

# The Church Officers' Gazette

VOL. 33

DECEMBER, 1946

No. 12

## PASS IT ON



Have you had a kindness shown?  
Pass it on;  
'Twas not given for thee alone,  
Pass it on;  
Let it travel down the years,  
Let it wipe another's tears,  
Till in heaven the deed appears—  
Pass it on.

Did you hear a loving word?  
Pass it on;  
Like the singing of a bird?  
Pass it on;  
Let its music live and grow,  
Let it cheer another's woe,  
You have reap'd what others sow—  
Pass it on.

Have you found the heavenly light?  
Pass it on;  
Souls are groping in the night,  
Pass it on;  
Hold thy lighted lamp on high,  
Be a star in someone's sky,  
He may live who else would die—  
Pass it on.

Be not selfish in thy greed,  
Pass it on;  
Look upon thy brother's need,  
Pass it on;  
Live for self, you live in vain,  
Live for Christ, you live again,  
Live for Him, with Him you reign—  
Pass it on.

—Henry Burton.





# YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

## of Missionary Volunteers



### NOTES TO OFFICERS

#### A Good Ending

**A** MARK of good leadership in the Lord's work, as in every enterprise, generally reveals itself in the ability to carry an undertaking through to a successful finish. Jesus did this in His undertaking; for He said, "I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do." John 17:4. Are you able to say that about the projects which you have started in your society this year? Will you be able to say "I have finished," or more correctly, "We have finished," when you think about the Morning Watch, the Character Classics, the M.V. Reading Courses, etc., when the records of the past year are compiled?

1. **MORNING WATCH.**—Have you encouraged your young people to carry on this good work? Now is the time not only to encourage a good completion but to enlist members for a good beginning in the coming year.

2. **CHARACTER CLASSICS.**—This feature of the work, which is so important for our mature young people, is largely a personal matter of "carrying through." Yet the efficient young people's leader can be a great inspiration and help in constantly promoting and encouraging in this good work. Let us give our young people a lift in their work of completion, and solicit new enrollments for next year.

3. **SERVICE BANDS.**—Is your Sunshine Band and Christian Help Band functioning at this important holiday season? Have the Literature Bands and the Prayer Bands been carried on through the year? What are you doing about it?

4. **M.V. CLASSES.**—This enthusiastic work for Friends, Companions, Comrades, and Master Comrades is finding a ready response all over the world. How do your young people stand now? Do they need encouragement? This is the time for you to give it to them!

5. **READING COURSES.**—We have one of the most interesting M.V. Reading Courses in our history at the present time. Let us faithfully encourage our young people in this very important educational work. Only as we leaders carry on faithfully in these projects, can we enthusiastically encourage our young people to be successful in their undertakings. Let us do our utmost to make it possible for a host of young people to shout unitedly at the year's end, "I have finished!"

E. W. DUNBAR.

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"If you are a true friend, your heart is like a bell that strikes every time your friend is in trouble."

### Quizgram No. 11

A. CAN you match each word in the column to the right with a numbered word associated with it in the column at the left?

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Unit of society organization                 | Society meeting material   |
| 2. Crosshatch                                   | Recreational activities    |
| 3. CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE                     | Bands                      |
| 4. Society secretary                            | Educational secretary      |
| 5. Christian education                          | Soul-winning week in March |
| 6. M.V. Week                                    | Records and reports        |
| 7. Recreational Plans for Missionary Volunteers | Activity chart             |

B. Do you know which of the following statements are true, and can you cite a paragraph in the leaflet "Duties of Officers" to prove it? Write *T* in front of the true statements and *O* in front of the false.

1. If the church is large and the regular educational secretary, whose business it is to promote the educational features of the society, is heavily burdened, it would be well to appoint a special secretary for Christian education, who will make an educational census and create a desire for Christian education in all young people who should be in the academy or college.

2. The regular Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer comes in November.

3. The church board only has the responsibility for planning for the Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer.

4. Each society officer pays for his own copy of THE CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE.

5. The society executive committee should plan to provide funds to meet the operating expense of the society.

6. The interest of each member of the society depends upon how much he shares in the activities of the society.

7. The crosshatch is a chart containing the name of each member of the society so that it can be indicated when he has taken part in society activity.

8. The Crusaders' Corps is a band organization to conduct gospel meetings and Bible studies.

9. The society leader alone is responsible for examining the society reports and seeing that the society records are kept up to date.

10. A binder containing each of the M.V. leaflets may be procured from the conference young people's department.

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Why are poorly kept society records misleading?

2. Why should the society leader come to the society executive meeting with a well-prepared agenda?

ALFRED W. PETERSON.

### Gift Books

At the Christmas season, which is right at hand, the Book and Bible Houses in each conference will be glad to supply you with circulars describing denominational books which are particularly suitable for gifts. Write to your Book and Bible House manager for information, and for any definite suggestions and special offers he may have.

M.V. Reading Course books are always suitable gifts for Primary, Junior, and Senior youth! This holiday season give good books, and Bibles—gifts that last—to your friends. They will bless you for it, and perhaps their horizon will be widened or their vision changed by even this single book—or set of books! Think it over. Write today for circulars. Urge the society members to buy books and Bibles as gifts this holiday season!

MARJORIE W. MARSH.

### The Popular Morning Watch Plan

ADVENTIST youth are fortunate in having the Morning Watch for their very own use. When the morning devotional habit becomes a part of their lives, this little guide has value far beyond its cost price of a few pennies. M.V. leader or M.V. devotional secretary, can you personally speak of the blessings received from daily prayer and meditation and study of the Bible verses outlined in the calendar? Do you profit by the Bible study plan? If so, then you are a good leader, and you can promote the Morning Watch with clear vision.

This devotional guide has power to help individuals even outside our own ranks. Recently a reader wrote to the Review and Herald Publishing Association concerning the calendar: "I have a Morning Watch dated 1934, and when everything seems hopelessly confusing, I take it out and read it from end to end. It never fails to lift me up. I have had it all these years. How I got it and from whom, I do not know."

Thousands have been helped by far-sighted individuals who used the calendar in place of holiday greeting cards. They have distributed the Morning Watch in hospitals and waiting rooms, and placed them in hotel rooms alongside the Gideon Bible. Some Sunday school superintendents have supplied their class members with the Morning Watch. Greeting-card establishments have been encouraged to place them on sale. Managers of business houses have supplied their employees with them. Youth organization leaders have used them.

Since the Morning Watch has a particular message for every reader, let us resolve to do our part in sharing its blessings.

E. W. DUNBAR.

## Sharing the Christmas Spirit

At Christmas time we are thinking of God's love for us, shown in the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. We, too, show our love for our relatives and friends by giving gifts to them. If we do this with love and joy in our hearts, this is well; but should we not extend our giving beyond the small circle of family and friends? Let us try personally and as a group to find people whose Christmas we can brighten.

A Christmas workshop may be set up where the young people and the Juniors may repair toys and games and, perhaps, clothing, and where new articles may be made in various crafts. This project may motivate the production of useful and beautiful articles by members or groups who are interested in the handicrafts among the M.V. Honors. A display of the completed articles will inspire others.

You may find some children who will have no Christmas at all unless you bring it to them. Consult with your pastor, church school teacher, welfare worker. Perhaps you will find that the need goes beyond that of the children, and that the family requires food and clothing. And when we make friends this way, why not continue the friendship throughout the year? Invite the children to the J.M.V. meeting, the youth to the Senior M.V. Society meeting, and both groups and the parents to the Sabbath school and church services. Make them feel that you really want them to come. After all, the greatest thing any of us have to give is Christ. This year particularly let us share Him with those to whom He is unknown. Many young people's groups have the custom of going Christmas caroling.

People who, because of their age or health, are unable to attend church, receive much joy in hearing carols sung by the young people. Ask your pastor and home division Sabbath school leader for the names and addresses of these people.

Then there are kindnesses we as individuals can do. We never know how much a visit to a sick or aged person or to another young person who may be drifting can mean. Perhaps there are letters or notes that we should write; or we might help some who are unable to write to send the messages they wish to send to others; or read or sing to those who would enjoy it.

Charles E. Jefferson has given us these suggestions in making our Christmas plans:

"In preparing our Christmas presents, let us get ready to give some of the things which Jesus gave. Along with the many gifts which have prices, let us give a few which are priceless. Let us give thought to someone who needs it, sympathy to someone who craves it, praise to someone who deserves it but does not get it, kindness to someone whom the world has overlooked, affection to someone who is starving for it, inspiration to someone who is fainting because of the lack of it. One's Christmas does not consist in the abundance of the things which he receives or gives away, but in the spirit of good will which fills his heart."

MARJORIE W. MARSH.



# SENIOR MEETINGS

December 7

## "Let Your Light So Shine"

BY HELEN F. SMITH

### Order of Service

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

DEVOTIONAL FEATURES, closing with sentence prayers.

OFFERTORY.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MUSIC.

TALK: "Growth of the Press Work."

TALK: "Tangible Results of the Press Work."

TALK: "The M.V. Society in the News,"  
DISCUSSION: "Newspaper Publicity for Our Society."

SONG: "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning," No. 79.

BENEDICTION.

### Notes to Leaders

This program is planned not only to acquaint M.V. members with the work of the Press Relations Bureau but more specifically to encourage their active participation.

If your society does not have its own press secretary to co-operate with your church press secretary in reporting M.V. activities for the local papers, this will be a good time to lay some plans. Lead out in a discussion at the end of the program about the newspaper publicity your society is receiving. If you decide that more should be done, lay plans for assigning this work to one of your members who is interested in writing.

If you have a regular press secretary in your church or if your pastor is doing this work, he will be glad to have reports of your meetings, special rallies, recreational activities, missionary projects, etc., written up for the newspapers, and will arrange to turn them in to the editors. If no one is taking care of your church publicity regularly, all the more reason for appointing someone in the M.V. Society who can send these stories directly to the local papers.

The Press Bureau will be glad to send further information about how to begin, how to write a news story, etc. Write to J. R. Ferren, Press Relations Bureau, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Takoma Park, Washington 12, D.C., for "Church Reporting" and other leaflets which will supplement the brief outline of the press work for which there is space in the GAZETTE.

### Growth of the Press Work

SINCE the organization of the Press Bureau at the General Conference thirty-four years ago under the direction of W. L. Burgan, an experienced newspa-

perman, it has developed into one of our most effective means of telling the world what we believe and stand for.

The reports made by Mr. Burgan at the General Conference sessions through the twenty-eight years that he directed the Press Bureau reveal a steady growth as more and more of our ministers and church members began to realize what a wonderful opportunity the newspapers offered of telling people about the truth held by Seventh-day Adventists. Not only in the United States, but around the world, those who wrote about our denominational activities for the public press found editors glad to publish news about Seventh-day Adventists.

After Mr. Burgan's death in 1940, there was a brief period during which the press work had no regularly appointed director, but workers and laymen who realized its importance carried on the good work. Today, with J. R. Ferren and two assistants at General Conference headquarters, more than six hundred regularly appointed press secretaries in our churches, and hundreds of ministers and other workers all co-operating to keep Seventh-day Adventists prominently and continuously in the news, the press work is growing as never before in our history.

Through the daily newspapers millions of people are learning that Seventh-day Adventists have a world-wide mission program, enthusiastically supported, financially and otherwise, by its members; that we have a distinctive message for the world in this significant hour; that the members of our church have high standards in matters of health, personal conduct, responsibility toward our fellow men, etc.; that we maintain a unique educational system; that Adventist young people substitute Christian service and wholesome recreation for the useless and degrading pleasure seeking of worldly youth. All these things and many more are told bit by bit in hundreds of news stories of the widely varied activities of our church.

It isn't more chance that hundreds of newspaper clippings pour into the Press Bureau. They are the concrete evidence of the hours spent by men and women in our churches or near our sanitariums, schools, or conference offices, gathering the facts, putting them into news form, and meeting newspaper deadlines. These

press secretaries, pastors, and others have caught the vision of the vast opportunity for giving the world a true picture of what we represent and creating an interest in knowing more about what we believe and why.

### Tangible Results of the Press Work

LIKE other methods of giving the gospel, the press work cannot be measured exactly and its results tabulated. But, unlike the evangelist who can count the people in his audience or the colporteur who knows how many books he has sold, the church reporter must be content to know that through his work the pastor's sermon, heard by a hundred members, also went into thousands of homes throughout the community, and have faith to believe that the seed thus planted in unknown hearts will one day bear fruit.

But the results are not always so intangible even for the press secretary. In Syracuse, New York, Mrs. Eda Eastman, press secretary of the James Street church, as part of her regular coverage of church news, sent in an announcement that Pastor S. Thomas, of India, would speak on Friday night at Missionary Volunteer meeting. The following week, when she arrived early for M.V. meeting, Mrs. Eastman found a woman she had never seen before waiting, she said, "to hear the Indian speak." Mrs. Eastman explained to her that she had apparently read the newspaper announcement a week late. The woman, who is a welfare worker in Syracuse, decided to stay for the regular M.V. meeting and told Mrs. Eastman that she would like to know more about Seventh-day Adventists. At Mrs. Eastman's suggestion, she enrolled in the Twentieth Century Bible Course and has since persuaded a friend to enroll also. Mrs. Eastman's experience indicates the possibilities of making our Missionary Volunteer meetings not only an inspiration to the regular members, but an effective means of winning souls in a much wider circle of influence.

To the General Conference treasurer a few months ago came a check for \$380 from an Elks Club in Alaska. The accompanying letter explained that the members had read a newspaper account of the famine relief work Seventh-day Adventists were doing and of the appointment of Elder J. J. Strahle as director of European relief. Favorably impressed with the way the Adventist relief program was being carried out, these men in Alaska wished their contribution

to the starving to be distributed by our representatives. This same story, sent out from the Press Bureau in Washington, was published in hundreds of newspapers. As a result, millions of people are aware that obedience to the Master's command to feed the hungry and clothe the naked is a part of the Seventh-day Adventist religion.

During the last Ingathering campaign scores of newspaper clippings about local campaigns or tag days poured into the Press Bureau. They described the mission and welfare activities made possible in part by the Ingathering fund, and gave the campaign a prestige in many communities it had never before enjoyed. More than once Ingatherers have received checks of \$10, \$25, or \$50 which people had ready for them because they had read about the campaign in newspapers.

When our missionaries leave for foreign fields, newspapers where they lived, visited relatives, or attended school, publish stories not only about their departure but about the work of Seventh-day Adventists in the country to which they are going.

Editors are interested in our schools and principles of education, and have published many interesting feature stories about the Christian education provided in our church schools, academies, and colleges. One of the most interesting of these is a recent article about a little church school in Ohio which has eighteen students. The Canton, Ohio, *Repository* on a recent Sunday published a picture of the students at their desks and another of the teacher and church pastor along with a very interesting story about how the school is conducted and what is taught.

Wherever our evangelists are holding meetings they are reaching a still wider audience through the sermon reports published in the local papers. And editors are giving generous space to our camp meetings, workers' meetings, rallies, and other gatherings. All this is having a definite influence in giving the world a clear picture of our denomination as a world-wide movement with a serious purpose and an important message.

### The M.V. Society in the News

No part of our church activities is more important than the Missionary Volunteer Society, and nothing is of more interest to people outside of the church than what the young people of the church are doing. After all the stories of youthful criminals and delinquency, of young

people lowering their standards and forgetting any sense of duty in an orgy of self-indulgence and thrill-seeking, people are glad to read of a group of young people whose standards are high, whose recreations are wholesome, who are concerned for the less fortunate, and who are obtaining Christian training with a serious object in life.

People are more than interested—they are attracted to a religion which produces such results and are drawn to learn more of its teachings. But how is the world to know these things unless we use the space freely offered us in the daily papers to tell them of our Missionary Volunteer meetings and youth's congresses; of our Sunshine Bands and projects to help the poor of the community; of our summer youth camps, our investiture services, and our temperance rallies; of our members who are leaving for college or for mission service.

All these things are news which editors are glad to print, but the pastor or church press secretary may overlook them unless the M.V. Society lends a hand.

Our churches need the talent of those who have the ability to write well. The responsibility of covering all our varied activities week after week is a large one, and the older members and pastors who are doing this work will welcome the help of the younger members.

Reporting Missionary Volunteer activities is a good way to begin. When the day comes that the church needs someone to carry on with this press work, you will have gained the experience and skill necessary to carry this responsibility.

As they send their clippings to the Press Bureau, press secretaries write over and over again that they are finding the work fascinating. It is a real thrill to see a well-written, accurate story about Seventh-day Adventists in the morning paper and to know that because of your hard work in gathering the facts, telling the story in newspaper style, and getting it to the proper person, several thousand people know something more about what we believe.

In every Missionary Volunteer Society there are those who are able to do this work, and every society should have someone responsible for giving the news to the church press secretary or otherwise turning it in to the local papers. The Press Bureau is eager to see every society carrying out in this effective way our Saviour's admonition, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

December 14

**Where Are We?**

BY WALTER A. HOWE

**Order of Service**SONG: "He Hideth My Soul," No. 18, in *Gospel Melodies*.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

OFFERING.

SONG: "Lead Me to Calvary," No. 89.

LEADER'S REMARKS.

TALK: "Our Objective."

TALK: "Our Position."

TALK: "Altering Course."

SONG: "Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me," No. 136.

BENEDICTION.

**Leader's Remarks**

(The leader can give this program a great deal of the atmosphere and flavor of a plane trip if he will acquaint himself with some of the language and procedures of pilots.)

**INTRODUCTION TO TALK "OUR OBJECTIVE"**

Our topic tonight is a direct quotation from the words I have heard many times over the intercommunication system of a plane. Very often after being out for a few hours the words will come, "Pilot to navigator, pilot to navigator, where are we?" It is that last group of three words we want to consider at this meeting. Indeed, "Where are we?"

Just as the navigator in his cubicle calculates logs and reports position from time to time, so we must take time to see just where we are. In planning a mission of any kind, the navigation chart is marked with a straight line from the starting point to the planned destination. Just as the crew of an airplane need to know their destination or their next landing field, so we need to know just where we are headed. Our first speaker will point out our objective.

**INTRODUCTION TO TALK "OUR POSITION"**

Now that our objective has been established, it will be necessary to check the record to see whether we have been "on course." Our next speaker will bring us a talk entitled "Our Position."

**INTRODUCTION TO TALK "ALTERING COURSE"**

Since our course and our objective do not compare very favorably, we must give some study to altering our course, in order to reach our objective.

**Our Objective**

THE objectives of our M.V. Society may be divided into two groups, namely, "general" and "specific." The general objective for our society might be listed in the following manner: To win, hold, and employ the young people of our church. Obviously this objective is much too broad to be meaningful without the clarifying assistance of some specific objectives.

(At this point the speaker might well bring into use a large blackboard.)

To understand our objective, let us notice the work of the society. Surely that will provide a clue to what our objective should be. Suppose you help me list the work of the society. I believe we will find four different classifications of society work. First, help me to decide the four classifications. As soon as we arrive at a conclusion in this regard I will write the classifications on the board. Here is a hint: How would you classify such activity as the Bible Year, the Morning Watch, and the Character Classics? That's right—"Devotional." Now let's check some of the other features. Did you say, "Educational"? That is also one of the classifications. Now, what else? How would you classify the band work of the society, such as Prayer and Personal Workers' Bands, the Crusaders' Corps, Literature and Correspondence Bands? Yes, these might be called the "Service Features" of the society. Does that sound correct? We have now three classifications of society endeavor. Suppose we list one other classification. Did I hear, "Social Features"? With the permission of the one suggesting this, I'd like to change this to "Fellowship Features."

(With these four headings for the columns across the blackboard, then enlist the help of the audience in listing the various activities under each classification. You will get some such list as the one below, with perhaps some items in addition.)

**I. DEVOTIONAL FEATURES:**

Morning Watch  
Bible Year  
Character Classics  
Spirit of Prophecy Reading Course  
Prayer Bands  
Consecration Services  
M.V. Week of Prayer

**II. EDUCATIONAL FEATURES:**

Society Meetings  
Senior M.V. Reading Courses  
Master Comrade Activities and Clubs  
M.V. Honor Activities  
Nature Clubs  
Hobby Clubs  
Young People's Forum

**III. SERVICE FEATURES:**

Prayer and Personal Workers' Band  
Christian Help Band  
Sunshine Band  
Literature and Correspondence Band  
Crusaders' Corps  
Gospel Meeting Band  
Bible Readings in Homes  
Cottage Meetings  
Temperance Band and Rallies  
Ingathering Singing Bands

**IV. FELLOWSHIP FEATURES:**

Social Education  
Society Social Gatherings

**Recreational Occasions**

Hikes

Singing Festivals

Excursions (to hills, woods, swamps, seashore, to study birds, trees, insects, etc., or places of historical interest)

(With this material on the board, a very lively discussion might follow ascertaining the goals that should be achieved by the society in each one of the different classifications.)

How large a percentage of the membership of the society should take part in the devotional activities of the society? Bear in mind our over-all objective is to win, hold and employ the youth of the church. I really don't see how we can reach any other conclusion than that every member should be taking part in some phase of the devotional features. The very lift and power of the society depends on a close connection with God. We will not be overemphasizing, then, if we list as one specific objective one hundred per cent society membership engaged in some one or more of the devotional features.

Would you say there is need for one hundred per cent of society membership being engaged in some one of the educational features? I think I agree with you that each member should be included in one or more of the various phases of this group of features. Attending the society meeting and reading the Senior M.V. courses are a part of every Missionary Volunteer's life, are they not?

Is not the same true of the band work of the society—the service features? That being the case, let me pose one more question. Should any society member fail to find some place of usefulness in some line of service included in the society work? It is a proved fact that one of the chief factors in holding the youth of the church is in putting them to work in some activity. Without activity we soon lose interest. Therefore, one hundred per cent of the membership should be engaged in some definite M.V. service band.

What portion of the society should be included in the fellowship features of the society? Let's look at the list again. How many or what percentage should be our objective? Yes, I believe that is the only conclusion we can reach, for only by one hundred per cent participation can we feel we have fulfilled our duty.

This seems to give us our objectives: one hundred per cent membership participation in each phase of society endeavor—not all members doing everything, but each doing something in every main classification of society work!

## Our Position

TODAY is December 14. This means that 94.2 per cent of the year is gone. If we are on course, our objective should be in view. If we check the records we can probably locate our present position. The navigator's log in this case is the secretary's report book. Each month the reports of the young people are compiled and forwarded to the local conference office. A copy of this compiled report is kept in the record book.

I will give you the monthly average figure for some of the items, which will help in establishing our position.

Let's notice first the items on the devotional side of society work. The average monthly number of society members keeping the Morning Watch during 1946 is \_\_\_\_\_. (This figure will be the sum of the figures recorded in the eleven report blanks, then divided by eleven.) There has been a monthly average of \_\_\_\_\_ society members reading their Bibles through. There has been a monthly average of \_\_\_\_\_ members who have been reading the Character Classics Course. These averages, totaled, equal \_\_\_\_\_ members taking part in devotional features. This figure compared with the society membership should indicate our position. Are we going the right way? The objective we started for was one hundred per cent participation in some one of the devotional features. Is this comparison favorable or unfavorable in our society?

Suppose we check the educational features of our society work. The average attendance at society meeting is \_\_\_\_\_. Perhaps this figure compares a bit more favorably than that of the devotional features. However, the total number of persons receiving Reading Course Certificates during the year does not compare with the objective as it should.

I have taken the totals of the numbers reported as the membership of all the service bands. The largest number in any one given month was for the month of \_\_\_\_\_, and the figure is \_\_\_\_\_. This indicates that we are (or are not) a long way "off course."

To get an exact picture of the number present here, let me ask for a show of hands. There are \_\_\_\_\_ members present today. How many of you who are present follow regularly any one of the devotional features of the society work, that is, the Morning Watch, Character Classics, Bible Year, Spirit of Prophecy Reading Course, Prayer Bands, consecration meetings, and the Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer? (Write this number opposite

the number indicating the attendance.)

Now I would like the same information about the educational features. How many members present take part regularly in the educational phases of the society work? These are the regular society meetings, the Senior Missionary Volunteer Reading Courses, the Master Comrade activities, the M.V. Honor activities, nature clubs, and hobby clubs. How many of you take part in one or more of these activities? (This number should also be placed near the attendance.)

Now the band activities. There are a number of the service bands—Prayer and Personal Workers', Christian Help, Sunshine, Literature and Correspondence, Crusaders', Bible Reading and Cottage Meeting, Temperance. How many of you regularly participate in some part of the band work of the society? These comparisons with the attendance here are more favorable than those indicated on the report blanks. In spite of the improvements we are still a long way from our objective. Our position, then, is "Off Course"—far short of our objective.

The figures comparing the fellowship features of society activity should prove interesting. How many of you here make it a general practice to attend the social and recreational functions of the society? By studying the comparisons of these four classifications of the society work and the objectives we have had, we see we are plainly far short of achieving our aims, we are not "on course."

## Altering Course

IN order to alter course properly there must be a study of the objectives as compared with the present position. These we have just studied. The very foundation basis for attaining the objectives of our societies is in the thoroughness with which our society is motivated by the devotional features. There is the source of power to resist evil and to do good. Only by feeding daily on the Word of life can society members thrive and grow as children of the heavenly Father. It is therefore of the utmost importance that we teach, advocate, and promote the eternal values of the daily contact with God. It is of the greatest personal concern that each member of the society have a daily contact with heaven.

"Those who fail to realize their constant dependence upon God will be overcome by temptation. . . . Only through realizing our own weakness, and looking steadfastly unto Jesus, can we walk se-

curely."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 101.

The necessity for close communion with God is not limited to those just being won for Christ. It is equally necessary that after someone is won to Christ that close communion be maintained.

"After the union with Christ has been formed, it can be preserved only by earnest prayer and untiring effort."—*Ibid.*, p. 118.

Surely this calls for some resolve on the part of all of us gathered here today. Personally, I believe it is time to alter course. As the new year draws on, I propose to begin at once establishing the habit of contacting heaven in my devotions each day following the Morning Watch and the Character Classics. I plan each day to talk with God and then to await His answer. I wonder how many of you would also like to talk with Him each new day? Shall we not all covenant with Him that by His grace we will spend some time at the beginning of each new day studying His Word and talking with Him?

Other features of the society need our attention also. Society members could alter course and find direction and point to life by preparing for leadership of boys and girls in the Master Comrade groups. Great new interests may be awakened and cultivated in the study of new hobbies, or in M.V. Honor study groups. The broadening influence common to those acquainted with the best and the good in literature may be yours as you read the M.V. Reading Course books. Self-confidence and assurance may be increased as you take part in the regular society meetings. So I suggest that your altered course include some definite activity in the educational features.

Perhaps some of us will need to alter our course where our service is concerned, and systematically enter into at least one of the definite service features, and thus help fulfill our Aim, "The advent message to all the world in this generation."

Where are we in December, 1946? Where will we be in December, 1947? How can we best alter our course now to reach our high objective?

✻ ✻

To have joy, we must share it. Happiness was born a twin.—KINGSLEY.

✻ ✻

"TRAIN your eye to watch for other's needs, to read another's woe. Train your soul to sympathy and your hand to helpfulness."

December 21

**Star of Hope**

BY RUTH CONARD

**Order of Service**

SONGS: Christmas carols or other Christmas music.

PRAYER.

OFFERTORY.

SOCIETY REPORTS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS RE PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS BASKETS, CAROLING, ETC.

READING OR TALK: "In Sin's Dark Night."

SYMPOSIUM WITH SONGS: "The Star Shineth Sure."

BENEDICTION.

**Notes to Leaders**

There are three chief participants in this program—the narrator, the person giving the prophecy, and the one giving the fulfillment. The parts may be read, if they are read well, though the narrator may wish to give at least a part of what he says in his own words.

The narrator may, if desired, be seated immediately behind the pulpit on the platform, and may rise and present his part each time it is required. Then the persons giving the prophecy and the fulfillment can stand on a slightly lower level, at the right and left of the narrator. It would be appropriate to have the one giving the prophecy to be dressed as one of the prophets of old might have dressed, and to read from a scroll. The one giving the fulfillment might well be a young woman, dressed in a simple draped Hebrew or Grecian costume. She could also read from a scroll.

Some might prefer to have only two of the speakers visible, the narrator and the one giving the fulfillment, while the prophecy could be given very impressively by someone out of sight, with a deep voice.

The songs may be sung entirely by a choir, seated possibly behind the narrator. Or they may be presented as quartets, trios, duets, solos, etc. It would be well for the music of the song to continue following the rendition of the special selection for at least a time after the narrator begins to speak. Of course, inasmuch as the songs listed in this program are all very familiar, they could appropriately be sung by the entire congregation. If this is done, however, a mimeographed program should be handed out preceding the service, and the words of the song should be printed in it, so that there will not be the disturbance and delay incident to finding the different songs in the hymnal. (All songs today are found in the *Church Hymnal*.)

The entire program should go forward without announcement.

**In Sin's Dark Night**

(Reading or talk by Narrator. Or, if it is desired, this may be given by an entirely different person as an introductory talk.)

THE stars always shine brightest in the darkest night. So down through the

course of years covering Old Testament times, enshrouded as they were by the black curse of sin, the star of hope, which pointed to the coming of a Redeemer, shed its brilliant rays.

In the beginning all was light and loveliness and beauty on this earth. Air, sea, and land contributed to the panorama of perfection which Adam and Eve beheld on every side. The birds in the air, singing their beautiful songs, the fish swimming through the blue depths of the waters, the animals inhabiting the land—all added to the symmetry of the scene. And brilliantly hued flowers, delicate ferns, graceful shrubs, and towering trees combined to make a picture of unexcelled beauty. And over all the radiance of the sun by day and the softer glow of the moon and the sparkling of the stars at night cast a glory beyond compare.

Then came sin. Eve yielded to the appealing voice of the tempter, in the form of the most beautiful of all creatures—the serpent—and tasted the forbidden fruit. And Adam likewise succumbed to temptation. Immediately the effects of sin became evident. The very air which had up until that time been warm and soothing suddenly felt chill and forbidding. The black pall of despair settled down over the guilty pair. All hope was blotted out as the enormity of this one act of transgression became apparent to them. But though the Lord could not erase the effects of this sin from the earth, in His loving-kindness He presented a plan whereby eternal life could be regained. Adam and Eve, with heads bowed in humility and despair there in the Garden of Eden, heard the curse which Christ pronounced on the serpent, and by faith they looked through tear-dimmed eyes to see in this very pronouncement a star of hope—a promise of salvation: "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Gen. 3:15.

And Adam and Eve, but recently perfectly happy in all the joys which Paradise could offer, and now bowed down under the dense, dark cloud of the first sin, looked with longing at the star of hope which glowed from that first promise of the coming Messiah.

"When Adam and Eve first heard the promise [of a Saviour], they looked for its speedy fulfillment. They joyfully welcomed their first-born son, hoping that he might be the Deliverer. But the fulfillment of the promise tarried. Those who

first received it, died without the sight."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 31.

Yet though the fulfillment tarried, prophets down through the ages rose up to point through the gloom of wickedness and turmoil which engulfed the sin-cursed earth, to the star of hope glimmering in the sky, predicting the coming of the Messiah. These prophets, with the eye of faith, pierced the darkness and gave many details regarding the birth, life, and mission of the Coming One.

"Like the stars in the vast circuit of their appointed path, God's purposes know no haste and no delay."—*Ibid.*

And "when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son . . . to redeem them that were under the law." Gal. 4:4, 5.

He lived, He died, He rose again triumphant over sin, and ascended to heaven, to make ready a place for those who will accept Him.

Sad the truth that few, even among God's chosen nation, Israel, rightly interpreted the prophecies of Christ's first advent, and they were not prepared for this event. Sad, also, it is that few, even in our enlightened age, accept the facts of Christ's life on earth and His atonement for them, and will not be prepared to meet Him at His second coming. Let us individually be sure that we are not among this unbelieving multitude. Let us keep ever in view the bright star of hope, pointed out by those prophets of old, and thus, in contemplation of the events which they foretold, coupled with their fulfillment, we may strengthen our faith in the star of hope which points us to the nearness of Christ's second advent.

**The Star Shineth Sure**

NARRATOR: From the ancient scrolls of the prophets, let us read once more the predictions given to the people Israel regarding their coming Redeemer. And then let us listen once more to the sweet old gospel story of the Babe of Bethlehem, which so perfectly fulfills the prophecies of those seers of old. Surely, comparing the two records, we who look back on those prophecies and their fulfillment cannot fail to recognize the radiance of heaven's bright star of hope, glowing even in these present days of dark despair.

(SONG: "There's a Song in the Air," No. 106, in *Church Hymnal*.)

NARRATOR: The prophet Isaiah, 750 years before the birth of Christ, spoke with inspired utterance:

PROPHECY: "Behold, a virgin shall con-

ceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." Isa. 7:14.

**FULFILLMENT:** "The angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. . . . And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive, . . . and bring forth a son, and shalt call His name JESUS." Luke 1:26-31.

(**SONG:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem," No. 104.)

**NARRATOR:** With great exactness, the prophet Micah recorded even the place where the Saviour was to be born:

**PROPHECY:** "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2.

**NARRATOR:** Though Mary and Joseph made their home in Nazareth, a town of Galilee, yet in order to bring about the fulfillment of this prophecy, the ruler of the mighty Roman Empire, whose domain at that time covered all the then-known world, was providentially inspired to make a decree, which necessitated their journey to Bethlehem. In simple, graphic words, Luke tells the story:

**FULFILLMENT:** "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. . . . And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:1-7.

(**SONG:** "Silent Night, Holy Night," No. 102.)

**NARRATOR:** The night of the birth of the world's Redeemer was one which had long been anticipated by the angels of heaven. Looking into the dimness of the future, the prophet Isaiah had sung of the crowning event of that night:

**PROPHECY:** "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder:

and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isa. 9:6.

**NARRATOR:** Yet when the great night comes, no one on earth is prepared for it. No home opens its doors to the weary travelers, Joseph and Mary.

"In a rude building where the beasts are sheltered, they at last find refuge, and here the Redeemer of the world is born.

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

"In the fields where the boy David had led his flock, shepherds were still keeping watch by night. Through the silent hours they talked together of the promised Saviour, and prayed for the coming of the King to David's throne."—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 44, 47.

**FULFILLMENT:** "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:9-12.

**NARRATOR:** "Then . . . the whole plain was lighted up with the bright shining of the hosts of God. Earth was hushed, and heaven stooped to listen to the song."—*Ibid.*, p. 47.

**FULFILLMENT:** "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14.

(**ORGAN** might play here, softly, "Silent Night.")

**NARRATOR:** "And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came in haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger." Luke 2:15, 16.

(**MUSIC** only, "We Three Kings of Orient Are," No. 107, while narrator speaks.)

**NARRATOR:** One of the most striking of all prophecies of the coming Redeemer

was made, against his will, by the back-slidden prophet, Balaam. In an effort to obtain a rich reward, he had tried to curse Israel, but instead he proclaimed this glowing prophecy:

**PROPHECY:** "I shall see Him, but not now: I shall behold Him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth." Num. 24:17.

(**SONG:** First four stanzas of "We Three Kings of Orient Are," No. 107.)

**NARRATOR:** Magi there were who lived in the countries of the East. "They belonged to a large and influential class, that included men of noble birth, and comprised much of the wealth and learning of their nation. . . .

"As these magi studied the starry heavens, and sought to fathom the mystery hidden in their bright paths, they beheld the glory of the Creator. . . . Balaam belonged to the magicians, though at one time a prophet of God; by the Holy Spirit he had foretold the prosperity of Israel and the appearing of the Messiah; and his prophecies had been handed down by tradition from century to century. . . .

"The wise men had seen a mysterious light in the heavens upon that night when the glory of God flooded the hills of Bethlehem. As the light faded, a luminous star appeared, and lingered in the sky. It was not a fixed star nor a planet, and the phenomenon excited the keenest interest. That star was a distant company of shining angels, but of this the wise men were ignorant. . . . They consulted priests and philosophers, and searched the scrolls of the ancient records. . . . Through dreams they were instructed to go in search of the newborn Prince."—*Ibid.*, pp. 59, 60.

(**SONG:** Fifth stanza and chorus of "We Three Kings of Orient Are.")

**NARRATOR:** "As by faith Abraham went forth at the call of God, 'not knowing whither he went'; . . . so did these Gentiles go forth to find the promised Saviour."—*Ibid.*, p. 60. And so it came to pass that—

**FULFILLMENT:** [Please read at this time Matthew 2:1-11, omitted because of lack of space.]

**NARRATOR:** Thus the guiding star of hope, portrayed by seers of old pointed the way to the Bethlehem manger, where was born the King of the universe, the Redeemer of the world. It was clearly



revealed to any who would accept it by faith, and it was only disbelief which dimmed its rays. All God's chosen people, Israel, could have been led by its light, even as the shepherds followed its beams to the stable and bowed low in adoration beside the Christ child's manger.

(SONG: First two stanzas of "The First Noel," No. 108.)

NARRATOR: And even those from afar could have come within the scope of its beckoning light and received the same blessing which came to the wise men who followed its guiding light many weary miles o'er desert and mountain, through valley and plain, until they could lay their offerings at the feet of the world's Redeemer.

(SONG: Three concluding stanzas of "The First Noel.")

NARRATOR: As the birth of Jesus was a fulfillment of the predictions of seers of old, so His life and death and resurrection followed with exactness the pattern foretold by those mouthpieces of God. And, best of all, that prophetic star of hope which cast its far-reaching rays on the first advent of our Lord to this earth, is likewise shedding its beams on His second return—not again as a helpless babe in the Bethlehem manger, but this time as King of kings and Lord of lords. It is only unbelief that can blot out from our vision the brilliant shining rays of the star of the second advent hope. To any who accept in faith the many Bible predictions, who look for Him, "shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Heb. 9:28.

The black night of unbelief and despair enshrouds the world today. The only light which can ever pierce the darkness is that which proceeds from the star of hope which points toward the second coming of our Saviour. Let us keep it shining clear over our pathway. Then, even in a world plunged into the gloom of tumult and strife and despair we can bask in light brighter than the light of day—the light of hope which points to a soon-coming Saviour, who will banish darkness and despair and sin from this world, and bring in the reign of the King of righteousness. What joy this star of hope can bring to each one of us, as we contemplate the fulfillment of our fondest dreams to which its rays point—the soon coming of our Lord to take us to the land of everlasting day, where the darkness of sin will never more come, but where we will live forever in the brightness of our Saviour's presence.

(SONG: "Joy to the World," No. 189.)

December 28

## Miracles!

### The Story of the Voice of Prophecy

BY D. A. DELAFIELD

#### Order of Service

SONG: "We Know Not the Hour," No. 540 in *Church Hymnal*.

PRAYER.

DEVOTIONAL FEATURES.

OFFERTORY.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PLANS.

SONG: "There Is a Place of Quiet Rest," No. 681.

INTRODUCTION, By Leader.

READING: "A Message from H. M. S. Richards."

READING: "A Message from D. A. Delafield."

SONG: "O Zion, Haste," No. 449.

BENEDICTION.

#### Note to Leaders

The Voice of Prophecy radio logs will be mailed to M.V. leaders of each church in North America in time to arrive and be distributed at this meeting. The following introduction to this program may be used by the leader.

#### Introduction

We have all listened to the Voice of Prophecy program on the air. We are acquainted with the fact that this major evangelistic radio effort to win souls for Christ is now broadcast over more than five hundred radio stations—in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

The subject of our program tonight is "Miracles," or the story of the Voice of Prophecy broadcast. We will not have time to go into the thrilling providences that marked the beginning of the coast-to-coast broadcast, nor the story of H. M. S. Richards' experiences as an itinerant evangelist in the State of California. We must confine ourselves to the latest reports that come from radioland direct to the Voice of Prophecy in Los Angeles, recording thrilling miracles of God's grace to show that the Lord is at work to confirm the faith of His people by signs and miracles.

First of all, tonight, we will listen to a report prepared especially by H. M. S. Richards, Voice of Prophecy speaker, to be read at this Young People's Society meeting to the youth of this church. — will read this personal message from the Voice of Prophecy:

#### A Message From H. M. S. Richards

First of all, I want to say that it would give me a great deal of pleasure

to meet every one of you personally. The youth of this denomination are among our best supporters. Literally scores of thousands of enrollments to our Bible Correspondence Courses have come to us from the youth of the denomination who have been burdened to lead their companions to Jesus Christ, by acquainting them with the truth in this way.

During the war, between four thousand and five thousand servicemen were active students in our Bible courses. One day in Los Angeles I received a letter from an Arizona Indian who was serving his country at the time of the Philippine invasion. He wrote me a letter, enclosing his Bible lesson, that he had written to me from the steaming tropical jungles on a winding river deep in the heart of one of the great Philippine Islands. The Bible lessons helped this young man to maintain his loyalty to Christ in this crisis in his life, and his courage and fortitude were the means of strengthening our faith in God.

From one of the South Pacific islands came the message from one of our young men that he had returned only a short time before from a reconnaissance mission with several other GI's, deep in the Japanese lines. Exhausted from his labors, he fell asleep in a hammock. Then an air raid interrupted his slumbers and a voice spoke to him from heaven, awakening him from his sleep as a bomb hurtled earthward toward the spot where he was resting. "Turn your head," the voice said, and he did just in time to save himself from certain death. An ugly piece of shrapnel from the bomb tore its way through the hammock where his head had been a moment before. This young man feels that God saved his life, and he has renewed his consecration to the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a miracle, young people, and testifies to the fact that there is a God who watches carefully over His children.

Another one of our regular listeners, a young man in the paratroopers, participated in the Normandy invasion in Western Europe. He related to us, in a letter recently, the story of his jump out into the black night when his plane passed over its objective. "When I landed," he said, "I found myself suspended by the latchet of my shoes, from a large apple tree. It was a painful experience. My left jaw was broken, and I was cut badly all over my body. For twenty-four hours I hung there bleeding, and thinking all the time that my end had come. I was surrounded by German positions, and it is a miracle that my life

was not taken. In the providence of God I was rescued, and it is my purpose now to fulfill the promise that I made them—that if my life would be spared, I would give it to God.”

I think you will all remember the words of Jesus to Nicodemus as He describes the process of the new birth. You remember He said, “The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.” John 3:8.

A young man on sentry duty, not too long ago, was keeping watch on a very windy day. Someone had discarded a Voice of Prophecy radio log—at least a part of it—describing our Bible Correspondence Course. The wind caught up this paper and blew it to the very spot where this young man was on duty. He picked it up and became intensely interested in the Bible lessons offered by the Voice of Prophecy. He signed his name and address on this crumpled piece of paper, which had been miraculously blown to the spot where he was at work, and mailed it to the Voice of Prophecy. We have this little miracle paper in our office in Los Angeles as another trophy of the providence of God.

We can tell you the story, too, of the major, who, during the passage of a liberty ship to the South Pacific, found himself walking down the starboard side of the boat. He noticed a small crumpled piece of paper lying innocently on the deck, and stooped to pick it up. In this case, too, a Voice of Prophecy advertisement was at hand to speak for the great God who performs His wonders in so many different ways. This major enrolled in the Bible Correspondence Course and upon completing the first eighteen lessons, mailed his certificate to his mother with the proud statement, “Now you can see, Mother, that I am spending my time profitably, even though I am in the service.” I think we can all expect to witness many remarkable miracles of God's grace before the end comes—miracles as impressive and as wonderful as those worked by the apostles, and even by the Lord Jesus Himself.

While we do not point to these miracles as the proof of the correctness of our theology, yet we recount them to confirm the faith of our young people at this critical hour in human history when divine power must be manifest to save the young people of the church from the sins of the world.

A letter was recently addressed to

Brother Delafield, our Bible school director and radio announcer, from a GI who had returned from the Philippines and was now making his home in Southern California. I am going to ask Brother Delafield to relate that story to you, as he received it firsthand from this Adventist soldier.

H. M. S. RICHARDS.

### A Message From D. A. Delafield

THE letter about which Elder Richards speaks describes the experience of this young man while visiting one Sabbath morning in a Philippine Island village in Northern Luzon. He was surprised to notice the people of the town attending the Catholic church on Saturday—the Bible Sabbath. When he inquired of one of the villagers as to the reason for this remarkable practice, the Filipino manifested surprise that he had not heard about the change in their day of worship, as it seemed to be common knowledge in that area. He told our GI friend the following story:

“One night we were all surprised to hear the bell tolling in the village church. The ringing of the bell awakened the priest, and he dressed himself and rushed down to the church. He was surprised when he entered the building to find a small child pulling at the rope. When he attempted to stop the child, he was addressed in the most earnest way by the little one: ‘O priest, you will surely be lost if you do not keep God's Sabbath. You will lose your soul if you do not keep God's holy day, the seventh-day Sabbath of the Lord.’ Amazed, the priest could hardly believe what his ears had heard. Once more the earnest voice of the child addressed him: ‘O priest, you will lose your soul if you do not keep God's holy day.’ The priest reached to take the arm of the boy, and as he did so the little one disappeared into thin air. Then the priest gathered the congregation together and told them what he had seen, and gave the order to observe the Sabbath of the Lord as he had been directed.”

Our soldier brother who heard this story had it confirmed by one of our local ministers and mailed the account on to the Voice of Prophecy. We do not know the sequel to this thrilling incident, but if this story is true—and we have every reason to believe that it is—then God has surely proved His divine promise, as recorded in both the Old and the New Testaments, that miracles would be wrought in the latter days to confirm the faith and to win the souls of the faithful. There are many heart-sick people—

young and old—to whom God must speak directly in order to bring the help that they need.

One of our listeners was on her knees by the side of her bed in prayer one night, earnestly pleading with God for the assurance that her sins were forgiven. For a long time she remained there in the secret place of power, talking with God about her soul's salvation. Then, weary and tired, she climbed into bed and fell asleep. That night she had a dream. She saw herself climbing a hill, and in her heart was a desire to reach the top. A voice suddenly spoke to her from the top of the hill and beckoned her upward, urging her not to give up until she had reached the summit. Finally, after scaling the rugged hill, she found herself at the top, where, to her amazement, a feast of good things to eat was spread before her. She sat down and heartily enjoyed this gracious repast and then awakened to find it was a dream.

She was encouraged by what she had seen and was miraculously led that very morning to the radio. Moving the dial pointer, she providentially tuned in to the Voice of Prophecy program and heard, for the first time, the voice of the speaker. And what was her surprise to discover that the voice that she heard over the air was the same voice that she had heard in her dream the night before.

We can well imagine how pleased she was with this miracle that God had worked in her behalf. Young people, this is the hour for the Lord to work. This is the time for us to have greater faith. This is the time for us to cooperate with Christ in the greatest display of missionary zeal and power ever demonstrated by Adventist youth. We must, in faith, pray for a revival in our hearts and in the church, and also that God will work with us in the salvation of the lost.

One of our listeners, whose husband had not accepted the truth, prayed for two years for his conversion to Christ. Regularly every Tuesday morning, and other times as well, she would plead with God to bring about her husband's salvation. Without explanation, one Sabbath morning he came to her and said, “Dear, I am going to church with you this morning.” Imagine her surprise to hear him say that after he had showed such a different attitude to the claims of the truth upon his heart. But she rallied her wits and told him how happy she was, and they went off to church together. On the next Sabbath he repeated his declaration,

and went with his good wife to the Adventist church. Again the husband had a pleasant surprise for his wife. The pastor announced to the congregation that a baptism was to be held at the conclusion of the service, at which time this good woman's husband was prepared to be baptized and join the church. Oh, how glad she was, and how sure that there is a God in heaven who answers prayers. She has continued to pray and work for other relatives, and now five of her brothers and sisters have come to Christ and accepted the truth.

Young people, if we prayed like that, we would see results. Your society can double its membership in a short time if each member will start praying and working for someone else. The Voice of Prophecy will help you to reach your friends. We will mail radio logs to your home address if you will write to us and let us know that you are interested in distributing these announcements. We will enroll the names of your junior friends, or the names of young people your own age who are interested in the Bible course, if you will secure their enrollment and send their names and addresses to us at once. Let us help you help your friends to find Christ!

And now I will close with this true story of a young man in the State of Washington who is serving a two-year sentence in the State reformatory for grand larceny. Let the determination of his new life and experience be yours as you face the future:

"May I say," he relates enthusiastically in his letter to the Voice of Prophecy, "that your course is one of the most treasured things I have in my possession. I wouldn't trade it for a million dollars. I have always believed in the Bible, but it was so hard to understand that I never read it to any extent. Since enrolling in your course, however, this has all been changed. Now, as I read and study your wonderful course, the Scriptures just seem to explain themselves. . . . I am twenty years of age, and have been reasonably well educated. I have always believed in His Holy Word but never tried to live up to it or practice it in any way. When I got into trouble, which is my first time, and on a charge not too serious, I turned to God, and as the sinner in the Bible cried, so cried I: 'God be merciful to me, a sinner.' For the first time in my life I knew what real peace was. I had joy that excelled any joy I had ever known before. I know what it means to be washed clean in the blood of the Lamb. Praise His holy name! It

was a new life to me. It opened a road that I never knew existed. After finding what a wonderful thing it was, I had to tell others about this new birth. I have known from that moment what my lifework would be. I know that unless

I could go and preach this gospel of love and forgiveness to others, I could never keep this wonderful peace I had found. This is my call. This call I must obey." Missionary Volunteer, do you hear the call today?" D. A. DELAFIELD.



## JUNIOR MEETINGS

December 7

### Let's Be Missionaries

BY FLORENCE L. ROSCOE

#### Order of Service

OPENING EXERCISES: For song service, songs with a missionary spirit or challenge may be chosen: "I Love to Tell the Story," "Can He Count on You?" etc.

OPENING SONG: "In the Service of the King," No. 82 in *M.V. Songs*.

SUPERINTENDENT'S INTRODUCTION.

SYMPOSIUM: "A Missionary."

SONG: "Can the World See Jesus in You?" No. 34.

DIALOGUE: "A Visit Long to Be Remembered."

SONG: "Brighten the Corner Where You Are," No. 71.

DISCUSSION: Suggest other ways to be missionaries; let Juniors suggest ways.

SONG: "Missionary Volunteers," No. 83.

BENEDICTION.

#### Superintendent's Introduction

Let's be missionaries! It must be lots of fun. During the past few months, with so many missionaries in the homeland for the General Conference session and for their furloughs, most of us have heard from at least one of them some of the thrilling stories of life in a mission land, of their exploits in winning heathen to Jesus, and to all of us these experiences and the need in these countries of heathen darkness as told by these missionaries challenge us to go out and do and dare for our Captain. We are all more eager now than ever to be missionaries.

I hear someone say, "Yes, I want to be a missionary when I grow up, and go to some of those far-off lands to tell the people of Jesus' coming. But there is nothing I can do here. All the interesting lands are far away."

It is true that we are not living in what is called a "heathen" or foreign land, but there are heathen even in our land, and many people who need a missionary and his love and his God—even here and near our homes.

Today we shall talk about some of the things we can do to be missionaries now, while we are Juniors. Perhaps we shall learn of some new things we had not thought of before, and these will also help us when we need a Christian Help Certificate to become a Companion, or a Missionary Endeavor Certificate to become a Comrade.

#### A Missionary

(NOTE: This may be given by different Juniors, each telling one reason or way.)

##### What?

A MISSIONARY, according to my dictionary, is a person sent to convert people to religion, to spread the knowledge of religion. He is a person who tells others the good news about Jesus and His coming, and helps them to get ready for Him to come, to believe in Jesus and live so they can go with Him to heaven when He comes. But a missionary can tell others about Jesus by his acts as well as by his words; he can tell them by the way he helps in the home to lighten the work of mother and father, by being happy and cheerful all the time.

##### Why?

Paul said, "How shall they hear without a preacher?" Rom. 10:14. Someone *must* tell the people who do not know of Jesus, or they will never know. Let's all be preachers for Jesus.

##### When?

Paul also told us a long time ago, and it is even more true today, "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6:2. Those who do not know of Jesus *must* not wait until we are grown to be told. Some of them would never hear; some would die, so we *must* tell them *now*.

##### Where?

Jesus told the disciples just before His ascension, "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem [at home], and . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth [foreign lands]." Acts 1:8.

**How?**

There are many, many ways in which we can be missionaries right now, at home, and around our neighborhood. We can take the people papers and books that tell of Jesus; we can tell them ourselves. But someone says, "I think these things are not so easy to do, and I don't enjoy that kind of missionary work much."

Perhaps there are other ways that we have not tried.

**A Visit Long to Be Remembered**

JOAN: Mary, did you hear the announcement in church this morning about our Junior Missionary Volunteer meeting this afternoon? They said we are to meet at two-thirty; that is an hour earlier than we usually have our meeting. What do you suppose they want us to come so early for? Or could that have been a mistake? Are you and George and Robert going?

MARY: I know what it is, and you will want to be there right on time, too, for I heard someone say we are going to have Sunshine Band again this afternoon. This is my first Sunshine Band, so I don't want to miss it. George and Robert were both there; they can tell you what they did.

JOAN: Do tell me something about it, George.

GEORGE: Oh, then you didn't go with us when we went to the Children's Hospital? Well, you surely missed a nice time then. I am sure I will be on time today, for I really like Sunshine Band.

ROBERT: You see we started early that day, too, and when we gathered to start, there were so many of us that we had to pack into the cars that were there, but we didn't mind that, especially as we didn't have far to ride. I think there were about six cars, and there were one or two mothers, fathers, or Senior M.V.'s in each car, but there was still room for several Juniors and some of the children even younger than Juniors.

When we reached the hospital we were told we must be real quiet, and also we must be careful to stay where we were told, so we could come again, for the folk at the hospital wouldn't let children under sixteen go into most of the wards. I guess they were afraid we would get sick, and they had no spare beds for us.

GEORGE: The nurse in charge was very nice, and showed us the way to a ward where all the children were trying to recover from infantile paralysis, or polio-myelitis as they called it. Here only the Seniors of our group could go inside.

JOAN: Tell me, what could you do from there in the hall? I would think that would not be any fun at all to have to stay in the hall to do things for children you couldn't even see.

ROBERT: But that's where you are mistaken. Of course we would have liked to go inside, so we could see the children and talk with them, and also give them the books we had for them, but we wanted to come again, so we gladly stayed where we were asked to stay.

GEORGE: And it wasn't so hard to give a program from the hall, either. You see, most of our program was singing, and they could hear that from the hall.

JOAN: What did you sing? Those children surely would not care for a lot of hymns, would they?

GEORGE: Well, we have been learning a number of short choruses the last few weeks, and they are easy to sing, and they have a little lesson or message as well. Some of those we sang were: "Climb Up Sunshine Mountain," with Jimmy, Gail, and Roxie doing the motions for it; "Sing the Clouds Away," "My Home Is in Heaven," "A Little Talk With Jesus," and we also sang "Jesus Loves Me" in one ward.

SALLY: George forgot that we had an accordion, played by one of the Seniors in our group, to accompany us.

GEORGE: Yes, and she played some special numbers on it for the children, too. Then Delores and Jack played a duet on their violins, which the children liked.

JOAN: But you said something about books to give the children. What were they, and if you couldn't go into the ward, how were they given to them?

ROBERT: We gave those out after we finished our program, and Mr. Hansen offered a short prayer, thanking God that we could come and bring cheer to these children, and asking Him to be very near them and make them well, so they could go home soon. Then the Seniors who had been inside the ward gave out the books. Some time before this trip we had been told to save *Our Little Friends* and *Youth's Instructors* and make pretty covers for them. Well, quite a number of these small scrapbooks were brought to give to the children.

GEORGE: Don't forget the other books that some of our members brought—back Reading Course books, and other good books.

ROBERT: Yes, and those children surely seemed happy to get a book for their very own. I don't suppose all of them have many such things at home, and

when they do get a nice book they enjoy it. We also had some little books of choruses which we used, and some of these were given to the children after we finished our program.

SALLY: I want to tell about the next place we went. In this ward we could see only a few of the children, but they were pitiful cases. All of them had been badly burned, and they looked so sad. Some of them were all bandaged up, and some were burned so badly that they screamed when the nurse or doctor came near them. There was one very small girl who cried most of the time. I guess a real bad burn hurts a lot. There were some of the parents visiting in this ward, and when we sang and played for them, and had prayer for them, we saw tears in those parents' eyes. Perhaps they don't know how loving our Father in heaven is.

GEORGE: Let me tell about the last ward we visited. It was back downstairs and in another wing of the building, and was full of little colored children. Some of these were not quite so sick as the others we had seen, and several of them grouped around near the door to be near us. In this ward they let us go just inside the door. After we sang some of the choruses for them we asked them to sing with us, and you should have heard that grand choir with the children singing with us!

SALLY: That was the last ward we time to visit. We had given three groups of children a little bit of "sunshine" and a few *Little Friends* and books to cheer them and help them learn of Jesus.

GEORGE: Oh, we must tell you about one boy we were very much interested in. He was in that polio ward, and was in an iron lung. He had been in that lung for almost a year, but he was so cheerful and happy that we all liked him. His name was Joe. None of us will soon forget that name, or the boy with the happy face.

ROBERT: Really, I don't think we will forget that visit soon. As we went to the cars to come home we all felt sad to see so many boys and girls suffering, but glad that we could bring some sunshine to them. It made us feel pretty thankful that we are healthy and well. I think the program did us as much good as it did those sick children, for sometimes we do not appreciate how many blessings we have with our nice homes, good food, good health, and a loving Jesus to help us do right. That is why we enjoy Sunshine Band.

JOAN: Thanks for telling me about it. I surely will be early this afternoon, so

I can help give out a little sunshine, and get a blessing for myself as well.

### Discussion

TO THE LEADER:

Let the Juniors suggest ways they would like to try to do missionary work. Some children have had lots of fun helping get things to send to some of the families who had lost so much in the war, purchasing things with their spending money, etc. Christmas baskets need not all be packed by adults and filled with things supplied by adults. Juniors enjoy wrapping gifts for these, giving of their toys, fruit, and other good things, that others may enjoy them. Only a suggestion that someone is in need or has nothing of the kind will bring a fund of toys and other articles that can go into boxes or baskets for needy families. (I know, from having seen the eagerness with which some Juniors take part in this type of activity.) There are also those who may be sick or shut in near by, who need a little cheer. Some in your own church may not be able to get out to church. Give them a Sunshine Band visit by the Juniors. A Christmas program for poor children living near you will give many joy. Surely, any live group of Juniors with a little guidance can do many things to help others, and at the same time be impressing someone by these acts that Jesus still lives in the hearts of His people, young as well as older.

#### CHORUSES USED

My home is in heaven,  
Just waiting for me,  
And when I get there,  
Oh, how happy I'll be.  
My home is in heaven—  
The rent is free,  
For Jesus paid it  
On Calvary.

I'm traveling daily  
On the upward way,  
Friend, come and join me;  
Do not delay.  
I'm traveling onward;  
Oh, say you'll come;  
Our Saviour's waiting  
To welcome us home.

Others may be found in *Rodeheaver's Short Choruses*.

❖ ❖

December 14

## Where Are We?

BY WALTER A. HOWE

### Order of Service

SONG: "I Walk With the King," No. 35  
in *M.V. Songs*.

PRAYER.

OFFERTORY.

REPORT OF SOCIETY ACTIVITIES.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

SONG: "I Would Be True," No. 58.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS ON MAPS.

SYMPOSIUM, by four Juniors: "Where Are We?"

REMARKS ON RESOLUTIONS.

SONG: "In the Service of the King,"  
No. 82.

BENEDICTION.

## Superintendent's Remarks on Maps

(Hold up an unfolded road map, including your community.)

WHAT is this large sheet of paper I hold in my hand? That's right; it is a road map. (Here there will be a variety of answers. Get the Juniors to indicate it is a road map because it shows the roads and where they go.) Can you show me the city (town or village) where we are? All right, Marjorie, you come up and point it out. Fine, I am glad you are able to tell us where we are.

Now, there are many other types of maps; can you name some of them? Let's write them on the board. (*Navigation, Contour, Geographical, Political.*) Probably you never thought of a clock as a map, but it does tell you just how far along the day is, and then there is the calendar. [*The superintendent should have both a clock and a large calendar to hold up while talking about them.*] Now, then, what does the calendar tell us about? Surely, that's right, it tells us the dates, and by looking at a certain date we can tell just where we are in the year.

If you would like to think of it this way, the calendar is a map of one year—beginning January 1 and taking us over a journey lasting until December 31. Then we start another journey.

I'd like for someone of this wide-awake group to tell me just where we were on this year-long trip on this date [*point to July 1—someone will say "half-way."*] Now, let's see where we are tonight. What is the date? December 14—all right, here it is. Now where are we? Eleven twelfths of the way through! That's close; we are certainly on the home stretch, aren't we? I've asked four Juniors to tell us some of the things we should have seen during the trip, January 1 to December 31.

## Where Are We?

### 1. Devotional Features:

THROUGHOUT the year each of us should have been forming the habit of meeting God every morning, studying His Word, and talking with Him. We form habits by repeating a thing again and again. So day by day, regardless of where we are, we should keep the Morning Watch. It is the first point of the Junior Law we have pledged to keep in each of the progressive classes. We do not need the whole family to help in this, nor do we have to be in a certain place. Just meet God in the morning, so we can have Him with us throughout the day.

Then every one of us should be reading our Bibles through. If we read three chapters every weekday and five chapters on Sabbath, we will finish the Good Book in one year. Or if we read one chapter every weekday and two chapters on Sabbath, we can complete the Junior Bible Year. God's letter to men and women surely is worth our reading. It doesn't take long, but it strengthens our tie with Him when we daily read a portion of His letter.

Traveling the year trip, we may have part in the prayer bands, if we just will—in those little groups that meet regularly for private prayer. They give a chance to pray with others and unitedly ask God's help for special things. They help us over the rough spots and give us strength for victory over temptation.

Just as any traveler needs to stop and be refreshed, so it is with God's children on this journey, and what a refreshment it is when Week of Prayer comes and we reconsecrate ourselves anew to God. These seasons of prayer mean everything to God's children; He whispers again His love to us, and we start again with fresh vigor and strength, determined to live for Him.

### 2. Educational Features

From our General Conference Missionary Volunteer leaders we get each year a Junior Missionary Volunteer Reading Course. If you have never chosen to read this course of books, I think you ought to try it. They are good books, as well as very interesting. Reading these books helps us to choose other good books on similar subjects. The year's journey would be incomplete without some provision for growing mentally while we are growing physically.

All of you are acquainted with the progressive classes and the interesting times to be had enjoying each new achievement. This is just another side trip available during the year's journey.

Does it not swell your heart with pride and a sense of having accomplished something worth while when we have completed some line of endeavor and the time comes when we are presented Certificates of Honor? The Lord does not overlook these tasks of faithfulness, but rewards His children abundantly.

Everybody enjoys a hobby of some kind or other. Why not organize a hobby club in some new line next year? We have had such good times in our hobby clubs and nature clubs this year, and we will want to continue some of them and form others in interesting subjects.

### 3. Service Features

Just to have society meetings alone would not be enough. If we follow Jesus we will try to do the things He did. He did helpful things for those about Him. The Sunshine Band is an interesting side trip on this journey for a year. It gives everyone who takes part that warm feeling deep down inside. Being real and sincere in our beliefs will lead some to take part in the Literature and Correspondence Bank work. We can find our way into service for God in these seemingly simple pieces of Christian help work. We must never forget that service for God, no matter how small, is important in His sight.

To work in an Ingathering Singing Band is another way to show our love to the Master. We don't all have the most wonderful voices for singing, but when we all unite our voices together in this bit of endeavor for the Lord, doing our best, then the Lord will bless the results and we will find ourselves really enjoying them and looking forward to them. Many souls have been won to the Lord as a result of the Singing Bands.

### 4. Social Features

Throughout the journey of the year there is always a chance to enjoy social activities. The hikes, parties, picnics, and excursions provide a wonderful chance to have fun and enjoy other Juniors. Not the least of these good times is the Junior Summer Training Camp. To learn to have a good time socially and do all to the glory of God is vital to a well-planned year.

### Superintendent's Remarks on Resolutions

I'd like to remind you about this map (the calendar). We are just about to reach the end of this journey. A new one is about to begin. I know that as you listened to this symposium you felt we were down here at the end of the year and had accomplished a great many things, but we hadn't taken part in nearly as much as the trip had to offer. While others enjoyed these various activities, some of us missed them. Now that a new year is about to begin, we should make resolutions today that we will make our new trip much more interesting and thrilling than this year's trip was.

Juniors, what will you do next year?

(The superintendent might pass out slips with the society activities listed which are planned for the coming year, asking the Juniors to check their plans in each division of activity.)

### SLIP TO BE HANDED OUT AT CLOSE OF MEETING

I would like to have a part in the following features during 1947:

1. *Devotional Features:*  
Morning Watch  
Bible Year  
Prayer Bands  
Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer
2. *Educational Features:*  
Junior Missionary Volunteer Reading Course  
Missionary Volunteer Honor Activities  
Hobby Clubs  
Nature Clubs
3. *Service Features:*  
Christian Help Band  
Sunshine Band  
Literature Band  
Ingathering Singing Bands  
Junior Crusaders' Corps  
Temperance Band
4. *Fellowship Features:*  
Social Education  
Society Social Gatherings  
Recreational Hikes and Excursions

SIGNED .....  
Junior Missionary Volunteer Member

### Note to Superintendents

If any part of the above features which were begun during the present year by any members have not been completed to date, do not fail to use the persuasion or to give the impetus necessary to spur the Juniors on to finish the work begun. Juniors really rejoice in projects completed and work well done.

SYMPOSIUM: "Where Are We?"—Ask each Junior to mention some specific project which was carried on during the year, or some experiences in connection with the features he is mentioning. As they relive in memory these glorious times together, they will delight to join in these and other activities during the coming year.



December 21

### The Baby of Bethlehem

BY RUTH CONARD

#### Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "O Little Town of Bethlehem," No. 91 in *M.V. Songs*.

PRAYER: By several of the children.

POEM: "The Christmas Story."

SEVERAL CAROLS might be sung here. Or a carol given as special music.

TALK: "Star of Hope."

MUSICAL READING: "Noel, Noel."

PROPHECY AND FULFILLMENT DRILL:  
"How the Prophets' Words Came True."

POEM: "The First Christmas."

TALK: "The Hope That Lights Our Pathway."

CLOSING SONG: "Silent Night! Holy Night!" No. 93.

BENEDICTION.

### The Christmas Story

I WILL tell you a beautiful story,  
One that is ever new—  
Of our Saviour's birth in Bethlehem;  
We all love the story, too.

The town with pilgrims was crowded  
When Joseph and Mary appear.  
The innkeeper cruelly told them,  
"There is no room for you here."

Near by was a shelter for cattle—  
A place quite dismal and old—  
And there in a manger so humble,  
The Christ Child lay, we are told.

Then arose that night in heaven,  
A star so bright and clear,  
It guided the steps of the wise men  
With their gifts both precious and dear.

There they knelt at the feet of Mary,  
Humble and true and still,  
To offer their tribute to Jesus,  
Who bringeth us peace and good will.

May that star send its glad tidings  
To all in this schoolroom here,  
With the message the Christ Child has  
given—

Peace to all, love, and good cheer.  
Author unknown, used by permission of  
*The Grade Teacher* magazine.

### Star of Hope

LONG years before the baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem, prophets told many things about Him—where He was to be born, who His mother would be, and many events which would happen at the time of His birth. The things these prophets told were like a star of hope, up in the sky, which would lead the people who believed these prophecies to recognize Jesus when He was born on this earth, just as a star made up of angels led the wise men from their faraway homes, over deserts and mountains and plains, to Bethlehem to see baby Jesus.

### Noel, Noel

(Recited to soft music, "The First Noel.")

LONG years ago, in midnight dark,  
A star shone down on Israel,  
Upon a stable, lowly, stark,  
While angels sang, Noel, Noel.

In barren fields there watched, that night,  
The lonely shepherds, sentinel;  
Then, through the skies, they saw great  
light,  
While angels sang, Noel, Noel.

Beneath the thatch, in manger lay  
The holy Child of Israel,  
He slept, all cradled in the hay,  
While angels sang, Noel, Noel.

So shines the star, still undefiled  
By mortal woes, o'er Israel,  
Where Jesus sleeps, the lovely Child,  
While angels sing, Noel, Noel.

—MARGARET MAXFIELD, used by permission of *The Grade Teacher* magazine.

### The First Christmas

In the gleaming starlight  
Of the long ago,  
Once the little Christ Child  
Came to earth below.  
By the manger eradle  
Where the Baby slept  
There His gentle mother  
Loving vigil kept.

Through the gleaming starlight,  
Hushing grief and wrong,  
"Glory in the highest!"  
Sang an angel throng.  
Shepherds heard the music  
Of the heavenly song;  
"Peace on earth!" it echoed  
In a chorus strong.

Through the gleaming starlight  
Shone a brighter star,  
Giving light to wise men  
Coming from afar;  
Following its guidance  
In that long ago,  
There they found the Christ Child  
In the manger low.

Author unknown, used by permission of  
*The Grade Teacher* magazine.

## How the Prophets' Words Came True

THE leader, or some adult, should take charge of this part of the program. He can give out to different members in the audience the texts listed below, which contain prophecies regarding the first advent of Christ, and their fulfillment. It might be well the previous Sabbath to ask everyone to bring his Bible; then there will be enough Bibles for this exercise. The leader, or the one conducting this drill, should say a few words of explanation regarding each prophecy and fulfillment, such as are given in the Senior Missionary Volunteer program corresponding to this, so that the children will be sure to understand each scripture.

	<i>Prophecy</i>	<i>Fulfillment</i>
Virgin birth	Isa. 7:14	Luke 1:26-31
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Luke 2:1-7
Song of angels to shepherds	Isa. 9:6	Luke 2:9-16
Wise men	Num. 24:17	Matt. 2:1-11
Gifts of the wise men	Isa. 60:6	Matt. 2:11
Killing of Bethlehem babies	Jer. 31:15	Matt. 2:16-18
Called out of Egypt	Hosea 11:1	Matt. 2:19-21

## The Hope That Lights Our Pathway

EVEN as prophecy, the star of hope pointed to the first coming of Christ, so that same bright star is shining above us. It illumines a like great event, to come in the very near future—the second coming of Christ.

(Mention a few of the prophecies, showing how they have been fulfilled, or are fast fulfilling.)

Just as surely as were fulfilled, to the last detail, the prophecies pointing to the first advent of Christ, so surely will be fulfilled all those predicting His second coming.

We must be sure that we keep our eyes fixed on this star of hope; that its beams can keep in view this last great event of the world's history, and we can be ready for it when it comes.

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December 28

## The Voice of Prophecy

BY D. A. DELAFIELD

### Order of Service

SONG: "We Are Nearing Home!" No. 97, in *M.V. Songs*.

PRAYER.

DEVOTIONAL FEATURES.

OFFERTORY.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PLANS.

SONG: "We Shall See the King Some Day," No. 96.

INTRODUCTION, By the Superintendent.

SYMPOSIUM: "Personal Messages From the Voice of Prophecy."

CLOSING TALK: "Missionary Appeal."

SONG: "Soldiers of the Cross," No. 70.

BENEDICTION.

### Note to Superintendents

The Voice of Prophecy radio logs will be mailed to the M.V. leader in each church in North America in time to arrive and be distributed at this meeting. The following introduction to the service may be used by the leader.

### Introduction

Today, Juniors, the subject of our meeting is "The Voice of Prophecy." How many of you have heard the program on the air? Let me see your hands. How many of you have ever enrolled in the Junior Bible Correspondence Course? Yes, there are many. Did you know that the Voice of Prophecy, our denominational radio broadcast, can be heard over more than five hundred radio stations, and that free Bible lessons are printed in eight different languages? Isn't that wonderful! Wouldn't you like to have the Voice of Prophecy radio group appear in our church and conduct a Sabbath service? I hope that this will be possible sometime in the future.

The radio group is not here in person to help us in this service, but what do you think, Juniors! We are going to bring personal messages to you from Elder Richards; Father Richards, the minister who offers prayer; Elder Delafield, the announcer; Al Avilla, the organist; and the King's Heralds, radio quartet. Yes, personal messages addressed direct to us. I am going to call on different members of our society to bring to you a little life sketch and personal greeting from each Voice of Prophecy worker. First of all, — will bring us the message from Elder Richards, the speaker:

### Personal Messages From the Voice of Prophecy

#### H. M. S. Richards:

I am H. M. S. Richards, the speaker of the Voice of Prophecy. Some people smile when they hear my name. My initials stand for Harold Marshall Sylvester, but most people think of the words "His Majesty's Ship." Will you permit me to suggest for those initials these words, "His Majesty's Servant"? Yes, I want to be God's servant, and when I speak on the radio I want to speak for Him.

If you were to ask me where I was born, I would reply, "Davis City, Iowa." And would you like to know the date? Well, I won't tell you exactly, but it was in the late summer of 1894.

My father's name is Halbert M. J. Richards. He will speak for himself later in the program. I can say this much, however, he is very much alive and still working almost full time, even though he is over seventy years of age.

You will excuse me for speaking a good word for my Alma Mater, Washington Missionary College, at our nation's capital. The ministerial training I received there prepared me for the ministry, and soon after my graduation I began preaching in Ottawa, Canada. In 1929 I came to California, and very soon after my arrival I began preaching over radio station KNX, Los Angeles. You may be sure that I believe in gospel radio preaching with all my heart, as scores of other Adventist preachers do. We are doing our very best to preach Christ to the millions, and we want to ask our Juniors to please pray for the success of the Voice of Prophecy radio program.

#### H. M. J. Richards:

I am Halbert Marshall Jenkin Richards, the father of the program speaker. Like my son, I, too, am a Seventh-day Adventist minister. Perhaps you have wondered who it is that offers prayer over the program every Sunday. Well, I must confess that it is I. Will you listen for the prayer next Sunday when you tune in to the Voice of Prophecy program? You will hear it early in the broadcast, just after the first song by the King's Heralds and just before our favorite, "Near to the Heart of God." Please bow your heads with me, Juniors, when I pray, and join with me in seeking the Lord for His blessing on the broadcast. Also let us pray that freedom may continue in liberty-loving countries, that the gospel of Jesus Christ may be carried to the ends of the earth. The next time I offer prayer over the radio, you may be sure that I will not forget to ask God to bless my Junior friends.

#### D. A. Delafield:

I am D. A. Delafield, the announcer, Bible school director, and publicity manager. You can see from this that I have enough to do to keep me out of mischief. There are two things about my work that I like very much—announcing over the radio, and writing the Junior sermons for our magazine called *The Voice of Prophecy News*. Do you read these two-minute sermons? I would like very

much to have each of you write me a letter, Juniors, and tell me all about yourself, and if I can help you with your problems I will write to you immediately and do all I can to help you.

I must not say any more, because Brother Richards would like each member of the King's Heralds quartet to speak to you, but just this final word: If you are not already enrolled in the Voice of Prophecy Junior Bible Correspondence Course, please, by all means, send your name and address to The Voice of Prophecy, Box 55, Los Angeles, California, and we will mail Lessons 1 and 2 to your home at once.

Here now is the first tenor. He will speak to you.

#### Ben Glanzer:

My name is Ben Glanzer. Brother Delafield has already told you that I am the first tenor in the radio quartet. Perhaps you may be acquainted with my predecessor, George Casebeer. He had a lovely high tenor voice. When George was called elsewhere, I gave up my work in Canada and moved to the Voice of Prophecy headquarters in Los Angeles. I want to say that I consider my work with the King's Heralds the most valuable experience I have ever had. Just think, Juniors, our gospel songs can be heard by five million people every week. That wouldn't be possible if it were not for the miracle of radio broadcasting. It is my prayer that our songs will help to win many precious souls for Jesus.

And now you must meet our second tenor. Here he is to speak to you.

#### Robert Seamont:

My name is Robert Seamont. I can truthfully say that I enjoy quartet work very much. While attending high school in Idaho and while going to college in California, it was my privilege to sing in various quartets. It was in August, 1941, that I accepted a call to the Voice of Prophecy to join the King's Heralds, and what a thrilling work it is. One of the most interesting things we do is to sing in Spanish and in Portuguese. How would you like to be able to sing in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, and have your voice carried over more than five hundred radio stations? If any of my Junior friends are able to sing, they should decide now to give their voices to Jesus so that He can use them in His service. Who knows, perhaps one of you may take my place on the air someday.

You must meet my friend, Wayne Hooper, our baritone.

#### Wayne Hooper:

I won't have to tell you my name, will I? Brother Seamont has already told you. Yes, I sing the first bass, or baritone. I can honestly say that in spite of the fact that I have conducted music in a number of evangelistic efforts, and taught music in one of our academies, my work for the King's Heralds is the most enjoyable experience I have ever had. Someday we may call and conduct a service in your church. Would you like that? If we come I promise that the quartet will sing for you—not one song, but three or four.

Now I must say good-by, but first introduce the pioneer member of our quartet, Raymond Turner.

#### Raymond Turner:

I am Raymond Turner. It has always been an inspiration for me to sing with the King's Heralds—and especially to work with Brother Richards, with whom I have been associated in radio work for over ten years. I love to sing the good old gospel songs, and my answer to people who ask me about my deep voice is this: "Before my voice changed I sang alto an octave high, then without any notice the bottom dropped out, and that is what you hear today."

Well, all the members of the King's Heralds have spoken, but we must not forget to include a place in our symposium for our organist, Al Avilla.

#### Al Avilla:

How do you do, Juniors? As Brother Turner has said, I am the organist for the Voice of Prophecy, and you will be interested to know that when we go on the air Sunday morning, on the Mutual System, we use a Hammond organ, but when we prepare transcriptions for other stations, we use a pipe organ. Some people cannot tell the difference between the two organs when they are played over the air; perhaps you can. In any event, I think the organ adds something to the broadcast, and I count it a privilege to play on the program.

I am a music teacher by profession, and I keep busy at this when I am not helping the Voice of Prophecy, and you may be sure that I am interested in Juniors, because my son is a Junior, and we have a wonderful time together. Sometimes he comes to the broadcast with me, and I am sure that he would like to meet you some Sunday morning when we go on the air. The address of the studio is 5515 Melrose Avenue, Hollywood, California. I must say good-by now, and God bless you all.

#### Missionary Appeal

Do you like to listen to the radio? I am sure you all do. I have my favorite programs. I listen as regularly as possible to these. I like music, good preaching, newscasts, and the news analysis of my favorite commentators. Of course there are many things on the air to which I do not listen. You feel the same way about it, I am sure. These programs to which I refer were never intended for the ears of Christian youth. Satan has invented many of these jazzy, spooky, wild, and crazy productions of worldly, pleasure-loving minds to captivate the senses, and steal the affections of Junior boys and girls away from Christ and the pure teachings of the Bible.

Modern radio broadcasting is a race between good and bad programs, and there are far more bad ones than good ones. I think the Voice of Prophecy is a good program, don't you? Thousands of people would say the same thing if they only knew about the broadcast.

The broadcasting group, whose personal messages have been brought to you today by different members of your Junior Society, would be very happy if our Junior friends in your society would each decide to tell just one Junior friend about the program. Tell them about the good sermon they will hear and the fine singing by the King's Heralds. Then describe to them, in a few words, the free Junior Bible course of twenty-four lessons. Tell them that the Voice of Prophecy offers these lessons to them absolutely free. Secure their names and addresses, and mail this information to us immediately. For your encouragement we can tell you that nearly four thousand Junior boys and girls have been baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church as the result of studying our Junior Bible Correspondence Course. You are welcome to enroll yourself, if you have not already done so, but we especially want to ask you to invite a non-Adventist Junior friend or neighbor to tune in to the Voice of Prophecy; and then you make a prayerful, earnest effort to enroll him in the Junior Bible Course.

How many of you will try to get at least one enrollment? Let me see your hands. That is fine. When you come to Junior M.V. Society meeting next week, bring these names and addresses with you, and we will count them. It will be interesting to see how many our society can enroll. What do you think? Fifty? One hundred? Two hundred? Let us do our best, and God will save many precious souls through us.



# ★ Home Missionary Department ★

## THE CHURCH AND HER UNFINISHED TASK

### Suggestive Program for Sabbath, December 7

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

SCRIPTURE READING: John 4:34; 17:4; 17:18; John 17:1-26 (Christ's prayer for those who finish His work).

PRAYER—Response on the part of the church today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING for church missionary work.

SONG: "Lead On, O King Eternal," No. 362.

READING: "God's Work Will Be Finished," by T. L. Oswald.

READING: "Speak, Lord, for Thy Servant Heareth," by W. A. Butler.

RECITATION (or reading): "The Work Demands Haste."

READING: "The Place of Literature in Finishing the Work," by J. E. Edwards.

CLOSING SONG: (A pledge of consecration) "Lord, Her Watch Thy Church Is Keeping," No. 437.

BENEDICTION.

#### Note to Leaders

In preparation for this service each leader should give careful thought to the inquiry, *Is my church measuring up to the responsibility of finishing the work of God in the community?* The church has been organized for missionary service, and our heavenly Father expects wholehearted response. Read the description of the church found on page 394 of Testimonies, volume 5. When the members of the early church "went everywhere preaching the word," a great and mighty work was accomplished. What is expected of us in our day? Far more than in any other period! The current events of the day speak in thunder tones of the close of earth's history. It is the time of all times for making eternal interests paramount to all else. The angelic host is ready and waiting to cooperate with human agencies in speeding on the work of the gospel to a glorious finish. May you find joy and satisfaction in looking back over the record of the year, and may God impart courage  
(Continued on page 26)

### God's Work Will Be Finished

BY T. L. OSWALD

THE commission given to the church of Christ involves a great task, for it reads, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15); and the assurance of its completion is found in the words, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and *then shall the end come*" (Matt. 24:14). While the task may seem stupendous, and much remains to be done, we know that God will work through human instruments, emptied of self, and filled with the Holy Spirit, and that "*He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness; because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.*" Rom. 9:28.

The finishing of God's work is a problem beyond human comprehension. But let it ever be borne in mind that it is God's work and not our work. The solution of the problem is simply to make sure that individual responsibility is fully met. If we do our part for the finishing of God's

### The Work Demands Haste

THE days are passing quickly, scarcely here ere they are gone and consummate the year. "This generation" soon must pass. Our Lord must soon return, the prophecies record; But still on every side much work we see As yet undone. We must more active be. No time for Christ's co-workers now to waste.

The work demands all energy and haste. From out the east and west, from north and south, There comes a pleading cry from heathen mouth, "Come over now and help us, lest we die," As if it were their last despairing cry. We also hear the rumbling of war, Which comes to us from countries near and far. Inhabitants are trembling now, and fear Those things which all about they see and hear.

Another sound, a cheering one, is heard From e'en the darkest lands, where'er God's Word Is preached, as grateful hearts their voices raise, When freed from sin, in prayer and praise. The workers are but few, the harvest great, Time's nearly gone, the hour is very late. Hard problems and great trials must be faced. God's work demands all energy and haste.  
—A. H. DOWNS.

work, wherever we are, whatever that part may be we may be sure that the gospel commission will reach completion in God's own time, and that what appears to be an unending task will be "cut short" in righteousness; which means the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in abundant measure upon the members of the church as they stand as living witnesses for eternal truth. "Wonderful is the work which the Lord designs to accomplish through His church, that His name may be glorified. . . . The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world."—*Christian Service*, pp. 14, 15.

Before Jesus comes, the gospel work will be finished, and it is to the remnant church that Christ looks for the accomplishment of His purpose. The end is very near. As Jesus looked down the stream of time and saw the completion of the harvest of souls, He said to His disciples of two thousand years ago, "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." How much more applicable are these words of our Lord and Master today.

We have no time to lose. There is great danger in putting off the work we are called to do today and planning to do it tomorrow. Procrastination is fatal. The Spirit of prophecy records repeated warning. We read, "That soul whom you might have found, that soul to whom you might have opened the Scriptures, passes beyond your reach. Satan has prepared some net for his feet, and tomorrow he may be working out the plans of the archenemy of God. Why delay one day? Why not go to work at once?"—*Ibid.*, p. 79.

### Each in His Lot and Place

"To everyone work has been allotted, and no one can be a substitute for another. Each one has a mission of wonderful importance, which he cannot neglect or ignore, as the fulfillment of it involves the weal of some soul, and the neg-

lect of it the woe of one for whom Christ died."—*Ibid.*, p. 10.

"Every soul that believes the truth is to stand in his lot and place, saying, 'Here am I; send me.'"—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 49.

There are many avenues through which God would have us help in the finishing of the work. It is well to go over the list often, to make sure that we are standing in our lot and place.

1. *Teaching.* When Jesus was here among men He bade His disciples "go" and "teach." There is need of stressing these two fundamental principles of Christian service. To the disciples, *teach* meant the living expression of heavenly principles in the daily affairs of earthly life, and the verbal expression of the gospel message, uttered under any and all circumstances. The simplicity of the Saviour's plan of teaching is the model for Christian workers at all times. The same power which accompanied His teaching and caused men to exclaim, "Never man spake like this Man," is to attend the Christian teacher to the end of time, for the Saviour said, "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations. . . . And, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

2. *Radio.* This modern invention takes a prominent place in the program for finishing God's work. There are literally thousands of people who would not hear the warning message except by this means, and many are rejoicing in the truth of God today because the message was brought to them over the air. While we cannot all stand behind the microphone, each bears responsibility for calling the attention of the public to the message broadcasts, securing names of interested people for the Bible Correspondence Course and personal calls in the homes.

3. *Bible Readings in Homes.* The giving of Bible readings by our church members is "a heaven-born idea." That this is a distinct line of work in which the church members are to engage is clearly indicated in the following instruction:

"Many workers are to act their part, doing house-to-house work, and giving Bible readings in families. They are to show their growth in grace by submission to the will of Christ. Thus they will gain a rich experience. As in faith they receive, believe, and obey Christ's Word, the efficiency of the Holy Spirit will be seen in their lifework. There will be seen an intensity of earnest effort. There will be cherished a faith that works by

love and purifies the soul. The fruits of the Spirit will be seen in the life."—*Ibid.*, vol. 9, p. 141.

No more positive assurance of results concerning any phase of Christian service is given than that which refers to giving Bible readings. Note this statement: "God will not permit this precious work for Him to go unrewarded. He will crown with success every humble effort made in His name."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 192.

We have mentioned only three of the avenues whereby church members may help to finish God's work. May we ask each person in the congregation today to give his own answer, to himself and to God, in reply to the question, Am I, as a soldier of the cross, commissioned to press the battle until victory is won, standing in my lot and place, alert and ready for duty at a moment's notice?

"The members of the church are not all called to labor in foreign lands, but all have a part to act in the great work of giving light to the world. The gospel of Christ is aggressive and diffusive. In the day of God not one will be excused for having been shut up to his own selfish interests. There is work for every mind and for every hand. There is a variety of work, adapted to different minds and varied capabilities."—*Christian Service*, p. 12.

It should be the constant prayer of every member of the church, "Help me, Lord, from this time forward, to find and occupy my place."

### Call to Service

O CHURCH of God, arouse, awaken!  
Hear, hear the Macedonian cry!  
A thousand million souls are taken  
Captive by sin. Hear ye their sigh  
From lands where hopeless heathen die?  
Shall ease and gold and earthly pleasure  
Withhold thy hand until too late?  
Then shalt thou share their woeful fate  
And perish with thine earthly treasure.

Awake, arise, O church!  
The message give in power!  
Speed on! Speed on! Thy work is done  
When closes mercy's hour.

O church of God, shall sloth enslave thee  
While doom hangs o'er a dying race?  
Commands thy Master, "Go ye! Go ye!  
Fill in earth's harvest field thy place;  
Proclaim with power My saving grace."  
Shall nations perish for thy reaping?  
Nippon, Csthay, dark India's land,  
And Afric's need make stern demand,  
These precious priceless souls are in thy keeping.

O church of God, the day is dawning  
When sin's dark night will close for aye;  
The King of kings in glory coming  
Will bring His saints their crowning day,  
And death and tears shall pass away.  
Then rise, O church, in all His power,  
The message give in every land—  
"The coming King is near at hand!"  
This is thy work—and this thy hour!

—I. H. EVANS.

### "Speak, Lord; for Thy Servant Heareth"

BY W. A. BUTLER

SAMUEL was a mere lad when Eli the priest directed him how to answer God's call. As this lad grew older, he also grew in knowledge and wisdom with God and man, and it was early revealed that he was to be a prophet. Samuel constantly endeavored to become what God would have him be. The message God gave him concerning Eli and his family was not a pleasing one, but a terrible warning. When questioned by Eli, he did not flinch in relating faithfully what the Lord had revealed to him. When in later years, Saul, the king of Israel, who was deserving of a rebuke, stood before the prophet, Samuel uttered these words, which summed up the purpose and practice of his own life, "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

The life and service of Samuel were a great blessing to Israel. He anointed two kings, the last one being the progenitor of Christ. He also established the school of the prophets, and brought about a reform among the people.

Today God is listening to the prayers of His children. He knows every honest heart. "Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth," is a most pleasing prayer to God. Then follows the next step, taken by Isaiah, another youth who feared God, and who, in answer to the call of the Lord, said, "Send me."

Men and women in our ranks everywhere, yes, and youth, too, are being stirred by God's personal appeal, "Go work to day in My vineyard," and they are answering the call. They are not seeking their own ease or pleasure, but are giving this unpopular truth with a certain ring that is warning and winning souls.

R. H. Pierson, a former missionary to India, gives an interesting experience of a man who accepted the third angel's message and was very desirous that his brother join him in the new-found faith, but the brother ridiculed and opposed. Finally the non-Adventist brother decided he would study up a bit and "straighten out" the erring member of the family and bring him back to the fold of the family church.

"The man's eyes fell upon a volume entitled *Bible Readings for the Home Circle*, that appealed to him as a likely work to give him the necessary information; so he began to study it. He soon found that it savored very definitely of Adventism, but he quieted his fears by as-

sure himself that there were no scholars among Adventists who could produce such a masterpiece on Bible teaching. 'And, anyway, if they did write a book they wouldn't have money enough to publish it.'

"But, much to his chagrin, he found that not only had the Adventists written that particular book, but also they had been responsible for publishing all the other religious volumes that happened to be on his shelves and to which he referred for help. Arriving at the conclusion that Adventists must have written all the religious books, he decided upon the wise course of referring to his Bible and reading that to find the evidence he desired. He wasn't long in finding there the teaching of the seventh-day Sabbath, our Lord's second coming, and many other familiar Adventist doctrines which he had believed to be but the peculiar ideas of deluded religious fanatics. He then arrived at the conclusion that the Bible also had been written by Seventh-day Adventists, and honesthearted man that he was, he joined his brother in the new-found light.

Paul, in answer to the voice from heaven, said, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me do?" While few Christians have such remarkable evidence of being called to a specific work, nevertheless our God is just as certainly and positively calling laborers to enter His vineyard today. The lateness and need of the hour and the greatness of the task should speak emphatically to every Seventh-day Adventist.

Do you have the gift of speech? Do you know the saving power of this truth? Then the call comes to you. Speak for God in public; appeal to men to turn to God. We can no longer conscientiously live a secluded life. Every soul must have a chance to know the truth.

Our heavenly Father is not pleased with poor, inefficient service, for the admonition is "Study to shew thyself approved unto God." "Our profession of faith may proclaim the theory of religion, but it is our practical piety that holds forth the word of truth. The consistent life, the holy conversation, the unswerving integrity, the active, benevolent spirit, the godly example,—these are the mediums through which light is conveyed to the world."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 307.

Again, we are told not to wait for miracles. "God does not generally work miracles to advance His truth. If the husbandman neglects to cultivate the soil, God works miracles to counteract the

sure results. He works according to great principles made known to us, and it is our part to mature wise plans, and set in operation the means whereby God shall bring about certain results. Those who make no decided effort, but simply wait for the Holy Spirit to compel them to action, will perish in darkness. You are not to sit still and do nothing in the work of God."—*Christian Service*, p. 228.

God has a plan for all mankind, and in this hour He is calling for men to speak the message clearly and convincingly on the highways of our cities, or to groups in public halls or private homes. An army of lay workers are giving Bible studies and are seeing encouraging results. Ours is a grand and precious truth, and demands the best we can put into it. Our heavenly Father does not require great talent. He desires only that we concentrate and cultivate the talent He has already bestowed upon us. "Men of action are needed,—men who will labor with earnest, ceaseless energy for the purifying of the church and the warning of the world."—*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 187.

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### The Place of Literature in Finishing the Work

BY J. ERNEST EDWARDS

WE speak of the "unfinished" task which must be accomplished by the church before probation closes. Would it not be well to remove the *un* and keep our eyes on the finished task; for the work will be finished in a shorter time than human minds can comprehend, and every faithful believer, who is doing his part day by day with the end in view, will share in the rewards bestowed when the Master speaks the "well done, . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

The heralding of the soon-coming Saviour, which is to be proclaimed to every kindred, tongue, and people, is the work to be accomplished, and there can be no question that the task is gigantic and appalling; but with a mighty heavenly

Leader, to whom nothing is impossible, and with an army of willing helpers, there is every reason to take courage for a forward advance.

Cities with their millions are still unwarned. Areas as large as the United States are still waiting for the truth. But again we refer to the assurance that the work of God will not close "with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 611), and that "the truth is soon to triumph gloriously, and all who now choose to be laborers together with God, will triumph with it."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 135.

Our churches will do extraordinary things for God in the final movements of time, and largely through a great literature crusade. The promise of Isaiah 55: 10, 11 will be fully realized in connection with the finishing of God's work. Year by year our systematic endeavors in distributing truth-filled literature have borne fruit, and as we sow bountifully we shall reap bountifully in the harvest of souls. In the *Review and Herald* of November 10, 1885, we find the statement made by the messenger of the Lord, as follows: "God will soon do great things for us, if we lie humble and believing at His feet. . . . More than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications."

World War II, with its fifty-nine million casualties, the present diplomatic tension, and the destructive threat of atomic power, has caused thinking men and women to ponder the times in which we live. Never was there such intense interest in Bible prophecy, such eagerness to know the Bible truth, such seriousness toward religion. The increased circulation of the Bible, the growing popularity of religious radio programs, which necessitated the formation of the NBC department of religion, and a larger attendance at church services throughout the nation—all attest this religious trend. This is our day of opportunity to carry the everlasting gospel to the remotest recesses of every region.

As a result of ten days spent in literature activity, twelve openings for Bible studies were found in one small city. In another place four Sabbath afternoons were used to visit every home in a certain section. On the third visit the missionary worker presented with the literature an enrollment card for the Bible Correspondence Course, mentioning its value in understanding Bible prophecy. The members, on their fourth visit to the



same homes, distributed announcement cards of Bible lectures to be held at the Seventh-day Adventist church each Sunday night. Some months later eleven were baptized as a result of these four initial contacts with literature and the church evangelistic effort. A large number in this same section desired literature mailed to their home.

The message can be given to each of the thousands of families living in city, town, and community through literature and the Bible Correspondence Course. The time has come for concerted effort in presenting to these thousands our life-and-death message. The early disciples had the thrilling experience of filling the city of Jerusalem with the Christian doctrine. (Acts 5:28.) And we should remember that "all that the apostles did, every church member today is to do."—*Ibid.*, vol. 7, p. 33. Just now is the time for each church to blanket its region with literature, using the attractive and interest-arousing Prediction Tract Series of twelve, and utilizing the block system of regular distribution. Other literature plans include the modernized King's Pocket League, the Weekly Tract Night, placing our literature in autos on shopping nights, and the filling of literature racks placed in transportation depots, beside public telephones, and in many other public places. May this larger literature

crusade be one of the final steps in bringing men and women to a decision for Christ and this message.

"We are standing upon the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange, eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven. Everything in our world is in agitation. There are wars, and rumors of wars. The nations are angry, and the time of the dead has come, that they should be judged. Events are changing to bring about the day of God, which hasteth greatly. Only a moment of time, as it were, yet remains. But while already nation is rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, there is not now a general engagement. As yet the four winds are held until until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle."—*Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 14.

Let us therefore do our part in the literature crusade, for God will guide in systematically covering every community with the printed message of truth; and very soon the "unfinished task" of the church will become the *finished* task, and we may all realize the meaning of the promise, "Blessed will be the recompense of grace to those who have wrought for God in the simplicity of faith and love."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 404.

list of officials to receive the *Signs of the Times*.

The report of this Sabbath school class endeavor has been told from coast to coast and as a result many more groups have taken up the same work and have experienced a great blessing as they have systematically sent the printed page of truth to members of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches of our nation's capital.

There are great possibilities involved in a plan whereby all our churches could reach the judicial, legislative, and executive personnel of every State in the Union with the *Signs of the Times* and other literature. Then, when State and territorial officials are being provided for, the same plan can be developed in each county seat. But why stop there? Let us continue until every "city father" of city, town, and hamlet is given the privilege of receiving the weekly visits of our "silent minister," so that he may see the light and lead his flock safely through this night of storm. The valley before us is deep, the storm is on, "relentless in its fury." The shepherds want to lead their sheep to safe folds, but many of the shepherds have lost their way. The sheep stand waiting for the shepherds to find their path and to lead them safely to shelter. The shepherds' responsibilities are more than they can carry; they are confused, the night is dark, the hour is late.

"The greatest men of the earth are not beyond the power of a wonder-working God. If those who are workers together with Him will do their duty bravely and faithfully, God will convert men who occupy responsible places, men of intellect and influence."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 216.

"Thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand angels are waiting to co-operate with members of our churches in communicating the light that God has generously given, that a people may be prepared for the coming of Christ." Why do we keep the angels waiting?

A BIBLE INSTRUCTOR WITH THE  
VOICE OF PROPHECY.

### A Unique Method of Literature Distribution

IN Brookfield, Illinois, where the International Branch of the Pacific Press is located, the population consists largely of a mixture of foreigners—Scandinavians, Germans, Czechs, Slovaks, Bohemians, Italians, Greeks; and on the newsstands will be found daily newspa-

## ★ Departmental Activities ★

### Waiting!

"THOUSANDS upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand angels are waiting to co-operate with members of our churches in communicating the light that God has generously given, that a people may be prepared for the coming of Christ."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 129.

It was about eight years ago that a Sabbath school teacher read and reread the following statement: "The message is first to be given 'in the highways,'—to men who have an active part in the world's work, to the teachers and leaders of the people. Let the Lord's messengers bear this in mind. To the shepherds of the flock, the teachers divinely appointed, it should come as a word to be heeded. Those who belong to the higher ranks of society are to be sought out with tender affection and brotherly regard. Men in business life, in high positions of trust, men with large inventive faculties and scientific insight, men of

genius, teachers of the gospel whose minds have not been called to the special truths for this time,—*these should be the first to hear the call.*"—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 229, 230. (Italics mine.)

Sensing in a small degree a vision of the possibilities of organized planning, and its power to bring into a reality the command involved in the message recorded by the Lord's messenger, the teacher invited the young people of her Sabbath school class to a gathering at her home, and shared with them the plan. They caught the thought and gladly organized as a group to send the *Signs of the Times* to our nation's first "highway," the Cabinet of the President of the United States. Soon other members of the church caught the spirit of the idea, and now all members of both houses of Congress are receiving the paper. The undersecretaries of the Cabinet, the Supreme Court gentlemen, and their associate justices also have been added to the

pers and magazines in these different languages. This shows that the people prefer to read the news in the language which they use and understand best.

Mrs. J. B. Penner, the wife of the editor of our German papers published in Brookfield, felt a burden for the German people in that town and searched for a way to reach them with our German *Signs* (*Zeichen der Zeit*). She was not well enough acquainted with the town to know where the Germans were living, for they were widely scattered, but one day Sister Penner went to the news dealer and asked whether he could tell her how to find the German families in and outside of the town.

The owner of the newsstand is one of the oldest residents in Brookfield and knows the territory well. When he asked why she wanted information about the German families in particular, Sister Penner told him that she desired to place *Zeichen der Zeit* with every German reader. The news dealer suggested the papers be brought every Saturday night, and he would put *Zeichen der Zeit* into every Sunday paper and deliver it to the homes of those who ordered the Sunday paper. Others who get their papers in the store would receive it the same way, namely, enclosed in their Sunday paper. All she needed to do was to deliver to the store thirty-five copies of *Zeichen der Zeit* for the regular German readers.

This work has now been carried on for several months, and results are being seen. People have expressed their appreciation for this extra Sunday gift received with their newspaper. Not one has complained or asked to have it discontinued. Some inquired as to how they could get in touch with the editor of this fine paper. One German Lutheran pastor made such inquiry. The news dealer tells the people that the editor of *Zeichen der Zeit* usually calls for his daily paper about two o'clock in the afternoon. So some of these people planned to call for their paper at the same time, and Elder Penner was introduced to them.

In this way Elder Penner became acquainted with a number of fine German people who invited him to their homes. Whenever time permits, Elder and Mrs. Penner gladly accept such invitations, taking with them their Bible and a musical saw. The conversations on Biblical subjects and current events are very interesting. The other day on his way to his office Brother Penner passed a home in which they had made their first visit. The lady stood on the street and started a conversation with him about the paper.

She said that they very much enjoyed reading *Zeichen der Zeit*. "You seem to be strict believers in the Bible," she said, and added, "This was at one time true in the Methodist church to which we once belonged, but they are not so strict and faithful any more; they have left the truth and the simple and straight way of the gospel." She asked Elder Penner whether his sermons are in the German language, and he told her that German services are conducted in his church in Chicago, and that the services are held on Saturdays. She then suggested that it would be a nice thing if they could start a Germany company or church right in Brookfield. He promised that he would find out how many of the families were interested in the organization of a class for Bible study and in cottage

meetings. Elder Penner is now working on a plan to follow up the interest that was created by this new method of literature distribution among the German people of Brookfield and is arranging for Bible studies in the homes.

The other day C. B. Burgess, secretary of the Illinois Book and Bible House, told Brother Penner that his German landlady, who is getting *Zeichen der Zeit* with the newspaper, expressed her high regard and appreciation for our paper, and gave him her subscription for one year. We would suggest that our believers everywhere try new methods in their literature ministry for the many foreigners in their neighborhood.

B. L. GRUNSET, *Manager,*  
*International Branch,*  
*Pacific Press Publishing Association.*

## Church Missionary Officers' Round Table

### An Exchange of Experiences, Problems, Suggestions

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

#### The Missionary Committee

*Question.*—What is the missionary committee?

*Answer.*—The church board.

*Question.*—What is the purpose of this committee?

*Answer.*—Its function is to lay plans for the church in missionary activity.

*Question.*—What are some of these plans?

*Answer.*—The instruction of the Spirit of prophecy is, "In our churches let companies be formed for service."—*Christian Service*, p 72. Therefore it is the duty of the missionary committee to arrange for the formation of such companies and assign work for them to do.

*Question.*—Are these plans to be adapted to all?

*Answer.*—Yes. The service bands are broad enough to include all, both young and old. The Missionary Volunteers can participate in literature distribution through Sunshine Bands, Junior Dorcas activities, and to some extent in Lay Preaching and Bible work.

*Question.*—What portion of the year does the missionary committee function?

*Answer.*—This committee meets once a month all through the year to direct the missionary activities of the entire church. At the beginning of the year, plans should be laid for the circulation of the *Liberty* magazine, the *Signs of the Times*, *Our Times*, and all missionary lit-

erature. During the early part of the year, definite organization should be developed for a quick and successful In-gathering campaign. That, being over early, should leave the last half of the year for direct soul-winning efforts, climaxing in the *Review* campaign at the end of the year, and an experience and praise meeting, thanking God for the blessings of the year and for the souls added to the church. J. O. MARSH.

#### Why Report?

##### 1. CHECK ON SELF

We need to look at how we are spending what we have of time, talent, strength, and money. (See *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 325-365.)

##### 2. DIRECTIVE FOR LEADERS

It is as reasonable to dispense with leadership as to dispense with reporting. It is only as leaders receive reports that they know where to give assistance. (See *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 221.)

##### 3. ENCOURAGEMENT TO OTHERS

Knowing what others have done and are doing, prompts us to action and reduces our excuses. (Heb. 10:24.)

##### 4. JUSTIFY OUR EXISTENCE

Our work would have been closed in many places had we been unable to prove by statistics (reports) the good work being carried on among the people. (See *Counsels on Health*, p. 506.)

## ★ News From Soul Winners ★

### Won From Socialism

THE following is the story of a young woman, who through the reading of our literature, was converted from socialism.

A few years ago Eileen's relatives accepted the message, but Eileen opposed them and even ridiculed them sometimes, as she thought socialism offered the answer to the world's need as well as to her own.

The trouble was that Eileen was prejudiced against religion, so much so that she considered that church people in general were hypocrites, and Adventist teachings too hard for the average person to live up to. She had become convinced a few years before that the churches were not teaching all of the Bible, and that the majority of the people were not living up to the little that was taught. Eileen had thought she would like to be a real Christian, not just a churchgoer; but from her reading of the Bible it seemed too hard; and she didn't learn how to be a Christian from the church, though she went to Sunday school and later on to service on Sunday morning.

So she turned in disappointment from the church and decided to live as good a life as she knew how without going to church, and to have a good time, too. From time to time she heard socialism discussed by her brothers. She thought about it and decided it was just what everyone needed. She joined a Workers' Sports Club, where she met some very enthusiastic young communists, with some of whom she played tennis. This led to her attending some of their socials and a club for amusement, and becoming firm friends with some of the young people, although she did not hold with all their views.

But as the years slipped by and she occasionally read an article in the *Signs*, or a tract if it was near by, her prejudice against religion was slowly broken down. One day one of her worldly friends surprised her by calling her a Seventh-day Adventist, which suddenly made Eileen realize that her thoughts on religion must be inclining that way. Then she had a series of disappointments. Her eyes began to trouble her, and through that she lost her position; on top of it all two of her friends proved to be failures. All this made her think that perhaps there

might be some help and comfort in religion. She then decided to study and find out whether the Seventh-day Adventist teachings were all true. However, she was still so prejudiced against Adventists that she declined all offers of books to read or invitations to missions. It was rather humorous that a kind friend had lent her relatives *Bible Readings*, which Eileen studied with her Bible, not knowing that she was using a Seventh-day Adventist book! Just as soon as she could in the evening, Eileen would start studying, and sometimes continue for hours as she became interested. This went on for some time. Finally she became convinced of the Sabbath and decided to step out and follow the truth.

Today she is rejoicing in it and desires to lead others to the Saviour. She has found that there is joy in serving Him, that Jesus can take away the desire for worldly pleasures, and there is much happiness to be found in Christian fellowship and in the simple things of life.—*Australasian Record*.

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### The Village Dancers Invited

FROM the Congo, where our lay workers, with some of the Missionary Volunteers, used to visit a village, comes this experience:

They held meetings every Sabbath afternoon and sang to the people. A large number attended. The village dancer and his two companions, who depended for their food on cash received for dancing, could not attract attention, as they found that the people were not in their huts. Therefore, seeing the large crowd gathered under the tree, the man decided that would be an ideal place for him to perform and get some money.

Upon his arrival he began to beat his drum to draw the attention of the people. One of our members had to go out and stop him, explaining that the gathering was a religious one. Some thought they should drive the dancers away, but others suggested that they be allowed to come in and listen.

The dancers could not quite understand the nature of these meetings and asked that a little time be given to them for their performance. Again explanation had to be made, and they were told that dancing is of the devil, but if they

would sit down and listen they would learn of the true God. The dancers listened and were somewhat interested, but how could they give up the trade which their forefathers practiced? How could they live, and how or where could they make a living? But our workers soon explained to them that God would care and provide. It was not long until this dancer and his two companions came to a knowledge of the true God, and when the meetings closed, they cast away their drums and charms and costumes, and surrendered to God, to work for Him and to be prepared for His coming. How glad our brethren were that they invited these people to listen to the gospel instead of sending them away lest they disturb the meeting. It is the Christian's privilege to invite all to "come" and partake of the gospel fruit "without money and without price." J. M. HNATYSHYN.

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### Voice of Prophecy Experiences in South Africa

ONE of our church home missionary workers in Johannesburg passed out some advertising of the Voice of Prophecy on the street one Sabbath afternoon. One of these tracts fell into the hands of a young woman who took it home to her mother. This mother was a backslidden Seventh-day Adventist, and had been away from the church for some years. She sent for the Voice of Prophecy Bible lessons, not knowing from whom they came. As she studied through the message again, she soon found that the lessons taught the same truths which she at one time dearly loved. When she studied the Sabbath question again, she quietly in her own home gave her heart fully to God, and wrote us of her decision, saying that opposition in the home had caused her to stop keeping the Sabbath before, but now such peace had come to her heart since she had made a new covenant with God that she would willingly face the opposition hereafter and be faithful to the Lord. Within a few months she was baptized again, and has since proved to be a strong member and church worker.

A few months ago a woman who had recently lost her husband, and was left with a young son to rear, was walking along the street of one of our large cities, utterly discouraged with life and with the church (Catholic). She said that since the money had failed to come into the church after her husband's death, the church had but little use for her. On the street she picked up a Voice of Prophecy tract, or Bible lesson. In

her first letter to us, asking for the full set of lessons, she said, "Your little tract just talks to me, and I know you have help for me, for I want to find Jesus as my personal Saviour." We sent her the lessons and a Bible, since she wrote that she had none. We have rejoiced in the progress she has made as she has studied the lessons. Last week she wrote: "Something has happened to me since I began to study your Bible lessons. I have no more desire for the pleasures of this old world; they seem like soap bubbles to me. I have found Jesus as my Saviour, and, oh! how I love Jesus, for I know He has forgiven my sins and saved me. I have burned the bridges behind me, and will never return to the Catholic Church. I thank the Voice of Prophecy for helping me to find the true light. God bless you all for your wonderful work."

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### Office Worker Lost Years of Witnessing

DR. CLAUDE F. FOTHERGILL, in his recent book *A Doctor in Many Countries*, relates the incident of a man in a London office who said: "I have been in that office for seven years with thirty other men, and not a single one knows that I am a Christian. I have heard all kinds of smutty stories and have known all kinds of things going on which were anything but right, but never once by word or attitude have I shown any disapproval; in fact, I have been an out-and-out coward. These meetings [then in progress] have spoken to me in such a way that I feel absolutely ashamed of myself for my past life and conduct; but now, God helping me, things are going to be quite different. I will go back to the office and let the other men know on whose side I stand."

The next morning, before an hour passed in the office, a smutty story was told, and they had a great shock when this man, for the first time in their knowledge, spoke out plainly.

They bantered him and he became labeled, but he bore his testimony. A little later one of the men invited him to lunch and confessed: "I have been a coward for years past. I am a Christian but have been too much ashamed to witness. From now on there will be at least two of us." The entire atmosphere of that office was changed.

Those lost years cannot be recalled, and the fruit which might have resulted from a bright testimony during those years is lost, but it is encouraging to realize that the Lord will graciously re-

move fear and cowardice by His Spirit and Word after years of silence on one's part.

A Christian should constantly remind himself of the Lord's statement: "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me." Acts 1:8.

We all need the exhortation: "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord . . . : but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus." 2 Tim. 1:8, 9. —Selected.

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### From the Kennel to the Pulpit

Though only a boy, and not too promising in appearance, yet he kept on coming to our Sabbath school at Tuxpam, Mexico. Pastor R. Arroya tells the story of this lad of some twelve to fourteen years. He was bronzed by the tropical sun, as are all the boys who love to go down the river to the playa and to the near-by bay and gulf.

However, this lad did not have clear sailing in his desire to come to our Sabbath school. The parents, who were of another religion, sharply reprov'd the boy and finally forbade his attending our services; but in some way he continued to come in spite of the severe chastisement he received.

At last, as his parents saw that he was determined to attend, they tried other measures to punish the boy and break up his desire for our meetings. When he re-

### How Answered?

My friend, are you telling the message of love  
To your neighbors and friends every day?  
Would you care if someone, on the great judgment morn,  
Would turn to you and these words say:

"Why did you not tell me of Jesus—  
His coming, His message, His power?  
So often we met, but you seemed to forget  
To tell me the truth that you knew.  
Gladly would I have followed the light of  
God's Word  
If you had shown me the way,  
And obeyed the Sabbath commandment,  
Had I known of the change of the day."

My friend, if you fail now to give,  
Their blood He'll require at your hand;  
Unless you go forward with God's Spirit to  
guide  
Doing the best that you can.

Go quickly, and tell the message:  
His coming, His Sabbath, His eternal home.  
Everyone that you meet, never fail now to  
greet,  
And tell him the truth that you know.

Let us go quickly and proclaim the wonder-  
ful truth  
Through our books, our tracts, and our  
lives;  
That no soul may be lost on the glorious  
day  
When Jesus comes to gather His own.

—LILLIAN MIDDLETON.

turned home one evening after attending our meeting, he knocked, but no one opened the door. He was left in the street. He then thought of his friend, the family dog; he crawled into the kennel with his one sure friend, and there slept.

No doubt this zeal for the truth has made him a firm worker in this message, for he afterward attended our school, and is now a regular worker.

C. E. MOON.

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### Soul Winning in Old Mexico

AT Tlachapa, Mexico, our brethren were very much concerned over the attitude of the church at that place in accusing our brethren of being responsible for the continued drought that was afflicting the entire countryside.

Finally the bishop said that either he or the Adventists would have to leave town, and he gave out a notice of fifteen days of continued prayer for rain. Our people did not feel safe on the streets at any time during this period, since armed bands of men were threatening their expulsion. They sent for Brother Leon, one of our workers, and began to pray and seek the Lord.

The fifteen days, in which these people prayed for rain and carried the patron saint about with chanting and prayers, ended. The brethren waited until the close of this time, then they began to pray for rain. The people of the town stood in the doors and windows of our church and heard our believers praying for rain. The word then went out that the Adventists were praying for rain. That same night dark clouds came over, and there was an abundance of rain for all.

All opposition ceased, and there is now much interest in our message in Tlachapa.

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### Just to Be Nothing for Christ

Out in the Sierra Madre Mountains the wife of a rancher accepted the message and became an ardent student of the Bible. Her husband was very much opposed to her religious convictions and at times gave vent to his feelings in an unfavorable way.

Finally he told his wife his decision. "If you continue to follow that religion," he said, "you will not be my wife any more. I will make you a shepherdess to keep the sheep and stock."

She answered: "If you will let me read my Bible, I will then agree to become a shepherdess for you."

He agreed, and this sister was willing to take the lonely task of caring for the animals as a humble shepherdess in order to have the liberty to read her Bible and pray to her God.

Surely with such faith the words of Joel will come to pass. "Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things." Joel 2:21.



### Scattering the Gospel Seed

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Lounsberry, of Oakford, Illinois, have a mail-order nursery business. They print thousands of beautiful catalogues of perennials, rock plants, wild flowers, ferns, and other things, and send these out all over the United States.

One Sabbath afternoon last fall, while they were reading of the various ways that other people were scattering tracts, the statement that our literature should be scattered like the leaves of autumn came to their minds. Therefore they determined to use their mail-order business as an aid in scattering literature. They ordered a supply of the tract, "An Hour With Your Bible," and enclosed one with each catalogue that was sent out. With the spring catalogue of 1946 some 13,000 of the tracts accompanied the beautifully printed catalogues. This will reach the figure of 18,000 before the end of the year.

The responses they have received are interesting, indeed, and come from widely scattered places throughout the nation.

From California a woman writes: "I was glad to see the Voice of Prophecy sticker on the card you sent. I have been a member of the Adventist church since 1913."

A woman writes from New Orleans, Louisiana: "Many thanks for the little book, 'An Hour With Your Bible.' Yes, I am a Christian, thank God."

From Warren, Ohio: "Let me say before I put in my order for wild flowers that I do appreciate the tiny Bible folders sent along with your catalogue. I wish every firm of every kind could be conscious of such influence and work for souls. Our world would be a much nicer place to live in."

A woman writes from Fort Wayne, Indiana: "Never before have I found en-

closed a Bible suggestion. This leaflet, 'An Hour With Your Bible,' gives us a bond in common. It is pleasant, indeed, to deal with folk who recognize that the foundation of all things should be our Bible. Thank you for the leaflet."

From Bridgeport, Connecticut, comes a letter: "Thank you for 'An Hour With Your Bible.' It certainly makes us feel good to see them, and also a bit ashamed

that we are not doing more along this line ourselves."

And so this good family is spreading the influences that tend to bring people nearer to God. Would that every Adventist businessman would definitely use his business to bring other souls nearer to Christ. How much more rapidly the message would cover the earth!

HENRY F. BROWN.

## How the Message Came to Me

### A Shorthand Novice Seeks Practice \*

THE latter part of my childhood and early days of youth were spent in one of those century-old, quaint cities on the beautiful and fertile east coast of Jutland, Denmark. The city is located where the only river of Denmark of any note flows into one of the many fiords which stretch their water arms far inland and along whose banks fertile farm land, exquisite gardens, and lovely forests combine to make a picture cut out of one of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales.

Boating, fishing, and swimming are a boy's natural desires. They were mine in abundance in a perfect combination in those years. The skating in the winter could be enjoyed under almost perfect conditions. Majestic sailing vessels, the swans of the sea, filled the harbor, unloading their cargo of timber cut in Norwegian and Finnish forests. Swedish iron ore, German merchandise, French and Portuguese wines, Spanish and Italian golden oranges in season, together with fruit-laden schooners from the garden isle of Denmark, scented the air with the fragrance of orange groves and apple orchards.

School life was not a hardship in such an ideal place. Altogether too soon my high school years were ended, and I applied for my first job as an assistant in the office of the chief of police and was accepted. It was while pursuing special evening studies at a technical school that I saw some unreadable signs on a piece of paper which created a desire within me to be able to decipher their meaning. I consequently made arrangement with

an army officer for private lessons in a course in shorthand based on a system adaptable to four or five languages.

A knowledge of shorthand was not a requirement in the position I held; yet I felt impressed to combine the study and practice of the system after the close of the course. While I was pursuing these studies and improving and increasing my speed, one of the most successful Seventh-day Adventist evangelists of Scandinavia, Elder J. C. Raft, came to the city to conduct a series of meetings. While practicing shorthand by going to political, educational, and other lectures, I concluded that it might be helpful to add some practice along lines of religion and theology.

The pleasant, clear, distinct diction and logical presentation of the subjects by the speaker were ideal to a shorthand novice writing about 150 to 180 words a minute. From being a mere searcher for shorthand practice I soon became an ardent inquirer after truth, and thus became acquainted with and accepted this glorious message.

Observance of the Sabbath could not be fitted into the responsibilities I carried, so I had to abandon cherished plans for continuing my work with the police department and making a career in that field. But no sooner had the decision been taken to obey and follow the Master's command than God opened the way for employment in His cause. The medical superintendent of the Skodsborg Sanitarium, our largest medical institution in the world, needed a stenographer. Immediately I saw God's providence in what had taken place when I became impressed to study a shorthand system. For nearly five years I served Dr. Carl Hare in the capacity of his secretary and assistant on the Scandinavian health journal. It was later my privilege to carry various responsibilities in the cause of God, in both the Old and the New World.

\* (The experience of Elder Stoen Rasmussen, who at the time of his death in 1941, was secretary of the General Conference Home Missionary Department. This account of personal experience was found in his desk in his own handwriting.)



## Weekly Church Missionary Services

December 7

### EVANGELIZING THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF YOUR CHURCH

*Key Thought for Leaders: "Visit your neighbors in a friendly way, and become acquainted with them. . . . Go to your neighbors one by one, and come close to them till their hearts are warmed by your unselfish interest and love. Sympathize with them, pray for them, watch for opportunities to do them good, and as you can, gather a few together and open the Word of God to their darkened minds."*—*Christian Service*, pp. 115, 116.

When the young lawyer came to Jesus and asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus answered by a parable illustration, in which He referred to an unfortunate Jew who had been robbed, beaten, and left dying by the wayside at the hands of his own countrymen, and the service rendered by a kindly Samaritan. Then Jesus asked the young man, "Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves?" The lawyer replied, "He that shewed mercy on him." The lesson which Jesus taught was clear and plain, and it has very impressive meaning to us today.

You and I have a very definite duty to make the third angel's message known in the neighborhood where the Seventh-day Adventist church is located. There are many people living within the shadow of our churches who are honest in heart and are seeking for light. Close to the back of one of our churches lived such a person. One of the sisters in the church felt impressed that she ought to call at every house in the neighborhood of the church. She was a timid soul, but she took a bundle of tracts and started out. Fearful that she might be seen by the occupants of the houses, she quietly slipped a tract under each door. The woman living in the house right behind the church read the literature eagerly. She was seeking for light, and soon she stepped into the church to attend services. She continued to come to the church, and one Sabbath when a call was made to surrender, she gave her heart to the Lord and accepted all points of truth. To this day she is a faithful church member. In many church neighborhoods there are just such people. Shall we not go and find them before the door of mercy is closed?

T. L. OSWALD.

December 14

### EVANGELIZING THE NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE YOU LIVE

*Key Thought for Leaders: "Many are waiting to be personally addressed. In the very family, the neighborhood, the town where we live, there is work for us to do as missionaries for Christ. If we are Christians, this work will be our delight."*—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 141.

Two sisters who disliked going back

over the same territory with literature each week decided to labor in a distant section where they had not been assigned. Though they worked hard, the returns were small. One Sabbath the pastor mentioned in his sermon the failure of the disciples to catch fish because they had cast their nets on the wrong side; but when they followed the instruction of Jesus, to cast their nets on the right side of the boat, they found their nets filled in a very short time, and right in the very same spot where they had toiled all night and caught nothing.

A week later the two sisters, who had run away from their own neighborhood to do missionary work, joyfully related to the church their unusual experiences. Among their friendly neighbors they were kindly received and the literature accepted. One of the neighbors became very much interested, and in due time was baptized. Which all points to the importance of keeping steadily at work in the same neighborhood territory week after week. It pays to cast the net on the right side in the very spot where you are.

J. E. EDWARDS.

December 21

### MISSIONARY EXPERIENCES

*Key Thought for Leaders: "To be a co-worker with Christ and the heavenly angels in the great plan of salvation! What work can bear any comparison with this! From every soul saved, there comes to God a revenue of glory, to be reflected upon the one saved, and also upon the one instrumental in his salvation."*—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 232.

There are many avenues of service open to the willing worker. One of our sisters spent two days in a little logging town, engaged in Ingathering work. Here she came in contact with a mother and her two daughters. The mother, while living in California, had accepted the truth, and was eager to have her daughters share in the blessings she had received. Our faithful Ingathering worker recognized an opportunity to begin seed sowing in the community, and began by holding meetings for the children in the village, and later organized a branch Sabbath school. But as winter came on, she was unable to continue the work, as it involved considerable driving over very rough roads. But a brother and his wife in the church where the Ingathering worker belonged, learned of the situation and decided that they would take the responsibility of carrying on the branch Sabbath school.



It was not long until this brother and his wife came in contact with a young man living in the village, who might be termed an ex-Seventh-day Adventist. He had become careless and indifferent, but the death of an aunt had caused him to think seriously about his spiritual condition. His wife had no knowledge of the truths held by Seventh-day Adventists, but when the couple were invited to attend the Sabbath school they accepted. It was not long until the husband was baptized, and became the superintendent of the Sabbath school. The wife has also been baptized. At the time of my last visit to this place there were twenty adults and fourteen children present at the Sabbath school. Just what the outcome will be we cannot tell, but the Spirit of God is working, and on every hand there are opportunities for reaping a harvest of souls.

D. N. REINER.

December 28

### REVIEW OF 1946 SOUL-WINNING EXPERIENCES

*Key Thought for Leaders: "The good seed may for a time lie unnoticed in a cold, selfish, worldly heart, giving no evidence that it has taken root; but afterward, as the Spirit of God breathes on the soul, the hidden seed springs up, and at last bears fruit to the glory of God. In our lifeworks we know not which shall prosper, this or that. This is not a question for us to settle. We are to do our work, and leave the results with God."*—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 65.

We have come to the close of a most eventful year in human history. Never were the indications that the end of all things is at hand more clearly seen or more generally recognized by world leaders. On every hand we see the actual fulfillment of the predictions pointing to the return of our Saviour, and to the "little flock" who have been walking by faith on the "highway cast up above the world" leading to the eternal city, faith gives way to sight, and joy and confidence unspeakable fill the heart. We are truly "nearing home."

The nearer we are to the close of earth's history the greater becomes our individual responsibility to rescue the perishing. Have we done all that we might have done? It is a serious reflection, and perhaps none can answer in the affirmative. Many blessed experiences have come to us. God has used every talent consecrated for His service, and we have the assurance that He "will never let the faithful performance of duty go unrewarded." Let us praise Him today for His truth, for the salvation of loved ones, and for the experiences which have come to us. But let us resolve to be more diligent and faithful in the little time that remains, never tiring, never ceasing in our efforts to win souls for the Master.

Some, yea, many, may not have seen the answer to their prayers in behalf of loved ones unsaved. Do not be discouraged; do not give up. Hold on to the promise without wavering. Miracles in transformed lives are apparent everywhere. Only do not lose heart. Keep on praying, working, believing.

# ★ Missionary Leadership ★

## A Suggestive Agenda for Guidance in Monthly Church Board Meetings

(In preparing this agenda, we keep in mind that certain phases of work have specific times of promotion, whereas others may be planned for when advisable.)

1. *Provision for various classes of instruction.*
  - a. *Bible training.*  
The selection of a good teacher to conduct the Bible Training Class. This teacher should not only teach but inspire the members of the class and lead them into active service.
  - b. *Home nursing.*  
The selection of a nurse or some other qualified person to teach and train the class in home nursing and medical missionary work.
  - c. *Literature Band.*  
Choice of a wise and missionary-spirited leader for the literature band who will keep up to date on new missionary literature and see that proper persons are supplied.
  - d. *Class band leaders' meetings.*  
Provision for a definite time when the missionary leader may meet all missionary band leaders at least once a month.
  - e. *Class band groups.*  
Designation of a time when every band leader may meet his group at least twice a month (better every week) to plan missionary promotion duties.
2. *Encourage lay-preacher evangelism.*  
The church board, in counsel with the pastor or district superintendent, should give careful study and prayer to the selection of men and women who give promise of ability along this line, or might be able to conduct cottage meetings and hold public efforts. Those selected should be called together by the board for prayer and counsel and encouraged to begin the work.
3. *Organize for working the unentered territory.*  
Carefully study the missionary territory of the church, seeing that definite plans are laid to have it thoroughly worked. Where there is unentered territory, organize for systematic work with literature followed by Bible studies and lay preaching.

### 4. *Dorcas Society Benevolent Service.*

If there is no Dorcas organization within the church, this work should be encouraged and proper leadership chosen.

### 5. *Literature promotion.*

The church board has a responsibility to see that broad plans are developed for the *Signs* campaign and other literature promotion. The Sabbath hour devoted to these campaigns should have full support. W. A. BUTLER.

## Notes to Leaders

(Continued from page 17)

and wisdom to rally the members of your church to enter upon 1947 with consecrated zeal and determination to measure up to the glorious opportunities in this closing period of time. Truly, it is a great day in which to be alive and to be counted among those who are permitted to have a part in the finishing of the task assigned to the remnant church.

GENERAL CONFERENCE

HOME MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT.

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"To be a co-worker with Christ and the heavenly angels in the great plan of salvation! What work can bear any comparison with this!"—Vol. 2, p. 232.

## GREETINGS!

### GREETINGS! CHURCH MISSIONARY OFFICERS:

It's a long, long trail of service  
Leading back through this old year,  
And it's brightened by the scenes  
That memories endear;

It's lined with golden milestones  
Showing times without an end  
That it's been a joy and privilege  
To have worked with you, my friend.

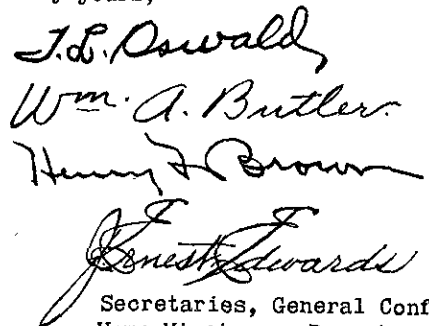
We are nearing the close of 1946. As you look back over the year you may rejoice in the missionary accomplishments of your church, remembering that no work for God is in vain, for we are assured that His Word shall not return unto Him void.

Your deep interest in soul winning has been reflected by the missionary activities of your church during the year. As a missionary officer, you have carefully studied the best methods of reaching the hearts of neighbors and friends in your community. Earnestly these plans have been presented to the members, and they have willingly co-operated by distributing literature, presenting the truth through Bible studies, inviting friends to gospel services, engaging in Dorcas activities, conducting lay evangelistic efforts, giving treatments to the sick, introducing the Bible Correspondence Course, and witnessing through their daily life and conduct. Many people are today rejoicing in the message of truth because of the self-sacrificing service of church officers and church members.

During the coming year may the Lord abundantly bless you, bring joy into your heart as you recall this year's progress, and within the circle of your family bring peace of heart and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

We express our sincere appreciation of your untiring service in missionary leadership, and pray that God may grant us a HAPPY ETERNITY TOGETHER.

Cordially yours,



Secretaries, General Conference  
Home Missionary Department.

# ★ Department of Education ★

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

## Family Recreational Reading

### The Choice of Books

ALL books are seeds. They strike their roots far down. They suck the soil of nutriment. They grow upward and outward in the rain and sun, Expanding and aggressive. Theirs the earth And theirs the air and theirs the space between, Till all the garden, all the lawn and field, The forest and the mountain and the vale, Are added to the kingdom of the seeds, Are their expression, their embodiment.

Before you read a book and make it yours, Bethink you of the parable of seeds: You are the book's more than the book is yours. Not openly, but inwardly its roots Will pierce and thrive. Preparing in the dark, Someday its pallid shoot will break the mold, Someday the book will show itself abroad And make a garden of your face, your hands, Your tongue and eyes, the very life you live. For all the elements conspire with books, To make them grow; you cannot keep them down.

Some seeds are good, but some are poisonous. Some books are apple seeds, and some are grapes; Some grow to hickories and some to oaks, And some to roses glorious in the sun. But others bear within their tiny bulk A nightshade or cactus, poison oak Or poison ivy, or that fatal growth, The amanita. Heed the planting well, For death is farmed as easily as life.

Ah, the bright potencies that dwell in books! Ah, the pestiferous potency of books! A library may be a paradise Of health and beauty and refreshing might; A library may be a fetid swamp With dank material vapors overhung, The slimy home of vipers and of death. Books are not good; yes, and they are not bad. Good books are God's most blessed gift to man; Bad books are Satan's most accursed snare.

—AMOS R. WELLS.

### Notes to Leaders

It would hardly be possible to find a topic for discussion at a Home and School meeting that has more potentialities or far-reaching results. Not because there is a dearth of literature today but rather, the overwhelming volume of books available makes it necessary that careful study be given to the mental diet of the family.

In the preface of his *I Love Books*, John D. Snider tells us that "twenty-seven per cent of the homes in America have fewer than fifty books, and eighty per cent of them have fewer than two hundred books," while in many of the homes having books they merely serve as ornaments.

This Home and School program can be the means of making each parent understand what can be done in a positive way to provide pleasure for the family, as well as helping the family to grow. Recently a friend told me of the joy that

came to him when his teen-age son asked that he might have a set of the Conflict Series for his very own. This desire had grown out of the reading of these books at the evening worship hour. A few of our friends have shared their reading experiences as an incentive for others. With the awakening of this interest in reading, the volume *I Love Books* will be found an excellent guide.

Then let us not be content with only a hasty reading of a verse of Scripture, or even studying the Sabbath school lesson, but let us ponder the instruction which the messenger of the Lord has given us concerning the "home reading circle," and then examine ourselves to see what needs to be done in our own homes.

FLORENCE K. REBOK.

## A Pattern for Reading

BY H. M. TIPPETT

ONE of the most disorganized families I ever knew ate their meals without menu or planning. At mealtime, which might be any hour of the day, I have seen one child eating beans out of a can with a spoon, another eating a leftover salad with a fork, while yet another might be chewing on the heel of a loaf of bread which he had smeared with peanut butter. One does not need the authority of Emily Post to make adequate comment on the social implications of such a procedure.

But there are thousands of families which do their reading in just such a disorganized manner. No one disputes the pleasure afforded in the eating of an individual snack when one is hungry, but many families do all their reading on that plan, browsing at will upon newspaper, magazine, or book without purpose or design. They choose their reading as they do their radio programs, flipping the dial in a sort of gambling hope that they will find something to engage their interest. While it is true that occasionally such a course turns up a vein of thought or strikes a new path of pleasure, most of such purposeless reading ends with a yawn or a sigh.

In this day of conscious care in the matter of balanced meals, no intelligent family will flout the counsel of diet experts if they desire the physical efficiency of abundant health. Why, then, are we so careless in the matter of a balanced program of reading that will preserve

sanity and spiritual health? I propounded the query one time to a young mother as to why the public paid so much to professional men to maintain its physical well-being but ignored its responsibility in giving educators and ministers of the gospel, who deal with the minds and the souls of people, a commensurate wage. Her reply was a perfect answer. She said, "Why, don't you know? It is because ignorance doesn't hurt." How true it is that we are willing to pay adequate and sometimes princely remuneration for the allaying of bodily pain and for the filling of cavities in our children's teeth, but we are not so worried about the hiatuses in their thinking or the arid places in their souls.

Since ignorance is not painful, and caries in our intellectual teeth are so common that we are not ashamed of them, we go on blithely consuming the "soft" literature of fictional life and widen the unbridged gaps in our ideals with the carnival type of entertainment found in periodicals of dubious authorship and ephemeral appeal, or in bizarre books that rehash in modern form the effete philosophies of an outmoded yesterday. We are national consumers of books that Bacon said can be "swallowed," but find that it takes too much energy, resolution, and systematic effort in this age of profligate leisure to find the challenge of those books that need to be "chewed and digested." We want our information in fifteen-minute radio capsules and our inspiration free-running, like tap water, to be procured with a minimum of exertion.

Inspiration from a reading program, or from any other medium, is the last and not the initial element in effort. How can one get inspiration, for instance, from reading Milton while waiting in a cafeteria line? Reading Milton with enthusiasm calls for hours of free time in which one reads on and on, forgetting dinner, perhaps, until he sees war in heaven, rolling chariots hatched in clouds of fire, and the flashing conflict of the forces of everlasting good with the forces of cosmic evil. There are profitable things to be read in our scraps of time, but these afford no satisfactory substitute for a broad, systematic plan of

reading that requires a budgeting of time and effort through a summer's vacation or a winter's activity.

Planned reading calls for a clarification of objectives. Matthew Arnold's criterion for the poet, "to see life steadily and to see it whole," might be taken as a general objective for the serious reader. Life cannot be seen as a whole from any one vantage point. It behooves us, then, to choose our reading in such a systematic way that we shall understand the heroic heights and the tragic depths of the human struggle we call life. For such an objective, therefore, we need to keep away from a monodiet. Grooved thinking is the most crippled thinking in the world, and nothing will produce it quicker than a narrow reading program.

A planned procedure in choice of material for such a course does not suggest a list of arid authors or imply a choice of purely moralizing literature. Part of it should be entertaining and relaxing. There is much clean literature of this type. Did you ever take a journey around the world in travel books, for instance? Try it. You'll never forget the delight and profit obtained by a several months' course following eminent writers in the travel lanes around the globe. Follow that by a season of interviewing the great personalities in any given field of action as revealed in biographies. No field of modern writing has made the improvement in style and human interest that biography has made in the last two decades. One way to enjoy a course in the reading of poetry is to make up a scrapbook of the poems that appeal to you, arranging them by groups under given general themes.

The old-fashioned reading circle needs to be revived. Ruskin's literary taste and wholesome philosophy was largely molded by the practice his father followed of reading frequently to the family under the lamplight some of the great classics of our literary heritage. The program of oral reading of the Bible every day, insisted on by his mother, particularizing on the importance of proper pronunciation of every syllable, genealogies and all, was, he claims in his *Præterita*, the greatest single factor in his lifelong respect and love for the Scriptures. In busy families, where in this machine age it is difficult to find a time when all the members are together, a course of individual reading could be followed with weekly or at least frequent reports of the ideas and values of the book to the whole circle. Rich dividends in fellowship and intellectual profit and

spiritual stimulus could thus be provided.

One of the problems of any reading program is that of selection of worthwhile reading. We read therefore without trying to differentiate one authority from another. In specialized fields of activity, we go to experts who understand procedures and sources of information, but we have not learned yet to utilize the services at our disposal for an intelligent course of reading. The nearest we get to it is to read the current popular best sellers, taking for our mentors the untutored readers among an indiscriminating public. "Have you read such and such a book?" asked a society matron of a modern author, naming a volume then in popular favor. When he acknowledged he had not, she exclaimed, "Why, it's been out for six months," to

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### A Ship to Sail

HE who gives a child a book  
Gives that child a sweeping look  
Through its pages down the ages;  
Gives that child a ship to sail  
Where the far adventures hail,  
Down the sea of destiny;  
Gives that child a vision, wide  
As the skies where stars abide,  
Clear and bright through the night;  
Gives that child great dreams to dream,  
Sunlit ways that flash and gleam  
Where the sages tramp the ages.

—WILLIAM STEDGER.

[Used by permission.]

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which he queried, "But have you read Dante's *Divine Comedy*, madam?" She had to admit that she had not. "But that has been out more than six hundred years," he exclaimed. Let us not be stampeded into reading or doing anything else because "everybody's doing it."

With billboards screaming their neon-lighted half-truths at us on every roadway, with continuous radio blaring every species of propaganda and emotional appeal, with seductive art and holiday jackets in rainbow colors glorifying the sophisms and witticisms of immoral hooks, we need to protect our children from the pitfalls of warped thinking. We need to read *for* them, choosing a menu of reading that will vitalize their thinking and glorify their ideals. We need to read *to* them, trying to engage the enthusiasm in them which we feel for the great books of the world. We need to read *with* them, showing our sympathy for the interests they develop for themselves in whatever field. To be wise guides, we need to pray for sanctified judgment in selecting, planning, and promoting a personal and family reading schedule that will develop intellectual, social, and spiritual awareness.

### Seven Hints on Reading

1. LEARN to read by reading. Undertake self-cultivation by reading, and books will become as indispensable as the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the food you eat. This is the secret of literary excellence. Many people—young and old—are starving for good reading, and do not know it. Empty shelves of bookcases or those overcrowded with literary trash account for the shallowness in the lives of many youth. Why not get possession of a few choice books and develop an obsession, yea, a passion, for reading? The reading of a good book has proved the turning point in the life of many a young man and woman. Therefore read, read, read! Read for pleasure, read for recreation, read for inspiration, and read for information. Be a book-lover. Read!

2. Choose books suited to your needs and adapted to your capacity. Frequently the desire for good reading is killed by the attempt to peruse a book entirely beyond one's mental compass. Most of us could not hold cordial communion with the kings of earth; but each one can find good friends that are his equal, mentally and socially. Likewise with books. Understand me, I am writing about general reading, not intensive studying. Although the two may well go hand in hand, I am persuaded that what we need most is not so much labor for information as information for inspiration. And this inspiration results in something more than mere pleasure. The joy it brings the reader helps to make dreams come true, leads into practical idealism, and encourages the art of blueprinting the mansions of the soul. "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few are to be chewed and digested." Books inform, reform, or deform. Be choice in your choice of books.

3. Budget your books, and surround yourself with an environment conducive to good reading. First, list a certain number of choice books. Your pastor or your teacher or your Missionary Volunteer leader can help you to make an intelligent and sympathetic selection. Some successful people read a new book every week; others, every month; and still others, less frequently. The number of books advisable to list will depend upon your resources—chronological, intellectual, and financial. But at all events, it will be found helpful to have a goal, a budget of the number of books you purpose to read during a given period.

These you may buy or borrow, one by one.

Then have a fixed period of time, wisely chosen, for recreational reading. Read regularly, and read temperately. Neither the stomach nor the mental store-room should be "overstuffed." Approach the time for reading with a mental attitude best calculated to enlarge your capacity for pleasure and for sympathetic comprehension.

4. Acquaint yourself with the physical and technical aspects of your chosen books. We recognize our friends by their stature, color of hair or eyes, and certain other physical features. Likewise we should be conversant at least with the outward appearance of our book friends, knowing, in addition, the title, the author, and the publishers. The table of contents, introduction, preface, index, and other possible divisions should also receive intelligent attention.

A book responds to good treatment, as do human beings. As the new book is opened for the first time lay it flat on the back, with both covers spread wide apart. Beginning at the front, and alternating with the back, gently press down a few leaves at a time. Next, close the book, place the palms of your hands near the back of the two covers, and rub the back gently. All this avoids backaches and back breaks.

5. Use the dictionary, when needed, to look up new words; and if possible have an encyclopedia ready for reference. All readers may not need the latter, but the former is a positive necessity for the majority of us. Some may question the wisdom of interrupting reading to look up a new word, lest the thread of thought be lost. But it must appear obvious to the most unthinking that a thread lost, when you have a moral certainty of finding it again, is not nearly so hazardous as a thread twisted, strained, and broken. Every new word should be mastered in spelling, in pronunciation, and in meaning. Make it your own before you read on. Get the dictionary habit!

6. Use multiple imagery. Concentration is sometimes difficult. You see and read words, words, words; but you are really thinking of something else. It will help you to solve the difficulty if you avail yourself of other means of concentration, besides that of merely seeing. In addition to visual imagery, you may use the imagery of the other sense organs; namely, tactual imagery (feeling), olfactory imagery (smelling), gustatory imagery (tasting), and auditory imagery (hearing). Try reading aloud occa-

sionally. This is good practice, not only in enunciation, but in aiding to hold attention on reading matter and in remembering what is read. The reading thus makes a twofold impress upon the mind: first, by visual imagery; and second, by auditory imagery. Then, if you use imagery of smelling, tasting, and feeling, at least imaginatively, whenever possible, you will find that the ability to concentrate upon, and, later on, to recall, a thing, will be greatly increased.

Besides the imagery of sense organs, there is a reaction that might be termed *emotional imagery*. By this is meant the kind of attitude assumed toward a person or thing, positive or negative, favor-

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**"Form a home reading-circle, in which every member of the family shall lay side the busy cares of the day, and unite in study."—*Counsels to Teachers*, page 138.**

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able or unfavorable. To illustrate: you meet a person. You see the color of his hair, the shape of his face, the style of his dress. This is visual imagery. You hear his voice. This is auditory imagery. You feel his handshake. That is tactual imagery. Then you may smell his powder or hair tonic, especially if he has just survived an ordeal at the barber-shop. This is olfactory imagery. He proffers you a choice lozenge fresh from the drugstore. You take and taste. This is gustatory imagery. Thus you have been impressed by the five types of imagery that come through the sense organs. But in the meantime another type of imagery has registered, perhaps even before the sense organs reacted. You were repelled or attracted, and you assumed either a negative or a positive attitude toward the individual. This is emotional or attitude imagery. Exercise this emotional imagery constructively in your reading, in addition to the imagery of the sense organs, and your powers of appreciation will be greatly increased.

7. Finally, the most effective way of getting and keeping the best from a book is to pass the message on to others. Strange economy, but true: we get by giving. A soul often needs just the magic touch of a book to bring about sudden awakening.—H. E. WESTERMEYER, adapted.

## What to Read

"Crossroads of the World," by Marguerite Tazelaar, *Coronet* magazine article, July, 1946.

Here we have a most interesting description of "New York's Grand Central Terminal, . . . the background for life's comedy and drama."

Few of us can realize that the Information Bureau in the Grand Central Terminal gets more than 2,000 phone calls an hour, requiring forty-one telephone operators to care for these calls.

"Commuters total 139,000 a day, while 55,000 through passengers arrive and depart. . . . Parcel rooms handle 227,000 items a month."

These interesting facts are but a sample of the bits of information found in this article. It is cleverly written, gives the origin, development, and description of this huge building, and at the same time relates many human-interest stories of life as seen in the terminal. It is an article to read aloud to the family.

"Seagoing Parish," by Jack Stenbuck, *Coronet* magazine article, July, 1946.

This article describes the experiences of two brothers, Scotch clergymen, who since 1905 have visited and assisted in every way possible thousands of people living along the coast of Maine. They founded the Maine Sea Coast Mission. Although themselves Congregational ministers, they "dedicated the mission to people of all faiths." For forty-one years their mission boats have churned through ice and water, answering calls of distress, as well as carrying the mail and providing the only contact with the outside world for many living in isolated spots.

If you like people, adventure, romance, variety, action, and courage, you will enjoy this article.

*Papa Was a Preacher*, by Alyene Porter, 1945, Abingdon-Cokesbury.

"This is a personal, intimate picture of life in an American parsonage of not so long ago. . . . Glowing always with the love that unites God-loving and God-fearing parents, it nevertheless overflows with the rollicking, merry pranks of the eight youngsters who lived to bless and complicate the problems that beset the path of him who chose to 'press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling.'"

The story is well told. The author is one of the "eight youngsters"—the younger daughter, now a teacher of speech in Dallas, Texas. Her humor, her ability to make you see the family in action, her excellent vocabulary all contribute to your enjoyment as you read this book.

It is a book everyone in the family will enjoy. As you read it through you will stop to reminisce, and family members will contribute their own experiences as they are reminded of them by the reading of *Papa Was a Preacher*.

It is well illustrated by Janet Smalley.

(Copies sent to several families have been regarded as real "treats.")

MIRIAM G. TYMESON.

For many years the Nelson family has followed the practice of a family reading circle which makes them acquainted with many interesting and instructive books, and during the past number of months the books listed below have been read. You will notice the pattern is quite generally that for an adolescent boy who is science-minded. It happens his little sister is interested in that which interests brother, and so she listens in, but we also bring in books on her level of interest. These are not mentioned, especially as many of them belong to the primary and Junior reading courses of the Missionary Volunteer Department; yet a few of these listed belong in that same class. Some of these books have been more gripping and interesting than others.

*Four Years in Paradise*, by Osa Johnson, 1944, Halcyon House, Garden City Publishing Company.

*I Dive for Treasure*, by Lieutenant Harry E. Rieseberg, 1942, Robert M. McBride and Company.

*The Little Wolf*, by Wendell and Lucie Chapman, 1936, Charles Scribner's Sons.

*Microbe Hunters*, by Paul deKruif, 1939, Harcourt, Brace and Company.

*Great Men of Science*, by Grovo Wilson, 1929, The New Home Library, Garden City Publishing Company.

*Doctor George Washington Carver*, by Graham and Lipscomb, 1944, Julian Messner, Inc.

*My Twenty Years in China*, by John B. Powell, 1945, Macmillan and Company.

[This book is being read mostly for mother's and dad's enjoyment, but the children get pleasure from it also.]

*The Best Bird Stories I Know*, compiled by John Clair Minot, 1932, W. A. Wilde Company.

*Modern Chemists and Their Work*, by Christy Borth, 1943, The New Home Library, Garden City Publishing Company.

[This is perhaps one of the most gripping books we have read during the past year, especially for the boy, mother, and dad. It is written by a layman who tells in a layman's language the wonders of chemurgy and chemistry.]

*Wings at My Window*, by Mrs. Ada Govan, 1940, Macmillan and Company.

*Mother Nature's Little People*, by Jamison, 1931, F. A. Owen Publishing Company.

[This book can be read over and over again to smaller children.]

We have had to reread *The Little Wolf* several times, the same as we did *Fighting Africa's Black Magic* a year ago. *Doctor George Washington Carver* was also a "headliner" and had to be reread. We have also just finished the story of the Whitmans and their tragic murder in Washington State.

A. C. NELSON.

*Take a Look at Yourself*, by John Homer Miller, 1943, Abingdon-Cokesbury Publishing Company.

By actual test the average young man can run ninety-five feet while a champion racer like Gunnar Haigg or Gil Dodds is running one hundred feet; thus world-famous champions are only five per cent more efficient in running than an average unknown, unsung runner from any small town in the U.S.A. Or to carry the simile a bit further, a wrestler who is one per cent more powerful and efficient than his opponent should win wrestling matches quite consecutively even with that small margin of advantage. The intriguing thing is that an improvement of five per cent on the part of any unknown young man would make him famous.

This book is for professional people and is written largely around the idea of doing the ordinary tasks of daily life in a more efficient way. The over-all theme is that the average speaker, teacher, writer, preacher, housewife, or husband can, by increasing his efficiency a few per cent, raise himself from the plains of drab mediocrity to successful achievement. Albeit, the book is not one of the mill-run variety of the so-called personality books, but rather a treatise on vocational psychiatry.

The author is a minister of many years' experience. The style is simple. The illustrations are apt and adept. There is a tincture of humor or pleasantness induced by illustrations and examples. Stories enunciate the principles under consideration even in a clearer way than would be possible by literary description. The book starts with people where they are and takes them along the road leading to the kind of people they would like to become. It opens up new vistas of improvement, and overlays the mind of the reader with a desire to do more efficient work in whatever calling he has chosen and followed.

The hidden theme is that there is a small percentage of difference between peak performance and the ordinary sermons preached, classes taught, tasks accomplished, or jobs done. By bringing to the daily tasks thoughtful and prayerful applications of the principles suggested, all may feel the delightful thrill of lasting improvement.

R. L. HUBBS.

## Read to the Children

BY LAURA GREY

LOOKING back over my own childhood, I recall particularly one delightful custom. Every Sunday afternoon, father or mother read to us. Those stories, even the language they were written in, are with me still. The reading hour, as regular an occurrence as breakfast or dinner, was the time when we gathered around a table, six of us, in the library—a den well stacked with books, papers, and pictures.

Mother read to us *The Water Babies*,

by Charles Kingsley—not once but many times—until we knew it almost by heart. . . . Stories from children's magazines were also read, as were poems from Tenyson and Longfellow. Father read to us from Dickens, which at first was hard to follow—the younger children sometimes fell asleep—but later the stories always became so absorbing, we carried off the books to read by ourselves.

We were happy there around the library table, with father and mother giving us their attention and the fire leaping on the hearth to dispel the winter cold. It was a cozy, happy time—good to remember. Our parents, though not well off, in doing this gave us riches that many a wealthy boy and girl does not receive.

Reading aloud, first to, and later with, the children, is an activity that should not be neglected. All youngsters love it. Reading to them awakens the desire to read for themselves; it opens the door into the treasurehouse of books; it is the most natural way of forming tastes in reading; and it certainly enriches childhood. In these times, when the daily news brings us so much that is distressing, the reading hour with father and mother tends to bring a feeling of security and leads thoughts into happy realms.

How to find time to read is a problem. One mother sits down right after supper, before homework and dishes are attacked, and reads aloud for twenty minutes. Another reads to her son for ten minutes after he is in bed. A father takes Sunday morning after breakfast for reading to the children.

Our choice of books is important. If we start by reading a book like *Treasure Island*, on looking up we shall probably find that our audience has vanished; not because the book is poor, but because it is too difficult for most youngsters to grasp.

It is best to begin early; a very young child will delight to sit on mother's knee, point out and talk about pictures of things he knows—a cat, dog, or baby. There are thousands of beautiful books for children today. Any librarian will help a parent to make wise choices. Publishing houses will send free catalogs of the books they publish, with notes telling about each. This makes selection comparatively easy.

How to read to children is another point to be considered. First, the radio must be turned off; we need to have the room quiet. Then, we should gather our family comfortably about us, and read as

if we were speaking directly to them. For youngsters who have never learned to listen, storytelling is a good way to begin. If we tell them a few stories, gradually they will come to listen to reading. When the story catches and holds their interest, there will be no question about their wanting it to continue; and the ability to listen grows.

The parent who takes time to read to his children will never regret it, and through the years he will perceive evidences of its benefits.—National Kindergarten Association.

### Triumphs of Faith in China

*(Those of us who have read the thrilling book "Triumphs of Faith," by Mrs. John Oss, an account of her experiences while soliciting funds for the establishment, equipment, and maintenance of medical institutions in China, will be interested in this talk given at Loma Linda, California.)*

MRS. OSS began her inspiring talk by saying that the twenty-seven years had been so short and so packed with interesting events that she found it hard to believe that such a period of time had really elapsed since the day in 1919 when she and Pastor Oss first sailed for China. "Privileged indeed we have been to have been permitted to work for such a wonderful people as the Chinese all these years."

The author of *Triumphs of Faith* then told some of the high lights in soliciting funds for our medical institutions in China. She said that Dr. Roger Paul had once told her, "If you die before I do, I want to put an epitaph on your gravestone." Out of curiosity she asked, "And what would it say?" "And the beggar died also," Dr. Paul assured her.

She told of a trip to Mukden to solicit a general for funds for the Mukden hospital. The engine gave out on the way, in bandit-infested country, and all passengers were told to remain fully clad throughout the night, for when trains were stalled in that section it was quite customary for the bandits to come, and after sacking it of everything of value to lead many passengers as hostages off to the near-by hills. The missionaries lifted up their hearts to God in prayer, and soon a new engine appeared and took them safely out of that region at once. The engineer who had been in charge of the now disabled engine was very much surprised, for never before had there been a fresh engine so near at hand.

Arrived at the general's headquarters in Mukden, they found a waiting room well filled with important personages

who had been waiting for weeks. The two women took the place of lowest honor in the room and listened to the Chinese gentlemen discussing back and forth among themselves what they thought these American women could want with the general, and how they didn't see how two foreign women could ever expect an audience with so important a man as the general.

Mrs. Oss gave their letters of introduction to the general to the attendant, and without delay they were ushered into a most luxurious room. The general was an emaciated little man, almost transparent, Mrs. Oss said, for he was an opium drug addict. After the customary polite talk they presented their plea—the need for a Seventh-day hospital in Mukden. They showed him their plans for the institution, and he remarked that it didn't seem to be as large as the Shanghai Sanitarium. To the amazement of the fund solicitors he offered not only to build the hospital, but also to give them the site they would select. The next day the two women rode around in his armored car and selected a beautiful site on a hill, where no one could build in around them.

The funds for the Shanghai Sanitarium were contributed by the Chinese people themselves. After the sanitarium was all constructed, more equipment was needed to the amount of about \$2,500. Again the missionaries went to God in prayer. This time they had no letters of introduction and hardly knew where to turn for the necessary funds. One name kept returning to Mrs. Oss's mind while prayer was being made—that of a very successful woman lawyer in that city. But how could they get to her without a letter of introduction? Mrs. Oss finally determined to go anyway, and, not finding the Chinese woman at home, she told her maid to tell her to remain home in the morning, so that she, Mrs. Oss, could see her at nine o'clock. It seemed an unheard-of thing for a humble missionary to be telling someone of high position to stay home to be called upon by her, and Mrs. Oss didn't know why she said the words after she'd said them, but the maid promised to convey the message.

The next morning, upon arriving at the gorgeous home, she was promptly ushered into the woman's presence, and the busy lawyer demanded that Mrs. Oss dispense with the customary polite talk and state her mission at once, as she was in a great hurry. "Why," she explained, "I've tried to get away from this house all morning, but just couldn't seem to make it." Mrs. Oss presented quickly

the picture of a sanitarium all complete but needing more equipment.

The lawyer listened intently then asked what the amount required was. Mrs. Oss said that they had been praying that the Lord would impress her with the amount which she should give, and would she bow her head while prayer was offered that she would know the proper amount she should contribute? The woman did so, and Mrs. Oss prayed. As soon as the prayer was over, Mrs. Oss was surprised to hear her ask, "Would \$2,500 each year for the rest of my life be all right?" Here they had prayed for \$2,500 for one year, and God had seen fit to give them for many years.

It is customary for the Chinese women to bring their maids when they come to the sanitarium. One such woman was being visited in her room and being shown the Sabbath school Picture Roll. One of the pictures showed an angel with wings outspread. This woman had been very sick and presented after surgery a wound which refused to heal. Her case had been made a subject of special prayer by the sanitarium staff. During the night following the showing of the pictures and the visit of the sanitarium Bible instructor, the maid awakened to see two such beings there in the room with her and her mistress. One lifted up the covers and the other stroked the wound back and forth. When the doctors examined the woman the next morning, the wound was completely healed.

There was a time, Mrs. Oss explained, when we had plenty of doctors, and no institutions, but now we have medical institutions scattered throughout China, with no doctor to man them. Dr. Day Coffin is now the only American doctor we have in all China. Our Chinese graduate physician has done a wonderful work at the Shanghai Sanitarium during the war, treating thousands of patients and not losing one surgical case. God has given us this little respite from war so that we may carry on in a stronger way than ever before, and finish His work speedily.

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No man can empty himself of self. We can only consent for Christ to accomplish the work. Then, the language of the soul will be, Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, un-Christlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul.—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 159.

## Growth of Advent Message in Nigeria

THE following letter from Nigeria, West Africa, presents some interesting facts and figures:

Here are just a few figures which represent progress in this field. Our Sabbath school membership now stands at 15,853, which is an increase of 350 over last quarter. In addition to this, I have reports in from 22 new companies which have been raised and whose enrollment is not included in the above figure. These twenty-two new companies represent 265 adults and 177 children who are meeting without any worker or leader every Sabbath. I mentioned in my last letter to you of our baptism of more than 400 at this year's camps. We have at the moment 925 members in our probationers' classes, though, of course, not all of these will be baptized next time.

We have opened three new day schools this year, making the total now 19. In these schools we have a total of 2,393 scholars and of these 1,635 are Adventist children. This is an increase over last year's record of about 400 Adventist children.

We have enlisted eighteen new recruits to the colporteur work since February, each having received about four weeks' intensive training, such as we are able to give here. Perhaps later we shall have better help from Brother J. O. Gibson. One great trouble of this West African field is that because of the short terms of service almost half of our staff is missing from the field at any given time. This greatly handicaps our work as well as obviously adding to the expense of maintaining the foreign staff. My own chief trouble is that, with the constant growth of the work and the pressure the government is constantly bringing to bear on us, I am chiefly an office secretary and do not have the time I need to get around the field. A work which grows by the zeal of untrained workers and enthusiastic members, but which lacks constant and adequate supervision on the spot, is bound, sooner or later, to show grave weaknesses.

Last week Brother Farrow and I visited a place called Akaegbe. This is a well-known cannibal area. Human bones and skulls are to be found in almost every house. When I stopped my car at the police barrier on returning, the police on duty refused to believe that we had been to Akaegbe. One of our doughty evangelists visited there some years ago, and we were able at a new interest else-

(Continued third column)

## SPECIAL DAYS AND OFFERINGS

December 7

Home Missionary Day  
Bible Sabbath

December 14

Sabbath School Rally Day

December 21

Special Famine Relief  
Offering

December 28

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering  
Far Eastern Division

## The Bible Readers Campaign

When this number of the "Church Officers' Gazette" reaches you, your church and Missionary Volunteer Society will doubtless be in the midst of the visitation effort to encourage all the people to read the Bible. It is really a great privilege to go to the people in behalf of the American Bible Society, encouraging them to read God's Word which, in this time of uncertainty, is "the only steadfast thing our world knows." The book mark leaflet from the Bible Society will be a real stimulus to the people to daily reading from Thanksgiving to Christmas, and we trust that our leaflet, "The Book with Power," will encourage many to keep on reading through 1947.

If perchance the leaders of the Home Missionary and Missionary Volunteer work in the church have not yet organized the church for this house to house visitation, consider the instruction that has appeared in the "Review" and union papers, and which may have been received from your conference leaders, and plan to begin at once. This work should be finished before Thanksgiving.

Then let us all on "Bible Sabbath," December 7, seek God for a new appreciation of the Word of God for ourselves. We are admonished through the Spirit of prophecy: "Search, oh search the Bible with a heart hungry for spiritual food. . . . Do not give up the search till you have ascertained your relation to God and His will concerning you."

M. E. KERN, Chairman,  
Committee on Bible Reading  
Campaign.

where, to baptize a woman who was a native of that place but had married elsewhere. This was our opening. There is no church of any denomination within miles of the place, but word reached us that the chiefs of the place had been to the district office and reported that they were planning to build a church and that they wanted the Seventh-day Adventists to come and teach there. It is a wild and rocky country, without paths and with many swift mountain streams of the clearest water, quite different from the Niger delta here, which I know so well. We hope to have another company there before long.

Mr. Worisah, our local field missionary secretary, informs me that the colporteurs have raised up a number of interests where in some cases fifteen or more souls are worshipping week by week. Unfortunately, in the past, through lack of men and means, these interests have been allowed to die out. May God grant us grace and means that where He leads the way we may be able to follow. The Assemblies of God Mission have twenty-four new mission families working within a forty-mile radius of Aba, whereas we are but three families and one single woman. We could do with many more missionaries right now, though, as Sir Galahad said, "My strength is as the strength of ten, because my heart is pure," so God seems to multiply the effect of our labors and make them fruitful in a miraculous way.

B. A. WALTON.



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