

# The Church Officers' Gazette

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## A CHURCH-WIDE EVANGELISTIC EFFORT

BY ALFRED W. PETERSON

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER WEEK, observed each year in March, has grown to be, perhaps, the greatest evangelistic effort held at any one time by the church. Last year in the North American Division alone, 800 churches and 519 schools held special meetings for their young people. The fruitage of this week testifies to its effectiveness. The conversions totaled 2,579, a number equivalent to the membership of a conference. Of these 2,579 young people, 757 were baptized at the close of the week, and the remaining 1,822 joined baptismal classes, to prepare for baptism.

It could not be expected that every church in a conference could have ministerial help during Missionary Volunteer Week; however, meetings for young people ought to be held, and invitations to surrender to Christ ought to be given. It is of enormous significance, therefore, that church boards in 241 churches went forward with plans for special meetings for their young people without the help of a regular minister or conference worker.

There is a growing conviction that the church must undertake something extraordinary in order to save its young people and keep the church strong. Perhaps seldom, if ever, have our youth been in such peril. The appalling after influences of a war of unprecedented savagery threaten them. The prospect of compulsory military training, with its tests regarding Sabbathkeeping, noncombatancy, profanity, gambling, drinking, and immorality, confronts every boy eighteen years of age or younger. The blandish-

ments of a rich, soft society entice them. The promises of wealth and positions in a money-crazed world are held out to them.

Here is God's call to His imperiled church:

"The church should arouse, and manifest a deep interest in this work; for now as never before, Satan and his host are determined to enlist the youth under the black banner that leads to ruin and death.

"God has appointed the church as a watchman, to have a jealous care over the youth and children, and as a sentinel to see the approach of the enemy and give warning of danger. But the church does not realize the situation. She is sleeping on guard. In this time of peril, fathers and mothers must arouse and work as for life, or many of the youth will be forever lost."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 165.

With the perils of the last days thickening about us, the church must "gather the children" now, if it is to have the unspeakable joy of seeing fulfilled the prophecy of Joel 2:28, 29, and experience the inflowing of power for the finishing of God's work in the earth. The promise reads:

"Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children." "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 old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the

handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit." Joel 2:15, 16, 28, 29. The context makes plain that we are in the time when the youth are to be gathered into the church to become channels of power. This responsibility rests squarely upon each church board.

Each year approximately five thousand boys and girls connected with the families of the church reach the age of thirteen, the age of decision. Their choice at this time conditions them for the church or for the world. How important, therefore, that this fine army of five thousand be helped to choose Christ and His church and a glorious future of service in the finishing of the gospel in all the world in this generation.

Over and over I have asked young people why they have never been baptized. Over and over I have had the response, "No one has ever asked me." God forbid that any boy or girl should be lost out of the kingdom of God because he has never been given a personal invitation to give his heart to Christ and to join His church. Let us invite them. Let every church board lay plans for a strong effort to gather in its young people.

The studies for this Week of Prayer, found in this number of the GAZETTE, make it possible for every church, without the help of a minister, to conduct a series of meetings for young people which can culminate in a call to consecration. The church elder, or some other person who has the confidence of young people, and who may be designated by the church board to conduct these meetings, can, with the help of these studies and under

(Turn to page 47)



# YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

## of Missionary Volunteers



### NOTES TO OFFICERS

#### The Society Secretary-Treasurer

THE work of the secretary-treasurer of the society is very important indeed. First of all, he is to keep an accurate record of all the names and addresses of members of the society. He should also compile and keep an accurate list of all the young people of Seventh-day Adventist families who may not be church members or members of the society. This is imperative in order to make it possible for the society to work intelligently for the unconverted youth of the church.

The secretary-treasurer should have the regular record book which contains blanks for the above lists, as well as a place to record all certificates issued to society members, all progress that is made in Missionary Volunteer classes, and records of those who have been invested in any one of the classes. He is also responsible for obtaining missionary reports from the members of all work done, and before the tenth of each month should compile a summary of such reports and forward one of these summaries to the conference Missionary Volunteer secretary and provide another for the missionary secretary of his church. In other words, the summary report is to be made out in triplicate so that he has one for his own file, which is left in the record book, and the other two supplied as mentioned above.

He is to receive all Missionary Volunteer Society offerings and see that they are properly recorded in his own books and turned over to the church treasurer, who in turn will properly receipt all money thus handled. The secretary-treasurer is the responsible officer to make all payments of accounts handled, buy Reading Course books for the society library, and other items as he may be authorized by the executive committee.

The secretary-treasurer should not only write and keep the minutes of all society meetings and render the same to the society but keep accurate minutes of all executive committee meetings and be able, when requested, to bring these reports to the officers in session. He may call upon his assistant secretary-treasurer to help him in obtaining missionary reports, in

writing the minutes alternate months, or in other ways which may be agreed upon by the executive committee.

The secretary-treasurer who magnifies his office can prove a great blessing to the young people of the church and his society, and greatly strengthen the work of the society by his faithful co-operation.

C. LESTER BOND.

### Quizgram for Society Officers

**SUGGESTION:** The chairman of the society executive committee should take a few minutes at each of the monthly executive committee meetings for a round-table discussion of the opportunities and duties of the executive committee. This quizgram may form the basis of the discussion. It is based on Missionary Volunteer Leaflet No. 4, "Duties of Officers" (revision of 1945).

#### True or False?

1. The Missionary Volunteer Society is the center of earnest, happy activity and Christian fellowship for the young people of the church.

2. The successful society is the one that holds the most inspiring Missionary Volunteer meetings.

3. The most influential leaders of young people in the work of the church are the pastor and the members of the church board.

4. The CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE provides material for the regular weekly society meetings.

On the blank line before the following questions, write the letter of the word that gives the correct answer to the question.

1. ———. What is an executive committee agenda?

- Devotional features.
- A band outline.
- A work sheet of items.
- Chairman of the committee.

2. ———. Leadership of youth in the local church is said to be—

- The most noble work.
- The most delicate work.
- The nicest work.
- A secondary work.

Insert the correct words in the following sentences.

1. "The officers of the Missionary Volunteer Society should give strong and steady ——— leadership to the youth of the church."

2. "It is at the regular monthly meeting that ——— plans are studied and laid for the work of the society as a whole."

3. "Leaders of young people ought to understand youth's ——— and youth ———."

4. "The officers should endeavor to be strong ——— searching out the discouraged, the backslidden, and unconverted."

A. W. P.

### 1946 a Crusaders' Year

LET a Missionary Volunteer Crusader Corps be organized in every society to hold cottage meetings, to give Bible readings, and, if possible, to conduct evangelistic efforts.

The Southern Publishing Association, co-operating with the Young People's Department of the General Conference, has provided a special edition of the Shuler Bible lessons, known as the Crusaders' Bible course. These can be purchased from the conference Book and Bible House.

There are twenty-eight titles in these especially prepared lessons. Attractive, illustrated, colored film-strips, with the caption, *Missionary Volunteer Crusaders*, have been prepared with the same titles as the above twenty-eight subjects. These filmstrips are an amazingly effective aid in giving Bible studies. In fact, the Bible study almost gives itself with the use of these visual aids. The twenty-eight lessons in a single set with test papers cost forty cents.

If a corps of young people in a society were giving Bible lessons to six people, it would be quite necessary for each one of the six to have a copy of the lesson placed in his hand at each meeting for his convenience in following the study.

The filmstrips may be secured from your conference Missionary Volunteer secretary, who, perhaps, has a film library.

Many societies own their own library of filmstrips. These cost approximately \$4 a subject, each one containing around 56 frames; including texts. They are

available through the Mayse Studio, P.O. Box 25, San Diego, California.

Let us make this a Crusader year because of the unparalleled opportunities which the Lord is providing for His people to give a message of hope to a discouraged and questioning world.

E. W. DUNBAR.

### Gathering for 1946

THE Ingathering effort in recent years has been one of the greatest agencies sponsored by the church in raising money for foreign missions. During the year 1945 approximately \$1,800,000 was raised for this purpose, and many thousands of the church members participated in gathering in this amount.

The Ingathering campaign for 1946 begins April 6 and extends to May 18. Needs in foreign lands at the present time are greater than ever before. The necessity for reconstruction and rehabilitation in those lands torn by war adds materially to the great needs, and it is hoped that during 1946 greater amounts than ever before may be garnered in. The denomination greatly appreciates the work done by the youth and juniors of the church and the fact that many of them, at considerable inconvenience to themselves, participated in gathering in the money night after night until the work was accomplished. Every society should organize carefully for this important undertaking.

In some cities municipal ordinances prohibit solicitation on the street or from door to door, and in others no opportunity is given for singing band solicitation. But, where careful planning is done by the officers, even in those places we have had opportunity for the young people to do a wonderful work. In one city where the singing bands are not permitted, the members of the society are so organized that they can go in small groups directly to the homes of the people. The members of each group are drilled and trained in the songs to be used, so they can render them well, and as the quartet and their leader go to the door, the leader states that they are a group of Christian young people out singing hymns and gospel songs for the people of the community and requests permission to enter the home for that purpose. One of these groups was working in a very restricted district of the city, among the wealthy residents, and as the young people were greeted at the door by the man of the house, he said, "I'm not so sure this is the most opportune time for you to come in and sing hymns,

since I have thirty guests here tonight for a card party." But after a moment's thought he said, "Well, come on in. It will do us all good." And then he turned and asked whether anyone in the group played the organ. One of the girls said she did. And as they were led into the drawing room by their host, he interrupted the card games and informed the guests they had an unexpected pleasure because here was a group of young people who had come to sing to them. The young woman went to the organ, which was a pipe organ, and the young people sang three numbers, after which the leader of the group told their purpose in making the visit. Following his brief remarks, the host said he surely wanted to have a part in that, and he took from his billfold a crisp \$20 bill. The guests contributed enough more to make \$37 in all that those young people received in that one home. They visited five residences that evening and from these five homes gathered in \$86.50. This suggestion may be carried out with benefit in other places.

There is grave danger in some types of solicitation. Great care should be exercised not to place Juniors and immature young people in embarrassing situations. As a church we do all that we can to discourage young people from attending the theater, night clubs, cabarets, and kindred resorts, and the church should refrain from placing its young people in places of this kind for the purpose of soliciting in the Ingathering work or other church efforts.

If the work is well planned and organized the young people can accomplish great good and bring in large amounts of money without placing them in those environments where their religious life and attitudes may be compromised. Let us all pray and plan so carefully that the Ingathering work in 1946 may accomplish all that it should.

C. LESTER BOND.

### Prayer and Personal Workers' Band

A WISE man, Henry Clay Trumbull, once said, "The best way to save the world in time is to save the individuals one at a time."

Missionary Volunteers know that it is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of saving souls depends alone on the work of the ordained minister. We must hold before our young people that all who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men. Whatever one's calling in life, his first interest should be to win souls for

Christ. He may not be able to speak before congregations, but he can work for individuals.

A minister who had intermittently carried on a series of evangelistic meetings in his church for five years was attracted to a young man who had been in attendance practically all of that time. The boy always evaded the minister by slipping out of the service before it was entirely finished. One evening the evangelist decided to get acquainted with this man, come what may, so, asking an assistant to dismiss the congregation, he stepped out a side door and hurried around the church. He came up the stairway just in time to meet the young man for the first time. He said to the boy, "Good evening, friend. May I ask whether you are a Christian?"

The boy said, "No, I do not consider myself to be a Christian."

The minister said, "Well, would you like to give your heart to Christ?"

"Yes, sir," the boy said, "I think I would." So they stepped into a side room, had a brief word of prayer, and in five minutes of personal interview accomplished more than had been accomplished in five years of preaching. Of course, the preaching had its place, but surely our young people need to be instructed in the art of personal evangelism.

To assist you in conducting a prayer and personal workers' band, you should order M.V. Leaflet No. 20.

May the Lord bless you as you contemplate and plan for this important work.

E. W. DUNBAR.

### The Early Advent Days

In the days of William Miller, when God had a great message of His soon coming to give the world, the press was used in a large way, and thousands and tens of thousands of people became fully acquainted and were stirred by those thrilling announcements.

It was in the year 1848 that Mrs. E. G. White was shown in vision the need of the literature work. "I have a message for you. You must begin to print a little paper and send it out to the people. Let it be small at first; but as the people read, they will send you means with which to print, and it will be a success from the first. From this small beginning it was shown to me to be like streams of light that went clear round the world."—*Life Sketches*, p. 125.

How the hearts of those pioneers of the advent message must have thrilled as they started to collect funds for the establishment of our first printing work.

The year following, 1849, the first copy of *Present Truth* was printed, and the entire edition, weighing less than twenty-five pounds, was carried to the post office in a carpetbag. Before they were delivered at the post office, that little company of believers spread these papers upon the floor, and as they knelt around them they earnestly prayed that the Lord would bless these silent messengers of truth.

### A Missionary Band Leader—

Is a member of the M.V. Society executive committee.

Attends the executive committee meetings regularly and reports the progress of the band work.

Is responsible for the missionary activities of his band.

Studies any situation in the community which would benefit through well-planned work by his missionary band, determines the resources of the society which may be utilized in meeting the needs, and then counsels with the executive committee before launching out in the work.

Becomes thoroughly acquainted with the best methods of work, by both study and practice.

Gives careful study to the circumstances and adaptability of each member of the band, in order to be prepared to suggest such lines of work as will prove most suitable and congenial to each one.

Is prepared to work with any member of the band who may need special help and encouragement.

Meets the members of the band at suitable times for prayer and counsel concerning their work.

Sees that each member of the band fills out an individual report blank each week and hands it to the band leader.

Remembers that the temperature of the M.V. Society is regulated by the activity of its missionary-band members, and therefore, in co-operation with the other band leaders, makes plans so that each member of the society shall be encouraged to engage in some definite and systematic line of work for the Master.

M. W. M.

years had been able to write, but now he was able, through the great invention of the printing press, to maintain a higher intellectual standard. Knowledge and information as dependable weapons helped the great middle class, which was rapidly increasing, to rise above the brute force of the feudal lords.

Printed documents outlined democratic forms of government. Paper was manufactured and used for the printing of the Bible and other documents of the Reformation. Were it not for certain printed documents, no doubt the common man of today would still be living in a state of semiserfdom.

Why did God hand down to man this great invention? We firmly believe that, as it was used in the days of the Renaissance and Reformation, it will be a most important factor and play a large role in the extension of God's kingdom and speed the third angel's message to all the world.

### Development of Subscription Literature

About thirty years later an edition of *Daniel and the Revelation* as a subscription book was introduced, and this was the beginning of the development of our subscription book business. Following the Spanish-American War there came a depression. Some conceived the idea that the economic situation was not favorable. Some of our leaders lost hope, but in 1902 Mrs. White made the statement that the canvassing work should be revived and carried forward with ever-increasing success. And what a revival we have seen! Last year more than nine million dollars' worth of denominational literature was sent out into the field and distributed by a large army of colporteurs and home missionary workers in the churches. And the end is not yet. In recent years we have seen many providential and miraculous developments, indicating that God has set His hand of approval upon this plan of gospel endeavor. The success of this work at the present time is one of the most thrilling epochs in Advent history. It seems there are no forces of evil or combination of forces that can stop the ministry of the printed page. In missionary endeavor it is one of the most important factors in the dissemination of Bible truth. It goes where the minister or evangelist cannot go. Colporteurs carry it to the most remote regions. It goes into the homes of the rich and the homes of the poor. It finds its way into palaces as well as into the homes far in the interior, and as a result whole churches have sprung into existence.



## SENIOR MEETINGS

March 2

### The Pen Is Mightier Than the Sword

BY E. E. FRANKLIN

#### Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "Far and Near the Fields Are Teeming," No. 448 in *Church Hymnal*.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 9:37, 38.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERING.

SYMPOSIUM: "The Pen Is Mightier Than the Sword."

SONG: "Christ for the World," No. 452.

BENEDICTION.

### The Pen Is Mightier Than the Sword

THAT the pen is mightier than the sword is an axiom that has proved true all during the centuries of time. The increasing need for international co-operation among mankind is not solved by the clash of arms—death and destruction by armies and navies—but good will, peace, and prosperity are promoted and fostered by an exchange of ideas and the use of language as tools by mankind to keep the peace of the world. In the last few years we have seen great intellectual and scien-

tific achievements. It has been an age in which great use has been made of certain scientific research. This concerns us all because, as never before, our common needs must be brought before us and served in some form of conveyance within the reach of all. This not only implies human speech as a means of communication, but also implies a medium by which man can communicate across the world and use the medium of all ages and record it in the form of writing. The beginning of writing and printing meant the beginning of civilization for the world and its peoples.

To the Chinese people must be given the credit for the invention of printing and movable type. Soals and dies had been known in China long before the founding of Rome. In the valley of the Euphrates and the Tigris, Babylonians printed copies of their laws upon lumps of clay. Later the Greeks and Romans used the art. Then about the fifteenth century, when there was an outstanding need for a great reformation—and for all kinds of information to go to the people at a price whereby millions could be reached—the art of printing was perfected. The accumulated information of the ages could be passed on for the benefit of future generations. Man for many

To show how this literature is accomplishing a great work in evangelism, we pass on to you a few experiences.

A copy of *Esta Hora Decisiva* (This Decisive Hour) fell into the hands of a certain man in Puerto Rico. He was a lay preacher who had gained thirty persons for his church. In fact, he was so successful in his efforts that the leaders of his church invited him to become a minister. He told them that he had found new light, and talked with them about the book that he was reading concerning the Sabbath. They were angry with him because of this and said that he was permitting the Adventists to lead him. Soon two others joined him in reading this book, and still later, others. In December, 1944, twenty-four persons were baptized in that place, ten of them being converted by the reading of that one book. The others were won by the efforts of the first ten.

In East Cuba a man bought a copy of *El Rey Que Viene* (The Coming King) several years ago, but he did not like it and gave it to a friend. This man enjoyed the book, read it with others, and some time later nine persons were baptized as a result of the study of that one volume.

Not long ago in the city of Monteria, Colombia, the minister of that district discovered a group that had been keeping the Sabbath for five years, not knowing of the existence of other Sabbath-keepers. It seems a colporteur had sold a book to the local leader of the Presbyterian church in a little place called San Juan. This man began to study the book, together with another officer of the same church, and before long the two families started to keep the Sabbath. They were expelled from the church. It caused a division in the membership which resulted in the breaking up of the church.

Our two families continued to meet together and a number of their former brethren with them; as time passed, some dropped away, but the two families remained true. By accident our minister ran across them. They, of course, were very happy and have urged that he come to hold meetings. At the present time a worker is there carrying on a series of meetings in this Presbyterian church.

### Urgent Appeal for Missionaries

Colporteur Chaves, of Bolivia, entered a commercial house and presented the book *Desire of Ages* to the manager, who eagerly ordered a copy. When Colporteur Chaves requested permission to visit the employees of the business house, the

manager not only granted his request but took the prospectus in hand and went along with Brother Chaves from one employee to another, giving the canvass enthusiastically and as best he could, urging each man to buy a copy of the good book. All our colporteur had to do was to write out the receipts for the deposits. They took thirteen orders for *Desire of Ages* in a half hour. On the day the books were delivered, the manager made arrangements for the cashier to pay for the entire number of books. Along the trail of the colporteurs in Bolivia urgent appeals come for missionaries or teachers to follow up the interest created by the "shock troops."

At the mouth of the Amazon River, Colporteur Miranda in eight months' time sold seven hundred copies of the two-hundred-page book, *The Life of Jesus*. Recently he visited a group of North American and Brazilian physicians who are in charge of public health work along the Amazon. They bought a copy of the Portuguese health book, *The Medical Counselor*, written by Dr. H. O. Swarthout. They examined it thoroughly and called him the following day to place an order for five hundred copies of the book. The public health workers plan to place a copy of this medical book in the hands of each of their medical representatives along the Amazon River. They sent their truck over to our local Book and Bible House and loaded on the 290 copies which were in stock, giving a check in payment. They are now awaiting the other 210 copies to arrive from the publishing house.

Urgent appeals for missionaries come from far-flung territories where the preacher or teacher has not as yet penetrated, but where the "shock troops," our godly colporteurs, have, by the distribution of health and gospel literature, blazed the trail and thus opened the way for hungry souls to receive the full message. In Santa Fé, Argentina, some of the persons who were interested in the truth by Colporteur Citera are already keeping the Sabbath. He has also recruited two new colporteurs during recent months. During the past three months another colporteur interested eleven souls in the message in one place, in another place eight have been enrolled in the radio Bible class; in still another, eighteen interested by this colporteur were invited and influenced to attend an evangelistic effort.

Ricardo Martins was a gangster who lived with the most wicked men in a certain section of East Brazil. He was one

of a group of twelve men who were the terror of the countryside, killing, stealing, and committing any crime. He had transgressed all of the Ten Commandments, and took pride in doing so.

One day, a number of years ago, while he was riding on the streetcar, someone handed him a tract concerning the evils of liquor and tobacco. It made an impression on him, and thereafter each time he took a drink of liquor he was reminded of the tract. Later he stole a book, which happened to be one of our publications on health, brought it home with him, and read it with interest. Someone then gave him a Bible, which he also read, discovering the Ten Commandments. The result was his conversion and acceptance of the Sabbath, after which he began to work in his own neighborhood. After his baptism, together with his family and several others, he kept on working until a small church was organized, of which he became elder. A church was built, and instead of living wicked lives as they had been doing, the group worship God.

### The Call to Service

In *The Colporteur Evangelist* we read this stirring appeal to our believers:

"Our church members are to arise and shine, because their light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon them. Let those who know the truth arouse out of sleep, and make every effort to reach the people where they are. The work of the Lord must no longer be neglected by us and made secondary to worldly interests. We have no time to be idle or discouraged. The gospel is to be proclaimed to all the world. The publications containing the light of present truth are to go forth to all places. Canvassing campaigns are to be organized for the sale of our literature, that the world may be enlightened as to just what is before us."

"Oh, that thousands more of our people had a realization of the time in which we are living, and of the work to be done in field service, in house-to-house labor."

"If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures."—Pages 30, 32, 80.

"Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believ-

ers. Satan also works with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 612.

### Laboring While Probation Lingers

"The judgments of God are in the earth, and, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, we must give the message of warning that He has entrusted to us. We must give this message quickly, line upon line, precept upon precept. Men will soon be forced to great decisions, and it is our duty to see that they are given an opportunity to understand the truth, that they may take their stand intelligently on the right side. The Lord calls upon His people to labor—labor earnestly and wisely—while probation lingers."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, pp. 126, 127.

"Unless we understand the importance of the moments that are swiftly passing into eternity, and make ready to stand in the great day of God, we shall be unfaithful stewards. The watchman is to know the time of night. Everything is now clothed with a solemnity that all who believe the truth for this time should realize. They should act in reference to the day of God. The judgments of God are about to fall upon the world, and we need to be preparing for that great day."—*Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 407.

As we look to the Master's life, we explore the thought of responsibility. Listen as He says: "Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" "I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work." And if we press on to the quiet period of eventide in the consciousness of a fulfilled purpose in life, the words, "I have glorified Thee on the earth, I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do," will be the pattern of our consecration.

### Our Solemn Charge

The wind bloweth where it listeth; we hear the sound thereof: we cannot tell whence it cometh or whither it goeth; but it is bearing seed, and lo, we behold ripening grain. The cry everywhere today is, "Give us bread." There is a growing hunger for the "Word of Life." We can satisfy hungry people only with the bread of life.

"The sunset burns across the sky;  
Upon the air its warning cry  
The curfew tolls, from tower to tower;  
O children, 'tis the last, last hour!"

The work that centuries might have done  
Must crowd the hour of setting sun,  
And through all lands the saving Name  
Ye must, in fervent haste, proclaim."

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March 9

## Making Images

BY M. L. ANDREASEN

### Order of Service

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

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERING.

REPEAT IN UNISON: Second Commandment, Exodus 20:4-6.

STUDY: "Making Images."

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

BENEDICTION.

### Making Images

Is it wrong to paint pictures or to use a camera as an avocation? We think not. Anything, of course, that is carried to extreme, that demands an undue amount of time, money, and concentration, which detracts from interest in the work of God, must be condemned. Good sense is needed rightly to divide the time God has given us.

The taking of pictures, the art of painting, of sculpture or woodcraft, the collection of stamps or books or other objects; may to the young form a valuable, profitable, and educational diversion.

But does not the Bible say that we are not to make "any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth"? Yes, it says that very thing in the second commandment. (Ex. 20:4.) If taken in the absolute sense, this commandment would prohibit the making of any picture or any likeness of anything whatsoever in heaven and earth. Yet consider this: when God told Moses to make a tabernacle, His command was definite to make it and all the instruments after the "pattern, which was showed thee in the mount." Ex. 25:40. The "two cherubim of gold, of beaten work"; the seven-branched candlestick with each of its "bowls made like unto almonds, with their knops and their flowers"; the veil made of "fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubim"; the "molten sea" which Solomon made according to God's directions and which "stood upon twelve oxen"; the ledges and borders of the base which had gravings of "lions, oxen, and cherubim"; all were transgressions of the second commandment if interpreted as

some do today. (Ex. 25:18, 34; 26:31; 1 Kings 7:25, 29.) So, also, would be God's command to Ezekiel to take a tile "and portray upon it the city, even Jerusalem." Eze. 4:1. In fact, it would not be possible to build a house, make a chair or a bookcase, design a hat or a dress after something we had seen—for they would all be a likeness of something on earth.

But God is not thus unreasonable, nor does He transgress His own command in instructing Moses to build according to the pattern shown him in the mount. God is consistent in all that He does.

The solution lies in this statement following the one quoted above: "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them." Ex. 20:5. The moment any of these things become an obsession, an object of worship, that which we would rather do or have than anything else, we are transgressing the commandment. God must come first; all else must be secondary and be subject to God. It is not sin to make things that are copies of other things; but it is sin to venerate them, to bow down to them to worship them.

### A Jealous God

"For I the Lord am a jealous God." Zealous would be a better translation than jealous; for jealousy savors of petty envy and suspicion, which is far from God. God is not jealous in the sense that men speak of jealousy, but He is zealous for His people, and wishes them to prosper and be happy. Christ's expression, "the zeal of Thine house hath eaten Me up" (Ps. 69:9), is a most forceful way of stating His intense desire for God's cause. In the same way God is zealous for His people, but not jealous of other gods. That would magnify their importance.

### Inherited Sin

Do children suffer for the sins of their fathers? That has never seemed quite fair. Note the statement attributed to God by Ezekiel when he says: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him." Eze. 18:20. This seems eminently just and fair. "The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son." The one who sins shall die; not someone else.

Most of the eighteenth chapter of Eze-

kiel discusses the question of so-called inherited sin. Israel had a proverb, "The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." Eze. 18:2. This proverb does not please God and He swears, "As I live, . . . ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel." Verse 3.

Then He discusses the question of a son suffering for the sins of the father, and rejects the whole philosophy contained in the proverb quoted. He first considers the case of a just man who has a son that is "a robber, a shedder of blood." Verse 10. Such a son shall not profit by his father's righteousness; "he shall surely die." Verse 13. But if the wicked son should himself have a son who does what is lawful and right, "he shall not die for the iniquity of his father, he shall surely live," while his father "shall die in his iniquity." Verses 17, 18. The following verses, 19 to 24, argue other phases of this same question, but it is all summed up in verse 20, quoted above, which states that each must suffer for his own sin, not for someone else's.

But is not this argument invalidated by the statement in the commandment which says that God will visit "the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me"? Ex. 20:5.

We think not. The argument hinges on the phrase, "of them that hate Me." Who are "them"? We believe that "them" refers to the children, not the fathers. Thus interpreted, we read that God will visit the iniquity of the fathers upon the children if the children hate God as the fathers did. That is, when a father sins he suffers for those sins. But the children will not suffer for them unless they also hate God. In that case they are as guilty as the father and deserve to suffer.

But what, then, is meant by "visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children"? A son inherits certain tendencies or tastes from his father. For these he is not responsible—he was born with them. In such case God mercifully provides a superabundance of grace to balance the evil, so that the son has the same opportunity as anyone else, which must be considered just and fair. (Rom. 5:20.) In case the son has no desire to do right, God does not interfere with the law of heredity, but the son must reap that which he sows. God stood ready, and God stands ready, to supply a special measure of grace. If the son does not want it, God permits the harvest to mature.

While God permits inherited evil to

work along established laws in cases where the children, despite God's abundant grace, continue in the evil course of their fathers, He shows mercy unto thousands of generations of such as love Him and keep His commandments.

### "Love Me, and Keep My Commandments"

These are the last words of the second commandment, and call to mind the words of the wise man: "Fear God, and keep His commandments." Eccl. 12:13. While the words are not in the imperative form in the second commandment, they do recognize that there is a reward for those who love God and keep His commandments, and that mercy even to thousands of generations—that is, forever—shall be theirs.

### A Summary

The second commandment forbids our bowing down and adoring anyone but God. We may not venerate or worship Mary, or any of the saints of old. We may not adore angels or the highest of men. We must not let anything or anyone take the place of God.

God is just. The iniquities of the fathers will not be visited upon the children unless they are of the same mind as the fathers. Those who turn to God, wherever they stem from, will obtain mercy, and no sin of the fathers will be chargeable to them. Those that love God and keep His commandments are sure of everlasting mercy. Thus this commandment ends on a note of mercy and love.



March 23

## Foreign Missions Challenge Youth

BY N. F. BREWER

### Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "O Zion Haste," No. 449  
in *Church Hymnal*.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERING.

STUDY: "Foreign Missions Challenge Youth."

CLOSING SONG: "Hark! the Voice of Jesus Calling," No. 447.

BENEDICTION.

### Foreign Missions Challenge Youth

"AND Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to

observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:18-20.

No greater commission has ever been given than this world-embracing call from the King of kings. Neither is there a more difficult, a more trying, a more exacting work, in all this world than that of making disciples of Christ of all nations. Christian missions is the only answer to the world's needs today. It is God's method of gathering out a people from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people to live with Him throughout eternity. It is the part that Christ gives you and me to act in preparing subjects for His kingdom. It is the recognition of this fact that drives the church onward with the message of salvation to all nations.

The very immensity of the task, the hardships that must be endured, the desperate crying needs of humanity, constitute the mightiest challenge that can come to the Christian youth of today. Youth have ever been eager to achieve, to answer a real challenge to a worthy cause. Youth is strong, courageous, and heroic. World War II has given countless examples of how youth has unselfishly and unstintingly given of its best for a cause. Thousands of the very flower of the nations have paid the supreme sacrifice. Many instances are cited in which one soldier willingly and wholeheartedly faced death itself to save a fellow soldier. It is this fearless, courageous spirit that is needed in the mission field today. It calls for young men and women who can endure privation and trying climates. Men who are not easily discouraged. Men who are as true to God as the needle to the pole and who would rather die than knowingly disobey God. Youth has imagination and faith, "faith that looks ahead into the uncertain future and dares to pull back the curtain and say, 'Venture, for there are greater things ahead.'"

The great foreign missionary movement in this country was started by young men. Five godly students of Williams College, at Williamstown, Massachusetts, fired with the vision of the possibilities of giving the gospel to the whole world, held the famous haystack prayer meeting in 1806. This had much to do with the beginning of the great foreign mission movement in America. These youth had caught the vision of doing mighty deeds for God. They had heard the call of God and consecrated their lives and hearts to the work of foreign missions.



It is this kind of determination and consecration that is needed today in mission work. "God wants the youth to become men of earnest mind, to be prepared for action in His noble work, and fitted to hear responsibilities. God calls for young men with hearts uncorrupted, strong and brave, and determined to fight manfully in the struggle before them, that they may glorify God, and bless humanity."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 21.

The sudden and unexpected ending of hostilities has brought Seventh-day Adventists face to face with the most tremendous problems this denomination has ever had to face. The calls for workers that are coming in daily have had no parallel in the history of our work. Hospitals, schools, and publishing houses must be re-established. Churches must be rebuilt. Hundreds of young men and women must be sent out to the far corners of the world to give this last message of salvation to a world grasping for light, for hope, for peace of heart.

Great populations of India, China, and other countries are awakened. Doors long closed to Christianity are now being opened. Word from Iran states:

"Never before has there been so much freedom in preaching the gospel in Iran. Never have people been so ready to accept and read Christian books. . . . Last year more Bibles, Scripture portions, and texts were sold in Iran than ever before in the history of the British and Foreign Bible Society. They are buying and reading because they find in these words a solace for their sorrow which they have never found before, a hope to sustain them in their misery, a means of release from the shackles of sin, and the promise of life eternal."

The Spirit of the Lord is working with these Moslem peoples, and God has many precious jewels among them that will be won to His kingdom.

From China comes this word: Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, at the opening of the First National Christian Council held in China since the war began, said, "We still need them [missionaries] and welcome Christians from other lands who serve the people of China with true sympathy and devotion. Don't feel you are our guests. You are comrades working with us to save our people and build a new nation."

There is a growing recognition in China of the worth of Christianity and what it has done for her people. Shall we press into these wide-open doors while the invitation is so freely given?

Ethiopia stretches out her hands for help. Years of weary, devastating war have caused the people to long for an anchor for the soul and peace for the heart.

A recent *Sunday School Times* states: "We look upon the church's opportunity in Ethiopia as one of the greatest in modern times. Not only are Christians desiring to be taught, but pagans are willing to sacrifice in order to build their own schools and pay for teachers and schoolbooks."

There are still many totally unoccupied fields, having in them in the aggregate millions of benighted souls for whom Christ died. The very flower of our student bodies are desperately needed now to fill important gaps in the missionary ranks caused by this destructive global war.

Youth of 1946, you are beholding the most momentous events of all times. Think of what has happened within the past few months. It was nothing short of a miracle to have nearly seven million armed men lay down their weapons in surrender, as was the case when Japan surrendered. It is no small privilege to be living in such an hour as this. But with this privilege comes solemn responsibility.

Never were opportunities so many and demands so urgent as today. "We have no time to lose." If we do not now enter these open doors, they may be forever closed.

"Seon doors now open to the truth will be forever closed. Carry the message now. Do not wait, allowing the enemy to take possession of the fields now open before you."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 172.

This may be Christianity's last stand. Long-open doors may be abruptly closed. Privileges enjoyed for decades may be suddenly withdrawn. God is giving His church one more opportunity to fulfill His commission.

"We have no time to lose. The end is near. The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with dangers on the right hand and on the left. Everything will be placed to obstruct the way of the Lord's messengers, so that they will not be able to do that which it is possible for them to do now. We must look our work fairly in the face, and advance as fast as possible in aggressive warfare. . . . We have warnings now which we may give, a work now which we may do; but soon it will be more difficult than we can imagine."—*Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 22.

The King's business is urgent, and what is to be done must be done quickly.

We have only a little time to work. "Christ is calling for volunteers to enlist under His standard, and bear the banner of the cross before the world."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 24.

The immensity of the task, the desperate cry of human need, and the urgency of this great commission present a supreme and inescapable challenge to the youth of our denomination.

"With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come,—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin!"—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 555.

It is the youth of this denomination that will respond to these urgent calls. "The Lord has appointed the youth to be His helping hand."—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 64.

Youth, to you we look to take up the banner of truth and go forth in the name of Prince Immanuel to the farthest corners of the earth with this message of salvation for a distraught and bewildered world, feverishly groping for a way out. And as this call comes to you, will you not wholeheartedly and unreservedly respond by saying, "Here am I; send me"?

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March 30

## Laying the Foundations of a Christian Home

BY ALFRED W. PETERSON

### Order of Service

SONG SERVICE.  
OPENING EXERCISES.  
SECRETARY'S REPORT.  
MISSIONARY REPORTS.  
OFFERING.  
SPECIAL MUSIC.  
STUDY: "Laying the Foundations of a Christian Home."  
CLOSING EXERCISES.

### Notes to Leaders

Plan carefully with your executive committee to make this study on the foundations of the home a time for earnest meditation and discussion of principles. The introductory statement, "Laying the Foundations of a Christian Home," should be made in such a way that the group will become thoughtful. Certain sections may be turned into somewhat of a discussion.

In preparation for this study it would be well for those who have a part to study *Messages to Young People*, section 15, entitled "Courtship and Marriage," beginning on page 433. Each person



taking a part should thoroughly familiarize himself with the principles and questions in his part.

### Laying the Foundations of a Christian Home

TODAY we are to think of the significance of Christian marriage and of some things which ought to be borne in mind when looking forward to establishing a Christian home. In our churches there are mature young people who before long will be getting married. Others of our young people will not undertake establishing a home for a long time. They will wish to complete their education and prepare for their lifework before thinking of marriage. But whether the time be short or long, every thoughtful young man or woman wants to know what is involved in homemaking.

The urge to establish a home, which young people feel as they grow into maturity, springs from the deep yearnings of the human heart for the happy companionship, the affection, and the security which is to be found in a good, well-ordered home. Marriage had its origin in the Garden of Eden, where God Himself performed the first marriage ceremony and helped the first man and the first woman to establish the first home. From that day to this, marriage and home have been sacred. Because the home has so much to do with human happiness, with the well-being of the state, and with the strength of the church, God has in a special way placed His blessing upon it, and the state has thrown its protection around it.

The Christian home is a foretaste of heaven, and one writer has said: "The highest happiness on earth is in marriage. Every man who is happily married is a successful man even though he has failed in everything else, and every man who has failed in marriage is not a successful man even if he has succeeded in everything else."

Homemakers would do well to remember that to grow into strong, noble husbandhood or wifehood is to achieve success in life.

There are many things in the world in these last days which threaten to destroy the home and which tend to warp our appreciation of home and of marriage. A false light is being thrown upon marriage and home life by some kinds of motion pictures, radio programs, and popular magazines that cheapen these sacred things. These are effectually educating the people of the world in attitudes of carelessness regarding the

sacredness of home life. This tendency to regard marriage lightly is revealing itself in America in an alarming trend toward divorce. Statistics show that in 1900 there were 8.1 divorces for every hundred marriages; in 1920 there were 13.3 divorces for every hundred marriages; and in 1940 there were 16.8 divorces for every hundred marriages. Divorces mean broken homes. Broken homes mean broken hearts. Broken hearts do not heal as readily nor as completely as broken arms or limbs. It is an appallingly devastating experience to the heart when love dies out and when people who have solemnly promised to love and cherish one another feel that they must separate. The war years threaten to increase the divorce rate. A famous sociologist in a great university has said, "Seven out of ten war marriages are headed for trouble and are a tremendous risk."

Another increasing tendency is for Adventist young people to marry out of the church. The most recent Missionary Volunteer statistics regarding marriages of Adventist youth reveal that in some places fifty to sixty per cent of the marriages are with non-Adventists, and that of the persons united in such marriages approximately 60 per cent are later disfellowshipped. In other words, six out of ten young people who marry out of the truth eventually drop out of the church. The pull of a worldly wife or husband is too much for them. Thoughtful Adventist young people will wish to avoid a risk as great as that.

Because there are so many things which threaten to destroy the Christian home and the happiness of Christian youth, we ought to approach the consideration of these things with thoughtfulness and sincerity. There are people who are so shallow, so irreverent, and so unappreciative of the fine things of life that they cannot talk about marriage without becoming silly or sentimental. Today let us consider the matter of marriage thoughtfully.

### What Is a Christian Home?

We ought to have a clear understanding of what is meant by the terms, "Christian marriage" and "Christian home." A Christian home is a home in which Christ dwells, in which Christ's spirit is cherished, and in which Christ's way of life is followed. It is a home in which Christian love prevails and in which the Christian hope is interwoven with every plan for the present or the future. Christian marriage, therefore, is the part-

nership which the Christian man and the Christian woman make by solemnly pledging each other before God and man to love and cherish one another throughout life in maintaining the Christian home.

Marriage is the tenderest, most sacred tie in all the world. It is the union of two imperfect individuals, whose purpose it is to unite their forces in the quest for happiness. Marriage is an obligation assumed by two individuals to create a happier, better life. It is a sacred circle, within which no other human being has a right to come. It has a deep spiritual significance because it symbolizes the union of Christ and His church. Read what Jesus said regarding marriage. (Mark 10:7-9.)

God intends that the Christian home established in this world shall reach on into eternity, and that the man and the woman who have shared life's vicissitudes here shall share the inexpressible joy of a home in the earth made new throughout the ages of eternity.

### Preparation for Marriage

Success in any undertaking or career can come only after thorough preparation. To be a successful lawyer or doctor or teacher or nurse requires years of careful planning and preparation. Certainly marriage, which, in a certain sense, is also a career, should not be left to chance. One great teacher, in talking to the young men of his classes about preparation for marriage, once said: "Young gentlemen, although very few of you are now engaged to be married and not one of you is married, your wives are alive; they are living now. You do not know their names or where they are, but is it not exciting to think that you are every moment drawing nearer to each other? They are half an hour nearer you now than when you entered this classroom. Some in California are now asleep, for it is not yet dawn there; some are eating breakfast in New York, and some are eating lunch in Europe; but all your wives are as real as if you were already living with them. What do you intend to do about it?" Obviously one ought to be getting ready.

Life will bring grief as well as joy. To share these understandingly requires serious, thorough preparation of mind and heart.

There are some things which break up ordinary friendships and which, with equal effectiveness, break up homes. Studies made to discover the causes for divorce reveal that the following traits are principally responsible for broken homes: selfishness, insincerity, lack of

self-control, extravagance, discontent, and disloyalty. These things have to do with feelings which center in self. Feelings centering in self, therefore, are not a stable foundation on which to build a home. Homes capable of withstanding the vicissitudes of life must be founded on good traits of character and on good attitudes, as unselfishness, sincerity, self-control, frugality, contentment, loyalty, and love. Preparation for successful marriage involves the formation of good habits and attitudes, which ought to begin in childhood. If we have delayed cultivating any of these, let us begin immediately. We learn the things which we practice, just as we learn to write by practicing writing. What one is to "be" after marriage, he must practice "being" before marriage.

What practical things can we do to acquire those traits of heart and mind which will assure us success in marriage?

1. Surrender the heart to Christ without any reservations whatsoever. What graces begin to grow in the life with surrender to Christ? (Gal. 5:22.)

2. Cultivate through constant practice in every relationship of life—at home, at school, in the shop—traits of unselfishness, sincerity, self-control, kindness, courtesy, and honesty. Practice will fix these traits into habits. If we should fail occasionally in the practice of these good traits which lead to the "good life," let us not become discouraged, but begin over again.

3. Associate with good people. How are we influenced by our associates? Moffatt's translation of Proverbs 13:20 expresses the influence of association in this way: "Mix with wise men, and you will be wise, but a companion of fools will come to grief." So, when we choose our associates, we choose our destiny. Read *Messages to Young People*, page 411, or *Counsels to Teachers*, pages 220, 221.

4. Get a good education. Of course, young men should acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to the support of a good home, and girls would do well to take courses in nursing, stenography, home economics, etc., besides getting a liberal education. Should a young woman acquire some professional skills which will enable her to support herself in case death should deprive her of her companion?

5. Be faithful in the performance of daily duties in the parental home. How is life in your parental home a preparation for establishing your own home? (See *Messages to Young People*, p. 466.)

6. Read some good books on marriage

and homemaking. The Bible, of course, is the great guide; but there are other books which may be very helpful. Some of these are as follows:

a. *Marriage*, by William Lyon Phelps, E. D. Dutton and Company.

b. *The Heart of the Rose*, by Mabel McKee, Fleming H. Revell.

c. *Ministry of Healing*, by Ellen G. White, Pacific Press.

d. *Makers of the Home*, by A. W. Spalding, Pacific Press.

e. *The Fine Art of Living Together*, by A. W. Bevin, Harper and Brothers.

f. *Men, Women, and God*, by A. H. Gray, Harper and Brothers.

Your Book and Bible House will be glad to help you in securing any of these books.

7. Cultivate the habit of saving money. Whenever you receive money, either from odd jobs or from some regular employment, put a little aside for future needs. It is surprising how quickly money will accumulate if one practices the habit of saving. No young man or woman ought to undertake marriage without at least some money with which to buy the simple essentials for a home. Avoid debt like a plague. (See *Messages to Young People*, p. 461.)

In this brief discussion of preparing for marriage and homemaking one ought to stress two things: first, the true meaning of love; second, the meaning of loyalty. Too many mistake infatuation for love. How is love a divine principle? (See *Messages to Young People*, p. 435.) Moffatt's rendering of 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 reveals the qualities of true love: "Love is very patient, very kind. Love knows no jealousy; love makes no parade, gives itself no airs, is never rude, never selfish, never irritated, never resentful; love is never glad when others go wrong, love is gladdened by goodness, always slow to expose, always eager to believe the best, always hopeful, always patient." Love is divine, and a home in which true love dwells will be a happy home.

The word "loyalty" has come down to us from the Latin word *lex*, meaning "law." How is loyalty related to duty? How is the marriage vow related to duty? When this sense of duty or loyalty is undergirded by love, the marriage ties become stronger than death.

### Planning Ahead

In looking forward to marriage and to a home where happiness may grow richer with each passing day, we would do well to plan wisely regarding the home environment.

"It was not God's purpose that people should be crowded into cities, huddled together in terraces and tenements."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 365. He placed them in surroundings where they might have fresh air, pure water, pure food, and plenty of sunshine. "The more nearly we come into harmony with God's original plan, the more favorable will be our position to secure health of body, and mind, and soul."—*Ibid.*

### Home Furnishings

Let us strive for simplicity. Elaborate and expensive furnishings are not only a waste of money and deprive the work of God in many places of needed support, but they bring a heavy burden of care and worry to homemakers. Is there danger that a wife may become the slave of housekeeping and have no time to be a companion to her husband and children?

"Let the homemakers resolve to live on a wiser plan. Let it be your first aim to make a pleasant home. Be sure to provide the facilities that will lighten labor and promote health and comfort. . . . Furnish your home with things plain and simple, things that will bear handling, that can be easily kept clean, and that can be replaced without great expense. By exercising taste, you can make a very simple home attractive and inviting, if love and contentment are there."—*Ibid.*, pp. 369, 370.

### The Family Altar

Plan definitely for a family altar. The center of the Christian home is the family altar. There the husband and the wife meet Christ. "In a sense the father is the priest of the household, laying upon the family altar the morning and evening sacrifice. . . . Fathers and mothers, however pressing your business, do not fail to gather your family around God's altar. Ask for the guardianship of holy angels in your home."—*Ibid.*, pp. 392, 393.

How may the family altar be an influence to smooth out domestic differences and misunderstandings? How may a consciousness of family unity be developed at the family altar? At the family altar Christ's presence is invoked, and there we may be assured of divine guidance and help to solve the daily problems and to meet the trials which might otherwise tend to distress and discourage us.

How may the family altar exercise a profound influence upon friends or guests in the home? How is the family altar the only furnishing in the home which will be carried over into the earth made new?

## Some Barriers to Happy Marriage

The human race throughout countless generations of experience has learned that there are certain barriers to happy marriage. God sounds a warning to the youth of the church in these words: "Satan is busily engaged in influencing those who are wholly unsuited to each other to unite their interests. He exults in this work, for by it he can produce more misery and hopeless woe to the human family than by exercising his skill in any other direction."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 455.

What are some things which make some people wholly unsuited to each other and which almost foredoom a marriage to failure?

1. Differences in religious belief are likely to bring conflict into the home. Differences are likely to arise over what specific things besides Sabbathkeeping and tithe paying? Read *Messages to Young People*, pp. 436, 440, 441.

2. Differences in culture and racial customs. Since marriage means a happy sharing of life's experiences, a wide difference in standards of living, in customs, and in habits of thought is likely to be a source of serious trouble. Why is a marriage between people with a wide difference in racial background, customs, manners, habits of thought, and ways of living not likely to succeed?

3. Too great disparity in age. Explain how the interests of old age and youth are very different. Why will the time come when they will not wish to go places and do things together?

4. Physical handicaps such as lingering or latent diseases, deformities, or other abnormalities are definite handicaps to marriage. Why?

There are some questions which every young woman ought to ask regarding the one who is asking her to link her life with his.

1. What are his religious beliefs, his religious habits, and what kind of Christian experience does he have?

2. Does he have good health? What relation has health to earning ability and the stability of a home? Why would it be well if every State required a medical examination?

3. Does his family have a history of insanity or emotional instability? Does he have periods of sullenness, of jealousy, or of moody feelings? How does a happy future depend upon cheerfulness, confidence, courage, a forgiving spirit, and good sportsmanship?



## JUNIOR MEETINGS

March 2

### Adventures of Our Colporteurs

BY E. E. FRANKLIN

#### Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "Give Me the Bible," No. 59 in *M.V. Songs*.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERING.

STUDY: "The Adventures of Our Colporteurs."

CLOSING SONG: "Singing as We Journey," No. 110.

BENEDICTION.

### The Adventures of Our Colporteurs

No doubt you have heard of the Publishing Department. It was organized as a department by the General Conference held in Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1901. Our leaders, who had a vision, felt that the time had come to give to the world a knowledge of the signs of the times and what was coming upon the world. They felt that the production and distribution of Christian literature throughout the world would be a most effective agency in the accomplishment of that purpose.

Ever since the beginnings of our evangelistic work we have used literature—papers, tracts, magazines, and books—to strengthen the spoken word. Boys and girls may easily forget the major portion of a sermon or lecture, but when they read about the important truths of God's Word, it makes a lasting impression upon the mind.

God had a direct purpose in the great objectives of this work, and He has led this department all through the years. The work began in a very small and humble way, with the printing of a little tract on the Sabbath question by Elder Bates in the year 1846—just one hundred years ago. And what have we seen in a century of growth? Today we are printing our literature in 185 different languages in many different forms, and every year large quantities of this inspired literature are placed in the hands of the people by our youth, including the Juniors.

I would like to bring to all our boys and girls a picture of what our literature

4. What education does he have? Has he the education and has he acquired the skills with which to earn a proper living for a family? Has he formed habits of study? What is his vocation? Is he content with a blind-alley job, or does he have the initiative to begin in a minor place which has possibilities for growth and work his way up? Does his work place him among undesirable companions? His companions will eventually become his wife's companions.

5. What are his recreations? What does he do with his leisure time?

6. What are his attitudes? Is he honest? Does he pay his debts? Has he saved any money, or has he contracted debts? It is unlikely that a young man who cannot live within his income before marriage will be able to do so after marriage. On the other hand, if a young man has gone into debt in order to help his parents through a crisis, or to help a brother or a sister in need, he will doubtless feel the same sense of responsibility toward his wife. Is he inclined to gamble? Is he truthful? Does he have a forgiving spirit, or does he carry a grudge? Is he sympathetic and considerate, or is he quarrelsome and arbitrary?

7. Will you be proud of him in public or in your family circle after marriage? Will you wish your children to be like him? They will be.

8. How does he treat his mother? What bearing does this have upon marriage? (See *Messages to Young People*, p. 450.)

### Some Questions for Discussion

1. Do you know of any instances which bear out the following statement: "A youth not out of his teens is a poor judge of the fitness of a person as young as himself to be his companion for life."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 452. What reasons are given for that statement in the remainder of the paragraph?

2. Why has the Lord made the following statements regarding marrying unbelievers? "Marriage between believers and unbelievers is forbidden by God."—*Ibid.*, p. 436. (See also pages 440 and 441.)

3. If one has entered into an engagement to marry an unbeliever, what should he do? (See *Messages to Young People*, pp. 441, 449, 450.)

is doing in the world as reported to us by some of our missionaries.

About forty years ago a man in New York City gave the captain of a sailing vessel a roll of papers called *Signs of the Times* and requested that he distribute them at some port. He went to Georgetown, British Guiana, where he scattered the papers over the wharf, thus keeping his promise to distribute them. A man carried one of these papers home with him, where it was read by a woman, who was convinced of the Sabbath truth and kept the next Sabbath. She took the paper to her sister living on a near-by island, and through reading it her sister was brought to a knowledge of the truth. Today in British Guiana and on near-by islands we have hundreds of believers rejoicing in this message.

Many a dark jungle and plague-infected part of the tropical world has been made accessible through the triumphs of science and invention. Nevertheless, there are still regions remote from civilization where the world sleeps on much as it did hundreds of years ago. Let us follow Colporteur Jorge on his mule and pack animals laden with gospel literature:

"During the greater part of the journey as far as my eyes would let me see, the verdant plains lay before me. Beyond and in the distance was the blue hazy outline of the Andes and the intervening hills. The only sound that disturbed the stillness of the forest was the music of the wind, the chatter of the monkeys, and the dreary howl of an occasional jaguar. In the whole eight days I saw only four pack trains, five men on horseback, one bear, and twelve serpents coiled up in the middle of the path. However, in the many adventures that befell me on the trail I felt a certain degree of security, knowing that I had in the pocket of my colporteur bag the 'two-edged sword' and had been called to give the clarion call in this abandoned region of the vineyard.

"At the end of the trail was a village which lacked all the evidences of conveniences and civilization. The sanitary conditions were deplorable. It rains every month of the year in that region and the people eat fish five times every day.

"All kinds of monsy is used as a medium of exchange. To do business, it is necessary to accept coins from all countries. The white man is a curiosity in those parts, and purely pagan customs are practiced. Never has the story of salvation penetrated these regions, and the voice of prayer ascending to God is

never heard. The people use the name of God only to make an oath, and they remain completely ignorant of any future hope. Vice and corruption abound on every hand without any apparent restraint to sinful practice. They grope in darkness for the lack of the Sun of Righteousness.

"The present finds me in the midst of the most deadly atmosphere and beset by many perils. My only refuge is prayer, my only armor the Word of God, and my only consolation is the knowledge that you folks are remembering me in prayer."

To reach another part of the interior, Colporteur Jorge arranged with a native to take him several days upstream in a canoe, this being the only method of transportation from one village to another. As he stepped into the canoe, his swarthy pilot advised him to take off all unnecessary clothing so he could swim in case the canoe capsized.

After the first day's trip, when darkness had settled down on the jungle, the pilot pulled in to a little thatch-roofed house along the bank of the river. With very few preliminaries Mr. Jorge soon had his hammock hung from corner to corner under the roof of the little hut. Weary from a long day in the sun, he was soon asleep, forgetting entirely the perils of the day and any impending danger of the night. His dark-skinned navigator and the owner of the hut burned holes in the darkness as they smoked and talked of this stranger who had come from the paths of civilization. The boatman explained that the colporteur had been teaching a new religion and was going up to the next village to carry on his work. At once the old native's narrow, superstitious mind was in action as to what his relation should be to anything new or different from what he had known all his life. In his mind was born an evil purpose. "We will remove the few belongings and things of worth to a near-by hut, and as this teacher of strange doctrines peacefully sleeps, we will burn him with all he has."

At first the man who managed the canoe was inclined to agree, but while the family were clearing the house of its few precious belongings, he was overpowered by an angel to save his sleeping passenger. In an opportune moment he seized his machete, cut the sustaining cords of the hammock, and said, "Make for the canoe; we must be going. Hurry, and I will explain when we are safely on our way."

When they were only a few rods from the house and safely landed on the sand

bank, screams of pain came from the hut they had just vacated. Mr. Jorge wanted to go to the aid of the one in pain, but the boatman said, "No, you must not go. I will go and see what is the matter." But the colporteur would not stay behind; so they ran together to the scene of the trouble. Upon arriving at the hut, they discovered that the son, in his efforts to help vacate the house, had been severely bitten by a serpent. With a few simple remedies Mr. Jorge worked to relieve the sufferer until he was well out of danger. The question that came to their minds was how could this young man whom they had planned to destroy be so interested and sympathetic in saving the life of their child? Their prejudice was overcome, and they invited the colporteur to stop in without fail on his return trip. He did, and told them of a Saviour who loves all mankind, and what they might do to be ready for His coming.

Juniors can be real missionaries and have a part in this great work. God has set us to be watchmen, and it is our duty to do everything we can to bring a message to the people that will help them to understand the present deplorable conditions of society and to warn them of the Saviour's soon return. We are to stand as minutemen, ready to go and to do our full part. The coming of the Lord is nigh at hand, and His work is to be accomplished quickly. We can all have a part in this, and it is wonderful to know that if we sow the seed of gospel truth, the Lord will take care of the results. And, too, it is marvelous what has been accomplished by our Juniors in distributing tracts, magazines, small books, and papers.

From some of the stories I have told you, you might think that a colporteur's life is made up of exciting incidents. These men do not have adventures every day. They are not always in danger of being robbed or beaten. Nor do all of the experiences happen to adults. Juniors all over the world are having a part in this great publishing work. Down in Peru a young student colporteur went far back into the interior, into jungle land. After a while he realized that he had lost his way. Being heavily laden with his cargo of books, he became very tired and felt that he could go no farther. While sitting on a stump to rest, he was surprised and relieved to see a young man come his way with a large llama. The student asked the way to the town he desired to reach. The stranger said he was going that way and would help him

through the forest. The books were placed on the back of the proud llama and on they trekked.

At the entrance of the town a well-dressed man stopped the student colporteur and inquired where he was going and what he intended to do. The young man told him that he was a student, and that he wanted to sell some books that contained a message for the people. The man surprisingly said, "You may go into my house and wait for me." It seemed that the man was out inviting his friends to a banquet. When he returned to his home he was accompanied by a number of nice-appearing men. The table was spread with a good supply of foods and drink.

Our young student felt rather out of place with his dusty clothes, for he had no place to go to prepare for the banquet. The first thing that was done after all the men were seated was to offer a toast to the health of the host. This young man found by his place a glass of liquor, as did the others; but he did not raise his glass as the others did. This was quickly noticed by the host, who sternly said, "Young man, I invited you to my table to take part in the feast. Now you do not even honor me by holding up your glass. What is the matter with you?"

The student quickly explained that he did not drink liquor, because he was a Seventh-day Adventist. He said, "I thank you very much for your kind invitation, and I know you will pardon me for not drinking with you. It is not that I do not honor you, for I respect you very much."

Again the host rose to his feet and made another speech. "Gentlemen," he said, "Peru needs just such young men as this—men who have sterling character and will stand for principle. Friends, he is engaged in selling books, and you must buy his books. They are good books."

After the supper the men crowded around the young man's cargo of books, and he sold almost all his stock there. They were eager to buy books that would make strong young men—men who would be a blessing to their country.

During World War I a little girl in California, twelve years of age, wrote to the General Conference that if the brethren would prepare a small book which explained to the people the prophetic meaning of the war, she would sell a thousand copies. Immediately different authors wrote the manuscript for the first Crisis book published, entitled *The World War*. Since then millions of copies of these Crisis books, as well as *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories*, have been printed and

sold. This was the original idea of a Junior girl. What has been accomplished by Juniors is a marvelous story and should encourage us to be like the young colporteur in Peru—to be strong, to stand for principle, to utilize all our opportunities to give the message to the people, and to be a blessing every day to all with whom we come in contact.



March 9

## The Second Commandment

BY STELLA PARKER PETERSON

### Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "Happy, Loyal Juniors!" No. 57 in *M.V. Songs*.

PRAYER.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

SONG: "For the Beauty of Jesus," No. 29.

REPEAT: First and Second Commandments in unison.

TALKS 1, 2, 3.

SONG: "As Much as He Loves You and Me," No. 74.

TALKS 4, 5, 6, 7.

REPEAT: Second commandment in unison to impress lessons.

SONG: "The Idols in My Heart Must Go," Tune of "If Any Little Word of Mine," No. 629 in *Church Hymnal*.

TALK 8.

SONG: "Into My Heart," No. 30 in *M.V. Songs*.

BENEDICTION.

### Notes to Superintendents

Seek to make this program practical to the Juniors, that they may understand that the second commandment does not belong to a bygone day or faraway people but is for them, now.

If you do not have enough Juniors in your society for all of the parts, numbers 4, 5, and 6 may be combined. An adult (perhaps you yourself) may give Talk 8. May your burden be to help the Juniors to put away the idols in their lives.

### Talk I

WHEN God gave the commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai, far below on the plains were the thousands of Israelites who had just come out of slavery in Egypt, where they had been living for four hundred years. They could not have lived for four hundred years among the idol-worshipping Egyptians without seeing much of their false worship of four-footed animals and creeping things, and of the idols which they made of wood and stone—strange and terrible images made according to their idea of their gods. Those idols were inspired by Satan, to take the minds of the people away from the true God.

God gave the commandments to help His people be true to Him. First He gave the commandment which tells whom to worship:

"I am the Lord Thy God. . . . Thou shalt have no other gods before Me."

Secondly, God gave the commandment which tells how to worship:

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image . . . : thou shalt not bow down . . . to them."

God knew that the temptation would be strong among His people to worship, like the heathen around them, things which could be seen and handled, in place of God afar off, who could not be seen. So He gave this commandment, bidding His people always to put trust, not in meaningless symbols—images and idols—but in God Himself.

Today, as then, God calls us into His presence. We come, not by falling down before a terrifying figure made by man. No! We come into His presence upon our knees; we kneel reverently before Him and worship Him face to face in prayer. Every morning, as we start the day with our Morning Watch, we are face to face with God. Whenever we pray, though we cannot see Him, we are in His presence, and if we wait patiently we shall feel His presence very near to us. It is wonderful to feel that nearness to God. It gives us a safe and happy feeling which no idol worshiper can ever feel.

### Talk 2

THIS commandment forbids us to make copies, or representations, of things for worship.

Very often, here in Washington, we take friends sightseeing, and always we take them to the Lincoln Memorial. We climb the many steps and finally stand before that enormous statue of the Great Emancipator, Abraham Lincoln. It is not sin to stand before that great marble statue and contemplate the work which Abraham Lincoln did for America; but it would be a sin to kneel down before this statue and worship it. For worship is due to God alone.

God makes it very plain to us that He is to be worshiped "in spirit and in truth." That means the lifting of our hearts to Him in adoration and praise and thankfulness, not kneeling before some meaningless piece of wood or stone.

### Talk 3

IN spite of God's command, all over the world people kneel to idols and worship them. This is one way that Satan has of getting people to turn away from God.

God has given this second commandment, against the worship of idols, to every soul of earth. But there are millions upon the earth who do not know about it. There are millions who this very day are worshipping snakes; other millions are worshipping "sacred cows and other animals; still other millions stretch their hands toward the sun and moon and the trees of the forest, and worship them; other millions worship awful gods of their imagination; still others worship the devil himself.

We know that no idolator can enter heaven. (1 Cor. 6:9, 10.)

So what does this mean to us? It means that we must do all in our power to help these poor people to realize their mistake. We must tell them about the only true God, that they may turn to Him with all their hearts and worship Him. We owe it to the darkened people to send them the light. We can do this by praying for them and by helping to send missionaries.

### Talk 4

PERHAPS you are thinking, "That second commandment is all right for idol worshipers of India and China and Africa, who are letting something take the place of God in their lives. But I do not worship idols. I do not break that commandment."

Wait a moment! Are you sure? There are many idol worshipers in civilized lands as well as in heathen countries. Perhaps you—yes, *you*—are an idol worshiper.

You are an idol worshiper if there is anything, anything at all, which means more to you than God. Had you ever thought about that?

If there is anything which makes you think less of God, and which interferes with your service for Him, that is an idol. You are putting it first in your life, and God second. That makes you an idolator.

What a solemn thought!

### Talk 5

ANOTHER idol is "Have-a-Good-Time." Today there are many things to attract us and take our attention and interest away from God and His service. Recreation—re-creation, re-creating our bodies by wholesome, happy exercise—can be a great blessing. But sometimes Juniors, and older people, too, give it first place in their lives. Their one purpose in life seems to be to have a good time. They live just to go to games and play games and listen to programs on the radio and

have thrills of various sorts. Pleasure is all they think of. The world is pleasure mad. It offers many allurements. Many times we forget God because all our time and interest are taken up "having a good time." God wants us to be happy and cheerful. He wants us to have a good time and enjoy life. But our good times must never lead us away from God—or they will not be "good" times.

Ask yourself these questions about the way you spend your time:

"Will this give me a better body? or will it weaken me?"

"Will this give me a stronger mind? or a weaker?"

"Will this keep my heart clean? or will it make me ashamed before God?"

Never let your "good times" lead you away from God. Keep God first in your life.

### Talk 6

ANOTHER idol which many people worship is "money-making." Perhaps that seems strange to you, since we have to have money to live. Earning money may be a blessing if we do not let it crowd God out. Your father spends his days making money to buy food and clothing and shelter and other necessities for his family. But if he gave all his time and interest to money-making, and took no time for God—to read His Word and pray and help others; if he took no time for happy occasions with his family, but just spent all his time making money, making money, then money-making would become an idol in his life. Sometimes even Juniors get so interested in making money that it becomes an idol in their lives—they put it first.

### Talk 7

At camp meeting one year a speaker at the Junior tent talked about this second commandment, telling the Juniors how we can set up an idol in our hearts by liking something better than God or by spending more time with something than we do with God's work, in helping others. The Juniors were asked to bring to the next meeting the idols which they had set up in their hearts. My, what an array it was! It was surprising how many things those Juniors had which they had come to like better than God.

Then one Junior boy stood up and said, "I don't have any idol to show, as the idol that I want to put away isn't anything that I can hold in my hand."

The Junior did not sit down, but just stood there quietly. Every Junior in that tent was looking very serious. So the

leader asked whether there were not other Juniors who would like to stand with Arnold, telling God that they wanted Him to take every idol out of their hearts, so He could come in and take full possession. Every Junior stood, and a prayer was offered which none of them will ever forget.

Then they all repeated the second commandment together. They had repeated it many times before, but this time it meant more to them, because they knew more about its meaning.

Perhaps it will mean more to *you*, too, as you repeat it again.

## The Idols in My Heart Must Go

(Tune: "If Any Little Word of Mine."  
No. 629 in *Church Hymnal*)

The idols in my heart must go,  
To make a place for Jesus;  
The idols in my heart must go,  
To make a place for Jesus.

### CHORUS

God help me put them from my heart,  
And give it all to Jesus;  
God help me keep the idols out,  
And keep my heart for Jesus.

### Talk 8

THIS second commandment says that God is a "jealous God." Sometimes Juniors wonder how God can be a God of love and a God of jealousy. That is not so difficult to understand.

It is because God loves us with a love greater than any love of earth, that He is jealous for our love. If He did not care anything about us, it would be no concern to Him whether we loved and served Him or not. But, loving us as He does, He is jealous for us, for our love and our service.

God is jealous over us with a tender love that pleads, "My child, give Me thine heart; don't give it to Satan."

Do you hear that voice, too?

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March 23

## "Here Am I; Send Me"

BY N. F. BREWER

### Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "Living Bibles," No. 52 in *M.V. Songs*.

PRAYER.

CONSECRATION SONG: "I Will Follow Thee," No. 44.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERING.

STUDY: "Here Am I; Send Me."

CLOSING SONG: "Can He Count on You?" No. 49.

BENEDICTION.

### "Here Am I; Send Me"

WOULD you like to take a trip to China and visit some of the temples there? You would find many idols in the temples. Some would be made of wood, some of mud painted over, some of metal. Some are extremely ugly and fierce in appearance; others have kind faces. There we would see hundreds of people, parents with their children, going to these temples and bowing down to those idols. The people really believe that those idols can help them. They bow down before them, and many bump their heads on the stones before the idols.

We know, however, that those idols cannot really help them. They have eyes but cannot see, ears but cannot hear, mouths but cannot speak, and hands but can do nothing. During World War II many temples have been destroyed and these gods have fallen from their seats of honor, broken and dismembered. To many a former devoted worshiper this will mean turning away from idols who cannot even protect themselves. What will take the place of the worship of those idols? Surely the honesthearted will be looking for something better. Do you think we ought to send missionaries over to China and India and Africa and many other places, and tell them about Jesus? God sees these people in every land, and although they do not worship Him, He still loves them and wants them to come to Him for help. God loved them so much that He sent His only Son to die for them.

"He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. He gave this work to all His believers. How can the people in other lands know about Jesus unless the church sends missionaries over to tell them? And who are to be the missionaries that will go? The future missionaries are the boys and the girls who are now in our churches, who are going to our church schools and academies. God is calling you today to give your heart and life to Him to be real missionaries. Think of the many places where missionaries will be needed. While we are yet in the church school we should begin to plan our lifework, and then study hard and pray that God may help us to prepare.

What people all over this world are searching for is peace and joy. Some think that if they only had a great deal of money they would be happy. Others think that if they had fame and reputation, that would be the joy for which they are looking. Still others believe that if

they had an education with many degrees after their names, then they would have real happiness. But, my dear young people, true happiness and satisfaction come from serving God. There is no joy or happiness to be compared with the joy that comes from leading others to Christ.

God has given us a special message—the last warning message to a doomed world—and He has commissioned us to go into all the world and teach all nations. "There is nothing more precious in the sight of God than His ministers, who go forth into the waste places of the earth to sow the seeds of truth, looking forward to the harvest."—*Ibid.*, p. 465.

All kinds of work needs to be done. We need preachers, teachers, doctors, nurses, treasurers, colporteurs, and Bible instructors. If you could only see the dire need of medical help for these people—doctors to help them in their sicknesses, and nurses to care for them—some of you would decide to be medical missionaries.

As I was walking along the street in Wenchow, China, one day I saw a needle doctor. He had a little box in front of him as he sat beside the road, waiting for patients. On the box were a number of long, sharp needles. I watched him a few minutes, and soon a patient came and sat down by him. The patient said he had a stomach-ache. The doctor took one of the long needles and was going to stick it into the patient's stomach to let the spirits out. The needle was dirty from the dust of the road, but that didn't matter to the native doctor. Thousands die yearly because they do not have qualified doctors and do not know how to care for themselves.

Do you think they need doctors and nurses to help them and show them how to take care of themselves? Yes, some of you will want to be doctors and nurses and go to these foreign lands as soon as you are prepared. Others will want to go as preachers and teachers. Many of the boys and girls of these lands do not have good Christian schools to go to where they can learn to become useful Christians. Many teachers must be trained to teach in church schools in these lands. You can help train some of these much-needed teachers. The people are willing to listen to the gospel. Evangelists and pastors are greatly needed to give this last message of mercy to these people who have no hope and are "without God in the world."

No, I know you can't go now. You are too young and have not finished your education and preparation. But it is none too early to begin to plan your lifework

now. Ask Jesus what He wants you to do for Him. One way you can become a missionary even now is by helping mother and father and perhaps someone in need. There are so many ways we can be missionaries right here at home. Then when you have finished your preparation and the time comes when the Mission Board wants someone to go to some foreign country as a missionary, you will be ready.

I think of the little captive maid. I do not know how old she was when she was taken by cruel hands from her loved ones and brought to the home of Naaman in Syria. She found herself in a strange country among a strange people and a slave in the home of a great man. There in that home she became a real missionary and was the means of Naaman's going to Elisha, who told Naaman how he could be healed of his leprosy. Just a young, godly girl, but the Lord used her.

I think of Daniel and his three companions, and how faithfully they witnessed for God in that heathen kingdom of Babylon. Fearlessly they stood for principle. They would not compromise with sin.

John the Baptist was dedicated to God's work when but a babe. The same was true of Samuel. Samuel always seemed to have a keen ear to hear what God wanted him to do, and was willing to obey His voice. His reply to the Lord was, "Speak; for Thy servant heareth." God is looking for boys and girls—youth who will listen to His voice when He speaks to them, and be willing and eager to obey. It is a wonderful thing to be working for the King of kings. There is no higher achievement than that to which the Lord calls us today. We are ambassadors. An ambassador is one chosen to represent his government in another country. He speaks for his government. He does business for his government. He must therefore be careful in all his words and actions.

The Lord has promised those who go out into the world field, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." We may go with the full assurance that the Lord will go with us.

Dear young folks, will you not respond to the call of God today to prepare for service in His vineyard? Will you not today decide that you will serve your Master in the faraway mission lands of earth? The Lord looks upon the multitudes in tender compassion and asks, "Whom shall I send and who will go for Me?" Let us freely and wholeheartedly respond, "Here am I; send me."



March 30

**Habits**

BY E. W. DUNBAR

**Order of Service**

OPENING SONG: "Yield Not to Temptation," No. 46 in *M.V. Songs*.

PRAYER: That God will help us to form right habits in our youth.

OFFERING.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

BIBLE STUDY: "Habits, Good or Bad."

TALK: "Importance of Right Habits."

TALK: "A Self-wrought Chain."

EXPERIENCE: "Snared Into Sinful Habits."

PLEDGE: "A Health Creed."

CLOSING SONG: "Dare to Be a Daniel," No. 48.

BENEDICTION.

**Notes to Superintendents**

It is no small matter, this formation of habits on the part of boys and girls. Nearly everyone feels instinctively that it is right to do right and wrong to do wrong. The difficulty comes when we make the discovery that certain habits and tendencies in our life are decidedly wrong and that we are quite definitely subject to those habits.

**Habits, Good or Bad**

JOHN 4:34. Jesus' habits.

Psalms 16:8. David's habits—his strength.

Psalms 119:29, 30; Ephesians 4:25. The habit of dishonesty.

Psalms 19:14. The habit of good words.

Exodus 5:9 (last part). Hate the bad-language habit.

Romans 12:21. Overcome evil with good.

Philippians 4:8. The importance of right mental habits.

**Importance of Right Habits**

YOUNG people who will put up a fight against evil habits are training their character for real Christian service. Those young people who will not fight for the right, but bow down to evil habits, are weaving a life web of poor materials which will someday be torn asunder.

(Read *Messages to Young People*, page 212, "The Web of Destiny.")

A young man, leaving his home for his first year in the university, promised his Christian mother, who was very anxious that her son's habits should always be clean, "No, Mother, I will never form the tobacco habit." When next he saw his mother, a few months later, he was smok-

ing an occasional cigarette. He assured her, "Never fear, Mother; when I find myself getting to the place where I cannot get along without cigarettes, then I will quit." What a foolish thing to say! He has long since passed the place where he cannot get along without tobacco.

"The habits you form in youth, my lad,  
Will grow with your growth till at last,  
Whether good or ill, they will form a chain  
That will bind and hold you fast.

"For habits are but a growth, my lad,  
A little bit, day by day;  
A thought, a word, a deed, and, lo,  
A habit has come to stay."

"A story is told of a scholar who had a carpenter living on one side of him and a blacksmith on the other side. The scholar complained that the noise these neighbors made disturbed his thoughts, and he paid them both to move. They moved.

"The next day the scholar was annoyed by the same sounds. He discovered that the two had exchanged places, the carpenter occupying the blacksmith shop, and the blacksmith the carpenter shop. The scholar had been concerned about those who moved out, but he had not taken the trouble to see who was moving in.

"Often our attempts to change our habits are like this man's attempt to get rid of the neighbors who disturbed him. Cultivating good habits assures freedom from bad habits. Filling the mind with beautiful thoughts crowds out the impure thoughts."

Let us begin *this week* to form good habits: good reading, no movie theaters, good language, honesty, temperance in eating or drinking and working. Have your habits fighting for you, not against you. And remember that the chains of habit are too weak to be felt till they are too strong to be broken. A habit, good or bad, is like a stone that a child might roll from a mountaintop, but that a giant could not stop.

**A Self-wrought Chain**

THERE is a story of a smith of the Middle ages who was taken prisoner and confined in a dungeon. Because of the knowledge his craft had taught him, he carefully examined the heavy links that bound him, expecting somewhere to find a flaw that would show a weak place which could soon be made to yield. But presently he dropped his hands hopelessly. Certain marks told him that the chain was of his own making, and it had always been his boast that a chain of his workmanship could not be broken. There are truly no chains so hard to break as those of our own forging, but they are not hopeless. The worst possible habits will

yield to human resolution and strength from above.

**Snared Into Sinful Habits**

A WRITER recently told of once finding an Indian among the pines, kneeling on the snow and arranging a miniature lane of pine branches and twigs. After completing two little hedges, the Indian constructed a small arch in the middle and set up twigs on either side, leaving but a small opening in 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 snare for rabbits," he replied.

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

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

"Then what is the use of your present arrangement?" 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 this. Next night they will come a little closer, and so on, until they find there is no danger. Then they will begin to nibble at these twigs." And he touched the arch in the center. "Then, when they start eating the twigs, I shall put in my snare, arranging it cleverly in the middle of this little arch, and then I shall catch a rabbit every night."

"What a lesson," said the man. "I seemed to see the great enemy of souls laying his snares and sins for the unwary. Familiarity with the environment of sin, the presentation of the idea, the parleying with the tempter, little beginnings—nibblings at the temptation, finally the snare put in cunningly, and then the soul caught."—*Christian Observer*.

**A Health Creed**

THE body is the temple of the soul; therefore—

I will keep my body clean within and without.

I will breathe pure air, and I will live in the sunlight.

I will do no act that might endanger the health of others.

I will try to learn and practice the rules for healthful living.

I will work and rest and play at the right time and in the right way, so that my mind will be strong and my body healthy, and so that I will lead a useful life and be an honor to my Maker, my parents, my friends, and my country.—*Missionary Leader*.

# ★ Missionary Volunteer Week ★

## March 9-16, Including Missionary Volunteer Day

### The Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer

THE war is over. Our young people who have been in the service of the country are coming home. The problems of youth, instead of diminishing, have increased enormously. To these problems and questions there is but one satisfactory answer—Christ.

"The surrender of all our powers to God greatly simplifies the problem of life. It weakens and cuts short a thousand struggles with the passions of the natural heart. Religion is as a golden cord that binds the souls of both youth and aged to Christ. Through it the willing and obedient are brought safely through dark and intricate paths to the city of God."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 30.

This Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer is the church's opportunity to help young people find Christ and make those decisions which will eventually lead them into His service. Upon every church board rests the responsibility to make this Missionary Volunteer Week mean all that it should to the youth of the church.

#### Objectives

The objectives of Missionary Volunteer Week may be summed up as follows:

1. To focus the attention of the whole church upon the urgent need of saving the youth and training them for God's service.
2. To deepen the spiritual life of all Christian young people and to help them cultivate a joyous, satisfying fellowship with Christ.
3. To restore the discouraged and backslidden, and encourage them in their service for Christ.
4. To win to Christ the unconverted youth connected with the families of the church.
5. To enlist our youth in the glorious work of giving "the advent message to all the world in this generation."

#### Meetings

1. MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER DAY, March 9, is one of the most important days on the church calendar. The Sabbath morn-

ing sermon is intended to set before the church the work of the Missionary Volunteer Society, and to arouse the church to its responsibility to do a special work for the young people of the church, to win them to Christ, and to train them for service. On this Missionary Volunteer Sabbath a strong appeal should be made to young and old to reconsecrate themselves to the service of God.

2. DAILY MEETINGS should be held if it is at all possible, that the effect of the meetings may be cumulative, and that results may be seen in repentance, confession of sin, and definite decisions for Christ. Every church officer and every parent ought to be present at every meeting, and should encourage every young person to attend.

#### Suggestions

1. The church board and Missionary Volunteer Society executive committee should together lay definite plans for effective soul-winning work.

2. A careful survey of all the young people connected with the families of the church, converted and unconverted, should be made, in order that the leaders in the church may have a clear and accurate understanding of the spiritual condition of the young people whom God has placed in their charge. Some may not have been attending church or Sabbath school for months or even years. God desires that these, too, shall be reached and reclaimed.

3. Let the church board and the Missionary Volunteer Society executive committee plan for prayer bands and for personal work. Let prayer bands of parents and of the praying young people of the church be formed. Prayer lists should be made, and the prayer bands should meet regularly to pray for those on the lists. If the influence of the Week of Prayer is to carry over, these bands for prayer and personal work should become a permanent part of the organization of the church. Many a church problem would never develop if prayer and personal workers bands functioned effectively throughout the year.

4. In order that the officers of the

church and the prayer band leaders may give strong leadership in soul winning, it is suggested that copies of the following M.V. leaflets be ordered from the conference Book and Bible House and placed in the hands of each of the leaders:

- No. 5, Glorious Partnership in Soul Winning.
- No. 20, Personal Work.
- No. 24, An Hour With Christ.

And perhaps the Prayer Band leaders could get together and study the little book *Fishers of Men*, which sets forth so clearly and charmingly the principles of personal soul winning.

5. Have a supply of Missionary Volunteer leaflets on hand at the opening of Missionary Volunteer Week, for free distribution to the young people of the church. These leaflets may be procured through your Book and Bible House. Among the M.V. leaflets which could be chosen, the following might be suggested:

- No. 24, An Hour With Christ.
- No. 26, I Will Be a Christian Sometime.
- No. 28, Victory in Christ.
- No. 38, Our Youth Called to Service.
- No. 56, To Love, Honor, and Cherish.

The cost of providing these leaflets is small, but the returns will be large.

6. Follow up the work of the Week of Prayer, lest its benefits be lost. Organize a baptismal class and appoint a regular time for meeting, when the group may meet together from week to week for instruction preparatory to baptism. Then see that these are baptized and welcomed into the church.

7. Encourage all young people to join one of the bands of the Missionary Volunteer Society. Senior youth may be encouraged to join the Crusaders' Band or a Master Comrade class. The Juniors should be encouraged to engage in appropriate Junior activities, as outlined in the M.V. *Junior Handbook*.

Encourage the young people to observe the Morning Watch, and to pursue the reading outlined in the Character Classics. Devotional habits are necessary to spiritual growth.

The church board and all adults should keep in mind that nothing can take the place of a friendly interest in young people. Let the church board and the parents regard all the youth of the church as

their special field for personal work and soul winning.

### Conclusion

Without the tender, searching ministry of the Holy Spirit, all efforts in soul winning will be fruitless. God has promised an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the church in these critical times.

Let differences in the church be put away. Let wrongs be righted and confessions made, in order that the Holy Spirit may not be hindered in its work in the hearts of the youth of the church. Let parents search their own hearts and examine their habits and practices. This is the time of which God spoke when He promised to "turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers." Mal. 4:6.

May God make this Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer the occasion for a mighty outpouring of His Spirit, that the youth of the church may be brought to Christ and encouraged to enter His service.

ALFRED W. PETERSON.

## MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER DAY

Sabbath, March 9

Where Is the Flock?

An Appeal to the Church

BY E. L. MINCHIN

*Missionary Volunteer Secretary,  
Australasian Union Conference*

*Text:* Exodus 10:9. When God was about to lead His people out of Egypt into Canaan, Pharaoh finally consented upon one condition—that only certain members of the family should go, and that the women and children should remain behind. He knew that if this condition were accepted the whole plan would fail. But God's fearless leader uncompromisingly announced, "We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go."

In this last hour of peril, when God is about to lead His children into the heavenly Canaan, Satan will again attempt to make us careless regarding the salvation of our children and youth. Let the church set herself to the task and, with the same spirit of determination, lay hold of every boy and girl, saying, "We will go, . . . with our sons and our daughters . . . will we go."

### The Church's Greatest Asset

The youth growing up in Seventh-day Adventist homes and churches constitute our greatest asset. Every conceivable ef-

fort must be made to capture their youthful energy for the service of Christ and of His church. If we won and held all the youth coming to the age of accountability, the net gain to the church would be greater than at present through all evangelistic effort combined. The workers in this cause are almost wholly drawn from the ranks of our own young people. Elder O. Montgomery once said, "There is no more fruitful field in all the wide, wide world, than among our own young people in our churches."

### An Alarming Situation

Recent statistics reveal the alarming fact that this church is by no means holding all her youth. In a large survey covering seventeen conferences it was revealed that fifty-seven per cent of the young people reach the age of sixteen and are never baptized. Surely such a tragic situation is a mighty challenge to every worker and church member. Ignorance of such facts as this is often responsible for an appalling indifference to the work the church ought to do for its young people. Another striking fact is that only three per cent of our youth are ever baptized after the age of twenty is reached. The peak age for baptisms has now dropped to twelve years. Early youth is indeed the harvest of the soul.

### Why This Situation?

Paul warned us that the last days would be days of peril. (1 Tim. 4:1.) But these perils affect the children and youth far more than they do those who are older. The devil has set a thousand snares for the unwary feet of our children. When in past ages were the youth confronted with the portrayal of vice and crime by beautiful, enticing pictures that move upon the screen? When before has there been such a flood of cheap, trashy literature prepared to attract the eye and arouse the interest of the young? When was the gift of music ever so prostituted and the world filled with the strains of foolish, jazzy songs? When before have the voices and sounds from a thousand pleasure halls been borne upon the air and reproduced in our very homes by the radio? When in the past has God been openly and boldly denied and defied in the textbooks of many schools and in the pulpits of many nominal churches? When have moral standards been so thoroughly broken down and vice been exalted above virtue? When before have the youth witnessed the pitiful spectacle of broken homes everywhere, with divorce courts forced to work overtime in an effort to keep up with the demand for sepa-

ration decrees? When? *Never.* These things are peculiar to our day and constitute a mighty menace to the inexperienced, unwary feet of the young. It is from these perils that God desires to save our youth, but to make this possible He must have our co-operation. How shall we meet this situation and save our children from the perils of this hour?

### The Home Sanctuary

The church's strength is in direct ratio to the character of the homes of its members. The church goes up or down according as the homes of its members are godly or ungodly. The true Christian home is a mighty bulwark against evil and a powerful influence in the lives of our tempted youth. "The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of a nation depend upon home influences." Again we are told: "God designs that the families of earth shall be a symbol of the family of heaven. Christian homes, established and conducted in accordance with God's plan, are among His most effective agencies for the formation of Christian character and for the advancement of His work."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 430. What a tremendous responsibility this places upon every Seventh-day Adventist home! In view of this responsibility let us give attention to some aspects of our home life that we must guard jealously.

### The Spirit of the Home

Far more important than order and program in the home is the spirit of the home. The spirit of happiness, love, kindly words, and unselfish living, manifested by parents and children, has an influence that cannot be estimated.

The children may wander in later years, but they will never really get away from a home where love has reigned. When the love of God dwells in our homes and makes us consistent, Christlike men and women there, the church will have power to move the world.

At a camp meeting a young man sought help from a visiting minister. He broke down and wept bitterly saying: "Pastor, I know all that you have said in the meetings is true, but if you only knew the kind of home I live in, you would know that I cannot be a Christian and live up to these ideals. Mother and dad quarrel, and I quarrel with my brother. We have just had a terrible scene in our tent." The lad then unfolded the story of an unhappy home. The father was a zealous defender of the truth, it was true; but he had a legal, loveless religion and failed to hold the affection of his children.

Brethren and sisters, such experiences make us feel helpless. How can we bring the power of God to our children unless the revival we long for commences in our homes? If we are not Christians there, we are not Christians anywhere. Fathers and mothers, what have your children seen in your home? Do they hear only words of kindness spoken by you to each other? Do your children hear bickering, quarreling, and sharp words between you? Is the spirit of gossip and unkindly criticism prevalent around your family table? Then let us further inquire: Parents, are you on good terms with your children? This is absolutely essential if you would lead them to honor God and the religion of their fathers. It is the duty of every parent to become intimately acquainted with his children. Many fathers and mothers have lived so remote from their children that in reality they remain strangers to them all their lives. We should seek to become companions with our children. Home should be made to them the most interesting place on earth. When this is so, there will be no great desire on their part to go elsewhere for questionable companionship and worldly pleasure. We should take time to play with them, and help them with their problems. We should make ourselves agreeable to their friends and open the home to them.

Young people, you have a responsibility also. Do you honor your parents as the Scriptures enjoin you? Do you, by your loving consideration for them and for other members of the family, contribute to the happiness and strength of your home?

### Religion in the Home

Is your family altar in repair, and do your children hear the voice of prayer, the singing of the songs of Zion, and the reading of the Word of God as a regular feature of your home life? Many parents fail to maintain the family altar because they themselves are not right with God, or because they allow business and work to crowd it out. The family altar is the center from which should radiate the spiritual life of the home. If ever there was a time when every house should be a house of prayer, this is such a time.

### Culture in the Home

What standard of culture is seen in our homes? We shall never overcome a love for the cheap and worthless in amusement, music, and reading, by negative denunciation. The solution is in the home where wise and alert parents foster

a love for the good and the beautiful by continually placing before their children the best in literature, good music, and uplifting entertainment. What music and programs come into your homes through the radio? What kind of songs are seen on your piano? What books are found in your library? If our homes are filled with the worthless, we should not wonder why our children are worldly and lack appreciation for the beautiful things of this message.

During a visit to an Adventist home, the writer noticed that the mother seemed concerned that as her children grew older none remained true to the message. A glance at the large library and the music pile soon revealed the reason. Not an Adventist book or paper was to be seen, but there were numerous books by worldly authors. The piano was piled with cheap, worldly songs and the latest "hits."

In another home a devoted Adventist mother, two of whose children were attending our own college, brought out a small box filled with Sabbath School Bookmarks and M.V. and J.M.V. certificates earned by her three children during their days of childhood and youth. Her library was filled with the literature of the message. *The Youth's Instructor*, *Signs of the Times*, *Our Little Friend*, were well used but in tidy bundles on the table. These children had received the mold of this message and had grown in appreciation of the true and lovely things the message stands for. This mother had built for eternity by continually placing before her children the positive and beautiful things of this message, which left no time or interest in that home for the worthless.

### The Church a Stronghold

*Texts:* Micah 4:8; Jeremiah 6:27. The church and the home are closely united and should be used mightily by God for the salvation of our children and youth. Parents have a first responsibility, but the fact is that there are a thousand influences abroad today to counteract the work of the home, and many homes are not able to cope with this problem without the aid of the church. Furthermore, God has appointed the church to do this very work. "God has appointed the church as a watchman, to have a jealous care over the youth and children, and as a sentinel to see the approach of the enemy and give warning of danger. But the church does not realize the situation. She is sleeping on guard."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 165.

The greatest responsibility facing the

church today is the unconverted youth connected with Seventh-day Adventist families. The great majority of them can be saved and will be saved when the church and the home assume the responsibilities resting upon them, and diligently and prayerfully set themselves to work for their salvation.

### Education of Our Youth

The church has been charged by God to see that her children and youth have the advantages and safeguards of a Christian education, and is thus under the responsibility of a solemn commission. The world is being flooded with a tidal wave of skepticism and infidelity, which is largely the result of the kind of training the youth have received in its institutions of learning. Every Adventist youth should have the benefit of an education in our own schools. Those parents and churches who, in spite of the counsel given us, treat this matter carelessly, must accept the consequences of their neglect. "In planning for the education of their children outside the home, parents should realize that it is no longer safe to send them to the public school, and should endeavor to send them to schools where they will obtain an education based on a Scriptural foundation."—*Ibid.*, p. 205.

### Integrated Into Church Life

The preaching of good sermons and an occasional revival effort is the only vision many have of work for the youth. Our young people, however, if won and held to this message, need far more than good sermons. After their decision they must be in some way integrated into the life and work of the church and made to feel that God has appointed them to be His helping hand. This is the work to which the Missionary Volunteer Department is consecrated with its various educational, devotional, missionary, and social features. If strongly organized, the M.V. Society, as well as the other departments of the church, will do a vital work in uniting the interests of the youth with the church.

### Sympathy and Companionship

How many precious youth have been lost to the church through a spirit of intolerance and unkind criticism toward the erring! Let much patience and love be manifested in dealing with their mistakes and blunders. Let us praise them when they do well and love them back into right doing when they fall into error. What the church needs is a host of great personal workers, who know how, by lov-

ing companionship and kindly interest, to win the hearts of the erring. Many a careless youth, if invited to share the blessing of the family circle in some Christian home, might be saved from worldly desires and companionships.

May God help us to set an example before our young people of sincere and consistent Christian living. Young people look to us for that example and are disappointed and often critical when it is missing.

### God Calls the Youth

The mightiest religious movement of all time is in progress and is now reaching its zenith, and God calls loudly for the youth among us to dedicate their lives to this great task. But to be successful in this work, young men and women must possess a good training, a deep Christian experience, and stout hearts.

One day soon the scenes and experiences of this life will be over, and we shall be called to stand before the face of our returning Lord. In that day it will be asked of us, "Where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?" May we all be able to look up into His lovely countenance and respond, "Behold, I and the children whom the Lord hath given me."

It is probable that there are some homes represented here today where the children have already drifted away from God and the church. If so, why not make them a special subject of prayer in this service and a special object of labor during the rest of the Week of Prayer?

"Are all the children in? The night is falling,  
The storm clouds gather in the threatening west;  
The lowing cattle seek a friendly shelter,  
The bird flies to her nest.  
The thunder crashes; wilder grows the tempest,  
And darkness settles o'er the fearful din;  
Come, shut the door, and gather round the hearthstone.  
Are all the children in?"

"Are all the children in? The night is falling,  
When gilded sin doth walk about the streets.  
O, 'At last it bith like a serpent!'—  
Poisoned are stolen sweets.  
O mothers, guard the feet of inexperience,  
Too prone to wander in the paths of sin!  
O, shut the door of love against temptation!  
Are all the children in?"

"Are all the children in? The night is falling,  
The night of death is hastening on apace;  
The Lord is calling, 'Enter thou thy chamber,  
And tarry there a space.'  
And when He comes, the King in all His glory,  
Who died the shameful death our hearts to win,  
O, may the gates of heaven shut about us  
With all the children in!"

—ELIZABETH ROSSER.

## Studies for SENIOR MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS

By E. L. Minchin

### SUNDAY, MARCH 10

#### What Is Conversion?

##### How Can I Tell When I Have Experienced It?

NOTE: A young man approached me recently and asked for an interview. After talking about a number of things, he finally came to that which was really burdening his heart. "Pastor, will you tell me how one can get a Christian experience? I have been reared in the church, and my father is a minister, but religion is all formal to me. I hear people talking about their Christian experience and their love for Christ, but it is all unreal to me. Can you tell me how to get a Christian experience?"

In discussion with a young baptized woman who had been drifting from the Lord, I learned that she did not understand the simplest fundamentals of the Christian life. She said that she understood that she had to be baptized to become a member of the church, and that was what she wanted. From these and many other experiences I am convinced that one of the greatest needs of many hundreds of our youth is to be led into a vital relationship with Christ through a clear understanding of the fundamental teaching of the new-birth experience. Hundreds of our young people are message-reared, and are in danger of growing into maturity without having entered into this vital relationship with Christ. Let us pray for wisdom and grace to make this truth simple and appealing to the hearts of our young people this week.

#### The Facts of Christianity

Christianity is based upon unalterable facts. Behind the most familiar material facts—the growth of the blade of grass, the electric light—there lie mysteries that bewilder the intellect. The facts of the spiritual realm are still more deeply rooted in mystery. Nevertheless, they are essential for complete living, and faith must feed on these great facts if it is to be strong. The four great facts are—

1. The Fact of Christ.
2. The Fact of Sin.

3. The Fact of the Church.
4. The Fact of Salvation.

#### The Fact of Conversion

We live in an age of science, when men are coming with open minds to study the facts, whether material or psychological. Conversion is one of the most indisputable and significant facts in the mental and moral world. Conversion means turning unto God from the old life to serve the living and true God. (1 Thess. 1:9.) This extraordinary change of character, called conversion, has been testified to by countless millions of civilized men and women, in all nations and in all degrees of culture. Conversion has been a fact in the Scriptures and a fact in history, and it is a fact today. We have no right to deny an experience because that experience has not yet been ours. It is certain that through surrender to Christ a power comes into the life, which, judged by its permanence and results, must be nothing less than God working in us, and "the power of God unto salvation." Rom. 1:16.

#### The New Birth Essential

TEXT: John 3:3, 5.

Nicodemus came to Jesus as a teacher to be taught; Jesus showed him that he needed to come as a sinner to be saved. The teaching of Jesus to Nicodemus is fundamental. If we are unsound here, we are unsound everywhere else. Many years ago the servant of God made this startling statement in *Messages to Young People*, page 131: "From what has been shown me, there are not more than half of the young who profess religion and the truth, who have been truly converted." We would do well to ponder over the tremendous significance of such a statement.

#### What Is the New Birth?

Perhaps we can best answer this by stating what conversion is not.

- a. It is not being reared in the message.
- b. It is not living a moral life. (The rich young man was morally straight.)
- c. It is not churchgoing. (The devil is a regular church attendant.)

- d. It is not praying. (The Pharisees prayed.)
- e. It is not just turning over a new leaf. (The sinner may do that also.)
- f. It is not a happy feeling. (Satan can give happy feelings.)

While conversion may include all of these, they will be rather the *result* of a vital change already wrought in the soul, and a new and personal relationship with Christ.

### A New Life

TEXT: Galatians 6:15.

The spiritual awakening known as conversion is described in the Scriptures as a new life. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you." Ezo. 36:26. It is not a modification or improvement of the old nature but a transformation of character so real and profound that the individual enters upon an entirely new experience of spiritual power and purpose. He passes from a self-directed life to a Christ-centered, Christ-controlled, Christ-energized life. God has wrought a change in his life which no human power could have effected. (2 Cor. 4:6; 5:17, 18.) This truth is well illustrated by the laws of nature governing the various known kingdoms: mineral, vegetable, and animal.

(Let three books superimposed on each other represent these kingdoms.) The soil in the mineral kingdom cannot of itself become a plant in the vegetable kingdom, but the plant can reach down into the soil and translate the soil into the higher kingdom. Just so the plant cannot of itself enter the next higher kingdom, but it is possible for an animal to reach down and translate that plant into the higher kingdom. Man, who belongs to the animal kingdom, cannot of himself enter the spiritual kingdom (the next highest kingdom). He must be born from *above*. This is exactly what happens when God's Spirit reaches down and translates him into the kingdom of His dear Son.

### Gradual With Many

Some Christians wonder whether they are converted, because they have not experienced a sudden and arresting change like others. While many have had a sudden conversion, the majority of young people reared in the church have experienced a gradual growth in spiritual things.

Ellen G. White makes this beautifully clear in *Messages to Young People*, pages 157, 158: "A person may not be able to

tell the exact time or place, or to trace all the circumstances in the process of conversion; but this does not prove him to be unconverted. By an agency as unseen as the wind, Christ is constantly working upon the heart. Little by little, perhaps unconsciously to the receiver, impressions are made that tend to draw the soul to Christ. These may be received through meditating upon Him, through reading the Scriptures, or through hearing the word from the living preacher. Suddenly, as the Spirit comes with more direct appeal, the soul gladly surrenders itself to Jesus. By many this is called sudden conversion; but it is the result of long wooing by the Spirit of God."

It is not a question of when and how, but "Do I love Him *now*?"

### Conversion

You ask me how I gave my heart to Christ?  
I do not know.  
There came a yearning for Him in my soul  
So long ago.  
I found earth's flowers would fade and die—I  
I wept for something that could satisfy;  
And then—and then—somehow I seemed to  
dare  
To lift my broken heart to Him in prayer.  
I do not know—I cannot tell you how;  
I only know He is my Saviour now.

You ask me when I gave my heart to Christ?  
I cannot tell.  
The day, or just the hour, I do not now  
Remember well.  
It must have been when I was all alone  
The light of His forgiving Spirit shone  
Into my heart, so clouded o'er with sin;  
I think 'twas when I trembling let Him in.  
I do not know—I cannot tell you when;  
I only know He is so dear, since then.

You ask me where I gave my heart to Christ?  
I cannot say.  
That sacred place has faded from my sight  
As yesterday.  
Perhaps He thought it better I should not  
Remember where. How I should love that spot!  
I think I could not tear myself away,  
For I should wish forever there to stay.  
I do not know—I cannot tell you where;  
I only know He came and blessed me there.

You ask me why I gave my heart to Christ?  
I can reply.  
It is a wondrous story; listen while  
I tell you why.  
My heart was drawn, at length, to seek His face;  
I was alone, I had no resting place;  
I heard of Him, how He had loved me, with a love  
Of depth so great, of height so far above  
All human ken; I longed such love to share,  
And sought it then, upon my knees in prayer.

You ask me why I thought this loving Christ  
Would heed my prayer?  
I knew He died upon the cross for me—  
I nailed Him there.  
I heard His dying cry: "Father, forgive!"  
I saw Him drink death's cup that I might live;  
My head was bowed upon my breast in shame!  
He called me—and in penitence I came.  
He heard my prayer! I cannot tell you how,  
Nor when, nor where, only—I love Him now.

—Author Unknown.

## MONDAY, MARCH 11

### What Is Conversion? (Continued)

NOTE: Last night we studied concerning the fact of, and the necessity of, the new-birth experience. Tonight we shall trace the mysterious process by which the soul is wooed to God and experiences the change called conversion. This may be a more or less sudden experience, or it may be, and usually is, gradual. The important thing is to know that we have experienced it and are enjoying the blessedness of knowing that we are the children of God.

While it is impossible to give any stereotyped description of the experience of conversion, there are certain aspects of the work of the Spirit in producing this change that should be clearly understood.

### A Sense of Need and Conviction of Sin

TEXT: Acts 2:37.

The first evidence of the Spirit's working upon the heart of the sinner is a sense of need, a conviction of sin. This was evident in the experience of the people at Pentecost. Under the power of the Holy Spirit's preaching, conviction of sin was deep and real. How much such conviction is needed in the church today! These people were not urged to surrender. The Spirit's power was so intense they cried out, "What must we do?"

Moody tells of his visit to a prison, where he preached to the inmates. After the sermon he visited the men in their cells and asked them what had brought them there. Each man defended himself, made excuses, and blamed someone else. Finally he found a prisoner sitting in his cell with his head buried in his hands, sobbing. In response to Moody's inquiry he cried, "Oh, sir, I am a wicked man, and my sins are greater than I can bear." Moody had at last found a prisoner who knew he was a sinner, and who sensed his need of God. He was the man the Lord could save. Some resist the Spirit's pleading (Acts 7:51) so continually that they become past feeling (Eph. 4:19) and finally commit the unpardonable sin. The Spirit of God is ever seeking to break the spell of infatuation that holds men absorbed in worldly things, and to awaken a desire for the imperishable treasure. It is by resisting the Spirit that men become inattentive to, or neglectful of, God's Word. The heart that does not respond to divine agencies becomes hardened until it is no longer susceptible to the influence of the Holy

Spirit. Then it is that the word is spoken, "Cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?" "There are none so hardened as those who have slighted the invitation of mercy, and done despite to the Spirit of grace. The most common manifestation of the sin against the Holy Spirit, is in persistently slighting Heaven's invitation to repent. Every step in the rejection of Christ is a step toward the rejection of salvation, and toward the sin against the Holy Spirit."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 324. Let us cherish a tender conscience and thank God for the evidence of His Spirit working upon our hearts.

### Repentance

TEXT: Acts 2:38.

When convicted of sin, the people cried out, "What shall we do?" Peter's first word was, "Repent." "Repentance includes sorrow for sin, and a *turning away from it*."—*Steps to Christ*, p. 26. It is not a feeling only, but an act of the will. The prodigal had sorrow for his sin, and resolved to go to his father, but it was not until he arose and went, and turned his back on his former associations, that his repentance became effective. "We shall not renounce sin unless we see its sinfulness; until we turn away from it in heart, there will be no real change in the life."—*Ibid.*

The prayer of David after his fall illustrates the nature of true repentance. (Ps. 51:1-14.) It was deep and sincere, and there was no attempt to excuse his sin or escape the threatened judgment. "A repentance such as this, is beyond the reach of our own power to accomplish; it is obtained only from Christ, who ascended up on high, and has given gifts unto men."—*Ibid.*, p. 29.

### Confession

TEXTS: 1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13.

Why does God require confession of sin, and how far should we go in making wrongs right? When we wrong our fellow man, we alienate ourselves from him. This alienation does not necessarily result because the person wronged feels grieved, but because the wrongdoer in his heart knows that he has injured or wronged the other. In addition to the wrongdoer's consciousness of having done wrong, the person wronged may have a feeling of having been injured. Therefore, wrongdoing results in alienation. The inevitable consequence of sin is pain, and the sinner must suffer the consequence of his wrongdoing, either before the close of probation through confession, or in the less of his soul at

the time of the executive judgment. "When one who professes to serve God wrongs or injures a brother, he misrepresents the character of God to that brother, and the wrong must be confessed, he must acknowledge it to be sin, in order to be in harmony with God. . . . If we have in any manner defrauded or injured our brother, we should make restitution. If we have unwittingly borne false witness, if we have misstated his words, if we have injured his influence in any way, we should go to the ones with whom we have conversed about him, and take back all our injurious misstatements."—*Mount of Blessing*, pp. 91, 92.

Confession must also be heartfelt and specific. "True confession is always of a specific character, and acknowledges particular sins. They may be of such a nature as to be brought before God only; they may be wrongs that should be confessed to individuals who have suffered injury through them; or they may be of a public character, and should then be as publicly confessed. But all confession should be definite and to the point, acknowledging the very sins of which you are guilty."—*Steps to Christ*, p. 38.

### Forgiveness

TEXTS: Psalms 32:1, 2; 1 John 1:9.

Thank God for this glorious message of forgiveness. It is "heaven" to know that the past, however crimson, is forgiven. So many young people cannot grasp the fact that when God forgives He forgets. (Jer. 31:33, 34.) Who is there among us who could bear to have all the sins he has committed since he was born arrayed before the gaze of his friends. Praise be to His name, Calvary has covered them all—and Christ has not only forgiven but taken away that awful sense of guilt and the burden or remorse. But a young woman said, "I feel the same after I have prayed for forgiveness as before. My past still troubles me." Young friends, if we have complied with the conditions, and believe His promise, God supplies the fact, and we are forgiven whether we feel it or not.

### The New Life

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 5:17; *Messages to Young People*, pp. 72-74.

The soul has now entered into intimate relationship with Jesus. He is now our Master—our affections are upon Him. We have taken His name. His interests are our interests, our lives are centered in Him. Life takes on a new meaning—and everything is viewed in the light of this new and wonderful relationship.

A young man condemned for a terrible crime, found Christ in his prison cell. A visit by a Christian worker revealed how wonderfully the new-birth experience transforms the most sinful life. He said that since Christ has come into his life, everything looks different. Even the prison, which in actuality was a gloomy place, was a happy place to him. From being morose and critical, he was changed to a trusting, loving man, and even the prison guards appeared to him as friends and not enemies.

If we are truly converted, a change will be seen in the life. The dishonest man becomes strictly honest in his dealings with his fellow men. The hasty temper is controlled by Christ's grace, the world-loving heart now loves the things of the kingdom. Sinful pleasures and associates are abandoned. Communion with his heavenly Father becomes sweeter than association with any earthly friend, and the deepest joy is found in loving personal effort for the salvation of others. A love of purity replaces lustful thoughts and actions; the critical fault-finding disposition is changed to one of loving tenderness toward all men, and a sweet sense of sins forgiven brings that peace that passeth all understanding. The Word of God becomes more fascinating than any storybook or novel. In order to retain such an experience, we must make a daily reconsecration of our lives to Him, and die daily to self.

### Appeal

Young people, have you ever really given Him your heart? Have you come to Him personally and said, "Lord Jesus, I am a guilty sinner. I want Thee as my own personal Saviour. Wilt Thou forgive my sins and accept me as Thy child?" If you do this in sincerity and by a simple act of faith believe that He has accepted you, it is so, and you are His child—not because you feel it, but because He has said so. He looks upon you from that moment as though you had never sinned since you were born. Dear young people, will you trust Him? Will you tonight enter into this wonderful relationship with Him? Will you bring to Him your burden of sin and accept His pardon and enter into the peace and blessedness of the children of God? May your response be—

"I hear Thy welcome voice,  
That calls me, Lord, to Thee;  
For cleansing in Thy precious blood,  
That flowed on Calvary.

I am coming, Lord!  
Coming now to Thee!  
Wash me, cleanse me, in the blood  
That flowed on Calvary."



## TUESDAY, MARCH 12

### Christian Recreation Versus Worldly Amusement

NOTE: We have included this study because we believe it touches one of the greatest problems our young people have to face. Let us show our youth that the Christian life is not a life devoid of joy and full of prohibitions but one of positive, joyous living, and that when Jesus floods the soul with His Spirit, all desire for base pleasures is extinguished. Let us study to give our youth a clear understanding of the difference between the rightful expression of our social desires and of Satan's counterfeit.

#### God Gives Pleasures Forevermore

TEXT: Psalms 16:11.

True Christians are happy people. They radiate love and happiness, and give the lie to Satan's charge that Christianity is a gloomy religion and full of prohibitions. They give undeniable proof of our text that "In Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." "Fullness of joy"—what a thing to be desired! Joy is something deep and satisfying, and the kind that God gives cannot be taken away. (John 16:22.) Let us never forget that the true aim in life is to know God and enjoy Him forever.

#### Why Rejoice?

TEXT: Psalms 56:13.

He has delivered our souls from death. When we truly appreciate all that such an amazing fact really means we shall be filled with unspeakable happiness.

A young man who lived a simple life told of the flood of joy that filled his soul when he first knew that his sins were forgiven. Jesus was not a gloomy person. We are told that He was a well-spring of joy, and that it was heaven to be in His presence. Do you think the little children would have been attracted to Him if He had been sad and gloomy? No, our Saviour had a beautiful, smiling countenance, and radiated cheer everywhere He went, and frequently spoke to His disciples about joy and good cheer. (John 16:24, 33.)

#### Two Extremes

The messenger of God warns us against two extremes in the matter of pleasures. Let us heed this sane, balanced instruction: "There are persons with a diseased imagination to whom religion is a tyrant, ruling them as with a rod of iron. Such are constantly mourning over their de-

pravity, and groaning over supposed evil. Love does not exist in their hearts; a frown is ever upon their countenances. They are chilled with the innocent laugh from the youth or from anyone. They consider all recreation or amusement a sin, and think that the mind must be constantly wrought up to just such a stern, severe pitch. *This is one extreme.* Others think that the mind must be ever on the stretch to invent new amusements and diversions in order to gain health. They learn to depend on excitement, and are uneasy without it. Such are not true Christians. *They go to another extreme.* The true principles of Christianity open before all a source of happiness, the height and depth, the length and breadth of which are immeasurable."—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 565.

#### Satan's Counterfeit

There are three natural desires of the human heart: First, to enjoy things, having to do largely with the sensations of the body; second, to get things, which concerns everything outside of oneself, which we may obtain in one way or another; and third, to accomplish things, pertaining to everything that goes out from a person to affect, in some way, the outside world. These desires are perfectly proper. They are implanted in human nature by the Creator, and the normal and proper activities of life are concerned with the seeking and satisfying of these desires.

The devil is a great counterfeiter, and it is his studied plan to pervert these natural desires, and lead us to seek satisfaction of our longing in a way that is contrary to the will of God and the true principles of living. Happy are they who can say with Paul, "We are not ignorant of his devices." 2 Cor. 2:11.

In 1 John 2:16, you will find an analysis of sin. John has been saying, "I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known Him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." Verses 13, 14. Then turning from this commendation because of their acceptance of God into their lives, he utters a most solemn warning, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world." Verse 15. Then comes the Holy Spirit's analysis of sin. "All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

When we seek to satisfy our desire to enjoy things in a way contrary to the laws of life established by our Father, it becomes the "lust of the flesh"; when the lawful desire to get things is perverted, it becomes the "lust of the eyes"; and when the desire to do things is leading away from God, it becomes the "pride of life."

#### The Way Made Clear

Instead of being in doubt about this pleasure and that, the Christian has the means of detecting right from wrong. "Christians have many sources of happiness at their command, and they may tell with unerring accuracy what pleasures are lawful and right."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 342.

How wonderful to know that we may tell with unerring accuracy what pleasures are lawful and right! God has made it all so clear to His people. He has given us an abundance of instruction in His Word and through the Spirit of prophecy writings, so that we need never go astray. In *Messages to Young People* is recorded Heaven's counsel to the Advent youth on the problem of recreation and amusement.

Christian Recreation	Worldly Amusement
<i>Messages to Young People</i> , pages 363-400.	<i>Messages to Young People</i> , pages 363-400.
Essential.	Not essential.
God honored.	God forgotten.
Can ask God's blessing.	Disqualifies for prayer.
Holy Spirit not grieved.	Counteracts work of Holy Spirit.
Uplifting associations.	Associations dangerous.
Recreates. Benefits body and mind.	Unfits for duties.
Instructive and profitable.	Does not give vigor and rest to mind.
Does not corrupt morals.	Corrupts principles.
Leaves conscience void of offense.	Weakens faith.
Moderation and temperance prevail.	Lulls conscience.
	Unsatisfying.
	Carried to excess.
	Fosters pride.
	Indulges appetite.

#### The Right to Choose

Dear young people, shall we determine tonight to go God's way and find those pleasures that are satisfying and that lead us into richer fellowship with Him? Remember that although God has made the way so clear, we have the right to choose that way or not. Listen to the wise man's counsel: "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes." Eccl. 11:9, first part.

Youth of the advent message, let us come under the spell of the lovely Jesus, and find our highest joy in devoted service for Him, and the pleasures of this dark world will fade in the light of His glory and grace.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

### The Way to Spiritual Power

NOTE: Everywhere we look today there is a striving for power. Nationally, politically, scientifically, and individually, mankind seeks for power. (Joel 2:27, 28.)

#### Thirst Necessary

TEXTS: Matthew 5:6; Psalms 42:1, 2.

Tonight we shall study some of the reasons for our spiritual weakness and lack of that inward, overcoming power so abundantly promised in the Scriptures. Dear youth, our supreme need is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit's power among us. What hinders us in the race and weakens our efforts? How can we find the way to individual spiritual power?

First of all there must be experienced within us an intensity of purpose and a thirst after the living God. "Ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with *all* your heart." Jer. 29:13.

Let us note the intensity of David's desire after God: "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God." Ps. 42:1, 2. May God create such a longing for holiness in our hearts. When we are willing to subordinate every other interest, and reach out in living faith for the promised victory, we shall receive it.

#### Forsaking Sin Necessary

TEXT: Isaiah 55:6, 7.

Why are there so many feeble, powerless Christians? There are two plain and simple reasons: *first, only partial consecration; and second, holding on to sin.* This is taught clearly in Paul's statement: "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." 2 Tim. 2:19.

#### Idols That Rob Us of Peace and Power

TEXT: 1 John 5:21.

Oh! May we find it in our hearts to clear the way by removing the rubbish piled inside the heart's door. "There must be a painful work of detachment, as well as a work of attachment. . . . The reason why many find the Christian life so deplorably hard, why they are so fickle, so variable, is, they try to attach themselves to Christ without first detaching themselves from these cherished

idols."—*Christ Our Righteousness*, p. 48. What is the rubbish inside your heart? What idol have you enthroned within? Can you place your finger on that which is sapping your spirituality and robbing you of peace and power?

It may be some sinful secret habit or impure thoughts. Perhaps your record is one of strong passion and weak will. There is nothing which sears the conscience like impurity; there is nothing so fatal to the fine instincts, and so debasing to the nobler impulses.

Dear friend, let go, and let God. "He shall save His people from their sins." Matt. 1:21. Was ever music half so sweet as that? "The religion of Christ in the heart will gain for its possessor a complete victory over those passions that are seeking for the mastery."—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 610.

Perhaps the world, with its glitter and its tinsel, is rolled before the door of the heart. Perhaps worldly music, pleasures, and practices enthrall you. Or it may be that improper reading is grieving the gentle Spirit of God from the heart. This is why many backslide. Cheap novels and trashy literature excite and pervert the imagination, weaken the mind, and destroy the taste for God's Word and all substantial reading. Such literature gives false ideas of heroism, love, matrimony, and success in life. Surely the frown of God is upon this.

Perhaps an evil temper hinders you from enjoying victory in Christ. Or it may be that hatred of someone who has wronged you is destroying your spirituality. Oh, how many heartaches and church divisions there are because of hatred and criticism! Backbiters and tattlers are everywhere. Taking up a reproach against our neighbor is a dangerous business. There is scarcely anything that will more effectively grieve the Spirit from the heart than this work. "Men may profess faith in the truth; but if it does not make them sincere, kind, patient, forbearing, heavenly minded, it is a curse to its possessors, and through their influence it is a curse to the world."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 310. What a solemn statement is this! We are plainly told here that our profession may become a curse.

Again, the reason for our spiritual barrenness may be because of prayerlessness. A prayerless life is a spiritless life. One man has said, "Find a cold, lifeless backslider, and you find a prayerless life." All through whom the Spirit of God has worked in power have been men and women of prayer. A prayerless

person is not a Christian. May God teach us how to pray. Let us not neglect our daily appointments with Him. May we seek the joy of fellowship with Him on the street, in the office, on the farm.

Poor Sabbathkeeping may be robbing us of victory. Maybe we are robbing God in tithes and offerings. Perhaps it is unkindness and fretfulness in the home, harsh words to those we love, that hinder us. Or is it dishonesty in business deals, scheming, and sharp bargaining? All or any of these will rob us of victory. May our dear young men and young women upon whom rests so great a responsibility, put these things away by His grace, and invite the precious Saviour in to abide as the supreme Sovereign and Lord of their hearts. Let us cleanse the camp of its Achans, for then we may go on to victory. What a power will then attend the proclamation of this message! What a holy influence will emanate from every life!

#### God's People Willing

TEXT: Psalms 110:3.

"Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power." Young friend, are you willing to let Him have His way with you?

The following story from the pen of A. W. Spalding is an impressive appeal to our youth to "be an example to the believers in . . . love" and Christian deportment.

When Moody was burned out in Chicago, all his earthly possessions were destroyed. He took the train for New York, a discouraged man. He felt his ministry had been a failure. During that journey in the train he wrestled with God in prayer. He prayed, "O God, make me willing in the day of Thy power. Make me willing to be as strong for service as Thou dost want me to be." Arriving in New York, he engaged a room in a hotel, closed the door, and continued in agonizing prayer for blessing and power. A friend called on him, but after knocking upon his door he could hear Moody's voice coming from within, "O God, make me willing, make me willing to be as strong for service as Thou dost want me to be." The friend left to return in the evening. Venturing to go in, he saw Moody in the corner of the room, his tear-stained face turned heavenward, as he cried, "O Lord, stay now Thine hand; it is enough; it is enough." He did not notice his visitor, so great was the blessing that flooded his soul that he asked God to stay His hand. This experience marked

the commencement of that mighty revival that spread throughout the English-speaking world. May our youth be made willing to put away their sins in this the day of His power. Such a turning to Him must surely bring about the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit and prepare a people to meet their God.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 14

### What Shall I Do With Love and Marriage?

NOTE: Next in importance to becoming a Christian is the choice of a life partner. Nothing in all of life will bring either so much of happiness or so much heartache as this. It is with a sincere desire to help our youth discover some guiding principles in the choice of friends and of a life's companion that this study is prepared.

#### Love's Divine Origin

TEXTS: 1 John 4:7, 8, 9, 10.

Love is from God, and every expression of genuine love is of God. When the love of Christ comes into a human life, it is the greatest uplifting power of which the world has any knowledge; for it no sacrifice is too great, no piece of service too humble. "Love is a precious gift, which we receive from Jesus. Pure and holy affection is not a feeling, but a principle. Those who are actuated by true love are neither unreasonable nor blind. Taught by the Holy Spirit, they love God supremely, and their neighbor as themselves."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 435.

#### Youth an Example in "Love"

TEXT: 1 Timothy 4:12.

Weymouth's translation of this verse reads, "Let no one think slightly of you because you are a young man; but in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, be an example for your fellow Christians." Right in the heart of this verse God tells the youth that they are to be an example in love as well as in other things. We believe that the majority of young men and women have a very real desire to set an example before the world worthy of those who have been called to such a high destiny.

#### Choosing of Friends

TEXT: Malachi 3:18.

In the choice of friends as well as in the selection of a companion for life, let this splendid motto from the pen of God's messenger be our rule: "Love Those Best Who Love Christ Most."—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 48. What a grand

ideal to follow in our choice of friends! Comradeship between young men and women, quite apart from marriage, may be enriching and exhilarating. As one writer has said, "The whole arrangement of having divided mankind into two groups is one of the most splendid of the divine thoughts. . . . In all life's departments, with a few obvious exceptions, men and women supplement and stimulate one another, and by comradeship, make a bigger and better thing of life than would be possible otherwise."

To achieve fine and lasting friendships is no easy task. Just as it is possible to spoil the beauty of love with selfishness and lack of discipline, so it is with our friendships. Let us guard our friendships from becoming self-centered. A self-centered friendship breeds jealousy and discontent. Again we repeat, "Love those best who love Christ most."

#### Choosing a Life's Companion

Few greater blessings can come to a Christian man or woman than the love of another whom God has chosen to be his life partner. Few greater responsibilities can come, either. We are told: "If men and women are in the habit of praying twice a day before they contemplate marriage, they should pray four times a day when such a step is anticipated. Marriage is something that will influence and affect your life, both in this world and in the world to come. A sincere Christian will not advance his plans in this direction without the knowledge that God approves his course. He will not want to choose for himself, but will feel that God must choose for him."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 460.

"Let those who are contemplating marriage weigh every sentiment and watch every development of character in the one with whom they think to unite their life destiny. Let every step toward a marriage alliance be characterized by modesty, simplicity, sincerity, and an earnest purpose to please and honor God. Marriage affects the afterlife both in this world and in the world to come. A sincere Christian will make no plans that God cannot approve."—*Ibid.*, p. 435.

#### Judgment and Maturity Needed

"The young affections should be restrained until the period arrives when sufficient age and experience will make it honorable and safe to unfetter them. Those who will not be restrained will be in danger of dragging out an unhappy existence. A youth not out of his teens is a poor judge of the fitness of a person

as young as himself to be his companion for life. After their judgment has become more matured, they view themselves bound for life to each other, and perhaps not at all calculated to make each other happy."—*Ibid.*, p. 452.

#### Danger of Unwise Alliances

Satan "is busily engaged in influencing those who are wholly unsuited to each other, to unite their interests. He exults in this work, for by it he can produce more misery and hopeless woe to the human family than by exercising his skill in any other direction."—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 248.

Many professing Christian youth refuse counsel on this subject, and unite themselves with those who are wholly unsuited in other ways apart from religious beliefs. This is Satan's special work.

How many marry because of a physical attraction and find out at leisure that this is an insufficient basis for marriage! Their spiritual and mental outlooks are so different as to be mutually unsatisfying. True love is spiritual, and a true Christian will judge spiritually. A pretty face or a fascinating mind will come second to a Christlike spirit.

#### Some Questions to Ask

Let every young woman, before she consents to marriage, ask these questions:

1. Is he a Christian gentleman?
2. Will I be able to honor my Saviour's claims as supreme?
3. Will the marriage glorify God and honor His cause?
4. Is he tolerant and broad-minded?
5. Does he have a strong body?
6. Is he pure in heart? What has been his past record?
7. Is he able to provide me a home?
8. How does he treat his mother and sisters?
9. Does he have an honorable ancestry?

Let the young men ask similar questions with the addition of the following:

Is she fitted to bear her share of life's responsibilities?

Will her influence ennoble and refine me?

In a census of 18,000 church members there were 8,000 young people. Forty-five per cent of these youth married non-Adventists. Fifty-five per cent married Adventists. Of the 55 per cent who married within the church, only 5 per cent were ever disfellowshipped. Of the 45 per cent who married outside the church, 42 per cent were eventually disfellowshipped.

These figures reveal the fact that while there may be a few exceptions, marriage with unbelievers is still a prolific source

of loss to the church. May God bless and strengthen especially our young women, many of whom have to make a painful decision in this matter. We could tell many sad stories resulting from failure to obey God in this regard. It is better to go through life alone with His blessing than in a divided home without it.

### The Unmarried

While marriage is the natural and normal course for most young people, it is by no means the *only* course. It may not be His will for some. He may be calling them to a special work, a work in which they can serve Him more effectively than if confined to a home. Others remain alone because of their loyalty to God's commandments. Such have achieved happiness by sublimating those natural desires and instincts and giving themselves in blessing to others. Think of such women as Mary Slessor, Frances Ridley Havergal, Francis Willard, our matrons and nurses and many of the noble women whom God has used in the carrying forward of His work.

### A High Standard of Conduct in All Relations

May God enable our youth to set a high standard of conduct in everything. Promiscuous associations, petting, and all loose conduct will be shunned by God's youth. In courtship, pure love and respect for the sanctity of manhood and womanhood will lead to the exercise of a godly self-control. The conduct of Christian youth will be in marked contrast to the loose, unseemly abandonment we see on every hand in the world today. If you have failed in some way to reach your ideal, seek forgiveness, put your back to the past, and with your hand in God's, press on to the height of noble manhood and womanhood.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 15

### Is a Life of Victory Over Sin Possible?

#### How to Maintain a Good Christian Experience

IN a prayer and consecration meeting an earnest young man stood and said, "Brother, I realize that all you have said tonight is very true and vital; but my problem is to know how to keep the experience I find so real to me in a meeting like this. I want to know how to keep this experience while I am at work during the week. If I have to help in the church or prepare something for young people's meetings, it helps me and brings me near to the Lord, but I want to gain the secret

of keeping my experience when away from the church and meetings like this."

As I heard this young man's testimony, I was touched by his sincerity, for I knew that he had spoken out of the reality of his own experience. Yes, dear friends, and did not this young man echo the cry from many a struggling heart today?

I am convinced that what our youth are longing for today is reality of Christian experience. They need, not so much more theory about the truth, as a power that will make the truth they already know, a real, practical, and constantly saving influence in their lives. They long to see sincerity, consistency, and reality in the lives of those who profess Christ. Formality and insincerity have robbed many a struggling Christian of his faith.

Dear friend, is that what you need? Power over your inherited and cultivated tendencies to evil—power to live victoriously every moment and every day? Yes, this is our great need, and praise the Lord, it is one that may be completely and most wonderfully supplied.

### Is Victory Only for a Few Favored Ones?

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 2:14.

The question our young friends have asked is a vital one. How true it is that although we possess a Saviour whose power is infinite, we are often filled with despondency and conscious of defeat and sin. Why is it that even devoted Christians constantly confess their sorrow over habitual sins of criticism, impatience, pride, secret sin, and love of the world? We preach to the world a Saviour who will "save His people from their sins," and yet we acknowledge that He has not done this for us. Some seem to regard daily sinning as a necessity, and that a life of unbroken fellowship with the Saviour may be attained by a few eminent Christians, but cannot be expected by the large majority whose lives are fully occupied with the cares and trials of this life.

No, young friend, this experience is for you; it is for all. The Scriptures plainly teach that a life of victory over willful sin is our heritage right here and now. "When He shall appear, we shall be like Him." 1 John 3:2. "Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 12:14. "Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not." 1 John 3:6. The last promise is a definite one. We came to Christ when we accepted Him, but how many have learned the secret of abiding with Him? For the promise is that "whosoever abideth in Him" will not sin. When

we learn the glorious secret of not only coming to Christ but also remaining with Him and abiding in Him, while we are at work, on the street, every day and every hour, we shall know that it is possible to live a life of victory over sin.

### Why Many Lose Their Experience

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 4:10.

At the commencement of the Christian life there must be a complete renunciation of all self-will, the complete denial to the flesh of its every unlawful desire and pleasure, and complete separation from the world in all its ways of thinking and of acting. This renunciation and surrender must be a continual experience; nothing short of this can God accept. The trouble is that too many of us want to live His life without first of all dying His death. This is a death to self and to the world. We lose our experience because we do not know the meaning of surrender and self-denial. We sin because we want to.

In the Christian life there is a constant yielding to the claims of God over our sinful, evil nature. There is a heaven to win and a hell to shun, and we must be prepared to fight the fight of faith. Remember that it is the fight of faith and not the fight of effort. The moment I am tempted, I must say, "Blessed Lord, I yield to Thee, I do now abide in Thee." He will do the rest. The struggle is in the surrender. Such a surrender must be constant and without reserve. To play with sin and temptation is to be defeated.

### Setting the Lord Before Us

TEXT: Psalms 16:8.

"The reason why so many are left to themselves in places of temptation is that they do not set the Lord always before them. When we permit our communion with God to be broken, our defense is departed from us. Not all your good purposes and good intentions will enable you to withstand evil. . . . Cultivate the habit of talking with the Saviour when you are alone, when you are walking, and when you are busy with your daily labor. Let the heart be continually uplifted in silent petition for help, for light, for strength, for knowledge. . . . But while we stay our minds upon Him who is our sun and our shield, the evil that surrounds us will not bring one stain upon our garments." —*Ministry of Healing*, pp. 510, 511.

### How to Maintain Fellowship With Christ

But the question is asked, "How can a businessman, for instance, who has to give closest attention to the work he has to do, be at the same time occupied with

Christ and keeping up this fellowship with Him?"

The consciousness of His presence does not require a strain and such a direct occupation of heavenly thoughts that we have to withdraw from the ordinary avocations of life. Living the life of surrender does not require that the mind be engaged with it each moment. It is an entrusting of oneself to a loving Saviour in the faith that He will abide with us, and with His holy presence ward off the evil when we have to be most busily occupied with other things. As an illustration, take the father of a family who is separated from them for a time, in order to earn for them what they need. He loves his wife and children, and longs to return to them. But there may be hours of intense occupation when he has not a moment to think of them; yet his love is just as real and true as when communing with them. And all the time his love for them and his desire to make them happy urge him on and give him a secret joy in his work. Just so the loving presence of Jesus may so take possession of us that we need never for a moment lose the secret consciousness. When free, our thoughts will naturally turn to Him. But even in all our engagements, the consciousness of His presence need never leave us.

#### Not Faultless but Blameless

TEXT: Jude 24.

My little boy of seven years once wrote me a letter in which he made a mistake. His mother told me in her letter that the little fellow cried and made himself late for school looking for an eraser, because he didn't want daddy to get a letter with a mistake in it. He then rubbed a hole in the letter. How did I write back to him? Did I say, "You careless little boy, can't you write better than that? I am ashamed of you." No! No! I said, "Daddy is so proud of his little boy. Thank you for that lovely letter. How well you are writing now!" I did not refer to the mistake, because he didn't mean to make it, and when he did he immediately applied the eraser. His heart was perfect in its love for his daddy. His letter was not *faultless*, but it was *blameless*. The Christian life is one of perfect love for Jesus. We may not be faultless, but we shall be blameless, in that our hearts are perfect toward Him. He will keep us blameless and finally present us faultless. "Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy." Jude 24.

Until Jesus becomes an ever-present reality to us, we cannot maintain a real and victorious experience. But let us not become discouraged if at times we neglect to abide in Him, and make mistakes. "We shall often have to bow down and weep at the feet of Jesus because of our shortcomings and mistakes; but we are not to be discouraged. Even if we are overcome by the enemy, we are not cast off, not forsaken and rejected of God." —*Steps to Christ*, p. 69.

Yes, Jesus pities our weakness, and so long as we instantly confess and forsake the things that caused us to separate ourselves from Him, He will restore us to Himself. What a wonderful Saviour!

#### Kept Every Moment

TEXT: Isaiah 27:3.

Day by day, amid discouragement and difficulty, your soul has to press forward. Mark this beautiful promise in Isaiah 27:2, 3. "In that day sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine. I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day." The vineyard is a symbol of God's people in whose midst the True Vine is to stand. The promise is "I the Lord do keep it . . . every moment." Let us be content with nothing less than this. The duties and cares, sorrows and sin, of this life must not succeed in hindering this fellowship. Let the faint and discouraged take heart and find their sufficiency in an all-sufficient Saviour whose strength is made perfect in weakness. May our dear youth, who are so sincerely seeking the way to victory, learn the secret of abiding, and be assured that a life of continuous and unbroken fellowship with Christ is indeed our privilege.

### SABBATH, MARCH 16

#### How to Maintain a Good Christian Experience

##### A Challenge to Youth

##### Two Sides Only

TEXT: Exodus 32:26.

In the hour of crisis when Satan seemed about to triumph in leading God's people into apostasy, God found a man of character and of consecration whom He used to rally the loyalhearted to decisive action. Moses held the honor of God above life itself. Israel had shamefully played the traitor almost within echo of their consecration vows. Moses sat in the gate of the camp and challenged the people, "Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me." Consecration involved decision and action (verse 29), and the *undecided* and *disloyal* perished.

#### The Last Great Battle

TEXT: Revelation 16:14.

Today another supreme crisis faces the people of God. The spirits of devils have gone forth to the kingdoms of this world to prepare them for the battle of the great day of God Almighty. Solemn issues face us as Satan makes his final assault upon the church of God. Let us read this vivid description of these gathering forces of evil in *Testimonies*, volume 9, page 11: "We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. . . . The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones."

#### The Two Banners

Two banners are implanted on the earth: the black banner of the prince of darkness, and the bloodstained banner of the Son of God. Under these two banners the youth of this world are being marshaled. Look yonder at the black banner, see the millions of youth from every country marshaling under its shade. Who gathered them, and why? "Satan is gathering an army of youth under his banner; and he exults, for through them he carries on his warfare against God." —*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 47. See, here is another banner, the bloodstained standard of the cross, under which are gathering those who have given their allegiance to Christ, the Son of God. "Christ is calling for volunteers to enlist under His standard, and bear the banner of the cross before the world." —*Messages to Young People*, p. 24, 25. Christ is calling the youth to enlist under His standard. The issue is clear. There are two masters, two standards. Which shall it be?

#### The Crises of History

The church has faced many crises, and in every one her youth have been ready to throw themselves into the enterprise that demanded devotion and self-sacrifice. We do well to remember such illustrious youth as Moses, Joseph, Esther, and David. Think of the early Christians and of the youthful martyrs and witnesses who chose death rather than bear allegiance to the banner of darkness. They suffered for Christ in those days, and through the years the witness of youth has continued. Luther, Wesley, and a host of others are mighty spiritual ancestors. The pioneers of God's great

judgment-hour message were youthful men and women whose hearts were burning with a holy passion to make known the truth to the world.

Ellen Harmon was only seventeen when she was chosen as God's special messenger. James White, who was baptized at the age of fifteen, began aggressive personal work at twenty, and in his twenty-first year, God, working through him, brought one thousand souls to a decision for Christ during a period of six weeks. He was ordained at twenty-two, and, when only twenty-three, passed through that thrilling period known as the "midnight cry," in 1844. J. N. Loughborough was twenty, too young to exercise the right of franchise, when he began preaching the third angel's message in 1852. J. N. Andrews entered the ministry in 1850 at the age of twenty-one. S. N. Haskell heard his first Adventist sermon in 1852, at the age of nineteen. At twenty he held a ten-day effort at Trenton, Canada, at which twenty-five persons were converted, and at twenty-one he began his long period of service in the advent movement.

### The Challenge Today

What is the situation youth face today? What are the forces arrayed against the church, and how shall they be met? Let us frankly face the facts.

a. The paralyzing forces of formal religion. (2 Tim. 3:1-3.)

The basic trouble is that many church-going people are unmoved and complacent in face of the most startling advances of evil. They are formal, lifeless, and spiritually dead. "Ichabod"—"The glory is departed"—is written over many Christian churches today. The truth is that the world has eaten its way into the church. Its cancerous roots are everywhere paralyzing the members and crippling evangelistic effort. Youth of the advent church, apathy is our great enemy. Fight it! Let us arise with a new conception of our need and our solemn responsibility to meet the challenge of this situation. "The church is languishing for the help of young men who will bear a courageous testimony, who will with their ardent zeal stir up the sluggish energies of God's people, and so increase the power of the church in the world. Young men are wanted who will resist the tide of worldliness, and lift a voice of warning against taking the first steps in immorality and vice."—*Ibid.*, p. 25.

b. The forces of heathenism and irreligion. Matt. 24:37, 39.

Hundreds of millions of human beings are still without God and without hope.

The masses of our great cities live as if God did not exist. Irreligion and materialism threaten the very life and existence of Christian civilization.

The nation's drink bill is enormous, and brewers announce their policy of capturing the young men and women of their country by the millions. Gambling has swollen to colossal proportions; moral impurity has burst the dikes and spread over the country like a devastating flood. Marital unfaithfulness threatens to overthrow family life. Degrading films and salacious literature have a tremendous hold upon the nation. These, with a host of other perils, thunder in our ears that we have reached the perils of the last days, and constitute a challenge to every consecrated Adventist youth to throw himself into the battle for truth and righteousness.

### Youth to Take the Offensive for Christ

We must do more than bemoan these conditions. We must go forth into the camp of the enemy and launch an offensive for Christ. The Allies well knew that the war would never be won by defensive action. Mighty preparation was made to launch the second front and take the war into the enemy's territory.

What are we doing to stem the tide of iniquity, to conquer vice and establish righteousness in the hearts of men? May God stir us to aggressive warfare.

### This Is God's Moment

The greatest war in history has just closed. Proud nations have been laid low. Ruin, desolation, famine, and pestilence follow in the wake of the conflict. Millions of poor, disillusioned beings are without God and hope. On the other hand, the barriers are once again down—barriers that for many years have prevented us from carrying the message to many lands. Once again God has opened the way, and we believe that the church is about to enter upon her greatest and most glorious hour. This is God's moment, and the hour of challenge to the advent youth. A great, unfinished task calls you. Many millions of people have not so much as heard that there is a third angel's message. Such a stupendous task demands the consecrated service of every youth. Mighty floods of spiritual power are promised for this very hour. (Acts 2:17.) Such a work calls for the abandonment of every sin, great or small, every habit, indulgence, or practice, or anything that would prevent us from receiving the power promised us.

Revelation 14:6-12 is God's message

for this hour—and the only remedy for a sick and bewildered world. God will find at this time a host of champions of His truth from the ranks of our youth.

### Challenge to Enlistment

This Week of Prayer is enlistment week. At this time every church should become an enlistment depot, enlisting her youth in the service of the Lord. When Shackleton wanted two volunteers to join his expedition to the South Pole, fifty thousand young men applied. Where are the volunteers for Christ today? He is calling you to do and to dare, and even to die, in the most glorious of all adventures.

### Willing Sacrifice

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 11:23-28.

God's soldiers will endure hardness and will be willing to go anywhere for Him. Listen to the warrior Paul tell of his sufferings for Christ. "Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness in watching often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches." 2 Cor. 11:23-28. How do we compare with a man like that? May the spirit of this devoted servant of God be found in us today.

### The Perils of Indecision

To do nothing in this hour of crisis is treason against God. There can be no passive neutrality. "He that is not with Me is against Me." Matt. 12:30. Young people, God wants you, the church needs you, a dying world calls you. With anxious eyes we look to you today to grasp the standard falling from the hands of the godly men and women who pioneered this message, and bear it loyally to the world. You cannot, you will not, fail her in this last hour. Who will today rally round the banner of Christ, and resolutely, publicly, and gladly declare their allegiance to God and consecrate themselves to the finishing of our task—"The Advent Message to All the World in This Generation"?

## Lessons for JUNIOR MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS

Helona K. Lewin

*Assistant Missionary Volunteer Secretary, Australasian Union Conference*

### Notes to Superintendents

The boys and girls who will join in this 1946 M.V. Week of Prayer will soon go out from the shelter of the home to make their own decisions for life. They are looking forward to the future with joyful anticipation, and this is just as it should be. While life is grand and wonderful, we need to help these boys and girls realize that true joy comes in service to God and man, that there is something for them to do in preparing themselves for the future. Before them may be heartaches and disappointments. Things will not always go right, but it is their relation to such things which will prove of what material they are made. Dangers exist for unwary feet, but if they take Christ as their guide and leader, all will be well. It is the purpose of these studies to turn the attention of the Juniors to God's call to them, the preparation necessary, the joy in service, and the need of Christ all along the way. Junior leaders and teachers, we must feel a special burden during this week to bring our boys and girls into a closer relationship to Christ. Knowing Christ for themselves will help them to make right decisions and solve many problems. We are told, "If properly instructed, very young children may have correct views of their state as sinners, and of the way of salvation through Christ."—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 400.

"From a child, Timothy knew the Scriptures; and this knowledge was a safeguard to him against the evil influences surrounding him, and the temptation to choose pleasure and selfish gratification before duty. Such a safeguard all our children need; and it should be a part of the work of parents and of Christ's ambassadors to see that the children are properly instructed in the Word of God."—*Ibid.*, vol. 4, p. 398.

### The Winding Road

THE mountain road is a winding road  
Leading up from the lowly plain,  
And though it swerve,  
Switch back, and curve,  
Every mile brings an upward gain.

The slow ascent makes an easy climb,  
And it lightens the heavy load;  
There is wonder new  
In the changing view  
That appears at each turn of the road.

The road of life, like a mountain road,  
Is often a winding way,  
With puzzling turns  
Until one learns  
It is surely ascending each day.

The winding road is the lovelier road;  
Those who travel patiently  
Find work and leisure,  
Pain and pleasure,  
And the friendliest company.

—EUNICE CASSIDY HENDRYX.

## MONDAY, MARCH 11

### The Trail of Life

THEME SONGS: "Keep the Trail," No. 151, in *M.V. Songs*; "The Captain Calls," No. 66.

TEXT: "Thou wilt show me the path of life." Ps. 16:11. (Ps. 25:4; 27:11.)

BLACKBOARD: "Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 327.

It was camp time, and the day was very hot, for it was midsummer. What could we do for field-and-trail period this afternoon? It just seemed too hot for most things when the superintendent suggested, "Let's blaze a trail down in that unexplored bush by the creek. It will at least be cool there." And so we started. The pacemakers, two in number, went ahead with great long knives in their hands, for the bush and grass were so high and tangled that it meant cutting our way through. But, oh, how interesting and thrilling going and going and not knowing just where or what one would see around the next corner, as it were. We climbed over great logs. Now we were alongside the babbling brook, and next it was hidden from our view. It was cool and inviting as we found our way along—still and quiet, but for the chirp of a little bird and the singing of some insects. Progress was slow, but that did not matter, when lo! What was that great nestlike thing high up on the slender gum tree? We lingered while one lad caught hold of the tree and gave it a little shake, and out jumped a ring-tailed opossum. It was such a pretty little creature, with beady eyes. Oh, the excitement! But we had better move on, and the opossum jumped back into his nest, probably wondering why he had been dis-

turbed in his sleep by these funny creatures.

In this way the afternoon soon passed quickly until the sun told us it was time to get back to camp. On our trail we came to the spot where, the previous summer, the Juniors had spent a delightful time cooking their supper. We decided to name our trail the Hollingsworth Trail, in honor of our camp superintendent.

What joy and fun there is in following a trail! Yes, boys and girls, before you stretches another trail, bigger and more important than any that you might follow at camp or holiday time—the trail of life. Today you stand at the gateway to that trail. You have left behind babyhood and now, with the guidance of father and mother, you are beginning to think for yourself. Life is wonderful! There is so much to learn and do; there are so many new things to see every day. You never know what is around the next corner.

God has called you into this world for a purpose. You are here because He has need of you. What a privilege and what an honor to be entering the path of life! David talked about it in Psalms 16:11. So much lies before you. Such opportunities and possibilities!

Many have been called to follow the path before you. We think of Samuel who as a Junior responded promptly to God's call for him. Then there was Joseph. Just a boy was he when his trail led him away from home into a strange land.

The little captive maid felt homesick, but she served faithfully and well. Esther's path led nearer home, but it called for courage and endurance. There was real danger there, but she prayed, and God kept her safe and brought her through.

Then there was that great prophet, Jeremiah. He was a young man when he set out on his trail, and he felt very much afraid, but God had told him to say not that he was a child, that He would give him words to speak. And through long years God guided his way.

We think of many others. Daniel and his companions were called away from home, but they did not forget the instructions of godly fathers and mothers as they came up against great odds in their life trail.

Paul, I think, must have followed the most interesting of all trails, although it was certainly a hard and trying one at times. His way led over land and sea. Suffering, hardship, and persecution were



often his lot; yet through it all an earnestness of purpose filled Paul's heart, and he was happy in the work which God had called him to do.

The same God who was with these men and women calls you today to take up the trail of life and live for Him. Let us thank Him with all our hearts for the privilege that is ours. The fact is that you are of use to God, and He wants you. Shall we not thank Him for the joys and pleasures of living? Life is grand and wonderful. Let us determine to make it so, come what may. We do not know what is before us, but we will follow on, trusting in Jesus day by day. A song will ever be in our hearts for the privilege that is ours of living for Jesus. "Show me Thy ways, O Lord; teach me Thy paths." Ps. 25:4.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 12

### Preparing for the Trail

THEME SONG: "Keep the Trail," No. 151, in *M.V. Songs*; "True Temperance Boys and Girls Are We," No. 127; "I Would Be True," No. 58.

TEXT: "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established." Prov. 4:26.

*Blackboard*: "The longest journey is performed by taking one step at a time. A succession of steps brings us to the end of the road. . . . A well-balanced character is formed by single acts well performed."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 144.

Some sixty boys were to take a three-day hike to the mountains. It would be cold there, and they would need to sleep out and prepare their own food. Of course everyone wanted to come back whole and in good health, so it meant a great deal of preparation. There were so many things to think of: sufficient clothing of the warmest and lightest kind, bedding and food that would be nourishing and sustaining, first-aid kit in case of accidents. There seemed no end to the needs. Then each boy had to be inspected. Was he prepared for the long and often difficult journey? Was he provided with footwear of a stout type? Did he have suitable clothing? Was his pack adjusted right so that it would not pull or drag too heavily on the shoulders? Did each boy understand that we were to keep to the rules of the road, obey orders of the pace setter and leader, and that all would keep together?

Five boys were not prepared to hike all that long way. They just weren't ready. In fact, they said it was too far.

One little lad who was advised to stay home because he was so small, just clamored to go. "He could make it! Didn't he have big, stout legs? He would not get tired." And he didn't either. His courage and determination exceeded the physical strength of some of the bigger boys.

At last everything was ready, and the boys, in high glee, stepped off in single file up the mountain, following in the steps of their leader. It was often hard going, and their limbs ached a good deal, but the bracing mountain air, the magnificent view, the grandeur of the mountains, and the thrill of sleeping under the stars and eating beside a campfire was worth all the effort. There was one boy who said, "Why all this fuss and bother? I know my way in the mountains and how to take care of myself." During the trip he managed to slip away on his own, and as a result became separated from the rest of the party. After much searching he was found, but not before he had spent three nights alone, tired, hungry, and exhausted. He said he would never do it again; that was enough for him.

As we think of the trail of life, let us consider for a moment the preparation needful for the journey. What will we take with us, and what will help us so that we, too, may gain our objective and at last have the "Well done" of our Master, Captain Jesus? Life trails can end in disaster and death or in life and joy forevermore in the eternal home. It all depends on the trailer. So we must give serious thought to our preparation. To be well equipped means much. Perhaps a strong body is one of the first things. To follow the rules of health as outlined in our J.M.V. work will help a great deal. We need knowledge, to understand the world in which we live; temperance, that we may be balanced in our living; and self-control, so we shall be guided by the mind rather than the feelings. Of course, confidence and hope are needed, too. How do all these things come? By reading and imbibing the Bible we shall gain strength, confidence, and faith. The Word of God is our food. Ephesians 6:10-18 gives an outline of the preparation necessary.

The youthful Timothy was prepared for the journey of life and able to accomplish much for God because he, as a lad, studied the Scriptures with his mother and grandmother. To him Paul wrote, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." Then again, "Be thou an example." Often we need a light on our

pathway to guide us through life, and this same light will also guard us against harm. That light comes from Jesus Christ through His Word. With the light of His love within us, we can never mistake the way. If we have that light, temptations may come to us, but they cannot harm us, because the light warns them away. This light is our guide and our guard. God's Word, the psalmist declared, is "a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

The story is told of a traveler in the West who, separated from the other members of his party, was climbing slowly up the rocky side of a rugged mountain. His progress was slow, not only because of the difficulty in climbing up the slippery and treacherous rocks, but because the mountaintop was shrouded in a heavy mist or cloud, which made it impossible for him to see more than a few feet ahead of him. All at once the bright sunlight broke through the mist, and the man was horrified to find that he was on the very brink of a high precipice and a climb of a few more feet would have meant death and destruction to him.

The study of the Sabbath school lesson will also give to us that light and food necessary. The J.M.V. progressive work is one of the very best ways of preparing ourselves for the journey. At school we are daily gaining knowledge. Taking the advice and counsel of those who have been a long time on the road will help. We can learn so much from others which will enable us to be well prepared for a happy and successful time as we begin the trail of life.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

### Adventures of the Trail

THEME SONG: "Keep the Trail," No. 151, in *M.V. Songs*; "Do Your Bit," No. 84; "Singing as We Journey," No. 110.

TEXTS: "I will lead them in paths that they have not known." Isa. 42:16. "God's Plan," John 20:21; Matthew 4:19; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Isaiah 58:6-8.

*Blackboard*: "Little deeds of charity, little acts of self-denial, speaking simple words of helpfulness, watching against little sins,—this is Christianity."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 143.

It was girls' Junior camp and already as the days passed by there seemed to be so many delightful adventures. Of course there was work to be done, for big appetites always entail work, and then, too, we must represent in neatness and tidiness, the grand movement to which we belong.

Would the girls ever forget discovering the native bear on the day of the long hike? They had settled down for a little rest when someone found Mr. Bear blinking his beady eyes at them.

Perhaps best of all, was the day of the treasure hunt, when watermelons were found in the trees, of all places. The hunt was at its warmest when one girl shouted, "A snake! A snake!" Quickly she picked up a stick, and in no time others were there to assist her. That snake, five feet ten inches, was triumphantly carried home on a pole.

But how good it was to know what to do when Ella sprained her ankle. Off came the neckerchief and the damaged muscle was quickly bound. Truly, it is good to be a Junior Missionary Volunteer. Think of all the fun and the joy of knowing how to help others. The closing words of the pledge, "Be a servant of God and a friend to man," present the greatest source of adventure.

You may wonder how that can be, but just think for a moment: when you have done a kind deed or have been able to help someone, have you not noticed the real joy that came into your heart and stayed with you? Was ever any joy like it? A kind deed pays a thousand times, for in doing it, one not only helps another, but also brings joy to his own heart.

Along the road came a woman dragging a big sack of freshly cut grass for the cows. A little lad coming home from school scurried across the road and soon two were carrying that big sack of grass. In no time it was home and in its right place, and there was no doubt about the thrill of pleasure being in Ray's heart, for he hopped and skipped across the road with a whistle as he continued his homeward way. It was only a little thing, but it meant a great deal for two people.

Then there were the two almost odd little girls at camp. Everything was so new and strange to them. Myra was there, too, but very homesick. Soon she found her mission in caring for those little girls, and in general helpfulness to the very busy cook. Oh! the light that shone in her eyes. Gone were the tears and the sad face of the days before. Myra was truly enjoying Junior Camp. It was a thrill to help someone.

The boys were resting on the grass under the big oak after a game. They were hot and tired, for the day was warm. "Say!" said John, "how about a game here next Sunday afternoon?"

"I can't come," said little Tom, "I have to sing in the choir."

"Or me either," said James, "I have to go to Sunday school."

"Nor me, nor me!" said the others.

After all had expressed themselves, John said, "And what about you, Roy? You never seem to go to Sunday school or have other engagements, and yet you are better than the rest of us. What are you anyway?"

Roy colored up and, glad of any excuse to get out of such an embarrassing question, said, "I'll race you to the other side of the park," and the boys were off.

But Roy's conscience troubled him. That night in studying the Sabbath school lesson, the memory verse was, "Ye are My witnesses." He asked, "Mother, what does it mean to be a witness?"

Mother seemed to understand as she said, "A witness is one who is not afraid to tell others what he knows to be true."

That night Roy resolved in his heart that if ever he had another opportunity, he would not fail.

The very next day he was taking a short cut across the park when he spied the boys under the tree.

"Here comes our saint," said one.

"Oh! Haven't you found out to what church I belong?" said Roy. "Well, I'll have to tell you. I am a Seventh-day Adventist."

"What's that?" asked the boys. And Roy explained, adding, "And if you want to hear something good, you ought to come with me to the Sunday evening service."

The opening hymn was being sung when in walked Roy with two boys. They came regularly week after week, and when the call was made for those to stand who would obey and keep the Christian Sabbath, how Roy's heart thrilled to see John and Tom stand with the others!

Oh, yes, it pays to be a servant of God and a friend to man. It presents in so many ways the greatest fun and adventure that can be found anywhere. Just try it, and keep your eyes open and see.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 14

### How to Be Real Men of the Trail

THEME SONG: "Keep the Trail," No. 151, in *M.V. Songs*; "Dare to Be a Daniel," No. 48; "Can the World See Jesus in You?"

TEXT: "Quit you like men, be strong." 1 Cor. 16:13.

Blackboard: "The greatest want of the world is the want of men, men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right

name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."—*Education*, p. 57.

Things to cultivate:

1. Loyalty and reliability. Eph. 6: 11-14; 2 Tim. 4:7, 8.

2. Honesty and truthfulness. Luke 8:15; Rom. 12:17.

3. Patience and perseverance. 1 Thess. 5:14.

4. Diligence and enthusiasm. 2 Thess. 3:10; Eccl. 9:10.

5. Courtesy and kindness. 1 Peter 3:8; 1 Cor. 13:4, 5.

6. Cheerfulness and contentment. Heb. 13:5; Ps. 100:2.

Things to avoid:

1. Pride. Prov. 6:16-19.

2. Selfishness. Matt. 22:39; 1 Cor. 10:33.

3. Covetousness. Luke 12:15.

4. Judging and criticizing. Rom. 2:1; Matt. 7:3-5.

5. Envy, jealousy, and hatred. Prov. 27:4; 1 John 3:15.

We think much of that brave man, Shackleton, who, having planned well his adventurous journey to the South Pole, proved himself a real man many times over in his unselfish attitude to those who were with him. There were times when grave dangers had to be faced in that land of ice and snow, and it was Shackleton who did the most dangerous work. When they had come to their last bit of food and one man was very weak, it was Shackleton who popped his biscuit into a companion's pocket and went without, himself. In the great adventure their leader was one with them. He served and continually forgot himself in the interest of those who were with him.

"The greatest want of the world is the want of men,— . . . men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole."—*Education*, p. 57.

God wants clean, truehearted boys and girls to respond to this call. In the Word of God we find many examples of people who have let self spoil their lives. There is the story of Ahab, who turned his face unto the wall and would eat no bread because he could not get Naboth's vineyard; of Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, who listened when he should not have done so, and this led him not only to take a present that was not his but also to add to his sin by telling an untruth to his master. Then there was Miriam, who complained about her brother Moses, and thereby caused a great deal of trouble in Israel. Such little things they seemed in the lives of these people, but they revealed

weakness of character. On the other hand, there are records of many true men and women, who were brave to dare and do for God. In a time of great need eight-year-old Josiah was called to be king of Israel and 2 Kings 22:2 says, "He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left." Relate the story of David as a youth, strong to dare and do.

(Write the word "Jesus" in small letters on the blackboard and then place a piece of money over the word, showing how some boys and girls are allowing money to hide Jesus from view. Follow with a ball, representing play; a book, representing study; a garden tool, representing work. All these things can come in front of our love for Jesus and prevent us from being strong and of noble character.)

Sin in the life hinders God from using us. It may be fretfulness in the home, quarreling with brother or sister, impatience and anger, selfishness that always takes the best place and the largest piece, or forgetfulness of the needs of others. It may be hiding things with the thought "Mother won't see," or "Teacher doesn't know." Perhaps we allow our thoughts to run along lines that are not right. God would have us put away these things if we are to be real men and women on the road of life. It does not matter how big and strong we are physically; if we are not clean and true within, God cannot use us.

God would have us examine our hearts and know the things that are wrong, and then He wants us to ask Him to forgive these wrongs and give us strength to live for Him. Before we leave our room in the morning, we need to pray and read His Word. Then at evening time as we kneel in prayer again, we will search our hearts to discover the mistakes we have made. Thus, striving day by day, we shall become true men and women, ready for Jesus when He comes.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 15

### The Pace Setter and Leader

THEME SONG: "Keep the Trail," No. 151 in *M.V. Songs*; "I Walk With the King," No. 35; "I Will Follow Thee," No. 44.

TEXT: Psalms 23.

Tell the story of the "Narrow Way," from *His Messenger*, page 117; or *Life Sketches*, pages 190-193.

Blackboard: "In every sphere where man shall be placed, the Lord Jesus has

left us His footprints. We do well to follow Him."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 512.

There had been a heavy fall of snow on the mountains. Teacher had said that they would hike to the top the first fall. It was with eager anticipation that the boys and girls waited for the time to start. All kept together, and the trail up was good. How beautiful was the snow! Many were the snow fights until one and all glowed with warmth. Such exercise meant big appetites, and lunch was enjoyed as never before. At last the time came to begin the descent, and all packed up for home. The signal was given and they started. But when near home a few of the small girls were missing. Someone said, "Oh, they took the short track through the brush." As night was coming on, a search party was hastily organized. The brush was wet, and it was not only dark now but also very cold. With lanterns and much calling they searched. Finally, late in the night, the girls were discovered. They had taken a side track, hoping it would get them home quicker than the main party, but soon realized they had lost their way. As night came on, they gathered ferns and brush for beds and then sang hymns. One girl suggested that they pray, and earnestly those small girls told God of their difficulty, and asked Him to send someone to show them the way home. No sooner was the prayer meeting over than they heard the glad voices of the rescue party. Soon they were home, warm and dry once more.

There are many side tracks along the trail of life which are very dangerous, but if we should ignorantly follow one and get lost, Jesus will come to our rescue.

(Here tell the story of the "Narrow Way," from *His Messenger*, page 117.)

In our studies day by day, during this special week, we have found that the trail of life is full of dangers. Many side paths and by paths beset the feet. It is so easy to lose the way and even to suffer some lifelong injury because of a mistake. We need someone with us who knows the way and who can guide and direct our path. Jesus has promised to do this for us. (Briefly consider Psalms 23.) The wise man's advice is penned in Proverbs 3:5, 6. But we will need at all times to keep very close to Him. When in danger we have someone to give help and counsel. His wisdom and strength we will depend on to help us over the rough places and up the steep hills.

When the shadows are deep, and it is dark, and the sun does not appear for

days, we will need as never before this Greatest Leader of all, Jesus Christ. Have you ever considered what He is like? Is He strong? Does He understand? When He was on earth long ago, the children flocked to Him. They loved Jesus and Jesus loved them. He must have been a happy, bright person, for the children to love Him as they did. He took notice of the little boy with the loaves and fishes, and was glad of his willingness to help feed all those hungry people. The little sick girl, daughter of Jairus, was visited by Jesus, and soon she was well again. Oh, yes, Jesus understands boys and girls. He knows just how you feel. He knows the great big longing in the heart that so often goes unexpressed. He knows the desire to be something, to do right, and He sees the failures that come. Jesus was once a boy Himself, and often He was lonely and His companions jeered at Him because of His home. He knew what it was to have little money. It was not easy for Him to be good, but Jesus never wavered in the purpose that was set before Him. He knew His Father had given Him a work to do, and in those early years, as a boy of twelve, kindly and respectfully, He said, "I must be about My Father's business." People flocked to hear Him, so there must have been something nice about Him. There was no need to advertise His meetings. He could tell the nicest stories, and His sermons were short and easy to understand, for He spoke of the sower, the lost sheep, and the corn. He knew something about fishing and could help the fishermen when they had had a bad night. Jesus knew and understood.

He was strong and brave. You remember how He went into the temple one day and drove out the money-changers. Those wicked men left their money and ran for their lives when Jesus spoke. He was one man against so many, and yet He wasn't afraid of those angry priests. He told them of their wrongdoing, and when the time came for Him to pay the penalty for your sins and the sins of the whole world, so that we might live with Him by and by, Jesus bravely faced the cross and suffered the cruellest of pain. The same understanding, big, strong Jesus is a real person, and He is willing to be your guide on the pathway of life. He wants you to accept Him as your leader. He has promised to be with you, even to the end of the world. Jesus leaves it with everyone individually to accept of His leadership. Will you take Him today as you set out upon the pathway of life? (Here make a call for consecration.)

# ★ Home Missionary Department ★

## HOME-FOREIGN RALLY DAY

### Suggestive Program for Sabbath Service, March 2, 1946

OPENING SONG: "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!" No. 608 in *Church Hymnal*.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 13.

PRAYER.

OFFERING.

SONG: "Under His Wings," No. 587.

TALK: By pastor or local elder. (If so desired, base talk on Isaiah 60:1, 2; John 4:34, 35; 9:4; *Testimonies*, volume 8, page 36: "There is a work to be done in foreign fields, but there is a work to be done in America," etc. Also read *Testimonies*, volume 9, page 62: "Our publications should go everywhere. Let them be issued in many languages.")

READING: "The Use of Literature in Our Work Among the Foreigners," by R. Ruhling.

READING: "Providences of God in the Work Among the Japanese," by Alfred T. Okohira.

CLOSING SONG: "Anywhere With Jesus," No. 589.

BENEDICTION.

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### The Use of Literature in Our Work Among the Foreigners

BY R. RUHLING

*Assoc. Sec., Bureau of Home Missions*

IT is our duty as Seventh-day Adventists to spread the message entrusted to us. To do justice to this task is possible only if we do everything in our power—by word, deed, and pen—to testify for the truth. Considering the immensity of the task, the wide world to be warned, we can but realize that this is the

greatest work ever given to man. Therefore, every opportunity must be seized. We must avail ourselves of every means at hand to do missionary work. Not the least reason for this is that the remaining time is short.

From the very beginning the advent movement can point to great advances resulting from the liberal distribution of printed matter. Books, papers, and tracts have been scattered by the thousands; even in the daily newspapers, wherever possible, reference has been made, by means of appropriate articles, to the imminent second advent of Christ. Under divine guidance this denomination, aside from preaching the Word, has put strong emphasis on the production and distribution of proper literature. This branch of the work has been built up continually. The pioneers of the movement knew how to lay a good foundation, and now we carry the work forward.

The Lord has greatly and wonderfully blessed this branch of our work; yet we should not be satisfied with the results achieved. We should lay greater plans for a wider work to be accomplished, especially through the distribution of literature. We are aware of the tremen-

dous influence of the printed word in our day. Opinions are formed and the public mind is influenced through newspapers, magazines, and books. We, as a religious organization, must not lag behind. Practically everyone, including those who do not choose to attend church or religious meetings, can be reached with literature.

Too, we have been given the following counsel: "A far greater effort should be made to extend the circulation of our literature in all parts of the world. The warning must be given in all lands and to all peoples. Our books are to be translated and published in many different languages. . . . People of all nationalities should be enlightened and educated, that they, too, may join in the work."—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 160. Please note that all lands in the world are mentioned; all peoples are to be warned; the books are to be translated and published in many languages. After this is done, however, it is all of no avail if the literature is not also distributed.

There has never been a time in the history of our work when there was a greater need of, and real demand for, books and papers containing the truth for this time. A proof of this is the brilliant success of our colporteurs. We surely have come to the time when our literature—and this includes the translations into foreign languages—should be made available in a far greater measure to all peoples. We must never think that it is the duty of only the colporteurs to distribute the literature. Every member of the church, every believer, is to be God's messenger. Let us go to our neighbors and friends, and take the books and papers to them, thus giving them an opportunity to study the truth.

### Just Americans

JUST today we chanced to meet  
Down upon the busy street,  
And I wondered whence he came.  
What was once his nation's name.  
So I asked him, "Tell me true,  
Are you Slovak, Serbian, Jew,  
Lithuanian, Lett, or Russian,  
English, Irish, German, Prussian,  
Belgian, Spanish, Swiss, Moravian,  
Dutch or Greek or Scandinavian?"  
Then he gave me his reply,  
And he raised his hand up high:  
"What I was is nought to me  
In this land of liberty;  
In my soul, as man to man,  
I am just American."

—Selected.



## Providences of God in the Work Among the Japanese

BY ALFRED T. OKOHIRA

As you no doubt know, when the war came, persons of Japanese ancestry were evacuated from the West Coast to inland camps. The evacuation of 110,000 people was not an easy task for our Government to undertake. It may be that some mistakes were made, and that some people suffered sacrifices and heartaches; but still I can say from the bottom of my heart that America is a wonderful country in which to live.

During the turmoil of mass evacuation our Japanese believers were also evacuated. They had to leave their homes and were permitted to carry only bundles of personal belongings. The experience was hard, but I am glad to report that our believers took it bravely, and none of them lost faith in God during this time of trial.

The evacuation was carried out with rapidity and was accomplished in a relatively short time. It is only natural that most of our believers wished to be placed in the camp with their ministers, but, God's way being different from ours, we were placed in ten separate camps. Thus opened to us the golden opportunity of spreading the message to each Japanese of every camp. Our ministers and lay preachers have conducted very successful efforts in each camp. God has been with them and blessed their efforts, and has turned this unfortunate experience into a great blessing. More than one hundred and fifty persons are rejoicing in this wonderful message of hope today because of our association with them in the relocation camps. Now that the war is over, it is the plan of our Government to resettle the Japanese in their former communities in every State.

As we look over the record of what has been accomplished among the Japanese in America, we truly rejoice over the fact that so many of these people from a distant land have accepted the message. They have become true missionary workers among their own people and loyal supporters of God's cause.

Years ago Mrs. E. G. White wrote: "Many of these foreigners are here in the providence of God, that they may have opportunity to hear the truth for this time, and receive a preparation that will fit them to return to their own lands as bearers of precious light shining direct from the throne of God."—*Christian Service*, p. 200. This statement was certainly fulfilled in the way our work in Japan was started.

About fifty-four years ago a devoted Seventh-day Adventist felt a burden to tell this wonderful message to a young Japanese who was working as a bellboy at Paso Robles, Hot Springs, California. As soon as he received the message he became eager to carry it to his own people. Later he was sent to Japan as our first missionary to that country. Thus our work in Japan began. That young man was my father.

A devoted Adventist believer in England felt the responsibility of telling the story of a soon-coming Saviour to another Japanese. This young man, Brother S. Ogura, accepted the message, and thus God prepared a leader and a guardian of the truth for the critical hour in the history of Japan. Who knows but that the Japanese you meet on the street of your

town may someday give us a hand in finishing the advent message in the earth? Won't you tell him, if you meet him, the reason of the hope that is in you? In this way you will be able to help us finish our work for the Japanese in America.

"In the cities of America there are people of almost every language. These need the light that God has given to His church."—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 36.

Let us tell these souls for whom Christ also died about a soon-coming Saviour, and thus prepare them to go home with us to the heavenly kingdom.

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## Working for Those of Other Tongues

"I MIGHT say," states Elder V. A. Lidnsr, pastor of the Jersey City Scandinavian church, "that several of our brethren in the Jersey City church have tried their hand at lay preaching. While the results have not been outstanding in this hard field, I think the greatest test of the true missionary spirit of these men and others is that despite many disappointments in the past they are still enthusiastically planning for future efforts.

"But all lay efforts do not consist of preaching. One of our laymen in our Jersey City Scandinavian church is a modest, quiet brother who, through personal work, has influenced and won several of the present loyal members of the church. In fact, this brother did most of the groundwork in this city, as far as the Scandinavian work is concerned. Whenever he goes this brother never stops witnessing for Jesus Christ, and he has a real gift of getting acquainted with strangers and interesting them in the advent message. To him, every man he meets is a candidate for heaven.

"Of those who are still with us in the Jersey City church, three persons from one family and four from another family owe their conversion to this brother's persistent visiting with them, bringing them handbills and literature, and taking them to various evangelistic meetings, often in the face of outright opposition. One sister likes to tell how she grew so weary and annoyed by his coming, with his quiet but unfailing invitation, that she used to send the children to answer the doorbell instead of going herself. Finally she told this brother to stop coming, saying, 'I can't see why you keep bringing these papers here; you know we aren't interested.' 'Someday you will be,' was the reply of our undiscouraged brother. And he was right. First the woman came

## Note to Church Leaders

Some time ago one of our ministers wrote: "There is a mission field just around the corner." This minister was looking for a meeting place in a certain town to conduct a German evangelistic effort. One evening he stepped into a meeting hall and found one thousand Armenians assembled. To his great surprise he was told that there were ten thousand Armenians in that city. A week later he went to the same hall and found one thousand Mexicans gathered for a meeting. Once more he tried it. At this time he found the hall crowded with Swiss people. Yes, in many of our cities, towns, and country districts there are large unentered mission fields. At the present time many of these people are troubled, bewildered, and apprehensive about the future in behalf of their kindred who were caught in the clutches of war. While we share with them the sorrow and distress which have come upon the world, we also have the happy privilege of conveying to them the good news from the Word of God regarding the meaning of conditions in the world, and of telling them the good news of a soon-coming Saviour and the Christian's hope of a new world.

Once a year there is included in the home missionary program of the church a Sabbath service devoted to the furtherance of the message among the foreign-language-speaking people in North America. For 1946 this Sabbath is March 2. May God help us, during this time of open doors and many opportunities, to bring the message of salvation to the foreigners in our midst.

GEN. CONF. BUREAU OF HOME MISSIONS.

alone. Then she persuaded her husband to come. Eventually they were both baptized."

From Elder G. F. Theiss, German worker in the East Pennsylvania Conference, comes the following interesting report:

"There are in my district three of our lay brethren who have started an unusual way of doing missionary work. They have been successful in securing six hundred rural and Star route names and addresses, and are sending to these people promotion material regarding the 20th Century Bible Course. Over forty of these have indicated their desire to take the lessons.

"I might mention," continues Brother Theiss, "one of our sisters in the Philadelphia German church. After making contact with several persons and inviting them to the Sunday evening lectures, she asked them whether they would not like to have Bible studies in their homes. Several families accepted her offer. An interest was created in this way, and more people began to come. Surely it is a fine thing when lay members are in a position to do this kind of work. Quite a few of these people are interested in the truth, and we know some will take their stand for the advent message."

"We do not have a lay evangelist in our church," writes Brother James Terzo, Italian worker in the New Jersey Conference, "but one of our Italian sisters in the Union City church has a fine record in home missionary work.

"One cold evening in the fall, when she was out in the interest of Ingathering, this sister found an Italian family who became much interested and asked many questions about the advent truth. Subsequent visits to this family resulted in the father, mother, and two children being baptized.

"This Italian sister also encouraged her own family to accept the truth, and soon her daughter, her son-in-law, and two daughters-in-law joined the church.

"After a number of believers had accepted the message, she opened a mission in Union City. This mission is still functioning and, by the Lord's help, is saving souls for the kingdom of Christ."

One woman wrote to a saloonkeeper, telling him about the breaking up of her home because of drink. As a result he closed his liquor shop for good. He was given one of our larger Swedish books and directed to a Seventh-day Adventist meeting place, where the work is carried on by lay brethren. The man was baptized and later told me his story.

There is so much that can be done for those who speak another tongue. Many who have come to our shores from another land are wondering about the present happenings in the world. What does it all mean? What does the Bible say? Now is a good time for our believers to work as never before to give the blessed message of a soon-coming Saviour.

LOUIS HALSWICK, *Secretary,*  
*Bureau of Home Missions.*



### Race Distinctions

ONE summer evening my father caught me tearing down the street after another

child, screaming, "Wop! Dirty wop!" He took me into the house, sat me down at a desk, and gave me a sheet of paper: "Now, I want you to write down every way in which you are different or better than that little Italian girl."

Dinner time rolled around, and my paper was still blank. I took it slowly to my father. He smiled. "That's a good paper. Now, until you can create a wonderful human soul, as God can, don't presume to criticize anyone because God chose to have him born a member of any one of His nations or races. Remember this paper." And I always have!—SYLVIA VAUGHN.

## ★ Missionary Leadership ★

### Effective Evangelism Through Use of Literature

"OH that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever!" Thus did the patriarch Job express the longings of his heart three and a half millenniums ago. He wanted his message printed and recorded for future generations. Little did he realize how wonderfully his request would be granted. Now "the latter day" is here, and the words of Job are printed in millions of books, in more than a thousand languages, and scattered to the four quarters of the earth. How his heart would pulsate with joy if

he could see our day of printed Bibles and gospel literature distributed like the leaves of autumn.

The invention of the printing press marked the dawn of a new era in the fulfillment of the great commission. The translation of the Scriptures has been multiplied from three to more than a thousand tongues, so that they now speak to fifteen sixteenths of the human race in their native languages. Gospel books, papers, and tracts are being printed by the ton and are flooding the world with heavenly light. David saw our day when he said, "The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." Ps. 68:11. "Army" is the marginal reading; a German translation is "Army of evangelists." We can truthfully say, This day is this scripture being fulfilled in the world.

### A Mighty Agency

What a mighty agency our literature has been in the proclamation of the three-fold message. What great changes have taken place since the publication of the first tract in 1846 and the establishing of the first publishing house in 1855. The many millions of dollars' worth of literature we have scattered over the world in more than two hundred languages has exerted a mighty influence on the religious thinking of mankind. It is the source material for thousands of sermons by ministers of all denominations. Our literature has been the forerunner of the living preacher and missionary in every community and country in the world. One of our leaders said, "So far as I know our literature has pioneered the

### The Melting Pot

We of the United States of America are:

One third of a million, Indian.

One third of a million, Oriental, Filipino, and Mexican.

60 million, Anglo-Saxon; 10 million, Irish.

15 million, Teutonic; 9 million, Slavic.

5 million, Italian; 4 million, Scandinavian.

2 million, French; 13 million, Negro.

1 million each, Finn, Lithuanian, Greek.

In addition, we are:

2 million, Anglican Episcopalian.

40 million, Evangelical Protestant.

1 million, Greek Catholic.

4 and one-half million, Jew.

Two thirds of a million, Mormon.

One tenth of a million, Quaker.

22 million, Roman Catholic.

One-half million, Christian Scientists.

—*The Religious Digest*, June, 1945.



way into every country where the third angel's message has gone."

The importance of gospel literature evangelism is emphasized repeatedly in the instruction given through the Spirit of prophecy. The following are a few of the many statements:

"The book work should be the means of quickly giving the sacred light of present truth to the world."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 69.

"Our publications are now sowing the gospel seed, and are instrumental in bringing as many souls to Christ as the preached word. Whole churches have been raised up as the result of their circulation."—*Christian Service*, p. 146.

"God will soon do great things for us, if we be 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.

"In a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes down from heaven with great power, and who lightens the earth with his glory."—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 140.

Notice that this last statement does not say that the distribution of our literature brings the latter rain. The final visitation of spiritual power that quickly finishes the work of God and cuts it short in righteousness is brought about by the same kind of spiritual experience that came to the disciples of Jesus in the upper room, resulting in the early rain. It is the result of the latter rain and the loud cry in souls saved that will be largely accomplished through the distribution of our literature. The visitation of the Spirit will lead men and women to read the literature already in their possession and will bring conviction, so that every honesthearted soul will come to the light of truth.

### God's Means of Wiring the World

Literature evangelism reaches every home, while public evangelism brings the message to only a very small percentage of the people. The carrying of truth-

filled books and periodicals to the homes is God's means of wiring the world. Every book, paper, and tract is, as it were, an electric light that will blaze out when the power of the Spirit is turned on under the power of the latter rain, so that the whole earth will be lighted with the glory of gospel truth.

One evening from the summit of Mount Tamalpais, north of San Francisco, I watched the lights come on in a dozen cities and villages. The city of San Francisco, including the World's Fair grounds, was lighted up in sections until the latter, especially, was a blaze of glory. This, I thought, is a striking illustration of what will happen when God turns on the power and light flashes from every piece

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### Bring Us the Light

I HEAR a clear voice calling, calling,  
Calling out of the night,  
O, you who live in the Light of Life,  
Bring us the Light.  
We are bound in the chains of darkness;  
Our eyes received no sight.  
O, you who have never been bond or blind,  
Bring us the Light.  
We live amid turmoil and horror,  
Where night is the only right;  
O, you to whom life is liberty,  
Bring us the Light.  
We stand in the ashes of ruins;  
We are ready to fight the fight.  
O, you whose feet are firm on the Rock,  
Bring us the Light.  
You cannot—you shall not forget us,  
Out here in the darkest night;  
We are drowning men—we are dying men;  
Bring, O, bring us the Light.

—JOHN OXENHAM.

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of literature in every home. Conviction will then bring those who are convinced to a decision, and the harvest will be "more abundant" than under the early rain.

### Results of Literature Seed Sowing

Results from literature seed sowing are slower than some other kinds of evangelism, requiring patience in waiting for the harvest. It usually does not come until "after many days," and most of it will be delayed until the latter rain ripens the grain for the harvest. The sower is instructed to sow the seeds from morning till night and "withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that." The divine promise is that those who sow "bountifully shall reap also bountifully," and "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap," in quantity as well as quality. Those who "sow in tears shall reap in joy" and "doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

The promise is sure that if we cast the bread of life upon the waters of the sea

of humanity we shall "find it after many days." The seed seems to disappear and to become lost and forgotten, but eventually it reappears and produces a harvest. However, this requires time and patience, but the uncertainty as to just where the results will come from makes the work interesting. It produces many happy surprises as well as disappointments. Often results come from the most unexpected sources. It is for this reason that the sowing should be beside all waters and in all sorts of soil and among all classes and under all conditions.

One of the chief faults of gospel seed sowers is that they are in too much of a hurry to reap a harvest. We are tempted to say, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain." Isa. 49:4. This is not true if we are diligent in scattering the seed. There is bound to be a harvest in proportion to the amount of seed sown. We must remember that this is the seed-sowing time, and the chief part of the ingathering comes later. Christ saw but little results from His gospel work at the close of His earthly ministry, but He did not seem much concerned about quick results. The results came with the showers of Pentecostal rain which, we are told, were largely the consequences of Christ's seed sowing. The early rain produced the harvest when seeds of truth that had been lying dormant in the hearts of thousands came to light and fruition.

While those who hear the message should be urged to make a decision, the following statements indicate that if they do not do so at once, it is no evidence that they will be lost. It is our chief business to sow the seed and God's to give the increase, as in the world of nature.

"The Lord . . . commands His servants to present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent, except at the peril of their souls. Christ's ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty, and leave results with God."—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 609, 610.

"The good seed sown may lie some time in a cold, worldly, selfish heart, without evidencing that it has taken root; but frequently the Spirit of God operates upon that heart, and waters it with the dew of heaven, and the long-hidden seed springs up and finally bears fruit to the glory of God. We know not in our life-work which shall prosper, this or that. These are not questions for us poor mortals to settle. We are to do our work, leaving the result with God."—*Testimonies*, vol. 3, p. 248.



On pages 611 and 612 of *Great Controversy* we are told that what happened under the early rain at the opening of the gospel will be repeated again under the latter rain at its close. At that time "the message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God." This is because the arguments have already been presented, the seeds already sown, and now "it will spring up and bear fruit." Then follows the statement, "The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience." But during the latter rain they sever the bands that have held them back, and take their stand for the truth.

Notice that the literature ministry is especially mentioned as bearing its chief fruitage when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit brings all men to a decision. The dormant seeds will produce a harvest when the rain falls. Recently a rain fell in Death Valley, and almost overnight it was transformed into a valley of life and beauty. One hundred thirty-six varieties of flower and plant life appeared from seeds that had been dormant for centuries. This world is a valley of death, but if we sow the seeds of truth like the leaves of autumn, the latter rain will produce a glorious harvest. And we are told that the abundant results will come chiefly from the literature ministry. Therefore, do not become weary in well-doing.

TAYLOR G. BUNCH, *President,*  
*Michigan Conference.*



## Twelve Commonplace Avenues of Personal Work

SOMETIMES we hear church members say that they would be glad to do missionary work if they only knew where to begin. The New Testament suggests at least twelve ordinary contacts in daily life wherein to begin and carry on personal missionary work, as follows:

1. *In the home:* "Return to thine own house, and show how great things God hath done unto thee." Luke 8:39.

2. *In hotels and rooming houses:* Having arrived at Rome, Paul expounded and testified concerning the kingdom of God, and "there came many to him into his lodging." Acts 28:23.

3. *Within prison walls:* In prison "Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them." Acts 16:25.

4. *At the bedsides of the sick:* "It came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever . . . to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him." Acts 28:8.

5. *In parks and by public fountains:* In Samaria, "near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph," was a public water supply, known as Jacob's well. Here is where Jesus demonstrated the importance and the far-reaching effect of preaching to the one-soul audience. (John 4:5-7.)

6. *On ships:* Paul, on the ship headed for Rome, when a tempest arose, bore witness to the power and presence of God, and bade the panic-stricken passengers and crew be of good cheer, for deliverance was assured. (Acts 27:21-26.)

7. *While traveling:* "A man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Easias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot." "Then Philip . . . preached unto him Jesus. . . . And he baptized him." Acts 8:27-29, 35-38.

8. *While walking:* "Two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus. . . . And they talked together of all these things which had happened. . . . While they communed together and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near, and went with them." "He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." Luke 24:13-15, 27.

9. *In public places:* While delayed at Athens, Paul improved the opportunity to denounce idol worship and to preach Christ in the synagogue and in the daily market. (Acts 17:17.)

10. *In business offices:* "As He [Jesus] passed by, He saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow Me. And he arose and followed Him." Mark 2:14.

11. *At social gatherings:* "There was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; . . . and both Jesus was called, and His disciples, to the marriage." It was here that Jesus began His miracles "and manifested forth His glory." John 2:1, 2, 11.

12. *Everywhere:* "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word." Acts 8:4.

From the Scripture lessons in personal service, it is evident that the Christian is "to reveal to men the gospel of their salvation. Every enterprise in which we engage should be a means to this end." —*Ministry of Healing*, p. 148. D. L.

Moody was once asked by a group of theological students, "How shall we begin to do personal work?" To which the great evangelist replied, "Go at it." The place to begin is the first place you find open. Do the thing next to you, and other opportunities will be found. Let us "go at it," and "stay at it," and be "always at it." "Be instant in season" and "out of season," and "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you."

W. H. BERGHERM.



## Do You Know?

Do you, as a Seventh-day Adventist, know *what* you believe and hold as truth?

Do you know *why* you believe what you profess to believe?

Can you tell others *what* and *why* you believe as you do?

Strange questions, perhaps, to present to readers of the CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE! And yet they are not untimely or inappropriate.

It is one thing to be convinced of the truths of the third angel's message when they are forcefully and clearly presented by the evangelist, and to follow conviction by wholehearted acceptance, leading to entrance through the door of the church. It is another thing to settle down with a feeling of security, glad to be on the right track and in the right company, and be carried along with the advent movement. Far too many Seventh-day Adventists are in the fatal danger zone of the latter class.

Each and every Seventh-day Adventist is called to more than a retaining membership in the remnant church. Upon every person entrusted with the light rests the responsibility of making the truth known to others. Not one can escape the testing time so clearly set forth in the following statement:

"I have been shown that many who profess to have a knowledge of present truth, know not what they believe. They do not understand the evidences of their faith. . . . There are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe, but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness. When separated from those of like faith, and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief, they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth. . . . Believers are not to rest in suppositions and ill-defined ideas of what constitutes truth."—*Gospel Workers*, pp. 298, 299.

We recognize that the readers of the CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE are numbered in that special class of Seventh-day Adventists who are earnestly endeavoring to prepare to make the truth known to others. The general awakening within the lay ranks during recent years is most encouraging, and, under the blessing of God, rich fruitage in souls is apparent through lay evangelism—a term which involves holding public meetings, cottage meetings, and house-to-house Bible studies with the "one-soul" audience. With a view to strengthening this lay evangelistic work, a new book will soon come from the press entitled *How to Conduct Bible Studies*. This is a revision of the well-known book *How to Give Bible Readings*, published in numerous editions during the last twenty years, and which has been instrumental in helping hundreds to be successful soul winners through the Bible-reading method. The present volume has been brought up to date as to methods and doctrinal studies, with an added appendix filled with valuable data for the help of those who desire to teach the truth to the public or to neighbors and friends.

As an introduction to this volume, we list the contents as follows:

#### SECTION I

Early History  
Training  
Qualifications for Successful Service  
Place and Importance of Personal Work  
Background of Knowledge  
Preparing a Bible Study  
Order of Subjects  
Finding Openings and Securing Appointments  
Stepping Into the Openings  
Conducting the Bible Study  
The Valley of Decision  
Establishing New Converts and Their Families  
Steppingstones of Faith (Experiences in Sabbathkeeping and Tithing)

#### SECTION II

Studies in Bible Doctrines (A Series of 24 Subjects With Notes)  
Timely Cautions (Do's and Don't's for Success)  
Stones From David's Sling for Modern Goliaths (Common Objections or Misrepresentations Frequently Met)

#### SECTION III (Appendix)

Denominational History  
Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists  
Doctrines of Popular Churches and Religious Isms (Brief Survey)  
Clipping File  
Bible Chain Marking System  
Charts, Illustrations, and Helps

This book is designed as a textbook for use in the Bible training class or for personal study and reference. It would

be well to place your order with the Book and Bible House now, to make sure of receiving your copy without delay.

"To fail to prepare is to prepare to fail." Let us be understandingly ready

to "give an answer to every man that asketh . . . a reason of the hope" which makes us Seventh-day Adventists.

GRACE D. MACE, *Asst. Sec.,  
Gen. Conf. Home Miss. Dept.*

## ★ Gleanings for Soul Winners ★

### A Certain Samaritan

A MAN went down from Jerusalem  
On an old road long ago;  
Blithely he walked that far-off day,  
Going to Jericho.  
But thieves lay waiting who stripped him  
bare,  
Wounding him, leaving him lying there.

A priest came mumbling through his beard  
Pious prayers, as the hurt one cried,  
Pleading for help, and seeing his plight,  
Passed by on the other side.  
A Levite also, after one look,  
Departed, conning his holy book.

But "a certain Samaritan" going that way  
Had compassion, and kneeling down,  
He bound his wounds, and he slaked his  
thirst,  
And carried him into the town.  
"Which was the neighbor?" Which of these?  
The question rings down the centuries.

"A certain Samaritan," name unknown,  
Lives still because of a kindness shown.  
GRACE NOEL CROWELL.



### My Past Is Sealed in the Shadows *The Story of a Father's Great Sacrifice*

ONE day a physician in one of the Western States was asked to see a very sick man, who appeared to be dying of the great white plague—tuberculosis.

The man was well supplied with means but was without friends or relatives. He lived a lonely life. The postman never stopped at his place to deliver a friendly letter. No letter of his ever found its way to the post office. No one ever came to see him and now, from all appearances, he would soon drift out of the world into the shadows of the grave.

The doctor looked him over very carefully and could find no organic disease. But life seemed to be ebbing slowly away. The doctor told the stranger that he found no organic trouble and then asked, "Have you any idea what brought you to this condition?"

"Oh, yes," he said. "It is a strange story. I am dying, not of disease, but of a broken heart. I came out here, not to seek health, but to die in peace, and to die alone."

"But have you no friends?" queried the sympathetic doctor.

"No one that I can claim as a friend," was his reply. He continued, "My past

is sealed in the shadow of a terrible crime. I am already dead to all who ever knew me, and over my nameless grave not even a memory must hover."

"You say you are a criminal?" said the doctor.

The dying man murmured, "No, but I made it appear that I was a criminal. I took the stigma to shield another—an only son."

The shadows of twilight were falling. The sick man's breath came faster and faster. A quiet hush settled over the room. The dying man said faintly, "He murdered a man, and I assumed the crime. Then I escaped, not to evade the law, but to spare my boy the stigma of having his father die a felon's death."

The doctor asked with bated breath, "How long ago was that?"

The answer came slowly, "Twelve long years."

During those twelve long years he had wandered from place to place, a lonely and desolate old man.

As the shadows deepened, and the feeble pulse was fluttering, the kindly doctor whispered, "Will you tell me no more?"

With his last breath came the answer, "No more. It is all I have to tell."

He kept his secret. It was buried with him.

As you read these lines your heart cries out, "What a sacrifice! What depth of love! What a price to pay to shield a son!"

Verily, it was a great sacrifice! The Saviour said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

This story reminds us anew of the still greater sacrifice which Jesus made to redeem us. He voluntarily took upon Himself the load of sin and shame, and the death penalty which was ours. We were guilty and under sentence of death. But "He who knew no sin" died on Calvary that we might live. He left His Father's house above, came to this dark, sin-cursed earth, was "despised and rejected of

men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" so that we might live.

He died for you and me on that cruel cross of Calvary. Our blessed Lord died of a broken heart!

Oh, that we might appreciate the infinite price of our redemption!—*Voice of Prophecy News*.

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### Reading the Bible Through

A STRANGE impulse seized me some time ago. It was to read the Bible from cover to cover and to allow no other reading whatsoever to interfere. Whether the impulse was of the Holy Spirit, I know not. God knoweth. Anyway, I did it. I averaged four and one-half hours each day in His Holy Word. I began with, "In the beginning" (Gen. 1:1), and closed with, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you" (Rev. 22:21).

It was a marvelously enriching and strengthening spiritual experience. My heart can never escape the power and glory of it.

It was a feast of good things to eat. I ate locusts and wild honey with the Baptist in the wilderness, and heaven-sent manna with the wandering Israelites in the desert. I tasted the grapes of Eshcol, and sat at the tables of King David and King Solomon. I drank of the brook Cherith and was fed by the ravens. I feasted with the disciples in the upper room and sat down at the table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

It was a triumphant tour of summer trips. I crossed the desert sands with Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees. I journeyed with Joseph in the land of the Pharaohs and followed Moses for forty years. I went abroad in the ships of Tarshish and glided in fishing smacks on the placid bosom of Galilee.

It was a university course. I studied what I believe to be the most accurate science of all centuries concerning the origin of things. I delved into the world's profoundest philosophy, read classic literature, followed the divine outlines of history, and was thrilled by the tenderest and sweetest poetry of all time. It was a Bible conference. Doctors Moses, Isaiah, and Paul were the principal speakers. I sat at their feet in rapt attention. There were classes in theology and ecclesiology and eschatology and prophecy. There were many discussions, conferences, and even debates on practical and doctrinal subjects. It was the

greatest Bible conference I ever attended. King David and his harp of gold and a choir of a thousand voices led the music. Such a blessing as it was, reading the

Bible through without unnecessary delay! I think I shall reread it at least once a year the rest of my life.—M. E. Dodd, D.D., in *Bible Society Record*.

## How the Message Came to Me

### The Lady With a Book

THE following story is written by one of our church members, in which she relates how the message came to her:

"The message of truth has become very precious to me. I was a Baptist for twenty years; that is, my name was on the church records, but I was not a Christian, and I was longing for peace. I thought I would find it in the pleasures of the world, but all were disappointing and dissatisfying. There came a time when my husband and I moved into another State and located in a place where we had no friends or acquaintances. This lonely situation deepened my desire for spiritual help. I spent hours in reading the Bible and praying for light and longed for someone to help me understand the Bible, that I might obtain peace in my soul. One day I observed a woman in the street who was carrying a bag. I saw the title of a book she was also carrying. It said something about the Bible, and I wondered whether she had anything that would help me. I hesitated to ask her such a personal question, and so the opportunity was lost.

"Then I made up my mind that I would write to some place for religious literature. I could think of no better place to order than from a large mail-order store. I began to write to them, but the letter was never mailed. The next morning, just as we had finished breakfast, there came a knock at the door, and there was the woman with the bag, whom I had observed with curiosity some days before.

"This time she brought out from her bag a number of books, all of which I examined eagerly. The book entitled *Return of Jesus* was particularly appealing, and my husband said, 'That is just the book we want.'

"We both read and reread that book, and the woman visited regularly and helped us in our study of the Bible. It was a wonderful answer to our prayers, and soon we understood the blessed Sabbath truth and the meaning of the third angel's message, and united with the people of God. This is how the message came to me, and I have been rejoicing in it ever since."—*Home Missionary Gazette*.

### A Corporal Becomes a Colporteur

WHEN the truth found me I was breaking army horses for the 1st Battalion P.S. assigned at Petit Barracks, Zamboanga, Philippine Islands. This was after World War I, and it was in this fort that I met colporteurs selling Seventh-day Adventist books.

### Providential Coincidence

While Mr. Tirse Jamandre and Mr. Diosdado Liwag were canvassing in Mindanao, an order came for me to take a transport to Petit Barracks, Zamboanga, to break two army horses. One of these had killed a quartermaster sergeant and the other had refused to be saddled. Had it not been for these two rascals, there would have been no order made at Fort William McKinley for a horseman to proceed to the barracks at Mindanao. That order from the Army high command was to me very providential, and to the battalion exceedingly beneficial, for within three months those two horses became tamed and submissive. It was after subduing and training these horses that the messengers of God met me on the porch of my quarters. In the Army no civilian is allowed to sell anything in the quarters. How these two men managed to get in I do not know, but it must have been providential.

It was Mr. Jamandre, later auditor of the West Visayan Mission, who sold me two books: *Patriarchs and Prophets* and *The Coming King*. After one week of earnest reading I had a dream that attracted me to the Book. I was shown that I should procure an English Bible. After waking up from my nap I put on my uniform and walked directly to an American bookstore in the city. The book I had seen in my dream was on a table with other books ready for sale. After the purchase of this English Bible I went home and began reading it in earnest. Previously I had destroyed a dialect Bible for lack of understanding the verses, but now the pages of the English version seemed to me comprehensible.

By the middle of November, 1919, I

had read the Scriptures up to the 20th chapter of Joshua. By this time I had finished reading *The Coming King* and had almost completed *Patriarchs and Prophets*. The Spirit of God was immersing me in the immensity of truth as I read these books, and I became a



Brother J. Yovan and Family

repentant sinner. Right there under the band quarters I gave my heart and soul to Christ. The more I read, the more eager I was to comprehend the wisdom and majesty of God, the loving-kindness of Jesus, and His cruel death on the cross of Calvary. It was then and there that I cast my lot with Christ and deliberately surrendered myself to Him.

As the disobedient and bad horses had been transformed into obedient and useful animals, there was no doubt that I should be sent back to Fort McKinley to join again with my company. During my detailed unattached service in Zamboanga I was my own boss most of the time, but to be back in service with my company again meant that I could not keep the Sabbath any more. The best thing for me to do at that time, therefore, was to apply for a release from the Army. In this resignation was sacrificed all my worldly ambitions and future promotions in the Army.

#### In the Mid-Pacific

Having quit the Army for the sake of keeping the Sabbath of my Lord, I decided to cross the ocean to pursue my studies on aviation and at the same time find employment where I would be permitted to have Sabbath off. While I was running motor tractors in Mountain View, Hawaii, people began to wonder

why I did not work on Saturday. Very soon news of a Filipino keeping the Sabbath had reached the ears of one of the brethren, Mr. Martin Nielson, the leader of the company in Mountain View. He invited me to attend their Sabbath school. For the first time in my life I saw people worshipping God on the seventh day. Imagine how ignorant I was to think that I was the only man on this planet who kept the real Sabbath! For three long years I had been keeping the Sabbath alone, without knowing that there were others doing the same thing! As I became a Sabbath school member of that company in Mountain View, I found out later that there were ten nations represented there every Sabbath, namely, German, Swiss, Scandinavian, Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, English, Hawaiian, Haoles (in Hawaii, Americans), and I, the only Filipino in that group.

As they became acquainted with me, a Portuguese sister lent me *The Great Controversy*, which I read in three weeks. Then Elder C. R. Webster lent me a copy of the *Bible Textbook*, by O. A. Johnson. It was during my study of this small book, after the financial law of the Bible became very clear to me, that I began paying tithes. It was also from the pages

of this book that I became settled on a healthful diet. As the Spirit of God led me to deeper conviction, I yielded to all the instruction contained in this textbook without any instructor to help me decide.

#### Baptism in Coconut Island

Although I was warned by many, including the "big boss" of the Mountain View Sugar Plantation, that I would lose my job if I did not stop keeping the Sabbath, I continued to do so until I was baptized. After my baptism the plantation authorities were very angry and finally dropped me from their employ. But a more beautiful experience and a great and honorable work was waiting for me the following year. The year 1923 is memorable to me as the beginning of my connection with the organizing work of Christ here on earth as a colporteur, before I was sent to take a course to prepare me for the ministry.

In conclusion I offer thanks and gratitude to those who were instrumental in my conversion, and to Elder Stephen Hare, who baptized me in Hilo, Hawaii. Thus a corporal became a colporteur, won through literature, under the grace and wonderful guidance of God. To Him be the glory and praise forever.

J. YOVAN.

## ★ News From Soul Winners ★

#### The Book Speaks

IN Venezuela, some seventeen years ago, a woman found one of the Crisis books in a pile of old rubbish. She read it again and again, hungering for more light, but since the cover of the book with the name of the publisher was missing, she knew not where to find more such literature. Not long ago she had a dream in which she was shown a woman calling at her door with a book just like the one she had found years before. The very next morning an Adventist sister living in the same city called with a Crisis book. The woman exclaimed, "This is the book I have been waiting for these many years." She has joyfully embraced the message, and others of her family and friends are interested. It is in these simple ways that the messenger of God finds His honesthearted children.

In one of the Central American republics a very ardent Catholic woman had an image of the virgin Mary to which she prayed each day. One day when

praying she raised her eyes to the image, but no image was seen. In its place there was an open black book, the Bible, on the open page of which was one text brightly illuminated: "Thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins." She was so impressed that soon after, when a colporteur came to her door, she gladly bought a Bible, and also subscribed to the paper *El Centinela*. Today she is a loyal, happy, devoted Seventh-day Adventist.—GLENN A. CALKINS.

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#### "He Will Guide You Into All Truth"

A YOUNG woman hurried off to the local butcher, almost half a century ago, to bring home the week-end supply of meat. When the parcel was unwrapped she noticed the ragged end of a religious tract emphatically stating, "The seventh day is the Sabbath." The brief statement burned its way into this young

heart, sowing a seed that would one day germinate and blossom forth in its beauty. The scene changes. The year 1944 with its rush and hustle overtakes us. Pastor J. B. Conley and his staff come to the great metropolis of Sydney, bearing the last message of warning to a sinful generation.

The Sydney Town Hall preaching attracted crowds at first; but later, as God's truth was unfolded, many went out to follow no more. However, requests for literature, indicating interest, were handed in by the hundred, soon passing the thousand mark. The staff miraculously spread itself to the task of visiting those interested.

While visiting in one suburb I called at a neat little home, and in response to my knock a woman of middle age appeared. When she learned my business she said, "I am a Jehovah's Witness."

Said I, "Mrs. ———, I wish there were more true witnesses for Jehovah in the world."

It struck a note of sympathy. We discussed the trend of the times, the lowered morality, etc. As a solution I suggested that the Lord must soon come back to change things.

Mrs. ——— quickly replied, "But He is here; He came in 1914. This is His final struggle with sin."

She seemed very much in earnest, but I quietly replied, "Did you see Him come, Mrs. ———?"

She said, "No, it was a spiritual coming."

The Bible truth was then unfolded while we read, at the door, the certainty of the literal, personal, visible return of Christ in glory, when "every eye shall see Him."

I continued, "Mrs. ———, are you not living to see your personal Saviour face to face, as the Bible declares?"

She responded in the affirmative.

Further appointments were made, and the mighty truths of God's message for these days were studied and accepted one by one. The rite of baptism was administered, and another soul was accepted into the remnant church to make up the number of Christ's redeemed.

The young woman who had read the torn tract from around the meat had grown gray with the sorrow and experience of years. She had reared a family, buried her husband, faced hardships and sorrows. She followed Spiritualism in an effort to satisfy the soul's longing; then when God condemned this from the Scriptures, she accepted the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses. But God, in His

own time and loving mercy, led this soul to see the full meaning of the torn tract's message—"The seventh day is the Sabbath."

Today Mrs. ——— rejoices with you in the knowledge of the three angels' messages and the work of Jesus in the sanctuary above, and she is longing and living for the Master's soon return.

CLAUDE D. JUDD.

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### "Always Abounding"

WOODROW WILSON, President of the United States during the first World War, gave an interesting impression of his contact with D. L. Moody:

"I was in a barbershop, sitting in a chair, when I became aware that a personality had entered the room. A man had come quietly in upon the same errand as I and sat in the next chair to me. Every word that he uttered showed a per-

sonal and vital interest in the man who was serving him; and before I got through with what was being done to me, I was aware that I had attended an evangelistic service, because Mr. Moody was in the next chair. I purposely lingered in the room after he left, and noted the singular effect his visit had upon the barbers in that shop. They did not know his name, but they knew that something had elevated their thought. And I felt that I left that place as I should have left a place of worship."

The secret of Moody's power was that he was "always abounding."

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To Thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise  
In hymns of adoration,  
To Thee bring sacrifice of praise  
With shouts of exultation.

—W. C. DIX.

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FAITH is not believing that God can; it is believing that God will.—S. D. GORDON.

## Weekly Church Missionary Services

March 2

### WIDER USE OF FOREIGN-LANGUAGE LITERATURE

*Key Thought for Leaders: "Our publications should go everywhere. Let them be issued in many languages. The third angel's message is to be given through this medium and through the living teacher. You who believe the truth for this time, wake up."—The Colporteur Evangelist, p. 101.*

One of the most effective ways of doing missionary work among the people who speak another language is through the message-filled literature prepared for this purpose. That this literature brings results is again demonstrated by the following experience related by José C. Martinez, a Spanish brother in the State of New Mexico:

"One cold, rainy morning there appeared at the door of the Martinez home a man suffering because he had passed the night in the cold and rain. His car had broken down, and Father Martinez felt sorry for him and extended hospitality. (Heb. 13:2.) When the sick man had sufficiently recovered he told of his business. He carried with him religious magazines and wanted to show them. After a few days the visitor said good-by to the family and went on his way toward El Paso, Texas, but he died before he ever arrived at his home. The seed, however, had been sown in the precious field and was ready to bear fruit.

"It was in the month of April, of the next year, when another stranger came

along. He was Brother Matias Vargas, who came to cultivate the seed sown by José Ortega, the one who died. Then Elder G. W. Casebeer came to reap the harvest, and glorious were the results. Twenty-three members of the Martinez family were buried in the waters of baptism.

"Before a year had rolled by José Martinez took up the colporteur work which Brother Ortega had laid down, and has had excellent success. Soon five of the Martinez brothers made the decision to serve God and get ready for a place in His vineyard. We have hopes that all the twelve brothers and sisters will be active workers in the service of God.

"We give praise to God for this good work that is rapidly extending to other sections of the field. Each new plant that springs forth bears testimony to the three workers for God mentioned above, who were responsible for the beginnings of this work, born of love, humbleness, and zeal in service. We ask the prayers of all, that the precious seed sown may be guarded and prospered by the Creator of all. To Him be the honor and the glory."

March 9

### Winning the Foreigner Through Personal Contact

*Key Thought for Leaders: "Let the workers go from house to house, opening the Bible to the people, circulating the publications, telling others of the light that has blessed their own souls."—Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 123.*

There are many who have a burden to reach men and women of foreign birth but who hesitate to engage in this work because they are not certain of the best methods to use. For this reason we present one of the most successful plans followed by workers of long experience throughout the field, the plan of the Home-Foreign Band, which is as follows:

1. Gather all the information possible as to the number of foreigners in your city or territory, their nationality and location. You may get this information by personal canvass, from the Y.M.C.A., State Census Board, or police department.

2. Study these people, their habits, customs, religion, and needs. Plan to give them the message in a practical and systematic way.

3. Select literature best suited to the different nationalities and classes. Literature in about twenty languages is printed at the Pacific Press Branch, Brookfield, Illinois. Order through your Book and Bible House.

4. Have members sell 35-cent books. Many of the newest and best English 35-cent books have been translated into foreign languages.

5. Weekly and monthly papers and magazines are printed in several foreign languages. It is a good plan to have the church take clubs of the foreign papers for systematic distribution.

6. Get colporteurs to sell the larger books in the foreign languages.

7. Invite your foreign neighbors to your Sabbath school, calling for them if necessary.

8. Organize mission Sunday schools for foreigners and others. The Sabbath school and Sunday school offer a wonderful opportunity to reach and save these people.

9. Do acts of kindness and show by deeds of love that you are really engaged in mercy work. Comfort those who are mourning. Call on and help the sick and suffering. A bit of fruit, a bouquet of flowers, or any little favor will work wonders in winning the hearts of foreigners.

10. Begin among the foreigners nearest you—possibly your next-door neighbor.

11. Before beginning the work, be sure to pray earnestly. Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit. Remember, all the heavenly angels are at the service of the humble, believing people of God.

### March 16

#### Missionary Experiences

*Key Thought for Leaders: "My brethren and sisters, visit those who live near you, and by sympathy and kindness seek to reach their hearts. Be sure to work in a way that will remove prejudice instead of creating it."*—Testimonies, vol. 9, p. 34.

A long list can be easily furnished of the many wonderful missionary experiences told us from the home-foreign field. We can only repeat one given us by Elder V. A. Lidner, pastor of the Jersey City Swedish church:

"One of the strongest laymen in our Jersey City Swedish church is a modest, quiet little brother who, through his per-

sonal work, has influenced and won several of those who are now loyal members in the Swedish church, as well as others who have since moved away or died. In fact, he has done most of the groundwork in this city as far as the Scandinavian work is concerned; our ministers have come along afterward and finished what he began—reaped what he sowed and watered.

"On one occasion this brother was trying to win a woman living in the same apartment house where his family resided. This woman, who did not accept the third angel's message, died shortly after; but, all unknown to our brother, the truth had been taking root in her husband's heart. This man was soon baptized and a little later went back to Sweden, where he met and married one of our workers. Together they won many other souls before their work on earth was finished.

"Another man, who had for years been indifferent and even antagonistic to the message, was persuaded by our brother to come to his Sabbath school class weekly. Gradually he warmed to the Saviour's love, accepted His sacrifice, and was baptized into the church.

"Among those who are still with us in the Jersey City Swedish group, three persons of one family and four of another owe their conversions to this brother's persistent visiting with them."

### March 23

#### Special Work Among the Jews

*Key Thought for Leaders: "Among the Jews are some who, like Saul of Tarsus, are mighty in the Scriptures, and these will proclaim with wonderful power the immutability of the law of God. The God of Israel will bring this to pass in our day. His arm is not shortened that it cannot save. As His servants labor in faith for those who have long been neglected and despised, His salvation will be revealed."*—Acts of the Apostles, p. 381.

To America, the haven of refuge for many of the oppressed peoples of earth, came one million Jewish immigrants between 1880 and 1900, another million between 1900 and 1914, and some 350,000 more between World War I and the enactment of restriction of immigration laws in 1924. The result has been that our Jewish population, which was 230,000

in 1880, now numbers five million, or about one third of the Jewish population of the whole world.

More than 45 per cent of all American Jews, numbering more than two million, live in New York City, or almost one in three of its population. New York is the largest Jewish city in the world. Actually, it has more Jews than the next twelve largest Jewish cities in the world. It has almost five times as many Jews as there are in the British Isles and almost four times as many as were in Germany when Hitler came to power. The second largest Jewish city in America is Chicago. Then comes Philadelphia and then Boston. There are less than half a million Jews in the whole of Palestine.

It must not be forgotten that the gospel was first preached to the Jews and that the apostle Paul declares that a remnant is to be saved from the literal children of Israel. (Heb. 4:1, 2; Rom. 11:5.)

Each year we discover more and more Jews who seem eager to learn of our faith. The Spirit of the Lord will yet mightily convince and convert these children of the patriarchs. May the Lord soon hasten the day when they will join the third angel's message in large numbers.

### March 30

#### Publishing the Message In Foreign-Language Newspapers in North America

*Key Thought for Leaders: "In these final hours of probation for the sons of men, when the fate of every soul is so soon to be decided forever, the Lord of heaven and earth expects His church to arouse to action as never before. . . . The blessings which are so liberally bestowed, are to be communicated to others. The good news of salvation is to go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people."*—Prophets and Kings, p. 716.

Some of our foreign workers and churches have been successful in publishing the truth in the foreign-language newspapers. The Swedish church in Chicago recently inserted a notice in Swedish newspapers to the effect that literature would be supplied free, on certain named Bible subjects, to anyone who would write in asking for such literature. Hundreds of letters and cards arrived asking for literature. The same method has been tried in other languages with good results. Sometimes our Bible correspondence schools have been advertised through the foreign newspapers very successfully.

Bible correspondence lessons are now available in several languages for this very purpose. The Voice of Prophecy Bible lessons can be had in German, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Japanese, and Chinese. The Shuler Bible lessons can be had in German, Swedish, Norwegian, Russian, and Ukrainian. Other languages will be added. Here is a work that many can do. The results will be souls won for the kingdom of God.

[The material for the missionary services for March was prepared by Louis Halswick, secretary of the Bureau of Home Missions.]

### Fellowship

In Christ there is no East or West,  
In Him no South or North;  
But one great fellowship of love  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere  
Their high communion find;  
His service is the golden cord  
Close binding all mankind.

Join hands then, brothers of the faith,  
Whate'er your race may be;  
Who serves my Father as a son  
Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meets both East and West,  
In Him meets South and North;  
All Christly souls are one in Him  
Throughout the whole wide world.

—JOHN OXENHAM.



# Department of Education



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

## Religion For Our Boys and Girls

### Winning the Young

WERE I a minister I think I'd waste no time on graybeards old  
Whose lives are fixed and settled sure and could not fit a new-shaped mold.  
They've wearied of the world and sit contented with their bit of truth.  
But if I dreamed of nobler things I'd seek to catch the ear of youth.

And if I wished to lead a charge against the shame and wrong men see,  
I should not ask the smug-content to take up arms and follow me.  
Old men with all their battles done, who've given the world long since their best,  
Are satisfied with glories past and like too well their evening's rest.

I'd try to share my dreams with youth, for they are pliant, strong and bold,  
And they are not afraid of change, and not too fond of customs old.  
Their hopes are fresh, their aims are high, they're eager for adventures new;  
And he who wins them for the right, real service to the world will do.

The old may sit and nod their heads, but all the sermons preached are vain.  
They cannot change their ways of life; as they are now they must remain.  
But youth the higher realms may reach; young minds to splendor can be won;  
And he who leads a lad to truth, the noblest work of man has done.

—EDGAR A. GUEST.

## NOTES TO LEADERS

This month an opportunity is given the Home and School Association to take advantage of the studies given during the Missionary Volunteer spring Week of Prayer. The Senior readings deal with some of the practical problems facing youth today, while the Juniors have a series of studies on "The Trail of Life." Shall we not take these thoughts with us during the coming days? There is much that parents and teachers can do to make religion happily real and practical in everyday living.

Then for our own meeting, Elder Esteb has given us something to ponder in his article, "The Child in the Church." Elder Sorensen gives the real objectives of Junior Missionary Volunteer work. This meeting provides an excellent time for the church school children to participate on the program, either by giving the suggested exercises on progressive classwork or other equivalent material on which the group may be currently working. It is well to give frequent public recognition to the work done by these energetic Junior Missionary Volunteers.

In conducting the Home and School Association meetings, it is not the plan that the articles here given should necessarily be read as they appear, but the material may be made the basis of well-

studied and interestingly presented talks—often with time given for discussion. Each leader will want to add items of local interest which will enrich and enliven the program and add color to the meeting. This cannot be done by a hasty glancing through of this section of the GAZETTE in a last-minute attempt to get something ready for the meeting. Careful, thoughtful planning in advance will yield the kind of meetings that your church, your school, your parents, and teachers, need.

FLORENCE K. REBOK.

## The Child in the Church

BY ADLAI A. ESTEB

"THE child is father of the man." To build an improved church, a permanent church, a larger church, we must give the children first place. Church leaders who work only for the adults are building a decaying church, a dying church, for the adults must soon pass off the stage of action. The fresh, virile, uncontaminated blood of youth must be constantly flowing into the body of the church, to keep it strong and healthy; otherwise the church will die with its adults.

This great truth was repeatedly stated by the Master Teacher. When the church loaders of His day felt that children were not worthy of their time or attention, and hindered them from coming to Jesus to consume His precious time, He rebuked them in no uncertain language. He enunciated this divine concept of the child's place in the church: "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 19:14.

Again we find Jesus giving a final charge to Peter, who was to be a leader in the Christian church, saying, "Feed My lambs." He does not say, "Feed my giraffes." No, indeed; we must not preach over their heads, but come down to the level of their understanding and feed them. What we desire to put into the church of tomorrow, we must put into the children of today.

Many great church leaders have taken their cue from Christ in this matter of feeding the lambs of the flock. "Martin Luther, for example, had the great good sense to ignore the learned in his congregations, and address himself primarily

to the common people, including the children."—NEVIN C. HARNER, *The Educational Work of the Church*, p. 81.

This effort on behalf of the children is not to be merely a spasmodic or sporadic effort. It is to be neither a fitful, intermittent work nor an isolated instance of sudden enthusiasm for the children of the church. This supreme work of molding the children of today into the beautiful church of tomorrow is to be the very warp and woof of all church activity. This work is paramount. It must be considered a part of every plan; it must be given thought and adequate consideration. It demands planning, as the building of any great structure demands planning by skilled architects. This task is so vital and important that it demands planning for more than merely one day of the week. Since this work for the children is paramount, it must be carried on seven days a week. For any church or church leaders to say that the children are precious and therefore we will give them a ten-minute junior sermon on Sabbath, and then take no further thought of what those same children are doing or where they are going the other six days of the week, is not only dreadfully inconsistent but deplorably tragic.

"In His work as a public teacher, Christ never lost sight of the children. When wearied with the bustle and confusion of the crowded city, tired of contact with crafty and hypocritical men, His spirit found rest and peace in the society of innocent little children. His presence never repelled them. His large heart of love could comprehend their trials and necessities, and find happiness in their simple joys; and He took them in His arms and blessed them."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 179.

Jesus blessed the children, but they also brought a great blessing to Him. He "found rest and peace in the society of innocent little children." Likewise the church that will plan and work for the children, the church that will bless the children, will find that they in turn will prove a blessing to the church. The pastor who will spray the perfume of loving ministry upon the children will find himself enjoying much of its fragrance.



Since the child's place in the church is paramount, it is obvious that adequate leadership is essential. The wise pastor will keep a keen watch for such leadership. On this matter of discovering leadership we read:

"In selecting teachers, we should use every precaution, knowing that this is as solemn a matter as the selecting of persons for the ministry. . . . To place over young children teachers who are proud and unloving, is wicked. . . . Jesus loved the children. . . . He always treated them with kindness and respect, and teachers are to follow His example."—*Ibid.*, pp. 174, 175.

Henry G. Smith, writing on this same vital subject of discovering leadership, says in *The Pastor at Work in Christian Education*, "The pastor should always be on the search for prospective teachers and leaders."

However, this search to find the right kind of teachers is not always fruitful. Indeed, qualified teachers are scarce. It becomes a necessity, then, to train the right kind of teachers. The pastor must take the initiative in this program of developing leadership that is creative and qualified for the supreme work of building a greater and better church of tomorrow. The pastor will have to call upon every source of help in this matter of finding and training leaders. We read further in the above work, that the pastor "uses his whole organization as a place to grow leaders."

After the leaders have been found or chosen or trained, considerable care and supervision must be given to the quality of material they shall teach. The right teachers, teaching the right lessons with the right methods, make an irresistible force for good.

A tragic mistake in the thinking of the average American is that intellectual training is one thing, and spiritual training is another. As the result of this misconception, parents are content to have their children receive "secular education" during the week so long as they are given "religious education" one day a week. Thus the pastor and his associates often face the superhuman task of counteracting on one day the results of six days' wrong education.

The messenger of the Lord has given the church this counsel:

"We cannot afford to separate spiritual from intellectual training. Well may parents dread intellectual greatness for their children, unless it is balanced by a knowledge of God and His ways. This lies at the foundation of all true knowl-

edge. In the place of unsanctified rivalry for earthly honor, let it be the highest ambition of our students to go forth from their school life as missionaries for God, educators who will teach what they have learned. Students who leave school with this purpose will draw to Christ not only men and women, but children and youth. They will do a work in the world that not all the powers of evil can counteract."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 167.

One more vital part of this work of training the children is the manner of dealing with the children. Any worker for children must understand them. This is absolutely basic for the highest success. Many teachers fail here because they do not take the time or make the effort to try to understand the child. Speaking of this part of the teacher's task, Samuel W. Hartwell says in *Fifty-five Bad Boys*:

"He must try to help to a better footing the child who has already stumbled on the rocks of life, and he must try to understand him and his problems so that he may be able to keep others from losing their balance and similarly falling by the wayside."

Thus we see that the church—which means the leaders of the church—must first of all place the right evaluation upon the children. They must regard the children as the most precious possession of the church, and plan accordingly. Secondly, they must love the children as Jesus did, and true love will do something about it. Thirdly, they must understand the children, which in many cases involves the training of the right kind of leadership—qualified, creative leadership. And lastly, the church must never cease in this task of building into the children of today those essential elements which will make a greater church of tomorrow.

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"Do not think that the Bible will become a tiresome Book to the children. Under a wise instructor the Word will become more and more desirable. . . . There is in it a freshness and beauty that attract and charm the children and youth. . . .

We need to recognize the Holy Spirit as our enlightener. That Spirit loves to address the children, and discover to them the treasures and beauties of the Word. . . . There will grow in the receptive mind a familiarity with divine things which will be as a barricade against the temptations of the enemy. . . . The beauty and virtue of the Word of God have a transforming influence upon mind and character; the sparks of heavenly love will fall upon the hearts of the children as an inspiration. We may bring hundreds and thousands of children to Christ if we will work for them."—*Counsels to Teachers*, pp. 171, 172.

## In the School of Experience

BY CHRIS P. SØRENSEN

WHAT a wonderful thing it is for parents, teachers, and church workers to work with people. *Things* are purely incidental. It seems strange that those who work with things apparently get paid the most in dollars and cents, while those who work with people get paid the least. Following this thought a little further, it is also apparently inconsistent that those who get paid the most in dollars and cents who work with and for people, work with the physical side of man's nature. Those who work with the intellectual side perhaps come next, while those who work for the spiritual interests of man receive the least financial remuneration. Their pay may not always come in an envelope. Parents, in working with their boys and girls, are working with people, and things are purely incidental.

When God created Adam and Eve, and placed them in the Garden of Eden, He not only created them perfect, but endowed them with every natural faculty needed for their development. The only thing they lacked was experience. That they must acquire, gain, secure. Hence it was that Eve wandered out to have an experience of her own, and Adam followed in her steps. The story of both the Old and the New Testament is largely a story of experiences. Even the story of the four Gospels is largely the experiences of Christ and His disciples. There is very little sermonizing or theory. The disciples were learners in the school of experience. When God writes down man's experiences He tells both the good and the bad.

Experience is absolutely necessary for man's development. We have been told that in the school of experience the college yell is "Silence," and the school colors are black and blue. The best knowledge gained from books is that which tells the experience of others, and the individual who can thus learn and profit from the experience of others can count himself really learned.

So much is learned from experience. Not only do daily assigned duties and tasks keep Juniors occupied, but it is through such responsibility that they learn and develop the ability to make decisions, right decisions. City life with nothing but buttons to push is not conducive to a normal development of the powers to decide. How unfortunate it is in our day, that so many of our boys and girls have to grow up in a city environment, which offers little or no opportunity for constructive experience.

In *Messages to Young People*, page 384, we read, "There is not one in twenty of the youth who knows what experimental religion is." I do not take "experimental" to mean that we arrive at the right religion by a system of trial and error. True religion is an experience, not a laboratory experiment.

It has been said that there are three kinds of conversions: intellectual, moral, and adolescent. Because our message is so distinctively doctrinal and Biblical it is perfectly possible that many of those who accept present truth are intellectually converted. There is danger that such drop out of the church again because there is no real experience in a religious life. We think it is safe to say that we report few moral conversions. In our evangelism we do not work for the outcast and great moral sinners who because of their past life feel a real need of a saving grace. It is perfectly possible that Juniors and adolescents brought to the point of decision for God and the church might be intellectually convinced of Biblical truth; but we never speak of a Junior of fourteen or younger as morally good or bad. Hence we cannot think of those of Junior age in terms of a moral conversion. However, it is even more essential that they have an experience in the things of God after they have made their decision for God if they are to remain loyal and true to the church.

It is the responsibility of the church, the home, and the school to give to boys and girls the right kind of experience. Our Missionary Volunteer Department, with all its plans, is intended for this very purpose. The devotional features, the educational phases, along with the missionary, recreational, and physical plans is to give experiences of the right sort. They not only create activity, but through this kind of experience will develop noble habits, right thinking, and make it possible for said Juniors to make positive decisions. That is the way they are to develop character.

What we need is not more plans, but more parents and teachers to *WORK* the plans that we have. First of all, we want to interpret the experiences that growing boys and girls are having. Help them to analyze and understand that their experiences aid or hinder their development and ability to make decisions. Remember, the ability to make decisions, either good or bad, comes through having responsibility placed upon one. Secondly, not only must we thus try to understand the experiences of the growing generation, but we must direct them into the proper

kind of experiences. Here we must work together. You parents and teachers can help us, and we must help you. For example, if because of a city environment, there is little opportunity for Junior to have the right kind of experiences, we are under greater responsibility to surround him with the right kind of activity that will give him experiences conducive to a healthy religious life.

Again, let me remind you that *things* are incidental in this connection. Primarily we are working with people, and they are what really counts for everything in this world. All the plans we have in the Young People's Department are merely means to an end, and not the end in itself; they are the props, the scaffolding, the tools, the means in the hands of the builder-of-lives. They give boys and girls and young people the kind of experience that will develop their sense of right and wrong, the proper evaluation of life, the ability to make right decisions; they aid in forming habits that will serve as bricks in the foundation of character.

What more can you do to help us in this endeavor?

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"BUILD it well, whate'er you do,  
Build it straight, and strong, and true;  
Build it clean, and high, and broad;  
Build it for the eye of God."

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### Preparing For Investiture

[This exercise calls for nine pupils and their teacher or progressive class instructor. It has been adapted from material furnished by the educational superintendent of the Illinois Conference. There may be more items given than can be used at any one time, but the teacher should make selection of these or other features of the progressive classwork as may fit the specific occasion.]

*Setting:* All gather around the campfire, which may be simulated on the stage by logs laid as for fire, with a red-covered electric light inside.

RENA: This night air is cool, so the fire feels good.

LAURA LEE: It surely does! Let's sing "The Camp Fire"!

TEACHER: That's a good idea.

(All sing "The Camp Fire," No. 152 in "Missionary Volunteer Songs.")

TEACHER: The sky is so clear tonight, let's see how many constellations we can find.

JOAN: There's Orion, or The Hunter. That's as easy to find as the Big Dipper.

TEACHER: Laura Lee, what is the name of the star in the upper left of Orion?

LAURA LEE: That's Betelgeuse, and the one on the other side is Bellatrix. The one at the lower right is Rigel. We believe that the New Jerusalem will come down through the Nebula of the sword.

TEACHER: You're right, Laura Lee. Who has found Ursa Major?

RICHARD: That's the Big Dipper, isn't it? There it is.

RENA: I see Polaris, or the North star, in the handle of Ursa Minor.

MARTHA: I used to think that the Pleiades was the Little Dipper, but I know better now. Look, Cassiopeia is clear, too. See that "W"?

LAURA LEE: Can we see Castor and Pollux, the Gemini twins, now? Oh, yes, there they are.

TEACHER: Who knows what are the morning and evening stars now?

JOAN: Mars is the morning star. There's Jupiter, just coming up in the east, and over here is Venus, just about to set in the west. They are the evening stars now. Oh, yes, and there's Saturn up high in Gemini.

TEACHER: What color is Mars, Joan?

JOAN: It is red.

RICHARD: I guess I'll have to study to be a Companion, so I'll know more about the stars. It sounds interesting.

TEACHER: It is interesting. But now while the fire is glowing, let us check up on some of our memory work. It won't be long until time for our investiture, and we want to be ready. To start with, we ought to repeat the Pledge and Law.

ALL: [Repeat Pledge and Law.]

TEACHER: Lorayne, how about your repeating the twenty-third psalm?

LORAYNE: [Recites the twenty-third psalm.]

TEACHER: That's very well done, Lorayne. Eleanor, where is the Lord's promise found?

ELEANOR: John 14:1-3.

TEACHER: Will you repeat it for us?

ELEANOR: [Repeats the Lord's promise.]

TEACHER: Laura Lee, have you learned the books of the Bible yet? Let's hear you say them.

LAURA LEE: [Names the books of the Bible.]

TEACHER: Martha, why don't you sing the progressive class song for us?

MARTHA: I will if you all will join me on the chorus. Will you?

ALL: Surely! All right! O.K., etc.

[Everyone sings the chorus as Martha sings the stanzas of the following song: to the tune of "My Pilot," No. 20 in *Missionary Volunteer Songs*.]

## Progressive Classes

For the children Jesus has a lovely plan;  
He it is who wishes them to daily grow.  
"Follow Me," He calls to all who will hear  
Him;  
J.M.V.'s will walk His ways while here  
below.

CHORUS:

Come and join us, friends, and let us  
work together,  
Progressive classes are all a pleasure.  
We are building daily for our Saviour  
Body temples that will be a treasure.

While we're learning what is best for us  
to do  
We can help those who are needing to be  
shown  
The joy of living near and dear to Jesus,  
That we may meet there before His great  
white throne.

TEACHER: Richard, will you tell us about  
your plans for a garden?

RICHARD: [Tells of gardening.]

TEACHER: Who can tell us about three  
birds he has seen? Loyal, will you?

LOYAL: [Tells about a robin, a junco, and  
a bluebird.]

TEACHER: Rena, will you tell us the story  
of Noah?

RENA: [Tells the story of Noah and the  
Flood.]

TEACHER: Bud, please name seven things  
with which children should not play.

BUD: Guns, glass, tins, sewing machines,  
fire, matches, razors, pins, saws,  
hatchets, etc.

TEACHER: How did we earn our Reading  
Course Certificates? What books did  
we read?

ROBERT: [Names the books of the current  
Junior and Primary M.V. Reading  
Courses.]

I liked all the books in the Junior  
course; and I read some in the Senior  
course, too. I especially liked *Marconi: Pioneer of Radio*. You see, I'm  
interested in radio.

BUD: I liked *Too Much Salt and Pepper*.  
There certainly was a waiting list for  
it all the time.

TEACHER: Some of us earned a reading  
course award by reading all three sets  
of books—Senior, Junior, and Primary.  
And I think this is enough practicing  
for tonight. Let's sing our "Friends,  
Companions, Comrades" song and go  
home. Shall we stand up for this?  
[All stand and sing "Friends, Compan-  
ions, Comrades," No. 153 in *Missionary  
Volunteer Songs*, which concludes the  
exercise.]

## As I Go On My Way

My life must touch a million lives  
In some way ere I go  
From this dear world of struggle  
To the land I do not know.  
So this is the wish I always wish,  
The prayer I ever pray:  
Let my life help the other lives  
It touches by the way.

—STRICKLAND GILLILAN.

## Value of Religious Training

JUDGE LEWIS L. FAWCETT, justice of  
the Supreme Court of the State of New  
York, in a recent letter to the New York  
Bible Society, bears this fine testimony  
to the Word of God and the school in  
which it is taught:

"Permit me to state that my experience  
during twenty-three years on the bench,  
in which time over 4,000 boys under the  
age of twenty-one years were convicted  
of crime before me, of whom but three  
were members of a Sabbath school, has  
satisfied me of the value of Sabbath  
schools to the community, in helping to  
safeguard it, to the extent to which Sab-  
bath schools exist, from the growth of  
criminals. My experience also satisfies  
me of their value to the individual. In  
1,902 cases of suspended criminal sen-  
tences in each of which a minister, priest  
or rabbi became interested at my request,  
only sixty-two of the boys were brought  
back for violation of the conditions of  
parole. I believe the reform in the re-  
maining cases (over one thousand) was  
prompt and permanent.

"In fact, *I regard our Sabbath schools,*  
*including those of all faiths, as the only*  
*effective means to stem the rising tide of*  
*vice and crime among our youth.* Society  
carries the heavy burden of criminality  
chiefly because of the lack of religious  
training of the youth. If all the children  
could be kept under the influence of the  
Sabbath school and the grown-ups were  
active in some church, we could close our  
prisons and jails, instead of being com-  
pelled to enlarge and increase their  
number. The problem of youth is the  
problem of humanity. There are over  
17,000,000 boys and girls in this country  
growing up without moral training from  
any source, Protestant, Catholic, or Jew-  
ish."—*Moody Bible Institute Monthly*.

## Home Religion

PARENTS, you know the way; your  
children, young and inexperienced, do not.  
They are helpless and ignorant. They  
need wise, careful, loving guidance, that  
their feet may not stray into forbidden  
paths. Remember that you are molding  
their characters for eternity. Patiently  
train them to habits of neatness, useful-  
ness, and purity. By your example show  
them the charm of becoming behavior.  
Do not become weary in your labor of  
love. The angel of mercy pauses not in  
his efforts till the last sinner has heard  
the message of mercy. Patiently, untir-  
ingly, work for your little ones. Think

of how young they are, how much they  
have to learn! Deal with them gently  
and lovingly. By the cords of unselfish  
love bind them to yourself and to Christ.

Too often parents give to the world the  
time and attention that belong to their  
children. If they would realize the re-  
sponsibilities resting upon them, if they  
would do all in their power for their chil-  
dren, God would work with them. The  
Lord will not do the work that He has  
given parents to do; but He will be their  
helper, co-operating with every sincere,  
unselfish effort they make.

God is high and lifted up, but the  
voice of prayer will reach His throne.  
The prayers of Christian mothers are re-  
garded by the Father of all. He will not  
turn away your petitions, and leave you  
and yours to the buffeting of Satan in  
the day of conflict. It is for you to work  
with simplicity and faithfulness, and God  
will establish the work of your hands.

May the Lord impress fathers and  
mothers with the sacredness of their re-  
sponsibilities. As you unite with the  
Lord in bringing up your children in His  
fear, you are preparing for—I was about  
to say higher responsibilities, but I can  
not. There is no higher responsibility  
than the training of children. Study  
how to train your children so that they  
will develop into well-balanced, symmet-  
rical men and women; useful to their fel-  
low men, and prepared to shine in the  
courts of the Lord.—ELLEN G. WHITE in  
*Signs of the Times*, March 3, 1909.

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## Living Sermons

THERE isn't a word that a preacher can say  
No matter how lovely or true,  
Nor is there a prayer that his eager lips  
pray  
That can preach such a sermon as *you*.

You vowed to serve Christ, and men *know*  
that you did,  
They're watching the things that you do;  
There isn't an action of yours that is hid—  
Men are watching and studying *you*.

You say you're "no preacher," yes; but you  
preach  
A wonderful sermon each day;  
The *acts of your life* are the things that you  
teach—  
It isn't the things that you *say*.

If Christians *were Christians*, as they do  
profess,  
Men would notice their glorified mien.  
And say, "What wondrous thing they possess  
Who follow the meek Nazarene!"

O Christians, remember, you bear His dear  
name;  
Your *lives* are for others to view.  
You are *living examples*; men praise you,  
or blame,  
And *measure all Christians by you*.  
—FLORENCE BELLE ANDERSON.

## Church-Wide Evangelistic Effort

(Continued from page 1)

the ministry of the Holy Spirit, stir the church with a revival which will win the youth and greatly bless the whole church.

Let the church board organize prayer bands among the parents as well as among the consecrated youth. Let these prayer bands pray for the unconverted or the discouraged. Let personal visitation be planned so that every unconverted young person may have a personal and earnest invitation to surrender his life to Christ and be baptized into the church. What a mighty ingathering of youth into the church could be experienced if all the 2,689 churches and 876 schools in the North American Division were to make this Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer the time of revival and personal soul winning which it ought to be.

## Adventism Triumphs in Iraq

JUST recently our work in Iraq underwent a severe trial, but thanks be to God, it emerged triumphant. On my recent visit to the city of Mosul, I was told, first-hand, the details of this remarkable, thrilling victory.

Shortly after Brother Helal Dos came to Mosul to foster the work there, he began a series of meetings. The Mutran, the high priest of the Jacobite Church, became disturbed when many of his members came to our church. So he cursed us publicly four times. He sent his priests to canvass all the Jacobites against us. All who attended were again visited by the priest, who stood before the door, and, holding his cross high, cursed aloud the house and all in it. This only made the people of the city more eager to attend our meetings.

Our church was crowded to overflowing. People stood outside under umbrellas in the rain to hear the advent message preached. The priests posted themselves in windows along the narrow street leading to our church to spy on their members. The priests also began calling on the homes of their members just before meeting time to induce them to stay away, but the people replied by leaving one member of the family to occupy the priest while all the rest left by a back door and were off to the meeting.

In the meantime, prominent Orthodox laymen were also attending the meetings to cause confusion by inciting debate on different subjects. One urged a challenge meeting with the question, "What

is your position concerning Michael?" When the time came, Brother Helal turned back the question on the challenger by inviting him to give the Orthodox position on the subject. When he refused, his fellow members urged him, but to no avail. Then Brother Helal preached for a full hour, commanding his challenger's assent to every point in the sermon.

During my recent visit to Mosul I was overjoyed to find the church still full to overflowing, hundreds coming to hear our message, and many, yes, many, I met are happy now that they are starting to keep the Sabbath. When I return a little later this spring, we shall hold some special meetings and conduct a baptism. I also had the occasion to call with Brother Helal on the Mutasarrif to pay him my respects in behalf of our organization, to arrange for the return of the tracts, to thank him for his firm stand for full religious freedom, and to present to him our plans and our work in Iraq. His assurance of giving us any help possible was gratefully received.

Pray for us and the work here in this great field. S. W. JOHNSON.

## Peruvian Pleads at Midnight For Books

BROTHER HUAMANI is one of our Indian colporteurs in the Lake Titicaca Mission of Peru. One day he was delivering books in a small town and found that a certain businessman, who had ordered *Desire of Ages* and a set of small books was away, to be gone for several days. Colporteur Huamani tried in vain to get some of the gentleman's business associates to take the books for him. Then he went to the private home of his customer and suggested to the wife that she receive the books and pay the balance. She replied, "My husband has not given me any orders to receive and pay for such books; therefore, I cannot do so." The colporteur told her that he had to leave the town on an early bus the next morning, and pleaded with her to receive the books, suggesting that her husband would regret very much if the books were not accepted. But she was adamant in her refusal, and the unsuccessful colporteur went to his lodging place to retire for the night.

Then the unexpected happened. This businessman suddenly returned home that night and immediately asked his wife whether some man had come there with books. While on his trip he had suddenly remembered about the books and

the date for delivery, and had returned home as quickly as possible to make sure of receiving the purchase. His wife explained that a man had come with the books that very day, but having received no instructions about any books, she had not felt free to receive them. And she told him that the colporteur said he was leaving town on an early bus. She suggested that her husband go to the bus station and wait for the man there.

The husband, hungry for the message contained in the book, replied to his wife, "I cannot sleep a wink until I find that man and get my books." It was after midnight, but he went out in the streets and began calling on all the boarding-houses of the town to find this colporteur. Finally he came to the last boarding-house and knocked on the door and called loudly. As the proprietors were sound asleep, they did not hear the midnight caller. But the colporteur heard the noise and went to the door. He could not open the door, but called out to discover what was wanted. The man explained that he was a businessman of the town and had just returned from a trip and wanted to get in touch with a book salesman from whom he had ordered some books.

Colporteur Huamani replied, "I am that salesman. But I cannot open the door, for I don't know where the key is. But I will try to waken the proprietors of the boardinghouse." He went to their door, but failed to rouse anybody. So he returned to the locked front door and explained that the man could meet him at the bus station at five-thirty in the morning, and he would gladly deliver the books. The businessman replied, "I cannot sleep until I get the books into my own hands. Please go up onto the flat roof and see whether you cannot drop the books down to me one by one." The colporteur went up to the roof, and there in the light of the beautiful full moon he found a small rope, tied the books together, and let them down to a very earnest and thirsty seeker after the truth, who received them literally with outstretched arms. Then he tied the money to the rope and the colporteur drew it up.

Many in Peru and the other republics of the South American Division are waiting anxiously with outstretched arms to receive the message of salvation.

J. C. CULPEPPER.

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"CONSECRATE yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work." *Steps to Christ*, p. 74.

## War Years at Penang Clinic

I CAME back to Malaya eight years ago. Prior to my working in our mission clinic, I was attached to the government public health department for four years. When war came to Malaya, I was called by our mission to help with our medical work. As the demand was great, I did not hesitate to respond to the call. Upon the entry of the Japanese into Penang, our sanitarium was taken by them immediately; our group of trained nurses also had to work for them, thus leaving us with a city clinic with hardly any help. We managed to get an Indian doctor (non-Adventist) to help us run the clinic; then we started a nurses' training school comprising about fourteen workers. Our work has continued throughout the war period. In fact, we've opened three additional clinics, including one in Singapore. At present the dressers whom we have trained are taking charge of these various clinics.

God has greatly blessed us, and His work knows no stopping. True, the food has been scarce; many of us went with one meal or, at most two light meals a day. Prices of commodities were sky high, and our workers did all the cultivation necessary for the support of our lives. As for medicines, they were very scarce, and we had to buy at black-market prices the drugs that we required. However, our God has been with us. Cases that we thought would die revived through the simple treatment applied. Our nurses and dressers received very good practical training, and as for the theoretical part, we gave them the best we could through scraping here and there from nurses' lecture books which we managed to get.

Our evangelical work also goes on triumphantly. Many of our nurses and dressers have taken their stand for the truth. From the beginning of this training school we have worked on health reform. Now there is no meat being served in our hospital dormitory. God has blessed us greatly in that the health and countenances of our medical workers prove better than those of the worldly institutions where meat has been served. All our patients know that we are vegetarians.

In conclusion we do thank God for the preservation of our lives and our work, and we are happy to be in the service at such an hour. There are many, many things that I wish to write, but I dare not at this time, for all letters are not supposed to weigh over one ounce each.

Mrs. ESTHER YANG LING.

## Surat Hospital

It was my privilege to spend a week at Surat recently, and I enjoyed very much my visit at one of our largest medical institutions in this division. As many of our readers know, we have a modern hospital here at Surat, funds for which were very largely provided by friends of our medical missionary program. The hospital is nicely laid out and has an excellent operating theater. In connection with this there are some rooms made available for patients in out buildings. These have been worked over and appear to be quite comfortable. There is a great need for quarters on the estate for our nurses and other helpers. This should be provided as soon as building can be carried on. Improvements

### SPECIAL DAYS AND OFFERINGS

March 2

Home-Foreign Day  
Topic: Taking the Advent Message to the Home-Foreign Field

March 9

Second Sabbath Mission Offering  
Missionary Volunteer Day  
Topic: Where Is the Flock?

March 9-16

Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer

have been made on the grounds, making them more attractive. Trees have been planted. Flowers are being grown. The wall and fences are being improved.

I was especially pleased with the spirit of our workers there. Dr. and Mrs. Coyne are working very hard, and seem to have a deep interest in all of their patients. It appeared to me that the patients are very appreciative of their care. I noticed also the untiring labor of other employees. I was there to witness a major operation, and although this was an emergency operation and done after regular hours, there was no hesitancy on the part of those connected with the institution in cheerfully rendering their services and working long hours overtime. I saw some of them working all day and then far into the night and I think their energy and faithfulness should be commended.

A. L. HAM.

## The Importance of Inviting People to Our Church Services

AFTER speaking briefly at the midweek prayer meeting of the Porvenir Church, in Santiago, Chile, I suggested that we would devote part of the remaining time to a testimony meeting and close with a season of prayer. After a number had spoken, a stranger rose and stated that eight years ago a man invited him to a prayer meeting in this church, where he had received a warm and cordial welcome. He, however, had to leave Santiago, and had just recently returned.

Lately, he said, he had been deeply impressed with the thought that he ought to accept Jesus as his Saviour and consecrate his life to God. Accompanying this impression, he added, came the thought, "What church shall I go to?" Then he remembered that kind invitation received eight years before to our prayer meeting, and the friendly reception accorded him there; so he decided to go there the following Wednesday evening. "Now," he concluded, "I desire to study and prepare myself to unite with this people, as I believe this is God's true church."

In this case the only effort on the part of our people to win this man for God and His truth was an invitation to attend a prayer meeting. After many days the seeds of truth sown in his heart, watered by the Holy Spirit, bore fruit.

H. O. OLSON.

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"NONE of us liveth to himself." Rom. 14:7.



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