give to the world the very message which the Lord has designed for this generation."—*Review and Herald*, Oct. 22, 1903.

What is this message? we very rightly ask. "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.

A diseased body is not generally conducive to a healthy mind or a vigorous

spirit. The days in which we find ourselves and the task that is set before us call for the best that we may possess:

"As we near the close of time, we must rise higher and still higher upon the question of health reform and Christian temperance, presenting it in a more positive and decided manner."—*Ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 112.

In our ministry we find no inclination to falter in our belief regarding the coming of our Lord. Neither is there a tendency to weaken in our proclamation of the Sabbath truth, or other equally important teachings which we claim are for the world of today.

Are we as positive in the matter of healthful living? Is it less important for us earnestly to regard the counsel of the Lord in the matter of our physical well-being and care?

When the children of Israel lusted for the unhealthful foods of Egypt they were given their desire, but as a result they experienced a leanness of soul that ultimately led to the death of the body, for they perished "in the wilderness."

Apparently in God's mind there was a very close alliance between the physical and the spiritual in the first exodus movement. How natural that such should also be the case in this second exodus from the Egypt of sin to the better land! Of the need for agitation on this question we are told:

God "designs that the great subject of health reform shall be agitated, and the public mind deeply stirred to investigate; for it is impossible for men and women, with all their sinful, health-destroying, brain-enerivating habits, to discern sacred truth, through which they are to be sanctified, refined, elevated, and made fit for the society of heavenly angels in the kingdom of glory."—*Ibid.*, Vol. III, p. 162.

As a denomination we have been particularly blessed with counsel, which, coming through the power and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, seeks to lead us into ways that, if followed, will make us a people to whom many needy souls will turn for physical help and enlightenment. Such help, joined with spiritual life, will lead men and women to God and to the fullness of Christian joy. Personal experience in this very thing brought to the writer of this article the knowledge of present truth.

There must ever be a recognition of the rightful place and the proper relationship between the physical and the spiritual. Not as fanatics, nor as extremists, but as a people in possession of

simple, valid facts revealed in God's Word, confirmed by the findings of true scientific research, we must proclaim the message of physical and spiritual redemption.

On one occasion, when writing upon the need of the Health Reform Institute at Battle Creek (as it was then called), Ellen G. White said: "Should those connected with this enterprise cease to look at their work from a high religious standpoint, and descend from the exalted principles of present truth to imitate in theory and practice those at the head of institutions where the sick are treated only for the recovery of health, the special blessing of God would not rest upon our institution more than upon those where corrupt theories are taught and practiced. . . . It should ever be kept prominent that the great object to be attained through this channel is not only health, but perfection and the spirit of holiness, which cannot be attained with

diseased bodies and minds."—*Ibid.*, Vol. I, p. 554.

We have been called of God in these last days for the purpose of bringing life and light to a perishing world. With sin becoming exceeding sinful, with harmful practices sweeping the nations as an overwhelming flood, there has never been a more opportune hour or a more pressing need for our workers and people to practice and to proclaim the principles of healthful living as enunciated by God's Holy Word and made clear by His messenger for these last days.

If we, as men and women preparing for the coming of our Lord, have been careless in regard to the counsel given us in this respect, shall we not now determine to search our hearts and if necessary change our habits so that when He writes the record of life He will find among the members of the remnant church each one rejoicing in the consciousness that the physical life and spiritual power are closely related.

The Church Member as a Health Educator

BY M. WINIFRED MCCORMACK, R.N.
Assoc. Sec., Health Education

THE health of its citizens is recognized to be the greatest asset of a nation, for only as its members are mentally and physically able to perpetuate and to defend the principles upon which the nation is founded can it hope to continue and make progress. Therefore, the large percentage of young men found to be unfit for military service because of such preventable conditions as malnutrition, tooth decay, poor vision, postural defects, and heart disease, is resulting in a great deal of concern on the part of our Government officials during this time of national emergency.

In an effort to determine the cause of this condition the question has been asked public health authorities and others charged with the health of the nation, "What has caused so widespread poverty healthwise in a land where great material wealth is experienced?" In answer to this question we are told that this condition exists, not because of a lack of food, medical or nursing facilities, hospitals, or sanitary control, but largely because of a lack of knowledge on the part of the individual member of society as to how he may utilize the facilities at hand to build health.

Surveys have shown that only a small percentage of our population know how

to select and prepare foods which will supply all the necessary materials to maintain and promote abundant health. Instead of selecting foods for their nutritive value, many permit appetite to dictate what is to be eaten, so that among all classes—the wealthy and the poor, the well educated and the ignorant—we find children and adults suffering from degrees of malnutrition ranging from the mild to the severe.

The recognition of early symptoms of disease, the taking of steps to check the progress of disease, the utilization of means of preventing disease—these become the responsibility of parents, teachers, and the adult himself. Such a program of prevention necessitates an understanding of the normal growth and development of children and the criteria of good health for all age groups. When it is understood that a child complaining of so-called "growing pains" is not following the pattern for normal growth, and this condition is called to the attention of the family or school physician, then the first step has been taken to check the development of a more serious condition of which "growing pains" is an early symptom.

Tuberculosis is still the leading cause of death during adolescence and early

adulthood. In a program of control of this disease early diagnosis and treatment are imperative. The members of the family must be intelligently alert to recognize symptoms in the early stages and to plan for skilled medical care.

These principles and many others vitally affecting the health of the nation are not generally understood. A program of healthful living and disease prevention must rest on the foundation of a well-informed public. Without this foundation the health of the nation, the community, the family, and the individual cannot reach the degree of excellence which it would otherwise attain. To correct the great lack of health teaching in the educational program of the community, an intensive program of health instruction is being launched by the various governmental agencies.

Unfortunately, the want of a high degree of physical efficiency exists not alone outside the church, for a study of the condition of children coming from Seventh-day Adventist homes, and attending church schools, academies, and colleges also reveals a widespread lack of radiant health.

In preparing the children of Israel to withstand the physical hardships which they would encounter during their deliverance from Egypt and their journey to the earthly Canaan, God gave to Moses, their leader, detailed instructions as to matters of hygiene and sanitation for both the individual and the camp as a whole. This code has stood through the ages as the greatest of health codes until modern times.

For modern Israel divine instruction likewise has been given regarding matters of health. These teachings are not to be a blessing to the remnant church alone in preparing it to withstand the hardships of the latter days; they are to be taught to the peoples of earth and thereby human suffering will be diminished and hearts made receptive to the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour.

Before the importance of the work of the health educator came to be recognized by the public at large, Inspiration had given this instruction to us: "Education in health principles was never more needed than now. Notwithstanding the wonderful progress in so many lines relating to the comforts and conveniences of life, even to sanitary matters and to the treatment of disease, the decline in physical vigor and power of endurance is alarming. It demands the attention of all who have at heart the well-being of

their fellow men."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 125.

In preparing to live more healthfully and to instruct others how they may do likewise, we must first of all acquaint ourselves with the principles of healthful living as given to us through the Spirit of prophecy and through scientific research. Since it is a well-recognized fact that we cannot teach others that which we do not know ourselves, it becomes the duty of every member of the church to study carefully such books as *Ministry of Healing* and *Counsels on Health*. Thus we shall be guided in the true principles relating to healthful living.

In addition to this we need to become familiar with the work being done in the field of disease prevention. Through a study of such accepted health magazines as those published by our own denomination, *Health* and *Life and Health*, and also *Hygeia*, a publication of the American Medical Association, this knowledge can be gained.

Perhaps in no field of science has quackery flourished to the degree that it has in hygiene and medicine. Ignorance and superstition have perpetuated harmful or ineffective methods of self-treatment. Through the medium of the radio and the press skillfully advertised patent medicines and so-called health preparations have made claims which in many instances are false. This has not only caused the public to spend millions of dollars unwisely but has also resulted in dangerous self-treatment when skilled medical care was needed. Only the carefully trained physician can advise in such matters as the treatment of disease; however, everyone should be intelligent as to rules for healthful living. Through overemphasis of particular principles of healthful living to the neglect of others, many fads have come into being. Food faddists are found everywhere. While we cannot minimize the importance of food in the program of health, yet we must recognize that it is only a part of the whole program, and only as it is held in proper relationship to the other parts can it produce the desired result. Thus our program of teaching must present a balanced program of living.

It becomes the responsibility of every church to study how its members can be of greater service in their community. Through the organization of classes in cooking, health preservation, and home nursing, the members of the church can be instructed more thoroughly regarding

principles of healthful living and the care of common ailments that are liable to occur in their homes and in those of their neighbors. Counsel will be given through the Medical Department of the General Conference to church leaders regarding the organization of such classes. This instruction will increase the church member's usefulness in the church and in the neighborhood in which he lives.

During His earthly ministry Christ spent much time in personal service. He went about relieving the poor, comforting the sorrowing, and caring for the sick. There are many who will not attend religious services who will be reached only through the carrying of the gospel to their homes. When the members of the church have been instructed how to relieve human suffering intelligently and, like the good Samaritan, have caught a vision of the physical and spiritual needs of their neighbors, many souls will be reached who would otherwise not receive the teachings of God's Word.

We have been told that after all other phases of our work have been closed because of religious persecution, we shall still be able to work as medical missionaries. Therefore, in preparation for earth's closing days, let us avail ourselves of every opportunity to increase our effectiveness as workers for lost humanity.

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Pertinent Questions

ARE you giving God and the interests of His kingdom first place in your life?

Are you giving unhurried time to Bible study and intercessory prayer for a lost world before beginning the day's work?

Which are you, a praying believer or a prevailing intercessor?

Have you a personal prayer list?

Have you a family altar in your home?

Have you led even one soul to Christ this year?—Selected.

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"It is better to trust the Lord than to put confidence in men."

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WE suffer much from the faults of others, but we lose more by our ignorance.—RUSKIN.

★ Missionary Leadership ★

Duties of Home Missionary Secretaries

(Concluded)

The Local Conference Home Missionary Secretary

4. Time and Duties in the Office

a. The local secretary should systematically divide his time between the office and the churches, so that a proper balance may be maintained. The office duties are just as important as those in the field, and vice versa. Generally speaking, we would say that the local secretary should be at his office at least a third of the time. In this matter a great deal depends upon proper stenographic or secretarial help in the office. If a secretary has to do much of his own office work, or has inefficient help, he is greatly handicapped and the conference is operating the department at a loss. More valuable time can be given to the field when the office end has proper supervision.

b. The secretary should have full knowledge of all office work, reports, et cetera, whether he attends to the details in preparing the reports and other items or not. All correspondence should have careful and prompt attention. The newsletters, bulletins, and promotion material should go out in good order and proper dispatch. The office secretary who properly attends to this business is of sterling worth and value to the cause and should receive recognition and commendation.

c. "There is no other department in the denomination that carries such a varied list of activities as does the Home Missionary Department. To enlist the active co-operation of each individual member in laboring to win souls among his neighbors and relatives by the distribution of literature and missionary visitation, Bible study, and in many other ways, is the objective of this department."—*Principles of Church Organization and Administration*, p. 227.

Yes, the home missionary secretary is responsible for many phases of missionary activity, and he should place all in their proper setting and sphere. Whether we like one particular kind of missionary endeavor better than we do another, it is our business to give due attention to each as long as we serve the department.

d. "The Home Missionary Department organization is both simple and direct,

though it deals with and promotes a great many lines of missionary endeavor."—*Ibid.* To keep our work and organization simple and direct and forceful has been the aim of the leaders all along the way. We must keep it simple so that any of our laymen can understand and carry on. "The work of this department is a mighty soul-winning factor," said Elder Montgomery. God help us ever to keep this, the great objective, in full view.

e. The secretary's vision should cover the possibilities for lay evangelism in every part of his field. Plans will be laid for a systematic Home Bible Study League, Bible studies, and lay preaching in every city and town and countryside. Every plan possible must be put into operation to warn and win for Christ. The foreign-speaking population are not to be forgotten.

f. The bulletins of the Home Missionary Department should be spicy, interesting, and full of inspirational promotion. They should be alive and serve a purpose, not simply be filled with something. They ought to be informative and stir to action.

5. Relation to Churches

a. The secretary meets with the church board or missionary committee when he visits the church, studies the missionary program for the time, and helps put into operation the proper things to be promoted. He counsels personally with the missionary leader and missionary secretary about their work and helps them catch the vision of their responsibilities and opportunities for evangelism within their reach.

b. Through the year he follows a continuity of missionary program in harmony with the regular department policy, and has in his office plans well worked out for months ahead.

c. All campaigns are likewise planned ahead to give time for proper promotion from the office, in the union paper, and in every other detail.

d. The rapidly growing work of the Dorcas Society and the Dorcas Federation demands careful and regular study and planning to give the consideration and guidance that are needed. The first responsibility in this lies with the local secretary and all the Dorcas officers. The local secretary must carefully work with

these officers in council, encouraging and helping them ever to widen their field of Christian service. Every local secretary recognizes the need of the practical demonstration of Christian principles as so ably carried on through the noble work our sisters are doing in relieving the sick, the poor, and the suffering. This is practical Christianity.

6. Relation to Conference Church and Isolated Members

In some conferences the conference church has the largest membership. At least once a month a circular letter should be sent out to each isolated family. This letter should be optimistic and enlightening, encouraging every member to be active in missionary work. Everything should be done to stimulate activity by the isolated members (but do not scold for indifference) in the following endeavors:

a. Systematic distribution of missionary literature.

b. Sale of our Crisis books and magazines.

c. Medical missionary, Christian help work, and Dorcas-welfare ministry.

d. Giving Bible studies in homes of neighbors.

e. Holding public lay-preaching efforts wherever possible.

Each family should also be urged to subscribe for our periodicals, especially the *Review* or the Family Group.

The secretary, when possible, should visit every isolated person in the conference each year or make the rounds at least as often as is consistent with his other duties. Many of these worthy ones never, or seldom, see a worker, and such visits are profitable and help to build them up. Supplies of books and periodicals can be taken along for advertising and sale, subscriptions to our periodicals taken, and instruction and encouragement given on how to work for their neighbors.

7. Duties of Church Missionary Leader and Secretary

The missionary leader is elected to plan, supervise, and direct the missionary activities in the church, except those for which the Missionary Volunteer Society is responsible. He should be thoroughly familiar with the church missionary organization and the nature of the territory within the church limits. He promotes the missionary campaigns and regular church missionary work. He is responsible for the ten-minute service and the program of the first Sabbath church service.

The church missionary secretary keeps

the records of missionary work done, and besides sending this to the conference on schedule time, also renders an interesting account of the work done by the church at the first Sabbath services. He also encourages the members in different lines of missionary work. The church missionary secretary is also the Book and Bible House secretary for the church and orders supplies for the church.

Recognition

"That which is needed now for the upbuilding of our churches is the nice work of wise laborers to discern and develop talent in the church."—*Christian Service*, p. 58.

"The touch of a skillful hand is needed to arouse . . . dormant faculties."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 250.

God expects much, and we expect much from our local conference home missionary secretaries. Many of the successful plans in home missionary work have originated with the men in the local conference, who are the ones, co-operating with their leaders and associates, who are putting over and bringing success to the great missionary program of the advent movement. Departmental secretaries are ministers of the living Word of God, faithful stewards of the grace of God, diligent students of the Bible and the

writings of the Spirit of prophecy. Your godly example is a great power for good throughout the field. Not only is it your business to make the organization and plans of the Home Missionary Department of first consideration, but you must be all-round men, prepared to preach the doctrines and gather in souls for the kingdom.

Brethren, do you ever become weary in your work? Do things seem to hog down at times? Does the pasture over the fence look a little greener or more interesting? Are you tempted to feel that you might be better fitted for some other kind of work? Do you have doubts as to your work's being appreciated?

If so, then steal away to be alone with Jesus your Saviour. Meditate on how much He endured for you. Renew your devotion to Him. Thank Him that He has called you to His service, and ask Him for renewed and enlarged vision of what He requires of you. Pray that you may be willing to carry on and "finish the work" He has given you to do. Jesus was the Master Trainer. Study the blueprint of successful methods in soul winning which He has given in the Bible and the Testimonies. Never lose sight of the fact that there will be a grand and mighty laymen's movement in operation when the work of God closes.

WILLIAM A. BUTLER.

jamba followed us about, although travel was mostly by foot. Whenever we arrived by car at a new place and were about settled, who would be approaching? None other than Sijamba! He was a symbol of hope to a despairing heart. At one time we were stuck at a stream where two of us tried in vain to budge the car. We were miles away from help, and time was precious out there in the African "bush." While we were debating our next move, who should come briskly walking over the little hill to greet us but smiling Sijamba! We were soon on our way again.

We gave Sijamba a chance to "preach" at each camp meeting. He is loved and respected by all. An African teacher would interpret quickly into words his sign language.

"All that we possess belongs to God," he would say. "Our houses, lands, and clothes; the rains that water the earth; the crops that respond to planting and care—all come from above. You have eyes, ears, and a tongue. I have only eyes. How thankful you ought to be and how diligent you should be in service for Him."

Sijamba was a normal boy until about ten years old, when suddenly he was stricken deaf and dumb. The message came to him after that, and in spite of his handicap he is thoroughly acquainted with our fundamental truths. He sells more books and is more active in missionary work than most people who have all their normal senses.

May God bless Sijamba!

PAUL WICKMAN.

★ News From Soul Winners ★

Sijamba

Among the many experiences and impressions which came to me while I was visiting our native camp meetings in Northern Rhodesia, South Africa, there is one in particular that I shall never forget. First, I should like to introduce to you Sijamba, a deaf and dumb native Christian.

While relaxing one sunny afternoon in my grass enclosure at a place called Demu, I heard footsteps and then a rather queer noise which attracted my attention. Upon looking up I was greeted with a hearty smile from this slender six-foot-four native. He paused for me to invite him further. I motioned for him to sit down. I wish you could have seen the light in his eyes—a radiant beam that without pretense announced to what kingdom he belongs.

Sijamba had brought a world atlas

with him, and immediately he began to turn from one map to another, and, pointing to the battle areas of the world accurately and with signs which could easily be understood, conveyed the picture of war and bloodshed actually taking place.

He ended each description by pointing upward, making it plain that it was Christ's second coming which these events indicated.

Sijamba is truly a self-supporting lay preacher. He has traveled between the Belgian Congo and Southern Rhodesia, working at different times for missionaries, doing odd jobs, helping to make furniture, etc., at mission stations. Sometimes he works as a laborer for outside contractors, but he works merely to finance his ministry. His life is a testimony for God.

During the camp meeting season Si-

Opening Providences

A SISTER of a midwest English church was riding on a streetcar some time ago when the man sitting by her side discovered that she is a Seventh-day Adventist. Among other things, he told her that he buys the *Watchman* each month from a girl who sells them, and that he has become very much interested in fulfilling prophecy. After talking with our sister he decided that she was qualified to teach just what he longed to know. He explained that he is the president of a certain club, where two hundred and fifty men and women meet once a month to listen to some lecture on a subject of general interest to them. He said he had told them of something of what he had learned about fulfilling prophecy, and asked whether she would come and speak to them on this subject. She felt sure she could not possibly do this, so he asked

whether there was someone in her church who would come and speak to them. When she mentioned her pastor, he said, "Do you suppose he would come and speak to us on this topic?" Thus, as a result of one man's reading the *Watchman*, a congregation of two hundred fifty were waiting to hear the message, with the hall rent paid in advance, and the congregation assured.

This is only the beginning of much greater opportunities that are waiting for us if we will step into the opening providences.

A. A. CONE.

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"God Moves in a Mysterious Way His Wonders to Perform"

THESE words of the poet William Cowper illustrate how God's dealings led a family into the truth many years ago. It was God's overruling providence which changed their lives.

The parents and two of the older children had been members of a prominent denomination. The father had not been very strict in his religious experience, but the mother was religiously inclined. However, something caused her, too, to become careless. Her heart wanderings went on for several years.

Not having forgotten her previous prayers, her teaching of the Lord's prayer and the child's "Here I lay me down to sleep," one of the children came up to her and in his childish way said, "Why don't you pray that prayer you used to pray, Mamma?"

"What prayer?" answered the mother.

As he described the kind of prayer as well as he could, his mother understood that he wanted her to pray the Lord's prayer. Still she did not then fully surrender to God. But after days and months of hesitation she did surrender her heart to God. Her great trouble had been that her church and its religion did not give her soul the satisfaction for which it was yearning.

She must have prayed for light, for soon after this two missionaries from another denomination came to her door. In trying to lead her to their way of thinking they offered her a tract. At first she refused to take it. Then one of the missionaries said to her, "If this is the truth and you refuse to accept it, will you not be rejecting the truth?"

She thought a moment and then said, "Yes."

Promptly she took the tract and read it, but it did not convince her of any truth. It had merely broken down a prejudice toward other beliefs aside from

her own. Here God was working in His "mysterious way His wonders to perform," as we shall see.

A few weeks after this experience some Seventh-day Adventist neighbors came to this home one evening and brought their Bibles. That evening the children of the two families talked and played together as the Adventist parents gave a study from the Bible on the subject of the true Sabbath. Ordinarily that would not be a very good starting subject, but in this case God had already broken down prejudice. All that was needed now was the study by a humble lay member who had a love for souls.

That Bible study was the beginning of a series of Bible studies at this and other homes in the neighborhood. The layman who gave the study did not know that at least two of those who did accept the truth would later become Seventh-day Adventist ministers.

The mother in this home where the Bible study was first held felt convinced that the seventh day is indeed the Sabbath. However, she wished to hear both sides of the question. Soon she bought herself a new Bible and then went to the minister of her church to get his version of the Sabbath question.

This minister chanced to be the son of a devoted Seventh-day Adventist, Mrs. S. M. I. Henry. In the conversation Dr. Henry said, "My mother was a Seventh-day Adventist, but I did not pay any attention to her."

Then he wrote down a list of texts which he said would prove that Sunday is the Sabbath. He gave the list to this earnest seeker for truth. She took them home and studied these texts prayerfully.

As a result she became a loyal Sabbath-keeper. Most of her children accepted the message, including the two who became ministers. We are praying that the other members of the family will accept this blessed hope and thus join the rest of the family as heirs of the kingdom.

BYRON E. SCHAFFNER.

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Eight Years' Search Rewarded

ONE brother, taking a long trip on a train, carried some of our literature strapped to the outside of his suitcase. Spying the literature, the conductor stopped and asked him if he was a Seventh-day Adventist. On receiving a reply in the affirmative, he said that eight years before he had met on his train one of our workers on his way to the General Conference at San Francisco.

This worker had talked to the conductor of the message, which had created in his heart a desire to know more of the truth. When they reached their destination there had been a mutual agreement that they should keep in touch with each other, but somehow through the years this arrangement had failed. The railroad man was still hungering for the truth. He had been searching for light all during those eight years.

How rejoiced our brother was to meet him, and how glad to tell him the story of the soon coming of his Saviour. Now it is almost an assured fact that this man will take his stand for the truth. Surely it pays ever to be ready with our literature and with an answer for every man who inquires of us the reason for the hope within us. W. O. WINTERBERG.

Weekly Church Missionary Services

May 5

FOLLOWING THE DIVINE PATTERN

Key Thought for Leaders: "As we near the close of time, we must rise higher and still higher upon the question of health reform and Christian temperance, presenting it in a more positive and decided manner. We must strive continually to educate the people, not only by our words but by our practice."—Counsels on Health, p. 467.

The progress of the Christian is threefold—in body and mind and spirit. Our advancement in healthful living should keep pace with our progress in spiritual things. To this people living in the most corrupt age of the world's history the health message was given for a definite purpose. Our spiritual progress is advanced and our ability to discern deep spiritual truths is enlarged by adherence to the principles of health given to us by the Spirit of

prophecy. The principles of healthful living are an inestimable blessing in preparing a people to meet their Lord.

"All are bound by the most sacred obligations to heed the sound philosophy and genuine experience which God is now giving them in reference to health reform. He designs that the subject shall be agitated, and the public mind deeply stirred to investigate it; for it is impossible for men and women, while under the power of sinful, health-destroying, brain-enervating habits, to appreciate sacred truth."—*Ibid.*, p. 21.

Not only should the philosophy of health given to us as a people be a physical and spiritual blessing to ourselves, but it is also calculated to give us an advantage, an entering wedge, in our efforts to win souls. Precious souls are everywhere perishing for want of the important truths that have been entrusted to us. "Medical missionary work is the right hand of the gospel. It is necessary to the advancement of the cause of God. As through it men and women are

led to the importance of right habits of living, the saving power of the truth will be made known."—*Ibid.*, p. 219.

In this field there is work for all. We are told that every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work. Not all can be specially trained; nevertheless we all have a work to do and a place to fill. If we have not been entrusted with ten talents or five talents to increase for the Master, we still are not excused from exercising the one talent that He has given to each of His children. What talent do we all possess? Surely we can all live in the light that has been given us on healthful living, and thus by precept and example make our contribution in staying the tide of misery in the world.

"If you have but one talent, use it wisely, increasing it by putting it out to the exchangers. Some cannot do as much as others, but everyone is to do all he can to roll back the wave of disease and distress that is sweeping over our world."—*Ibid.*, p. 529.

Each of us can increase this talent, and if we do our best when Christ comes in the clouds of glory we shall hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matt. 25:21.

Our duty is clear—to learn the principles of healthful living, to practice them to the fullest extent, and to teach them by precept and example to our neighbors. Where a doctor, dietitian, or nurse is available, let instruction be given to the church members in health matters. Classes should be organized to teach the preparation of healthful foods, health preservation, and home nursing.

The Medical Department of the General Conference will send instructions for such classes upon request. Those who are isolated and without access to teachers, may inquire of the Home Study Institute, Takoma Park 12, D.C., or the local conference home missionary secretary for guidance in study. GLADYS GRIFFIN, *Dietitian*.

May 12

EVERY MEMBER A MINUTE MAN

Key Thought for Leaders: "To save souls should be the lifework of everyone who professes Christ. We are debtors to the world for the grace given us of God, for the light which has shined upon us, and for the discovered beauty and power of the truth."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IV, p. 53.

Properly conducted, the Ingathering campaign can and should be an ingathering of interesting experiences of persons contacted. This is especially true where one works in the residential section. But we also meet businessmen who show a special interest.

While out with a group of students from Auburn Academy (Washington) we found six or eight persons who wished literature and further contact with Seventh-day Adventists. Every time we ingather for missions we should pray that we may have wisdom to reach the prospective donor's heart with a spiritual message, as God may lead.

In Winnipeg the proprietor of a laundry at first refused to give an offering for Ingathering. Noticing that he was paralyzed from the waist down, I asked if prayer might be offered before we left. He seemed surprised, though pleased, and readily gave his consent. A few weeks later he gave a liberal offering, and his heart was open for light.

As the busy young manager of a chain store in Sacramento was approached for an offering and his good will gained, he said, "Mister, I am at the crossroads in religious experience. I must go one way or the other soon. Can you know just what to do, what to believe?" Was that not a wonderful opportunity? Yes, certainly we took advantage of the opening thus afforded, for are we after money or souls?

Hardened old Pilate, in the midst of a difficult court trial, asked the Man arraigned before him, "What is truth?" Jesus was trying to reach this man rather than seek His own personal benefit. There should be a grand harvest of interested souls gathered during the campaign and

ready to follow up—the joy and cream of Ingathering.

Do not let these golden God-given opportunities slip by, dear solicitors. Look for souls, call attention to current events, the fulfillment of prophecy, and watch for an interest on the part of all solicited. By all means take down names and addresses, telling those who manifest an interest that you will send literature free. Then go home and do it. Many precious souls are garnered for the heavenly kingdom in this way. W. A. BURLER.

May 19

INGATHERING FOLLOW-UP

Key Thought for Leaders: "Search diligently for perishing souls. . . . Make the most of every opportunity to arrest the attention of unbelievers. . . . Put literature into every hand that will receive it." "Let . . . no man stand up in the judgment, and say, 'Why did you not tell me about this truth? Why did you not care for my soul?'"—*Christian Service*, p. 169.

The ingathering of funds for the advancement of the cause of God is inseparably connected with the sowing of the gospel seed over vast areas of earth. Personal contacts are made by the servants of God with judgment-bound people of all classes and conditions in life. The interview may be very brief, but when the heart of the worker is filled with the Holy Spirit and the burden for lost souls is uppermost in mind, the glance of the eye or the touch of the hand may unlock hidden recesses of need in the lives of those contacted.

Ingathering follow-up is the cultivation process of the seed sown. The farmer who expects a bountiful harvest is as diligent in following up the seed sowing, or the cultivation of the soil and the culture of the oncoming crop, as he was in sowing the seed. The same principle holds good in spiritual seed sowing of any kind. You may have been diligent and faithful in making follow-up contacts in your ingathering work, but are you as faithful in the cultivation process? What about the list of names of persons who manifested an interest in spiritual things—perhaps in the form of a curiosity as to what Seventh-day Adventists believe—or possibly indicated a need, temporal, physical, or spiritual? Is

The Gospel According to Me

"Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men." 2 Cor. 3:2.

SHARP eyes has my neighbor just over the way.

As I meet with him now and again, "I'm not much for books," he will oftentimes say;

But I know he's a reader of men. "I haven't the time," he will kindly maintain.

When I tell him the message is free, Yet I know he is reading in sentences plain The gospel according to me.

Does he hear the calm voice stilling tempests that break

On his soul in temptation's dark hour? Is he healed of distress? Is he led to forsake

Sin's weakness for glory and power? All these he could find in Luke, Matthew, or John,

Or Mark, where recorded they be; But what does he find, as the seasons move on,

In the gospel according to me?

O Thou who of old wert in darkness a light, Give me of Thy blessing, I pray, That my word and my deed and my living be right.

As they've read of my neighbor today, Give wisdom and vision, give grace as my needs;

May I hear such a record of Thee That the soul of my neighbor be saved, as he reads

The gospel according to me.

—EUGENE ROWELL.

this list pigeonholed or filed away for safe-keeping—out of sight and receiving no attention? Every promise to send literature or to conduct a Bible study, every assurance that help for the sick or the destitute will be provided, is a sacred obligation which cannot be ignored except at the loss of spiritual experience and perhaps the loss of souls.

Not long ago a letter came to us, written by a prominent attorney in a Western city who was making investigation for his client. The person he represented in official capacity had come in contact with Seventh-day Adventists in some way, possibly through literature or Ingathering solicitation, and had become interested in the Bible Correspondence Course, desiring to avail herself of the instruction offered. Here was evidence that the seed had fallen into good ground; the germ of spiritual life had taken root, and the cultivation process was needed. But after she had compiled with the conditions for receiving the lessons and the certificate, as promised, there was failure on the part of somebody in sending out the lessons regularly and in furnishing the certificate as promised. Such failure led to the conclusion that the whole thing was another humbug—great promises which meant nothing! So the woman placed the matter in the hands of her attorney to bring the offenders to time.

It is seldom that the law requires Seventh-day Adventists to make good their promises to the public. Such should never be the case. Every promise made by the Ingathering solicitor should be fulfilled to the letter, quickly and completely, with a follow-up extended as long as the situation demands.

At this date the Ingathering campaign in North America is nearing completion. Thousands of follow-up openings will be reported by the workers by this time, and the cultivation process should not be delayed. Every church member should take part in this cultivation process. Let none neglect this very important duty. Now is the time to follow up the 1945 Ingathering interests.

May 26

MISSIONARY EXPERIENCES

Key Thought for Leaders: "When the truth was revealed in their hearts, and they saw the harmonious chain of truth, the Bible was to them a new book; they hugged it to their hearts with grateful joy, while their countenances were all aglow with happiness and holy joy."—*Life Sketches*, p. 215.

Found at Last!—Far back in the interior of Colombia, a well-known man was about to employ a carpenter. Among other things, he reminded the man that while working for him there was to be "no Saturday work."

"Why, you must be a Seventh-day Adventist!" said the carpenter.

The man looked at him in amazement. "Friend," he said, "those are the people I have been wanting to find for a whole year. Won't you say the name again and tell me who they are?"

Thus it was that Brother Costillo learned for the first time that others besides his own family were keeping the Sabbath and looking for the coming of Jesus. Nearly two years before, he purchased a Bible, and through reading it he was convicted regarding the Sabbath truth, and had been keeping the Sabbath for a whole year. Upon learning of Seventh-day Adventists, he sent a petition to our mission headquarters, signed by himself and six others whom he had interested in the Sabbath, pleading that a worker he sent to their village.—*Home Missionary Gazette*.

✽ ✽

THE only religion that can really do anything for me is the religion that makes me want to do something for you.—HENRY VAN DYKE.

"THE power that enables sinners to come to Christ is the same power that compels the Christian to go to the sinner."

★ Department of Education ★

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

Polishing Stones for the Temple

Reverence

Reverence is the highest quality of the human mind. It distinguishes man from the animals. . . . When it decays, character degenerates, for it is the tonic quality of the soul.

"I have in my heart," said Oliver Wendell Holmes, "a little plant called reverence; I go to church to have it watered." . . . Our country's greatest need is a greater measure of reverence for childhood, womanhood, personality, truth, justice, privacy, law, religion, and God. "Let more of reverence in us dwell" should be the universal prayer. The church is the dynamo of reverence.—*Presbyterian Tribune*.

Notes to Leaders

When we parents and teachers recognise the relation between obedience and reverence, there will be a change in our attitude, as well as in that of the children growing up around us. Let us see to the example we set!

How often in church children are allowed to remain seated during songs and even during prayer, apparently oblivious of where they are or what is going on. How can this possibly develop reverence? We go to church to worship God, and every part of the service has its place in that worship. Children should be told beforehand what is proper behavior in church, and then consistently held to correct deportment, reinforced by the example of their parents. As proper church behavior is practiced week by week, a spirit of reverence naturally grows. There is great need for this in our churches today.

Make this closing meeting of the school year outstanding in quality. If time permits, there may be a summary or crystallization of all the character traits studied; but avoid any confusion or bustle. Plan and execute each part carefully so that an atmosphere of reverence will be felt in the meeting.

Now is the time to report the work of your home education classes, *whether or not you have completed the courses*. If you do not have the necessary blanks for this, secure them from your educational superintendent.

Keep in touch with this Department of Education section of the GAZETTE during the summer months for reports and helpful suggestions. FLORENCE K. REBOK.

Ninth Meeting on Character Study

Reverence

I. Meaning: honor because of position or relationship; profound respect mingled with fear.

Synonyms: veneration, awe, adoration, worship.

II. Importance.

A. Grace to be cherished. PK 236.

B. Gift more precious than wealth of ages. Ed. 245.

C. Treasure enduring as eternity. Ed. 245.

D. More tolerable for heathen than for irreverent. 5T 495.

E. Lack of reverence causes God to turn away. 5T 499.

III. What to reverence.

A. God—His name and word. Ed. 243, 244; PP 306, 307.

B. Hour and place of prayer. Ed. 242, 243.

C. Public worship, house of God. Ed. 243.

D. Representatives of God: ministers, teachers, parents. PK 237.

E. Aged. Prov. 16:31; Ed. 244.

IV. How develop reverence in child?

A. By example.

1. "Our instruction to them will have only the weight of influence given it by our own example." Ed. 187.

2. Conduct in house of God. 5T 494-496.

3. Effects of criticism, irreverent remarks. 5T 497, 498.

B. By precept.

1. God commands teach His ways diligently. Deut. 6:6, 7.

2. Read instruction for reverence. 5T 496.

3. "Every child should be taught to show true reverence for God." PK 236.

C. By command.

1. "Parents should . . . command their children to enter the sanctuary with sobriety and reverence." 5T 496.

2. Like Abraham, command children, household. Gen. 18:19; Ed. 187.

D. Train, drill, practice teaching. Prov. 22:6.

1. Before parents can train child, "they must themselves understand the 'way' the child should go." CT 108.

2. "As reverence is manifested in attitude and demeanor, the feeling that inspires it will be deepened." Ed. 243.

E. Bible examples.

1. Reverence.

a. Moses at burning bush. GW 178, 179.

b. Israel at Sinai. PP 304.

c. Jacob after vision of ladder. Gen. 28:16, 17.

2. Irreverence.

a. Children mocked Elisha. PK 235, 236.

b. Nadab and Abihu. PP 360.

c. Korah's rebellion—plague of 14,000 deaths. PP 402.

V. What to teach.

A. Jehovah alone entitled to supreme reverence, worship. PP 305.

B. Come before Lord humbly, not boldly. PP 252.

C. "Meditate upon His majesty, His purity and holiness." PP 307.

D. Respect and care for Bible. Ed. 244; FE 195.

E. God's name.

1. Not to be taken in vain by false oaths, common swearing, thoughtless or frequent mention even in prayer. PP 306, 307.

2. Utter with reverence, solemnity. PP 307.

3. Subdued gentle voice. 4T 626.

F. Prayer.

1. Kneel. GW 178.

2. Reverence hour of. CT 110.

3. Short public, longer private. GW 176-179.

G. Music.

1. Worship with joyous songs. 4T 626.

2. "Singing . . . as much an act of worship as is prayer." PP 594.

H. Bible "is the voice of God addressed to them, and is to be implicitly obeyed." PP 143.

I. Importance of worship hours.

1. Sweetest, most helpful of day. Ed. 186.

2. *Family* worship; children take part. 7T 43, 44.

3. Take time for family prayer. 2T 701.

4. "Prayer ascends to God as sweet incense." PP 144.

J. Proper decorum in place of worship. 5T 491-500.

1. God's house on earth, gate of heaven.

2. Rules for time, place, manner of worship.

K. Have nothing to do with Spiritualism, which breaks down "barriers that God has erected to guard truth, purity, and reverence." PP 688.

L. Nature, God's first book. Ed. 100, 101.

M. True reverence shown by obedience. Ed. 244; CT 110, 111.

1. Ministers, teachers, parents act in God's stead. PK 237.

2. Laws of home, school are His. Ed. 287.

3. Meaning of fifth commandment. PP 308.

N. Obedience to parents, reverence to God.

1. Why? PP 308; Ed. 245.

2. When? Ed. 287; CT 111; 1T 218.

3. How? Ed. 287; FE 67; CT 111.

VI. Helps to obedience, reverence.

A. Enlist reason. Ed. 287.

B. Affection with authority. MH 391.

- C. Never correct in anger; punish in love. CT 117, 118; 2T 259.
- D. Make, enforce wise rules. CT 112.
- E. Make obedience easy as possible. Ed. 288.
- F. "Justice has a twin sister, Mercy." 4T 363.
- G. Requests better than commands. Ed. 290.
- H. Commend, encourage. FE 32, 33.
- I. "Show obedience to be just, and reasonable." Ed. 287.
- J. Be patient, forgiving. 4T 362.
- K. Firmness, decision essential. 5T 45.
- L. Authority sustained by severity. 5T 45.
- M. Coaxing and indulgence cause disorder. 5T 45; PP 142.
- N. "Indulgence of passion is never excusable." 4T 369.
- O. Teach pleasantly. CT 159.
- P. Never taunt child with perverse traits. FE 67.
- Q. Control self; voice low, gentle. 7T 48.
- R. Avoid contests of will. 7T 47, 48.
- S. Save strength of will; guide, mold. Ed. 288, 289.
- T. Use prayer, love. CT 266; 2T 260; 1T 398.
- VII. Parents need to appreciate, prepare for their responsibilities. Ed. 244, 245.
- A. Take advantage of home education classes. Ed. 276.
- B. Read instruction given through Spirit of prophecy.
1. Ed. 240-245, 287-297.
 2. CT 107-118.
 3. FE 149-161.
 4. MH 388-394.
 5. 5T 319-323, 491-500; 7T 42-44.

Add to progressive blackboard chart (see GAZETTES, August through April):

TRAITS

10. Reverence.

- a. Worth wealth of ages. Ed. 245.
- b. Sense of His infinite greatness. Ed. 242; PK 48.
- c. Shown by obedience. Ed. 244; CT 111.

How Firm a Foundation

BY ALMA NEPHEW

ON a recent evening I stayed at school a bit late to finish certain tasks, but I laid them aside for a visit with a wide-awake twelve-year-old who stopped to talk. For weeks I had noticed a gradual change in him—a wholehearted effort to accomplish each assigned task. I had seen the points climbing on his scholarship record. He was doing nobly, and I wanted to tell him I appreciated it.

We talked about many things. He told me of his plans for college and of his decision to be a minister. I knew he had found the basic principle of success when he said, "I know it means years of hard

work, but the last few weeks have helped me to see that I can do what I plan if I do my best and ask Jesus to help me." It was a child's way of stating a deep factor in life which he hardly understands as yet, but to his teacher it was an important milestone.

Arithmetic, spelling, language, stories, tests, work, and play are essential parts of school life, but the Christian teacher knows that she has a more sacred duty if she is to receive the Master Teacher's approval. The parents' task is also the teacher's task, and unless we lead our boys and girls to accept Jesus in their lives, we have failed.

Through the months we have studied the character elements which the world accepts, but we recognize reverence as the foundation. Reverence is not merely a feeling that one has when he enters a church or opens his Bible, but an abiding sense of God's presence that is a tower of strength. People of every time have had the idea of some all-powerful being about whom they have built their hopes and ideals—their way of life. We have more than this to present to our boys and girls: the merciful heavenly Father and His Son, the loving Jesus; the Friend of children. They will learn to hear their Saviour's voice and to feel the comfort of His presence in time of danger. When they kneel to pray, it is as friend to friend. The thought of His abiding presence has a real influence on every act of their lives.

In homes where parents have for themselves accepted and maintained this relationship to God and Jesus, and have reared their children therein, we find boys and girls who are willing, cheerful, and obedient. Their citizenship record is an honor to their school and community. Their word is accepted by all. We are glad to have them as our neighbors. They are not Sabbath school problems in the primary or junior division; rather they are developing into our future leaders. When calls to service come, they will be first to answer.

This is God's plan, but there is no greater problem which concerns us as a people than the growing spirit of irreverence. Junior leaders, parents, and teachers have the increasing problems of discipline and of finding methods to encourage and develop right habits in the carefree youngsters of today. Disobedience to civil law is rooted in a failure to inculcate that "deep respect mingled with awe and affection" which is reverence. "Above all, let children be taught that true reverence is shown by obedience. God has commanded nothing that is unessential, and there is no other way of manifesting reverence so pleasing to Him as obedience to that which He has spoken. . . ."

"Happy and mothers and teachers need to appreciate more fully the responsibility and honor that God has placed upon them, in making them, to the child, the representatives of Himself. . . ."

"Happy the child . . . who by trust and submission and reverence toward his earthly protectors learns to trust and obey and reverence his God."—*Education*, pp. 244, 245.

Recipe for Reverence

BY VIVIAN E. SMITH

IN these busy days millers offer some clever short cuts that uproot old cake-baking techniques. With little effort and less time fine products issue temptingly from the oven. Exact measurements, beating time, and heat control assure light, delicious cakes.

The recipe for reverence is not new but is just as exacting. If the Good Rule Book is carefully followed, God adds the leaven that will raise up in the child a truly reverent attitude that will remain in his heart through life.

In instilling reverence parents must be most ingenious. It is important that this recipe shall be carried out with a minimum of beating (discipline), and "slow-baked" over the years in the warmth of loving-kindness. Perhaps the most common mistake is lack of definite plan. Reverence cannot be tossed together lightly with handfuls of good wishes and pinches of reproof. Let us begin at the beginning.

Baby soon learns that at right intervals mother will bring food or comfort, also that her No is the supreme law of his land. This blending of confidence and respect is the beginning of love and reverence. If mother continues regularly to give physical care and as regularly to supply his spiritual needs, reverence for his Creator will grow as naturally as his foot size increases.

One of the first questions to settle is, Should baby attend church? Or should the family take turns staying at home with him? Other things being equal, it is best for the spiritual life of all if the whole family go to church regularly, with baby in a basket where he can rest comfortably and not be handled too much. If his daily naps throughout the week are wisely planned as to time, baby will sleep during most of the Sabbath services, and his parents can drink undisturbed of the Living Water, which they now need more than ever. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" was meant as much for young parents as for anyone else. How can they instill in their child a oneness with God which they themselves have lost? Regular church attendance incites to reverence as regular bathing promotes love of cleanliness.

Not long ago I heard of a young couple who did not wish to force religion on their child. Every Sabbath morning they would say, "Mary, would you like to go to Sabbath school today?" Mary was a lively three-year-old with dozens of engrossing interests in her own back yard; so mostly they all stayed at home until interest in church reached a low ebb. In training school we are taught never to ask a child whether he likes a poem or song, never to open the way for a negative reaction. The same rule holds for Sabbath school or church. Always refer to them happily. Sooner than parents think, cradle roll age arrives and Sabbath school becomes pleasant for even a shy child. Church service takes more planning. I keep a file folder marked "Of interest to Billy," where I collect Christmas cards, picture post cards, any little device that "works" without noise.

On Sabbath a few of these go to church along with crayons and paper in a large fastener-type envelope, to be brought out when restlessness overcomes our active redhead.

This is the stage when discipline must occasionally be administered. There are times when a little soul does rebel over sitting still. Nothing the parent can do or say will quiet him like a few strong, well-directed pats. But never should embarrassment over removing a noisy child increase his penalty, which should be given in a matter-of-fact, this-is-what-happens-to-noisy-children manner. And then go right back into church! Much is gained by Johnny's proving to himself and to his parent that he *can* be quiet.

Some have been helped by a daily quiet hour at home from eleven to twelve o'clock when children look at or color picture books. Thus they learn how to be quiet, and this regular program is a definite help in the Sabbath service.

When the child has learned to be reasonably quiet, the family can sit farther forward. Here he will automatically take an interest in the services. He can see the choir come in and watch those who give special music. The minister will become a person to him, not just a booming voice. He will recognize him at the door shaking hands, and his heart will swell when the pastor has a word and a pat for him!

It is important that children learn early to have a reverent attitude in church prayers. Until they reach a height to kneel forward comfortably between the pews, they may kneel toward the rear with head on arms to help keep eyes shut. I kneel as my children do, for I find that an arm around a child helps wonderfully to ensure quietness. Born imitators, children will soon copy the reverent attitude of parents and others near by. Mother should open her eyes at any suspicious sound and wordlessly encourage the correct prayer attitude.

Older children should continue to sit with their parents during church services. Those who come independently and have a tendency to filter to the back seat should be "adopted" by deacons and deaconesses in a friendly way, perhaps including an occasional invitation to their home. Then a quiet "Come along and sit with us today, Henry" would do much toward controlling the adolescent.

Services filled with soul-inspiring words and songs will pay rich dividends in reverence. Pastors have been counseled to have a "corner in every sermon" for the children. Those who remember are a boon to children and parents.

Church school or Sabbath school leaders will forestall much irreverence by studying the particular problems of their group and choosing an attitude in prayer that enables each child to be free from contact with any other. Better to stand with heads bowed than to kneel if there is crowding, pushing, and shoving, which tempt to mischief. In one church school heads were bowed on desks for the usual morning prayer, and the children knelt only for J.M.V. meetings and the pastor's weekly study.

A group of worried young educators at a teachers' institute were discussing

petty mischief and irreverence during prayer. Some said teachers should pray with eyes open. Others said that would be a bad example. C. A. Russell, visiting the institute, stated that he once had the problem and, after study, found a Bible verse that met the situation: "Watch and pray." The growing child often forgets that God is watching, and finds in the quiet of prayer an opportunity to "show off." In such case the teacher should explain her responsibility to maintain order, and frankly state that watching during prayer is one of her duties. This alone may be the ounce of prevention that is worth a pound of cure.

Irreverence will also be checked if prayers are short, concrete, and clearly enunciated. Give thanks for definite blessings, make definite requests. "Bless all the workers far and near," has little meaning to a child; but he will understand "Thank you for making Bobby well," "Bless Pastor Brown, who will begin meetings tomorrow night," "Help Nancy's mother, who is ill," etc.

Memorized prayers soon become meaningless, and the little child should be helped to make his own original prayers. At first he will repeat his mother's sentences but will soon add his own items. Remind him to thank God for answered prayers. Any progress in self-expression, however cute, must not be a matter of family amusement.

We have often been admonished to make family worship interesting. It can hardly be called "family" worship if parents read only what interests themselves. This is the time for introducing God to the children in a personal way. Simple worship programs that interest all the children will soon come to be the sweetest moments of the day. Jesus will enter our homes and draw our children to Him in the true spirit of reverence.

The House of God.

BY ROY L. HOWARD

THIRTY centuries ago a certain wise man penned the terse words: "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God," then added, "and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools." Eccl. 5:1. Thus Solomon introduced a sermon on existent vanities in divine services. Although written to meet a definite need at that time, the words still ring out today with pertinent instruction for conduct in God's house.

Proper behavior, or reverence, in a place of religious worship is too often confused with an air of solemnity only, or a feeling of awe. True reverence certainly includes both; but far more is involved in giving homage to our Maker. God requires that those who worship Him shall "worship Him in spirit and in truth." Too much emphasis has been placed on the "Thou shalt not" of Scripture, and not enough on "Thou shalt." The same Father who commands His followers *not* to engage in certain practices, enjoins them to perform particular duties and responsibilities.

Even the generally accepted definition of "reverence" partakes of both positive and negative qualities: "honor or respect felt and manifested." It is fine to *feel*

respectful, to *feel* that God is worthy of honor; but it is a real Christian act to *be* respectful, within or without the courts of His house, and to show by *all* our actions that we do honor Him.

Our text includes both negative and positive, beginning with an injunction against unnecessary bustle and stir in the house of divine worship, immediately followed by a positive suggestion that we listen attentively, lest we dishonor God by playing the part of a fool.

On the basis of conduct and behavior, one writer has divided the human race into three classes: honest men, knaves, and fools. Honest men prefer to do the right thing at all times, and do it. Knaves prefer to do the wrong thing at all times, and do it. Fools do whichever gives them more personal satisfaction at the moment. This third class may be further divided into two groups: white fools and black fools. White fools would rather do right, but dare not unless in the majority. Black fools would rather do evil, but dare not unless their companions favor it.

Solomon must have had this in mind when he wrote, "And be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools." Perhaps the assemblies of his day contained individuals who preferred to please self rather than honor God. Surely there are in many of our religious meetings today individuals whom Solomon would call fools. It is not a title of which any person should be proud. If one fails to give proper attention—let us call it reverence—then, in the words of our text, he falls into this despicable third class. Ere long he will fully meet David's definition: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." If we fail to give honor to God in the place where He has said He will meet with His people, we deny His existence.

Too many children and youth growing up in our midst today and attending holy convocations with us, miss the goal for true reverence set forth in Holy Writ. One major reason for this, as well as for many other failures of youth today, is that parents and leaders fail to hold high the standard of church behavior in both word and example. So much is involved in proper church decorum, which betokens reverence, that it can never be taught by precept alone. Those who proclaim the precept must set the example. We can never escape the truth in the line, "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day."

It is high time that all Christian virtues be made to appeal to our children and youth. Religion is not prompted in the modern mind by "don't's"; it must be definitely positive, practical, and aggressive. The element of true reverence must be shown to possess not merely the feeling of honor or respect, but the manifestation in positive action. "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God," listen to the service, and be ready to put into practice what is heard. Thereby we honor and reverence God.

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COURAGE is the right of the Christian, courage to meet all life's ills and tests with undaunted heart and cheerful mien. To be discouraged, to be blue, to be downcast, is to deny Christ.—ARTHUR W. SPALDING.

Philadelphia

(Continued from page 1)

every country, exalted goodness has extorted confessions of respect, even where it has not conciliated affection. It is the exhibition of this genuine godliness which, when presented to the world, shall soften prejudice, disarm opposition, and prepare mankind more fully and generally than they have ever yet been, for the reception of the truth of God.

"This is the goal to which all exercise in godliness must tend—godly habits, a godlike character, and a fitness for the work which God has for us to do. It was for this that Jesus Christ lived and died. It was to redeem us from all iniquity, to bring us to God, to conform us to His own likeness. We must live much in the life of Jesus Christ; we must meditate more often on His character and work; we must stay our souls more constantly on His great sacrifice for us, and let the love of His atonement melt and warm our hearts. We shall then find in such contact with Him a new motive and a

new power, and we shall need both if we are to succeed. For the best of efforts, the most noble self-denial, will be in vain unless we are in touch with Jesus Christ as the sole source of power. A worldly state of mind and spirit limits the range of our faculties and finally destroys them, while it dissolves the harmony which God has established between us and all things around us—in a word, sin robs life of its promises. A godly state of mind secures the promise, makes life joyful, and cements the harmony of souls. Godliness is to a man's spirit, even in this life, what the warm bright air of a summer morning is to the birds and flowers. This is the atmosphere in which they can most freely expand themselves, which moves and tunes their songs of praise. We know what the glow of health is in the body. To enjoy this life truly, there must be a glow in the soul. Godliness sets the vivid blood rushing through its channels, and makes every act and utterance musical with joy."—*The Great Texts of the Bible*, Vol. XVIII, pp. 128, 129.

The Advent Message in Ireland

IRELAND is a mission field, and because of its peculiar problems may remain so to the end of time. Oh that all God's people would remember this mission field!

At one time the population of Ireland was over nine million. Today it is very questionable whether you could find four million, although we are told that Ireland is well able to support seventeen million people. Through the years poverty has driven her children far from home. In every country you will find the jovial Irishman.

Also, Ireland unfortunately has a border within her national border, which separates the north from the south, or Ulster from Eire. The population of Eire is largely Roman Catholic. You can safely say ninety-five per cent is Roman Catholic, and for these we have done practically nothing. Slowly but surely Protestant Ulster is becoming Catholic.

The Roman Catholics are not acquainted with us as a people. They think of us just as Protestants. Very few indeed would think of attending any Protestant meetings. The Protestants, however, do know us, and here we meet prejudice which is hard and bitter. Protestantism in Ireland, particularly in the south, is dying, and the Protestants who remain are loath to leave their churches.

Why is it that the Protestant churches are so bitter? What can we do? We have been preaching God's last message for fifty years, and today we have only about two hundred members. It is true that many have emigrated and many more will continue to emigrate. Ireland, unfortunately, is not in a position to offer its young people very much.

Let us endeavor to answer the above questions. Why is it that the Protestant churches are so bitter? Is it because of the Sabbath truth? Yes, to a degree. What makes them so bitter is that we are utterly unable to preach the popular hell-fire doctrine, and then again we have to meet the false accusation that we do not believe that "it is the blood that atones for the soul."

Now with that background in your mind you will readily understand how difficult it is to secure halls which are owned by church people. When we apply we have to state to which denomination we belong. Consequently we are ruled out. Today it is practically impossible to secure a hall of any kind in many places.

Let us also remember that many of our towns are very small. In England the average evangelist can collect an audience and convert at least a remnant. Here we begin with a remnant and convert two's and three's. This is very discouraging for the faithful few. The Irish mind is

slow to grasp present truth. The Catholics reverence their priests, and the Protestants with the same fervor cling to their ministers. We need to have much patience.

What can we do? During the last seven years we have baptized eighty persons. We have two main churches with their own church buildings; seven companies; and a working staff of three ordained ministers, three licentiates, and one Bible instructor. It is true we have had our wartime problems to contend with. But we do feel that the time has come when we must evangelize the unentered towns, and our plans are being made. We definitely feel, however, that God must come to our assistance. We cannot do it alone. We believe that God has a remnant in this "Land of the Green."—E. E. CRAVEN. Last year a godly Irish minister wrote the following hymn, into the spirit of which we believe every member of the advent family will enter:

"Angel unto whom 'tis given,
Swiftly by divine command
Flying through the midst of heaven
With the gospel in thy hand,
Joyful tidings
To proclaim through every land,

"In the circuit thou art taking,
Overlook not this green isle;
But a pause of mercy making,
Here repose thee for a while.
Close thy pincers;
Gladden Ireland with thy smile.

"Such the message thou art bringing,
At the first inspiring sound,
Multitudes of preachers, springing
From all quarters, shall be found
To repeat it,
Till it spread the country round."



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