

The Church Officers' Gazette

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No. 10

WHEN I was a boy I would frequently stop
At a window or door of a clockmaker's shop;
Indeed it is very amusing to see
How even the clockmaker's clocks disagree.

Now some would be quite in a hurry to chime,
Regardless of discord to tell you the time;
While others as tardy as these were too fast,
Would tell you the hour when some minutes were
past.

Yet each appeared certain that he was correct,
And none showed his neighbor a grain of respect;
While another proclaimed with a clamorous tongue,
"I am right, and you, all put together, are wrong."

Now, midst such a jargon of hammer and bell,
What the time really was no one surely could tell;
And hence it gave rise to a positive doubt,
Whether any were right,—whether all were not out.

But there is a standard to which I apply
With perfect reliance—the sun in the sky;
But if the shade of his majesty fall
On the face of a dial it silences all.

So if true religion we're anxious to know,
And seek counsel only from mortals below,
Their views and opinions may lead us astray,
As much as the clocks in the hour of the day.

To whatever party a man may belong,
He is sure he is right and all others are wrong;
And if we depend on the wisest and best,
Though right in the main they are wrong in the rest.

Then go to the rule,—the Bible alone,—
Where the way of salvation so clearly is shown;
Be this blessed book for age or for youth,
Like the sun in the heavens—the standard of truth.

—Selected.

The Clockmaker's Shop





YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

of Missionary Volunteers



NOTES TO OFFICERS

Society Meeting Objectives

THE weekly Missionary Volunteer Society meeting will either make or break a society. It may draw crowds like a circus and utterly fail in its purpose, or it can be the strong, dynamic influence in the church or school which God intends it should be. If the true objectives are borne in mind constantly by the members of the society executive committee who plan the meetings, it will be a spiritual power in the church.

What are the objectives of the Missionary Volunteer meeting? They may be summed up briefly as follows:

1. To keep the challenge of the Aim, the Motto, and the Pledge before the society. Every Missionary Volunteer, if his life is to be rich and strong, must live in the consciousness of the Missionary Volunteer Pledge. The fulfillment of that Pledge will lead him into service where he is and eventually, God willing, out to the great frontiers of mission service, there to find adventure and happy achievement for Christ.

2. To deepen the devotional life of each Missionary Volunteer. The committee, therefore, in planning the meeting will plan carefully for the hymns, the Scripture reading, and the prayer. Frequently the Scripture reading will be read in concert in order that as many Missionary Volunteers as possible may participate in the devotional part of the society meeting.

3. To integrate the vital Missionary Volunteer features and band activities into the thinking and life of the society. These Missionary Volunteer features include the Morning Watch, the Bible Year, the Character Classics, the Missionary Volunteer Reading Courses, the Youth's Forum, Vocational Honor activities, the various activities of the Prayer and Personal Workers' Band, the Christian Help Band, the Literature and Correspondence Band, Crusaders' Corps, Temperance Band, and other bands.

The things that we emphasize in the society are those that will be emphasized in the thinking of the young people. Frequently a society meeting ought to be planned wherein there is a demonstration of giving a Bible reading, of conducting a cottage meeting, of selling a book, or of giving a paper. These demonstrations add life to a meeting. Perhaps a meeting could be devoted to demonstrating the use of the M.V. Crusader's filmstrips. The society executive committee should remember always that "where there is no active labor for others, love wanes and faith grows dim." Faith, you know, is belief put into action.

4. To keep the young people of the church in touch with the Missionary Volunteer movement around the world. Every society is a part of a great world movement and ought to be made conscious of that fact. Reports from the world field sent out through your conference secretary's bulletin or found in the *Youth's Instructor* will greatly help the young people to keep in touch with Missionary Volunteers around the world if occasional time is given for these.

5. To give an opportunity for each member to gain an experience in public address and teamwork: praying together, studying together, planning together, and working together. It is in united effort that the church finds strength. Thus the society becomes a training ground for world service on the part of Adventist youth. When the executive committee plans definitely to engage as frequently as possible every member of the society in some form of activity, the interest in the society grows. Participation promotes interest.

6. To afford a time when the members of the society may have an opportunity to tell "what they have tried to do for the Saviour and what success has been theirs." In telling their experience in service, they inspire one another with a desire to share in service. We are told:

"If the missionary meeting were made an occasion for bringing in such reports, it would not be dull, tedious, and uninteresting. It would be full of interest, and there would be no lack of attendance."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 211.

7. To provide happy, Christian fellowship for the young people of the church. Therefore, be friendly. The officers of the society ought to make it a point to speak to all members of the society and visitors. Welcome them to the meeting and encourage them in their Christian experience.

The society executive committee which is consistently endeavoring to plan the Missionary Volunteer meeting in harmony with these objectives will be successful and will be the mighty spiritual influence in the church and in the world which God intends it to be. A. W. P.

The Significance of the College and Academy Society

We may have heard it said that the school M.V. Society should be a model organization. Why is this?

It is because of the strategic position of our schools, and because the young people will leave them to assume leadership in God's cause in every corner of the earth. Therefore they need a vision of the true meaning of our young people's work.

So the M.V. Society in your academy

or college occupies a unique place in your conference or union conference. It is not merely another society. It is in reality the keystone society. The conduct and success of other societies to a large extent will depend upon the school society. There should be close counsel between officers and the conference young people's department.

A society with such a vital relationship to the field and the world should keep before its members the true objectives of the Young People's Department, which include the M.V. Pledge, Aim, and Motto. Not only the conduct of the program, but the missionary spirit as exemplified in the service bands, the devotional spirit as fostered in the prayer bands, Morning Watch, and Bible Year, should be such that the young people returning to their home churches will sense the importance of these basic features. Every society meeting should contribute to the fulfillment of the true objectives of the society, which is to save our youth from sin and to guide in service.

The society executive committee, with the faculty sponsor, should have regular and frequent meetings. Keep in step with the General Conference Missionary Volunteer plans and earnestly co-operate with the union and local young people's departments in every possible way. Remember that the program that does not help the youth to reach the place spiritually that God desires for them, or that fails of encouraging them to become active missionaries for God, is falling short of the desired mark.

Hints to Officers.—Do not sacrifice the basic principles for a try at originality. Use originality and uniqueness in emphasizing fundamentals. Always endeavor to meet the needs and interests of your young people. Have you tried:

A five-minute religious news summary?

A current mission items broadcast?

Programs simulating the finesse of a radio broadcast?

A panel discussion of youth problems?

Society-sponsored socials, such as, hobby shows, father-and-mother banquets, nature clubs, hikes, cycling trips?

E. W. DUNBAR.

M.V. Reading Courses for 1946

THE Missionary Volunteer Department takes pleasure in introducing the Reading Courses for the young people for the year 1946. We believe that the books selected by the Reading Course committee for this year are of the highest type and will prove of great interest and benefit to all who read them. Place your orders for these books through your Book and Bible House.

The educational secretary of your so-

ciety should introduce these early and make sure that the complete sets are available for the society library before the beginning of the year. The courses are as follows:

Senior

- Marconi, Pioneer of Radio*, by Douglas Coe
Managing Yourself, by Lora E. Clement
In the Bright Syrian Land, by Frances Jenkins Olcott
Pioneering the Message in California, by H. O. McCumber
The Luzero, by L. B. Halliwell

Junior

- Skipper of the Sentinel*, by May Cole Kuhn
School Days, by Lessie M. Drown
Too Much Salt and Pepper, by Sam Campbell
Haym Salomon, by Howard Fast

Primary

- Children's Hour*, by Arthur Maxwell
Little Killdeer, by Ruth Wheeler
Jokita of the Jungle, by Alice F. Peterson

C. LESTER BOND.

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EDUCATION is gleaned from men and books and laboratories, from field and forest and whispering wind, but it is more: it is learning promptness and thoughtfulness, kindness and helpfulness, and every form of purity; it is the mastering of mind and spirit, appetite and passion, thought and word and glance; it is knowing that nothing but service brings worthy living, that selfishness means sin, that courage lies in being right. Education is the implanting of good habits, the acquirement of efficiency, the development of a twenty-four-carat character.—*American Education Digest*.

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THE object for which you are obtaining an education should not be lost sight of for a moment. It should be to so develop and direct your faculties that you may be more useful, and bless others to the extent of your ability. If by obtaining knowledge you increase your love of yourselves, and your inclination to excuse yourselves from bearing responsibilities, you are better without an education. . . . He that is faithful in that which is least will also be faithful in greater things.—Vol. III, pp. 223, 224.

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"MEN who won't read the Bible will read 'living epistles.'"

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A Prayer for the Day

GRANT me, O Lord, the strength today
 For every task which comes my way.
 Cover my eyes and make me blind
 To petty faults I should not find.
 Open my eyes and let me see
 The friend my neighbor tries to be.
 Teach me, when duty seems severe,
 To see my purpose shining clear.
 Let me at noontime rest content,
 The half day bravely lived and spent.
 And when the night slips down, let me
 Unstained and undishonored be.
 Grant me to live this one day through
 Up to the best that I can do.

—EDGAR A. GUEST.



SENIOR MEETINGS

October 6

The Call to Arms

BY EMANUEL REMSEN

Order of Service

OPENING SONG.

PRAYER.

REPORT.

OFFERTORY.

SCRIPTURE READING: Selections from Joel 2:21-29.

"Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things. . . . Be glad then, ye children of Zion, . . . and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you. . . . And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel. . . . And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, . . . your young men shall see visions; and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit."

SYMPOSIUM: "Now—Every Talent."

"Who Are Called?"

"Where to Go?"

"How Can I Sell Books?"

"What Results?"

"What Shall I Do Now?"

POEM: "O Youth of God, Awake!"

MINUTE EXPERIENCES.

SONG.

BENEDICTION.

Now—Every Talent

"WE have no time now to give our energies and talents to worldly enterprises. . . . Let every talent be employed in the work of God."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, p. 104.

Who Are Called?

OUR heavenly Commander in Chief gives the following calls through His messenger:

"Christ calls for young men who will volunteer to carry the truth to the world."—*Manual for Canvassers*, p. 22.

"Educate, educate, educate young men and women to sell the books which the Lord by His Holy Spirit has stirred His servants to write."—*Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 23.

"In selling these books the students will serve the cause of God, and, while doing this, by the dissemination of precious light, they will learn invaluable lessons in Christian experience."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, p. 88.

"Many of our young ministers and those who are fitting for the ministry would, if truly converted, do much good by working in the canvassing field."—*Id.*, Vol. VI, p. 321.

Where to Go?

"THEY shall hunt them [people who need the gospel light] from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks." Jer. 16:16.

"From city to city, from country to country, they are to carry the publica-

tions containing the promise of the Saviour's soon coming."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, p. 34.

Throughout the entire United States and its possessions, and in all the world, there are at present, in every division and union, thousands of populous cities and towns where house-to-house colporteur ministry is at the present time languishing for lack of colporteur evangelists. In North America alone there are hundreds of counties in which this house-to-house type of evangelism has not been conducted for many years by us as a denomination. New generations have grown up since the last colporteur visited the homes in these sections.

How Can I Sell Books?

"I CAN do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13.

"Who will go forth now with our publications? The Lord imparts a fitness for the work to every man and woman who will co-operate with divine power. All the requisite talent, courage, perseverance, faith, and tact will come as they put the armor on."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI, p. 333.

"Canvassers are to be educated and trained to do the work required in selling the books upon present truth which the people need. There is need of men of deep Christian experience, men of well-balanced minds, strong, well-educated men, to engage in this work."—*Colporteur Evangelist*, pp. 22, 23.

"He [the colporteur] should make thorough preparation. . . . The love of Jesus abiding in his heart will enable him to devise means to gain access to individuals and families."—*Testimonies*, Vol. V, p. 396.

What Results?

THE result will be twofold:

"Those who are fitting for the ministry can engage in no other occupation that will give them so large an experience as will the canvassing work."—*Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 93.

"To feel so great and holy a responsibility is of itself elevating to the character. It calls into action the highest mental qualities, and their continued exercise strengthens and purifies mind and heart. The influence upon one's own life, as well as upon the lives of others, is incalculable."—*Ibid.*, p. 9.

"In selling these books, the youth would be acting as missionaries; for they would be bringing precious light to the notice of the people of the world."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, p. 78.

"God will soon do great things for us, if we lie humble and believing at His feet. More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications."—*Review and Herald*, Nov. 10, 1885, p. 700.

"Let canvassers go forth with the Word of the Lord, remembering that these who obey the commandments, and teach others to obey them, *will be rewarded by seeing souls converted*, and one soul truly converted will bring others to Christ. Thus the work will advance into new territory."—*Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 7.

What Shall I Do Now?

"THE call of the hour is answered by the coming of the man. Thus when the divine voice cries, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' the response will come, 'Here I am; send me.' Isa. 6:8."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI, p. 332.

"Those who defer obedience till every shadow of uncertainty disappears, and there remains no risk of failure or defeat, will never obey at all!"—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 290.

Youth, hark the divine call! Decide and enlist NOW! Write your publishing department secretary now and register your convictions with him. Write him for further information as to how you may become a colporteur evangelist. (Italics ours.—Ed.)

O Youth of God, Awake!

Isa. 52:1, 2

YOUTH of God, what of the night? The sun is sinking, and the night draws on. The harvest work God calleth thee to do hath not been done; it waits thy youthful hand.

What wilt thou, Youth, when all the hosts of God, With anxious eyes, this whitened harvest scan? Wouldst thou refuse, when Heaven bids thee go And join the reapers ere the day is done?

Two thousand years have nearly passed since Christ That costly ransom paid on Calvary. But still He waits, the finish to behold Of what His life and death made possible.

O youth of God, awake! Why sleep the day away? The night is nearly here; the gathering storm May soon prevent the work thou mightest have done. Who will excuse thee then? Bestir thee now!

Take heart! God hath not left thee powerless To meet this task in human strength alone. The powers of heaven are ready waiting for thee, O youth of God, to make thee strong!

Christ, who bought thee, will stand by thy side. All power in heaven and earth is promised thee By Him who gave His all for thy redemption. The harvest field is His, and thou art His.

The golden sheaves await thy sickle keen. Now wilt thou go, and reap, and glean for Him? And then the glad words hear, "My child, well done, well done!"

—EMANUEL REMSEN.

MINUTE EXPERIENCES

After the Door Slammed

"ONE day I canvassed until three o'clock in the afternoon without taking an order. So I knelt under a shade tree

and prayed, after which I felt directed to a house. When I arrived at the door the woman gave me a quick look and slammed the door in my face. She thought I was a so-called ——. I went on my way, and she called the police and gave them my description. A policeman came to make an investigation. He saw me enter a home; so he slipped up on the porch and listened while I was giving my canvass inside.

"There were three mothers in this house, sisters; the two visiting sisters were from Kansas and Missouri. I canvassed them for *The Great Controversy*. They each gave me an order. This lady has four sons in the armed services of the United States, and one of the sisters has three sons and the other, two sons in the war. I told them I would feel privileged to have prayer with them. This they seemed glad to have me do. As I prayed for these three mothers and their sons I felt the presence of God.

"When I left, the policeman met me at the door; his eyes were filled with tears. He shook my hand and said, 'Write me up for that book, too.' This I did. Then he said, 'Now I want you to get in my car and come with me.' He then took me to the woman who had slammed the door in my face. He made the approach and told her he wanted to come in and have her listen to me talk for just a few minutes. First he assured her that I was not a ——"

"I began by pointing to her service flag with four stars on it, and learned that she has two sons and two grandsons in the service. Then I canvassed her for *The Great Controversy* and the Lord gave me the order. After I prayed with her, she told me she was sorry she called the police. I told her that I was glad she called them, for now I had several orders instead of one. I have delivered all these books now, and the woman who called the police is on the verge of keeping the Sabbath. I enjoy my work and pray for souls to be saved."

One Way to Reach the Wealthy

"WHILE visiting in the home of a very refined and wealthy family in this city I had the privilege of placing there a combination of our health and religious volumes. At that time this gentleman was seriously ill with heart trouble and high blood pressure. Through our health message I gained admittance to this family and won their confidence. As the result of reading the spiritual volume he accepted the truth and joined our church. I had the privilege of visiting this brother just before he passed away, and he told me that he was ready to go and thanked me heartily for having had a part in helping him to find the Lord. His last words to me were, 'Now, you sell enough books for you and me both.' His wife is now also planning to join our church—and this is not all the story.

"His sister came from Oklahoma, and I had the pleasure of meeting her and of selling a number of our books to her. She has since written me that she, too, is planning to join the church. She also stated that she had lent one of her books to her sister. Only eternity will reveal

the blessed results of the colporteur's work."

Spirit of Prophecy Prediction Fulfilled

"IN the future, men in the common walks of life will be impressed by the Spirit of the Lord to leave their ordinary employment, and go forth to proclaim the last message of mercy. As rapidly as possible they are to be prepared for labor, that success may crown their efforts."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VII, p. 27.

That we might see how wonderfully the Lord is fulfilling this prediction these days, we asked our colporteurs who were recently gathered in an institute to tell us in which occupations of the world's common tasks they were formerly employed. The following is the interesting list:

- 1 baker
- 2 poultrymen
- 2 public school teachers
- 3 houseworkers
- * 2 insurance salesmen
- 5 carpenters
- 1 blacksmith, garage and filling station operator
- 1 supervisor of clothing factory
- 2 real estate salesmen
- 2 hotel workers
- 1 furniture salesman
- 1 airplane engine repairman
- 1 public accountant and inspector of public water department
- 1 minister of another denomination
- 2 building contractors
- 1 electrician
- 1 Bible instructor
- 1 registered nurse
- 1 longshoreman
- 1 clothing press operator
- 1 chief telephone operator
- 1 painter
- 2 farmers
- 1 liquor dealer
- 1 sales manager
- 1 drugstore operator
- 1 wholesale dealer
- 2 practical nurses
- 2 seamstresses
- 4 construction laborers
- 2 housewives
- 2 theater operators
- 1 decorating contractor
- 1 pressman
- 2 saleswomen
- 1 welder
- 1 machine hand
- 1 truck driver
- 1 manager of broom factory
- 1 cold drink salesman
- 1 government worker
- 2 paper hangers and painters
- 1 Army aviator in World War I
- 1 hardware store operator
- 1 structural steel worker
- 2 waitresses
- 2 automobile mechanics
- 1 plumber
- 4 broom and mop workers
- 1 bootlegger and gambler
- 1 miner
- 1 cotton ginnaer

Real Estate Man and Selling Books

"SOME time ago I delivered our book, *The Great Controversy*, to a real estate and insurance man. He was pleased with the book and told me he believed he could show me how I could double my sales. He declared it should be in every home in town, and wanted the privilege of going with me to demonstrate the book, to show me how I could double my sales and make twice the money I was making. I consented to his going with me one morning. He was deeply in earnest. He took the prospectus and tried to sell the book. He

told the ladies what a fine piece of literature that book was, with excellent binding and beautiful pictures. He worked hard in three homes, but you will not be surprised when I tell you that he didn't sell a book. When he had tried the three times he became discouraged.

"Then I said, 'Brother, let me have the book now, and you go to three more homes with me.' As he had the time to spend he agreed to go. This time I had the prospectus. The home we next entered had a service flag in the window with two stars. This woman had a son and a son-in-law in the service. You see I made the service flag the point of contact. I gave the canvass and secured the order. Then I said, 'Mrs. —, I do appreciate this little visit, and thank you so much for the order. Now, since you have some loved ones in the armed forces, I am sure that as a mother your heart goes out to them for their safety, and only Jesus can save them. I will consider it both a privilege and a pleasure to kneel and have a word of prayer for those boys out there at the battle front.' I prayed in that home and also in the next two homes I canvassed. I made practically the same point of contact.

"The good Lord gave me two more orders while my real estate friend was with me. He was deeply impressed, and said, 'There is no use for me to go to show you how to sell books! You have something I haven't got hold of.' Then he invited me to his home to have prayer with him and his wife in behalf of their boys—one in the Navy and two in the Army Air Forces.

"I hope you will all pray that these experiences will someday bear fruit and result in many precious jewels for the eternal kingdom of God. That is what keeps me going!"

The Dream That Came True

"LAST Monday morning when I rang the bell at a house, the husband came to the door. I asked if I could speak to his wife; on being told that she was sleeping I started to give him a canvass.

"In a short time the telephone rang and he remarked, 'Now she will have to get up.' He asked me to be seated in the swing on the porch, and said that his wife would be out in a few minutes. When she arrived I gave her a brief canvass. She told me she was dreaming about a lady like me who came to the door with a book she wanted very much. She gave me an order with a dollar deposit. I delivered the book on Thursday."

Academy Girls Help Save a Life

Two academy girls decided to earn their scholarships during the summer vacation, and were happy to be sent to a neighboring conference. A letter of appreciation for their work was sent to the General Conference: "My husband and I have been in the truth almost two years, but for twenty-five years have believed this message. I am an invalid, and my husband has poor health also. Recently we met two of the student colporteurs while they were showing their books. They played the organ and sang several

times for us, and we enjoyed it very much. On Sunday the two girls came down and worked from Sunday morning until everything looked new, and it made things much brighter, and made us feel a lot better. Then suddenly I became very ill, and we called the doctor, but Miss C. administered treatment until he could get there. I don't doubt she saved my life by acting so promptly until the doctor arrived. Praise the Lord for all these young people with a bright future working for the Lord."

It Pays to Stick to It

A FOURTEEN-year-old boy canvassing in a rural area in the South, related the following experience:

"It was late one afternoon, and I was very hot and tired. Just before time to stop work, I saw several people working in a field. I went over to them and canvassed the first woman to whom I came. She told me that she was not interested, and suggested that I go to her friend just a little farther on; so I did. It was the same old story, and she told me to see her husband, and I went over and gave him a canvass. After I had given him a canvass, he told me to see one of the other men, because he himself was not much interested. That made three complete canvasses that I had given. Since he did not point out the man, I went to the nearest one. At the conclusion of my canvass he said, 'I don't think I will take one today.' He told me that I should canvass the third man. It began to look like a joke, and I was about worn out.

"However, I went on as if nothing had happened and gave my fifth canvass to this group. This last man seemed very much interested at first, but lost his interest. When I finished, he began to talk about religion, and I just let him talk. He talked himself into an order, and then after I had written up the sale, he called one of the other men whom I had previously canvassed. He took my prospectus and gave a good canvass for me. The result was that he sold this second man a book, and while I wrote up his order, he called the other man and his wife over. It was not long until I had them signed up and had collected deposits on all. Perseverance pays. I have more than enough orders for my scholarship to the academy, and my experiences this summer will long be remembered."

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GIVE me a faithful heart,
Likeness to Thee,
That each departing day
Henceforth may see
Some work of love begun,
Some deed of kindness done,
Some wanderer sought and won,
Something for Thee.

—Author Unknown.

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WHAT matter then where your feet stand, or wherewith your hands are busy, so that it is the spot where God has put you, and the work which He has given you to do.—GEORGE ELIOT.

October 13

The Second Coming and the Ten Commandments

BY WILLIS J. HACKETT

Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "O, for a Closer Walk!"
No. 383 in Church Hymnal.

PRAYER.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERING.

REPORTS.

MUSIC: "The Coming King Is at the Door."
No. 546.

TALK: "The Foundation of God's Government."

TALK: "The Law of Love."

POEM: "Prepare."

STUDY: "Principles Underlying the Ten Commandments."

TALK: "New Testament Commands."

CLOSING EXERCISES.

The Foundation of God's Government

SATAN has cleverly endeavored through the ages to destroy the faith of God's people in His second coming and in the binding claims of His law. The Ten Commandments given on Sinai were God's guidebook to enlighten lost men and women as to the character of the God of the universe. From the beginning man must have understood the kind of life God expected him to live, but as man departed farther and farther from the will of God it became necessary for God to put this code of life in writing. When one stops to think of the statement of Genesis 1:26, "And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness," he can see that man was created to follow the laws of God.

Have you ever stopped to think that man was made in accordance with the laws of God or nature? This fact can most easily be illustrated in the physical sense. For instance, if we disregard the laws of health, sickness results. If we overwork, overeat, or disregard any of the natural laws of the body, catastrophe and physical debility follow. So it is in the spiritual realm of living. God has made man in accordance with spiritual laws, and when we disregard them, we suffer the consequences. All law that God has given is in accordance with His holy character. Then, if man has been created in God's image, he is also made so that life depends on his living in accordance with the laws of God, or as some may term them, the laws of nature. It is the departing from these laws that brings our generation to its awful state. The laws of iniquity have supplanted the laws of righteousness in too many cases.

The psalmist states that "righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His [God's] throne." Ps. 97:2. The Hebrew word for habitation means establishment, or foundation. Then righteousness is the foundation of God's throne. David also states that the commandments of God are righteousness. (Ps. 119:172.) Putting the two statements together we can draw the conclusion that God's commandments are the foundation of His throne.

It is little wonder then, since the commandments of God are the very foundation of His spiritual throne, or govern-

ment, that Satan has directed his strong attacks at the law itself. In order for a nation to overthrow another government, it must send its armies directly to the throne or the seat of government. So Satan has, through the hordes of his followers down through the history of the world, sought to overthrow God's government by attacking its foundation—the law.

In this day, just prior to the greatest event of all history, shall we disregard the very foundation of God's spiritual government in our own lives? He says He will set up His kingdom of grace in our hearts, which is imperative to our realization of His kingdom of glory.

Shall we today throw away the Ten Commandments, and especially the first one, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me," when men deny the existence of a God, and when nearly the whole race of mankind has left God almost entirely out of their planning? Shall we destroy the fifth commandment today—"Honor thy father and thy mother"—when that is the characteristic sin of our age?

Shall we bury the sixth commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," when we are in the greatest killing age the world has ever known? Shall we scrap the seventh commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," when immorality is stalking through our earth as the master of all men. Shall we junk the Ten Commandments, the foundation of God's moral and spiritual government, now, on the eve of His second coming? Every true follower of the Man of Galilee will say, "No, but let us open our hearts to Christ, that He may live out His law in us."

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"GRANITE rocks shall melt and crumble
In some fiery, final day;
Heaven itself shall shake in terror,
And this earth shall pass away.
But the law of Ten Commandments
Carved by God's own finger sure,
Through the vast, unmeasured ages
Yet unchanging shall endure."

—A. L. RHOED.

✽ ✽

Prepared

A CLOUD received Him out of sight:
Their hearts were full of pain.
The angels stood in heavenly light
The future to make plain.

As ye have seen Him go away,
So shall He come again.
'Tis the promise of a glorious day
For those who love His name.

Would you prepare to meet the Lord?
To love is to obey.
Search carefully the precious Word;
There is a certain way.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God,
Take not His name in vain.
All idols bring the chastening rod;
The Bible makes it plain.

Remember, too, the Sabbath day,
By the Creator given.
It is the Lord's appointed way
To lead us close to heaven.

Thy neighbor's, thou shalt covet not;
Love to thy parents show.
Stoop not to the adulterer's lot.
Lie, kill, or steal? Oh, no!

Let Jesus live the loving life
Within your heart alway.
His coming means an end to strife.
Prepare to meet that day!

—MARGARET HACKETT.

The Law of Love

1. Love to God will admit no other god.
2. Love will not debase the object it adores.
3. Love to God will never dishonor His name.
4. Love to God will reverence His day.
5. Love to parents will honor them.
6. Hate, not love, is a murderer.
7. Lust, not love, commits adultery.
8. Love will give but never steal.
9. Love will not slander nor lie.
10. Love's eye is not covetous.

—Bible Readings for the Home Circle.

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Principles Underlying the Ten Commandments

1. Faith and loyalty. Heb. 11:6; Matt. 4:8-10.
2. Worship. Jer. 10:10-12; Ps. 115:3-8; Rev. 14:6, 7.
3. Reverence. Ps. 111:9; 89:7; Heb. 12:28; 2 Tim. 2:19.
4. Holiness, or sanctification, and consecration. 1 Peter 1:15, 16; Heb. 12:14; Ex. 31:13; Eze. 20:12; 1 Cor. 1:30; Prov. 3:6.
5. Obedience, or respect for authority. Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20; 2 Kings 2:23, 24.
6. Love. Lev. 19:17; 1 John 3:15; Matt. 5:21-26, 43-48.
7. Purity. Matt. 5:8; Eph. 5:3, 4; Col. 3:5, 6; 1 Tim. 5:22; 1 Peter 2:11.
8. Honesty. Rom. 12:17; Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:10-12.
9. Truthfulness. Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9; Prov. 6:16-19; 12:19; Rev. 21:27; 22:15.
10. Contentment and unselfishness. Eph. 5:5; Col. 3:5; 1 Tim. 6:6-11; Heb. 13:5.

New Testament Commands

MANY fail to see in the New Testament only a magnification of the Old. Also, many overlook the fact that the second coming of Christ is mentioned and taught in the Old Testament as well as in the New.

While Jesus emphasized His second coming, He also taught that salvation comes through obedience to His Father's commands. In a weak, degenerate race, the keeping of the law was made possible through Christ's representative, the Holy Spirit, living in man "to will and to do of His good pleasure."

As they consider the commandments of the New Testament, many fail to see all of the ten expressed there. Let us consider each of the Ten Commandments as found in the New Testament.

I

"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." 1 Cor. 8:6 states the commandment thus: "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him." Rev. 14:7: "Fear God, and give glory to Him."

In order for us to keep this commandment, we must give God the first place in our lives. We must allow nothing to take precedence over God's will and the preparation needful to meet Him.

II

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image." 1 Cor. 8:4, last part: "We know that an idol is nothing in the

world, and that there is none other God but one."

Many fail to recognize that idols can be made of things other than wood, stone, and brass. Love of self is one of the great sins of our day. Sometimes we make idols of our friends, our loved ones, our amusements. Anything that takes precedence over God and His will in our life may become an idol.

III

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." Matt. 5:34: "But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne." Matt. 23:22: "And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by Him that sitteth thereon."

James 5:12: "But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath."

Who can deny that the third commandment is embodied in each of these three New Testament texts? The same writers who admonish us to prepare for Christ's second coming, entreat us to keep all God's commandments.

IV

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." Mark 2:27: "The Sabbath was made for man." Luke 23:56, last part: "And [they] rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment." Heb. 4:9-11 (Greek translation of New Testament by George Ricker Berry, Ph.D.): "There remains the keeping of a sabbath to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also rested from his works as God did from His. We should be diligent therefore to enter into that rest."

Surely this is nothing short of a command to keep the Sabbath as God did. We can find from both the Old and the New Testament how God kept the Sabbath. (See Gen. 2:2, 3.) Dear youth, let us remain steadfast to the Sabbath of the true God—the Creator of the world.

V

"Honor thy father and thy mother." Eph. 6:1, 2: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise." (See also Matt. 19:19.)

This commandment brings to us a promise of long life here and in the world to come. The first four commandments enjoin honor to God, but the fifth commandment embraces our duty to parents; so our duties to parents come next to our duties to God. What an honor God bestows upon parenthood. A child not taught to obey will not learn to honor. There is not much to be expected from children who do not honor their parents.

VI to X

EACH of these commandments deals with our relation to our fellow man. Killing, adultery, thievery, lying, and coveting are rampant today in this last age of the world's history. In the New Testament we find reference to these commandments and interpretation given in numerous places, some of which follow: Matt.

19:18, 19; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20; Rom. 13:8-10; James 2:10, 11. Besides these references, the sixth commandment is mentioned in Matt. 5:21, 22. The seventh is emphasized in Matt. 5:27, 28, 32; 19:9; Luke 16:18; Eph. 5:3, 5. The eighth commandment is also mentioned in Rom. 2:21; Eph. 4:28. Bearing false witness is mentioned in Eph. 4:25, 29; and coveting in Rom. 7:7; Eph. 5:3. (Read the texts.)

Consider Jesus' attitude toward the law as expressed in Matt. 5:17, 18 and John 15:10. (Read.)

Let us repeat together the scripture which identifies the chosen people of God in the last days. (Repeat Rev. 14:12.)

In this last hour of time, when defiance to law and disregard for the rights of others are so manifest and prevalent, should not the youth of the advent message "arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory [character] of the Lord is risen upon thee"? What more can we do to live according to God's commandments for us and be ready for His soon return for His faithful followers?



October 20

The Advent Century in China

BY FREDERICK LEE

Order of Service

SONG: "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations," No. 80 in *M.V. Songs*.
 SENTENCE PRAYERS.
 SECRETARY'S REPORT.
 REPORTS OF MISSIONARY WORK.
 OFFERTORY.
 ANNOUNCEMENTS.
 MUSIC.
 SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49:7-13.
 TALK: "And These From the Land of Siniim."
 CLOSING SONG: "From Greenland's Icy Mountains," No. 81.
 BENEDICTION.

"And These From the Land of Siniim"

SEVEN hundred years before Christ the prophet Isaiah, looking down through the ages to the ingathering of souls from all lands in the last days, saw China, even then a great nation, as one of the places whence the redeemed would come. As early as the seventh century Christianity was preached in China by Nestorian missionaries. It later was completely blotted out by the rise of Mohammedanism. The next representatives of the Christian church who made contact with China were Roman Catholic priests. They arrived in the early part of the seventeenth century. The first Protestant missionary to China was Robert Morrison. He located in Canton in the year 1807.

The first representative of the advent message in China was Abram La Rue, whose heart was consumed with a desire to see the truth planted in that ancient kingdom. Since he was over sixty years of age, the General Conference did not see light in sending him out, although for years he urged the opening of the work in China. But in 1888 he could wait no longer and set out for the Far East at his own expense. He labored for fourteen years in Hong Kong and other ports

of China and the Far East, selling our literature before our first regularly appointed missionaries joined him in service. At one time the dear old brother wrote to the REVIEW, "I am now seventy-one years old, and cannot pack around heavy books the way I used to. The ship work here is hard and expensive."

The first regular appointees of the General Conference, J. N. Anderson and his wife and Miss Ida Thompson, sailed from San Francisco for China on January 4, 1902. What rejoicing there must have been in the heart of old Brother La Rue when this party of missionaries arrived in Hong Kong. It was only a little over a year after the arrival of these missionaries that the faithful light bearer passed to his rest.

But the day had come for the message to spread out in all directions through the land. China was now opened to missionary work as she had never been before. Our people were now ready to enter into opportunities for preaching the truth in this land, and year after year saw many new recruits arriving on the field. The first station opened in China proper was at Canton in December, 1902, by E. H. Wilbur and his wife.

The next station was opened far to the north in the province of Honan, where a man who had been working for a Bible Society joined the ranks of our missionaries and urged the sending forth of others for this most promising field. It was not long before a party of four doctors and two nurses went out to China in answer to the earnest pleas of this man and settled in Honan, opening several stations. This province has since been a most fruitful field and a base from which workers have been sent out to many parts of this great country.

The province of Fukien, in South China, was opened in 1905 as a result of the earnest work of a young man by the name of Timothy Tay, who had been brought into the truth in Sumatra and who desired to return to his home in Amoy for a time. While he was there a Chinese Christian teacher who first tried to straighten him out was himself persuaded to accept the message. Missionaries were soon sent to open a mission station in Amoy.

Hunan, in Central China, once the most anti-Christian of all the China provinces, was entered by our missionaries in 1906.

Missionaries were next stationed in Shanghai, in the province of Kiangsu.

Up until this time China was not a part of any great mission field organization. Little had been done to plan for the work or definitely organize it. So far the expansion had come about through interests that had arisen in certain provinces. We had now entered five of the eighteen provinces of China. Our church membership stood at less than 100.

The year 1909 marked off a new era for this field. A new organization was then created and new plans set on foot. At a meeting held in Shanghai early in 1909, China was organized into the China Union Mission as a part of the new Asiatic Division of which I. H. Evans was vice-president. The whole country was divided into six missions.

From this meeting a special appeal was sent to the General Conference for forty new missionary families to man the provinces of China. The brethren believed that the time had come for large planning and were bold to ask for great increases in both means and men. It was not long before new recruits were sailing for China and entering new provinces.

We can only take time to record the successive openings of the provinces which were still unentered at that time. These were as follows: Anhwei, 1910; Hupeh, 1910; Szechwan, 1914; Manchuria, 1914; Shantung, 1915; Kiangsi, 1916; Shensi, 1917; Kwangsi, 1917; Chekiang, 1919; Chihli (now Hopei), 1918; Shansi, 1928; Kweichow, 1928; Yunnan, 1928; and Kansu, 1932. Thus from the headquarters at Shanghai the work spread to the north, south, and west with every province entered.

All the various peoples that make up the bulk of the population of China then had access to the message. These peoples are made up of the Mandarin-speaking Chinese of North, Central, and West China, who include at least two thirds of the population; the people of the coast dialects, such as the Shanghai, Wenchow, Foochow, Amoy, Swatow, and Canton dialects; the Mongolian race in the north; the Tibetan people of the far west; and at least seven or eight branches of the tribespeople of the western mountain regions.

The literature work has been the greatest single means for the spread of the truth. Our Chinese colporteurs have gone ahead of the missionaries into new regions, often at terrible risks and under difficult circumstances, to take subscriptions for our Chinese magazine, *Signs of the Times*, and sell our books. Truly in this country our literature has been scattered like the leaves of autumn. These men have entered the homes of the rich, and government offices, as well as the shops of the middle class.

Our publishing work began in the year 1905 in a little walled town of Central China with only a small hand press for equipment. Later, in 1908, it was removed to Shanghai, where a fine publishing institution was later erected.

Our medical work, with its eleven institutions which were in operation before the war, became well known throughout the country and brought our truth into favor with many people who could not otherwise have been reached. Our educational work, with its emphasis upon study and labor, attracted much attention on the part of government officials. This work was a strong asset in developing the large staff of Chinese workers who are in the leadership of much of our church activity in China today.

Every phase of our work has been developed through the years. There was steady growth in every branch—Sabbath school, home missionary, Ingathering, Missionary Volunteer. Nothing was neglected. Our church in China was established on strong foundations. A church journal similar to the *Review and Herald* was published. Many of the writings of Mrs. E. G. White have been translated and published; material for building up the ministry and manuals for our church

school teachers and youth leaders have been prepared. Millions in Chinese currency have been given through Ingathering and special efforts by those outside the church for the building up of our medical and educational work.

Some years ago many of our foreign missionary leaders began to feel that more and more the responsibilities of the direction of the work should be laid upon our Chinese workers. Many were ordained to the gospel ministry, some were put in as field missionary secretaries, home missionary secretaries of local and union missions, and some were elected as directors of local missions. All these positions had formerly been occupied by foreign missionaries.

We now see the wisdom of this plan. When missionaries were forced to leave parts of China on account of the war, the work was handed over to Chinese leadership in full. We now hear that our work in occupied China is being carried on pretty much as usual, and progress is being made in spite of the war.

At the close of 1940 we had 1,597 workers in China, both foreign and Chinese. We had 294 organized churches with a membership of 19,481, and our work was being carried on in every part of this vast country. Today the work is holding steady. Word comes in that most of our schools and medical institutions in occupied China are still in operation. Our workers are carrying on active evangelistic work. They are also raising large sums of money in Ingathering for the operation of the work.

In Free China we still have a goodly staff of missionaries scattered in seven or eight provinces. Our new headquarters unit at Chungking is a very active place, with its hospital in the city and its training school and printing establishment near by. The brethren, although working under great handicaps, have been able to surmount the many difficulties. The message is still being given, and literature is being circulated. We thank God for what our brethren and sisters in China have been able to do during these trying times.

We cannot figure in dollars and cents the value of what has been accomplished in these few short years. One person saved in the kingdom is worth all that has been spent. We must thus estimate the value of a soul, for we are told that Christ would have come to earth and died in order to save one soul. But I can think of many precious believers in China who have been faithful to the truth, even unto death. Some have gone out to carry the message to dangerous regions and have never returned. Others have faced persecution and given up every earthly possession for the truth's sake.

I think of one Chinese young man who is now bearing one of the heaviest burdens in connection with the leadership of the work in occupied China. He came of a wealthy and cultured family. He was well educated in the Chinese and English languages. His father sent him to England for advanced education, hoping that he would come back and occupy an important position in the commercial or political world in China. But when he

came back he found the truth, and this changed the whole course of his life. He gave up his worldly companions and his worldly plans. He cast his interest with the people of God. Many of his friends ridiculed him. But he held true and has become a great leader in our work.

Young men who were associated with me when I was laboring in Central China held true to their Christian beliefs during a great anti-Christian uprising. Many of our chapels were destroyed. Christians were forbidden to meet together in worship. Yet these faithful men went about visiting the believers to encourage them in the faith until they were seized and cast into prison. Some of them faced the firing squad and were faithful even unto death.

One young man continued to go from home to home giving Bible readings even after he was warned not to spread his Jesus doctrine. But he believed that he should do as Christ had commanded him to do. He was finally seized and thrown into a filthy dungeon cell. Later he was condemned to be executed. But just as he was to be taken out one morning to be shot, word suddenly arrived from the governor of the province that he should be pardoned and set free. He was completely mystified at the turn of events. He did not know how the governor had heard of his plight, and when the local official questioned him as to who his influential friends in the capital were, he said, "My influential friend is Jesus Christ. If He wishes me to die, I will gladly die. If He wishes me to live, no man can take my life."

Yes, and many of our young foreign missionaries have faced danger, severe trial, and much loneliness in order to carry the truth to the distant corners of this great field. Some of these have been called to lay down their lives as they have gone forth to preach the message. Others have lived through many wearisome days and uncertain nights out on the forefront of the battle in order to plant the banner of the advent message at some advanced post.

With such a spirit among our youth, of both Chinese and foreign birth, we can expect great things. We can be sure that there will always be faithful Missionary Volunteers at home and abroad to carry on the work of God until our task is done.

October 27

Something for Nothing

BY C. LESTER BOND

Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "Onward, Christian Soldiers," No. 67 in *M.V. Songs*.
 SCRIPTURE READING: Proverbs 16:8; Romans 12:17; 2 Corinthians 8:21; Philippians 4:8.
 SENTENCE PRAYERS: By Members.
 MISSIONARY REPORTS.
 ANNOUNCEMENTS.
 OFFERING.
 SPECIAL MUSIC.
 TALK: "Chance Games."
 RECITATION: "Something for Nothing," p. 12.
 TALK: "The Gambling Menace."
 CLOSING SONG: "Steady and True," No. 64.
 BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

One of the greatest evils in the land today is *gambling*, and there is danger that our own fine Christian youth may be drawn into it almost unconsciously by forming a liking for chance games, of which there are many kinds. It is hoped, therefore, that the discussion today will help to fortify the young people against these dangers and thus enable them to stand for the right under all circumstances. Additional material will be found under this same caption in the Junior section.

The booklet *Fool's Gold, The Truth About Gambling*, by Deets Pickett, published by Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York City and Nashville, Tennessee, sells for 35 cents a copy. Its 62 pages are packed with intensely interesting and helpful material on gambling. It would be well for your speakers to read this in preparation for the society meeting today.

Fact-Finding Report Plan.—You may help your society members and your community by gathering some facts relative to the prevalence of gambling in your community and the effects on the lives of the people involved. In the society meeting the leader announces that several committees have been gathering facts about gambling. They will give their reports, and at the close there will be opportunity for questions and discussion. The material today may all be presented in this form, or this may be the final part on the program.

Here are some suggestions for your fact-finding committees to get their information:

1. Check the drugstores, cigar stores, restaurants, gas stations, and other public places where men and boys especially congregate to see how many have gambling devices—punchboards, slot machines, pin-ball machines.

2. Talk with an officer of the law—a judge or a police officer—and learn what are the laws controlling gambling in your State or town. How well are they enforced? What forms of gambling prevail in your town? What conditions encourage gambling? What crimes have been caused because of gambling? What other agencies are working against gambling?

3. Talk informally and casually with a variety of persons and try to discover their attitude toward gambling. Do they take chances on raffles? Do they play cards for money? Do they make friendly bets on baseball or football games? Keep a count of the number of persons who think gambling is harmless and of the number who disapprove.

Summarize the findings and discuss: What can our young people's society do toward creating a distaste for gambling and games of chance?
 M. W. M.

Chance Games

It is said that Emperor Valentinian of Rome was so habitually devoted to the sports of the amphitheater that at length his prime minister was moved to remonstrate with him, saying: "You are neglecting the affairs of state. The empire suffers for your joys." Thereupon the emperor registered a solemn vow that he would never again cross the threshold of the arena; and history affirms that he never did. In like manner Christians ought to renounce any sort of amusement and recreation that does not re-create their spent energies for better service in the supreme business of the Christian life.

Amusements that fritter away time weaken character and make it easier for us to be captured and destroyed by evil habits. Many a man has lost the battle of life because of such indulgence. One may be so possessed by the pleasure-seeking spirit that when he ought to be serious and dutiful, he is engaging in the playing of some game or in some other way wasting his time.

Perhaps no popular amusement is so insidious in its influence as card playing.

Speaking of his own experience in the matter, Rufus B. Tobey said:

"Twenty years as a card player and thirty years of observation give me these answers: (1) It wastes precious time and leads one from recreation to dissipation. (2) It develops that gambling instinct, as a result of which society indulges freely in games at which a prize is offered, and easily tolerates poker playing for stakes. (3) As a Westerner, in a city where gambling was licensed, once said, 'Cards are the gambler's implements, and card playing in a measure identifies one with that class.' (4) It not only dwarfs one's spirituality, but not infrequently destroys his influence. (5) What did the passenger on the wrecked steamer *City of Columbus* mean, as, awaiting death, he threw into the sea a pack of cards, saying, 'I do not want to leave the world with these in my pocket'? Conscience and common sense got in a good deal of work before I surrendered. When I ceased kicking against the pricks, I had to quit card playing."

Card playing is not a pastime in which Christians may safely engage. What benefit is derived from playing cards? Does one find anything in it that will build him up mentally, physically, or spiritually? No; on the contrary, he finds much that will destroy growth in all three realms of his life. The conversation at the card game is generally about the playing of the game, the bidding, and the plays that are to be made. There is nothing about that which builds one up mentally. Instead it makes a sieve of the mind. The hours that are devoted to playing break down physical strength. And when our mentality and our physical being are injured, our spirituality is bound to decline.

Card playing is not the only game that exerts such an influence upon the life. Any game is harmful that teaches one to rely on chance, for it is an element over which he has no control. This is one reason that playing cards and games played with the dice and spinning an arrow are dangerous. This is also true of any game in the playing of which one's moves are dependent upon the drawing of a card. All such games lead persons to depend upon luck rather than upon real achievement for his success.

"Three things upon which every man depends for his success in life are basal to all action: the intellect, the conscience, and the will—or the attributes of the rational, the moral, and the volitional man. These three, all and always, operate conjunctively. In the normal man they never act separately. They are more closely adjusted than ball-and-socket joints. They are the trinity that control and direct the conduct of life. They pass like Supreme Court judges upon all questions. They must always, like judges, have the freest range for action and should never be repressed. Whenever one is destroyed, the real selfhood is demoralized. For instance, whenever intellect is subtracted there is idiocy or insanity; whenever conscience is subtracted there is moral degeneracy and villainy; and whenever will is subtracted the life is rudderless and lacks direction. In the degree that any one of these is

hobbled or impaired in its action, to that degree the balance, or poise, of life is disturbed and becomes abnormal.

"Every act of our lives must be submitted to these three psychological forces. Art, science, commerce, religion, are regions over which these faculties can and should preside. But there is one realm over which they cannot preside, where they become instantly ineffective and crippled, and that is the realm of chance. Here they lose their prestige and power. This it is that makes cards and dice so very dangerous to the players.

"Games should never be classified together and then denounced together. All games are not harmful. Many are wholesome, helpful, and recreative. Certain ones . . . are pre-eminent in giving needed physical exercise and should be encouraged. Others are mentally stimulating and afford splendid training to the intellectual faculties. . . . Still others train the eye, and muscle, and the nerve. . . .

"To denounce any of these in the same breath with cards is to show a lack of careful thought, and to do a great injustice to those who enjoy real recreative games."—HENRY W. STOUGH, *Across the Dead Line of Amusements*, pp. 65, 69, 70.

"That whist and euchre and other games with cards are games of chance, cannot properly be denied. That a measure of skill can be shown in them is true, and that there are 'good players' and 'poor players' is unmistakable. Yet, in the long run, the element of chance is the chief factor in these games, and this it is that gives zest in their playing. The question as to the element of chance in such games has been again and again tested by experiment, and practically always with the same result."—H. CLAY TRUMBULL, *Border Lines in the Field of Doubtful Practices*, p. 88.

Our lives are strengthened by the cultivation of self-reliance and by reliance upon God, and since all chance games break down self-reliance and reliance upon our Maker they will be shunned by the Christian.

The Gambling Menace

MANY have resorted to the promotion and playing of gambling games in the interest of the raising of money for the church and charitable institutions, but the place where gambling is engaged in or the purpose for which it is done does not make right that which is itself wrong. In commenting upon this, Mayor La Guardia of New York City recently said: "If a game is unlawful, the ultimate disposal of the funds or the auspices under which the game is operated or the place where the game is operated does not make an unlawful game lawful."

The fact that lotteries, bingo, raffles, and other types of gambling may be approved by religious organizations will not deceive the sincere Christian, for the money that is won in any gambling game or by the use of any gambling device is money to which one is not rightfully entitled. In other words, it is a method of stealing, and the Christian will not steal.

If a person is honest and all other persons with whom he is playing a gambling

game are honest, one would naturally conclude that over a period of time in such indulgences, one's financial status would at least be as good as it was at the very outset of his playing. But everyone who has ever participated in gambling knows that this is not the case.

The implication, therefore, is that gambling in itself leads the participant to cultivate dishonest traits. It is easy when one becomes adept at gambling games to learn little shuffling or marking tricks which will bring the balance in his favor, but other participants may have acquired other tricks equally as effective, so that the players come to pit their abilities in dishonesty against one another. If one is discovered in his dishonest pursuits, it naturally leads to suspicions, bickerings, quarrels, and oftentimes fights, and money that is gained through such dishonest procedure is stolen. Gambling, therefore, does not breed a wholesome atmosphere. Mechanical gambling devices, such as the pinball machine, nickel-in-the-slot machine, roulette wheel, are set so that the odds are about twenty to one that the player will lose, and if one does chance to win, in the majority of cases he has become so intoxicated with the desire to get something for nothing that before he realizes it he has played back into the machine all that he has taken out and much more.

According to Dr. George Gallup, forty-five per cent of Americans gambled, war or no war, in 1944. Fifteen per cent of those who indicated in the Gallup polls that they had gambled or made wagers during 1944, declared that they had made money. Eighty-five per cent indicated that they had lost.

The step from the playing of the pinball machine, bingo, or other lesser methods of gambling to the big-time commercial gambling is almost indistinguishable. Possibly the greatest gambling menace to the country is that carried on in connection with horse racing. Bookies operate in hotels, cigarette stores, elevators in large business buildings, and dozens of other places, and they will sell a chance for only a dime. They carry on a gigantic business, reaching a total of some four million dollars daily in our country during the racing season. Experts have figured that the odds in such gambling are six hundred to one that the player will lose his dime.

The first step toward gambling may be the expenditure of just a penny or a nickel for the privilege of making a punch in a punchboard. The hope of obtaining more than value expended grows upon a person, and those who are promoting such practice throughout the country often resort to unscrupulous procedure. In one Midwestern city, punchboards were found in little grocery stores across the street from a large grade school. Children, even from the kindergarten, were being encouraged to punch for a penny in the hope of getting a five-cent candy bar. The fact that one occasionally won in his play encouraged the others to keep on.

Games of chance, however harmless they may appear, are habit forming. They become patterns of action which develop with the years, and therefore they are a

menace to character building, economic security, and continued happiness. Loyal Missionary Volunteers, let us cultivate right practices in our own lives and by our example encourage the youth about us to do the same.

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WHILE much of the fruit of their [soul-winners'] labor is not apparent in this life, God's workers have His sure promise of ultimate success. As the world's Redeemer, Christ was constantly confronted with apparent failure. He seemed to do little of the work which He longed to do in uplifting and saving. Satanic agencies were constantly working to obstruct His way. But He would not be discouraged. Ever before Him He saw the result of His mission. He knew that truth would finally triumph in the contest with evil. . . . The life of Christ's disciples is to be like His, a series of uninterrupted victories, not seen to be such here, but recognized as such in the great hereafter.—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI, p. 307.

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Our Gospel Is—

JOYFUL in tone,
Earnest in spirit,
Satisfying to the soul.
Uplifting to all,
Sane in its appeal.
—Selected.

✻ ✻

"To reach the port of heaven, we must sometimes sail with the wind and sometimes against it; but we must sail, and not drift nor lie at anchor."

✻ ✻

THE great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening.—*The Great Controversy*, p. 611.

✻ ✻

"THE second coming is the perpetual light on the path which makes the present bearable."



JUNIOR MEETINGS

October 6

The Call to Arms

BY EMANUEL REMSEN

(Please turn to pages 3 to 5
for this topic)

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October 13

The Second Coming and the Ten Commandments

BY WILLIS J. HACKETT

Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "Stand Up for Jesus," No. 61, *M.V. Songs*.
PRAYER: By two Juniors.
ANNOUNCEMENTS.
REPORTS.
OFFERING.
TALK: "Happiness."
BIBLE DRILL: "God's Commandments." (See Note to Superintendents.)
POEM: "Make Me, Lord."
TALK: "The Ten Great Words Unknown."
EXERCISE: "The Promise Chain."
SONG: "Jesus Is Coming Again," No. 100.
PRAYER.

Note to Superintendents

Bible Drill: "God's Commandments."—Include as many Juniors as time will allow to participate. Ask them to read Bible texts on the commandments, precepts, or law, as found through the concordance in the back of the Bible, or you specify the texts to be used, and assign them to Juniors to find and read.

Happiness

EVERY boy and girl, every man and woman, desires to be happy. We like to be with happy, cheerful people. But have you ever stopped to analyze what brings real happiness? Someone might say, "Oh, if I were wise I could be happy. If I had all the knowledge and wisdom of the world, I would be happy."

I wonder whether this is true. Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived, but was it his wisdom *only* that gave him happiness? No.

Someone else may say, "If you give me wealth, riches, or property I shall be happy." Again we shall learn from the experience of Solomon. Solomon became the most wealthy man of his time. He lived in a sumptuous palace.

"Solomon, did riches bring you happiness?" we may ask, and he answers, "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death." Prov. 11:4. "He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch." Prov. 11:28. "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold." Prov. 22:1.

"Well, Solomon, what, then, does bring happiness? If riches, wisdom, honor, eating, and drinking do not bring happiness, where can we go to find it?" Solomon answers in the words of Proverbs 29:18,

"He that keepeth the law, happy is he."

Keeping the law brings happiness, because there is no greater satisfaction in life than knowing that one is right with God. Solomon concludes his letter by saying, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

God has given the boys and girls of the advent message the great truth concerning His law that they may be happy, and that they may help to bring happiness to others. Soon the righteous Judge will come and say to each Junior who has been faithful, "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Juniors, let us ask God to help us to be ready!

Make Me, Lord

O THAT the Lord would guide my ways
To keep His statutes still!
O that my God would grant me grace
To know and do His will!

O send Thy spirit down to write
Thy law upon my heart,
Nor let my tongue indulge deceit,
Nor act the liar's part.

From vanity turn off my eyes,
Let no corrupt design
Nor covetous desires arise
Within this soul of mine.

Order my footsteps by Thy Word,
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.

Make me to walk in Thy commands,
'Tis a delightful road;
Nor let my head, nor heart, nor hands
Offend against my God.

—ISAAC WATTS.

The Ten Great Words Unknown

IN a certain school in a Midwestern city the pupils of the eighth grade were asked to write as many of the Ten Commandments as they could. Their answers showed that many of the boys and girls had no idea of God's will for them as expressed in the ten great precepts.

Is it any wonder that constant disregard of God's holy precepts is seen on every hand? What the world needs today is a return to the keeping of the commandments.

Lincoln said, "Nothing but Infinite Wisdom could have devised and given to men this excellent and perfect code of laws, the Ten Commandments." Senator Reed: "Inside the Ten Commandments we have all there is of morals and civil government." W. J. Bryan: "The Ten Commandments as given by God from Sinai for the instruction of Israel are now the foundation of law for all civilized countries."

In this last age of the world's history, the angel with the last message calls the attention of the world to the forgotten commandments of God. God is also call-

ing the youth and juniors at this time to help prepare the world for the second coming of Christ, by sounding the solemn warning. "Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."

A city nobleman, as he was out for a stroll in the woods, met an old farmer hobbling along behind his gray horse. As they stopped to pass the time with each other they fell into conversation. The farmer learned that the nobleman had a very serious disease. Said the farmer, "Sir, haven't you heard of that great physician who lives only a few miles from here? He can cure all your diseases!" "What physician?" queried the nobleman.

"Why," said the farmer, "I can't understand why you have not heard of him before. He is a wonderful physician. He has cured hundreds of people from this very disease."

As they talked on and on, the nobleman became convinced that this must be a matchless doctor indeed. And finally he said to the farmer, "But how do you know he is such a great physician? Have you had a personal experience with him?"

"Well," answered the farmer, "you see, I have the same disease you have, and—"

"And, has he healed you?" asked the nobleman anxiously.

"Well, well, er—ah—no, he hasn't!"

Juniors, we are to have a part in telling the world of the Saviour who heals sinners and saves them from the condemnation of the law. But the world will ask us, "Has He saved you from transgression of the law? Have you had a personal experience with Him?" We must be able to answer in the affirmative.

Now let each of us bow our heads and ask King Jesus to set up His kingdom of grace in our hearts, and prepare us for His soon coming in the clouds of heaven to take us home to His kingdom of glory!

The Promise Chain

(HANG up the Ten Commandment chart. Let a Junior, pointing to the chart, recite the following:)

Ten Promises

Ten promises the law contains,
Ten precious lessons it explains;
Ten blessings to the child whose heart
Loves God and claims the better part.

Just follow closely each command,
As we young friends join hand in hand;
To link this chain of virtues rare,
Obedience forms with heavenly care.

(As he points to the first commandment, let a Junior wearing a paper crown with the word *Freedom* upon it, reverently recite this commandment. The next Junior, wearing a crown labeled *Mercy*, points to the second commandment, recites it, and then joins hands with the first Junior. The third Junior's crown is inscribed *Innocence*; the crown of the fourth, *Pleasure*; the fifth, *Peace*; the sixth, *Life*; the seventh, *Purity*; the eighth, *Honesty*; the ninth, *Truth*; the tenth, *Contentment*. After the tenth has spoken, have another Junior wearing a paper sash inscribed *Love* recite the following:)

The Greatest Commandment

MASTER, which law of all the ten
Is greatest in Thy eyes, and when
Will I fulfill its tenfold aims?
The Giver of the law explains:

With all thy heart, love God and man,
With soul and mind, this is My plan;
Love is the first and last command,
For which all law and prophets stand!

—LOUISE C. KLEUSER.

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October 20

The Advent Century in China

BY FREDERICK LEE

(Please turn to pages 7, 8
for this topic)

❖ ❖

October 27

Something for Nothing

BY C. LESTER BOND

Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "Steady and True," No. 64
in *M.V. Songs*.
SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 4:8.
PRAYER: By two Juniors.
MISSIONARY REPORTS.
SECRETARY'S REPORT.
TALK: "A Noted Thief."
RECITATION: "Something for Nothing."
SONG: "Yield Not to Temptation," No. 46.
READING: "Playing Fair."
CLOSING SONG: "I Would Be True," No. 58.

Note to Superintendents

There is great need today that the Juniors be instructed regarding the danger there is in playing chance games and gambling. Unless there is an older Junior in your society who can master the material sufficiently well to give the talk "A Noted Thief," it is suggested that this part be given by you. It should be simplified so that even the children can grasp the lessons presented.

A Noted Thief

SOMETIMES boys and girls see or hear of someone winning money, possibly in large amounts, by using slot machines, pinball machines, or some other gambling device, and they are tempted to try their luck in the same way.

But you ask, "What is gambling?" It is any form of trying to win something you have not earned, something which may come to you by a lucky chance. Generally a small amount of money or some article of small value is staked with the hope that something of a much greater value will be won in return. Pinball games are gambling. Playing punchboards is another form of gambling. Other forms of gambling are the playing of Bingo, cards, or any other game for money. "Taking a chance" on some article in a raffle is gambling. And betting for money on baseball, football, or other sports is gambling.

Why are these things wrong? Simply because through them a person endeavors to obtain something for nothing. In other words, he hopes to receive something for which he has not paid, and conse-

quently to which he is not entitled. Winning money through gambling is a form of stealing.

Gambling bears the same relation to robbery that dueling does to murder. One man will meet another in a dark alley and take his life by shooting him with a pistol, and we call that murder; two men will meet each other in an alley and agree to shoot at each other until one or both fall dead, and that is called dueling. But the only difference is that in the first case there is one murderer and in the second case there are two. One man will meet another in a dark alley and take his money at the point of a pistol, and we call that robbery; two men will meet each other around a table and agree to take each other's money with dice or cards, and that is called gambling. But the only difference is that in the first case there is one robber and in the second case there are two.

No one ever really wins by gambling. For the one who seems to win now will keep on gambling and by tomorrow or the next day probably will have lost all that he won today.

One winter day one of our ministers, while driving his car along the highway, overtook a young man and invited him to ride. Although it was a very cold day, the young man had on no coat. As they drove along, the young man said:

"When I started from home I had more than enough money in my pocket to purchase a ticket to the city; but when I was just a few blocks from our home I met a group of my pals, and they said, 'Come on, Fred, let's have one more game of poker before you go.' I had a little time to spare before the train left, so I said, 'All right.' I had a new overcoat and a good coat and vest to match these trousers. Before we got through playing I had lost all my money—every bit of it—and my overcoat, coat, and vest as well. I was so ashamed that I would not go home and let my mother know about it for anything in the world; so I am hitch-hiking four hundred miles to my work in the city."

When a person gets the gambling habit, it is not uncommon for him to throw away the family's life earnings in a single day. Many a man throws away at cards or by playing some other gambling device, the money which should go to feed and house his wife and children. Many have become so discouraged because of these losses that they have committed suicide. Anyone who takes money from a man's dependents is most certainly doing them an injustice. The fact that the person who is supposed to provide a home and living for them is too weak in character to refrain from gambling does not make it right for his associates to take his money. They rob him and his family when they do.

Gambling machines are only mechanical devices for stealing. Very few people can ever win from the slot machines, the punchboards, the pinball games, and other such devices. For these machines are built in such a way that only about one person out of every twenty who play has any chance of winning. In other words, the men who own the machines are cheats. They want people to spend their

money playing the machines, without giving them even a fair chance to win.

Gambling leads a person to be lazy. The great desire that he has to get something for nothing is like poison to the character and leads a person to depend on luck rather than on hard work and achievement, which is the Christian way of doing things. Every true Junior Missionary Volunteer will shun gambling in all its forms.

Something for Nothing

"SOMETHING for nothing" is the devil's bait To catch man and boy, and woman and girl,

Fill them with envy, with greed, and with hate,

Then cast them down and taunts at them hurl.

"Something for nothing" is the motto of Cheat;

He lives it by day, and also by night; It leads him to gamble for money or meat, Impels him to anger and drives him to fight.

"Something for nothing" will ruin your soul, So shun it in play, and all that you do; Build on achievement in life as a whole, 'Twill real pleasure give and help you be true.

—C. LESTER BOND in *Ideals for Juniors*, p. 38.

Playing Fair

THERE are two ways to play the game of life—the Christian way and Satan's way. Everyone has to play the game in one or the other of these two ways. It is left to us to decide. If we refuse to play the Christian way, we place ourselves on Satan's side.

After we have obeyed the rules for getting into the Christian game of life, there are a few things which we must do in order to stay there. We must keep our hearts with all diligence. The wise man puts it this way: "Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil." Here is outlined for us the only safe rule—the rule of forming the right kind of habits. Habits are interesting things and they are formed by repetition.

Once a writer chanced to meet an Indian out in the woods. The Indian was kneeling down in the deep snow and with branches and twigs from the pines was making a little hedge in the form of a square, and in the entrance of this square a small arch was set up, leaving but a small opening into the center. The man who had been eagerly watching the work of the Indian was rather puzzled at this and asked, "What is it you are making?"

"I am making a trap for rabbits," he replied.

"But where is the trap?" the man asked.

"Oh, I don't put the trap in for two or three weeks yet," the Indian said.

"Then what is the use of this hedge and archway that you are making?" the man demanded.

"Ha, ha! I first make the rabbits familiar with the environment," he said, laughing. "They will come tonight and be very suspicious and wary of all that I

have installed here. Tomorrow night they will come a little closer, and the next night closer still, until they find there is no danger. Then they will begin to nibble on these twigs in the arch in the center, and then when they start eating the twigs I shall put in my trap and arrange it cleverly in the middle of this little arch. I shall catch a rabbit every night."

"What a lesson," said the man. "I seem to see a great enemy of souls laying a trap of sins to catch the unwary."

Familiarity with wrongdoing and the wrong environment, parleying with the tempter, little beginnings, nibblings at the temptations, and finally the trap is sprung and one is caught. Satan's way of playing the game is always unfair. He leads us to think that we are going to have a good time in the end, and does not tell us of the pitfalls and defeats and heartaches that his way of playing always brings.

Chance games are among the twigs and tidbits that he uses to cause us to form habits that will lead us into the wrong environment and the practice of gambling. We can never win the game of life in the Christian way of playing by following Satan's methods. Sometimes when people think someone has made a great success in life, God does not think so at all. We should all rather win in the sight of God than in the sight of man. To please God we must play in the Christian way. We can never win in God's way if we do not. If we gain great wealth and worldly power and have not obeyed Christ, we cannot win.

We often see a person suddenly wreck his life, but if we could only know the truth, the sin had been eating at his heart for a long time. A great tree suddenly crashes; the heart is found to be almost entirely decayed, leaving only a thin shell of wood. So lives are ruined by the secret gnawing of little sins. The habits that have been formed lead in the wrong way until the life goes down in defeat. We must play fair with God and man if we want to win the Christian game. We must look to the little things in our lives. Many have ruined their lives and lost the game because they did not curb the wrong habit at the beginning. Drunkards are made by the growth of a habit which begins with one little drink; gamblers are made by the cultivation and relish for the chance game. Big thieves are little thieves grown up. If we play fair with ourselves and with God we will never let these things get started in our lives. If we play the Christian way, we would rather lose the play than cheat.

Do you like a person who cheats? None of us do, and neither does God. If you cheat and win the game, you do not feel right about it. Someone must lose. If you cheat and win, the other person should be the one to feel happy because he won, and you steal that happiness from him. It is just as wrong to steal happiness as it is to steal money. The Christian would rather fail than to live a lie.

You should be just what you try to make people believe you are. You want people to think you are kind and good and peace loving; then you must live

that way at home and in every place. We all should rather suffer in defeat than fear to meet another's eye. Unless you have cheated so many times that you have become hardened, you cannot cheat without feeling guilty. If you are guilty you cannot look honestly into the eyes of another.

If you lose a few games here on earth by playing fair and square, you are on the right track. You win your laurels in heaven. It never pays to cheat; it never pays to take the first step in wrongdoing; it always pays to keep a level eye.

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"A SABBATH well spent brings a week of content

And health for the toils of the morrow
But a Sabbath profaned, whate'er may be gained
Is a certain forerunner of sorrow."

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A SMILE

NONE is so rich or so mighty that he can get along without it, and none so poor that he cannot be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, and is the countersign of friendship. More than the above, it brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and is nature's best antidote for trouble.—*Progressive Volunteer*.

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THE strength of every worker will be found to lie, not in these outward agencies, but in trustful dependence upon God, in earnest prayer to Him for help, in obedience to His Word.—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, p. 110.

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THOSE who keep in a prayerful frame of mind will be able to speak a word in season to those who are brought within the sphere of their influence; for God will give wisdom whereby they may serve the Lord Jesus.—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI, p. 69.



"NOTHING lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies outside the will of God."

★ Home Missionary Department ★

COLPORTEUR RALLY DAY—OCTOBER 6

Suggestive Program for Sabbath, October 6, 1945

OPENING HYMN: "Watchman, Blow the Gospel Trumpet," No. 619 in *Church Hymnal*.

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Peter 3:9-14.

PRAYER.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

SERMON: "Heralding the Message to All the World," by E. E. Franklin.

CLOSING HYMN.

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

Our suggestive program for Colporteur Rally Sabbath, October 6, 1945, is presented in this number of the *CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE*. This Sabbath has been set apart by General Conference action as a special day to call the attention of our people everywhere to the colporteur work and the important place it occupies in our world-wide evangelistic program.

We earnestly appeal to all our leaders to assist in recruiting suitable men and women to engage in the work. Your publishing department secretary will appreciate receiving the names of any church members who might be interested in the distribution of our literature. We can use many full- or part-time colporteurs in this great work.

GEN. CONF. PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT.

Heralding the Message to All the World

BY E. E. FRANKLIN

Assoc. Sec., Gen. Conf. Pub. Dept.

GO ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature," was the order that Jesus gave to His disciples. It was positive, personal, and comprehensive. As Christians our duty is very clearly indicated by our Saviour in His revelation to John while he was sojourning on the isle of Patmos.

In Revelation 2:4, 5 we read, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

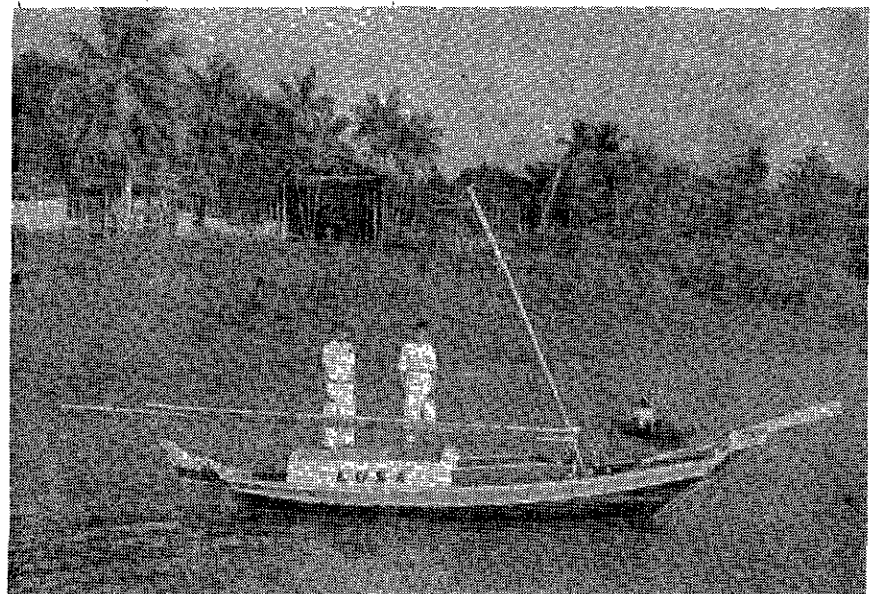
"Repent, and do the first works," is a clause that I especially wish to emphasize. When we determine what the first works were, our duty as Christians will be made clear. The Lord has not left us

in darkness in regard to this. We read in Matthew 4:12, 23 that when John was cast into prison, Jesus departed into Galilee and went about all the country preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. Not only while He was in Galilee but all through His ministry, from the beginning of His work until His suffering and death upon the cross, this was the work of the Saviour. We are told that even after His resurrection He returned and by many infallible proofs spoke of things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

The question of the apostle Paul, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" shows plainly that the disciples had become imbued with the spirit of the Master's teaching, and later we find them going out into all sections of the field, heralding the message. They journeyed not only to every part of Europe but also to India, Arabia, and into the far parts of China, joyfully proclaiming the good news of the kingdom. Philip, Paul, and other disciples responded to the call, and great things were accomplished in these

early years of the church. Paul, in his letter to the church of Rome, said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek, for therein is the righteousness of God revealed."

This was the first work; the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom was to be carried forward until all the honest of heart came within the fold. "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." In the non-Christian world today there are a thousand million people as yet without an adequate knowledge of the Saviour. Think of it? A thousand million people in the non-Christian world without Christ. It is said that out of every three persons in the world, two have never seen a Bible. As a church we have a tremendous task, and today God speaks to us through a language of events as they march past in the history of the world. As we look upon the condition of the world, the voice of Christ says to us, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the



Two of Our Faithful Colporteur Evangelists on the Mighty Amazon

fields; for they are white already to the harvest." Surely the harvesttime is here. To reap this harvest is our task as a church.

Wings to the Message

Ever since the inception of the advent message, literature has been one of the mighty agencies that God has given to the church. When God had a great message for the world in the days of the Reformation by His providence he gave wings to the great truth of the Reformation through the invention of the printing press, and in this closing work our literature is destined to be a very important factor in the extension of His kingdom in all the world.

In *Testimonies*, Volume VII, pages 138, 139, we read: "Our publishing work was established by the direction of God and under His special supervision. It was designed to accomplish a specific purpose. Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world. . . . The greatest wealth of truth ever entrusted to mortals, the most solemn and fearful warnings ever sent by God to man, have been committed to them to be given to the world; and in the accomplishment of this work our publishing houses are among the most effective agencies.

"These institutions are to stand as witnesses for God, teachers of righteousness to the people. From them truth is to go forth as a lamp that burneth. Like a great light in a lighthouse on a dangerous coast, they are constantly to send forth beams of light into the darkness of the world, to warn men of the dangers that threaten them with destruction.

"The publications sent forth from our printing houses are to prepare a people to meet God. Throughout the world they are to do the same work that was done by John the Baptist for the Jewish nation. By startling messages of warning, God's prophet awakened men from worldly dreaming. Through him God called backsliding Israel to repentance. By his presentation of truth he exposed popular delusions. In contrast with the false theories of his time, truth in his teaching stood forth as an eternal certainty. 'Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,' was John's message. This same message, through the publications from our printing houses, is to be given to the world today."

Hundreds Are Converted

The history of literature circulation is one of the most illuminating chapters of missionary history. Many native churches

have been founded upon the reading of a single volume that has gone out far ahead of the missionary or the native evangelist. The colporteur is not simply a seller of good books and magazines or a commercial agent, though such a calling would not be dishonorable; but in these mission fields where we do not have many workers he goes as a pioneer evangelist. He goes where the pastor does not go. He goes to a town and visits every home. He finds those who are interested and turns their names over to the nearest pastor. Sometimes he prepares the people so that when the minister arrives he finds a company of believers all ready for organization. Many churches have been developed, and hundreds of people are rejoicing in this message today because of the earnest, personal appeals made by the consecrated colporteur.

"As the message of truth advances into new fields, it is God's purpose that the work of establishing new centers shall be constantly going forward. Throughout the world His people are to raise memorials of His Sabbath,—the sign between Him and them that He is the One who sanctifies them."—*Ibid.*, pp. 144, 145.

We recognize our literature as one of the most potent factors in the great task of evangelizing the world. Never in all our denominational history have we seen such wonderful results as we see today. Phenomenal records have been made in our colporteur work. In this we can take a certain amount of satisfaction, but the real objective in the circulation of all our literature is the winning of souls. "The great object of our publications is to exalt God, to call men's attention to the living truths of His Word. God calls upon us to lift up, not our own standard,

not the standard of this world, but His standard of truth."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VII, p. 151.

In recent weeks and months we have seen the marvelous opening of doors in many places. We have seen a great forward movement. Half the world has received a new vision of liberty and self-government. Now is the time for the church to move forward and to plan and work. Scores and hundreds of people are reading our literature and studying the message of truth. Our colporteurs, traveling in many lands, in all sorts of conveyances, working all hours of the day and night, are enjoying many thrilling experiences. A modern book of Acts could be written regarding their work. Of the countless incidents that have been reported to us, the following are samples:

One of our leaders writes: "Some time ago I had the privilege of helping two of our colporteurs make a delivery in Cuba. In the beautiful mountains of this section of Cuba we found a real interest in our message, and already twelve persons are keeping the Sabbath. We attended a Sabbath school conducted in the home of one of our brethren, with twenty adults and twenty-five children present. After the service I asked the man how he had learned of our message. He told me the following story:

"A number of years ago a friend gave me a book entitled *The Coming King*. I found out later that he had given it to me because he did not like it. From that book I learned of the second coming of Christ and also of the Sabbath truth. Thus, about fourteen years ago, my family and I began to keep the Sabbath without knowing that the Seventh-day Adventist people existed until we met the two colporteurs who are here today."

In another city the seed has fallen on fertile land. Many young people of the city bought *The Great Controversy*, *This Mighty Hour*, and *Dawn of a New Day*. After visiting among themselves and talking about the truths contained in the books, they are agreed that the Lord is calling them to a new life. Several have decided to keep the Sabbath and to pay their tithes strictly. For some months they have been laying aside their titles, that they might turn them over to the first worker who came along. When the mission worker came to their city they handed him \$160.07. These are all fine, hard-working, consecrated young people.

While one of our colporteurs was making a delivery, he found a shoemaker who could not pay for the book he had ordered, though it was only a Crisis book. The

The Colporteur Call

At the mighty angel's bidding
Forth we go to bear the light;
To the lost who dwell in darkness,
Bound in chains of carnal night.
Sad they sit in erring blindness,
Helplessness their mute appeal;
Bruised with sin and hungry hearted,
Bless them with the leaves that heal.
Leaves of life we bring indited,
By the Prince of Life so fair;
All so plain on tables written,
Look and read the message there.
"Scatter like the leaves of autumn,"
Cries the angel, "Swell the sound";
All the world His glory lighting,
Loud His cry re-echoes round.

With a shout, then, to the harvest,
He that sleepeth causeth shame;
To the work, go, hunt, and fish them,
Wide the printed page acclaim.
Satan fears the sacred hallow,
Binds the wicked by decree;
Forward, then, and seal the righteous,
Seal them for eternity.

—Selected.

colporteur finally suggested that the shoemaker make a pair of shoes for one of his children for the book, to which the shoemaker agreed. This man read the book, accepted the message, and then began to read the book to his relatives, several of whom have already accepted the truth.

In another mission field about five years ago one of our colporteurs called at a house and was compelled to stay because nighttime had come. Before going to bed he gave a Bible study to the family and sold a Bible to them. Later the publishing department secretary called at the home at the time they were celebrating the Feast of the Three Kings. This is celebrated on the sixth day of January. He gave them a very interesting talk about the visit of the wise men to the Lord Jesus at Bethlehem. The father of the house announced that his devotion to his old religion had come to an end, and he continued to take Bible studies every week. As a result we now have at this place a nice little chapel, able to accommodate about seventy persons, with a church membership of fifty. What a privilege it was to visit this church and to share their enthusiasm in their newfound faith!

A Trail of Believers Left Behind

During the past twelve years of his colporteur ministry a colporteur in an island field has made it his plan to organize Sabbath schools in the territory where he is working. He then sends a call for the district minister. The pastors have learned that it is worth their while to respond to a call from this brother. Before moving on to new territory this colporteur makes it a point to accompany the visiting worker to the homes of the interested ones. Groups of believers and organized churches are left in his trail wherever he goes.

At one place in which this colporteur worked, three Sabbath schools have been organized. Forty of those attending are keeping the Sabbath, and fourteen of this number have already been baptized. Besides this, there are about one hundred more in that territory who are interested in the message.

A recent survey indicates that there are nearly a thousand in that field who are keeping the Sabbath but have not yet been baptized. Because of the lack of workers, it is impossible to bind off this interest which has been aroused by our colporteurs. What a fulfillment of the prophecy that many will trace their conversion to the reading of our literature.

Waiting for the Light

One of our women colporteurs in the Southland took an order for *Bible Readings*. When the book was delivered, the lady of the house seemed quite eager to see it, and then excused herself while she went to another room. Soon she returned, much excited, shouting, "I've got it; I've got it." She ran to the door and called to her husband, "Come quick; I've got it."

The woman told this story. Years ago she had owned a book which she prized highly. A hurricane destroyed their home and all their possessions. All their books were gone; the house was gone; everything was lost. She thought of that good book and went searching for it, but found only a few scattered pages. She kept the pages and determined sometime to find that same book. She had tried every bookstore but to no avail. So she waited, hoping that sometime an opportunity to get the book would come to her as it had before.

She waited thirteen years, and then the colporteur came. They compared the old pages with the new book, and the woman said, "I've got it." She embraced the book and was thrilled. She told how she had prayed for that book to come to her, and had asked the colporteur to kneel with her and thank God. The colporteur reported that this woman lived only eight blocks from a Seventh-day Adventist church of over one hundred members. And she had been waiting for the light for over thirteen years!

What One Book Did

Up in the Amazon Mission of Peru the printed page was curiously sown "beside all waters" in a somewhat literal way, and the harvest is not wanting. In a certain province one of our colporteurs ordered a supply of the book entitled *Toward the Golden Age*. The box was received and taken home.

One night a big cloudburst swept down on the place where the colporteur lived. He was forced to flee for his life. His house and belongings were swept out into the unknown. Nothing was heard of his possessions for over six months. Then one day a man came in from a distant village and pleaded for a teacher. In reply to an inquiry he said that as he was out bathing one morning he noticed a curious object in the clear river water. He finally fished out his find. It was a pulpy mass, the remains of some book. He carefully separated the leaves and spread them in the sun. After he had read this book, he closed his saloon and

went to farming, in order that he might be able to keep the Sabbath. He knew nothing of our people, but his heart had been changed by the message found in the book, and he became an Adventist.

The story does not end here. Since then, that interest has been cared for, and now a Sabbath school of more than thirty members has been organized in that locality. A large number of neighbors and friends are also expected to join with this man in baptism, and thus become loyal members of the Adventist Church.

That affliction often opens the hearts of people to the reception of God's message is eloquently brought out in the following experience of one of our successful colporteurs:

"When I canvassed one woman she seemed very indifferent and would not buy. Several months later when I called at a residence I was informed that the woman who lived there had been confined to her bed for three months. When I was admitted to her sickroom I recognized her as the woman to whom I had given a canvass in the shop some time before. Opening a copy of *Steps to Christ* which I had with me, I read, 'We may keep so near to God that in every unexpected trial our thoughts will turn to Him as naturally as the flower turns to the sun.' The husband entered while I was reading, and the two of us knelt in prayer. The sick woman wept and expressed her desire to purchase a copy of the book out of which I had just read. The husband also ordered one of my large books. Both of the books were delivered. The woman is now restored to health again and, we understand, is studying the books with genuine interest."

Another proof of how important it is to push the message into the hands of all men, no matter where they are or in what circumstances, is this incident, which greatly cheered the heart of a colporteur. She called at a home in which she found a mother in great distress, with her baby dying. The colporteur took time to pray and to comfort the mother in her hour of trouble. In another home a young girl was ill and not expected to live. The colporteur wrote us that she always endeavors to sympathize and talk about a loving Saviour to those in distress. As a rule she prays with the people, and, too, she is able to place our literature in their hands.

The greatest, and perhaps by far the best, influence daily exerted by loyal, God-fearing colporteurs are never published. In this world the reaper is the

(Continued on page 19)

★ News From Soul Winners ★

"The House of Books"

A Bible Study Based on Ezra 5:7 and 6:1, 2

1. AT the plea of the Jews' enemies, the false king Artaxerxes had commanded that the building of the house of God should cease. The Jews had been compelled to desist. Ezra 4:6-16.

2. The false king dies, and the prophets Haggai and Zechariah urge the Jews to complete the rebuilding. The Jews take heart and begin again. Ezra 5:1, 2.

3. New enemies question their right to build. Ezra 5:3.

4. The Jews inform them that King Cyrus had, in the first year of his reign, made a decree authorizing the rebuilding of the temple. Ezra 5:11-16.

5. The enemies report this to the new king of Persia, and urge that search for this decree be made "in the king's treasure house" at Babylon. Ezra 5:17.

6. The decree was sought for "in the house of the books, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon." Ezra 6:1, margin.

7. It was finally found in Ecbatana, great city of the Medes. Ezra 6:2.

8. Darius reads this treasured roll. As a result, the Jews were given freedom to continue building, and valuable help in addition. Ezra 6:6, 12.

9. Thus, through the reading of a roll—a book—there came to the Jews these blessings:

- a. Liberty to continue building.
- b. Protection from enemies.
- c. Great donations of money for God's work.
- d. Animals for the sacrifices, and wheat, salt, wine, and oil for offerings.
- e. Requests for prayer for the royal family. Ezra 6:10.

10. What a treasure that book was! What blessings came as a result of reading it! Truly the building which houses such books deserves to be called "The King's Treasure House."

11. Our message-filled books are similarly treasures in these days.

- a. They give joyous liberty to the captives of sin, and adoption into God's great family.
- b. They give to the reader the assurance of God's loving care and of angels' protection.
- c. They bring to God's cause thousands

of pounds in gifts, tithes, and offerings.

d. They bring to the light of the gospel men who will build up and sustain His sanctuary and carry God's message to the world.

e. They bring the gracious truth of God into the libraries and minds of kings, queens, princes, lords, knights, governors, millionaires, and others of great influence, as well as into thousands upon thousands of homes in all parts of the earth.

"A SHORT time ago, while a colporteur was walking along the street, a man in a car called to him and said, 'What are you selling?' Instantly the colporteur answered, 'Eternal life.' The man stopped his car, and our bookman took his prospectus out right there on the street and sold him a set of books. Since then the car owner has bought £20 worth of our literature."

"A Catholic woman looked up into my eyes and said, 'Why, that's just like the Bible! I must have that!' She paid cash, and I left her *Bible Readings* in the leather binding."

"A Christian Science woman bought *Bible Readings* in leather, with *Life and Health* and a Bible. When I called for the first payment she said with enthusiasm, 'That is a wonderful book. I wouldn't be without it.'"

Another experience comes from a Catholic woman whose husband chided her for buying the book, insisting, "I never see you reading it." She replied, "Do you ever miss me in the evenings?" And to me she said, "Every night I go off by myself and study *Bible Readings*. I love those quiet moments, and that book is such a blessing to me."

"Let me know how I can get *The Bible Speaks*, by W. L. Emmerson. I should be grateful if you could help me, as it is just what I have for years been looking for."

A copy of *The Bible Speaks* was sold at a farm, and the buyer began to study it immediately. So engrossed was she that time meant nothing, and she was surprised when her brother entered the room ready for his supper. The book was put down hastily. As it was left on the dining room table, the brother began to study it. He read on as he ate his meal, continued all the evening, and was

still reading when his sister retired. On coming down in the morning she found he was still poring over *The Bible Speaks*. He had spent the night in study and prayer! As his sister set the breakfast table he told her of his reconsecration and asked if she would like to resume their morning worship. The silver strand was taken up again!

"I am reading *God's Way Out* and am thrilled with it. It's just like a fresh, clean, sweet breeze. Like a breath from heaven itself."

"*God's Way Out* has been a godsend at a timely moment."

A letter comes from blitzed Portsmouth: "I have just found one of your books among some waste paper, but what a find! It has been a real joy to read it. I am sorry to say that it has no cover, so I cannot give you its title; but I would be glad if you could send me a list of the books you publish, as I would like to purchase some."

"I have your work *God's Way Out* and am enjoying reading it. It gives comfort and hope, and I trust many will be led into the 'blessed hope' through reading its pages. The book to me seems saturated with the Spirit's power."

"Away up in Northern Nigeria," writes a missionary, "a man came to me with a coverless book under his arm. 'Can you tell me the publishers of this little book?' he asked. 'I have a friend who wants one.' For over five years this man has been trying here and there to get a copy, but has not succeeded. He offered me £5 for mine, but I would not sell it for any money. If there is any argument or questions about the Bible, I simply rush for the book, and that settles it.' Looking at the much-worn and soiled book, its pages yellow with age, I could see it must be one of the very first copies of *Bible Readings for the Home Circle* ever printed and sent out by us. 'This book has changed my life,' he said. 'It came into my possession when I was a boy in Sierra Leone.' The owner of this book is now attending our meetings and has expressed his willingness to pay tithe and become better acquainted with the people who teach according to this book."

"When out visiting a heathen town with our books, I managed to interview the king. He said, 'I have been longing for a book, or something which would explain the Bible to me.' He took *World's Quest* and *Our Lord's Return*, and also ordered *Bible Readings for the Home Circle* in the leather binding."—A. WARREN in *Church Officers' Leader*.

★ Missionary Leadership ★

Conducting Cottage Meetings and Bible Studies

THE plan of holding cottage meetings was early introduced into our work. Associated with this type of gathering was the plan to make the cottage meeting the occasion for a Bible study. Our message encourages inquiry as families study the Bible.

In the atmosphere of the cottage meeting many marvelous conversions have taken place. A series of these meetings may grow out of a family get-together or out of the social hour when the neighbors drop in. Usually special friends then receive invitations to attend, and the interest grows into a profitable series of Bible studies. Again, some cottage meetings grow out of prayer groups, especially in these days when our mutual problems bring an awareness of a common need which can best be met at the mercy seat. Another type of cottage meeting often featured is the song group, which draws the members together because of their interest in the good old gospel songs or hymns.

Seventh-day Adventists have a message for the world and should use every contact for the advancement of Bible truth. We are indeed here on business for the King! The cottage meeting, which lends itself to community prayer, is now most timely. Prayers center in the youth called into their country's service. Casualties present serious thinking even to the most careless. Men and women now pray when they have never done so previously. Out of these prayer groups grow excellent opportunities for a better understanding of the Bible. The leader of such a group should watch for the proper occasion to introduce the message, but must not in any way force it upon those who attend. It is best to drop a seed thought rather casually, letting the Holy Spirit deepen the impression at the proper time. Soul winning is likened to fishing, and such factors as the bait, the tide, and the nature of the fish must receive careful attention in the catch. Neither can this type of fishing be hurried. But the setting suggests that when greater decisions must receive consideration, these victories will also be won through prayer.

A little different technique should be

observed in the cottage meeting which becomes a Bible-study group. For the best results this type of gathering should be a class and should assume the school atmosphere. It might be advisable at the beginning to use a song or two, but the music must not eclipse the Bible study, for this is the objective of the gathering. Hold to the purpose for which you have assembled, and come to the point as soon as is convenient. Confine the study to about a half hour and dismiss promptly.

Since the Community Bible School is not conducted in exactly the same manner as is the ordinary cottage meeting, with which all are better acquainted, we offer a few suggestions.

The leader should introduce the plans for the study group at the beginning of the first meeting. With a genial smile he will state that this is a school—the best kind of school—a Bible school! In order that the best results for each student attending may be obtained, a very few simple regulations will be timely. There should be a roll call promptly at, say, eight o'clock. It is best to observe this little formality, because it fixes in the minds of the group the idea of precision and study. The leader will continue with a bit of wholesome humor, saying that experience teaches many things and that all have learned from it the value of doing teamwork. He suggests proceeding with the school plan: the teacher to do the teaching, and the class to have the opportunity of presenting, at the close of the study, any questions that have arisen out of the study of the lesson. This forestalls, perhaps, some ex-Sunday school teacher's monopolized presentation of his past experience. After the group has been welded into a study band, one might tactfully change from a strict holding to this rule, as it is desirable to get an occasional group response. This, however, will come spontaneously as the class works together. Should someone's facial expression suggest that a question is urgent, then, of course, the leader anticipates it and tactfully handles the inquiry.

The secret of a good Bible study is enjoyable thinking on the part of the group. This necessitates friendliness and freedom while doing business for

the truth. When the Bible study is under way, the leader, who should have his points well in mind without depending too much on the prepared printed lesson, steers toward a climax which will help the class look forward to the next study. Right at the start it must become evident that these lessons have a deeply spiritual appeal. The same spirit of prayer and Bible study must reach each home, so that little by little Seventh-day Adventist principles will take root, even before the testing truths are presented.

Since there is wisdom in guarding the way the first meeting is dismissed, we offer a few suggestions:

When the study has closed with a few minutes given to answering questions which may have arisen—and these are always an interesting feature for the class—then the one in charge should suggest that the group arise and be dismissed with prayer. Pleasantly the leader remarks, "Now, Mrs. Hostess, we are ready to leave for home and so we are going to ask you for our wraps." Should she respond, "You need not be in any hurry," then the leader thanks her for her gracious hospitality but follows with the suggestion that we are all busy people and must observe our proper hours of rest, and that she, too, must have household matters to attend to before retiring time. Now being ready to leave, the leader starts toward the door and others follow. (Later on, when the testing truths have been presented, the leader lingers to avoid any aftermeeting discussions that may not be helpful.)

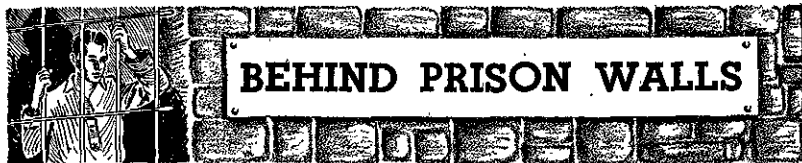
It is desirable that the printed lesson sheet be supplied the class at the close of each lesson. It is better to teach the lesson first and thus avoid any possible wrong impressions that might be created. Encourage the use of the loose-leaf binder and the careful preservation of these lessons. One might assign a little homework to the group by calling attention to some points in the lesson which were not covered in class. It might be well to use very briefly such points at the beginning of the next lesson as a means of tying in new points of study. The leader can encourage faithful attendance by suggesting that these lessons are each like a link in a valuable chain—the chain is incomplete without these different links. Children and youth enjoy these studies and often set a good example in faithful Bible study. Watch the "leaders" of the group and tactfully suggest that they help the class with a special item of research. They may need to have some extra help to find the material,

but this helps the one in charge to become better acquainted with these key people—a vital step in receiving the proper decision from the group when the Sabbath is presented.

Cottage meetings and home Bible studies should become a much greater evangelistic agency for our laymen as time passes. Should every layman take hold of the wonderful opportunities these

times present, the homes of our believers would be lighthouse stations all over the world. Let every family become a mission base. The prayer unit may be the simplest step toward the cottage meeting, which may eventually become a helpful study group for the advancement of the message.

LOUISE C. KLEUSER, *Associate Secretary, Ministerial Association.*



"I Was in Prison, and Ye Came Unto Me"

Matthew 25:36

THOSE who meet Christ in peace at His glorious second coming will be those who have met Him before. You have daily communed with God in your closet and have no doubt attended prayer meeting and church services each week with no other thought but to sit at the feet of Jesus; but have you gone to *prison* that you might come unto Him?

Recently I have visited a number of prisons and have been deeply impressed with the possibilities which lie within these institutions. I am sure there are many thieves behind prison bars whom Christ would have with Him in paradise. The servant of Christ, in *Testimonies*, Volume VI, page 275, has called the attention of the church to this very work. "By our churches there is a work to be done of which many have little idea, a work as yet almost untouched. . . . 'I was in prison, and ye came unto Me.'" Yes, brethren, it is indeed "a work as yet almost untouched."

Under the direction of the pastor or local elder, a prison band could be organized in many of our churches. The wardens seem to be thankful when someone takes a spiritual interest in the inmates. The old gospel songs are especially appreciated. There is perhaps no better way to reach the heart of a hardened sinner than through the songs mother used to sing. When signs of interest are seen, encourage such to take one of the free Bible correspondence courses.

I believe there are condemned criminals who will give their hearts to Christ and will be with us in the kingdom of God as an eternal testimony to the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ. "The chain

that has been let down from the throne of God is long enough to reach to the lowest depths. . . . By the miracle of divine grace they may be changed. . . . The dull, clouded mind will awake. The slave of sin will be set free."—*Ibid.*, Vol. VII, p. 229. What more encouraging words do we need to assure us of success in our endeavor to save the lowest of society?

Like the Jews of old, we may be inclined to throw our supposed righteous robes around us and thank God that we are not like these wicked men. We point the finger of scorn and say, "They have killed," forgetting that one who hates his brother is a murderer. "They are thieves," we say, forgetting that God has said, "Ye have robbed Me."

The same mighty power of God that changes the hearts of the unconverted who attend our public efforts can change the hearts of the men behind prison bars. Many a so-called loyal citizen has told me that by rights he should be serving time in a prison or penitentiary. Certainly the man who is paying for his crime is as worthy of the gospel story as the man on the street who should be there.

One man whom I met in prison told me he believed God had permitted him to be there so that he might take time to read the Bible and really start life anew—this time in harmony with God's will. The world may see him only as a "jail-bird," but God sees him as His son.

Very recently, while I was crossing the St. John River in a ferry, my conversation with the boatman was suddenly interrupted when he cried, "Look! There is a man drowning! See, they are waving their hands on the other bank! A canoe has turned over. The man is hanging on, but the fishing net is holding him down!" As we neared the scene we could see the man very clearly. On the

bank stood a woman wringing her hands and crying, "Hurry! He can't hold out much longer!" Our engines were turned off, the lifeboat untied, and in a minute or two strong arms were rowing to the side of the imprisoned man. The net which was holding its victim was pulled away, and the man was soon rescued.

Many a man has set sail on the river of life, only to be upset by Satan and held by the net of sin until he finds himself behind prison bars. It was a thrill to witness this man's salvation from a watery grave, but it is a far greater thrill to rescue men from the net which Satan has set to catch weary souls.

When I think of what my Saviour has done for me there wells up in my heart such gratitude that I long to minister to Him, and on my knees, with an earnest cry for guidance, I see through tear-dimmed eyes the answer to my prayer in the words of Christ—"I was in prison, and ye came unto Me."

R. W. NUMBERS.

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Symposium of Prison Experiences

Missionary Activity in County Jail

DURING the past few months it has been my fortune to come in contact with the inmates of the county jail here in Denver. I became particularly interested in the youth confined therein, but also interested in all inmates. I have given out about one hundred fifty cards for the Bible Correspondence Course, and twenty-five or more returned the cards requesting the lessons. I have also given away fifteen Bibles, twenty copies of *Steps to Christ*, dozens of *Youth's Instructors*, and a hundred or more other papers such as *Present Truth*, *Watchman*, *Liberty*, and *Life and Health*. There is a great desire on the part of many to have the *Instructor*, and more calls keep coming in for Bibles. This is a fertile field for missionary endeavor.—L. H. WADE, M.D., in *Central Union Reaper*.

San Quentin and Seventh-day Adventists

FOR more than twenty years Seventh-day Adventists have conducted work for the inmates in San Quentin, the largest penal institution in the world. We find that this work is in harmony with Matthew 25:35, 36.

Sabbath school is conducted in the prison every Sabbath afternoon, where a regular Sabbath school is carried on as in other schools, with the exception that no collection is received. The same lessons

our people study are studied here under the supervision of a conference worker. Following this a sermon is given, which often closes with a testimonial service and a prayer session. On a recent Sabbath one dear man, an Indian, quoted the first psalm perfectly. All nationalities are accepted in classwork.

Not long ago a man who had served his time was baptized and is now a member of one of our churches.

Books, papers, and tracts are continually in demand in maintaining a library and furnishing literature for these men, as the brethren conduct interviews with thirty-five to forty inmates each month. Our secretary on the inside is very faithful in the distribution of the *Signs* and other literature from week to week. The prison officers give us consideration and welcome our work.—*Pacific Union Recorder*.

The Radio Penetrates Behind Prison Bars

From Elder R. M. Whitsett, formerly radio secretary of the Inter-American Division, comes the following striking story showing how the Voice of Prophecy and the Bible Correspondence Course are reaching the prisoners in that division:

"There recently came to us from Puerto Rico a very interesting story concerning a young man by the name of Padilla. This young man was sentenced to serve a term in the penitentiary for an attempt on another person's life. While listening to the radio one day while still in prison, he happened onto the Voice of Prophecy program which was being broadcast from San Juan, Puerto Rico. He was particularly impressed by the announcement made at the conclusion of the broadcast in which the free Bible Correspondence Course was offered. He wrote to the radio office, asking that lessons be sent to him in the penitentiary. Upon their arrival he gave earnest study to the lessons while continuing to listen each week to the broadcasts as they came regularly over the air.

"Some time later one of our brethren of the Rio Piedras church was visiting the penitentiary on Sabbath afternoon to conduct a branch Sabbath school. This young man, Padilla, attended the service, and learned for the first time that the teacher of the Sabbath school was a member of the same church that was broadcasting the Voice of Prophecy programs and furnishing him with Bible studies. The young man began to interest other convicts in the penitentiary, and soon he had a large class studying with him and enrolled in *Radio Escuela Postal*.

In due course of time our young friend was paroled from the penitentiary, and immediately he hurried to our mission office in Santurce to make personal contact with the men in charge of the radio work.

"The next day, Sabbath, he attended the church service at Santurce, his wife and children accompanying him. At the close of the service he asked permission to bear public testimony concerning what the Lord had done for him, and with tears streaming down his face he testified to the saving power of Jesus. At the same time he expressed thanks to those who had made it possible for this blessed truth to reach him through the great stone walls of the penitentiary. He has since, with his family, been baptized and has organized a branch Sabbath school in the community where he lives. A large number there have already learned of the truth through his influence and his teachings. Often his friends and neighbors are heard commenting about the great change in the life of this ex-convict. You will be pleased also to know that the interest within the penitentiary among the remaining convicts has not been lessened. At the present time there are nearly sixty who are regular enrollees in the *Radio Escuela Postal* (Radio Correspondence School)."

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RIGHTEOUSNESS is right doing, and it is by their deeds that all will be judged. Our characters are revealed by what we do. The works show whether the faith is genuine.—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 319.

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"Do a simple little kindness

Though its end you may not see.
It may reach like widening ripples
Down a long eternity."

Weekly Church Missionary Services

October 6

REACHING THE RICH

Key Thought for Leaders: "While working for the poor, we should give attention also to the rich, whose souls are equally precious in the sight of God. . . . The wealthy man needs to be labored for in the love and fear of God."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI, p. 255.

Too little thought and effort have been given in regard to reaching the rich. The word "fear" describes the main reason why more has not been done for this class. We have feared their wealth and therefore have not put forth much effort. In laboring for the wealthy we should remember that they are human beings just as others are, and the things which are common to one class

Heralding the Message

(Continued from page 15)

one who gets the plaudits, but the reward is to "every man according to his works."

The Call to Action

Those experiences, which could be multiplied manyfold, give us a picture of the work done by men and women who are devoting their time to literature evangelism. We have a faithful army of colporteurs. No less than three thousand throughout the world are devoting their time to this work, but we need more. We are told that "all who desire an opportunity for true ministry, and who will give themselves unreservedly to God, will find in the canvassing work opportunities to speak upon many things pertaining to the future, immortal life. . . . It is the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit of God that prepares workers, both men and women, to become pastors to the flock of God. As they cherish the thought that Christ is their companion, a holy awe, a sacred joy, will be felt by them amid all their trying experiences and all their tests."—*Ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 322.

As this service is presented in all our churches today, we hope the call to service will find a place in many hearts. There is a work for each to do, and many, we believe, could go out as colporteur evangelists and accomplish a great work.

"Let us now, by the wise use of periodicals and books, preach the Word with determined energy, that the world may understand the message that Christ gave to John on the Isle of Patmos."—*Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 101.

To engage in this work is to "do the first works." May the Lord impress upon each one of us our full duty, and may we respond and do our full share in heralding the message to all the world.

of individuals are common to others. Another principle not to be forgotten is that all people respond to love. When the rich realize that we love *them*, not their money, they will reciprocate.

I once knew a man who raised flowers. When the flowers bloomed he would pick bouquets and take them to the offices of some of the men of wealth. Often they tried to pay him for the flowers, but he always refused, for he was not doing it for money. These men, in turn, would travel great distances to visit this brother. They came to his humble cottage and would sit down with him and visit by the hour. They loved him because he loved them.

With very few exceptions everybody desires to live a long time. Health is a boon which everyone, whether rich or poor, prizes. And a man of wealth is just as desirous of

having a healthy body as are those who are lacking in the goods of this world. Showing an interest in their health and placing in their hands literature and books on subjects that help build sound bodies, will open up many hearts of those with wealth.

When we find a good article that would appeal to a man of means, we might pencil it with red or mark it in some other way and place it in his hands to be read. Sending to these men subscriptions to our periodicals and also presenting them with our truth-filled books will awaken an interest and a love of this truth. There are not a few who would purchase many of our books and periodicals if they were properly approached.

One of our sisters living in a Western city operated a home laundry. Among her customers was a man of wealth and no mean influence. He brought his shirts to her each week to be laundered. As she would iron and fold the shirts, she would tuck a little tract under the bosom of each one. When the man opened his shirt he would find this small leaflet. At first he paid very little attention to the tracts, but finally he picked one up and looked at it. Then one day he read the leaflet he found in one of his shirts, and from then on he read each tract he found. He watched the woman's life and discovered that she lived her religion. Finally he spoke to this sister about his own need of Christ. That was the supreme opportunity which came to her. It led him into the truth.

In concluding this presentation let me say that above all things be natural in approaching those of wealth. Let us be tactful and agreeable in our contacts with all those for whom we seek to labor, the wealthy as well as the humblest of men.

H. K. HALLADAY.

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October 13

VOICE OF PROPHECY

Key Thought for Leaders: "We must have a true, abiding faith that this message will go forth with increasing importance till the close of time."—Testimonies, Vol. IX, p. 151.

When God said that this message was to be given to "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people," He was specific. Of course the gospel is personal—it wins me first. Then as soon as it penetrates into my heart, I feel a duty to share it with my neighbor down the street. But I have neighbors elsewhere, too—my fellow countrymen. So the gospel scope is nation wide, yes, and world wide; for the grand old story is to circle the earth. "Go ye into all the world."

This is where radio becomes a divine, latter-day miracle of God's power. In its use God's people are to seek top priority. If you could dial every one of the stations broadcasting the Voice of Prophecy program, you might be surprised! Over five hundred, on various wave lengths, beam the program to many lands. What a thrill would be yours to hear the King's Heralds Quartet gently intone "Near to the Heart of God" in Spanish, Portuguese, German, Italian, or Chinese. The gospel music, like the message, rings the same in all languages.

Every month an average of 6,500 new members are enrolled in the various branches of the Radio Bible Correspondence Course. Without your support in the radio work, the names of these new people might never have been secured. Almost a third of a million people have taken this course. Get your neighbor to listen in and to become a regular listener. Urge him to join the Radio Bible Correspondence Course. This is missionary work of the highest order.

You may do even more. Seven hundred and twenty-six daily or weekly newspapers carry the question-and-answer column of the Voice of Prophecy. Does your local newspaper feature it? If it does, a call of appreciation in person or a letter to the editor will mean much. If the column does not appear in your paper, why not write the editor, inviting him to use it for reader interest, and assuring him that there is no charge for its use?

We should also encourage our local broadcasters, especially our pastors. Wherever possible, they should get on the air and

stay on. Inspire with a sincere word of appreciation their every effort in this direction.

Here at the Radio Commission office we are studying and striving to spread the message by planning for new broadcasts in this country and abroad. To make this work effective we need funds to maintain the station releases we now have. We also must seek more funds for new station outlets. So, in planning for a generous offering this October, be assured that every effort will be made to invest the funds wisely. May God bless your sacrifice of labor and gift.

PAUL WICKMAN, Secretary,
Radio Commission.

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October 20

"WATCHMAN" AND "MESSAGE" MAGAZINES

Key Thought for Leaders: "In enlightening and confirming souls in the truth, the publications will do a far greater work than can be accomplished by the ministry of the Word alone."—Testimonies, Vol. VI, pp. 325, 326.

With the varied viewpoints among people there is need of different kinds of literature that may appeal to all. It is therefore logical and reasonable to have a variety of literature to use in our missionary work. For professional folk we desire to have something a little different from that which is chosen by those in the common walks of life. *The Watchman Magazine* was created especially for professional people. Instead of being a weekly it is a monthly magazine; thus those receiving it read it with eagerness, whereas if it came oftener it, perhaps, would be overlooked. Each month the art work in *The Watchman* has an appeal in itself, the pictures making it very attractive as a missionary periodical. It is the hope of the editors that the material that goes into the articles will also be as appealing as any other part of the magazine.

Some of the appropriate places in which to use *The Watchman* are waiting rooms and offices of physicians, dentists, lawyers, and other professional people, also factories and business offices where there is opportunity for the clientele to read the contents of the paper while forced to wait. *The Watchman* articles are not long, and most of them can be finished in a few minutes.

Another method of using *The Watchman* is through the sale of single copies—a work that may be carried on by one or more members in all our churches. Some person or persons should be designated in every church as the magazine representatives of the local organization.

The Message Magazine is the only periodical in this denomination that has been published for the colored race. With the several million colored people living within the borders of the United States alone, we believe there is ample opportunity to circulate this paper in a larger way than has been done. Surely in our colored churches someone should be interested in seeing that *The Message Magazine* has a larger circulation. Where no colored church exists, our white constituency should be interested in doing what they can to help the colored race in the systematic distribution of literature.

One day, while passing out literature, one of our white sisters came in contact with a colored family that was very outstanding. The wife became interested in the message and desired to study its teachings more fully. The result was that she and her

husband and five children accepted the truth and began attending Sabbath school. This family then became interested in their own people. In the course of a year twelve colored families became interested and within two years a colored group of sixteen believers was fully organized into a regular church organization. We believe that this experience could be repeated in many other cities. Surely the colored people are waiting for the Seventh-day Adventist denomination to give them an opportunity.

H. K. HALLADAY.

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October 27

SOUL-WINNING EXPERIENCES

Key Thought for Leaders: "When we labor diligently for the salvation of our fellow men, God will prosper our every effort."—Testimonies, Vol. IX, p. 88.

There are scores of people all about us who have a knowledge of this truth. They do not need to be convinced of its reasonableness. They are already convinced and convicted. Recently a group of five small children between the ages of eight and eleven, decided to spend an hour or so on Sunday morning calling at a few homes on a near-by lake in the interest of the Ingathering work. A little girl about nine years of age approached a small home and rapped on the door. A woman about forty years of age appeared at the door. She listened very intently to the canvass given by the child. Interrupting her, she asked, "Is this Seventh-day Adventist work?" "Yes," was the reply of the child. Then the woman asked her visitor to wait a moment. She went back into the house and brought out change, amounting to about fifty cents. After putting it into the can she looked at the girl and said, "I used to be a Seventh-day Adventist." The little girl looked up and said, "You ought to come to our Sabbath school." "Where is it?" was the reply. Then the little girl began to explain. After the child told the woman where the church was located, she said, "Well, I will come sometime."

This is not an unusual experience. It could be duplicated hundreds of times everywhere. It doesn't take older people to find these cases, either. When we begin to do the systematic work that should be done we will find the people who are interested and those for whom we should put forth a labor of love. What a challenge awaits this denomination in the matter of reaching those who have been members of the church in the past!

In addition to those who have once been members of the church, there are many others who, although they have never been members, are susceptible to the influence of this truth. Recently one of our sisters felt a burden to take a few copies of the Crisis books and call upon the neighbors in the vicinity of her home. A woman who was very much interested in religious literature purchased several copies of these books, among them being a copy of *The Marked Bible*. She read this book through a number of times and was convinced that the seventh day is the Sabbath. She looked around but was unable to find anybody observing the seventh day, and therefore came to the conclusion that there must be need of a new church. After some months of serious thinking she wrote to the publisher's one day and expressed to them the feeling she had had for some time. She asked them whether there was a group of people who observed the day she had been reading about. Her letter was forwarded to the conference office in that State, and her name was sent to the minister in charge of the district where this woman lived. There was a church of nearly one hundred members in the city where she lived, but she had never knowingly come in contact with any Seventh-day Adventist. The district leader called to see her and found that her interest was so great that it was not necessary to ask her whether she desired to have Bible studies, for she requested them. After a course of studies which lasted about three months this woman accepted the advent truth, was baptized, and became a member of the local church. We believe this experience could be repeated in all our churches.

H. K. HALLADAY.



★ Department of Education ★

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

The Nursery School

The Heart of a Child

WHATEVER you write on the heart of a child,
No waters can wash it away.
The sands may be shifted when billows are
wild
And the efforts of time may decay,
Some stories may perish, more songs be
forgot;
But the record engraven—time changeth not.
Whatever you write on the heart of a child,
A story of gladness or care
That heaven has blessed, or that earth has
defiled,
Will linger unchangeably there.
Who writes it has sealed it forever and aye,
And must answer to God on the great
judgment day.

—C. E. FLYNN.

Notes to Leaders

This month's program deals with a subject of vital importance and of great interest at the present time. The material we present has been prepared by Maud Wolcott Spalding, who, with her husband, Professor A. W. Spalding, has long led out in work for the home. The past three years Mrs. Spalding has conducted a nursery school at Madison College, Tennessee, at the same time training teachers for this work. Owing to a growing need for nursery schools, even among Seventh-day Adventists; and it is hoped that in this program some may recognize a call to seek the necessary specialized training for this most fascinating work. Many parents will also welcome these practical suggestions for strengthening their own teaching in the home.

FLORENCE K. REBOK.

Why Have Nursery Schools?

"We are building every day,
At our work and at our play,
Not with hammer, blow on blow,
Not the timbers sawing so."

This familiar song of happy childhood drifted across the yard as I neared our playground. I was glad that our teachers had the children out early to enjoy the sunshine and air.

As I came near I could see five-year-old Larry and Wayne at the workbench in the shade, sawing boards for the new birdhouses, and keeping time with the strains of the song—

"Building a house not made with hands,
Following Father's perfect plans.
Not with hammer, blow on blow,
Not the timbers sawing so."

Another group of little ones near the playhouse were raking up freshly cut grass and loading it onto the wagon. Then what fun to ride on these loads of hay! Happy were these little folk, busy as bees, and free as lambs, under the watchful care of their teachers—foster mothers for the day. Yes, and they were building every day, building for eternity.

You may think such small children can know little about "building without hands" and "houses for eternity." You would be right were this one of the first days in nursery school; but there had

been many stories—of Mr. Turtle when he chanced to waddle across the playground, carrying his house with him; of Mr. Snail and his family whom we found living in our garden, and of the other snail family in the aquarium. They had felt of these "houses," and had seen the doors open and close. They had gathered the beautiful flower homes, and peeped into the nursery rooms where iris and narcissus babies were growing up. Together they had sung—

"Oh, who can make a flower?
I'm sure I can't, can you?
Oh, who can make a flower?
No one but God, 'tis true."

When Mr. Turtle is the subject of study, or Mrs. Snail, or Mr. and Mrs. Bluebird with their wonderfully built nest, the children like to change the song to fit. How they enjoy playing bluebird, with arms for wings, flying all over the yard; or being turtles, walking on hands and feet. And what good exercise this is for growing strong muscles.

One day at nursery school our walk took us to a new building being erected on the campus. Here attention was called to the strong beams used in the framework, to the roofing to keep out the rain, and to the rooms being formed. From these observations it was simple to explain to the children the wonders of their own body houses "made without hands." These studies were followed by stories of "The Churn Which Could Not Stop Churning," "The Magic Soldiers Who Keep the Doors," and "When Johnny Entertained a Robber," illustrating in figure why we should not eat between meals, the need for answering body calls, and what candy does to teeth.

In the children's garden may be seen what can be done with little hoes and rakes when minds are ready. While it was yet too cold to work outside, the children had built up interest in growing things by plantings in window boxes, by seeds started in the sunshine, and by such garden songs and finger plays as—

"In my little garden bed,
Raked so nicely over,
First the tiny seeds I sow,
Then with soft earth cover."

"Shining down, the great round sun
Smiles upon it often;
Little raindrops pattering down
Help the seeds to soften."

The children watched the man and horses plow the garden spot just outside the nursery school windows. With hammers and saws they made markers for the seeds they wanted to sow, as well as for their several sections of the garden. They could hardly wait until actual work could begin; they even had their song ready:

"As I plant my tiny garden,
Sow each seed with loving care,
Something whispers while I listen—
Whispers, 'God is near.'"

Soon the little plants appeared and were gently hoed, for they were really live plant children growing up as they themselves were. The children sang on:

"As I work my tiny garden,
Tending children wet with dew,
Something whispers while I listen,
'God is working too.'"

"So I work, and sing while working,
Turning up the fertile sod,
Work and sing, and whisper softly,
'I am helping God.'"

Music is the oil which keeps things running smoothly in play as well as in little duties, and should early be woven into the life fabric of children. Especially will it be a blessing in the world which lies ahead. Music is a large part of the nursery school program.

Do you say, "I thought parents were to be the only teachers of little children until they are eight or ten years of age"? Yes, that is the divine pattern given to the church; and I am happy that many parents have followed the pattern through the years. We find their children, now grown up, pillars in the church today. But what of the parents who are "too busy" to teach? Many homes have been torn apart by war: some in military service, some doing seemingly necessary work outside the home, and some lured by high wages. Where are the children today? Are the foundation stones of honesty, purity, reverence, courage, cheerfulness, and all the rest being built into little lives? Are parents teaching?

Many recognize that homes, which are the foundation not only of the church but of all society, have been and are being destroyed by social conditions. The papers continually tell of "parental delinquency," "door-key kids," etc. The Government appropriated millions to start nursery schools to care for little neglected children. In the beginning of the war in England, Queen Elizabeth called upon British women for a revival of religion: "Our homes must be the place where it shall start. Clearly the tottering of our civilization is grounded in the homes of the people. The foundations there were giving way long before visible outside evidence. As they are repaired and renewed, we take hope." Shall not we repair our foundations? "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

It was surely God's plan that every home should be a school, with the parents its teachers under the Head Teacher, the garden its schoolroom, and nature its textbook. If we had followed this plan, now when homes of the world need help we could take in their children and teach them with our own, thus preparing them to meet Jesus, at His coming. But we have not studied to be able to "open to our children [and others] as fast as their

minds can comprehend it," God's great book of nature, and are not prepared to open our doors to those outside. Must there not, then, be nursery schools where little children can be taught?

These nursery schools, however, must be schools only as life is a school. Nature must be the textbook, and the children must be in the open air, free as lambs in happy companionship with Christian teachers, who do have some advantages over the typical mother. As one mother brought her two little ones on a rainy day, she glanced about the room at our happy group, and remarked, "How do you ever stand all these all day? My *two* drive me nearly crazy on a day like this." The teacher smiled understandingly, "Oh, we have plenty to keep them busy, and when they are busy they are happy."

True, in our present condition, the teacher does have some hidden sources of power which most parents lack. First, her outlook is not exactly the same. She is specially trained for her task. Before she took up actual teaching work she studied child development, through research in books and through observation of children at play and at project work. She has learned what to expect in children, and when new little two-and-a-half-year-old Johnny slaps David on the back, she understands that he is not being naughty, but is bidding for attention. He has not yet learned to make the proper social approach. Instead of scolding, the teacher wipes David's eyes and says, "See this pretty red wagon. Who will take it and be horse and give Johnny a ride?" Johnny climbs in, David picks up the tongue, and soon they are off across the yard, with Paul a faithful hack pusher. The teacher knows that, with the good example of those who have been there longer, Johnny will soon learn better ways.

Another of the trained teacher's assets is that she has learned how readily children respond to a positive program. She is always ready with something they can do when danger or discord is near. When she sees Mary headed for the swing where Paul is reaching high in the air, singing lustily without heed to anyone around—

"Up and down, up and down,
(Close to the sky and close to the ground)"—
she quickly suggests, "Mary, let's go up the ladder and take a look at the bluebird's nest." What child is not ready always to peep into a bird home?

A teacher is always looking for distinctive qualities in Paul and Mary. Paul is slow about taking care of his wraps and getting ready for business in the morning, but if his interest in what is waiting to be done is increased, he will soon learn to be more prompt. Mary is slow with her meals, but more exercise at the morning play hour will give her better hunger readiness at mealtime.

Another of the teacher's hidden resources is her ability to be objective. A certain amount of this power is essential to successful parenthood, but there it is a struggle. Love, or its adulterated substitute, partiality, is always getting in the way, and years of negative thinking and planning hinder progress. The very young language student does not get the full meaning of the negative. A little

begging is likely to change or soften "No" until the child must be stopped with a "Don't," and he is bewildered when a scolding or punishment follows. What he needs is suggestion; directions should be positive, telling a child what he *may* do rather than what he must not do.

The teacher continually endeavors to make each child responsible for his own behavior, and when punishment is necessary, tries to make it, as far as possible, the result of his own action. When Johnny cannot sit still during story hour, she says, "Mary and Paul and Arthur are waiting for the rest of the story. If you are too tired to sit still, you may go into the next room and lie down." He will almost always respond to good example. However, stories for three-year-olds must be very short and full of action.

Three stages of development in early childhood should be respected if the best results are to be obtained. Until the age of two, the child is the center, and mother is the sun, of the world of home. From two years to five or six is the social age, when the child needs companionship, his world needs to be broadened and enlarged. With some children, even as early as four comes the dramatic age, when imagination has much to do with his development. His imagination and curiosity lead him into an ever-widening world of nature's children, which live by the laws he needs to learn. He must be a bird flying with the birds, a duck swimming in the pool, a horse plowing daddy's garden, a chicken that has to mind its mother at the first call. When he can play his stories, they become a part of his life and a power in his education.

Nursery schools show what can be done in acquainting the little child with God, his heavenly Father, through the living examples of nature. A Chinese proverb tells us, "One picture is worth ten thousand words." The nursery school shows parents what must be done in early childhood if we would have Josephs and Daniels for God's final work in the world. Gather in the children, that the foundations may be strong for the final scenes ahead; teach and be taught. "Work as if you were working for your life to save the children from being drowned in the polluting, corrupting influences of the world."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI, p. 199.

"Come, Let Us Reason Together"

WHEN a baby comes to bless the home, how close we stay to our doctor! We realize, to some extent at least, what a precious treasure the baby is and how little we know of the workings of his intricate physical make-up, and we carefully watch for every new development. What a wonderful event is the first smile! the first tooth! How proud we are when baby stands alone! We watch that the little legs shall get just the right amount of exercise to strengthen them for the big task of learning to walk; and how we rejoice at the first steps alone!

But from then on we become less and less intrigued by the youngster's achievements. Of course, the first words are a thrill; but they come so gradually, from "Da-da," "Ma-ma," and "Bye-bye," to

complete sentences, that we become accustomed to advancement and it is little noted. Soon our child takes his place with the neighborhood children, and we compare his attainments with theirs.

Too soon comes this age usually considered school time, and some seem so eager to get their children "out from under foot" that we inquire what their plans are for their little ones. Mrs. Nation smiles: "Soon Paul will be in school, and I shall have more time for Red Cross work." "Yes," chimes in Mrs. Church, "and I can get out and do a whirlwind work in Ingathering." "And I," sighs Mrs. Potter, "can do some of the thousand things I've been waiting to do." Oh, blessed school!

When Larry, at the age of five and a half, is entered in the first grade at school, we say to ourselves, "Our child is just as bright as Larry! He must not fall behind or be made to feel that he is backward." A family council is held, and the mental and social standing of the five- and six-year-olds is discussed pro and con. We own that we dislike so soon to share our only son with the school; we know that he is really not ready for the confinement of the schoolroom. But—are not Larry's parents teachers? and ought they not to know better than we what is best for children? Yes, Larry's father is a doctor now, after teaching for years; surely a doctor should know what is right. And besides, can we see their child go head, and keep ours back? What shall we do about this learning process?

There are so many questions these days that one is sometimes bewildered. But surely you are not the parents who want to turn over to others the "nicest work" of molding your little children's souls. Parents have a Guide in the training of their children. Moreover, the definite age for school entrance is given: "Parents should be the only teachers of their children until they have reached eight or ten years of age."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 79. But because we have not searched out the reason for this instruction, we are slow to accept it.

Yet our Father never requires anything of us without good reason. Of course we do not think of teaching a child to walk before the bones and muscles of his legs are strong enough to support him; we must likewise take into account the mental powers necessary for his learning to read, write, and figure. We can do much to develop strong bones and muscles through correct feeding and exercise; we can likewise develop and strengthen his mental powers and processes, and bring out other abilities which will help him to learn school subjects more rapidly and without damage, when the right time comes.

Sound general health is to be built up during the early years of life; for eyes, ears, nerves, and muscles must work together. Child specialists are beginning to recognize the physical reasons why close application to inactive work or study should not be required of little children. They are finding that most children are farsighted until about nine years of age, when their eyes begin to take the normal adult focus. "If a child is to acquire information which will give his mind freedom to function, it is imperative that he

have abundant opportunity to touch, to see, to hear, to smell, and to taste, as the development of language is closely integrated with the richness of sensory experience."—LEONARD, MILES, VAN DER KAM, *The Child at Home and School* (American Book Company), p. 49.

Reading involves highly complex abilities not generally recognized. In the proficient reader the skill seems utterly simple; words seem to pour from his lips as freely as movement follows the starting of an automobile engine. But as in the auto, results depend upon the co-operative action of many complex mechanisms, and various defects may produce inadequate performance or entirely inhibit the function. When our car fails to run, we consult an expert. In reading, however, the diagnosis is more difficult, because of the much greater complexity of our bodies and the obscurity of the parts involved.

Going back to the words of our Guide, we see that modern science and research are coming to agree with His instruction: "The only schoolroom for children until eight or ten years of age should be in the open air, amid the opening flowers and nature's beautiful scenery, and their most familiar textbook the treasures of nature."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 80.

We are also told the results of failure to follow these instructions:

"Many children have been ruined for life by urging the intellect and neglecting to strengthen the physical powers. Many have died in childhood because of the course pursued by injudicious parents and schoolteachers."—*Ibid.*, p. 79.

"For generations the prevailing system of education has been destructive to health, and even to life itself. . . . It has been the custom to encourage sending children to school when they were mere babies, needing a mother's care. . . . Little children, whose limbs and muscles are not strong, and whose brains are undeveloped, are kept confined, to their injury. . . . Their bodies are dwarfed in consequence of the exhausted condition of the nervous system."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 145.

Our nursery school is not of such type, but is patterned after the ideal home school. There is no confinement and sedulous attention to taxing exercises; rather the children are taught from the textbook of nature, and trained to live happily with others, while the needs of big-muscle development are respected. Here is laid the physical and mental foundation for later book work. The child learns his first lessons in numbers from acorns, clovers, trees, stones, while at the same time developing his senses of touch, sight, hearing, smell, etc. His first lesson in reading may come when, at rest hour, the name of the bird he has seen in the open is associated with its picture on the bird cards. In preparation for the fine-muscle exercise of writing letters, words, and figures, he is given the large-muscle exercises of sand and clay-modeling and of painting, in broad sweeping strokes, his "pictures" on the brown-paper canvas of his child-size easel. He saws, hammers, and nails, making structures of his own imagination and embryonic skill. In the spring, using child-size

tools, he helps to lay out the school garden, with his own individual plot, and through seed and sprout, flower and fruit, he enters into a knowledge of the wonders of creation. Story and song are correlated with all his observation work and with his play. The rhythm band combines his music sense and his co-operative social life. He shares in the simple child duties of keeping house, cooking, table service, and manners. And through all activity there is the spirit of reverence and devotion in study and worship. Through these means strong Christian characters may be built which shall withstand the storms ahead.

True, this work should be done by parents in the home. The word is, "Parents should be the only teachers of their children until they have reached eight or ten years of age." However, parents who piously keep their children out of grade school, but fail to give them the necessary teaching at home, are no more fulfilling the word than are those who send their young children to school. If parents will fit themselves for this teaching, provide the necessary environment, and devote themselves to the work, then they may most ideally carry out the instruction. But this is no casual work: it means definite and particular training, preferably before parenthood or, less ideally, after the children come. And in the almost universal failure of parents thus to prepare themselves for this most important educational work, the nursery school under competent teachers trained in God's methods, may be the salvation of both child and parent.

The Nursery School Textbook

As every good teacher must know his textbook, so the nursery school teacher must know the book of nature spread before her everywhere. She must become so nature-conscious that she carries the thought of nature objects wherever she goes. Adults are naturally blind, insensitive to the grass carpet's velvety texture, not perceiving that "on the lily's petals, God has written a message for you."—*Mount of Blessing*, p. 143. One must study the textbook, to teach.

"To the little child, not yet capable of learning from the printed page or of being introduced to the routine of the schoolroom, nature presents an unfailing source of instruction and delight."—*Education*, p. 100. But what the little child finds in the marvelous world of nature depends on adult sympathy and guidance. It may be a friendly world of growing, creeping, flying things where he finds God at work; or it may be a place where terror reigns, if he is told only that cats scratch, bugs sting, and plants poison.

The first little creature to meet our nursery school group one spring was daddy longlegs. Our table was out under the trees, near a home of such little fellows. As one crept near, a three-year-old shied away. We asked all the children to watch how fast the spider could go; we counted his legs, and tried to think what we would do if God had given us so many. Soon each child was close about the table to hear a story of daddy

longlegs' life and work. I let one big daddy creep up on my hand, noting the joints in his legs. The bravest child wanted one on his hand. How soft its step! Then every child wanted one to climb along his arm.

Near the swing, cicadas were found shedding their old clothes; so while the children sat on the ladder that reached up into the cedar tree, they were told the life story of a really-truly fairy, with its lesson of a heavenly Father who provides for all His children. A crested flycatcher came and sat on the clothesline near by. We watched him dart out, catch an insect, and come back to his same watching place. His name was given, and later his beautiful coat was studied from a close-up picture, and little fingers felt a stray feather as the story was told of the birds' policing of air, trees, and ground.

It is line upon line, here a little and there a little, as we sit down and as we rise up, that little children are taught the lessons of nature as fast as they can comprehend. Nature is a picture book of spiritual things—living, moving pictures showing that obedience is necessary, that unselfish service brings life. The sleeping seed and the silken cocoon from which life comes in God's appointed time illustrate the state of the dead. Nature is the children's bible, God's illustrated word, by which they learn to live.

Even big folk become cross and impatient when a rainy day hinders their plans. Children get the impact of this reaction, and they begin to fret and wish the rain would go away. Robins set a much better example by being even happier and busier on days when rain brings up worms, of which they are fond. By examples of birds and animals, character lessons may be taught without scolding or nagging, and one such lesson often suffices for life. Who has not seen a small boy or girl strut about calling attention to new attire? The blue jay furnishes a lesson that "clothes do not make the man," for though he has a beautiful coat, he is so vain, has such bad manners, and does so many mean things that he is no favorite of other birds or of man.

A busy doctor's wife in the West told how her boy got a lesson in unselfishness. While looking for a country home, both mother and child became interested in learning to know the birds and other little creatures they saw. Especially was he attracted by the quick movements and interesting store of the pack rat that grabbed and hid everything it could find. One day a friend and her two little girls were to accompany them on a day's outing. As the guests came toward the car, mother saw her little boy rapidly hiding his toys, so she said softly, "Well, mother has a pack rat today!" Instantly he caught the lesson, and before the first child reached the car, the toys were out again. This lesson never needed repeating. But to teach any lesson just when it is needed, one must have studied her textbook.

Teaching comes also in little duties. The nursery school children were shelling peas for dinner. It was fun to pop the pods and shell the peas out into the pan, while Miss Hill told of the Father's tender care in providing strong pod houses for

baby peas to grow in till they develop into seed children. Pea families have so many children they can spare some for our food. The teacher had put a few undeveloped pods into the basket, that the children might see how the pods grow with the peas and are always just big enough.

In a glass jar in one window were frogs' eggs. Here our Father had left off the shell, so baby eyes might see the miracle of developing life. What joy when polliwogs could swim, and hunt dinners placed in the jar! Would legs ever grow, so they could jump? In a cage at another window was a pair of canaries. When would there be eggs in the nest? Wonders never end for the little child who has an understanding guide at every turn.

Nursery school teachers must take time to know the nature children common to the playground. Parents should study, too. Of course you are busy; everyone is busy. But listen: "Parents, in the training of your children, study the lessons that God has given in nature. . . . Follow the method of the gardener. . . . By gentle touches, by loving ministrations, seek to fashion their characters after the pattern of the character of Christ."—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 515, 516.

Indeed, parents should be the only teachers of their children, if they will prepare for, and give themselves to, the task. But many parents have taken no time to study and are not now prepared to teach their children; so nursery school teachers must be trained to fill their places in this work of teaching the little ones, "for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

After Sixteen Years

PASTOR A. C. HARDER, of the Rio-Espirito Santo Mission in East Brazil, tells of one woman who has been attending the evangelistic effort and who has been keeping the Sabbath alone for sixteen years. The story runs as follows:

Alfredo Meier was holding an effort in Cachoeiro do Itapemirim. A theater was rented with a seating capacity of five hundred persons, and six hundred pressed in. From one hundred fifty to two hundred were turned away nightly by the police. Because the meeting drew so many away from his other theater, the owner refused to rent the building to us for an additional month. Forty-two have entered the baptismal class and more have indicated their intention to join it soon.

In this class is a woman who sixteen years ago had a dream in which she saw a lady approach her and tell her that she must keep the seventh-day Sabbath. A few days after this dream a priest of that town was preparing to return to Europe. In his quarters, in connection with the church, he had accumulated a lot of heretical books, which he decided to destroy. He began carrying them out by the boxful and heaping them up in the yard. Then he touched a match to them and started to go back into the building for more. Seeing a row of boys sitting on the fence watching him, he warned them not to take away any of the books. This woman who had had the dream was also watching. When this

priest had disappeared within the building, she urged one of the boys to run over to the fire and get her several books. He returned with two—a Bible and *Coming King*. Taking them into her house, she opened the Bible—doubtless the first she had ever held in her hand. It opened to Exodus 20, and she read the fourth commandment. That settled the matter for her; she began to keep the Sabbath. Her husband opposed her, but she remained firm. Then he decided that she was mentally sick, and took her to a doctor, who also believed that she must be sick, and gave her medicine; but the medicine did not cure her of Sabbath-keeping. For sixteen years she searched among the churches but found none that kept all God's commandments. Recently, when she attended our first meeting, she felt that at last she had found the church for which she had searched so long.

R. R. FIGUEROA.

Radio Manager Gives Friendly Support

THE manager and owner of Radio Cali, in Colombia, José T. Calderon, was visited by a prominent doctor of the city, who urged him to suspend the Voice of Prophecy broadcasts, saying that these programs were Adventist propaganda and were not suitable for use in a Catholic city. Mr. Calderon answered very courteously but made it clear to his caller that in his office and in his conscience he himself must be responsible for the decisions that would be made.

A short time after this a Catholic priest came to Mr. Calderon and asked how much he received for broadcasting the programs of the Voice of Prophecy. At the same time he offered an equal amount of money if the manager of the station would suspend the contract and withhold the programs that were being provided by the Adventists. But in a kindly yet firm manner Mr. Calderon replied:

"I am responsible for my own affairs. The money that I receive from my business is my own personal concern, but I should like to say that there are two things that are more precious to me than money—my word and my sense of honor. I cannot sell these nor can I give them away. My word and my honor are my real treasures.

"Furthermore, I do not see why the programs of the Voice of Prophecy are not worthy to be transmitted to the people, for they do not attack the beliefs of others, and they are good programs. If it were otherwise, I would be the first one to avoid them. I consider the Voice of Prophecy programs to be so worthy of acceptance that I recommend them to the archbishop and suggest that he tune in and listen to the program, for it has a message very necessary to all Catholics. The world today needs the genuine message of Christ, and we should all unite in promoting it. We must fight against the true enemy, communism, and not despise the loving call that Christ is making to the people by means of the Voice of Prophecy programs."

We consider this a good response and

appreciate the loyalty of this station manager. We might compare the Voice of Prophecy broadcast to an angel flying in the midst of heaven, bringing good tidings to the people of this earth; and we should refrain from paying attention to the efforts of men who oppose the proclamation of the message that God would have the people receive in these serious times in which we live.

TIRSO ESCOBAR.

Colporteur Evangelism

NINETY-NINE Sabbathkeepers have been found during the last twelve months by the colporteur evangelists of the Rio-Espirito Santo Mission alone. Bible studies have been given to approximately one hundred and fifty families. During this period fifteen persons have been baptized in this same mission as a direct result of colporteur evangelism.

One colporteur, with his horse and two sacks of books, had to go through a stream of muddy water on the road. He wept because he and his possessions were drenched, supposing that all his books would be soaked with water. However, when he opened the sacks, he found the contents completely dry. The water had done them no harm. The colporteur thanked God for His care and protection.

During his delivery the colporteur met a sick man who already had many of our books and who exclaimed, "The Adventists are right; the others are wrong." Our books certainly carry conviction to many souls and bring them to the feet of our Saviour.

The Rio-Espirito Santo Mission has a membership of over two thousand. It is interesting to know that more than seventy per cent of this number came to the knowledge of the truth through the colporteur work. We hope that many more souls will be won to the Lord through the printed page within the next twelve months.

P. E. WENSELL.



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