

# The Church Officers' Gazette

VOL. 34

MARCH, 1947

No. 3

## THE CHALLENGE OF MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER WEEK

BY E. W. DUNBAR

**A**DVENT youth, arise! The hour has struck for the youth of the advent movement to arise and finish the work of God in the earth. This conclusion is inevitable when one views the present situation from every angle.

Today, as I write, the General Conference Committee has authorized the Missionary Volunteer Department to hold the first North American Youth Congress in San Francisco, California, September 3-7, 1947. This greatest youth meeting should provide the impetus for a new spirit and surge of spiritual power throughout the ranks of our North American young people.

The secret of power is in reality no secret at all. It lies in the relationship between the soul and its Maker. As a church, we have no greater responsibility resting upon us than our responsibility to the youth. Our young people are indispensable to the life, growth, and activity of the church. Without them any church would soon die. They stand in the line of succession to every phase of church work. Upon their shoulders must eventually fall every burden now borne by those who are older.

The burden bearers of the church today were the young people of yesterday. The burden bearers of tomorrow are the young people of today. How vividly and strikingly is this fact impressed upon us. As a lad, I clearly remember listening to the preaching of many of our early leaders. These were true men of God. What a strong impression they

left upon my boyish mind. In those days it did not occur to me that the day would come when I, as a young man, would have to step forward and take over the responsibility then borne by others. The day came when as a youth

I had to decide whether I would dedicate my life to the service of God and have a part in His work or give my services to the world.

Today, thousands of young men and young women are facing the same decision. It is one of the most important decisions of life. To prepare young men and young women to make wise decisions and the right choices is a wonderful privilege and a great responsibility. That is the privilege that must be assumed by the church during this Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer.

The real purpose of this appeal is to awaken the consciousness of the church to this responsibility. Church officers, let us bestir ourselves in behalf of the precious lambs of the flock. Should we not, preceding this Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer, call a special church board meeting to study the needs of our young people in relation to this special spring devotional week? Certainly any program that we leaders of the church might lay which fails to include the young people would be very shortsighted. Our youth need to be loved, understood, associated with, and brought to a definite experience in conversion. They need to know Jesus and find in Him a personal Saviour. To witness properly before our youth and to realize something of the difficulties which face our young people, we must give more time to the study of their problems. Let the church shake off its apathy and rouse to the needs of our youth at this time.

### Missionary Volunteer Day

Sabbath, March 8, 1947

Missionary Volunteer Day should be made one of the momentous days of the year. How to make it so:

1. Study to place a direct challenge to the church to arouse *now* as never before to undertake to win the youth of the church.
2. Make a strong appeal for reconsecration.
3. Study youth problems.
4. Use the youth, especially in the program of the day.
5. Give special announcement and emphasis to the coming North American Youth Congress.
6. Organize permanent prayer bands for the youth of the church where possible.
7. Encourage all to deepen their devotional life.



# YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

## of Missionary Volunteers



### NOTES TO OFFICERS

#### Blueprint for Soul-winning Work in the Society

**W**HO of our youth will give themselves to God for the purpose of laboring for the salvation of their fellow youth? Who will put their talent out to the exchangers? Who will feel their sacred accountability and put to use every ability given them of God to win souls?"—*Signs of the Times*, May 29, 1893.

"The Lord has appointed the youth to be His helping hand."—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 64.

"The leaders in God's cause, as wise generals, are to lay plans for advance moves all along the line."—*Ibid.*, vol. 9, p. 116.

"The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err."—*Ibid.*, vol. 7, pp. 21, 22.

"Cannot you form a band of workers, and have set times to pray together and ask the Lord to give you His grace, and put forth united action?"—*Youth's Instructor*, Aug. 9, 1894.

"There are ways in which all may do personal service for God. Some can write a letter to a far-off friend, or send a paper to one who is inquiring for truth. Others can give counsel to those who are in difficulty. Those who know how to treat the sick can help in this line. Others . . . can give Bible-readings or conduct Bible-classes."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 433.

#### Nature Clubs

A NATURE club is not a hobby club for children and queer adults. It is an association for recreation, inspiration, devotion; a legitimate part of every M.V. organization, that can and should function every day in the year. It should be much like the Sabbath school, where daily Bible study and a regular time for comparison and exchange of results keep us planting and cultivating, reaping and storing up, getting and giving year after year, until we finally join the Sabbath school in the New Jerusalem. If the heavens indeed declare the glory of God, if "God is love" is really written "upon very opening bud, upon every spire of springing grass," then the time to notice, search, inquire, appreciate what God hath wrought, is now.

Let those who have had the most experience lead others to the open road and to the open sky, to the river, lake, and mountain, where they can forget for an hour or a day the problems and artificialities of modern life. Especially on Sabbath we should follow the example of the Creator and Adam and John the Baptist.

### 40 YEARS

#### and Here We Are

Anniversaries are what you make them. Considering the seriousness of the present hour certainly much should be made of our Missionary Volunteer Fortieth Anniversary.

Let's start at the beginning. You belong to the Missionary Volunteer organization in 1947. Suppose you had joined in 1907. After all, it's merely chance that you didn't!

The scene goes back to 1879. Luther Warren, then a lad in his teens, and his friend, Harry Fenner, while walking along a country road near Hazelton, Michigan, conceived the idea of forming a boys' society. Before parting, they went to a corner of the field, where they knelt and prayed for wisdom in carrying out their plans. A few days later, Luther Warren was responsible for the organization of the first Young People's Society in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. Big ideas were in the making; young men, like yourselves, were leaving farms and little rural communities to find jobs that were being created by the beginnings of the new machine age. Cities were not organized as they are now. Day schools were expensive. Night schools were unknown. Social controls were negligible, and gambling was a national epidemic. Under these circumstances a group of young people, under the leadership of Luther Warren, started the Missionary Volunteers.

It was as simple as that in the beginning. At that time not one of the original members knew what was going to happen. I don't suppose they visualized a Missionary Volunteer army of 200,000. Today, to fulfill God's purpose in our founding, we must take frequent glances at the objectives of our founders:

- (1) The organization was made after much prayer.
- (2) They tried to do things orderly.
- (3) Missionary work was encouraged and reported weekly.
- (4) Missionary work—Youth-for-Youth—was the keynote.

After forty years, these ideals are still fundamental objectives of Missionary Volunteers in the dissemination of the gospel.

No one of any age is entirely cut off from nature interests. Even invalids have found health-building inspiration in what they could see of the birds and the sky through a window.

Let the organization be most simple. Arrange for regular outdoor sessions and allow a place on the M.V. programs for telling interesting experiences or show-

ing pictures of the colorful things that are found. Methods of laying trails and conducting systematic study of birds, flowers, and stars may be gleaned from the *Master Comrade Manual*, and, best of all, from those who have had experience. Invite such people to help you out. They will be delighted to show you how to "come at these enchantments."

O. C. DURHAM.

### The Young People's Missionary Volunteer Week

**T**HIS is a youth's week. A week especially devoted to youth. The young people and children of Seventh-day Adventist homes around the world who comprise the Lord's army of youth are to receive special attention during this spring Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer. Every boy and girl in the church, every young man and young woman at home or in school or absorbed in the world's work, is a glorious prospect. Everyone is in dire need of spiritual help. To do nothing for them during the Week of Prayer would be most disastrous. Officers, what do you plan to do? Here are a few suggestions.

1. Lay definite plans early for as many meetings as possible for the youth.
2. Call a meeting of Missionary Volunteer officers to survey, lay plans, and pray.
3. Organize prayer bands wherever it is possible.
4. Select leaders for and organize a live, functioning personal workers' band.
5. At some time during M.V. Week give every young person an opportunity to take his stand for Christ.
6. Do not neglect the forming of a baptismal class.
7. Do not forget the Juniors.

### A Greeters' Committee

HAVE you ever arranged for a reception committee—or a lookout or greeters' committee? Select several young men or young women who will make it their business to welcome every young person and older one who comes to the Missionary Volunteer Society meeting.

Some societies have every visitor register in an M.V. registry book, and at that time present him with an appropriate M.V. leaflet or bookmark.

Young people, as well as older ones, like to be wanted. At young people's meeting is one place where you can make them feel they are wanted. A cordial handshake will do much toward winning a new member.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT,  
GENERAL CONFERENCE.



# SENIOR MEETINGS

March 1

## The Challenge of Foreign Missions at Home

*Crusaders in Action*

BY E. J. LOBNTZ

### Order of Service

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

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

REPORTS OF MISSIONARY WORK.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERTORY.

SONG: "Missionary Volunteer Rally Song," inside front cover.

TALK: "The Challenge of Foreign Missions at Home."

READING: "The End of the Trail."

TALK: "How to Begin Work Among the Foreigners."

SYMPOSIUM: "Remarkable Conversions."

SOCIETY PLANS AND ORGANIZATION OF HOME FOREIGN BAND.

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

BENEDICTION.

## The Challenge of Foreign Missions at Home

Do you realize that it is possible to be a foreign missionary right here at home, without even leaving your comfortable home and community? How often after having read the wonderful stories of God's grace in the far-off mission fields, we have felt the inspiration and longing to go there to join in this wonderful work. We are thankful for the hundreds of young men and women who have dedicated their lives to foreign service and who are willing to leave their dear ones behind, ready to learn another and possibly difficult language, ready to face hardships and deadly diseases and even death for Christ. Our story of missions is indeed a story of unsurpassed noble heroism.

Let us not forget, however, that members of the very same races to whom we are sending our missionaries and millions of dollars of mission funds are living right at our own doorsteps. What a challenge to us! Here in our very country is located the greatest mission field of them all. Without traveling thousands of miles we can get to a foreign field. We live right in it!

Not long ago I preached in one of our foreign churches located in one of America's large industrial cities. One of the

first things I observed as I entered the church was a blackboard announcing the songs in five different languages—English, Serbian, Slovak, Polish, and German—and as we joined in the singing it was a blend of these five languages which we heard. I was told that 300,000 Poles lived in the community surrounding our church building. Should not charity begin at home? What a wonderful opportunity God has given us to work for the foreigners who live in our midst.

In 1940 the United States Census Bureau reported some 22,000,000 people in the United States with a mother tongue other than the English. Besides 200,000 Mohammedans, there are nearly 1,000,000 pagans, or heathen, in America. The Buddhists number 180,000; the Hindus 150,000; the Confucianists and Taoists 600,000.

It is in the providence of God that all these different races have come to our shores. Here is a statement given years ago by God's servant: "Many of these foreigners are here in the providence of God, that they may have opportunity to hear the truth for this time, and receive a preparation that will fit them to return to their own lands as bearers of precious light shining direct from the throne of God." "God in His providence has brought men to our very doors, and thrust them, as it were, into our arms, that they might learn the truth, and be qualified to do a work we could not do in getting the light to men of other tongues."—*Christian Service*, p. 200.

The work in Russia was begun by a foreigner who returned to his homeland from America, where he had found the advent message. Our work in South America and the West Indies was begun in the same manner.

"While plans are being carried out to warn the inhabitants of various nations in distant lands, much must be done in behalf of the foreigners who have come to the shores of our own land. The souls in China are no more precious than the souls within the shadow of our doors. God's people are to labor faithfully in distant lands, as His providence may open the way; and they are also to fulfill their duty toward the foreigners of various nationalities in the cities and the villages and country districts close by."—*Ibid.*, p. 199.

## The End of the Trail

MARVIN WALTER, our worker among the Navaho Indians of Arizona, informs us of the following experience:

It was a cold snowy morning in January. A telephone message from Na-Ah-TEE told us that Ella's old mother was very sick and wanted to go to the hospital. Ella was anxious that we come at once.

The old woman was slowly dying of an incurable disease which left her helpless and a real burden to her family. No hospital would admit her again, for she had been to them before. We were suspicious that this call was made because the girls were getting tired of caring for their mother.

When the mission car stopped by the poor woman's hogan (native house) no one was there. Lena, one of her heathen daughters, and Ella came from their home to inform us that their mother was waiting for us down the road. Horror seized us; for we knew that they had taken her out to die lest she defile the hogan and it would have to be destroyed.

Nearly half a mile from the house a sight met our eyes which we can never forget. Sitting under a juniper tree, with her face fixed toward the rising sun, old grandma was waiting for death to come. The smoke of the smoldering fire in front of her was surely symbolic of the prayer of her heart to have peace and rest. "The End of the Trail," not in a picture but in reality! A little longer, and she would have frozen to death. This is heathenism, not in Africa, not in China, but right in the United States of America! A large devil dance was to be held near White Cone. These girls wanted to go to the dance, but mother was keeping them at home. They decided to let her freeze or get the missionary to take care of her while they went to the one-day dance.

This was ten years when the missionary arrived in time to save a life and tell again the story of salvation, but there are thousands who are reaching "The End of the Trail" with no hope for the future. May God help us to awaken to the great needs of the thousands of devil-worshipping heathen right here in our midst who are calling today, "Come over to the Navaho land to help us."

## How to Begin Work Among the Foreigners

THE time to begin the work among our foreigners, unless you already have begun, is NOW—not tomorrow, for tomorrow never comes.

Wherever there is a foreign community a Home Foreign Band should be organized among the young people's society members who are definitely interested in this work. The executive society should appoint a leader for this band. Here are some pointers on how to conduct this band.

1. Begin a study of the different nationalities in the church territory. Get acquainted with the respective customs, religion, peculiarities, and needs of these people. This study can be made very interesting especially if you consider yourselves as called by God to be foreign missionaries at home. Remember that God has "thrust them, as it were, into our arms." Let us open our arms wide to receive them.

2. Check with your Book and Bible House to ascertain what foreign language literature is available. The Pacific Press, Brookfield, Illinois, publishes literature in about twenty different languages. A complete set of tracts for systematic distribution can be obtained in many of the languages.

3. Young people could dedicate a part of their time in selling some of the very attractive foreign magazines which we publish and thus find open doors for the message.

4. Personal visitation in their homes, visiting the sick and suffering, thus indicating a real interest in them which will always be appreciated.

5. Invite the foreign people to your church and do your best to make them feel at home.

6. Use the Ingathering for Missions magazine in the language of the group where you work. An interest is almost always aroused when their own language is noted in the paper.

7. Above all, do not forget the prayer list. When your band meets, present the list to the Lord and watch the results.

It is the personal work that counts. Out of almost forty cases of healing reported in the gospels only six came by themselves. It is recorded that there were three times as many persons who were brought to Christ by their friends and neighbors as came in their own behalf.

### Remarkable Conversions

#### A DREAM FULFILLED

An Indian woman had a dream in which she saw many people coming out of a church, and as she approached the church a woman gave her a book. The dream made such an impression upon this Indian woman that next morning she

walked to town. There, as she had dreamed, she saw the church and the crowd. As she walked up to the church a woman stepped forward and presented her with a book, the title of which was *Steps to Christ*. After reading the book she gave her heart to God and is now a member of the church.

#### ITALIAN PAPERS WIN SOULS

Some of our Italian believers in New York sent tracts to Italy for free distribution. Some of these tracts fell into the hands of a man who read them with interest and sent them on to a friend in Trieste. This man also read the tracts and sent them to a brother in America. The brother read them with interest, sent to the publishers for more, and shortly afterward began keeping the Sabbath, together with his wife. Later when they met Seventh-day Adventists they were baptized.

#### JAPANESE LITERATURE

Some time ago a young Japanese student of one of our colleges approached a Japanese man whom he found working in his vineyard and asked him to subscribe for the Japanese paper. The man answered that he was a Buddhist, but finally agreed to pay for the paper if it could be sent to a friend. This was arranged. The friend received the paper and became convinced of the truth it contained. After becoming a church member he attended one of our schools, and is now an ordained minister working for his countrymen.

Let us do all within our possibilities to give the message to the foreigners who have been thrust, as it were, into our arms. They are just as important as their countrymen who live far away.



### Senior and Junior

March 15

## The Story of the Gospel Advance in South America

BY N. W. DUNN

### Order of Service

SONG SERVICE.

INVOCATION.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

OFFERTORY.

REMARKS BY LEADER.

OPENING SONG: "Far and Near the Fields Are Teeming," No. 547 in *Christ in Song*. (See Notes to Leaders.)

PRAYER. (See Notes to Leaders.)

MUSIC: "Missionary's Farewell," No. 546, by string quartet or vocal trio.

ONE-MINUTE REPORTS: "Glimpses of the Work in Early Days."

(a) Yesterday and Today in Argentina.

(b) Yesterday and Today in Brazil.

(c) Yesterday and Today in Chile.

(d) Yesterday and Today in the land of the Incas.

SYMPOSIUM: "The Youth in South America Do Their Part." (See Notes to Leaders.)

Up and Down the Mighty Amazon in a Gospel Canoe.

A Timid Girl Becomes a Soul Winner.

A Big Snake Helps a Young Man Deliver a Book.

One Boy Flees, the Other Stays—and Wins.

The Bible Boy of Buenos Aires.

Jennie Wins Her First Soul.

Won to the Truth by One Long Bible Study.

DIALOG: "Shall We Answer the Call?"

CLOSING SONG: "Answer the Call, Ye Brave Men," No. 673, by congregation, male quartet, or ladies' trio.

BENEDICTION.

### Notes to Leaders and Superintendents

OPENING SONG: "Far and Near the Fields Are Teeming." This song may be arranged as a quintet, with a male quartet humming, while a rich, mellow-voiced contralto sings the words—the five voices singing on the chorus.

PRAYER: It is suggested that a chain prayer be arranged, with seven young people participating, each offering a brief fervent petition in favor of one of the seven different countries included in the South American Division: Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Uruguay, and Paraguay.

SYMPOSIUM: "The Youth in South America Do Their Part." This feature may be presented by a group of enthusiastic storytellers all of whom should come to the front together and take the seats arranged for them beforehand. The leader of the group will introduce the topic and the speakers.

The material in this topic can easily be adapted to the Junior M.V. Society meeting, omitting this dialog.

### Remarks by Leader

This evening our topic is the story of gospel advance in South America—that great continent of opportunity. It is fitting that we should give consideration to this great mission field inasmuch as the people of these Catholic lands look to us for spiritual leadership as they seek freedom from the spiritual bondage in which they have been held for over four hundred years.

Tonight you will hear how the third angel's message started in the leading countries of South America, and the part our fellow Missionary Volunteers have acted in its progress. As a setting for the program which directs our thoughts to mission lands across the sea, let us sing the old missionary hymn, "Far and Near the Fields Are Teeming."

## Glimpses of the Work in Early Days

### Yesterday and Today in Argentina

"THE Adventist doctrines first found their way into Argentina by means of the printed page. Late in the eighties a small company of believers were baptized in Switzerland, in connection with one of our European general meetings. This being a somewhat unusual occurrence, it was reported in one of the newspapers, and was copied by a French Baptist journal, which fell into the hands of a French colonist living in Argentina. It so aroused his curiosity as to the doctrines held by Seventh-day Adventists that he sent for the denominational publications, and after a time began to keep the Sabbath. He was joined by some of his neighbors." And thus the foundation was laid for the Seventh-day Adventist church in Argentina.

A little later on, a group of German believers from the state of Kansas decided to move to South America in order to engage in self-supporting missionary work and spread a knowledge of the Adventist belief among the Germans on that continent. Selling their farms in Kansas, four Adventist families went to Argentina at this time. When they reached the country they met many discouragements; but one man with whom they had carried on a correspondence for several years soon began to keep the Sabbath, and in time he became elder of a Seventh-day Adventist church.

From such a small beginning the work in Argentina has grown until today there are two strong conferences and two well-organized missions in that country, with many thousands of believers. Not only is the main training school for Spanish workers located in Argentina, but also the headquarters of the division and a large publishing house are located there. More than 4000 Missionary Volunteers of Argentina are now devoting their strength to the onward movement in that beautiful country, and the future looks bright indeed.

### Yesterday and Today in Brazil

Periodicals first brought the advent message to Brazil. One of our German papers, probably handed to a sea captain in England by a ship missionary, found its way to San Francisco, California, and thence to a seaport in the southern part of Brazil, the vast Portuguese section of South America. In this port lived a number of German-speaking people, one of whom was a school teacher who was given to drink. This magazine fell into

his hands, and as he read it he saw on one of its pages a notice that further copies would be sent free of charge to persons desiring to read them, so he wrote a letter to the editor, requesting such copies. Papers then began to be sent regularly, but the man sold them in order to get money for drink. But the people read them and some were convinced of the truth. They began to correspond with the brethren in the General Conference, and eventually Elder F. H. Westphal was sent to visit them. He remained there only a week; but before leaving, he was able to organize a church of twenty-three members. This was the first Seventh-day Adventist church organized in the great republic of Brazil.

The membership in Brazil is now over 10,000.

In Brazil there are four academies and a large college in which the youth of the church are being trained for service. The future looks bright for Brazil.

### Yesterday and Today in Chile

When we ask who pioneered the way in Chile, the man with the book stands up, for the work in Chile began when two colporteurs went there from California in 1894 to canvass for *Spanish Patriarchs and Prophets*. Arriving in Santiago, Chile, these colporteurs prayed that God would go before them into this city of superstition. Their prayers were answered in a striking way. A young Swiss living in the city had been impressed by a dream in which he saw two men and heard certain words. "When he saw our canvassers on the street and heard the words spoken, he recognized them as the men seen in his dream, and accosted the strangers. Soon the colporteurs, using their English Bibles, were giving studies to an interested group of friends who read from the Spanish translation; and instead of the colporteurs' being isolated in this Catholic city, several new believers kept the first Sabbath with them." Thus the work started in Chile.

Today we have over 2000 baptized members fully organized into a strong conference.

### Yesterday and Today in the Land of the Incas

And now we make a trip to Lake Titicaca, where we find our highest mission stations in the world. Of his first contact with the Indians of that region, Elder F. A. Stahl wrote:

"Like wildfire the news spread that the missionary had come to help them, and care for them in their sickness. . . . Hundreds came to us for treatment. . . . We

were obliged to enlist the help of the Indians themselves. . . . While we were treating the Indians, we prayed with them, and told them of the love of Jesus and the plan of salvation; and as we explained these things, the Indians would almost invariably exclaim, 'Oh, we did not know that before!'

"In one of our first meetings for the Indians, a young man of gigantic stature, who had become a wreck through using cocaine and drinking alcohol, came out from the crowd, and taking me by the arm, looked me earnestly in the face, and asked fervently, 'Do you mean to tell me that Jesus loves me?'

"I answered, 'Yes, my son, He does.'

"'Oh,' he said, 'tell me again; do you really mean to say that Jesus loves me?' Tears were streaming down his rough face. . . .

"God blessed in a marvelous manner from the very first. People who were carried to us in blankets, were able, after a few days' treatment, to walk away fully restored to health."—*In the Land of the Incas*, pp. 126-130.

Very soon a number of Indians were baptized and a church was organized. The work grew rapidly, for the Indians are great missionaries. As they travel from place to place, they are always telling others about the gospel.

Today there are over 10,000 baptized members in the Inca Union, and about 200 mission schools with an enrollment of over 6000 Indian children and youth. Given adequate training, what a mighty work these young people will do for the Master!

## The Youth in South America Do Their Part

### Introduction

THE young people of South America are true Missionary Volunteers. It matters not whether they are located deep in the heart of a steaming jungle or in one of the high wind-swept plateaus of Peru, or way down below the straits of Magellan or in one of the thriving cities of the coast, with its millions of unwarned souls, the youth of South America are eagerly accepting the challenge to dedicate their full strength to the service of the Master.

It is the firm conviction of the leaders of the work in South America that the future success of the whole mission program in that great continent of opportunity is in the hands of the mighty army of 20,000 Missionary Volunteers in that division. The work is difficult in South America. Mighty strongholds of error

and fanaticism are to be thrown down and the glorious message of Christ's soon coming is to be proclaimed through the continent. Only the youth have the physical strength necessary to carry the message into those disease-infected jungles where sometimes entire villages are wiped out in a few weeks by pestilence. Only the young people have the courage to paddle a canoe up and down the mighty Amazon with gospel literature for the thousands who live in grass huts along that great river and its tributaries, with its 40,000 miles of navigable waters. Only the youth with strong hearts and dauntless courage can spend long hours on muleback climbing or descending the steep trails of the Andes or crossing the windy plateaus in search of the citizens of Christ's kingdom.

Our group will tell you a few stories to illustrate the work the young people of South America are doing to advance the cause of God in that great continent of opportunity. (Use the name of the speaker in introducing his subject.)

#### Up and Down the Mighty Amazon in a Gospel Canoe

In the book *Gospel Workers*, page 104, we find the words which inspired the man of my story to pack his grip, with the idea of spending his summer canvassing on the great Amazon River rather than in the modern city of 2,000,000 inhabitants near which our college in Brazil is located. The statement is, "Those who have youth and strength are to go into the dark places of the earth, to call perishing souls to repentance." These are the words used by a missionary in his appeal to the students of our college in Brazil, to dedicate their lives to God's service in the neglected areas of that great country. He had told the students of the self-sacrificing labors of Missionary Halliwell and his faithful wife, who have gone up and down the Amazon River for fifteen years ministering to the needs of the people, but who are now growing older, and must one day lay their burdens on younger shoulders.

As Pablo looked at himself in the mirror, it seemed that God was speaking to him personally, and repeating over and over again the words, "Those who have youth and strength are to go into the dark places of the earth." As he thought about it, his heart thrilled with the thought of being one of God's chosen to carry the gospel of life into one of the difficult and dangerous places of earth. "Why not go up there to canvass this summer instead of staying here in the city?" thought he. But the devil was

quick to suggest reasons why he should not go. "Look how far it is! You might not get back to school! You might get caught in a storm on the Amazon, and have your canoe capsized in midstream!" However, Pablo quickly put these thoughts out of his mind and determined to go at any cost, for he was confident that the One who called him to labor in such a dangerous place would be with him and bring him safely back to school.

When school closed, Pablo and three companions packed their grips and rolled up their mosquito nets and their cloth hammocks, which were to serve as beds during the long vacation, and took a dirty, smelly freight boat for the long trip to Belém, at the mouth of the Amazon. There they were met by Elder Halliwell, who helped them to secure canoes and rig them up with sails and build a canopy or cover over a section of the canoe. This canopy would protect their books and clothing from the tropical rains and provide a little shade under which they might take the midday siesta while waiting for the boiling sun to pass the zenith and the afternoon breeze to fill the sails after the dead calm of noonday, which made progress impossible. Then came the loading of the canoes with books, tracts, and Bibles, the stowing away of emergency rations of canned milk, sugar, rice, matches, and medicines; a final prayer of consecration, and a vigorous Brazilian hug by Missionary Halliwell as he bade them press the battle to the very gates; a mutual promise to meet on the college campus after a summer's adventure with mosquitoes, alligators, monstrous snakes, tropical storms, and a hundred other dangers which only the youth have the courage and the strength to face—and they were gone. Gone on an errand of mercy. Gone as messengers of God to search for His lost children of the jungle.

The thought of having these four young men help carry the message to the thousands living in grass huts along the mighty Amazon, with its 40,000 miles of navigable water, gave new courage to the heart of Veteran Missionary Halliwell and made the burden seem a little bit lighter.

In spite of the difficulties in the way and the magnitude of the task, Pablo and his three companions carried the message to hundreds of villages. One old grandfather who was almost blind purchased a Bible and wrapped it in a new towel to keep until his little five-year-old grandson would be able to read it to him. Another man who failed to see the col-

porteur borrowed a copy of *The Great Controversy* from a neighbor, and wanted it so much that he and his daughter copied the entire book by hand.

As these young men met again on the college campus at the end of their summer's vacation, they were able to tell a thrilling story of the way God had led them and protected them on their long and perilous missionary tour. Their experiences, related on various occasions during the school year, electrified the student body and created a genuine missionary spirit in the school.

#### A Timid Girl Becomes a Soul Winner

My story is of a timid girl of sixteen who lived in one of the great capital cities of South America. She had longed to do something for others; and as missionary plans were being made by the M.V. Society of which she was a member, she joined one of the service bands, determined to win at least one person to Christ during the year. Timidly she began.

The idea of beginning at home had been emphasized by the society officers. There was a young man boarding with her family, so she decided to begin with him. At first her Bible studies were unusually short and simple, but they improved as she gained experience, and the young man was won to the truth.

Her experience brought new life to the young people's society, and it became recognized as a soul-winning society. Through her influence the young man whom she had won was encouraged to try to win one of his friends, who likewise accepted the truth, and immediately went in search of another, and brought him into the truth. Catching the spirit of soul winning, this new believer succeeded in winning one of his friends, who thought immediately of still another, who was quickly won to the truth.

A little later when a large Young People's Evangelistic Congress was held in that city, with delegates present from more than twenty M.V. Societies, this timid girl brought a thrill to the hearts of nearly a thousand young people when she told how God had helped her to set in motion a wave of influence which resulted in the conversion of five young men, all of whom were present at that congress as delegates and who stood as witnesses to the truthfulness of her story.

#### A Big Snake Helps a Young Man Deliver a Book

Only young men can face successfully the dangers and hardships of colporteur work on the Amazon. There are no railroads or automobiles or highways or

trails, and there are not even mules to ride. The only means of conveyance from village to village is a canoe, a gasoline launch, or a river boat.

Francisco used a canoe for his colporteur work. When there was a breeze he would set up a small sail, and thus get from place to place with little effort. When there was a calm he had to use the paddle.

As he was delivering books one day he had to paddle for several hours in order to reach the house of a man to whom he had sold a copy of the book *Dawn of a New Day*, written in Portuguese, which is the language spoken in Brazil.

Arriving at this home on the bank of the river, he wearily climbed out of his canoe and tied it to the porch post, as it was flood season, and the house was standing on stilts, with water two feet deep under it. However, to his disappointment the man was not at home, and his wife, a fanatical Catholic, refused to take the book in his absence.

Our young colporteur felt quite discouraged as he untied his canoe and started to leave, wondering why the Lord had permitted him to paddle all that distance only to have the book refused. He had gone only a few feet, however, when the woman excitedly called to him, "Young man, won't you please come back? A big snake is after my chickens in the henhouse. Please come back and shoot it for me."

Francisco obligingly turned his canoe around and went as rapidly as possible to the help of this woman. Taking the shotgun which she offered him, he rolled up his trousers and waded out to the henhouse, which was also on stilts, and there on the hen roost he saw a very large snake. Taking careful aim, he was about to shoot, when the snake suddenly raised up as if to attack him. Startled by the threatening attitude of the snake, he stepped backward, his foot slipping into a hole, and he lost his balance. As he fell backward into the water he fired the gun accidentally, but fortunately he killed the snake.

The woman looked at him in amazement, considering that she had witnessed a miracle. She wondered whether, after all, he might not be a messenger sent from heaven. As he picked himself up, wet from head to foot, the woman asked, "what did you say is the price of that book?" He told her, and she said, "I have just about that much here in the house. I will take it."

So that is how a big snake helped to deliver a book.

### One Boy Flees, the Other Stays— and Wins

A little boy in Santiago, Chile, became interested in the sale of our Spanish magazine *Atalaya*. His father was a colporteur, and the boy wanted to be one also. Taking a roll of magazines he started out with another boy about his own age. The boys went down into the very heart of the city and picked out the tallest office building in which to begin their work.

Taking the elevator they ascended to the very top, with the idea of working their way down. As they neared the top they began to feel afraid, not knowing how they would be received by the men in the offices. They were both trembling a bit when the elevator stopped at the top floor.

Going quickly to the office door nearest the elevator they knocked. The boy's companion became so frightened as they hear footsteps approaching the door that he whispered, "Let's scoot," and ran down the stairs, leaving his friend all alone to face whatever experience awaited him. Just then the door opened, and a tall man with dark-rimmed glasses looked at the boy and asked what he wanted. Trembling with fear, the boy swallowed a time or two and answered, "I am selling *Atalayas* and thought maybe you would like to buy one."

"Why, yes," said the man, "I used to buy that magazine regularly, but I haven't seen a copy for a long time. You may bring me one every month." Of course the boy was happy.

In one of the magazines the man saw an advertisement of the book *The Great Controversy*, and when the boy called again he asked, "Can you order some of these books for me?" The little boy said, "Why, yes, my father sells that book and will be glad to bring you a copy."

The man bought the papers and the book and became so interested in the boy that he paid his tuition at the Adventist training school, in order that he might prepare to be a worker for God.

### The Bible Boy of Buenos Aires

At a large baptismal service in Buenos Aires the candidates were given the opportunity to tell how they were brought into the truth. One said she first became interested through reading a book which she had purchased from a colporteur. Another spoke of a series of tracts which an Adventist neighbor had given him. Another said, "I had never heard of Adventists until I began attending the meeting held in this church."

Then a woman stood and said: "A little boy brought me to Jesus. One day about eight months ago a little fellow not over ten years of age knocked at my door. When I greeted him this little fellow gave his name and said, 'Lady, I am a Christian boy. I live here in Buenos Aires. Every Sunday I make a few visits to see if there is anything I can do to help people to understand the Bible better. Would you like to have me come to your house each week and give you a Bible study?' He was so clean and innocent looking that before I realized it I said, 'Why, yes, I would like to study with you.' So he gave me an interesting study on the great image of Daniel 2. I had never understood it before. When the study was finished he asked if I would like him to come the next week. Of course I wanted him to continue. He came the next, and the next, and every week for eight months. It is because of him that I am here ready to be baptized today."

When she sat down another person got up and told the same kind of story—then another, and another, until there were six in all who had been won to the truth by this ten-year-old lad. The pastor then had these six persons stand at the front of the church and called the little lad forward to greet them. He looked very happy as each of the six candidates gave him a sincere and affectionate embrace, as is the custom in South America.

Because the lad was so small that he could scarcely be seen by the folk sitting in the back, the pastor lifted him to the rostrum and asked him, "What was it that led you eight months ago to go out and give these Bible readings?"

The lad answered, "I have been a Seventh-day Adventist all my life. I have gone to church school for four years now. Eight months ago I thought how selfish I have been to keep to myself all these good things that God has given me. So I made up my mind to share these things with somebody else. I started out. This lady who spoke first was the first person to whom I went. After I got started it was easier; I liked it." "But don't you like to play ball like the other boys?" asked the pastor. "Oh, yes!" he answered, "but I like to give Bible studies better." So from that time on he became known as "The Bible Boy of Buenos Aires."

### Jennie Wins Her First Soul

Jennie Beckow was sixteen years of age and belonged to one of the Literature Bands of the M.V. Society in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Jennie was given a



city block in which to distribute a series of tracts prior to an evangelistic effort which her pastor planned to hold a little later in the year. It was Jennie's first experience in distributing literature from house to house, so instead of waiting for the people to answer the door when she called, she would just ring the bell, and then quickly slip the tract under the door and run to the next house.

At one home the lady soon became deeply interested in the truth, and desired very much to know who was calling at her home each Sabbath and slipping the tract under her door. Jennie, knowing nothing of her interest, kept ringing her doorbell and getting away so quickly that the lady was never successful in finding out who was putting the literature under her door. Finally the time came to begin the evangelistic effort, and Jennie's Literature Band was asked to place an invitation to the meetings in each tract distributed. This lady was delighted to receive the announcement, and attended every meeting from the very start. She readily accepted the truth, for she had studied the tracts which Jennie had left from week to week, and was thus able to comprehend the message more clearly.

When the day arrived for the baptism the entire church listened attentively as each candidate told how he or she first became interested in the truth. At this meeting Jennie was sitting in the choir loft in the balcony of the church, listening to the testimonies, when suddenly her heart began to beat faster as she heard this lady tell how she had first become interested in the truth by reading a series of tracts which someone had shoved under her door each week for a long period of time. The lady said she would be happy if she only knew who had left those tracts. The pastor then asked where she lived, and Jennie's heart fairly leaped for joy when the lady gave her address, for it was in the very block where she had distributed tracts for so long. Turning to a friend Jennie said, "Why, that was my territory!" And she could hardly keep from squealing, she was so happy.

The pastor finally asked that the person who had distributed literature in that block come forward to greet the one who had thus been led to a knowledge of the truth. As Jennie came down the aisle to the front of the church, she received the thrill of her life as she greeted the woman, for it was the first soul she had ever won to Christ.

The lady threw her arms around Jennie and kissed her on both cheeks as she

expressed her gratitude to the girl who had brought her to Jesus.

Today Jennie is the wife of one of our successful young evangelists, and they are doing a wonderful work for God.

### Won to the Truth by One Long Bible Study

Over in East Brazil a young man whose educational opportunities had been somewhat limited decided to offer his services as an elementary church school teacher. Being very earnest and enthusiastic he was assigned to a school in spite of his rather limited preparation.

One Sunday, as he was planning his school program for the following week, a man knocked at his door, and upon entering became deeply interested in what this young teacher was doing for the children. Then they talked of religion and the Bible. It was the first time this strange man had seen a Bible. Our young Missionary Volunteer first explained the prophecies to him, then gave him a study on the signs of Christ's coming and the necessity of obeying God and keeping all His commandments.

By that time it was so near noon that they decided to eat dinner together. As they sat at the table our young brother gave him the light on the meat question.

Dinner over, they went into the study of the change of the Sabbath and the mark of the beast. After fourteen hours of continuous study, from 9 A.M. to 11 P.M., they decided to call it a day, but not before the visitor had fully accepted every fundamental doctrine of the Adventist faith.

It was quite a long Bible study, to be sure, but both young men were so deeply interested that the hours seemed like minutes to them—and a soul was won from darkness to light in a single day, thanks to the efforts of an enthusiastic Missionary Volunteer who believed in striking while the iron was hot.

### Shall We Answer the Call?

**THE SETTING:** A young man and his wife enter their living room on the platform, the young man carrying in his hand his college diploma, which he has just received on graduation day. His wife congratulates him as she stands beside him at the table looking at the diploma.

**WIFE:** So now you are through! You have your degree at last! Remember how everyone said you would never finish college if we got married while you were still in school?

**HUSBAND:** Surely do! And more than once I have wondered if I would ever make the grade. Hard old grind to support a family and earn enough extra to pay school expenses. You have had to

do without a lot of things, but we have delivered the goods, haven't we?

**WIFE:** And now you are ready to settle down—and, don't you think it would be nice if you could get to be pastor of a church, and we could have a pretty little cottage—all white and cozy? And you could be at home all the time. Wouldn't that be wonderful?

**HUSBAND:** It surely would! But, you remember, when we were married we said, we would give our lives to foreign service. Now if we get settled here, it might be pretty hard to pull up and leave it all, don't you think so? In some ways I believe I would rather go right now. *(At this point there is a knock on the door, and the mail carrier leaves a letter. The wife hurries to get it. It is from the secretary of the Mission Board.)*

**WIFE:** Look! It is from the Mission Board! *(She hands the letter to her husband, who opens it, and reads aloud.)*

**"DEAR BROTHER:** My purpose in writing to you today is to pass on to you a call from the South American Division to connect with the work in the Inca Union, as a mission station director. The call is very urgent. This particular station—the Broken Stone Mission—near Lake Titicaca in Peru, now has twenty churches and groups, with fifteen schools, and has been without a director for nearly a year. The brethren are very anxious that you accept the call, for they believe that you and your wife will make good missionaries. In case you accept the call, it is hoped that you will be able to go forward immediately. Of course, you will be granted one month in which to visit your own parents and those of your wife. You will find enclosed blanks on which to report your health conditions. Should you accept the call, please go to your nearest sanitarium and have your physical examinations, and return the blanks to us immediately. If your medical reports are favorable, the Transportation Department will make the necessary arrangements for your passage by steamer to Peru. Praying that God will impress your hearts with the urgency of this call, and that you will both be willing to go wherever He calls you, I remain

"Very sincerely yours,  
"W. P. BRADLEY,  
"Associate Secretary, Mission Board."

**HUSBAND:** Well, my dear, there it is. What shall we do about it?

**WIFE** (looking away and assuming a thoughtful attitude): Well—I don't know. Someway I have never felt that South America was a real mission field, like China, or India, or Africa. You know people in South America are already Christians—that is, they believe in God, and they believe in Christ, and—

**HUSBAND** (speaking earnestly): Yes, but in reality they do not know Christ as a personal Saviour. The Christ they worship is not a risen Christ, but a dead, crucified, bleeding Christ. And they do not look to Him as their Saviour from sin. They do not confess to Him, consider Him as their Mediator, but they pray to the images of the saints, appeal



to the virgin Mary, and confess their sins to the priest, who is a sinful man like themselves. And they have never heard the basic truth which God says He wants all men to know: that "there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

WIFE: I hadn't thought about it in just that way. Perhaps they do need the true gospel just as much as do the people in China and India.

HUSBAND: Yes, and I cannot help feeling that we are under a special obligation to give the truth to our near neighbors to the south of us who have every reason to look to us here in North America for light and for leadership.

WIFE: And the call is to go to the historic Broken Stone Mission on the shores of Lake Titicaca. Really, in a way it would be *romantic* to walk in the footsteps of Elder F. A. Stahl and other pioneers in South America. I used to enjoy Elder Stahl's stories so much. Remember his book *In the Land of the Incas*? Who would have dreamed that we might be there ourselves some day?

HUSBAND: Well, what do you say? Here's my diploma. Here's my wife—loyal, faithful, brave girl! And here am I with a rich endowment of youth and strength. What shall we answer the brethren?

WIFE (*thinking seriously for a moment, with bowed head*): There is only one proper answer: "Here am I; send me."

❖ ❖

March 22

## Sincerely, Your Friend

BY MRS. BLANCHE E. JONES

### Order of Service

SILENT PRAYER.

POEM: "Friendship's 'If,'" read to music.

OPENING SONG: "Like Jesus," No. 76, in *M.V. Songs*.

PRAYER: The burden, sincerity with God and our earthly friends.

REPORTS.

OFFERING.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

LEADER'S REMARKS: "Sincerity With God and Our Friends."

DISCUSSION: "That I May Be Sincerely Your Friend."

TALK: "Friends Worth Cultivating."

TALK: "The Test of Companionship."

TALK: "Loyalty to Friends."

DISCUSSION: "Characteristics I Like in a True, Christian Friend."

SONG: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," No. 11.

BENEDICTION.

## Friendship's "If"

This world is full of what is known as friendship.

But when tested often proves untrue;  
You tell me you are a friend most faithful,  
So I'll dedicate this IF to you.

If you can see my faults and tell me of them,  
And when I need you, lend a helping hand;

If you can trust me still when others doubt me,  
Because my life they do not understand;

If you can hear reports when proof is lacking,  
Refusing to believe until the truth you know;

If you can act the same through changing fortunes,  
Whether I be rich or poor or high or low;

If you can stand unchanged through idle gossip,  
Counting all as false until 'tis proven true;

If you can treat me as you would be treated,  
Were you to take my place and I were you;

If you are just the same when I am absent,  
As when we talk together face to face,  
If I can count on you when others fail me,  
Knowing you will help me win the race:

If you will always be to me a comrade,  
Fighting by my side for what is right;  
If you will lift me up when I fall wounded,  
And as a brother make my burdens light;

If you will be to me as Jonathan to David,  
As true as steel through life unto the end;  
Then you have stood the tests that prove true friendship,  
And you are my friend.

—TAYLOR G. BUNCH.

## Sincerity With God and Our Friends

Consult *Messages to Young People*, pages 411, 164, and bring out thoughts on influence. What is our influence on our friends—is it sincere or borderline?

"Every soul is surrounded by an atmosphere of its own—an atmosphere, it may be, charged with the life-giving power of faith, courage, and hope, and sweet with the fragrance of love. Or it may be heavy and chill with the gloom of discontent and selfishness, or poisonous with the deadly taint of cherished sin. By the atmosphere surrounding us, every person with whom we come in contact is consciously or unconsciously affected."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 339.

## That I May Be Sincerely Your Friend

1. I must know my Friend of friends through prayer.

2. I must desire sincerely to do God's will.

3. I must remember that the greatest thing I can do for God or my friends is to pray.

4. I must learn to realize the high standard Jesus requires in the inner life of those who would pray and be a friend sincerely.

5. I must be much on my knees to work for Christ and my friends.

6. I must get on my knees before God and allow His Holy Spirit to search me through and through.

7. There can be no lasting and sincere effect on my friends unless there is in my life a wholehearted and absolute surrender to God.

8. If no one on earth prayed for the salvation of their friends more fervently or more frequently than I, how many would be converted to God through prayer?

9. The secret of all failure in Christian friendship is our failure to pray.

10. We are never so high as when we are on our knees—for our friends.

11. Failure in prayer is due to fault in the heart.

12. Only those who call on the Lord—for their friends—out of a pure, sincere heart can confidently claim answers to their prayers.

13. God sometimes leads friends into the prayer life; however, sometimes God has to drive us into such a life through much sorrow and heartache.

14. Real prayer at its highest and best reveals a soul athirst for God—*just God alone*.

## Sincerity

"Sweet is the word and sweet the meaning of the word sincerity. Without it there can be no faith, no friendship, and no sympathy. In the firm clasp of hands we feel it. In the clear eye its light we see. For true hearts speak and understand the language of sincerity."

## Friends Worth Cultivating

TRULY how precious a friend can be in a person's life. The word *friendship* is one of the most beautiful in our language. Many persons go through life and never know the complete joy and fullness found in a *sincere friend*. A friend is a person who acts for your best good always. He likes you just as you are. He sticks by you through success or failure, through prosperity or adversity. And the choice of friends is ours to make! May God teach us daily that "the most precious thing anyone can have is a friend. It is something as fragile as an orchid—and as beautiful; as powerful as a gold nugget—and as hard to find; as powerful as a great turbine—and as hard to build; as wonderful as youth—and as hard to keep."—AMOS PARRISH, *Sunshine Magazine*.

However, to be a true friend my heart must be interested in my friends' heart interests. Their pleasures and desires become mine, and mine theirs to a large extent. And, naturally, we grow and are influenced by our friends.

God has opened to me many wonderful avenues of joy through my friends. Through a beloved friend I have learned of God through MUSIC. I have felt the joy of Beethoven as we listened, with only the glow from the crackling logs burning in the fireplace. There is some-

thing in fine music which draws us very near to our heavenly Friend.

NATURE has been my constant friend since early childhood. As a very young child I was privileged to live on the shores of good old Lake Michigan. I knew the joy of living many hours in my canoe—in wind, rain, or sunshine—the thrill of seeing the storm as it rose over the lake, causing the waves to pile up high and break on the shore. I liked riding high on a surf board behind a speedboat. I was thrilled by bright stars on a dark night, the new moon coming up, and the lovely evening star shining forth almost before the day was done. Sabbath hours came too swiftly to a close, when I sat by the water's edge thanking God for glorious friends in nature.

With my friends I have learned to love more dearly this beautiful world that God has given to us. I have felt the joy in association with the friendly wind blowing through my hair; the gulls combing the beaches of my glorious Lake Michigan, looking for food; the dainty sandpipers seen, and then gone; on a black night the light from a dome full of stars above; and the cry of the whip-poorwill calling his mate.

Have you found in POETRY a friend, a friend so dear that you cannot pass by a lovely verse without getting a copy for your own collection? I find hours of happiness, especially when I am tired, in reading favorite poems, and still more joy in sharing them with others. Perhaps there may be a comforting thought to the mother who has lost her new babe—to our boys over there—to a new bride—or to my friend stunned with grief as her companion was laid to rest.

By loving people, I have found friends among the busy throng, sincere friends, friends who love my Saviour. I have found with them joy in living every minute of every day. There is peace and contentment found in the choice and companionship of sincere friends, friends whose only desire is to be so surrendered to God that they may constantly be used of Him to bless others.

The Test of Companionship

THERE are so many seemingly good people in the world. People with no desire for God or spiritual things—but who still appear so fine. We may be attracted to them and rather enjoy certain things about them. Yet we cannot go all the way with them. With our Christian friends we share a oneness that is found only in Christ.

Friends of the world base their pleasures on what is popular at the time. Their minds are interested in card playing, dancing, theaters, bowling alleys; and not one of these so-called pleasures will bring them to God. How can such young people with different ideals be the best associates?

In our Seventh-day Adventist schools Christian friendships may be formed to last throughout eternity. Here we may find friends who will be an inspiration and a help to us to become more like Christ. Young people with the hope of a soon-coming Saviour can find the best friends only among those of like precious faith. Here, teachers and counselors continually hold before the eyes of youth our greatest example and Friend—Jesus. Here our youth are trained to bring Jesus to a sin-sick world that others may find the way of salvation by knowing our Friend of friends. Where in all the world is more happiness to be found than in leading a dear lost one to Jesus? There is no sweeter joy on earth than to know that we have thus been used of God. It keeps us humble and low at the feet of Jesus, and only desirous of a closer walk with God.

Such an experience cannot come from friendships with people of the world. "Whatsoever [and whoever] weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes off the relish of spiritual things, in short, whatever increases the strength and authority of your body over your mind, *that thing is sin to you*, however innocent it may be in itself." Even friends looking to Jesus must keep this thought constantly before them. Satan is on the alert.

So often young people who are alone in the church or unable to attend our academies or colleges think they can walk with worldly friends and keep their Christian experience alive. But before long their inner life will show a borderline experience. Many feel they do not need to be strict regarding Christian standards and argue that they can do as they please. However, we cannot compromise. We do not live unto ourselves and we cannot lay aside our influence.

Even in our churches and in our schools there is generally a certain group who are satisfied with the borderline experiences that come from joining with the world. The world's fun can offer no lasting joy or peace of heart and mind. That comes only through wholesome association with well-chosen, Christian friends, and our greatest Friend of all.

I was watching a farmer screening some oats for seeding his next crop. In the process he passed the oats over a screen which had openings large enough to allow the weed seed and chaff to drop through, but small enough to prevent the large plump grains from being cast into the refuse. I asked if it ever happened that any of the good grains fell through the openings and were lost. He replied that a few apparently good grains did find their way through the screen, but he also said that they were so few that they were not worth the trouble of separating them. He continued by saying that most of the good-looking grains in the refuse were empty hulls in the first place. If they drop through with the weed seed, he takes it for granted that they are worthless. They are found in the company of the rejected, and thus are classed with them.

Do not flatter yourself that you can associate with the young people of questionable morals and still be placed with the best class of young men and women. If you choose your companions from among those who spend their time of leisure in questionable places, do not expect to be accorded a respect above that given your companions. If you think that no one will notice or remember your companions when you wish to return to the best class, you are sadly misleading yourself. Just as the farmer said that he took it for granted that all was refuse that went into the screening, so will you be classed with those with whom you associate, no matter if you do have a better appearance.

Will you pass the test of companionship, or have you allowed yourself to fall among the siftings to be cast aside?

Loyalty to Friends

"LORD WALSLINGHAM tells of having wounded a stag while hunting. The animal fell, and the rest of the herd galloped away. Soon, however, another stag, evidently a friend of the wounded one, detached himself from the herd and came back to the place where his companion lay, and there he remained until the hunters literally drove him away. So should man's friendship be, loyal, sincere, helpful in time of need."

Never, never should a Christian fail to be a loyal friend to all—not merely to a few congenial spirits.

We all have one loyal Friend to whom we can flee. But He knows how the human heart craves human sympathy, so He has placed us here to be loyal friends to others. Can they count on us?

March 29

## Our Curious World

BY GLADYS S. WAKEFIELD

## Order of Service

SONG: "Hills in Their Strength Eternal,"  
No. 135 in *M.V. Songs*.

PRAYER.

OFFERTORY.

REPORTS OF MISSIONARY WORK.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

SCRIPTURE: Favorite Bible texts on nature, repeated by all who will do so.

DUET: "Listen to the Song Birds," No. 134.

TALK: "The Magic of Spring."

SONG: "My Jesus," No. 139.

TALK: "Loving-kindness."

SYMPOSIUM: "Little-known Facts."

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANS FOR NATURE CLUB.

SONG: "He Gives," No. 138.

BENEDICTION.

## Notes to Leaders

March is an opportune time to organize a nature club if you do not already have one in your society. With the awakening of nature after its winter of dormancy in the northern hemisphere and with its preparation for rest in the southern hemisphere, we find added interesting and curious facts coming to our attention which we do not see so readily, if at all, in the summer or the winter. It will be quite easy at this season to interest the youth in certain phases of nature study.

SYMPOSIUM: "Little-known Curious Facts." Assign this topic to several members, and ask them to explore the field and give a three-minute talk each. Various magazines or books on nature will help to supply facts not known, in addition to those given under this title.

Co-ordinate this nature club work with the M.V. classes in your society.

Consult chapter 11, "Nature Games and Hikes," in *Recreational Plans for Missionary Volunteers*. Here you will find twenty-six pages of valuable suggestions for nature clubs, on nature observation and recreation. You may wish to introduce the nature work on a hike or at a social. Be sure that the afternoon or evening is well planned so that the objectives you have in mind will be attained. M. W. M.

## March

It's true that March has lots to do,  
And grumbles much about it;  
She's sort of housemaid for the year  
And, lest someone should doubt it,  
Rushes here and everywhere,  
Her clumsy feet astumble.  
Oh, March is anything but meek,  
And anything but humble.

But March is good; she cuts and fits  
A dress for April's wearing,  
Stitches flounces into place  
With sense of chic and darning;  
Then, lest the world should chance to think  
That she is kind and clever,  
Goes scuffling off in clouds of dust,  
As arrogant as ever.

—THIRZA MARTIN, reprinted by special permission of *The Saturday Evening Post*. Copyright, 1943, by the Curtis Publishing Company.

## The Magic of Spring

PATIENCE.—Spring is the time of magic awakening. We note one morning that the tree buds have swollen to the bursting point as though they had awakened overnight. Of course they did not swell or break so suddenly. In fact, the stage was set last summer for today's unfolding. The tree struck its roots deep all last growing season, and when autumn came we noted that the leaves colorfully cascaded to the ground. However, where each leaf left the tree there was a tiny tight bud already developed in design. The bud, shellacked and furred against the inclement elements, stayed tightly closed until the magic touch of spring caused the tree to send sap up against gravity even beyond the stipulated thirty-two feet. Thus the buds swell after those long months of patient waiting, and expand into leaf or bloom.

To a young man or woman it may seem that taking years to study in high school and advanced school is a waste of time. When nature wishes to produce something of worth it takes plenty of time. If a tree bud should become impatient and decide to unzip its garment before the appointed spring opening, it would meet with disaster. People would look upon it sadly and say, "What a pity. That bud is all frostbitten!"

APPOINTED WORK.—Spring puts on a variety show. Flowers, shrubs, and trees of varied shape, texture, and color appear. Each has its own place of beauty and utility. So does each human being. No one expects a rose bush to blossom forth in blue violets or lily plant to bear peanuts. But sometimes we are quite critical of our own companions should they not accomplish all we ourselves do.

I once heard of an old but gracious mansion. The floor was made of alternating hard maple and black walnut, giving a striped effect desired by current fashion. After years of usage the lovely walnut stripes wore low, so that walking across the floor today is an up and down experience. Black walnut in its place is highly desirable, but it does not have the wearing qualities of hard maple.

Some of us human beings wear well under the hard strain of heavy burdens. Others are better equipped for the parlor things of life. Let us each be appreciative of the beauty of the life that each is destined to live and not feel slighted when others seem to have the accomplishments that shine while we must work at the unglamorous tasks.

## He Chose a Garden

He chose a peaceful garden  
When He longed to pray,  
Upon a lonely eve  
Of crucifixion day.

He knew the quiet healing  
That growing things impart,  
The balm a garden offers  
To soothe a troubled heart.

—KATHAYA KENDALL, reprinted from *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine, with permission.

## Loving-kindness

A LAYER of spring sunshine hovered coaxingly over the meadow. We paused at the edge to admire a thicket of wild crab apple trees in their glory of full bloom. The deep pink blossoms against the blue of the sky made a picture of colorful loveliness. Then we breathed deep breaths of the air, prodigal with the perfume of apple blossoms. Tiny Cape May Warblers glinted in and out as they policed the blooms against insects.

Suddenly my companion touched my arm saying, "Look straight ahead. Isn't that a bird on a nest?" Creeping closer we made out the form of a brown thrasher, her bright eyes watching our every movement.

"I'm going to flush her and see what she has in the nest." I began to draw nearer and nearer, parting the branches cautiously. Now we were within five feet of the bird, but still she did not move. Stepping slowly closer, I was only arm's length, and still she held her ground. Then gently I reached toward her until I could have almost touched her, but, fearless of her own safety, the game mother bird struck my hand with her long sharp bill, and I quickly retreated. We were amazed at the bravery of the bird; and in admiration for the mother love that made her face such towering danger so courageously, we left her undisturbed.

We had not gone far into the meadow when we saw a cottontail rabbit sitting very erect about twenty feet ahead. As we drew near she bounded away, her powder puff tail zigzagging through the lush grass. Perhaps there was a rabbit nest near, but not until after a long careful search did we find it. Such a cunningly concealed nest! The mother rabbit had drawn the tall grass into a little tent that hid the entrances. Parting the grasses carefully we saw a small hole with bits of white and tawny fur scattered about it. My companion put his hand into the hole, which went diagonally into the ground nearly two feet. He brought out a dear little bunny with eyes tightly shut. I put it into his hat. Then he brought out another, and an-

other, and another, until there were nine little rabbits. Quite a hatful! Three—the biggest three—had their eyes open and were quite on the alert. Two were very small—little runts. We put the open-eyed ones on the grass, and they scurried for the shadow of the hat and the comforting presence of their brothers and sisters.

We took several pictures of them, and then carefully put the little fellows back into the nest one by one. We tried to reshape the little tent of grasses, and hoped that our handling of them would not lead to their enemies finding them. What risks they have—prowling cats, dogs, snakes, hunters. How anxious the mother rabbit must be every time she leaves. Perhaps she had watched us all the time, with fear pounding her heart.

Years have passed, but a few days ago we brought out the pictures and recaptured the sun and the fragrance of the meadow we walked through long ago. And my companion said to the lad in our house, "Son, I think it is much more fun to shoot with a camera than with a gun."

### Little-known Curious Facts

BECAUSE of its giant heart and lungs, a bison can tire out three sets of horses.

African telegraph wiremen were long puzzled over broken wires, until they found out that languid giraffes used them as chin rests.

By way of contrast: a canary's heart beats 1000 times per minute; an elephant's 25 times.

There are snails in Brazil big as kittens, and which lay eggs the size of olives.

Sometimes—rarely—the common house mouse is a singer, the song being quite musical and birdlike.

Skunk cabbage is an emetic; wild iris, a purgative; and scarlet larkspur, a sedative.

### AND DO YOU KNOW:

1. How fast does spring march north in our country? (13 miles per day.)

2. What is a baby bat's first food? (Bat milk from the mother.)

3. What frog cannot croak? (A female frog.)

4. What lays Easter eggs? (Costa Rican hens lay blue eggs.)

5. What animal always gives birth to quadruplets and either all males or all females? (The armadillo.)

### Nature Games

#### Inside Nature Games

1. Cut off the flower heads of many varieties and have them on one table. Place the stems and leaves on another table. Let the folks match the blooms and leafstems.

2. Let the leader decide upon a game of flowers or birds or animals. Then name one beginning with "A." The next person names one beginning with "B," and so on through the alphabet.

3. Let several players be blindfolded. Then give each a common object to feel, and within thirty seconds he must name the item. Suggested articles might be leaves of heavy texture, shells, seed pods, vegetables, fruits, nuts, feathers.

### Outside Nature Games

1. Give each player tags with the names of ten trees common to the area.



## JUNIOR MEETINGS

March 1

### Our Mission Field at Home

BY E. J. LORNTZ

#### Order of Service

SONG: "Brighten the Corner Where You Are," No. 71 in *M.V. Songs*.

SENTENCE PRAYERS.

OFFERTORY.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

DUET: "Speak, My Lord," No. 73.

TALK: "Our Mission Field at Home."

STORY: "The Bandit and the Revolver."

STORY: "A Mexican Woman and Her Novels."

DISCUSSION OF PLANS FOR SOCIETY AND ORGANIZATION OF HOME FOREIGN BAND.

SONG: "The Captain's Call," No. 66.

BENEDICTION.

#### Note to Superintendents

You will find help in the organization of a Home Foreign Mission Band in the topic "How to Begin Work Among the Foreigners," page 3. Encourage the Juniors to begin working for their foreign neighbors, and they will become more missionary minded as they grow older.

### Our Mission Field at Home

THE Lord has told us that His house, or church, shall be called a house of prayer for all people. (See Isa. 56:7.)

God first called the Jewish people in order that they should become His missionaries to all the world, but we are sorry to say that they failed in their task. Instead of going out as God's messengers to preach about the true God to all people, they began to look upon the heathen as dogs and would have nothing to do with them.

God's church today has been called to give the gospel to all nations, and our mission field is the whole world. As boys and girls we want to have a part in this wonderful work, but we are not ready

yet to leave our homes and go out as foreign missionaries. Do you know that all Juniors can become real foreign missionaries right here at home, and work with people who are just as foreign and needy as those in far-off fields? Here is how it can be done:

So many millions of people from all parts of the world have come to our country to live that America has become a very important mission field, where many, many different languages are spoken. I came across an article some time ago which illustrates this very clearly. It may be a little exaggerated, but it gives us an idea of the wide mission field surrounding us.

#### AMERICA'S FOREIGN POPULATION

"On Monday morning a Rumanian ashman cleaned his cellar and a Pole white-washed his walls. A Hollander pruned his vines, a German-plumber came to stop a leak in his bathroom, and this man's helper was a Dane. He remembered that his cook was a Swede and the waitress a Norwegian. As he left his home for his office a seamstress entered to help his wife. She was a Belgian, and the man who was painting his front fence was from Switzerland. He left his laundry with a Chinese. Later he visited his Russian tailor, ordered groceries of a Welshman, and purchased his dinner at a Frenchman's store. As he waited for a street car, an Italian vegetable man passed while he was talking to an Irish policeman, and a Jew wished him a Merry Christmas. The next day he bought some hardware from an Armenian and learned that his milkman was a Lapp and his cobbler a Hungarian. That evening a Philippine hellboy showed him to a room in a hotel, and he learned that among its waiters were Slovaks, Greeks, and Serbians.

"The next day he lunched in a Turkish restaurant, engaged a Syrian to mend his rugs, and purchased two more from an Armenian. In the afternoon he met by accident a college classmate, a Bulgarian, who introduced him to a Montenegrin. That evening he learned that the Austrian consul of the city had rented the house opposite. The following Sunday he met a Cuban Protestant at church and found a Mexican, Brazilian, and Lithuanian, a Peruvian and a Haitian in a popular Sunday school class of one hundred men. That evening a Japanese merchant and his family attended service, and the next day as chairman of the committee that looked after the repairs of the church he learned that the Portuguese sexton had died, and he selected a Canadian in his place. The following day the man who washed his office windows proved to be a Spaniard. Soon after this, in an early train, he counted twenty-eight passengers in the car. Four were reading German papers, twelve Jewish, six Italian, and he concluded that the only American-born man in the car beside himself was a Negro."—Selected.

Let us try this once. The next time you are in town, look around and notice the different foreign names painted on the store windows, and you will find out for yourself what a foreign country we are living in.

### The Bandit and the Revolver

A few years ago a bandit had to flee from his home in one of the West Indian islands just south of our country. The police and even soldiers were after him because of his robberies and bad life.

The bandit fled to our country, and when he arrived here he continued to rob and steal. One day as he was getting ready to go to a certain city to kill an enemy of his he was visited by a young Christian friend, who left a Bible on his table. As the bandit was packing to get ready for the train, he noticed the Bible on his table. As he had never seen a Bible in his life he thought it was a novel or storybook. He threw both his revolver and the Bible into his suitcase. Later, when he was riding on the train, he thought of the book he had taken along. As he reached into his suitcase he noticed that his revolver had worked its way in among the pages of the book, and when he opened it his eyes fell on these words, "Thou shalt not kill." These words impressed the bandit so much that he began to examine the book he first thought was a storybook. He kept on reading until he finally changed his mind

about killing his enemy. At the next station he got off the train and returned to his home. After reading and studying the Bible for some time he gave his heart to God and quit his bad life as a robber.

One day he decided that he wanted to go back to his native island. He packed his suitcase with Bibles and New Testaments in Spanish to give to his relatives. One evening as they were sitting around the family circle reading the Bible, his brother spoke up and said, "I have a Bible just like that, which I bought years ago from a man who came to the door." He asked one of his sons to get it out of the trunk. The boy hunted and hunted and finally found it on the bottom of the trunk, but instead of being a Bible, it turned out to be a copy of *The Great Controversy*. The boy who went to the trunk to look for the book told me that they studied all night long, and the result was that they all gave their hearts to the Lord. The boy who found the book became an efficient colporteur.

It all began with a foreign Bible given to a bandit. Does it pay, Juniors, to give literature to these foreigners who live all around us? Are you willing to do your part? Maybe someday you will have a wonderful story to tell about your part as a foreign missionary at home.

We have leaflets and good books in many languages. We hope that many will take part in this work.

You could organize a Home Foreign Band in your young people's society. Begin to study about the habits and needs of the many foreigners living about you. Order leaflets in the languages you need from your Book and Bible House, and you will enjoy going from house to house with them. You will notice how the faces of your neighbors will brighten as they see something in their own language.

### A Mexican Woman and Her Novels

In the southwestern part of our country lived a Mexican woman who spent all her spare money and then some in buying novels and storybooks. The funny part is that she could not read a word, but every time a neighbor woman visited her she would ask her to read to her from her books. In the course of time she got hold of many of these cheap storybooks, which really did her no good, but she developed her appetite for them to such an extent that she preferred them to her daily bread, she told me.

One day a young person gave her a Bible, and, thinking it was another storybook, she asked friends to read for her.

Soon she saw that this book was different from other books, and so great was her desire to learn more from it that she determined to learn to read. Now, when the neighbors came to see her she would ask about this and that letter she did not know, and very soon she was able to form words out of the letters she learned. She was an old woman, her health was not good, but she was determined that she would master the reading of the book.

It was not long before she became a good reader. Gone was the desire to read the good-for-nothing storybooks and novels. The Bible was her only reading matter.

The neighbor who had given her the Bible to read helped her in her studies, and soon she became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church. She also became a real missionary in sending literature to her relatives in Mexico.

Did it pay to give a Spanish Bible to this woman? Yes, indeed. Juniors, when you are going to begin to work among the foreign living around you? Are you going to organize that Home Foreign Band? We are praying that God may bless you as you do so.

✻ ✻

March 15

### The Story of Gospel Advance in South America

BY N. W. DUNN

(Please turn to pages 4-8)

✻ ✻

March 22

### Juniors, Make Friends

BY MRS. BLANCHE E. JONES

#### Order of Service

SILENT PRAYER.

POEM: "Friend," read to music.

OPENING SONG: "Like Jesus," No. 76, in *M.F. Songs*.

PRAYER: That each boy and girl will give his heart to God to be like Jesus: that each may be strong to choose friends who will help them to be like Jesus.

REPORTS.

OFFERING.

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

LEADER'S INTRODUCTION.

TALK: "The Magnet."

STORY: "He Knew I Would Come."

TALK: "Animal Friends."

STORY: "Just Like You."

STORY: "A Friend Lost—A Friend Gained."

SONG: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," No. 11.

BENEDICTION.

### Leader's Introduction

If you want to know what kind of person a boy or girl is, just watch the type of friends he chooses to be with. You do not have to know them very long before you can tell. It's true that birds of a feather flock together.

In one of our schools I was interested in a certain girl, and wanted to know more about her. I inquired who her special chum was and learned that she was a girl who was loud, who followed extreme fashions and pleasures as far as it would be possible and still be able to stay in school. She had no interest in spiritual things, no interest in God's great out-of-doors, no interest in practical hobbies, no interest in books. I knew if this young girl was not like her chum she would be very soon. No matter how fine a person may be, he will become like his careless friends if he chooses that kind of associates.

We should be kind to all, but if we know of a person who is continually dishonest, disobedient, does things on Sabbath that are wrong, or goes to movies, we should stay away from him.

### He Knew I Would Come

THERE is a story of World War I that was told recently in the *Associated Dispatcher* of Michigan about a young private who returned to his lines after an enemy attack, and discovered that his friend was still out there. He asked permission to return to no man's land to bring him back, but his superior officer said, "If you go, you go at your own risk, and the chances are all against your coming back alive."

The boy went, and, finding his friend badly hurt, started back with him, but was himself shot. By the time he reached his lines again, his pal had died, and the young man himself was sinking.

The officer said to him, "It's just as I warned you. Was it worth the price?"

"Yes, sir," the dying soldier answered. "He said he knew that I would come."

### The Magnet

Do you remember as a boy you played with a magnet? And do you remember how, like magic, it would draw to itself nails and needles and other pieces of steel, whereas if you held it over a piece of wood there was no response?

Like attracts like is not only the law of the magnet. It is also the law of the mind. Psychologists tell us that we cannot store up thoughts of hate and draw to ourselves the love of friends. We cannot

think disease and be healthy. We cannot think defeats and win victories.

To make our minds magnets for the best in life we must fill them with constructive, hopeful, optimistic, courageous thoughts. To be a friend and win friends we must be friendly. To win loyalty we must be loyal.

We create our own mental magnet—we get back in the long run what we give; we attract these things to which we are attuned. It is up to us. Let us be sure that we have the right attitude toward God. Then He can lead and guide us in choosing our friends. Remember always the sincere friends will be those who love God most, and by their lives show themselves to be followers of the lowly Jesus.

### Animal Friends

By being fine and true and kind, we draw the same kind of friends to us. Even the animals will learn to love us and become our friends.

In North Toronto a strange sight used to be seen each day—a large dog always ran ahead of a certain milk truck. One woman became very curious about it, and called in to the dairy to learn the reason. She was told that this dog had once been a very ugly and vicious creature, and was dreaded by all the callers going to the home of his master. This dog hated, above all others, the milkman.

So in order to make a friend of his foe, who faced him each morning with bared teeth daring him to ascend the steps, the milkman decided to bring a peace offering of food, something in the form of meat or biscuits, something to make him happy. From such kindness and attention the dog soon became his fast friend. He was a constant companion to the milkman, running ahead of the wagon throughout his long thirty-mile route about the city each day. The dog would be so tired when he returned home he would fall asleep at once, but nothing could keep him from making his daily trip with his friend.

Do you know of someone who does not like you? Have you gone out of your way to say a kind word or to give even a smile, even though you knew you would get none in return? Try it; love and kindness will break down the hardest of hearts, and we shall find in them staunch friends.

And will our friends want to know our Jesus, too, because they have known us?

\*\*\*

"Friendship above all ties does bind the heart, and faith in friendship is the noblest part."

### Just Like You

IN a certain rugged section of the country a young school teacher worked hard and long with his pupils. The school had been suffering under a bad reputation, because every teacher had been a failure. No one could control the pupils. Some teachers were actually driven out by the unruly boys.

But this teacher was different. He sought to befriend those bent on making trouble, and some of the unruly students began to feel that a teacher was not a natural enemy and that it was not manly to resist authority and cause disturbances. To the boys there came a feeling that, after all, the school was established for their good. To all except one. To him school seemed merely a place to have fun—his kind of fun. Rules were made, but not for him. Attempts at friendship seemed to go over his head. The teacher used utmost kindness, reprimanded only when absolutely necessary, and tried to arouse a sense of justice. All to no avail. The teacher became discouraged near the end of the school year and refused to return for another year.

The last day of school came. It was a beautiful spring day late in May. Red clover bloomed in the fields near the school grounds; the bees were buzzing in and out among the fragrant flowers; and meadow larks called in sweetly clear tunes from the fence posts. But the teacher came dejectedly to his room to finish the final reports. He was thinking of that disobedient boy, and the clashes he had had with him during the year. It had made his work hard, and not a dent could he discern in the boy's evil character. So through his sadness he felt glad that he could not return the following year. He thrilled with the sense of new life outside as a symbol of his deliverance from the long torture.

He had now reached his desk and opened a drawer. He saw a sheet of folded paper with his name written on top. He instantly recognized the scrawl and blur. Curiously he picked up the paper and opened the folds carefully. These were the words he read:

DEAR TEACHER: I am sorry I have caused you all the trouble I have this year. It hurts me because you are going away and not coming back. But when I get to be a man, I want to be just like you.

JACK.

Are you living so close to your friend Jesus that your life is constantly telling of Him, and because of your lovely life, your friends will want to be like you?

### Quotations

"Before us is a future all unknown,  
A path untrod,  
Beside us is a friend well loved and known,  
That friend is God."

"Above our life we love a steadfast friend."

"The making of friends that are real friends, is the best token we have of a man's success in life."

"The only friend worth while is the one who has a constant inward urge to give more than he gets. Such a friend is God."

"A friend triples your ability, for he sees you from without and is the only person who cares, and dares, to tell you how you look from in front of your eyes."

"The best that we find in our travels is a sincere friend. He is a fortunate voyager who finds many."

"Every sincere friend is a glimpse of God."

"There is no folly equal to that of throwing away friendship in a world where friendship is so rare."

"So long as we love, we serve; so long as we are loved by others I would almost say that we are indispensable; and no man is useless while he has a friend."

"Be a friend sincerely; the rest will follow."

"My friend is the first person who comes in when the whole world has gone out."

"Hardship is as precious as friendship. In fact, hardship is a part of friendship; and any friendship that cannot stand hardship will die in the very ease it craves. To be friends with God does not mean all battle and march. It also means victory and rest—victory that sings and rest that satisfies. Let struggles come. They are the urge of progress, and the aftermath will be all the sweeter for their pain."—ROBERT THURBER, *The Crowning Friendship*, pp. 165, 166.

### A Friend Lost—A Friend Gained

THE squirrel perched on the telephone-pole crossbar looked down curiously at the two boys on the sidewalk below. The larger of the boys had stopped and picked up something. His arm flashed forward, and a stone whistled past the squirrel.

There was a loud crash and the sound of falling glass. The squirrel sprang to the limb of a tree and vanished from sight. For a moment the two boys on the sidewalk stood motionless.

"Run, Chuck," the larger one whispered; "I broke a window in that house across the street."

"Wait a minute," Chuck Gordon replied. "Aren't you going to offer to pay for it?"

"Don't be silly!" the larger boy called over his shoulder, and disappeared around the corner.

For a moment Chuck hesitated. Then he crossed the street and entered the yard of the house with the broken window. Apparently someone had just moved in, for the furniture was still unpacked.

A boy of his own age answered the bell.

"How much will it cost to have that window fixed?" Chuck asked. "You see, my friend and I—"

The boy in the doorway laughed. "The window was already cracked," he said. "We are having a new one put in anyway." He paused. "Your friend didn't stay long, did he?"

Chuck shook his head. "He's not my friend any more," he said. "I got in the habit of walking home from swimming with him. I didn't know much about him. I guess that's the wrong way to pick out a friend."

The boy in the doorway smiled. "I'm new here," he said, "but I think you are the kind of friend I would choose. Come on in and we'll get acquainted."—GIL ROGERS in *Young People's Leader*.



March 29

### Our Curious World

BY GLADYS S. WAKEFIELD

#### Order of Service

SONG: "God Cares for Me," No. 137 in *M.V. Songs*.

SENTENCE PRAYERS BY JUNIORS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

REPORTS OF MISSIONARY WORK.

OFFERTORY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SONG: "Raining Violets," No. 142.

STORY OR DIALOG: "The Call of a Breeze."

SONG: "Just a Little Pansy," No. 141.

TALK: "The Shape Changer."

POEM: "The Sulky Oleander."

ORGANIZATION OF NATURE CLUB OR ANNOUNCEMENT OF NATURE HIKE.

SONG: "O Forest Fair!" No. 136.

BENEDICTION.

#### Notes to Superintendents

At this season of the year when Nature is awakening from her long winter's sleep, it is easy to interest Juniors in the curious things all about them. If you do not have a club with its specific purpose to study some form of nature in some appealing method, why not try organizing one today? Or announce a time for the Juniors to meet for a nature hike or hunt. Have this outing well planned so that there will be no uncertainty about attaining your objective. You will

find valuable suggestions and games in chapter 11, "Nature Games and Hikes," in *Recreational Plans for Missionary Volunteers*. Co-ordinate this work with the M.V. classes in your society. See also the Senior topic for this date. M. W. M.

### The Call of a Breeze

THE snows of winter had melted away and the fresh clear earth had outfitted herself in the latest spring fashion. Trees were showing a soft tinting—sassafras yellow, maple red, and myriad of greens, from ash to tulip. The new grass was like a giant emerald carpet tacked down with blue violets and pink spring beauties.

Afton and Sherry stopped their garden work and took long deep breaths. What a wonderful breeze, sunwarmed and flower scented! "Let's take a hike along the Towpath," suggested Afton. "Good idea. Let's work real fast and then tell mother a Breeze called us," laughed Sherry.

An hour later the two Juniors with sweaters open to the breeze started along the trail.

"Eyespy!" whispered Afton excitedly.

Both children froze while Sherry searched hopefully for the special thing Afton had seen.

"Eyespy, too!" she breathed quietly.

About fifteen feet ahead of them was a cottontail rabbit, sensitive ears alert and brown eyes wide open.

"He's freezing, too," whispered Sherry. "Let's slip up and see how close we can get to him."

Ten feet—five feet. What could be the matter with a rabbit to sit with such danger towering near? Three feet. The poor creature must be injured or sick! Then Afton stood over the rabbit, and yet the rabbit remained motionless. Bending down ever so slowly Afton grasped both long ears, but the result was electrifying. The rabbit gave a mighty kick with its powerful hind legs, and in an instant was bounding through the woods, its white tail like a round powder puff signaling up and down.

The truth was that Cottontail was neither hurt nor freezing, but sound asleep. Afton and Sherry had known rabbits all their young lives, but that day they learned something new about that common little creature—it often sleeps with its eyes wide open!

They had not walked far when Sherry spied an extra-tall clump of Jack-in-the-pulpit.

"Do you know the root of Jack-in-the-pulpit is called Indian turnip?" asked Sherry.



"Yes, but no Indian ever ate one. They burn like fire," replied Afton.

"But they *did* eat them. They ground the roots into a meal which they boiled. The cooking dissolved the bitter crystals, and the bitter taste was gone. Indians knew a great deal more about plants to eat than we do today. Did you know they ate spring beauty bulbs?"

"I wouldn't want to dig them. It would take all day to gather a family-size dinner of them," said Afton.

"Indians weren't always in a hurry like we are," ventured Sherry.

"And they probably would have seen a hundred things on this hike that our eyes have missed."

"Yes," agreed Afton, "and you missed seeing this mourning cloak first. Isn't it lovely?"

The pretty butterfly clad in black velvet with silvered edging bordered in blue hovered uncertainly near them.

"It is a wonder to me, Sherry, how that delicate little thing could hide here all winter and not freeze to death. I couldn't do it. Most butterflies die off with the first cold snap."

"Yes, Afton, but remember the monarchs and painted ladies migrate south for the winter, like the birds."

"And we'd better migrate south right now and get home. It's growing late and the Breeze that called us is getting too chilly."

## The Shape Changer

TALL Lad found him crawling near the cabin foundation. He was about two inches long and very woolly and very black, with scarlet body bands showing through as he twisted his segments in crawling. We were not sure of his name, but Tall Lad put him in a glass jar half filled with garden soil topped with dried leaves. Within a few days the little caterpillar had buried himself in the soil, but not until after he had changed his entire shape. He had turned himself into a chrysalis, which resembled a very large vitamin capsule. He had sheared his black woolly hairs and used them for insulation.

A season passed by, and one day Tall Lad's sister took the chrysalis in her hand for examination. She heard a faint sound like the rattling of paper, and then the chrysalis moved ever so slightly.

"Come quick. It's hatching," called the little sister.

Tall Lad and his playmate came running, and they were just in time to see a marvelous thing. The chrysalis burst its seams a trifle, showing a pure white. And

## The Sulky Oleander

Little Oleander slip  
Cut from mother tree  
Was about as disagreeable  
As a little slip could be.  
Didn't like her pot of earth;  
Said she wouldn't grow;  
This was very naughty,  
And foolish, too, you know.

Little Oleander slip  
A drink of water had;  
Didn't do her any good;  
Continued to be bad.  
Sulky Oleander  
Hung her little head,  
And, drooping over sideways,  
Pretended she was dead.

But it wasn't any good  
Playing such a trick:  
Tied up Oleander  
To a little stick;  
Shut her in a closet,  
Very dark, you know,  
Till she made her mind up  
To be good, and grow.

Darkness had a good effect  
On Oleander's head;  
"What's the use of acting so!"  
To herself she said.  
Straightened up her witting stalk;  
Really tried to smile:  
Guess we'll have to let her out  
In a little while.

Morning bright and sunny.  
Air so fresh and pure;  
Oleander's had enough  
Of closet, I am sure:  
"Be good, Oleander!"  
"Yes," I heard her say,  
And she's kept her promise  
From that very day.

Other little flowers  
Sometimes act just so.  
And in darkened closets  
Often have to go.  
There in calm reflection,  
It will not be strange,  
If a short confinement  
Works a wondrous change.

—Author Unknown, *Songs and Rhymes for the Little Ones*, compiled by Mary Whitney Morrison.

in the breathless moment that followed, a giant Southern leopard moth emerged. The new moist moth was placed on a curtain, but he promptly crawled downward. Then he was placed on the dining table so we could watch the marvelous expansion of the wings. But again the moth, trailing his wing buds, sought the floor, and stopped only when he found a table leg, to which he attached himself. Down on the floor went the Juniors to watch the amazing performance. Slowly the moth began to pump the short, crumpled wings. The fat body was swollen with moth blood, which began to flow into the wing veins.

In about thirty minutes a great transformation had taken place in the appearance of the moth. The body now was comparatively small and slender, whereas the wings were smooth and fully expanded. And how beautiful! Like the velvety coat of a leopard, with body of iridescent blue-black. How fragile, yet how perfect in detail! Tall Lad and Sister had seen many unfoldings, but not

so the little mountain playmate. His dark eyes were round and full of wonder. Ten years old, and he knew so little of the great out-of-doors. Millions of acres of national forest bordering his cabin, and no one had unlocked for him the secrets there. How fortunate are J.M.V. boys and girls who have nature leaders interested in opening to them the doors into nature's wonderland!

And when we told the mountain lad that the glorious moth had once been a black, crawling caterpillar, he was so greatly interested that we invited him over for our evening story around the cabin fire. And then, because his own dear mother had died, we told him about the resurrection. We told him that just as the caterpillar lay in the ground for long months and then awakened to new life, so a loving heavenly Father watches over His children even in death, and on that day would call them to a new life—a life eternal.

## Games

### AN ANIMAL HUNT

In each sentence below, an animal is hiding. See if you can find the eight animals. The first one is found for you.

1. Do go away.
2. Up I go.
3. Big oat seeds grow.
4. He needs a hat.
5. The Arab bit into the bread.
6. Is Mac at home?
7. Mac owes me money.
8. I go to the clam bake.

### HIDDEN TREES

The name of a tree is hiding in each of the sentences below. The tree in the first sentence has been found for you. Find the others.

1. Sing to a king.
2. I will own it.
3. The bee chased him.
4. The map letters are big.
5. I bought a ship in England.
6. I saw it as he ran.

### BIRD LORE

What bird makes clothing?	Taylor
What bird is not truthful?	Lyre
What bird keeps late hours?	Nightingale
What bird is a girl's name?	Flochee
What bird boasts over victories?	Crow
What bird is a domestic animal?	Cow
What bird is wise?	Owl
What bird is an imitator?	Mockingbird
What bird is a ten-dollar gold piece?	Eagle

What bird is a frolic, or an adventure?	Lark
What bird is the color of the sky?	Bluebird
What bird loses heart?	Quail

### CURIOUS

A horse eats grass and grows hair.  
A sheep eats grass and grows wool.  
A chicken eats grass and grows feathers.  
A rabbit eats grass and grows fur.  
A goose eats grass and grows down.  
A tortoise eats grass and grows shell.  
A porcupine eats grass and grows quills.  
A frog eats grass and grows skin.  
An iguana eats grass and grows scales.

✻ ✻

"GET in tune with the Infinite, but keep in touch with humanity."

✻ ✻

"BRIGHTENING up the life of someone else will put a fresh shine on your own."

# ★ Missionary Volunteer Week ★

## March 8-15, Including Missionary Volunteer Day

### Suggestions for the Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer

**T**HIS is a time of great opportunity. The plans you lay for this week, the way you organize to win the youth, the spirit of your life, the earnestness of your plans—all have implications that reach far into eternity.

We are on the verge of a new spirit and impulse of greater evangelism for and by youth. It will take a supreme effort on the part of the church to win and to hold all its young people. As you study the following plans may the Lord give you guidance and heavenly enthusiasm as you devote your efforts to making this Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer a harvesttime for the youth of the church.

#### The Objectives

1. To save the youth for Christ. Only as our young people are touched by the hand of God and brought into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ will they be truly converted.
2. To reach out for the backslidden and unconverted youth. Too many churches have a considerable number in this class. Should not the executive committee plan a survey whereby the backslidden and unconverted youth may be found and thereby reclaimed?
3. To deepen the spiritual life of all our youth. By making this Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer as attractive as possible, by giving it good publicity and loyal support, all our youth may be led to a closer spiritual union with Jesus Christ.
4. To give new emphasis before the whole church of the urgency of saving the youth and training them in service for God.

#### Missionary Volunteer Day

Sabbath, March 8, is the Missionary Volunteer high day. It is up to you as young people's workers, officers of the youth, to plan in advance to make this one of the most important days on the church calendar.

1. Plan an unusual Missionary Volunteer program for the day.
2. Prepare posters and attractive public announcements advertising the meeting.
3. Use the reading prepared for the church service.
4. A few placards or posters around the meeting place or on the bulletin board will serve to give emphasis to the importance of the day.

The impressions made and the suggestions which come during the service of Missionary Volunteer Day should be long

remembered by the church. Plan to make it outstandingly different, but warmly evangelistic in its appeal.

#### Organizing for Work

1. *Pray.*—Endeavor to lay upon the church board and society executive committee the burden for special prayer for the youth. Prayer "is the secret of spiritual power." Also, "prayer is heaven's ordained means of success in the conflict with sin and the development of Christian character." Prayer is our greatest source of power and guarantee of success; therefore, let the church and the youth be organized for prayer.

2. *Plan.*—Study and lay careful plans for Missionary Volunteer Week. You will be surprised at the results of a census taken in the homes of your church in an endeavor to discover the number and names of the backslidden and unconverted. There may be those who have not been attending the church or the Sabbath school or Missionary Volunteer Society meetings and who have lost their hold upon God. Let special effort be

made to reach and reclaim these. Wherever possible hold daily meetings reading and discussing the articles prepared for the benefit of the youth. Encourage every church officer and parent to attend the meetings with the youth. Plan to make available some M.V. leaflets for free distribution. As far as possible, feature the leaflets which will emphasize the subject of the evening.

3. *Follow Up.*—Before Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer closes, a baptismal class should be organized. Every young person should be encouraged to enlist in one of the service bands of the society. "When the youth give their hearts to God, our responsibility for them does not cease. They must be interested in the Lord's work, and led to see that He expects them to do something to advance His cause. It is not enough to show how much needs to be done, and to urge the youth to act a part. They must be taught how to labor for the Master. They must be trained, disciplined, drilled, in the best methods of winning souls to Christ." (Turn to page 28)

### MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER DAY

Sabbath, March 8

#### A Design for Living

By Theodore Lucas

Associate Secretary, Young People's  
Missionary Volunteer Department,  
General Conference

#### A DESIGN FOR LIVING

We are met here today because of youth—Adventist youth—to pay our compliments to our young people and to do our best by way of counsel and guidance to weave for them a design for living. Our young people are standing on the threshold of life—poised for purpose and service. Their future opens before them like a rough, uncharted sea that offers confusion, economic upset, and religious indifference. These are the things they face in the world today, because the world has forgotten God.

God never intended that we live in a strange and troubled world, for in the beginning He built a domain of glory and filled it with treasures untold. He carpeted it with living green and fringed it with beautiful flowers. The blue skies were its dome. Its walls were hung with

the most magnificent adornings, for they were hung there by the Master Artist himself. He graced it with deep shadowed forests and filled them with song. But man has reconstructed God's Eden and today we face a crisis.

We face it together. We are a part of it. The storm beats its fury upon our heads and even though we find shelter for a time, it cannot possibly be permanent. The issues before the world are on a huge, unprecedented scale, and are moving toward the great and terrible day of the Lord. We speak thus because young people are frank, which gives us license to speak to them frankly of facts which are God blessed.

This is not to be a note of discouragement but rather a picture of our heritage. We are not to look upon life as a burden, but to prepare for it as we would a great

contest in which our opponent is one well able to overcome us unless we stretch our muscles to the limit of great living. Then let the opposition be keen, for the attainment of our goal will be the more glorious.

Our young people have a right to expect great things from life. They want their totals to reach high in the estimation of others. They want to participate in worthy endeavor. They want recognition, security, affection, and new experiences. These are the natural desires of youth and are clean and right. But they must know that to attain those pinnacles they must have a plan, a pattern, a design for living.

Youth is synonymous with courage and success, with ambition and conquest. Youth delights in difficulties. Youth fights the battle. Youth rushes to the aid of the noble cause. Youth solves the baffling problem. Youth breaks the record. Youth reaches the goal.

Great issues always produce great leaders among youth. So in this greatest of all crises, young people recognizing the solemnity of the times will dedicate their lives to self-sacrifice and to finishing the work of the gospel in all the world. What a rare opportunity is ours in witnessing the culmination of God's purpose in the earth. This is that to which patriarchs, prophets, and apostles looked forward, but it has been reserved for the youth of our day.

In such an hour as this the call of God comes to every young person as it came to Queen Esther when peril threatened her people.

"Through Haman the Agagite, an unscrupulous man high in authority in Medo-Persia, Satan worked at this time to counterwork the purposes of God. Haman cherished bitter malice against Mordecai, a Jew. Mordecai had done Haman no harm, but had simply refused to show him worshipful reverence. Scorning to 'lay hands on Mordecai alone,' Haman plotted 'to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.'

"Misled by the false statements of Haman, Xerxes was induced to issue a decree providing for the massacre of all the Jews 'scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces' of the Medo-Persian kingdom. A certain day was appointed on which the Jews were to be destroyed and their property confiscated. Little did the king realize the far-reaching results that would have accompanied the complete carrying out of this decree. Satan him-

self, the hidden instigator of the scheme, was trying to rid the earth of those who preserved the knowledge of the true God.

"In every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.' The decree of the Medes and Persians could not be revoked; apparently there was no hope; all the Israelites were doomed to destruction.

"But the plots of the enemy were defeated by a Power that reigns among the children of men. In the providence of God, Esther, a Jewess who feared the Most High, had been made queen of the Medo-Persian kingdom. Mordecai was a near relative of hers. In their extremity, they decided to appeal to Xerxes in behalf of their people. Esther was to venture into his presence as an intercessor. 'Who knoweth,' said Mordecai, 'whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'

"The crisis that Esther faced demanded quick, earnest action; but both she and Mordecai realized that unless God should work mightily in their behalf, their own efforts would be unavailing. So Esther took time for communion with God, the source of her strength. 'Go,' she directed Mordecai, 'gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.'

"The events that followed in rapid succession,—the appearance of Esther before the king, the marked favor shown her, the banquets of the king and queen with Haman as the only guest, the troubled sleep of the king, the public honor shown Mordecai, and the humiliation and fall of Haman upon the discovery of his wicked plot,—all these are parts of a familiar story. God wrought marvelously for His penitent people; and a counter decree issued by the king, allowing them to fight for their lives, was rapidly communicated to every part of the realm by mounted couriers, who were 'hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment.' And in every province and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.'

"On the day appointed for their de-

struction, 'the Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, to lay hand on such as sought their hurt: and no man could withstand them; for the fear of them fell upon all people.' Angels that excel in strength had been commissioned by God to protect His people while they 'stood for their lives.'

"Mordecai was given the position of honor formerly occupied by Haman. He 'was next unto King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren'; and he sought to promote the welfare of Israel. Thus did God bring His chosen people once more into favor at the Medo-Persian court, making possible the carrying out of His purpose to restore them to their own land. But it was not until several years later, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes I, the successor of Xerxes the Great, that any considerable number returned to Jerusalem, under Ezra.

"The trying experiences that came to God's people in the days of Esther were not peculiar to that age alone. The revelator, looking down the ages to the close of time, has declared, 'The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.' Some who to-day are living on the earth will see these words fulfilled. The same spirit that in ages past led men to persecute the true church, will in the future lead to the pursuance of a similar course toward those who maintain their loyalty to God. Even now preparations are being made for this last great conflict.

"The decree that will finally go forth against the remnant people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews. To-day the enemies of the true church see in the little company keeping the Sabbath commandment, a Mordecai at the gate. The reverence of God's people for His law is a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord, and are trampling on His Sabbath.

"Satan will arouse indignation against the minority who refuse to accept popular customs and traditions. Men of position and reputation will join with the lawless and the vile to take counsel against the people of God. Wealth, genius, education, will combine to cover them with contempt. Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church-members will conspire against them. With voice and pen, by boasts, threats, and ridicule, they will

seek to overthrow their faith. By false representations and angry appeals, men will stir up the passions of the people. Not having a 'Thus saith the Scriptures' to bring against the advocates of the Bible Sabbath, they will resort to oppressive enactments to supply the lack. To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for Sunday laws. But those who fear God, cannot accept an institution that violates a precept of the Decalogue. On this battle-field will be fought the last great conflict in the controversy between truth and error. And we are not left in doubt as to the issue. To-day, as in the days of Esther and Mordecai, the Lord will vindicate His truth and His people."<sup>1</sup>

As the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the earth today they search for those whose hearts are toward Him. Great unfinished tasks are before us calling for courage and endurance. To our youth God has committed the task of blazing a trail to the fringes of earth with His last warning and saving message. They are to make it their business by speaking and writing and visiting; by preaching and missionary service and the printed page to arouse others to a realization of the solemn time in which they live.

Jesus beheld the rich young ruler and "beholding him loved him."

"He had great possessions, and occupied a position of responsibility. He saw the love that Christ manifested toward the children brought to Him; he saw how tenderly He received them, and took them up in His arms, and his heart kindled with love for the Saviour. He felt a desire to be His disciple. He was so deeply moved that as Christ was going on His way, he ran after Him, and kneeling at His feet, asked with sincerity and earnestness the question so important to his soul and to the soul of every human being, 'Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?'"

"In reply to this question Jesus told him that obedience to the commandments of God was necessary if he would obtain eternal life; and He quoted several of the commandments which show man's duty to his fellow-men. The ruler's answer was positive: 'All these things have I kept from my youth up. What lack I yet?'

"Christ was drawn to this young man. He knew him to be sincere in his assertion, 'All these things have I kept from my youth.' The Redeemer longed to create in him that discernment which would enable him to see the necessity

of heart devotion and Christian goodness. He longed to see in him a humble and contrite heart, conscious of the supreme love to be given to God, and hiding its lack in the perfection of Christ.

"Jesus saw in this ruler just the help He needed if the young man would become a co-laborer with Him in the work of salvation. If he would place himself under Christ's guidance, he would be a power for good. In a marked degree the ruler could have represented Christ; for he possessed qualifications, which, if he were united with the Saviour, would enable him to become a divine force among men. Christ, seeing into his character, loved him. Love for Christ was awakening in the ruler's heart; for love begets love. Jesus longed to see him a co-worker with Him. He longed to make him like Himself, a mirror in which the likeness of God would be reflected. He longed to develop the excellence of his character, and sanctify it to the Master's use. If the ruler had then given himself to Christ, he would have grown in the atmosphere of His presence. If he had made this choice, how different would have been his future!

"The ruler was quick to discern all that Christ's words involved, and he became sad. If he had realized the value of the offered gift, quickly would he have enrolled himself as one of Christ's followers. He was a member of the honored council of the Jews, and Satan was tempting him with flattering prospects of the future. He wanted the heavenly treasure, but he wanted also the temporal advantages his riches would bring him. He was sorry that such conditions existed; he desired eternal life; but he was not willing to make the sacrifice. The cost of eternal life seemed too great, and he went away sorrowful; 'for he had great possessions.'"<sup>2</sup>

God beholding the youth of today loves them and by His Holy Spirit speaks to them and says, My son, give me thine heart; my daughter, come unto me. No matter where you are or what your lot may be, it makes no difference to Him. He found greedy Matthew and blundering Peter; he found hot-tempered John and zealous Paul and called them all. The thing that matters most in the sight of God is willingness to listen and obey. Young people, listen with all care. This is a moment of supreme opportunity for all, but particularly for youth. Promise within your hearts to do His will and champion His cause in this mighty hour.

Accept His commission. You will become something far greater than you could ever have been without Him.

And now—how can all of this become a part of your lives? In the first place, remember that Christ is your spiritual yardstick and upon Him you must fix your eyes and not upon others. Religion manifests itself in an individual according to his own individual relationship to his Saviour.

Never allow your spiritual life to grow stale, but continually grow in grace and in a knowledge of the truth. This you may do by systematic Bible study, sincere meditation and prayer. "Your heart needs to be barricaded by constant watchfulness and prayer or else the embankment will give away; and like a millstream the undercurrent of wrong will sweep away the safeguards. Divine grace must be received daily."

Reverence the church as the house of God. Walk softly in the sanctuary, for it is a place of worship as well as God's workshop.

Consecrate your speech and attitudes that you may never suggest carelessness toward those things that should be held sacred. Express by your actions your love for your parents. Determine your talents, and devote them wholly to the Lord. "God has resources of power of which we as yet know nothing."

Fill your heart with confidence in the ideals and purposes of the Christ you serve and ignore the devilish propaganda that proposes that Christians are weaklings. Live so that your life will be a challenge to all to seek the more abundant life.

Many, many years ago, more than five centuries before Christ was born, there lived in Persia a very noted man. He was the ruler of an empire; he was the owner of great wealth; he had almost unlimited power. He was Cyrus, and is known in history as the founder of the Persian Empire.

Cyrus was eager for conquest, and finally his armies went into Armenia. In spite of the bravery and courage of the Armenians, Cyrus burned their homes and destroyed their fertile fields, and he put many of the people to death. Then he chose a group of the captives to be taken to Persia as slaves. There were wealthy merchants, many teachers, noted warriors, and brave young men of Armenia. But at the very head of the line of captives were the king and queen of Armenia, and the king's son, Tigranes, with his wife and children.

One morning, many days after they

had been brought to Persia, the royal prisoners were summoned to appear before the king. What did it mean? Were they to be put to death? Were they to be separated?

In one of the great rooms of the palace, Cyrus, king of Persia, awaited the captives. The room was hung with costly tapestries and was full of rare things brought from the conquered countries. The king was dressed in all his beautiful robes, for he wished to awe the prisoners.

Slowly, but with dignity, they came before the great Cyrus. One after another they bowed low before him in token of their servitude. Then Cyrus looked at them. The old king of Armenia was bent with all his years of service for his people, but Tigranes stood before him with all the pride of the son of a king. Cyrus admired him.

"Tigranes," spoke King Cyrus, "what shall your ransom be?" Long the king waited while Tigranes bowed his head in thought.

"Tigranes," said the king a second time, "what shall your ransom be?"

Then the bowed head was slowly raised to the king, and, placing an arm about the beautiful woman at his side, he said: "O Cyrus, great king of Persia, do with me what you will, but spare the life of my beautiful wife. Let her go back free to my country, that she may give her life for our little ones. Gladly will I give my life and possessions as a ransom for her life."

Though Cyrus was a great warrior and a powerful ruler, he had a kindly, noble heart, and he was deeply moved by the love of the prince.

"You shall all be free," he cried. "Tigranes, you shall take your beautiful wife back to home and country as an appreciation of your nobleness and loyalty. May others learn to love like you."

The royal Armenian family bowed low, and Tigranes led the way from the presence of the king. His face beamed with happiness as he looked at the woman by his side. They were free, free!

"And what thought you of Cyrus?" asked the father.

"Did you note his majesty?" said Tigranes' mother.

"Such a beautiful room in which he received us," said one of the children.

But the wife of Tigranes spoke no word. At last Tigranes said to her: "My wife, what thought you of the great king?"

"The king? Why, I did not see him."

"You did not see him!" exclaimed Tigranes.

"Ah, my husband," she said, laying her hand lovingly on his arm and looking earnestly into his face, "I saw no man save the one who for love of me offered to lay down his life for me. My eyes and heart had no room for anyone else. No king is more great or more noble than the one who for love's sake has ransomed me."

"Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone

astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isa. 53:4-6.

"O Lord and Master of us all!  
Whate'er our name or sign,  
We own Thy sway, we hear Thy call,  
We test our lives by Thine."

Play the game of life fairly, cleanly, and successfully. So much so that when the end shall come, there will be no feelings of shame or regret.

Guide your life by His pattern. Have complete confidence in God, and you shall win, for He is your design for living.

<sup>1</sup> *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 800-808.

<sup>2</sup> *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 518-520.

<sup>3</sup> *Youth's Instructor*.

## Studies for SENIOR MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS

By Theodore Lucas

Topic for Week: Seven Steps in Following Christ

### Note

These readings have been prepared with the hope that they will aid you in bringing young people to a definite decision for Christ during this young people's Missionary Volunteer Week of Prayer. This is a day of crises for our youth, and we must take advantage of these opportunities to encourage them in the faith. Perhaps you will want to take the material presented here and weave into it your own thoughts. We hope you will do this. Otherwise, please follow the prepared readings.

Keep in mind that the time is short and there is much to be done. Do all the personal work you can. The readings are short enough to allow plenty of time for a good song service, prayer, and expression by the young people themselves. Remember that young people are sometimes a little slow to respond. Give them plenty of time. Make your appeals appealing.

Speaking of appeals, after each reading ask for a response. This must be tactfully and prayerfully planned. Perhaps after the first reading or two you will ask them to raise their hands. Wednesday, you may wish to have everyone stand who desires a richer Christian experience. Then Thursday make an earnest appeal to those who have not yet been baptized. Meet with those who manifest a desire for baptism. Organize a baptismal class. Friday, have a praise service; and Sabbath, conduct a consecration service for the entire church. The above plans are merely suggestive. Do not fail, however, to plot a definite procedure which will encourage our youth to go all the way with their Saviour.

It may be impossible for you to meet every day during this important week. If so, you will find that these readings combine easily. Do not miss a one. Each has an appeal. May this week be a glorious one for you and your youth.

Sunday, March 9

### INVITATION

"And He Said to Them All . . ."

Luke 9:23

TODAY, dear young people of the remnant church, we begin our studies for the M.V. spring Week of Prayer. Let us pray God to bless us abundantly during this week and every week of the fortieth anniversary of Missionary Volunteers. God is depending upon our young people to finish the work of the gospel in all the world. We must use this solemn time, therefore, for the heart preparation needed by all to be fitted for the assigned task.

The title of our study series is "Seven Steps in Following Christ." We have chosen for our basic text Luke 9:23, which reads, "He said to them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

Following are six steps.

1. Invitation—"He said to them all."
2. Decision—"If any man will come after Me."
3. Abdication—"let him deny himself."
4. Resignation—"take up his cross."
5. Cultivation—"daily."
6. Devotion—"and follow Me."

Step number seven is *determination*, and is taken from 1 Corinthians 2:2, where Paul says, "I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."

But today we want to talk about the invitation God extends to us from His

merciful and roomy hand. His invitation includes us all. To every young man He pleads, "My son, give Me thine heart," and to every young woman He whispers, "Come unto Me." Many young people of today are confused because of the babel of voices calling to them. They hear the voice of fame, the voice of money, the voice of self. These voices beckon—there is no voice above the din—no dominant voice. But there can be—if they will listen. It is a voice which, if they will heed, will lift them out of their despondency into a destiny for God.

When Jesus journeyed to Bethany after hearing of the death of Lazarus, He sent word of His arrival to Mary and Martha. Mary did not hear the message, so absorbed was she in her grief, but Martha heard, and hastened to meet Jesus. After she was comforted she returned for her sister with the words, "The Master is come, and calleth for Thee." Then we are told that "Mary rose hastily, and with an eager look on her face" went forth to greet her Friend and Saviour. She heard a voice that spoke with authority, and without hesitation rose and followed. Yes, just as He called to the "aged men leaning upon their staffs, hardy peasants from the hills; fishermen from their toil on the lake, merchants and rabbis, the rich and learned, old and young" he calls to all of us today.

"In every human being He discerned infinite possibilities. He saw men as they might be, transfigured by His grace,—in 'the beauty of the Lord our God.' Looking upon them with hope, He inspired hope. Meeting them with confidence, He inspired trust. Revealing in Himself man's true ideal, He awakened, for its attainment, both desire and faith. In His presence souls despised and fallen realized that they still were men, and they longed to prove themselves worthy of His regard. In many a heart that seemed dead to all things holy were awakened new impulses. To many a despairing one there opened the possibility of a new life."<sup>1</sup>

One of the great military leaders of history was a peasant girl named Joan of Arc. She was called before her king, who inquired as to the source of her power. When she replied that she depended entirely upon the voice of God for guidance, the king impatiently told her that any word for France should come to him. The heroine fearlessly rebuked the king by saying, "God speaks to you but you do not hear His voice because you do not listen."

By His Holy Spirit God is speaking to us, but we cannot hear unless we listen. His is a still small voice saying invitationally, "This is the way, walk ye in it."

Truly our Saviour spoke to all. One author has written that "wherever He went, the children flocked—pomp and circumstance mean nothing to them. They are neither attracted by prominence nor awed in its presence. Their instinct cuts through all outward semblance with a keen swift edge; unfailingly they comprehend who are real and who are not. They recognize their friend. So they swarmed around, climbing on His knees, tugging at His garments, smiling up into His eyes, begging to hear more of his stories." When the Master spoke to the children, they listened. All sorts listened. "Pharisees, fishermen; merchants and tax collectors; cultivated women and outcast women; soldiers, lawyers, beggars, lepers, publicans and sinners. What a spectacle they must have presented trailing after Him in the streets, or covering the side of the green slopes of the mountain" so they could listen.

"Those who take Christ at His word, and surrender their souls to His keeping, their lives to His ordering, will find peace and quietude. Nothing of the world can make them sad when Jesus makes them glad by His presence. In perfect acquiescence there is perfect rest. The Lord says, 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee.' Isa. 26:3. Our lives may seem a tangle; but as we commit ourselves to the wise Master-worker, He will bring out the pattern of life and character that will be to His own glory. And that character which expresses the glory—character—of Christ, will be received into the Paradise of God. A renovated race shall walk with Him in white, for they are worthy.

"As through Jesus we enter into rest, heaven begins here. We respond to His invitation, Come, learn of Me, and in thus coming we begin the life eternal."<sup>2</sup>

"Dear Saviour, we see our great need. It is Thee. Speak to us today that we may accept Thine invitation. Amen."

<sup>1</sup> Education, p. 80.

<sup>2</sup> The Desire of Ages, p. 331.



Monday, March 10

## DECISION

"If Any Man Will Come After Me . . ."

Luke 9:23

Young companions in the faith, we want to challenge you with a question today.

Can you make a decision and stay by it? Or do you weaken when the going is hard? Can you make up your mind and line up? Or do your feet well-nigh slip? This is important, especially for young people.

You know, there are some decisions that we may delay, that we can put off. There are some that are unimportant. But there is one that you must not neglect and that is your response to your Saviour's invitation to "come after Me."

One of the best war stories is told by Lora E. Clement, editor of *The Youth's Instructor*—your paper. Let's listen in:

"It was late afternoon of May 7, in 1942. The Battle of the Coral Sea was raging. A young lieutenant, Paul Baker by name, raced his plane off the flight deck of the *Lexington* to engage the enemy. But when dusk began to fall several hours later, he turned his plane toward the carrier, signaling with his lights as he went.

"Suddenly a sharp voice snapped over his radio: 'Extinguish your landing lights. . . . Enemy aircraft near by. . . . Enemy carriers have been sunk. . . .' The voice stopped abruptly.

"Quick-witted Baker knew what had happened. With their carrier sunk enemy Zeroes in the air would have no place to land. But if they could find him and trace him back to the *Lexington*, then the lot of them could crash-dive the American ship which was home base for planes and pilots of his squadron.

"As he glanced out of his cockpit he saw that already he had been discovered. The Zeroes were swarming below him and to his left. There were three—six—nine—ten of them! In an instant they were alongside and had boxed him in completely. Not a gun fired. They had no notion of shooting him down. He would lead them to a really worth-while target.

"There was only an instant for Paul Baker to make his decision. Unhesitatingly he banked his ship, swerved, and headed out to open sea in the exact opposite direction from the spot where the *Lexington* lay. The enemy ships turned with him, clinging determinedly to his tail, as he led them to certain death.

"The official report says that a handful of officers on the *Lexington* bridge fairly held their breath as they looked through their binoculars into the deepening twilight and saw 'the youngster's plane disappear over the horizon and into the darkness.'

"The carrier was sunk the following day, but that takes none of the luster from the courage and heroism of a youth

who could make a decision in a split second and act upon it without an instant of delay even though it meant the sacrifice of his own life.

"Can you make a decision—right now! And then stick to it even though you discover that the going is hard?"

"It is surprising how many people there are who find it difficult—yes, well-nigh impossible—to make up their minds and act quickly no matter what vital consequences may be at stake."<sup>1</sup>

The twenty-first chapter of Luke and the fourteenth verse tells us to "settle it therefore in your hearts." Choose today whom you will serve, for by making that choice you make all the choices that are to follow. All your decisions in the future will be in accordance with the great decision to follow Christ. Do it in the here and now.

Genesis 24 holds a beautiful story of decision. Abraham had sent his servant in quest of a wife for the son of his old age. The servant had just finished a prayer in behalf of his mission, when his eyes fell upon Rebekah. She measured up. The faithful old servant saw that she was not only beautiful outwardly, but beautiful within, beautifully generous and beautifully kind. After he had given her gifts he approached her family as to the possibility of her becoming the wife of Isaac.

The family wisely left the decision with Rebekah, and she said, "I will go." Rebekah was not only a kind and generous young woman, but also a woman of courage and decision.

We read from *Messages to Young People* that "pure religion has to do with the will. The will is the governing power in the nature of man, bringing all the other faculties under its sway. The will is not the taste or the inclination, but it is the deciding power, which works in the children of men unto obedience to God, or unto disobedience. . . .

"You will be in constant peril until you understand the true force of the will. You may believe and promise all things, but your promises or your faith are of no value until you put your will on the side of faith and action. If you fight the fight of faith with all your will-power, you will conquer. Your feelings, your impressions, your emotions, are not to be trusted, for they are not reliable, especially with your perverted ideas; and the knowledge of your broken promises and your forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in yourself, and the faith of others in you."<sup>2</sup>

In *Steps to Christ* it is written, "Desires for goodness and holiness are right as far as they go; but if you stop here, they will avail nothing. Many will be lost while hoping and desiring to be Christians. They do not come to the point of yielding the will to God. They do not now choose to be Christians.

"Through the right exercise of the will, an entire change may be made in your life. By yielding up your will to Christ, you ally yourself with the power that is above all principalities and powers. You will have strength from above to hold you steadfast, and thus through constant surrender to God you will be enabled to live the new life, even the life of faith."<sup>3</sup>

Don't put it off, young people. Raise your hand for Christ now and by so doing say, "I'm going to settle it in my heart—right now." Will you do it?

"O God we need Thee. We can't make right decisions in our own strength, but with Thee everything is possible. We put our trust in Thee. Amen."

<sup>1</sup> *Youth's Instructor*, July 18, 1944.  
<sup>2</sup> *Messages to Young People*, pp. 151, 152.  
<sup>3</sup> *Steps to Christ*, pocket edition, pp. 47, 48.



Tuesday, March 11

# ABDICATION

"Let Him Deny Himself . . ."

Luke 9:23

TODAY we study another section of the text we have chosen for our studies this week—that part which says, "Let him deny himself." This also has to do with the will and decision. Self, you remember, is the strongest foe with which you have to deal. To be able to rule oneself; to stand against evil when the going is hard; to control self; to move according to standards of great living, is the highest evidence of nobility in a Christian.

It is a wonderful day in the life of a youth when he declares his freedom by the abdication of self and allows Christ to mount the throne of his being.

"Jesus emptied Himself, and in all that he did self did not appear. He subordinated all things to the will of His Father. When His mission on earth was about to close, He could say, 'I have glorified Thee on the earth; I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do.' And He bids us, 'Learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart.' 'If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself; let self be dethroned, and no longer hold the supremacy of the soul.'"<sup>1</sup>

People today do not like God. They do not like God because they choose themselves instead of God. They do not like God's plan, they do not like His

pleasures, they do not like His food, they do not like His day. They do not like these things of God because they have chosen self. Self is on the throne of their lives, dictating every move and every decision and every action. Be satisfied with God and the plan He has for your life.

Think of Job. Job lost his health, Job lost his wealth, Job lost his children, Job lost his all; and even his wife and supposed friends said to Job, Why don't you curse God, and die? This perhaps Job would have done if he had thought of self. But his reply to his tormentors was, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him."

There may be times even with Christ on the throne of our lives when we are tempted to doubt whether the blueprint God has for our lives is the one we want to follow after all. Be satisfied with God as was Job, and say with him, It makes no difference what happens to me, Christ is at the helm, and "though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him."

Thinking of Paul, we first see Paul as Saul. We see him as he witnesses the stoning of Stephen. We see him as he goes to the priest that he might get permission to go to Damascus to persecute those who call themselves Christians. After he had assembled his little company, he traveled over the hard, rough, stony ground that led to Damascus. After days of journeying, he came upon a city watered by the cool streams of the surrounding mountains. The verdure was beautiful to behold. The scene was refreshing indeed. And something happened. There was a light shaft from heaven, that Paul later described as being above the brightness of the noonday sun. He fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying unto him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?" And Saul putting self aside answered, "Who art thou, Lord?" Then the answer came clear and distinct, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." Saul then received his marching orders. He went into the city as he was directed. His name was changed from Saul to Paul, and his heart was changed. Years later, he wrote this autobiography:

"In labours more abundant,  
In stripes above measure,  
In prisons more frequent,  
In deaths oft. . . .  
Five times received I forty stripes save one,  
Thrice was I beaten with rods,  
Once was I stoned,  
Thrice I suffered shipwreck,  
A night and a day I have been in the deep."



Only a man who had laid self aside would have been willing to go through all that Paul went through.

The scene changes. We see Paul in a foreign land facing a cruel death. Reading the Moffatt translation of Colossians 4:18, we find a portion of Paul's writings that is indeed among his most beautiful. "Remember I am in prison. Grace be with you." He might have said, "Remember I am in prison, and need help." But instead he wrote, "I am in prison. Grace be with you." In other words, Paul was saying, I have found grace in my imprisonment. I have enough grace for myself and some to give to you. Christ was really on the throne of his life. No wonder he could say, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

No wonder he could say, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Gal. 2:20.

Just above the choir loft of the Adventist Tabernacle in Battle Creek, Michigan, is a most impressive enlargement of Hofmann's painting of the rich young ruler. One cannot behold the great masterpiece without being stirred deeply. Certainly the artist has been successful in his intent to portray the message of the Christ. The young ruler in the eagerness of his youth has just inquired of the Master the way to life eternal. Jesus directs his attention to a weary old man in tattered clothing and to a woman of sorrow in mourning dress. You read the lips of the Saviour and follow them as He speaks to the young man. "You are blessed with much goods. Share them with others, and you will find the greatest treasure of all." The youth knows that Jesus is right, but *because of his devotion to self* he turns his back upon his richest opportunity and goes away sorrowful.

The rich young ruler failed to get the divine point of view. While the good that comes from sharing does help others, the big dividend comes to the sharer himself, for the practice of self-denial is productive of peace and happiness.

The mother of James and John also failed to get the divine point of view

when she requested of Jesus: "Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on Thy right hand, and the other on the left, in Thy kingdom."

Hers was a selfish prayer. She was thinking not of the kingdom of God nor of the future work of the disciples. She was thinking of self.

She did not consider the responsibility which such a request involved—of the self-sacrifice, of the suffering, of the cross just ahead; she considered only the personal glory and honor that would be bestowed upon her, her sons, and her family. Her request could not be granted because she was unfit to receive that for which she had asked. She knew the meaning of self-exaltation but not the meaning of self-denial. She desired the crown—not the cross.

Take heart, dear youth, for a life in Christ is not only a life of self-denial but also a life of restfulness.

"Dear Lord, help me to be strong that self might be cast aside. Enthroned Thyself upon my heart, my Saviour, that all I do may be wrought of Thee. Amen."

<sup>1</sup> Messages to Young People, p. 162.

✻ ✻

Wednesday, March 12

## RESIGNATION

"Take Up His Cross . . ."

Luke 9:23

JESUS did not make the mistake of picturing the Christian life as an easy one. To be convinced of this, all a young person has to do is to read diligently the experiences of those God has chosen to write about with His providential hand. Let the film of Biblical pictures project itself on the screen of your mind for just a second, and you will see Joseph or Daniel or David or Paul or Jesus.

When you think Joseph, you think bondage. When you think Daniel, you think lions' den. When you think David, you think Saul. When you think Paul, you think persecution; and when you think Jesus, you think sacrifice.

To be a Christian is to take up your cross, but this is deeper than it sounds. It has to do not only with your own cross but the crosses of others that you are to bear that others might be freed of them. It is service—it is giving—it is sacrifice; but it is deeper yet. It gives "depth, stability, and Christlike loveliness to the character, and brings peace and happiness to its possessor."<sup>1</sup>

Many refuse to take up their cross. They lack the grit that is needed for such a venture. They wish to take the way of least resistance. When they do, the tall-

ing total on their scoreboard of life adds up to failure. Life becomes the doing of a sum, and not the painting of a picture.

A commanding officer was asked to choose a certain number of men for duty overseas. The officer was acquainted with his men and knew that all would be anxious to go. He wanted to be fair and impartial and therefore decided upon a plan. He took pieces of paper equal to the number of men under his command and marked a cross on those which when chosen would indicate to the soldier that he had been selected for overseas duty. The slips of paper were then put into a container and passed among the boys. One of the men wrote home: "I prayed earnestly that I might draw a cross." Sometimes we are tempted to pray that God will not allow hardship to come our way, when we should pray earnestly that we might draw a cross.

There was one who was willing to help Jesus carry the cross, and he thereby gained a blessing. He was Simon, a Cyrenian. He witnessed the weak and staggering steps of the Saviour and manifested compassion. He watched as they mistreated Jesus and saw Him fall under the weight of His burden.

"He hears the taunts and ribaldry of the crowd; he hears the words contemptuously repeated, Make way for the King of the Jews. He stops in astonishment at the scene; and as he expresses his compassion, they seize him and place the cross upon his shoulders.

"Simon had heard of Jesus. His sons were believers in the Saviour, but he himself was not a disciple. The bearing of the cross to Calvary was a blessing to Simon, and he was ever after grateful for this providence. It led him to take upon himself the cross of Christ from choice, and ever cheerfully stand beneath its burden."

The President of the United States placed the congressional medal of honor upon the breast of Desmond Doss. Desmond Doss, a Seventh-day Adventist, is the first conscientious objector in the history of his country to be accorded the highest honor that can come to a soldier. He was presented with the medal because he was "the bravest man on Okinawa." After giving aid to his fellow soldiers, Doss himself was seriously wounded and lay on the battlefield in great pain. He refused help as long as there was one boy uncaared for. He was unselfish even in great distress.

On the cross Jesus thought not of Himself, but of His tormentors. He prayed

for them that they might be forgiven. And when the thief at His side appealed to Him for mercy, Jesus comforted Him.

The best way to ease one's burdens is to lighten those of another. The best way to find comfort and peace is to sense the companionship of Jesus in cross sharing.

When a band of revengeful men broke into the king's palace during the French Revolution, they did so to plunder and to kill. Down the long hall they rushed, looting and destroying whatever they could. Everything seemed to play into the hands of the ruffians, when suddenly they entered a room where hung a painting of Jesus on the cross. Here the spirit of the marauders was broken, and it was impossible for the mob leader to regain control until the picture was turned to the wall. That is what happens to young people who fix their gaze upon the cross of their Saviour. They are dominated by the spirit of Christ. It is by beholding Him that we are transformed into His likeness. You cannot face the Christ of the cross without yielding to His influence. You dare not remain in His presence unless you want to be captured by His spirit.

Too often the cross is but an ornament. It is hung on the walls or hoisted high to a steeple. Ofttimes it becomes but a piece of jewelry or an altar decoration. The only place where the cross can be effectively placed is in the heart.

In the little book *Drawing Nigh To God* it is written that "the cross is an emblem of suffering for the sake of Christ and His cause. It involves a willingness to follow where He leads, even though it means a martyr's death. But united with the knowledge that we must suffer for His sake is the precious assurance of His sustaining presence. 'Lo, I am with you alway.' Matt. 28:20. He gives the cheering promise, 'Whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.' Mark 8:35. With confidence in His word, multitudes have gone to a martyr's death, rejoicing that they were accounted worthy to suffer for His sake.

"See that beautiful young woman standing before the altar, in the days of Diocletian, her friends and lover grouped around her. They plead with her to save herself from a cruel death by sprinkling a few grains of incense on the altar. But not a grain is cast, and she is ruthlessly led away to die for Him whom she loves more than life.

"During World War II the stories came of young men who were imprisoned,

tortured, beheaded, because they refused to violate the principles of God's law. The power that sustained Jesus sustains and will sustain His followers who are obedient 'even unto death.' Let us not shun the cross, that we may be numbered among the redeemed who 'loved not their lives unto the death.' Rev. 12:11."<sup>1</sup>

Once upon a time there was a little fellow who with his dad was sight-seeing in New York. They went into one of the great churches and saw on the altar a cross. The young son, who had just been introduced to arithmetic, inquired of his father, "What is that big plus sign?" The cross is a great plus sign to those who bear it gracefully. It adds to one's life and never subtracts. New and beautiful attributes are added to the character—kindness, sympathy, unselfishness, and courage.

In *The Desire of Ages* we read that "the spotless Son of God hung upon the cross, His flesh lacerated with stripes; those hands so often reached out in blessing, nailed to the wooden bars; those feet so tireless on ministries of love, spiked to the tree; that royal head pierced by the crown of thorns; those quivering lips shaped to the cry of woe. And all that He endured,—the blood drops that flowed from His head, His hands, His feet, the agony that racked His frame, and the unutterable anguish that filled His soul at the hiding of His Father's face,—speaks to each child of humanity, declaring, It is for thee that the Son of God consents to bear this burden of guilt; for thee He spoils the domain of death, and opens the gates of Paradise. He who stilled the angry waves and walked the foam-capped billows, who made devils tremble and disease flee, who opened blind eyes and called forth the dead to life,—offers Himself upon the cross as a sacrifice, and this, from love to thee. He, the Sin-bearer, endures the wrath of divine justice, and for thy sake becomes sin itself."<sup>2</sup>

"Dear Jesus, help me to bear my cross so that my stature of great living may be increased. May I be willing to serve regardless of cost, withholding nothing for myself. Amen!"

<sup>1</sup> *Steps to Christ* (Pocket edition), p. 80.

<sup>2</sup> *The Desire of Ages*, p. 742.

<sup>3</sup> *Drawing Nigh to God*, pp. 202, 203.

<sup>4</sup> *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 754, 755.



It is in loving, not in being loved.  
The heart is blessed;  
It is in giving, not in seeking gifts,  
We find our quest.  
Whatever be thy longing or thy need,  
That do thou give,  
So shall thy soul be fed and thou indeed  
Shalt truly live. M. E. RUSSELL.

Thursday, March 13

## CULTIVATION "Daily . . ."

Luke 9:23

JUST one word do we pluck from our text for contemplation today. That word is *daily*, and it is a power-meaning word. All young people want to be strong. Youth admires strength. A great athlete has the respect of his nation. All young people want power—not all young people use it as they should when they acquire it, but they want it just the same. They strive for it day by day—daily. That is the only way you can develop strength and power. You must be consistent—you must stay on the job—you must stay by it—moment by moment, hour by hour, day by day. Listen to these half-dozen flashes from the Spirit of prophecy:

Flash 1.—Sanctification is a *daily* work.

Flash 2.—*Daily* prayer is essential to growth in grace.

Flash 3.—*Daily* the worker for God must learn the meaning of self-surrender.

Flash 4.—To His faithful followers Christ has been a *daily* companion.

Flash 5.—By *daily* seeking to imitate His character, we shall be a blessing.

Flash 6.—By *daily* laying their burdens at His feet, they have found rest and peace and happiness.

This is a day when power is a popular word. This is a power age—you hear it—you read it—you see it—you feel it everywhere. Our ears have been scorched over and over again by such words as atomic, jet propulsion, radar. But that isn't the kind of power we are speaking about today.

We are discussing the power that is the power of God unto salvation. It makes no difference from which angle you survey your life, the question of power is the important theme. No one can be successful in any endeavor unless the power intake is greater than the power output. The longer a machine runs, the more service it requires. The harder an individual works, the more food his body requires. The life of great living is great only in proportion to the intake of those things that have to do with soul values—those things that restore the soul.

Samson had power, but he lost it because he lost God. God did not lose Samson, but Samson lost God, and, therefore, he lost his power. Samson was born in the city of Zorah, just across the border from the Philistine city of Timnath. In his youth he would cross over

the border and mingle with those heathen people. He learned to like their drinks, their food, their games. He lost his power when he crossed over the border and turned his back upon God's people and their truth. When it came time for Samson to select a young lady for his wife, instead of selecting one from among Israel, he chose one from the Philistines. Even in the marriage feast she betrayed him. So disappointed was he that he returned home for a while, but when he went back for his wife, Samson found she had married someone else. Then he laid waste the fields of the Philistines and fled to the rock Etam, which was on the land of the cowardly men of Judah.

Only heartaches are in store for young people who ignore God's instruction. Samson knew that marriage between believers and unbelievers is forbidden by God. Samson knew he would have a home where the shadows are never lifted because he united himself with one who was an enemy of God. Samson knew that to bind himself with an unbeliever was to place himself on Satan's ground. Though Samson knew all these things, yet he ignored them and thereby lost his power.

When the Philistines learned that Samson was hiding in the rock Etam, they went to the cowardly men of Judah and told them that unless they delivered Samson into their hands they were going to destroy their lands and their fields. The men of Judah went to Samson and told him all the Philistines had threatened. After he had extracted a promise from them that they would not harm him, he told them to bind him hand and foot and carry him to the land of the Philistines. This they did, but as their shouts of victory were waking the echoes of the hills the Spirit of Jehovah came upon Samson, and he broke those new ropes as flax that was burned in the fire, and he picked up the first weapon he laid his hands on; and when he was through there were a thousand Philistines dead upon the field and the rest fleeing in terror. Then the men of Israel said, "See what a great man we have among us. Let us make him the judge of Israel." And Samson served as judge of Israel for twenty years.

Samson could not forget sin in spite of the things his parents had told him. He had learned to love sin because of his early youth. Strange as it may seem, he went to the most strongly fortified city of the Philistines, the city of Gaza, to seek sin. And you may be sure he found

it. When the Philistines learned he was in their city, they whispered among themselves that they had the enemy where they wanted him. They locked and barred the gates and planned to take him when the dawn came. But at midnight God spoke to Samson, and he arose and took the gate, the two posts, and the bar; put them all upon his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill on his way back to Hebron. What possibilities of power were wrapped up in Samson!

He never returned to the city of the Philistines again, but went to the valley of Sorek, which is noted for its grapes and wine. There he fell in love with a spy of the Philistines, who, day by day, urged him to tell the secret of his strength, until, his soul vexed unto death, he finally told the secret of his strength. Then Delilah called the Philistines. They put out his eyes, they beat him across the back with whips, they hitched him to a treadmill, and then made a feast to the great god Dagon—the fish god. All the great men of the realm were there. Someone suggested that Samson be brought in so that they might make sport of him.

"What a change to him who had been the judge and champion of Israel!—new weak, blind, imprisoned, degraded to the most menial service! Little by little he had violated the conditions of his sacred calling. God had borne long with him; but when he had so yielded himself to the power of sin as to betray his secret, the Lord departed from him. There was no virtue in his long hair merely, but it was a token of his loyalty to God; and when the symbol was sacrificed in the indulgence of passion, the blessings of which it was a token were also forfeited."<sup>1</sup>

Samson was weary and he asked permission to rest against the pillars of the temple. Then he silently prayed, "O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray Thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines."<sup>2</sup> He then surrounded the pillars with his mighty arms and with the strength that was once his, the temple tumbled down. So the number which he slew at his death were more than the number which he slew during his life.

"Physically, Samson was the strongest man upon the earth; but in self-control, integrity, and firmness, he was one of the weakest of men. Many mistake strong passions for a strong character; but the truth is that he who is mastered by his passions is a weak man. The real great-

ness of the man is measured by the power of the feelings that he controls, not by those that control him."<sup>3</sup>

Samson lost out because he neglected God's counsel. If he lived in our day we would recognize Samson to be the genius he was. He would make good grades in school. He would be popular, but you would not go to him when you faced life's serious moments. He would ignore his mother and his father, neglect Bible study and prayer; for he would feel that he was self-sufficient. He would go to the theater even though he knew better. Perhaps he would appear serious when he was warned of the error of his way, but he would jest about it when he thought he could get by. Samson would go to the dance so that his body would have grace and beauty. But he would lose it all as a prisoner of the enemy. He would have power, but what would he do with it? He would throw it away grinding at the mill of the Philistines.

All that was offered to Samson is offered to you, dear young people. Avail yourselves of prayer power, Bible power, principle power.

Cultivate the prayer habit. Regularity establishes habit. Pray by the clock if you must, but pray until the habit is fixed.

I once knew of an academy boy who established the prayer habit by pasting a little homemade sign by his doorknob which read, "Wait—did you pray?" He just could not leave his room ignoring the question. I saw him the other day as a college man—a praying man.

Avail yourselves of Bible power. All other literature is secondary to that written by His Fatherly hand. If the world's best Man fed upon it, so must you. You will find it exciting, appealing, inspiring, reproaching, revealing, inviting. Search it as a treasure, for in it are the deep shafts of great living.

Attain principle power, the power that comes to one "whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole."

"Joseph and Daniel proved themselves true to the principles of their early training, true to Him whose representatives they were. These men, both in Egypt and in Babylon, the whole nation honored; and in them a heathen people, and all the nations with which they were connected, beheld an illustration of the goodness and beneficence of God, an illustration of the love of Christ.

"What a life-work was that of these noble Hebrews! As they bade farewell to their childhood's home, how little did they dream of their high destiny! Faith-

ful and steadfast, they yielded themselves to the divine guiding, so that through them God could fulfill His purpose.

"The same mighty truths that were revealed through these men, God desires to reveal through the youth and the children of to-day. The history of Joseph and Daniel is an illustration of what He will do for those who yield themselves to Him, and with the whole heart seek to accomplish His purpose.

"The greatest want of the world is the want of men,—men who will not be bought or sold; men who in their inmost souls are true and honest; men who do not fear to call sin by its right name; men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.

"But such a character is not the result of accident; it is not due to special favors or endowments of Providence. A noble character is the result of self-discipline, of the subjection of the lower to the higher nature,—the surrender of self for the service of love to God and man.

"The youth need to be impressed with the truth that their endowments are not their own. Strength, time, intellect, are but lent treasures. They belong to God, and it should be the resolve of every youth to put them to the highest use. He is a branch, from which God expects fruit; a steward, whose capital must yield increase; a light, to illuminate the world's darkness.

"Every youth, every child, has a work to do for the honor of God and the uplifting of humanity."<sup>4</sup>

Enlist today in a program of daily cultivation—you will be stronger for it.

"My Saviour, cause me to realize the importance of renewing my strength daily, and to know that amid the perils of these last days my safety lies in ever-increasing watchfulness and prayer."

<sup>1</sup> *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 566.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 567.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 567, 568.

<sup>4</sup> *Education*, pp. 56-58.

❖ ❖

How solemn is the thought! Day after day, passing into eternity, bears its burdens of records for the books of heaven. Words once spoken, deeds once done, can never be recalled. Angels have registered both the good and the evil. The mightiest conqueror upon the earth cannot call back the record of even a single day. Our acts, our words, even our most secret motives, all have their weight in deciding our destiny for weal or woe. —*The Great Controversy*, pp. 486, 487.

Friday, March 14

## DEVOTION "Follow Me . . ."

Luke 9:23

FOLLOW ME is the topic of our meeting today and the invitation of your Saviour. What a thrilling challenge. You are young—you love life—you love laughter—you want adventure, and here it is. Here is something definite—something you can bank on—something that will not let you down—something upon which you can place your trust. When you accept this invitation, you are not going to follow this person or that—but Christ. It will be the great discovery of your life—the great adventure. It is character—it is life—it is something eternal.

The Spirit of prophecy tells us through *The Desire of Ages*: "Of the Roman officials in Palestine, none were more hated than the publicans. The fact that the taxes were imposed by a foreign power was a continual irritation to the Jews, being a reminder that their independence had departed. And the tax-gatherers were not merely the instruments of Roman oppression; they were extortioners on their own account, enriching themselves at the expense of the people. A Jew who accepted this office at the hands of the Romans was looked upon as betraying the honor of his nation. He was despised as an apostate, and was classed with the vilest of society.

"To this class belonged Levi-Matthew, who, after the four disciples at Genesaret, was the next to be called to Christ's service. The Pharisees had judged Matthew according to his employment, but Jesus saw in this man a heart open for the reception of truth. Matthew had listened to the Saviour's teaching. As the convicting Spirit of God revealed his sinfulness, he longed to seek help from Christ; but he was accustomed to the exclusiveness of the rabbis, and had no thought that this great Teacher would notice him.

"Sitting at his toll-booth one day, the publican saw Jesus approaching. Great was his astonishment to hear the words addressed to himself, 'Follow Me.'

"Matthew 'left all, rose up, and followed Him.' There was no hesitation, no questioning, no thought of the lucrative business to be exchanged for poverty and hardship. It was enough for him that he was to be with Jesus, that he might listen to His words, and unite with Him in His work.

"So it was with the disciples previously

called. When Jesus bade Peter and his companions follow Him, immediately they left their boats and nets. Some of these disciples had friends dependent on them for support; but when they received the Saviour's invitation, they did not hesitate, and inquire, 'How shall I live, and sustain my family?' They were obedient to the call; and when afterward Jesus asked them, 'When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye anything?' they could answer, 'Nothing.' Luke 22:35.

"To Matthew in his wealth, and to Andrew and Peter in their poverty, the same test was brought; the same consecration was made by each. At the moment of success, when the nets were filled with fish, and the impulses of the old life were strongest, Jesus asked the disciples at the sea to leave all for the work of the gospel. So every soul is tested as to whether the desire for temporal good or for fellowship with Christ is strongest.

"Principle is always exacting. No man can succeed in the service of God unless his whole heart is in the work, and he counts all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. No man who makes any reserve can be the disciple of Christ, much less can he be His co-laborer. When men appreciate the great salvation, the self-sacrifice seen in Christ's life will be seen in theirs. Wherever He leads the way, they will rejoice to follow."<sup>1</sup>

When Jesus called Levi-Matthew He did so because He saw in him an individual with limitless possibilities—he saw the future Matthew—the Matthew that Matthew could be. There were several different Matthews even in the one Levi-Matthew. There was the Matthew that only he himself knew—the inner Matthew; then there was the one his friends knew—the outer Matthew. Then there was the one that Jesus knew—the future Matthew.

Just as there were three Levi-Matthews, there are three of you. The inner you—the outer you—the future you. It is the future you to whom Jesus beckons today. Do not turn away.

Jesus beckoned to a schoolmate of mine—but he turned away. He was talented. Everyone from our school predicted that he would be a worker of merit. Over the week end we would journey to some close-by church to conduct the Sabbath and Sunday-night services. Those of us who went along with this talented young man would make what contribution we could, but he would

always do the preaching. His ministerial voice with its musical quality still rings in my ears.

Some of us had a difficult time finding employment in the summer, but not this young man. All the conference presidents were calling him to hold a summer effort in their fields. His class prophesied that he would be a mighty worker for God. After graduation, he married a young lady from our home town—a beautiful Christian. The fields clamored for his service.

Then something happened! He went into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil—and he fell. He fell because he chose to follow self. He followed his own whims. He went his own way. He allowed self to dictate his decisions even though Christ had beckoned and called after him. He turned his back upon his wife and baby boy and upon the truth, because he followed self.

But here's a chance for you to become what Jesus sees you can become in Him. He will do with you as He did with blundering Peter—give you an invincible character. He will do with you as He did with John—change your fiery temperament into one of quiet assurance and love. He will do with you as He did with Matthew—take away your avariciousness and set you to work for Him. He will do with you as He did with Mary—root the demons from your heart and make you a herald of His coming kingdom. He will do with you as He did with Paul—change your name and your heart and list you among His candidates for the earth made new. All these and more will He do if you will only follow Him. Will you do it? This moment—right now?

"O Jesus, we want to follow Thee. May there be no hesitating, no questioning, no doubt. Help us to know that thou dost lead to adventure and to life. Amen."

<sup>1</sup> *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 272, 273.

✠ ✠

Sabbath, March 15

DETERMINATION

"For I Am Determined . . ."

1 Cor. 2:2

PAUL accepted the challenge of the cross in his determination to know nothing save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified; he accepted his share of responsibility and suffering. He admonished young Timothy to do likewise, and his admonition reaches down through the ages to you!

Paul found the way while swaggering

along the road to Damascus; Luther found his Lord while ascending the steps on his knees. James White caught the vision under the advent preaching of William Miller.

How is it with you? You need not share this corporate responsibility and suffering. You may refuse and take the easy way. Doubtless you have certain handicaps that make it hard for you; you may have natural tendencies that you could use as excuses, thereby shirking your God-given vision; you may find it easier to compromise with sin when challenged by temptation; you may prefer the vice of luxury and money, not realizing fully its crushing weight. Christ plainly points the way of the Cross now to you—the way that may lead through Gethsemane—saying, "Follow Me."

G. A. Studdert Kennedy writes: "The crucified Christ is looking down upon us—with death in His bleeding hands and feet—but life in the light of His burning eyes—and demanding from us all—every individual man and woman—a choice between the glory of Reason, Patience, and Love, and the glory of Force, and Wrath, and Fear."<sup>1</sup>

There was at one time a Roman girl who was a traitor to her city. She promised to reveal the needed information if every enemy soldier would give her the bracelet from his arm. The total weight crushed her life out. Determine not to know anything save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. Accept your share of hardship and suffering, for His sake defying your handicaps, conquering your natural tendencies, overcoming your difficulties uncompromisingly. By choosing this course you will steady and save your own life, and, better still, you will strengthen and save the lives of others. This way leads all the way home.

Set your mark high, and, step by step, even though it be by painful effort, by self-denial and sacrifice, ascend the whole length of the ladder of progress. Let nothing hinder you—opposing circumstances should create a firm determination to overcome them. The breaking down of one barrier will give greater ability and courage to go forward. Press with determination in the right direction, and circumstances will be your helpers, not your hindrances. Put your life into your determination to live for Christ.

There is an old Chinese legend about the famous bellmaker, Wu. Bells carrying Wu's name always brought a higher price in the markets. His bells were demanded throughout the land. One

day there came a pagan priest to order a new bell.

"It must be a bell without a flaw," said he. "It is to be the bell for the great new temple."

Wu bowed low. "Undeserved honor has come to my house. But I shall try to make the bell that has no flaw."

So he bought new kettles, selected the finest materials, and hired the most skilled workmen. When the bell was finished, he swung it proudly on the testing beam, and struck it. The bell gave forth a beautiful sound, but the trained ear of the expert bellmaker detected at once a slight flaw. He ordered the bell broken and recast. But the second bell still had the flaw. So did the third, and the fourth. Wu became troubled and impatient. He could not find the secret of the perfect bell. He became ill at ease, and those of his own household became greatly alarmed.

Wu had a little daughter who had come to them late in life. The gods, Wu said fondly, had plucked her out of their garden for him. He named her Iris, because of the beauty of the flower.

Iris watched her father with troubled eyes. "My honored parent," she said to herself, "is much worried, and I think I know the reason. He cannot find the secret of the bell that has no flaw. But I can help him. I will climb the hill to the shrine, there to bring my offering and say my prayer. Then he can make the bell."

So little Iris trudged up the steep trail to the top of the hill where stood the shrine. A company of people were there listening to a priest. But soon she found an empty niche, left a few grains of rice, said her prayer, and started away. The priest was still speaking. She could not understand clearly what he said, but one sentence, louder than the rest, came to her:

"Oh, my people," the priest was saying, "if you want to succeed in your work, your life must go into it!"

The child mind pondered. Iris made her way down the path. Halfway down, she stopped under a tree, looked down upon her father's house, and saw the men at work on another bell. "If you want to succeed—" rang in her ears. Did her honorable father want to succeed? She knew how very much he did want to succeed; "... your life must go into it!" Her ears burned. Insistently it sounded in her heart. Quickly she knelt under the tree and once more said her prayers to the gods. Then quietly she slipped down the steep path to her

father's house. Waiting for a moment when no one was around, she climbed to the top of the seething kettle, poised a moment motionless on the brink, then plunged in.

When Wu returned and discovered that his daughter had not returned, he searched everywhere. No one knew what had become of her. A few had seen her climb the hill—none had seen her since.

Once more Wu broke the mold; once more a beautiful bell swung on the beam—and this time the dream of the ancient bellmaker was fulfilled. There was no flaw in the bell!

And the legend says that although he never knew the reason, Wu had cast a perfect bell because a life had gone into it. (From *Highways of Happiness*.)

"Stand like Daniel, that faithful statesman, a man whom no temptation could corrupt."<sup>2</sup>

The clear thinking and firmness of Daniel and his companions testifies to the sterling truth in the adage, "Every man is the architect of his own fortune."

"Daniel and his companions enjoyed the benefits of correct training and education in early life, but these advantages alone would not have made them what they were. The time came when they must act for themselves,—when their future depended upon their own course. Then they decided to be true to the lessons given them in childhood. The fear of God, which is the beginning of wisdom, was the foundation of their greatness."<sup>3</sup>

"The Hebrew captives were men of like passions with ourselves. Amid the seductive influences of the luxurious courts of Babylon, they stood firm. . . . There is now need of men who, like Daniel, will do and dare. A pure heart and a strong, fearless hand are wanted in the world today."<sup>4</sup>

"True success is given to men and women by the God who gave success to Daniel. He who read the heart of Daniel looked with pleasure upon his servant's purity of motive, his determination to honor the Lord. Those who in their life fulfill God's purpose must put forth painstaking effort, applying themselves closely and earnestly to the accomplishment of whatever He gives them to do."<sup>5</sup>

"The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent who seeks with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action. To every one engaged in this work Christ says, I am at your right hand to help you.

"As the will of man co-operates with

the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command, may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings."<sup>6</sup>

You may go the way you determine. David Livingstone determined to live a life of service. He chose the hard trails of Africa. Yet he thought not in terms of what he had given up for Christ, but rather of the joy he had received. He deemed it a privilege rather than a sacrifice.

Livingstone as a young student was determined to find his niche in God's plan for a world-wide gospel. He studied the needy fields of earth and decided upon China. Then something happened. He heard Africa's Moffat say that he could see the smoke of a thousand villages where no Christian had ever gone. So Livingstone made his decision for Africa. He went out to give his life for the heathen, to be tortured by insects and fever, to be separated from home and loved ones, and finally to die for the people of that dark continent.

One story gives an account of Livingstone's determination to blaze a trail from Africa's interior to the coast. To do so, he had to have help. He appealed to a native chief, who promised him the aid of some of his tribe if he would return with them.

When they reached the coast there was a British ship, the captain of which urged Livingstone to return to England that he might see his family again. He had been away long from his home and his people. But Livingstone was determined not to break faith with the tribal chief, and he kept his promise to return to the jungle. He gave his everything to the cause of Christ. He succeeded in his determination to set a living example of what it means to have a religion which is not a pastime but a passion for service.

Jesus decided His own course, and it led Him straight to Golgotha's hill. Paul reversed his ideas, and determinedly followed his Lord in service to mankind. Judas' chosen path of treachery led him to that fatal tree. Your strict adherence to moral principle, your unflinching stand for what you know to be right, your steady resolve to be true to high standards—all these entitle you to be sons and daughters of the heavenly King.

After the execution of Queen Marie Antoinette and King Louis XVI at the time of the French Revolution, their son was given to the care of a ruthless shoemaker, who repeatedly attempted to break down the boy's morals. Always the boy answered, "I cannot do that for

I am the son of a king." He was determined to live up to his high calling.

That same high calling is yours, and may you determine within your heart to live up to that calling and *know nothing save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.*

"O Lord, make me a youth with a purpose single to God's plan for me. I determine now not to know anything save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."

<sup>1</sup> *Life Begins With God*, p. 108.

<sup>2</sup> *Messages to Young People*, p. 100.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 243.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 242, 243.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 150.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 101.

## Suggestions for M.V. Week

(Continued from page 17)

Endeavor to tie into the plans for Missionary Volunteer Week the work of the service bands which will function after the Week of Prayer is over. Emphasize the Master Comrade work, the Prayer and Personal Workers' Band, the Literature Distribution Band, the Crusader Corps. With the Lord's help, pray and plan to foster a spirit of evangelism on the part of the youth. "Seek to interest them in that which will help them to live the higher life. . . . Bring them to your fireside; invite them to join you around the family altar. Let us remember the claim of God upon us to make the path to heaven bright and attractive." This is the time to give special emphasis to the devotional life by means of the Morning Watch, the Bible Year, and the Character Classics.

## Materials and Helps

1. THE MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER WEEK OF PRAYER STUDIES are found in the March GAZETTE. Make earnest use of this excellent series of studies provided by the Missionary Volunteer Department for this Week of Prayer. The meetings should culminate in a call to consecration. These studies are sent to the field with a prayer that they may be instrumental in the hands of wise leaders to win precious souls for the kingdom.

2. MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER LEAFLETS: Study the Review and Herald catalog and order leaflets for this week. However, the following leaflets are suggested:

No.	Name of Leaflet	Price Each
19	The Morning Watch	\$ .02½
21	Read, and Think—and Pray	.00¾
23	Others May, You Cannot	.02
25-I; 25-II;		
25-III; 25-IV		
	Character Classics	.02
28	Victory in Christ	.03½
36	The Lifework	.03½
38	Our Youth Called to Service	.04
40	In Shining Armor	.04

In this perilous but mighty hour for the church, let us work and pray for a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our believers, and especially upon the youth.

## Lessons for JUNIOR MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS

By Marion Seitz Simmons

### Notes to Leaders

**A**NOTHER year has passed into eternity since the last Spring Week of Prayer. Our Juniors are one year older. Some are now Senior youth, and will not be numbered with the Juniors who hear these lessons. Some children have attained the Junior age during the year, and will listen to these appeals for the first time. While many churches arrange meetings for their Juniors, primarily these studies will be given in the church schools. Many of our schools have more than one teacher. However, there are more schools with just one teacher with many grades. Keeping this in mind, I have endeavored to make the lessons plain enough for even the smaller children to understand. These lessons are only suggestions, and can be greatly enlarged upon by those who present them.

I have tried to make them personal and practical, hence every one starts with the pronoun *I*. On the opening day a personal appeal has been made. It might even call for a testimony meeting. On Wednesday it is hoped that all will publicly pray. On the last two days time can be devoted to testimonies by the Juniors.

There is no theme song suggested. All the songs chosen have been taken from *Missionary Volunteer Songs*. Additional songs which are appropriate are Nos. 1 and 11 for Lesson I; No. 52 for Lesson II; Nos. 8, 22, and 26 for Lesson III; Nos. 33 and 35 for Lesson IV; Nos. 100, 106, and 107 for Lesson V. Rodeheaver-Ackley Chorus book No. 1 contains such choruses as "You Must Open the Door" and "Wonderful Jesus," very fine for the week. Order from The Rodeheaver Company, Winona Lake, Indiana.

May the spirit that guided the writing of these lessons teach you as you endeavor to help the Juniors in their daily Christian living. Pray and work. Then leave the results with God.



### LESSON I

Monday, March 10

### I LOVE JESUS

When you were just a day or two old, your mother, father, or someone else gave you a name. Perhaps mother had picked out a little girl's name before you were born, but when you came she had to think of a boy's name. It might have been just the opposite. After some discussion, you were named and that name was recorded on your birth certificate. You did not receive just one name, but

perhaps a middle name too, and of course your family name, which is your last name.

A little slave boy was named "Booker" when he was born. He was not given a last name. Until he went to school some years later he was known by that name only. As he sat in school for the first time he heard the teacher call the roll. When the students responded they gave two and three names. Booker wondered what he might say. He had heard of the great man Washington, so when the teacher came to him he answered, "Booker T. Washington." We know him by that name today—a poor unlettered slave boy who became a great leader of his people.

Some few people do not like the names given them by their parents and some even go to court to have them changed. Nearly all, however, are satisfied, for they know they were named by loving parents.

Did you ever stop to think how our Saviour was named? Before He was born, a loving heavenly Father directed that He should be called Jesus. Many names today have a special meaning, and the name of Jesus very definitely has a very, very special meaning. We find this in Matthew 1:21. Let us read it together. "Thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins." He was to be our Saviour!

What a wonderful thought that is to us as we open the Week of Prayer. I like the little chorus we often sing, "Jesus Is the Sweetest Name I know." (No. 130 in *Gospel Melodies*.) When I was a little girl the only songbook we had in church was *Christ in Song*, and how we would sing from it: "The name of Jesus is so sweet, I love its music to repeat; it makes my joys full and complete, the precious name of Jesus."

As we think of what Jesus means to us, we cannot help loving that name and the person whose name it is! It is such a sacred name, so very different from any other name that you and I have never heard anyone else called by it. Many have been named for Mary the mother of Jesus, for Paul, Daniel, Joseph, or some other Bible character, but none after

Jesus. Around that name is a reverence, a holiness, so divine that we would not dare to use it in a common way.

All history centers on that name. We say either so many years B.C., which is before the birth of Christ, or A.D., in the year of our Lord, or after His birth. The whole world does not stop to think of any other babe once a year who was born in a stable and cradled in a manger. While thousands of people wear a cross on a necklace or watch chain, they would not think of wearing the symbol of the electric chair, the gallows, or some other means of cruel torture. Yet by His death on the cross—His cross becomes hallowed and sanctified.

Napoleon Bonaparte, when a lonely exile, banished from his own people and country after his defeat in trying to rule the whole world, said that millions had died for the name of Jesus but no one would die for his name. Today millions would gladly give up life for Jesus; and why?

The answer is sweet and simple! Because He first loved them. He died for them. Paul says, Christ "gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity [sin]." Titus 2:14. All we must do is to be willing to accept that name. Willingly we accept the name our parents gave us, and we love them, for they do so many wonderful things for us. They would even die for us. Yet Jesus does even more than they, for He can save us from our sins.

With Jesus in the heart there is true love, for love is of God. To love Jesus is to be willing to live for Him and if need be die for Him. Millions who loved Him died during the Dark Ages. They were persecuted, tortured, and cruelly beaten because they loved Him. Thousands who love Him now are giving their lives in foreign lands to tell the heathen of the Saviour's love. Thousands more are daily serving Him in their office, home, or school because they love Him. Yes, to love Jesus is to know Him. It works two ways. To know Him is to love Him. He is our Redeemer and dearest Friend.

Let me tell you one thing more about that name—yes, two things. When that name shall have been sounded over all the world, Jesus will come again. That's number one! John the revelator had a vision of the new earth and saw the redeemed there with Jesus. His name was in their foreheads. That's number two! What a wonderful name! No strange thing that we love it and the One whose name it is!



Shall we not resolve, on this first day of our Week of Prayer, that we will accept that name? Let us do all we can to spread the fame of 'that name, and when He comes we may have His name written in our foreheads. Will you reverently say with me this morning His precious name: JESUS—I LOVE JESUS.

(LEADER: Song to close the meeting, "My Jesus, I Love Thee," No. 43 in *Missionary Volunteer Songs*.)



## LESSON II

Tuesday, March 11

### I LOVE THE BIBLE

Many years ago people did not have Bibles in their homes as we now have them. They were scarce, as not many had been printed yet. They cost much money. Very few poor people had them. In some places Bibles were chained to pulpits erected at crossroads so the travelers might read as they journeyed. Often they were refreshed and helped spiritually as they read God's Word.

In one European country the message was sent out from the ruler that all Bibles were to be taken away from the people. A young girl in one family decided she would do her best to hide God's Word where the king's soldiers would not find it. People in those days had secret closets in the walls of their homes, secret drawers in tables and chests where valuables were kept. In other homes soldiers had found these, and the young girl had to think of some new place in which to hide the family Bible.

As she was kneading the bread and forming it into loaves one day, she heard the tramp of the soldiers' feet and the horses' hoofs as they came down the village street. Quickly there flashed into her mind the thought of placing the Bible in a loaf of bread. These loaves were large and round and one easily hid the Book. Just as she had finished putting the loaves in the oven to bake, the soldiers were at the door demanding entrance.

The girl admitted them, and they searched garret, cellar, and every out-of-the-way place, looking behind boxes and barrels and under the eaves, but with no success. One soldier smelled the baking bread and looked into the oven. The bread was still in doughy lumps and could not be eaten. With an oath he slammed the door shut, and in a little while the soldiers were gone, having been unsuccessful in their attempt to find and destroy God's Word in this home. The girl let the bread finish baking. Then

she removed the crust from one loaf and found God's precious Word safe!

Surely God told that girl where to hide the Bible. Do you know that He has told us of a better place to hide it than in oven, cellar, or garret? Listen while we read from the longest chapter in the Bible (Psalms 119:11): "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." David wrote that. Yes, Juniors, if we hide God's Word within our hearts we will be kept from sin.

Do you know there are sixty-six books in the Bible, written over a period of fifteen hundred years? About thirty-five or forty men wrote these books. You write numbers in school before you multiply, so first write the number of letters in the words *Old Testament*, and place them side by side to obtain your complete figure; then multiply the number of letters in the words *New Testament* for your complete figure—the number of books in the New Testament. Then add the two figures, and you have the number of books in the entire Bible. Here's how you can remember how many books there are:

OLD TESTAMENT NEW TESTAMENT

3 9 39  $3 \times 9 = 27$   $39 + 27 = 66$

(Leader Should Put This On the Black-board.)

The Bible is the greatest book in the world—the Book that lives and lifts! It would be impossible to destroy God's Word. Every tombstone bearing a verse of scripture, every book referring to a scripture text, every poem or story written with a thought of God in it; yes, even every person who knows the twenty-third psalm, the Lord's prayer, or one single text would have to be destroyed. That would be an impossible task.

More than one hundred years ago a little Welsh girl so very much wanted a copy of God's Word for her own that she saved her pennies for years until she could buy one. She aroused so much interest in spreading the Word of God that the Foreign Bible Society quickly developed in England, and a few years later the American Bible Society was formed. Every hour the New York branch of this business sends out one hundred and twelve copies of this Book. Think of it, Juniors, nearly two every minute. (Leader may find additional help in the book *How Mary Jones Got Her Bible*, a former M.V. Reading Course book.)

A few years ago I registered in a hotel in Birmingham, Alabama. The porter took me to my room on the eighth floor. When the door was locked I felt quite

alone, being a stranger in the city. Taking note of the room, I saw a Bible on the dresser, placed there by a league of men called "Gideons." Going over to it, I picked it up and began to leaf through it. Some people had written bad things in it, which one would not even want to remember, but someone had written these words, which I will never forget: "This Book will keep you from sin, and sin will keep you from this Book." How true that is! Did not David say, "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee"? Let us all say it together. Yes, if God's Word is in the heart we will be kept from sinning. When Satan would tempt us to sin, a verse of scripture repeated will drive out evil thoughts. Yet if we have sin within our hearts we will not care for God's Word.

In one of the Bible lesson books studied in church school there is a quotation written something like this: Open the Bible carefully, handle the Bible reverently, study the Bible prayerfully, obey the Bible cheerfully. These are good thoughts, and let us resolve today, Juniors, to honor, respect, and love God's Word. It is the world's greatest book! Mrs. E. G. White wrote to young people in *Messages*, page 274, "The Bible is the book of books." Let us repeat together these words: I LOVE THE BIBLE.

(LEADER: Close the service by singing "Give Me the Bible," No. 59 in *Missionary Volunteer Songs*.)

The Bible is the Book of books,  
Its words will long endure,  
God's laws are just—precepts make whole—  
And promises are sure.

So let us hide it in our hearts,  
God's message to us all;  
Obey commands—read of His love,  
And hearken to His call.

—MARION SMITZ SIMMONS.



## LESSON III

Wednesday, March 12

### I LOVE TO PRAY

A social worker one time determined to help the poor boys of a slum district in her city. One day she entered a hovel where a boy lay desperately ill. He was on a pile of dirty, filthy rags on the floor. She bathed him as best she could, to reduce the fever he had. Some friends gave her a mattress for the lad, and this was brought to the tumble-down shack. For the first time in his life the boy slept between clean white sheets.

As the boy lay quietly on the mattress, cleaner than he had ever been before, the lady told the lovely story of Jesus.

She told him of that precious name. She told him how Jesus was his best Friend. To the boy this was something he had never heard before.

When she had finished the story she asked the boy if he would like to pray. "Pray? What's that?" he questioned. She told him that "prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend." She also said that prayer was just talking with Jesus.

The little boy's eyes brightened, and a smile came over the thin little face as he replied, "You are my friend and I talk with you. Now you tell me I have another Friend, so I want to talk with Him." And he did! He gave his heart to Jesus before he died.

Because of this experience the woman found an empty store, told the owner what she wanted to do, and he gave her the use of it rent free. She cleaned it up, got some chairs and a piano, and then invited the friends of the boy who had died to come to the Sunday school. At first they did not come, but in a few weeks their curiosity and timidity were overcome. Erelong she had them singing the gospel songs, repeating scripture, and praying to God. The first prayer she taught them was the Lord's prayer as found in Matthew 6.

Yesterday we learned that there are 66 hooks in the Bible. Did you Juniors know there are just 66 words in the Lord's Prayer? It is a perfect prayer, for it includes everything needful for our spiritual and temporal life. It acknowledges the Father in heaven, the coming kingdom, and God's will. When we pray it we ask for forgiveness of sin, for our daily bread, and we give all praise and honor to our Maker. It is the custom at our family worship to say this prayer every morning. Why not resolve today that you will pray it once a day? Let us bow our heads and pray it now.

God invites us to pray. One of the major prophets, Jeremiah, records God's invitation in the book called after this prophet. "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jeremiah 33:3. In the Bible many examples are given of men who prayed and of what mighty things God did for them.

Think of Joshua, who, in battle against the Philistines, prayed for the sun to stand still—and it did! Do you remember how Elijah prayed on Mount Carmel? Fire came down and devoured the sacrifice brought by this man of God. Then to reward Elijah's faith still more and answer his prayer, the fire from God

did what was humanly impossible. It licked up the water, and burned sticks, stones, and dust! When Daniel faced a den of lions, the prayer of faith was rewarded so the lions hurt him not.

One day I had to undergo an emergency operation. I prayed that God would take care of me. I knew my loved ones and many friends were praying for me, too. How happy I was to learn from the lips of my doctor that he never performed an operation without asking God to guide the knife!

A banker in New York City goes to his office at 7:30 in the morning and spends forty-five minutes reading the Bible and praying. Then he says he is ready for the day's work. On a recent business trip he studied his business reports so as to have a successful interview. Then he read the Bible and prayed for more than an hour while traveling on the train. After this he fell asleep. When he arrived at his destination he had another prayer, met his business appointment, returned home, and two days later received the business he had gone to transact. He accredits it all to prayer. Prayer and work go together.

The manufacturer of the world's largest earth-moving machinery never misses prayer meeting. During the recent war the government asked him to produce a machine that could pick up broken planes, and urged him to do it immediately. He and his helpers tried to develop it, but were getting nowhere. It happened to be prayer meeting night, and Mr. Le Tourneau went, prayed and worshiped. Before the meeting closed, the entire machine was pictured in his mind. He had only to go back and write down the blueprint. Yes, prayer changes things!

It not only changes things in the temporal life, but best of all in the spiritual walk.

Even the disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray." We are told that if a violin is to produce good music it must be constantly retuned. Worship and prayer are the means of retuning us and keeping us in perfect harmony with the will of God. As these men of Bible times prayed, as men pray today, and as Jesus communed with the heavenly Father, so must we talk with Him! Then we receive forgiveness of sin. His joy and peace and holy quietness will be ours. Pray often, pray in sincerity and simplicity, and you, Juniors, will love to pray. Let us say it together now: I LOVE TO PRAY.

(LEADER: Call now for public prayers, and close the meeting with the prayer song, "Into My Heart," No. 30 in *Missionary Volunteer Songs*.)

### A Place to Pray

As Jacob found his place to pray,  
A calm and hallowed spot,  
With grace sufficient for his day,  
And strength to meet his lot;

As Daniel in his chamber bowed  
Each day with windows wide,  
And he could not by men be cowed,  
For Christ was by his side;

Nathanael prayed beneath the tree,  
Where oft he'd been before—  
He longed the face of Christ to see  
And sought Him more and more;

As men of old appointment kept  
With Creator, King, and God,  
So men today may be adept  
In prayer along life's road.

—C. LESTER BOND.

✻ ✻

### LESSON IV

Thursday, March 13

### I CHOOSE JESUS

Far up in the Canadian Rockies where the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia border on a high summit, a large rustie sign has been erected. On the sign we read, "The Great Divide."

From the distant peaks high up in the mountains, a little trickling stream flows. It is fed by melting snows and rains, and soon becomes a clear blue stream, which finally becomes a river. As it comes to this spot where the sign has been placed, it separates, making two streams. One flows westward into the great Pacific Ocean, and the other east and north into the Hudson Bay and the Arctic Ocean. The one going west helps to make the calm, peaceful ocean. On its broad bosom mighty ships sail, and men enjoy the travel. The other going north, which flows out into the Arctic Ocean, is cold and useless. Men must constantly be on guard against mighty icebergs, that would destroy their boats.

How like our own lives is this picture! As little children we laugh and play, as the little stream sang and danced along over the pebbles and stones. Little thought do we give to what we shall eat or what clothes we shall wear. Mother and dad take care of that for us. But one day we come to the Great Divide, and then we must choose for ourselves which way we shall take. Then comes the question—Shall I be on the side of right, leading a useful life? or take the wrong course, becoming cold and useless?

Each of us must decide for himself which road he will take. There are just two ways to travel—the right road or the wrong—the uphill or the downgrade—the narrow road or the broad highway—the way that leads to life and heaven or the path to death and destruction. Just as we choose each morning what we are

going to wear for the day, what we shall eat, and the things that we shall do, we must daily choose how we shall live in the spiritual life.

Before Joshua died, at the age of 110, he called the children of Israel to him. He had taken them into the Promised Land after Moses laid down his work, and now Joshua was ending his leadership. As he stood before them that day he reminded them of the story of how wonderfully God had blessed them, led them, and fed them. Yes, he told them how they had been delivered from idol worship and false gods. Then in no uncertain words he said, "Choose you this day whom ye shall serve; . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." He went on record right then and there saying that he and his family would be true to the living God.

He did just what Moses, the leader before him, had done! (Read Deut. 30:15.)

What a wonderful appeal both of these men made to God's children of old! Today the same appeal comes to us, the children of modern Israel. The call is repeated every day. It was Paul, you know, who after his conversion said he died daily to self. He chose every day the way he would travel. It was definitely in the right way—the upward way to heaven.

Jesus at the age of twelve said He must be about His Father's business, and He chose to be true to the work He had been sent to do.

Let us look in the longest chapter of the Bible again and see what David, the psalmist, wrote in verse 30. Do you remember, from our second lesson, which is the longest chapter? Yes, it is Psalms 119. Let us read it now. "I have chosen the way of truth." How glad I am the Bible gives us the records of what Moses, Joshua, Paul, and David said about choosing the right way! Our decisions are made at the Great Divide, and renewed daily as we choose our path.

Yes, there are but two ways to travel. We can be useful Christians in this world, preparing to become citizens of the heavenly country; or we shall be with those whose lives are dark with sin, useless to our fellow men, and unfit for the earth made new. Juniors, let us *today* choose Him, serve Him, and receive His blessing. Will you not say with me, I CHOOSE JESUS?

(LEADER: Call for personal testimonies and close the meeting with singing "O Jesus, I Have Promised," No. 37 in *Missionary Volunteer Songs*.)

## LESSON V

Friday, March 14

### I AM GOING HOME

Do you, Juniors, remember the first time you went away from home for the night? Perhaps you went to visit grandmother, or an aunt and uncle in the country. A girl of fourteen went to one of our boarding academies. This girl had spent the night a number of times with a girl friend in the city where she lived, but when she went to the academy she was more than one hundred miles away from home! This seemed a long way to this young girl. Her mother had suggested that inasmuch as Thanksgiving was so near Christmas holidays she should stay until Christmas. Do you think she did? No, she just could not wait to get home to mother and father and little brother. When Thanksgiving came it was time to go home—and go she did!

Several years later this same girl, a grown young woman, was teaching a church school some miles from her home. The first vacation for which she planned was Thanksgiving. For days before, her suitcase was packed, and all she talked about was going home. She bought her ticket ahead of time, to avoid the last minute rush. The last day of school before the vacation she dismissed the children early so she could catch the bus to get home for Thanksgiving eve.

Eagerly she looked forward to going home, and even today nothing pleases her more than to be able to go home. How do I know, you ask? Well, I was the girl who looked forward to going home! Father is gone, and the little brother now grown has gone to the mission field, but mother is still there, and it is home!

Even more so do I look forward to going home when Jesus comes again. Let us read John 14:1-3. Here is His promise to come after us and take us home. That will be a most glorious home coming! There will be no need of bus, train, or airplane for that trip. *Then*, there will be no suitcase to pack, no ticket to buy, no timetable to study. Paul has told us to lay aside every weight, so we can run the Christian race and be able to go home. (See Heb. 12:1.) No excess baggage, indeed, on that trip! Only a Christian character is necessary. Mrs. E. G. White tells us in *Messages*, page 100, "A character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next."

How very important that we pack our bag now by perfecting a character of which God will approve! Just as I packed my suitcase early when I planned to journey homeward, so we must get ready *now* to go home with Jesus, be ready ahead of time and stay ready.

Our ticket has been bought by Jesus Himself, the One we love. He purchased our redemption and right to the heavenly home by shedding His blood on Calvary.

While He was still on this earth He gave signs by which we might see and know His coming would be near. These are recorded in Matthew 24, Luke 21, 2 Timothy 3, and in many other places in the precious Book we love. These signs are our timetable, and when all are fulfilled we know that we shall soon be at our heavenly home. Nearly every sign has been fulfilled. The sun has been darkened, the stars have fallen, there have been wars and rumors of war; great wickedness is everywhere. As it was in the days of Noah, men are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, and Jesus' name is going to the whole world. (Leader, you might ask the Juniors to name other signs, and place these on the blackboard also.)

Juniors, now is the time to get ready to meet Jesus. Do not wait until you see Him. Then it will be too late. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6:2. The Lord pleads, "Come now, and let us reason together." Isa. 1:18. That means today. Yesterday is gone, tomorrow never comes, but today is here. Right now resolve that you are going home!

By His grace, I am going home! There, I hope to meet my father, now sleeping in the grave, my missionary brother, should we not be privileged to meet any more on this earth, my mother, and my friends. That will be a great thanksgiving day, for we shall praise God as we sit down to our thanksgiving feast, with Christ serving us. I feel I must be there. I must not miss that thanksgiving day. By the grace of God, I will be there! Will you not join me in this? Let us say together, I AM GOING HOME.

(LEADER: Call for testimonies and then close the meeting with singing, "Meet Me in The Homeland," No. 108 in *Missionary Volunteer Songs*.)

### I Am Going Home

I say it o'er and o'er!  
The One who died for me alone  
Will claim me as His very own.  
My stature reached in Christ full-grown,  
I'll reign with Him upon His throne,  
Then love Him more and more.  
Yes—I am going home!

—MARION SEITZ SIMMONS.

# ★ Home Missionary Department ★

## Taking the Message to the Home-Foreign Field

### Suggestive Program for Sabbath, March 1

OPENING SONG: "Hark! the Voice of Jesus Calling," No. 447 in *Church Hymnal*.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: John 5:1-9.

PRAYER.

OFFERING.

SONG: "Rescue the Perishing," No. 623.

TALK: By Pastor or local elder. (If so desired, base talk on John 5:1-9 and *Christian Service*, pp. 199-201.)

READING: "The Debt We Owe," by L. Halswick.

SYMPOSIUM: Soul-winning experiences in the Home Foreign Field.

READING: "The Jews in America."

ORGANIZING THE WORK: (If time permits, let 10 or 15 minutes be used to organize the work in your church. See "Note to Leaders.")

CLOSING SONG: "The Golden Morning Is Fast Approaching," No. 547.

### Note to Leaders

The Lord's command to go into all the world and teach His gospel of salvation has direct reference to people who are to be taught, not to lands that are to be visited. When the peoples from all quarters of the earth come to our own land, we have right at our hand the work that has been given us by our Lord.

"Wake up, wake up, my brethren and sisters, and enter the fields in America that have never been worked. . . . There is a work to be done in foreign fields, but there is a work to be done in America that is just as important. In the cities of America there are people of almost every language. These need the light that God has given to His church." —*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 36.

We must recognize that God has brought from all lands these men and women speaking nearly all the languages of the earth, to be our neighbors in order that we may have the opportunity of telling them of that eternal kingdom of peace over which Christ, the Prince of Peace, is to reign forever, and that His kingdom is soon to be established. If our hope of citizenship is a bright and

joyful one, we will gladly urge these new neighbors who have come to America, to join us in seeking homes in a land where they and we may build and plant, and long enjoy the work of our hands, without fear of being driven out and others taking possession.

The Pacific Press Publishing Association has established a branch house at Brookfield, Illinois, to meet the need in supplying Christian literature to those who do not read English. Are there people in your neighborhood who would be glad to read this literature? You may not know until you offer it to them. Your Book and Bible House will help you in obtaining it. "What is that in thine hand?" asked the Lord of Moses when He called him to lead His people from Egypt to Canaan. In carrying forward our world-wide work, our first duty begins at home.

### Successful Methods for Entering the Home-Foreign Field

God has committed to Seventh-day Adventists the greatest task ever given to any people. Our work is to carry to "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" the glad tidings of the soon-coming Saviour and the solemn message that "the hour of His judgment is come." This great work cannot be restricted to the ministers alone. The remnant church as a whole must arise and shine and finish the work.

There are many of our church members who have a burden to present the message to men and women of foreign birth in America, but who hesitate to begin because they are not certain of the best methods to use. For this reason we present some of the most successful plans followed by workers of long experience throughout the field, as follows:

1. Gather all the information possible regarding the number of foreigners in your city or territory, their nationality and location. You may get this information by personal canvass from the Y.M.C.A., State Census Board, or police department.

2. Study these people, their habits, religion, and needs. Plan to give them the message in a practical, systematic way.

(Turn to page 36)

### The Debt We Owe

BY LOUIS HALSWICK

*Secretary, Home-Foreign Bureau,  
General Conference*

**D**URING the last three hundred years, thousands of emigrants from other countries have flocked to the shores of this country. They have come impelled by various motives. Some came longing for freedom of religion. They have come because they wished to live in a land where they could worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. They could not submit to the dictates of a religion enforced by the state law of their home countries. Some sought a home under the Stars and Stripes where they might enjoy freedom from want. They had heard that in this country everyone could own his own home and secure for himself and his family economic protection against a rainy day. Others came seeking freedom from fear of despotic, monarchical, and autocratic governments of the Old World. They had received an inkling of the blessings of living in the land of the free and the home of the brave, where, if he tends to his own business and earns an honest living, a man can dwell unmolested by his government.

Here they are, the strangers within our borders. They have come from among every race on the globe, from every clime, to cast in their lot with us. Multitudes of these strangers have never learned any language but that of their mother country. They have settled in colonies, either in country or in town, where they continue to live much as they did in their respective countries before immigrating to this land. They have assimilated very little of the real American community life.

We owe a debt to these strangers within our gates. Having come amongst us, they have a right to the blessings and privileges that have made this country what it is. The Christian principle of religious freedom, that has served as a bulwark against bigotry and intolerance, in the life of America, guarantees to

them the right to worship God according to the instructions found in the Holy Scriptures. We owe it to them to acquaint them with these instructions and the resultant blessings that come from a conscientious observance of them.

### Soul-winning Experiences in the Home-Foreign Field

#### Little Rattlesnake and the Red Mark

"We have often known of Indians to whom God has evidently spoken in dreams," says Elder Orno Follett, who has spent many years in working for the various tribes of North American Indians, "but perhaps no experience is more remarkable than that of Little Rattlesnake, who became Frank, the Preacher. The accuracy of the story which follows is verified by the widow of the Indian, who states that the experience was put in written form by her husband just before he died in 1918."

Little Rattlesnake was the Indian name of a Hopi boy who lived beyond the Painted Desert in northern Arizona. In his youth he had gone to a Government school in the East, and had received a good education, but when he returned to his home he worshiped the rattlesnake and took part in the heathen ceremonies just as the ignorant pagans about him were doing.

One night he had a dream. He thought he was in his little stone house looking down on the village. He saw that a strange excitement prevailed among the Indians. Some unseen Being was going through the village putting a red mark on some people and passing others by. He put the mark on the missionary and his kind wife. The Indians who had left the old wicked life behind and had taken the Jesus way received the mark, but the rest were left as they were.

Little Rattlesnake pondered the strange sight, and felt that there was something very important connected with the mark. He hoped that it would be placed upon him and his wife. The strange Visitor did not come near his house, however, and soon it was evident that He had departed.

Suddenly there was a great noise in the heavens, like a big shout, and in a moment all the people who had the mark were caught up in the air and gathered around the wonderful Person, whose presence appeared brighter than the sun. Then all became dark below, and Little Rattlesnake could hear the wailing of the people who were left. His heart was filled with fear. He was so frightened that he awoke. But when he went to

sleep he dreamed it all again. Once more he awoke. "It is God telling me the Christians are right. I, too, want the mark," he said. Again he slept, and a third time he had the same dream. In the morning he was greatly troubled. He told his wife about it, and she agreed with him that it was the voice of the Christian's God.

For days he was in distress. He knew that a Christian meeting was about to be held in the neighborhood and decided he would go over to the meeting place. As he entered the preaching pavilion, the missionary was speaking to a company of Indians and whites in regard to the Pass-over and the blood mark on the doorposts and lintels of the homes of the people in Egypt. He listened and heard the preacher say that the word of Jehovah was, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you."

"Ah," said Little Rattlesnake to himself in great agitation, "that is it. That is the red mark I saw in my dream."

And that night he came to the Saviour, confessing his sins, and was marked with the sign of redemption, the precious blood of Christ.

It was a wonderful conversion, and soon all the other Hopi Indians knew a great change had come over him. He was out-and-out in witnessing, and his upright life proved how real was his profession. Little Rattlesnake the pagan was changed into Frank, the Christian Preacher.

Elder Follett states that of the seven Hopi villages of several thousand inhabitants there are only about one hundred who have professed the Christian faith. Nearly all the others are still following the old way, entertaining equally pagan tourists with their snake dances and other pagan ceremonies. Shall we not pray the Master to bless every Christian effort to warn these children of the desert of the soon-returning King?

#### Returning to Their Own Lands as Bearers of Light

The divine purpose in permitting the thousands of all nations and tongues and people to come to our land is clearly stated. They are here "that they may have opportunity to hear the truth for this time, and receive a preparation that will fit them to return to their own lands as bearers of precious light shining direct from the throne of God." (*Christian Service*, p. 200.) As one example of the fulfillment of this divine purpose the following experience is of interest:

Some years ago a family who lived on the Pacific Coast invited two young Fili-

pinos to come to their home for a friendly visit. In time the visits led to Bible studies, with the result that both young men accepted the truth and asked to be baptized. Not long afterward one of the men returned to his home in the Philippines, which happened to be a province in which our evangelists had undertaken to conduct public efforts, but had not been successful. An effort in the capital city of the province had been entirely fruitless. Meanwhile our newly baptized brother arrived and began to tell others about his new religion. An interest was immediately created, and an urgent call was made for a worker to come at once, as many were anxious to know about the new religion from America.

In response to this urgent call, the mission sent a worker, and at the close of the series of meetings fifteen persons were baptized and a chapel was erected.

The news spread, and calls came for the messenger of truth to come to other villages. The town that adjoined the place where our brother's home was located was stirred mightily by the message. It had the reputation of being one of the worst towns in the entire province, and it was considered unsafe for anyone, unless accompanied by a strong guard, to go about in the village after dark. Notwithstanding all this, the people of the town were hungry for the gospel that had in it the power to change their lives. Word has been received that forty people in that community are preparing for baptism. The entire province is now wide open to the gospel, and a dozen churches could be organized within the year in this province if workers were available to answer the many calls.

Surely it paid to manifest a kindly interest in two Filipinos far from their native home. Such opportunities are ever present. Let us extend a friendly hand to all sojourners and strangers, in our midst. Many of them will carry the message to unentered fields.—W. H. BERGHERM.

#### Among the Spanish-speaking People

We do not need to go south of the border in order to reach the millions of Spanish-speaking people who have never heard the message of a soon-coming Christ. In the State of Texas alone there are over a million Spanish-speaking people, with other millions in New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Here is a large mission field right at our very own doorstep. What a challenge to God's people to be foreign missionaries right here at home.

Miracles of the saving grace of Christ have been performed in the lives of these people, and several strong churches have been raised up throughout the Southwest and other places. Some of our members have returned to their homelands as missionaries. The Spanish-American training school, near Albuquerque, New Mexico, is now filled to its capacity with young men and women preparing to give the Advent message to members of their own race.

The saving power of God is illustrated by the following story:

Some time ago a bandit had to flee from his home as the police and soldiers were after him because of his robberies and evil life. This bandit came to the United States, where he continued a life of crime. One day, as he was getting ready to go to a certain city with intent to kill an enemy, he was visited by a Christian friend who left a Bible on his table. As he was packing his suitcase and getting ready to take the train, he noticed the book on the table, and, thinking it was a novel, threw it in his suitcase together with his revolver. Later, while riding on the train, he looked for the book he had taken along. As he reached into his suitcase, he found that his revolver had worked its way in among the leaves of the book. As he opened the book to where the revolver had been, his eyes fell on the words "Thou shalt not kill." These words impressed the bandit so much that he continued to read and page through the Bible, with the result that he changed his mind about killing his enemy. He got off at the next station and returned home. After studying the Bible for some time he gave his heart fully to God and discontinued his evil ways.

Later he decided to go back to his native island, and packed his grip full of Bibles and New Testaments as gifts to his relatives and friends.

One evening as he was sitting among his relatives reading the Bible to them his brother said, "I have a Bible like that," and asked one of his sons to get it out of the trunk. The boy found the book on the bottom of the trunk, but it turned out to be a copy of *Great Controversy* instead of a Bible. The rest of the night was spent in studying this book. Soon the entire family accepted the advent message, and the son who brought out the book became a successful colporteur.—E. J. LORNTZ.

### The Power in the Word of God

A good man once entered a house and found that everything bore the appear-

ance of utter poverty—no fire, no furniture, no food. But glancing around, he saw in a neglected corner a copy of the Bible. When he went away he said to the people, "There is a treasure in this house that would make you all rich." After he had gone the people began to search the house for what they supposed must be a jewel or a pot of gold, but they found nothing. One day the mother opened the Bible, and found written on the flyleaf these words: "Thy testimonies are better to me than thousands of gold and silver." The family began to read the Bible. When the good man came back he found poverty gone, and contentment and peace in its place.

Matthew Hale Smith in his book *Marvels of Prayer* tells of a shipwreck and rescue by Captain Judkins and the crew of the *Scotia*. Among the rescued was a lad about twelve years old who had lost everything. "Who are you, my boy?" said Captain Judkins. "I'm a little Scotch boy; my father and mother are dead and I am going to America to find my uncle, who lives in Illinois." "What is this?" said the captain, as he took hold of a rope that was tied around the boy's breast. "It is a piece of cord, sir." "What is that tied under your arm?" "My mother's Bible; she told me never to lose it." "That all you saved?" "Yes, sir." "Couldn't you have saved something else?" "Not and saved that," said the boy. His life was saved by holding on to his mother's Bible.

Several years ago a Ukrainian lady bought a Bible in her own language in Hamburg, Germany. She was on her way to join her husband in Canada. Upon her arrival in her new home the Bible was placed in the attic and all but forgotten.

Months later another Ukrainian family living on a near-by farm was urged to study certain Bible questions. Not having a Bible of his own the farmer went to his neighbor for help, and so once again the forgotten Bible was brought into the family circle. As a result of reading the Scriptures, a searching for truth was manifested in the settlement, and an appeal was made to some Adventist believers in the community that someone be sent to teach them. One year later twenty-five persons were baptized, and the Ukrainian church at Beauvallon, Alberta, Canada, was organized. From this small beginning three churches and two companies, with a total membership of more than two hundred, now rejoice in the blessed hope of a soon-coming Saviour.—L. HALSWICK.

### The Jews in America

It is stated that some of the first Jews to arrive in our country came from South America in 1654. They were refugees from persecution, which began in Spain and Portugal and spread to the South American colonies. The Jewish refugees landed in New Amsterdam, then under control of the Dutch and now known as New York City. According to reports, the Dutch governor was hesitant about permitting them to land and to remain.

These first immigrants were Sephardic, that is, Spanish Jews. By 1826 some six thousand Jews, mostly Spanish, had come to the United States. From 1830 to 1850 approximately sixty thousand more arrived, these largely from Central Europe and principally from Germany. These German Jews, known as the Ashkenazim, constituted the second wave of Jewish newcomers to our shores. The third wave came in the wake of the outbreak of anti-Semitism in Russia in the 1880's and 1890's. They were for the most part orthodox ghetto Jews who looked upon America as the land of liberty and religious freedom. From 1880 to 1900 one million Jews arrived in the United States; in the ten years before the war of 1914 another million came; from 1914 until 1921 and 1924, when the new immigration laws were enacted, these numbers were swelled by some three hundred and fifty thousand more.

Since Hitler came to power in 1933 we have witnessed a fourth wave of Jewish immigration, this time again German Jews. Most of these are of a cultural type—scholars, musicians, scientists, and literary men, as well as skilled artisans and tradespeople. A great many of them are refugees from late persecution in Europe.

There are now more than five million Jews within the borders of the United States, representing about three and seven-tenths per cent of the total population. New York City is by far the largest Jewish city in the world. Actually, it has more Jews than the next twelve largest Jewish cities in the world. It has almost five times as many Jews as in all the British Isles, and almost four times as many as were in Germany when Hitler came to power.

Seventh-day Adventists have a much greater work to do among the Jewish people than hitherto undertaken. The following words from the Spirit of prophecy make our duty plain: "In the closing proclamation of the gospel, when special work is to be done for classes of people hitherto neglected, God expects His mes-

singers to take particular interest in the Jewish people whom they find in all parts of the earth."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 381.

We also read that this work will result in many souls won for the kingdom of God. "Among the Jews are some who, like Saul of Tarsus, are mighty in the Scriptures, and these will proclaim with wonderful power the immutability of the law of God. The God of Israel will bring this to pass in our day. His arm is not shortened that it cannot save. As His servants labor in faith for those who have long been neglected and despised, His salvation will be revealed."—*Ibid.*

### No East or West

In Christ there is no East or West,  
In Him no South or North,  
But one great Fellowship of Love  
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere  
Their high communion find.  
His service is the golden cord  
Close-binding all mankind.

Join hands then, Brothers of the Faith,  
Whate'er your race may be!—  
Who serves my Father as a son  
Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,  
In Him meet South and North,  
All Christly souls are one in Him,  
Throughout the whole wide earth.  
—JOHN OXENHAM.

### Speaking With Tongues Through Literature

BY H. R. GRUNDSET

THE great task of proclaiming the gospel which was committed to the early Christian church in the days of the apostles, received impetus at Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon those present and caused the gospel message to be proclaimed in many languages so that each man heard the words spoken in his own language. It is reasonable to believe that many of the people gathered at Jerusalem on this memorable occasion had a practical knowledge of one or more of the leading world languages of that day; yet it is evident that the Holy Spirit recognized the effectiveness of presenting the truths of salvation in the mother tongues of those present as the best means of arresting their attention, holding their interest, and winning their hearts. So effective was this method of presenting the gospel that "there were added about three thousand souls."

The last-day gospel message is to go to "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." The receiving of the gospel is a matter of the heart, and for this reason people of a foreign language can most readily be convinced of

truth through the medium of their mother tongue, which most strongly appeals to their hearts.

With these considerations in mind the Pacific Press Branch was established at Brookfield, Illinois. Through all the years of its history, this publishing house has spoken through its foreign literature to the leading language groups in the United States and in their home countries. Inasmuch as there are still millions of foreign-born American citizens who prefer to hear the gospel in their own tongue, our duty should be clear in providing them with our message-filled papers, tracts, and books.

Especially since the close of the war a heavy demand has been made upon the International Branch of the Pacific Press Publishing Association to supply literature to a number of countries in Europe where our publishing houses have been damaged or destroyed, or where lack of materials and means has greatly retarded our publishing work or brought it to a standstill. The hunger for truth-filled literature is truly great in the lands suffering most severely because of the war. Many would be willing to go without necessary food in order to obtain Bibles, tracts, papers, and books.

Let us not forget the foreigners at our very doors, but see that they are supplied with literature in their own language. This is the time when the circulation of our foreign-language papers in the United States should be swelled by the thousands. Let each church be mindful of its duty at this time.

### Successful Methods

(Continued from page 33)

3. Select literature best suited to the different nationalities and classes. Literature in about twenty languages is printed at Pacific Press, Brookfield, Illinois. Order through your Book and Bible House.
4. Enlist members of the church to sell the Crisis books. Many of the newest and best books in the series have been translated into foreign languages.
5. Weekly and monthly papers and magazines are printed in several foreign languages. It is a good plan to have the church take clubs of the foreign papers for systematic distribution.
6. Train colporteurs to sell the larger books in the foreign languages.
7. Invite foreign neighbors to Sabbath school, and if necessary call for them.
8. Organize mission Sunday schools for foreigners and others. The Sabbath school and the Sunday school offer a wonderful opportunity to reach and save these people.
9. By acts of kindness and deeds of love demonstrate that you are really en-

gaged in mercy work. Comfort those who are mourning, visit the sick and suffering, and render help as needed. A basket of fruit, a bouquet of flowers, or any little favor will work wonders in winning the hearts of foreigners.

10. Begin among the foreigners nearest you, possibly your next-door neighbor.

11. Before beginning the work, be sure to pray earnestly. Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit. Remember: "All the resources of heaven are at the command of those who are seeking to save the lost."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 197.

GENERAL CONFERENCE  
HOME FOREIGN BUREAU.

### Purpose and Place of Our International Publishing House

BY J. B. PENNER

AT this last and brief hour of probation for a lost world, in which millions of honest souls cry for divine light and guidance and the saving truth, God's people should study and recognize His plan to reach all nations and tribes and kindreds and tongues with His last message. Our greatest concern should be how we can work for them in their respective languages. This should be our concern and business also for our home foreign field in North America, where we have thousands and millions of nearly all peoples of the world. The most effective means for accomplishing this work is the foreign literature that is printed at the International Branch of the Pacific Press Publishing Association, located at Brookfield, Illinois, where papers, books, and tracts are published in about twenty-four languages.

The place which this International Publishing House fills in order to win our foreign neighbors to the truth and make them missionaries among their respective nationalities can be seen in the special and direct instructions which the Lord gave to this people through the Spirit of prophecy. Let us review and take to heart the following passages of special commission by the Lord:

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

"Years ago the Lord gave me special directions that buildings should be erected in various places in America, in Europe, and other lands for the publication of literature containing the light of present truth. He gave instruction that every effort should be made to send forth to the world from the press the messages of invitation and warning.



Some will be reached by our literature who would not be reached in any other way. From our books and papers bright beams of light are to shine forth to enlighten the world in regard to the present truth."—*Ibid.*, vol. 8, p. 87.

"I have been shown that our publications should be printed in different languages and sent to every civilized country, at any cost. What is the value of money at this time, in comparison with the value of souls."—*Life Sketches*, p. 214.

"The printed word of truth is to be translated into different languages, and carried to the ends of the earth."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 26.

"These publications are to be translated into every language; for to all the world the gospel is to be preached."—*Ibid.*, p. 34.

"Our publications should go everywhere. Let them be issued in many languages. The third angel's message is to be given through this medium and through the living teacher."—*The Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 101.

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

It was upon these direct instructions from God that our International Publishing House was erected in the heart of America. The purpose of this plant is to supply all our churches and workers in America with the necessary material for the saving of the many groups of foreign peoples in our midst. God made us responsible for them, and yet we have hardly touched our great task with the tips of our fingers. A great work is still to be done. To a large degree we shall also have to provide literature for the many foreign countries, because postwar conditions make it impossible to print supplies needed. Let us all awake and finish the work among all nationalities here and abroad. This is the call of the hour.

## The Jews and the Gospel

BY S. A. KAPLAN

IN Romans 11:25 we read: "Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in." By "the fullness of the Gentiles" the apostle doubtless means the carrying of the gospel to all the nations of earth as outlined by the Saviour in Matthew 24:14—a work rapidly reaching its culmination in our day. We are told in 2 Corinthians 3:14-16 that it is when the Jews turn to

the Lord that the veil will be removed from their eyes. It is only as the Jew recognizes Christ as his personal Saviour that he can be reborn spiritually. It is evident that the Spirit of God is at work in the world today to remove the blindness from the hearts of God's ancient people, the Jews.

It is most interesting to note how a kind and overruling Providence has ordered events of the past few decades in a way most conducive to the removing of the prejudices from the hearts and minds of the Jews toward the name which is above every name—the name of Jesus. There was a time when a religious Jew considered it a sin even to hear that precious name spoken. How different it is today. The average Jew today regards Jesus as a teacher of noble principles, and even as a great prophet. It is not uncommon for rabbis in Jewish pulpits, on the lecture platforms, or in current magazines or books, to eulogize the life and teachings of Jesus. The average Jew has gradually, but nevertheless most surely, broken the fetters of fanatical rabbinism and Talmudism, which have bound him in spiritual darkness, superstition, and prejudice.

You ask, "What has brought about this change in the attitude of the Jews toward Jesus?" This has been a gradual transformation, and it is the cumulative effect of many circumstances. For one thing the movement known as the "Haskalah" has sought to familiarize the Jew with the literature, the thought, and the ideologies of an enlightened world. Among the Jews there is a noticeable and definite trend away from the narrow and definite trend away from the narrow and rigorous forms and ceremonies and injunctions of the Talmud. Some rabbis have openly and boldly declared their rebellion against the fetters of traditionalism, which had held the Jews in spiritual bondage for so many centuries.

Then, too, the emigration of Jews from the old world to free America has also been an important factor in the changed attitude of the Jew toward Christ. The fact that in this Christian land the Jews have been given a haven from the persecutions of the old world, has had a profound effect upon the remnant of Jacob. It is not a rare thing in this country for a Jew to enter a Christian church and to listen to the sermon. With the advent of the radio, it is nothing unusual for a Jew to tune in on gospel talks and hymns.

Protestant denominations have and are capitalizing on these favorable developments in the Jewish psychology and are

carrying on substantial propaganda by means of the printed page and over the air, to convert the Jews to their respective creeds. The false teaching of the return of the Jews to Palestine has been an effective bait, and thousands have been influenced by it. Shall we, who have the truth unmixed with error, be recreant to our duty and God-given task? This little time of apparent peace is our opportunity to sow the gospel seed among the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Soon the illusion of political Zionism will burst like a bubble, and the Jews will have to seek for new moorings on which to anchor their hopes. We must not be negligent in meeting our sacred obligation to provide the offspring of Abraham with the hope that is sure and steadfast. We must hold out to them the life line of blessed truth, which we are told will be to many a Jew "like the dawn of a new creation, the resurrection of the soul." We must take more than a passing interest in these people who have passed by for so many years. The messenger of the Lord has told us that "in the closing proclamation of the gospel, when special work is to be done for classes of people hitherto neglected, God expects His messengers to take particular interest in the Jewish people whom they find in all parts of the earth."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 381.

May God lay this solemn instruction upon our consciences, so that we may be aroused to action and fulfill our sacred obligation to carry the gospel "to the Jew first," and thereby hasten the finishing of God's work in the earth, and the coming of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

## Church Member Beatitudes

BLESSED is he who will not strain at a drizzle and swallow a downpour.

Blessed is he who tries a little harder when all around say, "It can't be done."

Blessed is he whose program contains prayer meeting night.

Blessed is he who serves faithfully on a committee.

Blessed is the church official who is not pessimistic.

Blessed is he who loves his church before his business.

Blessed is he who can walk as fast to a religious service as to town.

Blessed is he who invites people to church and comes along himself.

Blessed are those who never gossip about the faults of the church but work to make it better.—*Religious Telescope*.

✻ ✻

"THE church is not a refrigerator for perishable piety but a dynamo for charging men."

# ★ Missionary Leadership ★

## Missionary Organization of the Church

[Article Number 3]

### Missionary Responsibilities of the Church Board

It is to be feared that many of our church boards do not recognize the solemn responsibilities that rest upon them. In the organization that has been developed down through the years, the General Conference takes the general oversight of the world field. Then to effect efficiency, this is divided into division conferences. These are subdivided into union conferences or missions, which are then subdivided into local conferences or missions. A well-organized local conference subdivides its territory into districts, within which the conference committee assigns to each church its definite territorial lines. The territory assigned to each local church becomes its mission field, and the church in that territory is responsible for giving the gospel to every soul in it. With great reason the Spirit of prophecy tells us, "Solemn are the responsibilities resting upon those who are called to act as leaders in the church of God on earth."—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 92.

Not only are the church officers responsible for the carrying out of the general church work, such as shepherding the flock, teaching the church members through the Sabbath school, maintaining a church school, caring for the young people, and attending to the poor of the church, but they are definitely responsible for the missionary activities of the church. The church elder and the missionary leader of the church bear the responsibility of planning and directing all varied missionary endeavors of the church. What the home missionary secretary of the conference is to the conference president, the missionary leader of the church is to the church elder. Upon them rests the responsibility of evangelizing every soul within their territory. Speaking of the elder and his responsibilities, the *Church Manual*, on pages 25, 27, 28, states: "In the absence of a pastor, the local elder is not only the spiritual leader of the church, but he is responsible for fostering and directing all branches and departments of the work. The Sabbath school work, the Missionary Volunteer work, the missionary activities

of the church, the interests of the church school, and every other line should claim his attention and receive his advice and encouragement. . . . He should promote all the activities of the church, such as the Missions Extension, Big Week, Ingathering, Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, etc."

We are instructed that "great care should be exercised in selecting officers for the new churches. Let them be men and women who are thoroughly converted. Let those be chosen who are best qualified to give instruction, those who can minister both in word and in deed. There is a deep-seated necessity for work in every line."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 85.

"Church-members must work; they must educate themselves, striving to reach the high standard set before them."—*Ibid.*, vol. 9, p. 140.

What, then, are the missionary responsibilities of the church board or missionary committee?

1. "A meeting of the church board should be held at least once each month. In large churches, such meetings may be needed more often. A weekly meeting is often advisable."—*Church Manual*, p. 175.

2. Inasmuch as the church board sustains the same relationship to its territory as the conference committee does to its territory, it should study very definitely and seriously how to reach every member living within the boundaries of that territory.

3. At the beginning of the year, the missionary covenant card should be presented to secure the signature of every member, indicating what line of service he desires to engage in.

4. The church board should classify the volunteers for the various lines of work and appoint leaders for each service company. Leaders should also be appointed for class bands, which are usually the same as the Sabbath school classes, and are for the purpose of obtaining weekly missionary reports, and serve as the basis for campaign organization during Missions Extension, Ingathering, and other general efforts.

5. The church board outlines plans for the year's missionary activity. "Those who have the spiritual oversight of the church should devise ways and means by which an opportunity may be given to every member of the church to act some

part in God's work."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 116.

6. Every member of the church is to be assigned some missionary task. "Every one who is added to the ranks by conversion is to be assigned his post of duty."—*Ibid.*, vol. 7, p. 30. "It is God's plan that all . . . shall become missionaries. Not only men, but women and even children, can engage in this work. None are excused."—*Historical Sketches*, p. 151.

7. See that the missionary service on the first Sabbath of each month is dedicated to the advancement of missionary endeavor. "Let the missionary meeting be turned to account in teaching the people how to do missionary work. Put the work into their hands, and let not the youth be ignored. . . . Even the children should be taught to do some little errand of love and mercy for those less fortunate than themselves."—*An Appeal*, p. 11.

8. Those who do not voluntarily enlist in the church program should be personally interviewed. "Let ministers teach church-members that in order to grow in spirituality, they must carry the burden that the Lord has laid upon them,—the burden of leading souls into the truth. Those who are not fulfilling their responsibility should be visited, prayed with, and labored for."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 200.

9. The band leaders should be encouraged to meet regularly to plan their work.

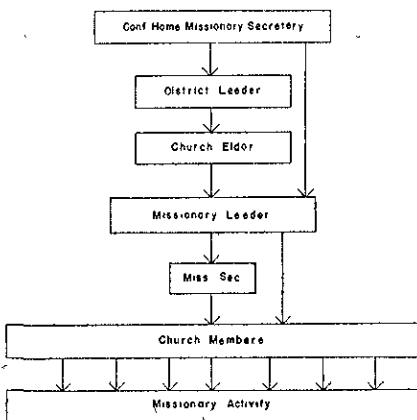
10. Sufficiently in advance of the various campaigns, plans should be carefully laid to secure the co-operation of every member, so that the goal assigned to the church may be reached. "The leaders in God's cause, as wise generals, are to lay plans for advance moves all along the line."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 116.

Decentralization of authority is of recognized value in every type of organization. Sharing the burden with others makes for development of future workers. "The elders and those who have leading places in the church should give more thought to their plans for conducting the work. They should arrange matters so that every member of the church shall have a part to act, that none may lead an aimless life, but that all may accomplish what they can according to their several ability. . . . It is very essential that such an education should be given to the members of the church that they will become unselfish, devoted, efficient workers for God; and it is only through such a course that the church

can be prevented from becoming fruitless and dead. . . . Let every member of the church become an active worker,—a living stone, emitting light in God's temple."—*Christian Service*, p. 62.

The accompanying diagram may be helpful in holding to a balanced missionary program in conference and church.

DIAGRAM  
OF  
CONFERENCE MISSIONARY PROGRAM



HENRY F. BROWN.

### The Church Missionary Secretary a Connecting Link Between Church and Field

At the beginning of each year there should be elected in every church a competent and reliable person to serve as the church missionary secretary. The office is a very important one, and this secretary acts as the business agent of the church in dealing with the conference Book and Bible House. The size of the church makes little difference in evaluating the importance of this office and in discharging the responsibilities that follow.

The church missionary secretary is the only person in the church with whom the Book and Bible House is authorized to carry and maintain a charge account. The reasonableness of this relationship is well understood when we consider the entire conference and the number of churches therein. It enables the Book and Bible House to deal in the main, not with individuals, but with churches, so that in a conference of four thousand members and perhaps sixty churches the Book and Bible House does not maintain four thousand separate accounts but merely sixty accounts with the churches. It is the duty and the responsibility of the church missionary secretary to see that these accounts are taken care of in the proper manner, that the credit of the church is properly maintained, and also

that the Book and Bible House receives remittances regularly so that proper credit relationship with the publishing houses can be maintained.

The church missionary secretary is directly responsible for the systematic carry-through in connection with the various literature campaigns as sponsored through the local church missionary leadership. It is the duty of this secretary to see that lists of all subscribers to our periodicals are furnished to the Book and Bible House in a neat, orderly manner, so that no loss is incurred from incorrect addresses or duplications.

The missionary secretary is a member of the church board and also a member of the church missionary committee, and should keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the church missionary committee, and be ever ready to assist in arranging and carrying out a well-organized missionary program for the church, remembering, of course, that the prime responsibility for this leadership rests with the missionary leader of the church, the pastor, and the local elders.

It is not only the privilege but also the duty of the church missionary secretary to see that all accounts for literature, books, and periodicals as related to the individual members of the church are kept on a current basis.

It is the duty of the church missionary secretary to provide the regular envelopes that are used for the ordering of missionary supplies. These are furnished free by the conference, and the missionary secretary should see that they are placed so that all the church members have access to them. These envelopes can be taken home, the orders and funds placed in them during the week, and turned in on the Sabbath. This plan does not entail the handling of any funds or cause any commotion or undue agitation on the Sabbath day.

The response of the church to the various missionary campaigns depends in large degree upon the eagerness, zeal, and enthusiasm with which the secretary carries on his work. A listless, disinterested missionary secretary can be a tremendous detriment to the church, while an eager, enthusiastic, consecrated secretary will prove a wonderful asset to any church in its missionary program.

May God richly bless our faithful church missionary secretaries as they stand at their post of duty and faithfully discharge the responsibilities assigned to them.

R. J. CHRISTIAN.

### Missionary Seed Thoughts

BY ERNEST LLOYD

#### The Missionary Movement

"Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles [Greek, "heathen"], to take out of them a people for His name." Acts 15:14. And today God is separating a people for Himself, in the world but not of it—a people who will glorify His name and magnify His law before the world. In a missionary movement God uses a missionary church. He works through missionary hearts to reach other human hearts. It is His plan, and it cannot fail.

#### The Missionary Commission

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. The commission is given to everyone who carries His name. Every member of His church, the weak as well as the strong, is to be a minister of the message of reconciliation. This must be so, because the gospel is to be carried to every creature, and it could not be done if left to a certain group or class of workers. Every saved person is to be a herald of salvation.

#### The Missionary Method

"Ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem [at home], and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth [abroad]." Acts 1:8. Individual witnessing is the greatest of all methods. Every member a light just where he is. Witnessing not only at stated seasons, and collectively, but individually in the daily routine. The daily testimony is the great need today—in the home, the shop, the office, the store, the street. Hearts made new, and warmed with the Saviour's love, will witness for Him anywhere, everywhere.

#### The Missionary Motive

"The love of Christ constraineth us." 2 Cor. 5:14. The first recorded words of our Lord are full of meaning—"I must be about My Father's business." The Father's Son was the great Missionary. He was constrained by love. A constraining "must" that was born of love. Not the "must" of a burdensome task that has to be done, but the doing of a duty with a high purpose and because we love to do it. "I delight to do Thy will." "This changes toil to bliss." His spirit of love sends us forth with compassion for the wayward.

#### The Missionary Field

"Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel not where Christ was named." Rom. 15:20, 21. And there are many places, not only in other lands, but near to each of us, where His name is not named, and where many have not heard of Him and His teachings in the right way. There is no needier field in the entire world than the United States of America. Though perhaps every home in the land has a Bible, yet most of the people are unconverted, unconcerned, and indifferent to the claims of God and His message for this generation. Not "darkest Africa" only, but dark America.

## ★ Departmental Activities ★

### Reached Every Home in the County

SEVERAL months ago the four churches in District No. 22 of the Illinois Conference decided to reach with the home Bible study literature every home in the county where each church is located. The district pastor secured from the post office the number of box holders in each place, and lists were passed on through the conference office. All mailing and correspondence was handled by the home missionary department of the conference. The initial cost of the literature and mailing averaged two cents for each box holder, and the local church paid three fourths of the expense, the balance being cared for by the conference. A monthly offering was taken in each church to cover this expense.

Each church took hold of the project in a very enthusiastic manner, and the entire territory has been covered. The interest has grown from week to week, and a number of persons are keeping the Sabbath and preparing for baptism.

It might be of interest to state that just as soon as the Sabbath truth has been presented, the names of all readers are sent to the conference home missionary secretary, and from here they are placed with the district pastor, with full information on the case. Personal contact is made by the district pastor, and Bible studies are continued until the people are fully acquainted with the truth on all points of doctrine. This effort is yielding a rich harvest of souls. Here is the open door for our churches to enter every dark county in North America.

L. J. MARSA,  
District Leader.

### Making Our Reservation Sure

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

If we really and truly believed that just as surely as a place is being prepared for us in heaven, there is a place here on earth for us to fill in loving service for Him who said, "I go to prepare a place for you . . . I will come again, and receive you unto Myself," there would be no idle members of the church. When some great event in which we are partic-

ularly interested is approaching, how anxious we are to make sure that our place is reserved! Having purchased our ticket and been assigned to a chosen section, we rest content, for we know we have complied with the specified conditions. But are we equally anxious to make sure of our place in the heavenly mansions? If we neglect to comply with conditions, which require that we find our designated place in the Master's service and stand steadily and faithfully at our post of duty, we shall lose our place in the mansions above. "We can never be saved in indolence and inactivity. There is no such thing as a truly converted person living a helpless, useless life. It is not possible for us to drift into heaven."—*Ibid.*, p. 280.

Let us make sure that we are not drifting Christians, for such persons will never make the desired haven. We delight in the revealed glories of heaven; we fully expect to be there; but are we keeping in the pathway of soul-saving duty? Never were the calls to enter God's service greater than now, and our individual place is either filled or vacant. Remember this: "The Lord has His eye upon every one of His people; He has His plans concerning each."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 12.

### The Greatest Help

"The GREATEST HELP that can be given our people is to teach them to work for God."—*Christian Service*, p. 58.

"The best help that ministers can give the members of our churches is not sermonizing, but PLANNING WORK FOR THEM. GIVE EACH ONE SOMETHING TO DO FOR OTHERS."—*Ibid.*, p. 69.

### Catalog of Missionary Service

1. *House to house visitation*.—"Pure religion . . . is . . . TO VISIT." James 1:27. "Wherever a church is established, ALL the members should engage actively in missionary work. They should VISIT EVERY FAMILY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 296.
2. *Secure enrollments in World-wide Bible Correspondence Course*.
3. *Systematic tract distribution*.
4. *Loaning libraries*.
5. *Bible readings and cottage meetings*.—"Our work has been marked out for us . . . We are to take our Bibles and go forth to warn the world."—*Christian Service*, p. 141.

### 6. Bible Service Training Classes.

### 7. Dorcas endeavor.

8. *Lay preaching*.—"There are men who will be taken from the plow, from the vineyard, from various other branches of work, and sent forth by the Lord to give this message to the world."—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 270.

9. *Writing missionary letters*.—"This is a work you may all engage in successfully, if you will but connect with God. Before writing letters of inquiry always lift up your heart to God in prayer."—*Christian Service*, p. 131.

### 10. Ingathering Singing Bands.

11. *Secure names for Ingathering follow-up work*.

### 12. Missions Extension Campaign.

13. *Taking friends to Sabbath school and evangelistic meetings*.

14. *Home Foreign Work*. "Many of these foreigners are here in the providence of God, that they may have opportunity to hear the truth for this time."—*Ibid.*, p. 200.

15. *Prison work*.—"I was in prison and YE VISITED ME."—JESUS.

16. *Sunshine Bands*.—"I was sick and YE CAME."—JESUS.

17. *Cooking schools*.—"There should be schools of health, cooking schools, and classes in various lines of Christian-help work."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 149.

### 18. Health classes.

### 19. Home nursing.

20. *Health clinics*.—"The Medical missionary work should be a part of the work of every church in our land."—*Christian Service*, p. 135.

### 21. Colporteur work.

### 22. Literature Bands.

### 23. Filling tract racks.

### 24. Telephone contacts.

25. "Invite your neighbors to your home" to study, sing, and pray.—*Ibid.*, p. 122.

### 26. Christian help work.

27. *Greater evangelism through wider use of "The Signs of the Times."*

28. *Society of Missionary Men and its various projects*.

29. *Progressive Classes for all Missionary Volunteers*.

30. *Branch Sabbath and Sunday schools*.

31. *Temperance reform and temperance education*.

### 32. Newspaper reporting.

33. *Daily service*.—"God asks us to give His service the first place in our lives, to allow no day to pass without doing something to advance His cause on the earth."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 221.

—A. A. ESTEB.

### Thoughtlets

"We are saved to serve, but we never serve to get saved."

"It is better to say 'This one thing I do,' than to say 'These forty things I dabble in.'"

"BETWEEN the great things we can't do and the little things we feel above doing, the chances are we will do nothing."

# Weekly Church Missionary Services

**Note to Leaders:** Plan for the regular ten-minute weekly service to follow the Sabbath school. This should never be a preaching service. Three minutes should be used for getting reports, four minutes for presenting material in the GAZETTE, and the remaining three minutes for personal testimonies or experiences. You observe that this gives no extra time for singing or sermonettes. This service should not be allowed to run longer than TEN MINUTES.

March 1

## WIN ONE WITH THE "SIGNS"

The *Signs* as a soul winner is economical, orthodox, up to date, attractive, hope inspiring, and convincing. These are its six soul-winning features:

1. Presents all our fundamental doctrines a number of times during the year.
2. It saves souls by its convincing message.
3. It features short right-to-the-point articles.
4. It grips the attention of relatives and friends not interested in religion.
5. It is up to the minute as a weekly Bible interpreter of the news.
6. Its illustrations attract.

It is easy to reach the following groups the *Signs* way:

- Sunday school teachers
- Ingathering donors
- High school principals
- County officials
- State legislators
- Newspaper editors
- Radio managers

A conference conducted a one-question survey among the *Signs* subscribers in its territory, the question being *What feature of "The Signs of the Times" do you particularly enjoy?* Some of the answers to the question are as follows:

**Sunday School Teachers:**

"It helps me out in my Sunday school classes."

"I also read the article on the back page to my Sunday school class."

**Doctor:**

"My patients enjoy reading it."

**Ministers:**

"I like your prophetic features and your way of relating Bible prophecy to present fact."

"I like your whole paper. First I read the editorial, then the last page, and after this the rest."

"The sermons are usually excellent."

"I particularly enjoy the fundamental doctrinal articles."

**Youth:**

"I enjoy its explanation on prophecy."

**Retired Businessman:**

"I enjoy the articles by A. Maxwell, S. Whitman, Voice of Prophecy, and Mrs. E. G. White."

**Sailor:**

"I enjoy it, for it stands for the whole Bible."

**Mothers:**

"I devour all its contents and pass the paper on to others."

"I enjoy hunting up and reading the scriptures given in the *Signs*."

"The *Signs of the Times* helps me meet my spiritual needs and in the understanding of God's Holy Word."

"The explanation of the Bible is so plain."

**Fathers:**

"I enjoy all. The best religious paper that comes into my home."

"Like its dignified style—scriptural references—pious writers."

This is the closing date of the campaign for the *Signs* clubs in 1947. Every church should arrange for an enlarged club in order to measure up to the increased responsibilities and opportunities for soul winning presented on every hand. Suggest that each church member make a list of his relatives who are not in the truth, and assure him that the *Signs* offers the best means of approach to all classes. It is also well to remember that each person receiving this weekly interpreter of the times will also be contacted during the year to ascertain his interest in taking the Bible Correspondence Course. Let every member of the church prayerfully resolve to win one at least through the weekly visits of our literature evangelist, *The Signs of the Times*.

J. ERNEST EDWARDS.

March 8

## WINNING OUR FOREIGN NEIGHBORS

HAVE you ever tried to be friendly with the Polish family or the Italian family in your block or the Chinese laundryman in the community? I mean just to smile and show that you are glad to know them.

Let it be set down as a basic principle first, that they are a bit suspicious of your advances because they are not accustomed to friendliness on the part of ordinary Americans. They fear you have some ulterior purpose in mind. Then on the other hand, remember they are homesick for friendliness, and if you can win their confidence by patient kindness, you will be in a position to help them.

Don't overdo your benevolence. Remember these foreign-speaking people are of an independent nature. And don't be in a hurry. After you have won their hearts and know them sufficiently well to give help, perhaps an offer to teach them English would be accepted. Give them an Ingathering paper in their language. Secure a catalog from the Book and Bible House to find out what literature

is available in their particular language. And by character-building stories to the children and helpful service in time of sickness they may be ready for projector pictures. Very probably they are Catholics, and will have a double fear and suspicion of you. It may take time, but the rewards are very great.

HENRY F. BROWN.

March 15

## SPECIAL WORK FOR THE JEWS

THE Jew is hard to approach with the Christian religion. For fifteen hundred years Christianity has been the cause of his suffering and persecution. He hates it and fears it.

Win his friendship and confidence first. Let your Jewish neighbor know you are a Seventh-day Adventist; that you do not eat unclean meats, that you keep the true Sabbath, and that all Seventh-day Adventists have great respect for the Old Testament, for Moses, the sanctuary, and the prophets.

Secure from the Book and Bible House a set of the new tracts by S. A. Kaplan, a Seventh-day Adventist Jew. These tracts are written with the Jew's peculiar prejudices in mind. Give these, one by one, to the Jewish friend you are trying to win. Never fail to give him the annual Yiddish-English Ingathering paper, telling what Adventists are doing for humanity. Suggest a visit to the nearest sanitarium in case of illness, or for a checkup.

When on sufficiently friendly terms, ask the Jew how a Jew can free himself from sin today since the temple is destroyed and no sacrifices can be offered. Then show him that Jesus is the "Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

HENRY F. BROWN.

March 22

## PROCLAIMING THE MESSAGE THROUGH THE NEWSPAPERS

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS are probably as active as any other religious groups in publishing what they believe to be the truth for this time. Adventist publishing houses are running to full capacity, and church members everywhere are under the program of widely circulating the printed page.

Although we apply the admonition and promises of Scripture concerning publishing to this form of missionary activity, we can as properly connect them with another line of endeavor rapidly developing. This, too, is publishing—"making widely known." I refer to our relation as churches with the newspapers, which in the aggregate are now giving a large amount of space to various types of Seventh-day Adventist church news.

Large numbers of our churches have now passed the experimental stage in their relations with their local papers. They have their appointed press secretaries, who are working closely with their local editors. Their church items are regularly accepted and published. As a result of the information thus brought

to them, the people of these communities are gaining an entirely different conception of the work of the Adventist denomination.

"I had no idea of the extent of your work," the friend on the street will say, referring to something that has just been read in the newspaper. This happens over and over again as people read of our foreign missions, the work of reconstruction in war areas, the sailings of scores of missionaries, the world-wide famine relief, the large enrollment of students in our schools, and the varied interesting activities in our churches, whether large or small. The influence of all this is proving beneficial in every phase of our evangelistic program. It is helping people to better understand us and is building confidence and good will.

In general, this is the first great value of our press work—to favorably impress, to break down prejudice, to make friends. Every successful organization today will put forth any effort necessary and invest to any extent to accomplish this. Good will with the public is recognized as a priceless asset.

Furthermore, the teachings of Seventh-day Adventists are so distinctive as to attract the attention of editors in their quest for news. Very directly many newspapers are helping us give the truth for this time.

Listen to this from the *Herald Journal*, Syracuse, New York, September 9, 1946, issue: "They [Seventh-day Adventists] observe the Sabbath Day, with most literal interpretation of the Fourth Commandment, from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday. Also they maintain a rigid discipline, abstaining from tobacco, liquor and pork, and declining participation in worldly amusements and pleasures. They receive members by immersion, and on profession of faith, after a period of instruction. These rules do not appear to be a handicap to growth since now the denomination's membership is given at almost 600,000 around the world, with many educational institutions and missions, and their literature is published in more than 200 languages."

You would expect to read such a description in an Adventist paper or a tract, but this is in a paragraph which is a part of a forty-column inch story in this city newspaper that has a circulation of 112,000 copies. A staff writer interviewed the church pastor, Elder Alexander Houghton, and wrote the story. It has a large three column headline—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS FIND NEW SIGNS OF SECOND COMING.

It is an interesting and accurate setting forth of the historical background of the denomination, its outstanding Bible teachings and its world work, with history of the local Seventh-day Adventist church. This message is printed and distributed to the homes of a great city without a cent of expense to the church.

Articles of this type in newspapers are becoming more frequent as the work of the Adventist Church becomes better known. Through the contacts of our ministers and church secretaries, editors are gaining impressions of the importance of

our work. Reports of general meetings are having their influence in extending their horizons.

We would encourage the leaders of every church to organize for local press representation and to make the press work a major item. Church departmental leaders should give the one appointed press secretary their hearty and continuous co-operation. Every member can be helpful. Above all, let us be true to our principles and loyal to the standards of life which we maintain. And let us pray that God will help us to make the newspapers a channel through which to attract the attention of the public and win many people to the truth.

J. R. FERREN, *Secretary,*  
*General Conference Bureau of*  
*Press Relations.*

March 29

### NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY FOR CHURCH SERVICES

First, it is fundamental and quite in order before discussing the topic assigned, "Newspaper Publicity for Sabbath and Sunday Night Services," to consider the location of churches where these services are held. Our Press Bureau receives many complaints from people who have searched in vain to find the Seventh-day Adventist church in cities where they were spending the Sabbath. For example, one disappointed person writes: "I arrived in town and expected to attend the church service on Sabbath. Not knowing where the church was located, I searched the telephone book, hotel directories, and the newspapers. I inquired of various people, but nobody knew; consequently I was deprived of church fellowship." What a pity that such a situation could be possible! Yet, we are told, even by conference officials, that many of our churches do not have any signs on them and that there is almost no way to find them. Every church member will agree that something should be done about this. If, perchance, your church is difficult for strangers to find, won't you go the second mile in planning to remedy the situation?

If the church is near a highway, but out of sight, wouldn't it be a splendid thing to put up a neat marker at the proper corner, reading—SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH—2 blocks? And if the sign on the church has been broken off or deteriorated, wouldn't a new one be in order? Then give thought to the newspapers, church directories in hotels, the telephone book, if possible, and lists for consultation in public places. Surely you want people to find your church.

For the regular Sabbath service announcements, we recommend the plan our churches are now following—providing a standing announcement appearing in the newspaper each week, on the page with the announcements of other churches. There is usually a charge for this service, but the couple of inches, or less, of space that is required is worth the cost. There is value in having the Seventh-day Adventist church represented in the list of

churches, with the name of pastor or elder, location of church, and hours of services. The objection may be raised that this doesn't appear at the right time. It may be, for example, in a Saturday afternoon paper. Even so, if continuous, this card will keep the church before the public. A person reading the paper today will know of the services next week. It is the accumulative general influence of this announcement that makes it of value.

Announcements of special services would be handled differently, of course. Here is a good example, taken from the Texarkana, Arkansas, *Gazette* (circulation, 16,450), headlined LITTLE ROCK PASTOR WILL SPEAK HERE. It says, "W. H. Westermeyer, Little Rock minister, will speak at the Seventh-day Adventist church 933, County Avenue, at 11 A.M. Saturday. His subject will be 'The Political Sins of America and the Handwriting on the Wall.' The subject for the Bible study hour at 9:30 A.M. will be 'Teaching the Disciples and Feeding the Multitude,' according to the pastor, A. W. Perrine."

Sunday night service announcements, prepared by the pastor, should feature the speaker, the subject, music, place of meeting, and time. If a display advertisement runs in the same paper, the story should be written strictly as news and include details not in the advertisement.

To illustrate: Three of the large Washington, D.C., newspapers have been very co-operative in running short news stories during a series of meetings held first on summer evenings in a park, then transferred to an American Legion Hall, and more recently to the ballroom of a well-known hotel. Especially if you are running some display advertising, and if you indicate who is sponsoring the meetings, you will be given these story announcements. In this case the meetings are sponsored by the Adventist Society of Missionary Men, with different speakers and features. The following announcement, when the last change was made, appeared in the *Washington Times Herald*, and similar ones appeared in the *Post* and in the *Star*. These three papers go into more than 620,000 homes in the nation's capital city and surrounding communities. The announcement, though brief, tells the story. It is headed: "ADVENTIST LECTURES IN NEW LOCATION," and continues: "Beginning tomorrow night the series of prophetic lectures and services held in the American Legion Hall at 2457 15th St., N.W., and sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Society of Missionary Men, will be transferred to the ballroom of the 2400 Hotel, 2400 Sixteenth St., N.W. The speaker on Sunday night at 7:45 will be R. Allan Anderson, professor of Biblical Literature."

The Press Bureau provides instruction material that is proving helpful in announcing and reporting evangelistic meetings. This material is furnished on request.

J. R. FERREN, *Secretary,*  
*General Conference Bureau of*  
*Press Relations.*

# ★ Department of Education ★

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

## Music in Home and School

### Note to Leaders

THE topic of music has not been discussed as such in a Home and School meeting for several years, so we hope that careful planning and preparation will make this an outstanding program. If you are fortunate enough to have musicians in your group, their talent should be used in presenting some of the numbers listed, or records may be played to illustrate the talks. Sufficient time should be allowed to secure the necessary number of leaflets referred to in Mrs. Duff's article so that each one may be supplied. In *The Journal of True Education* for February, Professor Hannum has an article, "What Kind of Music Do I Appreciate?" that may help in planning your program. Not all have musical talent, but everyone can develop an appreciation for good music. FLORENCE K. REBOK.

## Music Appreciation: Its Fostering and Development

STERLING K. GERNET

MANY parents are concerned about the musical aptitude and gifts of their children, that is, whether or not a child possesses musicality and, if so, just what to do to develop it. Psychologically, parents are prone to overevaluate the admirable qualities and underestimate the reprehensible qualities. This is particularly true in music, since many parents believe their offspring show numerous indications of precocity, when from a realistic point of view, they probably possess only mediocre talent. Consequently, the initial procedure is to establish objectively the amount and quality of musicality; and second, to determine in just what direction and to what extent it should be guided and stimulated. To accomplish the first objective, it is advisable to administer some type of talent or aptitude test, such as the simple Baldwin talent test or the more elaborate Kwallwasser-Dykema or Seachore aptitude tests. In addition, an experienced musician can determine subjectively with some accuracy the potentialities and capabilities of a child. The findings of the talent test and the opinion of a competent musician furnish the basis for guidance of the future study and education of the child. It is preferable to take several tests in the form of a battery, and to obtain the

opinions of several musicians before finally deciding a course of action.

Regardless of the native ability of a child either for vocal or instrumental performance or for creative work, there still lie the vast possibilities of the appreciation of fine music. This is the inherent right of every child, and the provision of an adequate education constitutes a serious responsibility on the part of the parent. Every child, in the opinion of foremost music educators, possesses to some degree an innate feeling for and sensitivity to music. This is the basis of music appreciation, but it has many facets just as music has many aspects. Redfield, in *Music as an Art and Science*, points out that there are eight basic components to music, namely: melody, rhythm, harmony, tone color, nuance, dynamics, form, and tempo. Similarly, a child may be more sensitive in his response to any one or a combination of these qualities than he is to others. Probably not all these factors are ever responded to with equal strength, but certainly a sensitive appreciation and discrimination for each can be developed with persistent training.

Music appreciation is difficult to define, because it is a broad subject which integrates all phases of music into one blended whole. Hevner accepts the definition of "listening to music for pleasure or enjoyment," and emphasizes the aesthetic experience resulting from listening to music. Music appreciation is a subjective and highly personal experience; and the psychological processes involved in the activity are sensory, motor, perceptual, affective, emotional, plus the effects of repetition and familiarity, individual differences, specific training, and general intelligence and achievement. Stokowski, in *Music for All of Us*, states that "just as we all have a body, mind, and spiritual side to our being, so music has its physical, emotional, and spiritual nature. These different sides of music are all wonderful in themselves when we enjoy them separately—when they are combined, our experience can be overwhelming." Differential psychology emphasizes the variety of responses to music. Some delight in the physical beauty of sound. Others respond to music almost entirely

through their emotion. Still others perceive mainly the intellectual aspects of music. There are many who listen to music through a combination of these channels. There are probably as many different ways of listening to music as there are persons responsive to music in the world. This is the reason for the difficulty in defining music appreciation.

While many children do not have the opportunities of systematic music study or even possess a musical instrument, they can still know the joys of great music in their lives. There are at present so many avenues of gaining experience in music that musical illiteracy is unthinkable and inexcusable. In the past, music appreciation was limited almost exclusively to the listening to music. Much of this has been done in a passive manner, that is, without much participation and creative thinking. We should like to stress active, dynamic listening in various fields of musical experience. Rafferty, in *Music Appreciation; an Active Force in Child Development*, states that there is a minimum of sixteen fields of experience which may contribute to music appreciation. Each of these fields is important in its own right, but when these are merged into a unified whole, they constitute the basis for growth in awareness of the beauties and meanings of music and in sensitiveness to music's emotional and aesthetic appeal. At no time is any one field developed independently, and the important aim is experience in music and related subjects rather than information about them. The most important means of achieving experience are given below.

1. Interpretation of Songs
2. Creative Expression
3. Rhythmic Development
4. Dramatization
5. Mood
6. Form of Music
7. Voices
8. Literature and Pictures in Relation to Music
9. Listening
10. Experiencing Orchestral Effects
11. Nationality in Music
12. Great Musicians and the Music of the Masters
13. Harmony

[NOTE: For lack of space these fields are simply listed here. The author's comments will appear in the April GAZETTE which you should receive in time to complete this study for your March program.—EDITOR.]



Thus, by means of these various areas of interest and experience, the child gradually becomes conversant with the great art of music and the personalities that have contributed to its evolution. As Stringham states in the postscript to his fine book *Listening to Music Creatively*, these will introduce the child to a broad world of music, help him break down the barriers that might have caused some music to seem strange to him, reveal some of music's inner workings, its historical traditions, its vocabulary, its luminous creative spirits, and help to establish a workable philosophy and practice of study for general listening. Again it must be emphasized that the mere possession of knowledge, facts, and understanding is not at all synonymous with appreciation. Only a genuine experience with actual music will attune the inner springs of the musical consciousness and bring a keen discrimination of musical values in its wake.

To summarize, the child should be placed in juxtaposition with music by means of selected radio programs, recorded musical masterpieces, a musical environment at an early age (supplemented by literature and the other fine arts), and an opportunity for self-expression either vocally or instrumentally. In all this educational endeavor, careful guidance must be given by the parents or teacher. Remarkable and gratifying results will ensue.

### Music in the Home

BETTY K. HARTER

EVERY Seventh-day Adventist child should be given the opportunity to hear the best music from the very first year of his life. The masterpieces of musical art become as old friends, and the cheap music of the day holds no appeal. Music can be a worthy subject for the use of leisure time; it can be a binding power in our family life.

The first question that enters the mind of most parents is the question of how he can give his children an appreciation of music when he himself knows little or nothing about the subject. In these days of electric victrolas and good recordings there is no excuse for our children to miss the opportunity of hearing the best. The appreciation of music should not be left until school days. The preschool days are the important days in teaching the difference between the good and the bad by presenting the good in such an attractive way that as the child grows older he selects the best.

There are many good records that can be purchased, but the music stores are filled with the spectacular, entertaining, cheaply recorded children's albums that appeal to parents not familiar with the records our children should hear. Since so many parents do not know what to select for their children the following are a few suggestions of recordings. In making such a list one must take into account past training and the age of the child. If the child is under six he will especially like lullabies, simple marches, rhythmical waltzes, and pieces with stories. Some concrete examples are "Berceuse" from *Jocelyn*, by Godard; "Barcarolle" from *Tales of Hoffman*, by Offenbach; "The Swan," by Saint-Saëns; "Cradle Song," by Brahms; *Peter and the Wolf*, by Prokofieff; "Flight of the Bumble Bee," by Rimski-Korsakov; "Narcissus," by Nevin; *Insect Pictures in Music* and *Animal Pictures in Music*, Decca albums A-84 and A-85; *Children's Corner*, by Debussy;

~~~~~  
 "Parents who are looking into the future should realize that the study of music has become a 'must' for the child who will confront the great tomorrow. The child who does not have this training and discipline will be seriously handicapped in his competition with those who are in possession of it."—James Francis Cooke, in "You Need Music," by Ruth Vendley Mathews. Used by permission.  
 ~~~~~

*Carnival of Animals*, by Saint-Saëns; *Nutcracker Suite*, by Tchaikovsky; "March of the Little Lead Soldiers," by Pierné.

The children should be taught to use the victrola themselves. The electric victrola lends itself nicely to this. It is important to have a good machine, for the finest record can be spoiled by a poor machine. Since we recommend the best in reading material, should we not do the same for music? The machine should have the standard turntable of 78 revolutions per minute. This will ensure the proper pitch, and it will not get out of order quickly.

The children should have their own shelf for records. This should be low so they can handle them easily. The records should be kept in albums, the children being taught always to handle the albums right side up.

If a child is already in school and the parent has neglected to have a listening

program during the preschool days, it is all the more necessary now to build up a library of records. The list for the preschool period can well be used for any child in the grades. Close co-operation between the teacher and the parents is necessary in order for the parent to know what music appreciation the child is receiving in the school, so that the records at home will supplement rather than duplicate the school supply. The following are some suggestions for the school child to add to the preschool list of records: "Tailor and the Bear," by MacDowell; *Toy Symphony*, by Haydn; "Blue Danube," by Strauss; "March Militaire," by Schubert; "Hallelujah Chorus," by Handel; "Serenade," by Schubert; "Minute Waltz," by Chopin, *Peer Gynt Suite*, by Grieg; *Finlandia*, by Sibelius; "Caprice Viennois," by Kreisler. There are many more, and much could be written on the stories, and on methods of teaching these pieces to the children; but even if the parents know nothing about the background of the pieces, the actual listening to the selections is helpful. A parent really in earnest about this great need will purchase the book *How to Teach Children to Know Music*, by Barbour and Freeman, published by Smith and Durrell, New York, 1944. If the parents of our church school children would actually follow the instructions found in this book, our boys and girls would soon learn to turn off the so-called popular music on the radio. Let us determine to give our children the opportunity to listen to good music.

A victrola is important, but participation in music by the child himself is equally so. Many of our boys and girls start piano lessons, but an amazing number do not continue. There are a number of reasons for this; among them are poor teaching, lack of proper musical material, and lack of encouragement at home. Much money can be wasted on lessons given by teachers who know nothing about children and their special needs. The fact that a teacher plays well does not guarantee that he or she can teach a child. Parents must help in the practice period at home by having set times for practice, preferably twenty minutes to a half hour before school and the same after school. Make the practice period regular but not burdensome.

There is much difference of opinion concerning the actual time when a child should begin lessons, but either the year preceding the first year at school or the year following seems most desirable. The first year a child goes to school is a hard

year of adjustment, and private lessons should not be started at that time. Violin lessons may well be started during the second or third grade, and other instruments from the fourth grade on, depending entirely upon the desires and ability of the child. Many more of our children should be encouraged to play instruments.

Much can be done by singing in the home. During preschool years the mother can use songs to accompany different tasks, even calling to Johnny or Mary by singing. A fine little book to aid the mother is called *Fun With Music*, by Nelson; Albert Whitman and Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1941. Hymns sung during worship can be a guiding factor later in life. Use the same hymn many times so that the children can learn the words as well as the tune.

Real musical activities can be carried on by most mothers even though they know little about music. A very fine book for mothers to use in preschool music training is *Discovering Music*, by Wadley and Allison; Boston Music Company, Boston, Massachusetts.

There are fine musical games on the market today. "Note-O," from Kenworthy Educational Bureau, Buffalo, New York, teaches the different musical terms; and the new "Find-O-Note," from Boston Music Company, is the finest game to teach the names of the notes of the staff. Each of the games is one dollar.

This subject of music in the home presents a definite challenge to every parent to build into the lives of our boys and girls the appreciation for the good, so that the bad does not appeal. We must not fail our youth.

## Music in the School

ASTRID W. KING

MUSIC in our church schools has been one of the problems of the average church school teacher, partly because of her own inadequate musical training, and, second, because of the meager musical equipment with which she often has to carry on her work. No one can teach music effectively in either the school or the home lacking these essentials. The first of these, musical knowledge and understanding, the teacher herself should develop during the years of her normal training and continue to progress therein during the years of her actual teaching experience. But even with such preparation, the teacher cannot teach music effectively in the classroom without a

certain amount of equipment. Some suggestions regarding this latter need will be offered in this article.

We shall assume that our work in music should proceed along three different avenues at least; namely, singing of songs, listening to good music, and the acquisition of some general knowledge of music and musicians in order to enjoy and get the most good from the singing and listening experiences.

Song singing is a joyous experience for most boys and girls. When it is not, it usually is due to the child's inability to use his voice correctly or to a lack of interesting and satisfying songs. The adolescent boy in particular may be a real problem, since he has considerable vocal adjustment to make at this period. This becomes an even more serious problem when the boy has not learned to read music, and therefore cannot get satisfaction from his newly developing ability to sing a real he-man's part. When he is able to read music, he enjoys the thrill of this new accomplishment and experience if he is encouraged to sing songs which are suited to his range, ability, and interest. In connection with this problem and the whole singing program, I would recommend *On Wings of Song*, published by Ginn and Company. This lovely text provides interesting materials for the ungraded school in particular, but is also very acceptable to use as supplementary material where a graded series is used. It would be well to remember the desirability of adopting a new text in music at least as frequently as texts are changed in other subjects. This is especially important in the school where a graded series is not employed and where consequently the children might have the same music book from the time they enter school until they are graduated.

The second phase of our music program is that of quiet listening, or so-called appreciation. No child can develop a love for good music if that music is distorted by a poor record player and noisy, scratchy records. With record players again in full production, there will be no excuse for the distorted music so often heard in the "appreciation" period. Home and School Associations might well consider the musical needs of the children and help to secure texts, records, and a record player, as well as musical books for the school library. To help you in building a record library in either home or school, I would suggest the guide by Barbour and Freeman, called *How to Teach Children to Know*

*Music*, published by Smith and Durrell of New York City.

Finally, aids must be provided the teacher so that she will be able to interest the children in acquiring information that will give them a musical understanding and in developing skills in a practical application of musical activity. There is an excellent series of books on the childhood of great composers, written by Wheeler and Deucher and published by E. P. Dutton, at \$2 each. These are written in an interesting style, are well illustrated, and will be particularly enjoyed. They include *Beethoven and the Chiming Tower Bells*; *Franz Schubert and His Merry Friends*; *Handel at the Court of Kings*; *Joseph Haydn, the Merry Little Peasant*; *Mozart, the Wonder Boy*; *Sebastian Bach, the Boy from Thuringia*; *Stephen Foster and His Old Dog Tray*; *Edward MacDowell and His Cabin in the Pines*. Inquire at the local library for these and other musical materials suitable for children's reading.

Interesting devices must be used to develop skill in reading the musical score. Too often a teacher thinks of music instruction as a drill period for learning music fundamentals. While some of this drill is necessary, it must be presented in an interesting way. The three workbooks by Reeve and Kurtz called *Music Fun*, published by the Kenworthy Educational Service, 45 N. Division, Buffalo, New York, have been enjoyed by many children. Book I could be used for grades 4-6, Book II for grades 7 and 8, and Book III for the particularly musically minded child. These books cost 35 cents each.

Where these teaching aids are used, I believe the teachers' problems will be greatly simplified. Music can and should be a joyous study. Let us redouble our efforts to make it such an experience in the lives of all our boys and girls in church school today.



CHILDREN's minds will be active, and if not engaged in physical labor, or occupied with study, they will be exposed to evil influences. It is a sin for parents to allow their children to grow up in ignorance. They should supply them with useful and interesting books, and should teach them to work, to have hours for physical labor, and hours to devote to study and reading. Parents should seek to elevate the minds of their children, and to improve their mental faculties.—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, pp. 398, 399.

## "Sweet Companionship of Music"

ANNIS DUFF

IN one of my favorite passages in the Apocrypha—that beautiful chapter in Ecclesiasticus beginning "Let us now praise famous men"—there is a phrase that gives me great satisfaction: "Men . . . such as found out musical tunes." Not "made up" or "set down," but *found out*, as if music were just there, like electricity or atomic energy, to be discovered and put to use by people with minds and imaginations sensitive to the presence of unseen forces.

That seems to me a very happy idea, and a very right one. A composer is a sort of channel; he has a special gift of hearing what escapes the inward ear of ordinary mortals, and the ability to translate it into audible sounds that have meaning and beauty. And so it is through him that music flows, to bring richness and delight into human living.

One of the finest of a parent's responsibilities and privileges is to help children to take possession of the "serviceable intangibles" that nurture spiritual growth, and music is one of these. That is why in this family, listening, as well as singing and playing, has been such a satisfying and rewarding part of our living together. A steadily if slowly growing collection of phonograph records has brought into our homes a very great deal of the music that was "found out" by "famous men" through many centuries, and passed on to become the dear possession of listening folk like us.

The use of recorded music is a means of access to a much greater range of musical experience than would otherwise be possible in the average household. For one thing, even where the grownups are exceptionally gifted, the more common accomplishments of being able to sing and play the piano can bring only a tiny segment of all music within the children's listening life. There is so much that voices and a single instrument were never meant to express, even if they could. For another thing, having to wait until a grownup is free to sing and play often causes the loss of the rapturous response a child makes to music in moments of eager readiness to listen. But even the busiest mother can find time to start a record for a child too little to manage it for himself; and once the child has discovered the joy and release of hearing the music he wants when he wants it, it is easy to teach him how to handle records carefully and to operate a phonograph intelligently.

Then, too, with most of us, however musically inclined, concerts are a bit of a luxury. But with a phonograph and even a modest collection of good records, a family can enjoy concerts of its own planning any evening of the week. This is not to suggest that recorded concerts can or should take the place of the real thing. There is a special excitement about listening to a first-hand performance in company with other musically-minded people that children and parents should enjoy in each other's company as often as possible. We have found in our own case that the pleasure of occasional concert-going is immeasurably increased because we are used to listening together, and because much of what we hear at concerts has become familiar through that listening. Moreover, our children listen to unfamiliar kinds of music much more open-mindedly than they would if they had not had the chance to learn from hearing all sorts of records that many compositions difficult to understand at first become more and more attractive as the ear grows accustomed to them.

Probably no one would be more surprised than our children themselves to be told that they had been undergoing "ear-training," and certainly nothing could have been farther from our thoughts when we started them off on their listening careers. Like most impecunious young parents, we had to find much of our entertainment at home, and our favorite way of spending an evening was to play our few but very good records. So our first descendant usually fell asleep to the sound of Mozart or Bach or Debussy. She liked it, and before the end of her first year she indicated her preferences unmistakably by bouncing and chuckling whenever certain pieces were played. Rhythm was of course the important thing, and dance movements with a regular, clearly-marked beat were her first favorites.

When she was just eight months old we were playing Handel's "Alein Suite" while I got her supper ready one evening, and to our incredulous astonishment she began to beat time with the music, not only following the rhythm steadily and accurately, but changing from four-four to six-eight time when the orchestra did! Anyone who has ever grown up with a baby will agree that it is natural to be excited by a thing like that, and we were—so excited that from then on we took the greatest delight in finding other and still more music that would invite the same response. It was wonderful fun for

all of us; and when a small brother appeared on the scene a few years later, and began presently to show an even more boisterous enthusiasm for the music the three of us had enjoyed together, we felt that there wasn't really much more in the world that we could ask for.

Both children have followed pretty much the same pattern in the development of musical taste, as the catalog of their collections of records (the greater proportion of which they have chosen themselves) has indicated. This is partly due, of course, to the fact that they are subject to the same influences of environment, and they tend, no doubt, as all children do, to accept the standards of taste established by their parents—which has been a great stimulus to us to expand our own knowledge and to put within their reach the very best kind of music at each level of their understanding and enjoyment.

Enjoyment is always the deciding factor, for children simply do not listen to music that does not appeal to them. We have made mistakes, to be sure, but genuine quality nearly always will make its appeal sooner or later. The important thing, we've discovered, is not to try to force attention, however convinced we may be that this is the music for the particular moment. Child nature being what it is, that is the surest way of discouraging possible interest later on.

Traditional nursery songs are the most natural first choice in recorded programs designed specifically for the delight of small fry. It goes without saying that if a parent can sing in tune at all, the baby's initial acquaintance with these time-worn and perennially new songs should come from hearing them sung just for him, at bedtime, at bedtime, at playtime—all around the clock. Then, when he is ready to listen to the phonograph, his first experience might very well be delighted recognition of what he knows belongs to him; and so a happy beginning is made of a new phase of musical experience.

Simple folk-songs and folk-dance tunes catch a very early response from most children, and before long you begin to use recorded music to illustrate the stories you read and tell. We have found it great fun to match up favorite stories with music that seems just right, and there are a few stories with music so flawlessly made for them that it's rather like the puzzle about the egg and the hen: Which came first? Two examples that come to mind are Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" and Dukas' "The

Sorcerer's Apprentice," both of which we have found, surprisingly enough, to be thoroughly enjoyed by people as young as four years. In Prokofieff's "Peter and the Wolf," the story is told by the music, with only a very little explanatory narrative interspersed; and a very exciting and amusing story it is.

Children love fun in music, as in most things, and one of the "sure-fire hits" with our two has been Saint-Saëns' "Carnival of the Animals," which has some of the funniest animal noises imaginable, imitated in perfectly good music. Many modern composers especially have the knack of being genuinely comical: parts of Weinberger's "Schwanda" make children laugh out loud, and so do certain passages in Kodály's "Háry Janos Suite." We are always on the lookout for such things, for children need laughter quite as much as they need sleep.

We have never found it necessary to be solemn about the music we've given our children, and perhaps that is one reason why they have responded so heart-warmingly. Looking back now, it seems rather astonishing that in so few years they should have listened to and learned so much; astonishing, too, that four people of different ages and temperaments should have come so close in a community of pleasure in what is after all an imponderable thing. Probably none of the music we have lived with has said the same thing to any two of us, but that does not matter. We have shared and will continue to share a great and imperishable heritage that "neither moth or dust can corrupt nor thieves break in and steal." We have found through companionship with music a richer companionship with each other. And because some of the noblest of all music we have is deeply religious, listening has been at times an act of united worship, companionship in wordless praise to the Giver of Music. There are few things more reassuring and fortifying than that.

"Praise we therefore famous men . . . such as found out musical tunes."

NOTE.—A copy of the complete list [of recordings] prepared by Mrs. Duff is available without charge. Send your request to the Editor of Children's Publications, The American Baptist Publication Society, 1703 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania.—Home, October-December, 1946.

—Used by permission.

✻ ✻

THE value of song as a means of education should never be lost sight of. . . . Let there be singing in the school, and the pupils will be drawn closer to God, to their teachers, and to one another.—*Education*, p. 168.

### Baptism in a Basement

NUMBERS of people who were constrained to make a momentous change in their life have indeed made a stirring witness for their faith. One after another crises came, first to one, then another. Homes were being broken, long friendships terminated; and personal sacrifices of many kinds made. As the number grew of those who were giving unmistakable evidence of their conversion and were successfully passing their tests, we found it expedient to arrange for the baptism of the first of these precious souls on May 19. The baptistry in the church was decided on as the place, and full arrangements were made. But as the candidates planned for the occasion, it seemed that their zeal overflowed a bit, and the news got out to quarters where it only more vigorously fanned the fires of persecution.

A few days before the set time for the baptism I was summoned from Baghdad to come to this place at an earlier date, so as to avoid a scene of planned violence at the appointed time, which plan, fortunately, came to our believers' attention in time to be averted.

As requested, I came a day early and found the workers and members tense with excitement, as the plans seemed to be going so well. A few hours went by, and then they came—one by one, as inconspicuously as they could.

The appointed hour arrived (just after noon), and still three had not arrived at the home selected for the baptism. Could it be that their families had confined them? Then came a knock at the door, a certain kind of knock, and the door was unbolted from the inside (for the doors of these Eastern houses have no knobs on the outside), and in came two of the three—a young man and his sister, both in their teens. They had slipped out of their home almost under the eyes of their wary friends and family, who were trying their best to confine them indefinitely within.

With the workers, some specially invited members of the church, and the thirteen candidates present, we carried on an inspiring service in the sitting room in the home of one of our members. We did not sing, however, in order not to create undue curiosity from the outside. A short sermon was preached, vows were taken (and what a solemn vow it was under these circumstances), and final instructions were given. Then, after changing into appropriate dress for the rite, the candidates and believers gathered in the dimly lighted basement of

the home, where a small portable tank of water had been prepared.

What a scene! With the ceiling little higher than one's head, small windows covered with heavy bars (all windows of Iraq houses are barred) and darkened almost totally, and but one small doorway at the head of the steep stairway, this service was pervaded with an atmosphere not unlike that of many another in days when Christianity was driven underground. And so one by one the candidates stepped into the tank and were baptized, thirteen of them—all but two of them young people. This is not very many in comparison with some places, but a goodly number for these barren lands of the Middle East.

The following day, when our opponents discovered that their plot had been foiled, bitterness rose to a new height. The two young people who barely escaped from their home were then cast out with curses to find whatever shelter they could. The one sister who never succeeded in getting away was forcibly confined to her home on that day and retained there for months, lest she, too, be secretly baptized. Five of the candidates are students in the government secondary school, who are finishing their last two years there. They had all been attending our school as long as they could, but because we cannot yet offer the last two years, they were obliged to go to the government school.

When the call was made for them to take their stand, one month before the closing of school, these five stopped attending Sabbath classes and also refused to sit for the final ministry of education examinations, which always fall on Saturday. Hence, they were all failed. But even with being failed in their last year of secondary school, being sent out of their homes, and persecuted by their family and friends, not one wavered.

Since this time one other girl has been sent away from home also. I am glad to report that this one and the five secondary students will all be attending our college in Beirut next year, preparing to be future workers in the mission. These experiences are bearing a powerful witness in the city, giving courage to a number of others who will follow these in baptism in a few months.

As far as possible we are endeavoring to enlarge our Mosul secondary school, and thus salvage many who now are lost to us. We earnestly hope and pray that the time will soon come when these things will be possible.

S. W. JOHNSON.

### My First Evangelistic Effort

ONE beautiful morning in September we started for Mitawa, a native village fifteen miles from Blantyre. The pastor in charge of the area had prepared a three-roomed grass hut with veranda for us. This was located nicely among a grove of trees and was to be our home for the next three weeks.

A group of ten African teachers was associated with us. Each morning a workers' meeting was held, when the subject for the meeting was studied together. After lunch we went out in pairs to appointed sections. The plan was to hold small meetings in the villages, discuss the subject briefly, and invite the people to the evening meeting. The groups exchanged villages after a few days.

As I visited, we saw beer drinks, beer brewing in large pots, dirty children, sick people, and half-starved dogs. But nearly everywhere a group would gather to hear the message, and a large proportion came to the evening service.

Under the trees a crowd of from two hundred to three hundred would gather. Sometimes my husband would show them a Bible picture before the service, and at other times after the sermon. Thus there was little trouble in getting them on time. The Hearers' Class was formed during the first week, and after each meeting new decisions were made, until the class had over seventy enrolled.

Another denomination had a strong following in a part of the district we worked. As I visited one village with my interpreter the people gathered. As soon as we mentioned the Bible the young people got up and ran away, even though the headman tried to call them back. When we returned the next day all the huts were closed. When we passed on to another village the headman ordered us off, as he said none wanted us to preach there. After a while the attendance at the evening meeting began to drop. Upon inquiry we found that opposition was stoning those who were coming to the meetings. After that rival meetings were commenced.

On Sabbaths we gathered under the trees for the regular meetings. The old leaves were falling from the branches and new ones were appearing. Looking over the audience, one could see the struggle with the old life and signs of the new birth appearing.

To bind off the effort a prayer house was needed. The new people hardly were ready to carry this burden alone, so the workers began using the morning period

### SPECIAL DAYS AND OFFERINGS

March 1  
Home Foreign Day

March 8  
Second Sabbath Mission Offering  
Riverside Sanitarium Offering  
(colored churches)  
Missionary Volunteer Day  
Topic: A Design for Living

March 8-15  
Missionary Volunteer Week  
of Prayer

to erect a *pièce de terre* building. The women who volunteered were at the river early to carry the water. The men were digging the earth and making the mud. The children would form a chain and pass the mud along to the builders, all the time singing the praises (?) of the Europeans who were working with them. And so each day a new layer went on the building, until when we left it was nearly ready for use.

The chief and headmen showed a good interest and willingly gave a hand to the building. They hardly missed a meeting. Great was our joy when chief Mitawa and two of his headmen gave their hearts to the Lord. Now, instead of the usual beer drink at this village, a real peace reigns. One young man who used to come to the meetings the worse for drink now takes the lead in the Sabbath school, together with Annie, a reclaimed one. A branch Sabbath school was also raised up three miles away. We have visited these new converts several times since the effort closed and have had the great joy of seeing them all standing firm and increasing in numbers.

—LAURA MAXWELL.

### Studies on Other Denominations

WHAT Adventist preacher, Bible instructor, or missionary layman has not at some time or other had to meet the problem of working for people of other churches, sects, or isms, and fervently wished that he knew more about the beliefs of those for whom he labors?

The *Ministry* magazine published a series of articles in 1945 which covered, at least in part, the following churches and movements: Presbyterian; Anglo-Israelite (March, 1945); Christadelphian; Pentecostal (April); Lutheran; Protestant Episcopal (May); Congrega-

tional; Disciples (June); Mormons (July); Baptist (August); Jehovah's Witnesses (September); Roman Catholic (October); Christian Science (November).

These articles were written by Bible instructors in attendance at the S.D.A. Theological Seminary as a special project in their class work. The series proved to be most popular and helpful. Many *Ministry* readers expressed their appreciation for the information contained therein.

Students of later classes also prepared studies on other churches, and these are now being published as a second series, starting with the February, 1947, issue of *The Ministry*. The following denominations and sects will be surveyed: Unity or Fillmoreism; Buchmanism (Oxford Group Movement); Latter Day Saints; Doukhobors (Spiritual Wrestlers); Unitarian Church; Pentecostal Assemblies; Eastern Orthodox Church; British Israelism; Baptists, Jehovah's Witnesses; Christian Science; and Unitarianism; also the tongues movement.

Although *The Ministry* is primarily for ministers, teachers, Bible instructors, and medical missionaries, a miscellaneous group of lay preachers, church elders, and other missionary-minded church members are also receiving its monthly visits. The journal is published by the Review and Herald, Takoma Park 12, D.C., and the price is \$2 a year. Back numbers of the 1945 series are available for most of the months at twenty cents a copy.

MABEL H. TOWERY.



### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

United States and Canada		
Yearly subscription	-	\$1.25
Clubs of two or more copies to one address, one year, each	-	1.10
Foreign Countries Where Extra Postage Is Required		
Yearly subscription	-	1.40
Clubs of two or more copies to one address, one year, each	-	1.25

EDITOR - J. I. ROBISON

#### Associate Editors

Theodore L. Oswald, Eldine W. Dunbar  
John E. Weaver

#### Assistant Editors

Grace D. Mace, Marjorie W. Marsh  
Florence K. Rebok

EDITORIAL COUNCIL

M. E. Kern H. T. Elliott

### ARE YOU MOVING?

You should notify us in advance of any change of address, as the post office will not forward your papers to you even if you leave a forwarding address. Your compliance in this matter will save delay and expense.