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Lengthening Shadows of Armageddon

BY THE EDITOR

SPIRITS of devils are abroad in the world today gathering the nations to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. There is a haunting fear settling down upon mankind everywhere that we are facing another and possibly the last world war. It is doubtful if civilization could survive another world cataclysm, especially with modern atomic weapons let loose in this age of hate, suspicion, and racial animosity. These evil spirits have been fostered by extreme nationalism and the fanatical allegiance of millions to the unproved ideologies of would-be world dictators.

Leading statesmen are openly expressing their fears in language as alarming as the pen of Inspiration might use in giving the warning. We are told that "the hour is late," yes, even "later than you think." It is recognized that "the political and economic crisis in Europe is staggering" and that any solution to it is almost, if not entirely, beyond the power of men to solve.

Honest efforts of statesmen to bring about some measure of peace only result in other outbreaks of pent-up passions and mob violence. India a few weeks ago celebrated what seemed to be the beginning of a new era of peace with the granting of independence to the two newly formed nations in that former British-controlled territory. But today India is threatened with civil war, and violence is spreading from city to city, threatening the very existence of the newborn nations.

The Middle East is a powder barrel and no one knows when it will explode.

Riots are reported in Egypt, and open conflict has broken out in Palestine following months of petty civil war. This trouble in Palestine is likely to involve the whole Arab world with a war against the Western nations if they insist on setting up a Jewish state in Palestine.

In the East Indies peace is only a dream with a precarious armistice at the moment holding the opposing forces in check. China is still waging civil war after repeated unsuccessful efforts to establish peace. Burma is seething with threatened revolution. South America has had two revolutions within recent weeks and other Latin American officials feel the insecurity of these times in the exercise of their dictatorial powers. The situation in Europe is beyond description, but with all her suffering and misery everyone over there is talking about another world war.

The scientific world is beginning to recognize the fact that the fate of man-

kind depends today, not on the discoveries of physics and chemistry, but upon moral and spiritual forces. These, however, seem impotent to grapple successfully with the Satanic powers that are wrecking civilization and threatening to make life on this planet not worth living.

Surely today, as never before, this last message of hope that we have been proclaiming for a century is present truth. We are not in darkness as we look upon a world drifting on a sea of uncertainty and fear. We have been expecting just such conditions to develop. We have been told in both the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy that world-wide confusion and international conflict will precede the coming of our Lord. Surely as we see these things we can look up and rejoice, knowing that our redemption draweth nigh.

But our responsibility is greater than recognizing the fulfillment of prophecy alone and rejoicing in the hope of the near Advent of our Lord. There is a world lying in darkness—lost, dying, hopeless, and in despair. We have the God-given message of hope for this hour. At such a time as this our God is depending on us to warn the world of its doom and present with new power the only hope of mankind in this dark hour. We have come to the kingdom for such a time as this. Now is the time that this message of the soon coming of Jesus must ring out from every hamlet, from every Seventh-day Adventist home, and from the lips of every worker and lay member. This is our task.

(Continued on page 32)





YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

of Missionary Volunteers



NOTES TO OFFICERS

Annual Round-up

EVERY prosperous business includes an annual checkup and round-up of profits, achievements, and advancement. December is the month to summarize the year's work of the society, presenting your findings to the executive committee and the church board and also to the society in meeting. Keep accurate reports for the society records, sending a complete compiled report to the conference M.V. secretary and supplying a copy to the chairman of the local church board.

You may be happily surprised, for such procedure will provide inspiration and incentive to greater endeavor by all. It is well worth trying. Will you do it?

Many societies follow the practice during the month of December of presenting *gratis* to their members a new Morning Watch Calendar. This can become an interesting feature in a devotional program at which time you may desire to lay plans for the distribution of the calendar in the hotel rooms of your town or city.

You Are Wanted

THIS should be the theme of every M.V. Society with a soul-winning program. You are wanted as an M.V. Crusader. If you will listen carefully you will hear the mighty march of soul-winning enthusiasm in the tread of the soldiers of the cross. The Lord Jesus throws out the challenge, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Matt. 16:24. Our commission is, "Go work today in My vineyard." Matt. 21:28. Our burden should be to encourage every Missionary Volunteer in our society to answer God's present-day call with the cheerful response, "Here am I; send me." Isa. 6:8.

Is your society planning to use the twenty-eight films in color prepared for the twenty-eight lessons in the M.V. Crusader Bible Course? There are untold opportunities in this work for others. Information regarding the films and the Crusader Bible Course can be secured from your conference M.V. Department. The Crusader movement is a challenge to you to—

1. Organize an M.V. Crusader Corps in your society.
2. Deepen your Christian experience.
3. Develop your personal capabilities.
4. "Share your faith" with someone each day.
5. Dedicate your life to world conquest for Christ.

Holiday Gifts

HAVE you seen the gift book circulars describing denominational books which are particularly appropriate for this season of the year? Write your Book and Bible House for a generous supply and definite suggestions of special offers. This holiday season give and urge your members to give good books—M.V. Reading Course Books, *Recreational Plans for Missionary Volunteers*, the Morning Watch either plain or de luxe, with its commentary *Power for Today*, the *Master Comrade Manual*, the *Junior Handbook*, various books needed for M.V. Honors, *Messages to Young People*, and the book of all books—the Bible. Who knows? Even any one of these books

may change the vision of the recipient—or at least widen his horizon. Act wisely. Act today.

Caroling

CAROLING for the joy of it, or caroling for mission money, is a pleasant and profitable experience. It makes for a splendid missionary contact with neighbors and friends. If we have been too hesitant in contacting neighbors and others in our community, this will provide that opportunity. Be sure that proper arrangements are made with conference home missionary and M.V. secretaries, and permits secured from municipal officials where required.



SENIOR MEETINGS

December 6

Occupations Open to S.D.A. Youth

BY THOMAS W. STEEN

Order of Service

SONG SERVICE.

OPENING SONG: "Be a Messenger Somewhere for Jesus," No. 63, *Gospel in Song*.

SENTENCE PRAYERS.

OFFERING.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

SYMPOSIUM: "Occupations Open to S.D.A. Youth"

Undesirable Occupations for Seventh-day Adventist Youth

Characteristics of Suitable Occupations

Classes of Occupations

Opportunities in Seventh-day Adventist Institutions

Those Who Work for Themselves

Urgent Openings

CLOSING SONG: "How Long," No. 67.

BENEDICTION.

Occupations Open to Seventh-day Adventist Youth

THIS article is a discussion of one of the three great decisions that every youth must make. His choice of a god—the world or the Lord Jesus—is, of course,

the greatest decision he will be called upon to make. And when that choice is rightly made, the others will not be too difficult. Another decision too often underestimated in importance is that of choosing a life companion. But today we shall concern ourselves with the third, and hardly less important of youth's great problems—the choice of a vocation—that is, the profession, occupation, or business to which he shall dedicate the largest share of his employable time and that shall constitute his source of financial support.

There are two steps that must be taken before any youth can actually begin an intelligent study of his own vocational problems. First, what are the occupations open to Seventh-day Adventist youth? Second, how can he know which of these vocations would be the best for him to choose? The first of these is all that we can discuss today.

Some of our isolated youth imagine that only four or five vocations are open to them—the ministry, teaching, and colporteur work are about all they can identify as suitable lines of work, and often they do not feel called to any one of these. This is a great mistake. There are literally hundreds of occupations in which Seventh-day Adventists are successful

and happy—just how many, and which ones, no one can accurately state, for many new occupations are being constantly added to this list.

Undesirable Occupations for Seventh-day Adventist Youth

PERHAPS a negative glance would not be out of place in the United States. There are some sixteen thousand rather distinct occupations recognized by authoritative sources. Now a rather large number of these are not suitable for Seventh-day Adventists. Occupations concerned with the manufacture and sale of alcohol and tobacco, for example, are not those that an Adventist youth would choose. Nor would he voluntarily choose an occupation where he might be called upon to take life, as are policemen, detectives, and soldiers. A still greater reduction in suitable occupations occurs as we consider that for the most part the occupations connected with transportation and communication are largely closed to Adventist youth. Trains, busses, steamers, and airplanes maintain schedules that offer little flexibility for one who cannot do his part on the Sabbath hours. The great telephone and telegraph organizations are of the same nature.

In fact, practically all the great industrial concerns are too big to make such provision for the individual Sabbath-keeper. Nor have we mentioned commercialized amusements which are seldom suitable.

Characteristic of Suitable Occupations

ALTHOUGH a large number of the sixteen thousand possible occupations are not desirable for Adventist youth, as we have just pointed out, nevertheless, there remain hundreds of vocations that are entirely suitable. Some few of these we shall name; but first let us ask ourselves just what it is that determines whether or not any given occupation is acceptable.

Primarily, it must be one in which the individual has some freedom of action. Just now as I came to the office the president of a large firm of landscape architects, who had been on the campus a few hours on business, asked me why we do not offer a brief course designated to prepare men to be successful gardeners or caretakers of the grounds and campuses of estates and institutions. He went on to say that the forty-hour week could be worked as the gardener sees fit and that there could be no religious problem involved. Not many perhaps will choose

this vocation, but the principle illustrated is important.

A second characteristic of a suitable occupation for Adventists is that the work should be socially desirable—that is, it should contribute to the well-being and happiness of humanity. For example, a planter of tobacco would surely not rank his work with that of a fruit grower as a benefit to humanity. And finally, an occupation acceptable to an earnest Adventist will be one that will provide opportunity for some active participation in missionary work. Now that the working week has been so markedly shortened, most employees can devote some hours each week to missionary work in their leisure time, even though their occupation excludes it during working hours.

But the really ideal occupation is, of course, one in which one's entire time is dedicated to direct participation in the work of God. Happily the number of such opportunities not only is large but is rapidly increasing by means of many so-called self-supporting activities now being established.

Classes of Occupations

LET us now consider briefly the large groups of activities in which Seventh-day Adventists are engaged. Then we shall discuss each a little more in detail. We shall begin with those occupations best known to our people everywhere, and those are the activities of the conference workers. These will include conference executives, pastors, evangelists, Bible instructors, auditors, treasurers, stenographers, the departmental secretaries, and radio evangelists. Those who do the office work connected therewith are also conference workers. And then there are musicians, those who write for the press, transportation agents, and a considerable number of others who work directly for our conferences. And, of course, the same general plan of organization is maintained in all the other divisions and mission fields of the world. Many who volunteer for foreign-mission service will find their work in some of these occupations.

An even larger group than that of the conference employees consists of our institutional workers. By this we shall include medical institutions, educational institutions, publishing houses, and food factories. Here we shall recognize that although the majority of the larger institutions are older and are operated by the various conference organizations, there are also many so-called self-supporting institutions, and the number of these is

growing very rapidly. These "self-supporting" institutions, as they are known for want of a better name, are now offering employment to many hundreds of our youth, and the possibilities for growth are almost unlimited.

Then there is a sort of intermediate type of opportunity open to Adventist youth. In this classification we will include all those who work for themselves or manage their own businesses. We shall discuss this in more detail in a moment. The final and fourth group of opportunities open to Adventist youth, to which we shall refer, is for employment with various non-Adventist organizations, businesses, and concerns. The number so engaged is very large, but there are problems connected with this type of employment to which we shall briefly refer.

Opportunities in Seventh-day Adventist Institutions

THE variety and number of openings occurring annually in Adventist institutions is very much greater than most of our people realize. A rather complete analysis of these opportunities was made in 1938 by the writer and was published in a private edition of a book entitled *The Vocational Choices of Students Whose Religious Beliefs Limit Their Occupational Opportunities*. This study is available in the libraries of the universities and some of the larger colleges, and so is accessible to some readers of these lines who are especially interested. Since then the number of employees has greatly increased, but the distribution is probably about the same.

Only a reference can be made to our publishing houses, where more than six hundred persons are employed as managers, treasurers, auditors, librarians, proofreaders, printers, engineers, artists, and editors. The turnover is ordinarily not large; nevertheless some openings in all these fields occur annually. A large number of new workers are employed annually in our educational institutions. Most of these, of course, are teachers, and they are engaged in many different activities, such as primary teaching, secondary teaching, and college teaching; and then again in both the academies and colleges they are divided into the departments in which they work. For instance, they may teach physics, or foreign languages, or Bible history. In addition to those who are strictly teachers there are many administrative officers, stenographers, clerical workers, and a still larger number of persons connected with various other industries and serv-

ies. For example, at the moment there is a great demand for competent chefs and superintendents of food services, to take charge of the cafeterias. There is a large demand for engineers and maintenance men and for those who can direct the industrial programs, including agriculture, printing, woodwork, auto mechanics, and other lines. The fact is that at the present time in both home and foreign fields it is more difficult to recruit persons for some of these lines than for the professional positions.

A fairly large number of people are employed in our various food factories, and here again there is a large variety of work to be done. Some, of course, are promoters and office workers and there are maintenance men and engineers, but the majority, of course, are engaged in the different phases of actual food manufacture. Most of the food factories are definitely on the lookout for competent men to do both research and promotion work, as well as for many of the other more common positions.

But the institutions which are employing the largest number of youth and are growing the most rapidly and which unquestionably are to play the biggest part in these closing days of world history, are the medical institutions. We shall detain ourselves a moment on this phase of our work. In the North American institutions alone the number of medical employees is probably now considerably in excess of four thousand, and is growing rapidly. This includes, of course, physicians, and graduate and student nurses. It also includes many technicians such as X-ray and laboratory technicians and those skilled in physical therapy and occupational therapy. It also includes business officers of many kinds, a large clerical staff, pharmacists, engineers, maintenance men, and a large number of other employees.

Now that the "Out of the Cities" call is being emphasized in many of the large cities, there are numbers of our people who are joining in groups and establishing small sanitariums and hospitals in various sections, but especially in the Southern States. These are typically located on beautiful rural sites, on good highways, but at some little distance from the cities. They vary in size all the way from eight or ten patient beds to 165 beds, and in services rendered, from simple homes for rest and convalescence to fully equipped hospitals and sanitariums. Most of them operate farms, and many maintain schools of primary and in some cases secondary grades.

Some of these institutions are privately owned, but the newer policy is to organize legal, nonprofit holding bodies. Just now the General Conference is assisting in the organization of a general Board of Trustees for this purpose that will benefit many of these institutions. Conference presidents and other church leaders serve as members of the boards that operate these institutions, and a large program of lay missionary work is carried on by many. There seems to be no limit to the number of people seeking the care that small institutions of this kind can afford and, in many cases, liberal donations can be secured toward the establishment and enlargement of such institutions. Small sanitariums of this kind do not require a large, highly trained staff, and many of its workers are persons with only a practical preparation.

Those Who Work for Themselves

We have pointed out that the Adventist has fewer problems when he himself has a voice in the conditions under which he works. The days and hours that he works, the nature of his work, the opportunities to be a help to others, are all important items concerning his work. It is to be expected, then, that the number of Adventists who have their own businesses, and therefore work for themselves, should be very large.

Many of these are, of course, professional people—physicians, dentists, artists, auditors, opticians, and morticians. A very large group are agriculturalists of all kinds—general farmers, dairymen, truck farmers, florists, fruit growers, and nurserymen. Then, there is a rather large group of businessmen, salesmen, merchants, contractors, real estate agents, insurance agents, garage owners, and automobile dealers. Others operate laundries, cleaning establishments, beauty parlors, and barber shops. There are literally scores of other small businesses operated by Adventists. Photography, bakeries, bookbinderies, interior decorating, watch repairing, plumbing, steam fitting, carpentry shops, piano tuning, machine shops, radio repairing, well drilling, refrigeration, broommaking—these are only a few of the many other small businesses proving satisfactory to Adventists.

Urgent Openings

Our youth will do well to recognize that whereas many of the professions either are, or soon again will be, seriously overcrowded, for a long time in the future, both in conference institutions and

in self-supporting enterprises, there will be a serious shortage of trained persons in the more practical occupations. We need maintenance men, mechanics, agriculturists, food service managers, superintendents of industries, and technicians of many kinds, and many of these needs extend equally to the foreign fields.

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December 13

Youth Interprets the Headlines

BY FORDYCE W. DETAMORE

Order of Service

SONG: "Onward, Christian Soldiers," No. 90, *Gospel in Song*.

PRAYER.

OFFERTORY.

REPORTS OF MISSIONARY WORK.

SONG: "Ask Not to Be Excused," No. 223.

SYMPOSIUM: "Youth Interprets the Headlines."

HYMN: "Look for the Way-marks," No. 164.

BENEDICTION.

Note to Leaders

These talks can be given by different individuals or two may be combined and given to one young person.

Weather Prophets and Prophets

WHEN you see the headlines in your daily paper or hear the headlines over your radio, are they merely more news, or do you think of them as fulfilling prophecy?

A news flash interrupts the broadcast to bring you an up-to-the-minute news break. "Fresh news," you say. But it will be out of date and stale by tomorrow this time.

That's the wonderful thing about the prophecies—though two thousand years or more old, they are more up to the minute than today's news flashes.

"It's going to rain tomorrow," the droll farmer announces. "Why, how do you know?" you query. Then follows a more or less (often less) safe estimate of how to determine tomorrow's weather. Sometimes the farmer is right. As often he may be wrong. Even paid weather prophets have a high batting average of inaccurate forecasts.

They had weather prophets in Jesus' day. One day He sadly observed:

"When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, it will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" Matt. 16:2, 3.

Young people, are you discerning the signs of the times? The prophecies are heaven's clock for doomed mortals—look

at that clock and you can see what time it is.

This afternoon we are going to take a typical trip through the week's headlines of a city daily. These items are now out of date, but headlines just like them are taking their places today. The Bible forecasts and lessons for our day are certainly not out of date.

I am going to ask ——— to step up now and give us a quick review of news items from the past week—SOCIAL SIGNS.

(NOTE.—Any of the following items will be made more forceful by substituting up-to-the-minute news or headlines from the current paper in your town.)

Social Signs

"DIVORCE Problem Worst in Nation's History." I wish every one of you could read this challenge by the city editor. He points out the fact that in 1890 there were only 61 divorces to every 1,000 marriages. In 1945 there were 310 divorces for every 1,000 marriages, or a total of 502,000 couples divorced in one year. Allowing one child for each couple, that means one and one-half million people ground through the divorce court in one year alone. That is one out of 100 people affected by divorce in just one year!

"Bride 13, Husband 74—and Everyone Is Happy."

"Couple Married on Ice Skates."

"Couple Married in Air."

"Bride for Seventh Time, Still Optimistic."

On and on the lurid story spreads itself across the pages. What did Jesus say? (Read Matt. 24:37, 38, 39.)

"Boy Shoots Father in Argument Over Car." "I thought I might as well end it; dad and I were always quarreling and so I shot him. And I'm not sorry. He was always cruel to mother and me."

"Hunt Fiendish Killer of Two Babies in Hospital."

"Three Teen-age Boys Rob Bank and Slay Bank Teller."

"Jounced Lover Kills 15-year-old Sweetheart and Self."

But why add more? The picture was long ago painted by Hosea. (Read Hosea 4:1, 2, 6.)

"300,000 Now Out on Strike. Scores Injured in Detroit." Is this what the apostle James foresaw in James 5? Yes, and Paul, too, gives a detailed picture of last-day conditions. (Read 2 Tim. 3:1-3.)

"Insanity Increases 400 Per Cent in Eighty Years." And this in spite of medical progress.

"Top Psychiatrist Says Only One Million in U.S. Are Perfectly Normal—those with no anxieties, fears, strong prejudices, or vices." So our modern civilization isn't rushing us into the Promised Land after all, is it?

James 1:5 advises:

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

Signs in Catastrophes

WHEN the disciples asked Jesus, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matt. 24:3). Matthew 24 was His reply. Notice verse 7 especially now. (Read.)

And now, here are the headlines: "Million Acres Flooded. Destruction in Three States."

"Thousands in Four States Are Hit by Flood"

"Floods, Storms, Kill at least 300 in Central States—16,000 Homeless"

"Airline Crash Kills 57. Heaviest Air Crash Toll in U.S."

"Train Plunges Down Embankment Taking 30 to Horrible Death"

"School Bus Struck at R.R. Crossing—34 Children Dead"

"Earthquake Strikes China—10,000 Killed [estimate]"

As the Spirit of God is withdrawn from the earth, Satan's destructive power will become more and more manifest as in the case of Job 1. There will be increasing tragedies on the land, in the air, and on the sea. Havoc will become more and more widespread as time draws to its awful close and eternity breaks upon the world. (Read Ps. 148:8 and Luke 21:11, 25, 26.)

Earthquakes will follow in rapid succession. The last forty years have seen more destructive earthquakes than the one thousand preceding years. The clock of heaven is approaching the midnight hour.

"Fifty Million May Die of Starvation This Winter." Such headlines in the last few months have become commonplace. Christ said famines would follow wars.

Yes, and pestilences, too. Look at these next headlines, "Thirty-Three Diseases May Be Weapons in Next War." Then follows a sickening preview of scientific exploits in the field of bacteria warfare—a description of disease horrors that may be inflicted on an enemy country in the war. "Wars and pestilences," Christ predicted.

Signs in the Religious World

"NINETY-TWO per cent of New York City Children Never Go to Church. 920,000 Out of 1,000,000 Never Attend Church or Sunday School."

"Only 20 Out of 1,000 in Church on Sunday Evening in U.S. Survey Shows." (Read 2 Tim. 3:1, 4, 5.)

Those days are here.

"Broadway Church to Put in Big Carnival. Beauty Contests; Nylon Hose Prizes"

"Come to Prayer Meeting and Enjoy the Chicken Supper"

No wonder Paul forewarned us. (Read 2 Tim. 4:2-4.)

"One Billion Dollars to Churches Last Year; Three Billion for Tobacco; Eight Billion Dollars for Alcohol." "Four Thousand Churches Closed Last Year." "Six Thousand Ball Fans Sit Through Rain to Watch Local Team Win."

Thus today's headlines fulfill the last-day forecast, "Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness."

"Baptists Blast Supreme Court Ruling Upholding Bus Aid to Parochial Schools."

"Freedom Tour to Awaken Nation."

These headlines remind us that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. Also they are omens of the coming clash in which God's people will be considered the "Mordecai" in the gate for refusing to line up with religio-political unions and pressure groups. In that day God alone will be the hope of His people.

Wars and Rumors of Wars

THE most oft-repeated signs of the last days, found in the Word of God, are those telling of increasing strife and bloodshed. Listen:

Read: Luke 21:10, 25, 26, 28.
Matt. 24:7, 21.
Joel 3:9-14.
Rev. 16:12-16.
1 Thess. 5:1-6.

And now, how read the headlines?

"Warns U.S. Needs Military Missions." Secretary of State Marshall tells Congress that we should prepare to go and befriend other nations, sending military personnel to help in training their armies. We are considered the "arsenal of democracy"—the equivalent of living in the momentary expectation of war.

"Train 950,000 Young Men a Year President Urges." What a message to a nation supposed to be at peace! Nearly one million men a year must be trained to fight! Wars and rumors of wars.

"Veils Taken Off Huge Bomber—America's Decisive Weapon in the Event

of War." This plane is able to carry an atomic bomb load to any part of the earth, drop its death missile and return without ever stopping. It can carry 10,000 pounds for 1,000 miles.

"Fearful sights in the heavens . . . Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth."

In 47 years of this century there have been five times as many fatalities in war as in the 1,000 years preceding.

"Day of Horrors for U.S. May Launch Next War." Then follows an appealing description by General Eisenhower of what will probably take place in American cities during the first few hours of the next war. Generals and scientists alike are trying to awaken the public to the fearful possibilities that lie ahead of us as the nations rush on to international suicide and Armageddon.

On and on the trumpet headlines of war peel forth. "Trouble in Palestine; Marshall Law in Force." "Turkey Stiffens Policy with Russia Regarding Demands in Dardanelles." "America's Stake in the Balkan Crisis." "India to Be Granted Full Independence." "U.S. Watching Russia's Moves in India." "Communist Plot in U.S. Exposed." "Alaska to Be Fortified to Prevent Pearl Harbor of Tomorrow." (Read Rev. 11: 18, 15.)

Indeed, as we watch the headlines, we are forced to the conclusion that the end of all things is at hand.

"We are living, we are dwelling,
In a grand and awful time,
In an age on ages telling—
To be living is sublime.
Hark! the waking up of nations,
Gog and Magog to the fray;
Hark! what soundeth? Is creation
Groaning for her latter day?"

Keep your eye on the headlines and your heart on the prophecy. Keep a watch on the eastern horizon, for soon the Son of Righteousness shall arise.

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December 20

Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh

BY DOROTHY FOREMAN BELTZ

Order of Service

SONG: "O Come, All Ye Faithful," No. 105 in *Church Hymnal*.

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:4-17; Matthew 2:1-11.

PRAYER.

MEN'S TRIO: "We Three Kings of Orient."

LEADER'S REMARKS.

SYMPOSIUM: "Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh."

STORY: "To Springvale for Christmas."

DISCUSSION OF PLAN.

SONG: "They Brought Their Gifts," No. 658.

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

1. The entire group might gather first in a Sabbath school room (or just the members of the society, with parents and visitors seated in the church). Following a brief prayer, after all have gathered, a procession could be formed in the church singing the Christmas hymn, "O Come, All Ye Faithful," until everyone is ready to be seated.

2. The responsive reading may have this interesting variation: The leader should choose two appropriate groups who are seated (but stand during the reading) at opposite rear corners of the church. The leader will read the narrative or descriptive passages while the groups respond with the passages of quotation.

LEADER: Luke 2:4-7.

GROUP 1: Luke 2:8, 9.

LEADER: "And the angel of the Lord said unto them,"

GROUP 2: Luke 2:10-12. "Fear not; . . . manger."

LEADER: Luke 2:13.

GROUP 1: Luke 2:14.

LEADER: Luke 2:15. "And it came to pass, . . . another."

GROUP 2: Luke 2:15. "Let us . . . us"

LEADER: Luke 2:16, 17; Matt. 2:1, 2.

"Now . . . saying."

GROUP 1: Matt. 2:2. "Where . . . him."

LEADER: Matt. 2:3-5. "When Herod . . . And they said unto him,"

GROUP 2: Matt. 2:5, 6. "In Bethlehem . . . Israel."

LEADER: Matt. 2:7, 8. "Then Herod . . . and said."

GROUP 1: Matt. 2:8. "Go and search . . . also."

LEADER: Matt. 2:9. "When they . . . departed."

GROUP 2: Matt. 2:9, 10. "and, lo . . . great joy."

ALL: Matt. 2:11.

3. If this plan is carried out, be sure that the groups practice together sufficiently to ensure full, round, expressive voices in real unison and timing.

4. The men's trio should be sung by three men (who may or may not be in costume) representing the three magi. They should sing the first and last stanzas together, but stanzas two, three, and four should each be sung as a solo by each one in turn. Sing the song straight through first; then let each man sing his stanza again to introduce each section of the symposium.

5. Symposium: The following suggestions are intended only as brief indications of what may be brought out by the three speakers of the symposium. Do not let the talks become long and drawn out. Choose speakers, if possible, who can make each a sparkling, clear-cut gem. Since three men do the singing, you might have three girls give these talks. An asterisk (*) indicates some of the opportunities for enlargement on the thought.

The gifts the wise men brought were the rarest and best treasures which their land produced.

a. *Gold*. The royal gold recognized in the infant Jesus the King of kings and Lord of lords. Gold symbolizes to most of us regal state and rule. Presented as a gift to a king, it is a declaration of fealty and devotion to him. Presented to Jesus, it signifies our highest submission to Him in all temporal matters though in the face of persecution and affliction (See *Testimonies*, vol. 4, pp. 88, 89) and at the glad risk of all our "most precious earthly possessions" (See *The Desire of Ages*, p. 65). Gold also represents the faith, tried in the fire, that works by love, love being the actuating principle of all our giving. (See *The Desire of Ages*, p. 280.)*

b. *Frankincense* may be considered the emblem of our worship of Jesus, He being the very God. In the Bible incense is a part of recognition and honoring of divinity. This we call worship. We worship God through prayer, and in both the earthly and heavenly sanctuaries the constant burning of incense represents the prayers of God's people.*

c. *Myrrh* (used anciently for embalming) is the gift that witnessed Jesus' sacrifices. First was when He assumed human form, and second, when He died the atoning death upon the cross. But it also declares a faith in His resurrection and in His offices as Son of God and Son of man forever.

"The offering from the heart that loves, God delights to honor, giving it highest efficiency in service for Him."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 65.

6. The foregoing quotation is also a fitting introduction to this story of loving gifts that made widening circles of love. After the story is read and parallels of meaning between it and the symposium are pointed out, it may be suggested that the Sabbath after Christmas each one bring a cherished Christmas gift (provided each "whispers" first to the donor, as the mother did in the story) to be placed in a gift box for an M.V. Society overseas. Counsel with your church Dorcas and Welfare board regarding the recipients of your box. They have or can obtain authorized names of persons who need help.

To Springvale for Christmas

WHEN President Arthur Tilton of Briarcliff College, who usually used a three-cent stamp, said, "Get me Chicago, please," his secretary, being impressed,

looked for vast educational problems to be in the making, but heard instead:

"Ed? Well, Ed, you and Riek and Grace and I are going out to Springvale for Christmas. . . . Yes, well, I've got a family too, you recall. But mother was seventy last fall and—do you realize that it's eleven years since we've spent Christmas with her? Grace has been every year. She's going this year. And so are we! And take her the best Christmas she ever had, too. Ed, mother was seventy last fall—"

At dinner he asked his wife what would be a suitable gift, a very special gift, for a woman of seventy. And she said, "Oh, your mother. Well, dear, I should think the material for a good wool dress would be right. I'll select it for you, if you like." He said that he would see, and he did not reopen the subject.

In town on December 24 he timed his arrival to allow him an hour in a shop. There he bought a silver-gray silk of a fineness and a lightness which pleased him and at a price which made him feel comfortably guilty. At the shop Ed, who was Edward McKilop Tilton, head of a law firm, picked him up.

"Where's your present?" Arthur demanded.

Edward drew a case from his pocket and showed him a tiny gold wrist-watch of recent manufacture and explained, "I expect you'll think I'm a fool, but you know that mother has told time for fifty years by the kitchen clock, or else the shield of the black-marble parlor angel who never goes—you get the idea?—and so I bought her this."

At the station was Grace, and the boy who carried her bag bore also a parcel of great dimensions.

"Mother already has a feather bed," Arthur reminded her.

"They won't let you take an automobile into the coach," Edward warned her.

"It's a rug for the parlor," Grace told them. "You know it is a parlor—one of the few left in the Mississippi valley. And Mother has had that ingrain down since before we left home—"

"Very nice. And Ricky'd better look sharp," said Edward dryly.

Ricky never did look sharp. About trains he was conspicuously ignorant. He had no occupation. Some said that he "wrote," but no one had ever seen anything that he had written. He lived in town—no one knew how—never accepted a cent from his brothers and was beloved by everyone, most of all his mother.

"Ricky won't bring anything, of course," they said.

But when the train had pulled out without him, observably, a porter came staggering through the cars carrying two great suitcases and following a perturbed man of forty-something who said, "Oh, here you are!" as if it were they who were missing, and then squeezed himself and his suitcases among brothers and sister and rug. "I had only a minute to spare," he said regretfully. "If I'd had two, I could have snatched some flowers. I flung 'em, my card and told 'em to send 'em."

"Why are you taking so many lugs?" they wanted to know.

Ricky focused on the suitcases. "Just necessities," he said. "Just the presents I didn't have room to get in anything else."

"Presents! What?"

"Well," said Ricky, "I'm taking books. I know mother doesn't care much for books, but the bookstore's the only place I can ever get trusted."

They turned over his books: Travel, biography, a new illustrated edition of the Bible—they were willing to admire his selection.

Springvale has eight hundred inhabitants. As they drove down through the principal street at six o'clock that evening of December twenty-four no one paid the slightest attention to them as strangers. Springvale was becoming metropolitan. There was a new church on one corner and a store building wore the sign "Public Library." Even the little hotel had a rubber plant in the window and a strip of cretonne overhead.

The three men believed themselves to be a surprise. But, mindful of the panic to be occasioned by four appetites precipitated into a Springvale menage, Grace had told. Therefore the parlor was lighted and heated; there was in the air of the passage an odor of brown gravy which, no butler's pantry ever having inhibited, seemed a permanent savory. By the happiest chance, Mrs. Tilton had not heard their arrival nor—the parlor angel being in her customary eclipse and the kitchen grandfather's clock wrong—had she begun to look for them. They slipped in, they followed Grace down the hall, they entered upon her in her grayingham apron worn over her best blue serge, and they saw her first in profile, frosting a lemon pie. They all took her in their arms at once.

"Aren't you surprised?" cried Edward in amazement.

"I haven't got over being surprised," she said placidly, "since I first heard you were coming!"

She gazed at them tenderly, with flour on her chin, and then she said, "There's something you won't like. We're going to have Christmas dinner tonight."

Their clamor that they would entirely like that did not change her look.

"Our church couldn't pay the minister this winter," she said, "on account of the new church building. So the minister and his wife are boarding around with the congregation. Tomorrow's their day to come here for a week. It's a hard life and I didn't have the heart to change 'em."

Her family covered their regret as best they could and entered upon her little feast.

"Certainly, my children," she said. "And I'm about to tell you when you may have your Christmas presents. Not tonight. Christmas Eve is no proper time for presents. It's stealing a day outright. And you miss the fun of looking forward all night long. The only proper time for the presents is after breakfast on Christmas morning, after the dishes are washed. The minister and his wife may get here anytime from nine on. That means we've got to get to bed early!"

President Arthur Tilton lay in his bed looking at the muslin curtain on which the streetlamp threw the shadow of a bare elm which he remembered. He thought:

"She's a pioneer spirit. She's the kind who used to go ahead anyway, even if they missed the emigrant party, and who used to cross the plains alone. She's the backbone of the world. I wish I could megaphone that to the students at Briarcliff who think their mothers 'try to boss' them!"

"Don't leave your windows open too far," he heard from the hall. "The wind's changed."

In the light of a snowy morning the home parlor showed the cluttered commonplace of a room whose furniture and ornaments were not believed to be beautiful and most of them known not to be useful. Yet when—after the dishes were washed—these five came to the leather chair which bore the gifts, the moment was intensely satisfactory. This in spite of the sense of haste with which the parcels were attacked—lest the minister and his wife arrive in their midst.

"That's one reason," Mrs. Tilton said, "why I want to leave part of my Christmas for you until I take you to the train tonight. Do you care?"

"I'll leave a present I know about until then too," said Ricky. "May I?"

"Come on now, though," said President

Arthur Tilton. "I want to see mother get her dolls."

It was well that they were not of an age to look for exclamations of delight from Mother. To every gift her reaction was one of startled rebuke.

"Grace! How could you? All that money! Oh, it's beautiful! But the old one would have done me all my life. . . . Why, Edward! you extravagant boy! I never had a watch in my life. You ought not to have gone to all that expense. Arthur Tilton! A silk dress! What a firm piece of goods! I don't know what to say to you—you are all too good to me!"

At Rick's books she stared and said: "My dear boy, you've been reckless. Here are more books than I can ever read—now. Why, that's almost more than they've got to start the new library with. And you spent all that money on me!"

It dampened their complacency, but they understood her concealed delight, and they forgave her an honest regret at their modest prodigality. For, when they opened her gifts for them, they felt the same reluctance to take the hours and hours of patient knitting for which these stood.

"Hush, and hurry," was her comment, "or the minister'll get us!"

The minister and his wife, however, were late. Toward noon they came to the door—a faint little woman and a thin man with beautiful, exhausted eyes. They were both in some light glow of excitement and disregarded Mrs. Tilton's efforts to take their coats.

"No," said the minister's wife. "No. We do beg your pardon. But we find we have to go into the country this morning."

"It is absolutely necessary to us that we go into the country," said this minister earnestly. "This morning," he added impressively.

"Into the country! You're going to be here for dinner."

They were firm. They had to go into the country. They shook hands almost tenderly with these four guests. "We just heard about you in the post office," they said. "Merry Christmas—oh, Merry Christmas! We'll be back around dark."

They left their two shabby suitcases on the hall floor and went away.

"All the clothes they've got between them would hardly fill these up," said Mrs. Tilton mournfully. "Why on earth do you suppose they'd turn their backs on a dinner that smells so good and go off into the country at noon on Christmas Day? They wouldn't do that for another

invitation. Likely somebody's sick," she ended, her puzzled look denying her tone of finality.

"Well, I'm thankful for the call to the country," said Rick shamelessly. "It saved our day."

They had their Christmas dinner, they had their afternoon—safe and happy uninterrupted. Five commonplace-looking folk in a commonplace-looking house, but the eye of love knew that this was not all. In the wide sea of their routine they had found and taken for their own this island day, unforgettable.

"I thought it was going to be a gay day," said Ricky at its close, "but it hasn't. It's been delightful! Mother, shall we give them the rest of their presents now, you and I?"

"Not yet," she told them. "Ricky, I want to whisper to you."

She looked so guilty that they all laughed at her. Ricky was laughing when he came back from that brief privacy. He was still laughing mysteriously when his mother returned from a telephone call.

"What do you think?" she cried. "That was a woman out in the country. She knew the minister and his wife were to be with me today. She wants to know why they've been eating lunch in a cutter out that way. Do you suppose—"

They looked at one another doubtfully, then in abrupt conviction. "They went because they wanted us to have the day to ourselves!"

"Arthur," said Mrs. Tilton with immense determination, "let me whisper to you, too." And from that moment's privacy he also returned smiling, but a bit ruefully.

"Mother ought to be the head of a law firm," said Edward.

"Mother ought to write a book about herself," said Ricky.

"Mother's mother," said Grace, "and that's enough. But you're all so mysterious, except me."

"Grace," said Mrs. Tilton, "you remind me that I want to whisper to you."

Their train left in the late afternoon. Through the white streets they walked to the station, the somber little woman, the buoyant, capable daughter, the three big sons. She drew them to seclusion and gave them four envelopes.

"Here's the rest of my Christmas for you," she said. "I'd rather you'd open it on the train. Now, Ricky, what's yours?"

She was firm to their protests. The train was whistling when Ricky opened up that the rest of his Christmas present for mother was a brand-new daughter,

to be acquired as soon as his new book was off the press. "We're going to marry on the advance royalty," he said importantly, "and live on—!" The rest was lost in the roar of the express.

"Edward," shouted Mrs. Tilton. "Come here. I want to whisper—"

She was obliged to shout it, whatever it was. But Edward heard, and nodded, and kissed her. There was time for her to slip something into Rick's pocket and for the other good-bys, and then, the train drew out. From the platform they saw her brave, calm face against the background of the little town. A mother of "grown children" pathetic! She seemed to them at that moment the one supremely triumphant figure in life.

They opened their envelopes soberly and sat soberly over the contents. The note, scribbled to Grace, explained: Mother wanted to divide up now what she had had for them in her will. She would keep one house and live on the rent from the other one, and "here's all the rest." They laughed at her postscript: "Don't argue. I ought to give the most—I'm the mother."

"And look at her," said Edward solemnly. "As soon as she heard about Ricky, there at the station, she whispered to me that she wanted to send Rick's sweetheart the watch I'd just given her. Took it off her wrist then and there."

"That's what she must have slipped into my pocket," said Ricky.

"She asked me," he said, "if I minded if she gave those books to the new Springvale public library."

"She asked me," said Grace, "if I cared if she gave the new rug to the new church that can't pay its minister."

President Arthur Tilton shouted with laughter.

"When we heard where the minister and his wife ate their Christmas dinner," he said, "she whispered to ask me whether she might give the silk dress to her when they get back tonight."

All this they knew by the time the train reached the crossing where they could look back on Springvale. On the slopes of the hill lay the little cemetery, and Ricky said:

"And she told me that if my flowers got there before dark, she'd take them up to the cemetery for Christmas for Father. By night she won't have even a flower left to tell her we've been there."

"Not even the left-over food," said Grace, "and yet I think—"

"So do I," her brothers said.

—Adapted from ZONA GALE.

Senior and Junior

December 27

The Gospel Advance in the Middle East

BY G. ARTHUR KEOUGH

Order of Service

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalms 92.

SONG: "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations," No. 166 in *Gospel Melodies*, or No. 80 in *M.V. Songs*.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERTORY.

LEADER'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS:

"Heaven's Interest in the Middle East."

BIBLE-MAP QUIZ: "The Middle East: Ancient and Modern."

REPORT: "Missionary Volunteers in the Middle East."

TALK: "Building a College in Hiram's Land."

CHORUS: "Dare to Be a Daniel," No. 48 in *M.V. Songs*.

TALK: "Faithfulness in the Land of the Pharaohs."

STORY: "A Visit to Devil Worshipers."

CLOSING SONG: "Lead On, O King Eternal," No. 162 in *Gospel Melodies*.

BENEDICTION.

Heaven's Interest in the Middle East

THE mission field that is the subject of our program comprises what are generally thought of as the lands of the Bible. The modern names of these countries are: Egypt, Northern Sudan, Arabia, Palestine, Trans-Jordan, Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Turkey. The population of this area is 80,000,000 and constitutes a mighty challenge to Missionary Volunteers who have as their aim "The Advent message to all the world in this generation."

Have you ever thought that Jesus, who walked the dusty roads of Palestine, and experienced how hard it is to make disciples, must look down from heaven with special interest as we in our day tramp the same hills and dales to announce the Second Advent? Have you ever thought Elijah must be another watcher in heaven who would like to help us bring the people back to the worship of the true God, "for the hour of His judgment is come"? And of course Moses is there, interested in those who are leaders today, leading men and women out of the spiritual bondage of Egypt into the promised land. Three watchers in heaven, at least three, follow with interest the progress of the work in the Middle East Union Mission, and they must take an interest in such a program as this, if by any means some Missionary Volunteers

will take it upon themselves to support this needy field by their prayers, their offerings, and their life service.

Adventists have conducted missionary work in various centers of the Middle East for a number of years. Pioneers such as W. K. Ising, G. Keough, F. F. Oster, and others have spent a lifetime of service in these parts. Yet the work has grown slowly. However, through the generosity of our members throughout the world we have been able recently to expand our educational program, establish a new hospital, and build churches, besides adding materially to our working force, so that the prospects are good for substantial gospel advance in the near future.

It is of interest to note that much of the progress that has been made in recent years in the Middle East is largely due to the consecration, zeal, and initiative of our young people. As a result of the training school that was established in Beirut in 1939, many youth have given their lives for Christian service. One young man gave himself to the work of the ministry, and the Lord has abundantly blessed him. He has been instrumental in bringing over fifty members into the church and is now ordained. Another young man has given equal evidence of his call to the ministry and will soon be ordained. A third young man has gone into the medical work and carried heavy responsibilities in our Institute of Massage in Jerusalem. Others have gone into our school as teachers, and by their lives and teaching have influenced many to give their lives to Jesus. In Mosul and other parts of the Middle East Union there has been a decided youth-for-youth movement. In fact, Missionary Volunteers here are gladly taking up the challenge of the hour as they join the Advent youth everywhere in their M.V. aim, motto, and pledge.

The Middle East: Ancient and Modern

(NOTE: We suggest that a large map of the Middle East be placed where all can see it. The leader, or another person designated by him, asks the congregation the questions and gives opportunity for any to answer. Another person points out on the map the country referred to in Scripture and adds the comment in the notes of what is being done today in these countries.)

QUESTION 1. What two places mentioned in Acts 2:8-11 are not part of the Middle East Union Mission territory?

COMMENT: Rome and Crete; but the Middle East Union was apparently very

well represented at Pentecost. Our membership today is 1,089, and we have 29 churches. Our population over an area almost as large as North America is 80,000,000. How do these figures compare with the figures of your conference or union?

QUESTION 2. From the wood of which country did King Solomon make a chariot?

COMMENT: Song of Solomon 3:9. There are not many cedars left in Lebanon today, either for beauty or for articles of wood; but there are many who, by the grace of God, will become "trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord." On the foothills of the Lebanon range we have a flourishing junior college, three elementary schools, two churches, and seven Sabbath schools.

QUESTION 3. Immediately after the Flood into the plain of what land did the inhabitants of the earth go?

COMMENT: Gen. 11:2. The plain of Shinar is called Iraq today. In the country's capital, Bagdad, we have a recently established hospital. To the south, in Basra, there is a growing company of believers; and in the north, close to the site of ancient Nineveh, there is a church with a school and a prosperous society of Missionary Volunteers.

QUESTION 4. From what country did the judge of Israel come who had thirty sons who rode on thirty ass colts?

COMMENT: Judges 10:3, 4. Trans-Jordan is a kingdom predominantly Moslem today, yet here we have two church schools, and members who hold up the torch of truth.

QUESTION 5. The inhabitants of which country did Moses say would be filled with sorrow upon hearing of the news of the crossing of the Red Sea?

COMMENT: Ex. 15:14. Palestine has an Institute of Massage in Jerusalem and a growing church to witness to the Advent message. We wish there could be more in that still troubled land where Jesus lived and died for us.

QUESTION 6. Throughout the whole of which country did Jesus' fame spread as He preached and worked miracles in Galilee?

COMMENT: Matt. 4:24. There have been many baptisms recently in Syria, but there is still much to be done in this ancient land whose capital is Damascus.

QUESTION 7. In Daniel's vision of a two-horned ram, what two kings were represented by the horns?

COMMENT: Dan. 8: 3, 20. Modern Iran is a vast country where Elder Charles

Crider and his corps of workers seek to do medical, educational, and evangelistic work. The mission's temporal resources are far from being adequate to the crying needs.

QUESTION 8. Into what country did Jesus have to flee as a child?

COMMENT: Matt. 2:13. Our mission work in Egypt leads all the countries of the Middle East. We have started a training school in Fayum which gives promise of training a goodly number of young people who will carry to the Arab world "the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour."

QUESTION 9. From what countries will God call out a remnant in the last days?

COMMENT: Isa. 11:11. God makes special mention of lands in the Middle East from which He will call out a remnant. This gives us courage to go forward in spite of difficult and hardships.

Missionary Volunteers in the Middle East

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER work in the Middle East is still in its infancy, but with the recent setting up of a Missionary Volunteer department in the union and the ever-present zeal of the young people themselves the prospects are bright for steady growth and expansion.

In the spring of this year there was held at our training school in Beirut what proved to be the largest investiture service ever witnessed by our people in the Middle East. Elder S. W. Johnson, who has been leading out in young people's work this last year and who was the main driving force behind the investiture service, wrote of the occasion as follows:

"High on the side of the Lebanon mountains overlooking the beautiful Mediterranean Sea was the setting, on May 17, for the investiture service of the M.V. Society of Middle East College. Along the coast within our vision lay the routes of travel of the apostle Paul and his colaborers. Quite as inspiring as the scene before us was the large group of students who were to receive the insignia of one or more of the four Progressive Classes. Though Progressive Class work has been carried on for some years at Middle East College, at no time in the past has it been pursued on such a large scale. It was my unequalled privilege on this occasion to invest 20 Friends, 19 Companions, 8 Comrades, and 12 Master Comrades, a total of 59, the largest number ever invested at one time in the Middle East Union. This means that 68 per cent of the enrollment of the

college was invested at one time! This addition of 12 more Master Comrades means that 29 per cent of the college enrollment are Master Comrades. Quite an enviable record, isn't it?"

Elder Johnson also reported that the Master Comrades have undertaken to earn at least five new M.V. honors every year. Two members have fifty honors each. This is an indication of the zeal with which the young people of the Middle East have taken up Progressive Class work, and their enthusiasm is an inspiration to all of us.

G. A. KEOUGH.

Building a College in Hiram's Land

"AND Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, . . . Behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the Lord my God. . . . Now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon. . . . And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, I have considered the things which thou sentest to me for: and I will do all thy desire. . . . My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea." 1 Kings 5:2-9.

In the mountains of Lebanon about fifty miles north of Hiram's old capital, Tyre, is being built another "house unto the name of the Lord." New buildings of beautiful light-red-and-yellow dressed stone are under construction for Middle East College on a site overlooking the Mediterranean Sea and the modern capital of Lebanon, Beirut. As the king of the Lebanons assisted in Solomon's building project, so the modern president of Lebanon honored the present-day project.

His Excellency, Sheikh Bishara El-Khoury, president of the Lebanese Republic, officiated at the laying of the cornerstone for the men's dormitory. He was accompanied by the minister of foreign affairs, several high army officers including the chief of staff, the governor of the district, the mayor of Beirut, and a number of other officials. Mr. Bertel Kuniholm, acting United States minister and charge d'affaires of the American Legation, accompanied by the cultural, military, and naval attaches, was present. Dr. Bayard Dodge, president of the American University of Beirut, Dr. W. G. Greenslade, president of the Near East School of Theology, representatives from the American Mission and other institutions were among the guests. Besides the crowd of spectators, the invited guests numbered fifty.

Elders E. L. Branson, superintendent of the Middle East Union, and F. E. J. Harder, president of Middle East College, greeted the guests as they arrived. When the president came they escorted him, followed by his ministers and military

staff, from his limousine to the reception tent. On the way the company stood at attention while the state band played the Lebanese national anthem and then continued past the honor guard composed of two infantry companies. After a brief visit, during which the president asked a number of questions regarding the school, he was taken on a tour of inspection. Following this, in the reception tent President Harder gave a short address regarding the objectives of the college and the principles of Seventh-day Adventist education. He then presented the Lebanese president with a silver trowel which had been prepared with a souvenir inscription. After refreshments were served to the guests the company proceeded to the corner where the president laid the stone. The ceremony was closed by Elder E. L. Branson, who offered a prayer of supplication for God's blessing upon the nation and its leaders, and for guidance in the work of the college.

This ceremony turned the attention of the public toward this rapidly developing institution. Although this is but its ninth year of operation, many souls have already been won to Christ by its graduates. Four years of college work are being offered for the first time this year. In these countries, where sound education is at a premium, our schools are proving to be the most effective evangelizing agencies. The recognition of this fact by the Middle East Union Mission Committee and by the General Conference Committee in appropriating the funds so liberally given by our mission-minded churches has resulted in the building of this beautiful institution. Multitudes of redeemed souls will be eternal monuments to the blessedness of this investment.

The Cause of God is coming into prominence such as it has not hitherto enjoyed in the Middle East. Opportunities for service are more numerous than the men available to take advantage of them. The needs are greater than the means to fill them. Surely the Lord has "set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people, which shall he left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea."

F. E. J. HARDER.

Faithfulness in the Land of the Pharaohs

Not long ago an evangelistic series was being conducted in Heliopolis, a suburb of Cairo. The Missionary Volun-

teer society was taking an active part in making these meetings a success. Among the many helpful things they were doing was the weekly distribution of the announcements.

One week, at the appointed time for distribution of the handbills, the weather was so hot that one of the young women decided that she was feeling too tired to give out the handbills in her territory. After all, what difference would one week make? As she thought it over, however, she decided to endure the heat and fatigue, for it might be that some soul would be influenced to attend the meetings if she fulfilled her duty as a faithful Missionary Volunteer. Her hard work was rewarded, for just as she had hoped, one of the handbills given out that day resulted in a father and his two oldest daughters finding their way to the hall the next Sunday evening. They listened very attentively to a most strange teaching, they thought, concerning the true Sabbath of the Lord. This was a new day in their lives; and by the end of the series of meetings, two months later, they were fully persuaded of the wonderful truths so clearly emphasized in the Bible.

Satan is never idle, and it was not long before strong and very deceptive temptations began to come to this family. Some few months passed, and then one day a very fine young man, who was the manager of a large firm and who had considerable wealth, came to the father and asked for the hand of the oldest daughter. This was a real opportunity for this girl under ordinary circumstances, and one that would make a young lady in Egypt feel that she had been born under a "lucky charm." The family thought that it would be perfect to have this plan carried through—that is, all but the young woman in question. She was convinced that she would not have a happy home unless both were united in her new-found hope. Her friends thought her foolish, certain of her relatives threatened her, other tried to bribe her, but she held firm to her conviction. This was a real victory, and only those who have lived in the Orient know what a struggle like this involves. Now she and her sister are attending our Middle East College, and they hope to be a help to other young people in remaining firm to principle, in spite of severe test.

About this same time her father met a very difficult decision of Sabbathkeeping. For a number of years he had held a very responsible position in one of the important offices of the government. He

was firmly convinced that his superiors would never hear of his taking the Sabbath off, especially if they knew that it was for some religious conviction. It was just never done in Egypt; and, moreover, it was not even a Christian government. Only a few more years of service and he would be on pension, maybe he should continue working until that time. After all, God did not expect a man to make his family suffer and surely God was not as particular as all that! Then the thought came to him that he would go to the office early Sabbath mornings and outline the work of his men for the day, and then he could still be in time for church service. This, he reasoned, seemed like an excellent compromise—a way to keep his job and also a way to keep the Sabbath! He made it a matter of prayer, and the more he studied and prayed the more convinced he became that he must keep the Sabbath as the Lord has outlined in the Scriptures. This meant that he must ask to be free on Sabbaths from his work in the office, and he felt sure that his superiors would waste no time in telling him that his services were no longer needed. But no! His request was granted! And the director asked our brother why he had not made known his desires sooner. It seemed a miracle, and certainly it was the guidance and help of the Lord that found a way through the seemingly impossible.

Today this whole family—the father, mother, two sons, and three daughters—are bound together in the hope of this glorious Advent message. All five of the young people are in our schools and are training themselves to take an active part in the finishing of the work. And remember, all this is the result of a young woman's leaving one announcement at the home of a stranger. What a reward and what a lesson! There is a place for each of us in fulfilling the great commission of our Saviour. Yes, Missionary Volunteers, your fellow youth in Egypt are doing their utmost to make our aim a reality. NEAL C. WILSON.

A Visit to Devil Worshipers

Of all places for an outing for Missionary Volunteers, surely the young people of the Mosul, Iraq, church must have chosen the strangest when they spent the day in the village of the Yeze-dis.

While it is true that the majority of the people in these Bible lands are Mohammedans, yet over in Iraq, the home

of Abraham, are to be found the devil worshipers still living in their own villages, much as they have for centuries. Not much is known of these people. They never use the name of their deity, shaitan, for they fear that should his name be pronounced some terrible calamity will befall them. To avoid this, they believe that they must kill the one who is so bold as to do so, even though it should be a visitor and stranger to their villages.

This superstition is so strong that these people are afraid to use a word with the *sh* sound in it. Strangers coming into their midst must be very careful, yet few realize how serious a matter it is. They are not easy to engage in conversation, and most of the time they avoid contact with strangers. They all are armed with knives which are capable of inflicting serious injury.

The young people on this outing were happy and tried to be friendly with the villagers. Quite a group gathered near the source of the water supply, and it was not long before they were chatting together, the young people explaining the nature of the Missionary Volunteer work, and the villagers in their turn told of their village life.

This seemed to be just the kind of outing that our young people enjoy the most, for they are the most active soul winners to be found anywhere. But as the group continued talking, suddenly there was a marked change.

At first there was a deadly calm, and then the villagers began fingering those knives which were carried at such a handy angle in their belts. Our young people could not understand the change, but as the group became more excited, they discovered the cause of the trouble. One of our girls had been talking with a village girl, and thinking to compliment her, had used the Arabic word for clever. This word, it turned out, sounded to the devil worshipers like the word *shaitan*. It would be bad enough to use that name in their midst, but to think that one of their own girls had been called *shaitan* was beyond comprehension.

The group grew into an angry crowd, threatening and saying that the girl who had used the word should be killed to appease the evil one. An angry crowd is something to fear, but a frenzied crowd of devil worshipers, bent on killing a young Missionary Volunteer was something more serious than those young people had ever encountered. So it was

with fear in their hearts that they tried their best to explain that no offense was intended. But the more they protested their friendliness, the louder and more menacing grew the crowd, until it seemed that something tragic was sure to take place.

During this time the leader of the Adventist youth, Brother Ghanim Fargo, had been busy on an errand, and when he returned and saw the disturbance, he hurried to join in the defense of the young girl. His appearance had a most amazing effect upon the crowd, for Ghanim is a Master Comrade, and he was dressed in his full uniform, with all the honor badges prominently displayed.

This was a sight that the devil worshippers had never before witnessed. They

were used to the display of authority on the part of government officials and police officers, but it seemed to them that this individual was much higher in rank, to judge by all his decorations. After a few words from him the angry crowd began to disperse, and before the day ended, good feelings were restored.

But the young people had learned two valuable lessons. One was to be careful not to offend other people, even though their prejudices might seem to be ungrounded. The other was that the uniform and honor badges of the Missionary Volunteer Master Comrades mean something, even in the village of the devil worshippers. It was an outing that all will remember for the rest of their lives.

ARDICE BRANSON.

about their homes knowing that this would help them prepare for wider service in foreign mission fields.

"Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 195.

"Every Christian is to be a missionary."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 104.

"Every follower of Jesus has a work to do as a missionary for Christ, in the family, in the neighborhood, in the town or city where he lives. All who are consecrated to God are channels of light."—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 632.

"It is the duty of God's children to be missionaries for Him, to become acquainted with those who need help."—*Ibid.*, vol. 4, p. 69.

"The Lord calls for strong, devoted, self-sacrificing young men and women, who will press to the front, and who, after a short time spent in school, will go forth prepared to give the message to the world."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 549.

"Missionaries for God are wanted, faithful men and women who will not shirk responsibility. . . . We should not hold ourselves aloof from our fellow men, but come close to them; for their souls are as precious as our own."—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 73.

"There is a great dearth of laborers to go forth into missionary fields, endowed with the true missionary spirit, ready to shed forth the light of truth amid the moral darkness of the world."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 201.

"True education is missionary training. Every son and daughter of God is called to be a missionary; we are called to the service of God and our fellow men; and to fit us for this service should be the object of our education."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 395.

"Missionaries are wanted everywhere."—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 389.

I Want to Be a Missionary, Too (Dialogue)

Go with me if you will to a camp meeting where we find many Juniors and older young people camping with their parents in a beautiful little park near a small city. If you listen to what is being said by a group of Juniors who are on their way to the Young People's tent for an early morning meeting, you may hear the following conversation:

JEAN: It was so hard for me to wake up this morning when the rising bell sounded. I was so afraid last night when I went to sleep that I would be late for meeting this morning.

BARBARA: My mother woke me up just a few minutes before the bell so I would have a little extra time to study my



JUNIOR MEETINGS

December 6

I Want to Be a Foreign Missionary

BY MABLE TAYLOR

Order of Service

OPENING SONG: "Missionary Volunteers," No. 83 in *M.V. Songs*.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 28:19, 20 and quotations from Spirit of prophecy.

SENTENCE PRAYERS BY SEVERAL JUNIORS. MISSIONARY REPORTS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

OFFERING FOR MISSIONS.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Anywhere With Jesus," No. 535 in *Christ in Song*.

LEADER'S REMARKS.

DIALOGUE: "I Want to Be a Missionary Too."

EXERCISE: "Ten reasons Why I Want to Be a Foreign Missionary."

MUSICAL READING: "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go," No. 566.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

"A veteran missionary who was at home on his first furlough after fifty years of service, was invited to take the pastorate of a rich city church. He was told of the splendid opportunities he would have to advance the cause of missions by interesting men of means to give liberally, but he felt that God wanted him in the mission field.

"Later the missionary was invited to become the corresponding secretary of his foreign mission board, but still he felt that God wanted him where he was; and that settled it. In like manner he refused an appointment by President Ar-

thur as United States minister to Persia. Specious arguments favoring each of these appointments could easily have been found, but he had the grace not to look for them."—*The Lighted Way*, pp. 56, 57. He wanted to continue with his heaven-appointed mission in foreign fields.

God is calling each of you today to prepare for such a place as this man filled. "The greatest work in any generation is to give God's message to the people of that generation. So the most important work in these last days is to give to the world the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour. This is the work that should fire the zeal and kindle the enthusiasm of every young man and young woman who has accepted the advent message. It should be our ambition to have a part in the closing work of the gospel. Seek not for position or power, but for God's grace, that you may be a winner of many souls."—*Ibid.*, p. 59.

A few quotations from the Spirit of prophecy may be handed out to various Juniors to be read at the time of the Scripture reading. A few suggestions are given.

Immediately following the reading of the poem "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go" the leader may ask those who would someday like to go as foreign missionaries to hold up their hand. Then all may be asked to bow their heads while the leader or someone before designated offers a prayer of dedication. Those who have held up their hands may form a Junior Foreign Mission Band. Some responsible person could be chosen as the sponsor of the band. Meetings could be held regularly, and much help and encouragement could be derived from such an organization. These Juniors may be encouraged to do missionary work in and

Morning Watch text before coming to meeting. It is found in Matthew 28:19, 20, and I learned in my eighth-grade Bible class last year that it is called the gospel commission.

FRANCES: What does the gospel commission mean, Barbara?

BARBARA: You see, Frances, the statements in this morning's Morning Watch verses are very plain, for they say, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." When it says "Ye" I believe that means me. I do want to be a missionary sometime.

JEAN: How could you go to all the world, Barbara?

BARBARA: Well, I'm not sure how I could go to all the world, but I would like to go to Africa someday to tell those people that Jesus is coming soon and help them to be ready to meet Him. I have been reading some of our Junior Reading Course books about Africa, and I think it would be such an interesting place in which to work. My, how I would like to win some souls for Jesus.

JEAN: It would be thrilling just to go across the waters, wouldn't it?

FRANCES: Yes, but that is not the reason why missionaries go to foreign fields. I heard a minister who had just returned from China say that they hardly had enough food to eat and that they lost everything they had during the war, but that they were so thankful that God spared their lives. Barbara, I would like to go, too, because I believe those verses include me also.

BARBARA: Certainly, you are included, and it is our duty and responsibility to do everything we can wherever we are to help others to be ready for Jesus' soon coming.

JEAN: There is the meeting tent, and there is already a group of people there, and would you listen to that song they are singing?

"There's a call comes ringing o'er the restless wave,
'Send the light! Send the light!'"

BARBARA: I am sure that means the gospel light, and I do want to help carry it to Africa or to some other place—just wherever God calls me to do that work.

JEAN: I would like to talk with you girls some more about this subject after this meeting, if we can get together for a while, but we must be quiet now, for it is time to go into the tent and sit down.

FRANCES: Yes, let's get together and talk some more about this gospel commission and what it means to each one of us and what we should do about it.

BARBARA: Yes, let's do that. I'm sure we shall enjoy it. SHHH!

(All three girls are seated.)

Ten Reasons Why I Want to Be a Foreign Missionary

1. In order to be a missionary I must first know God and not just know about God.
2. In order to be a missionary I must know this message that we hold so dear.
3. In order to be a missionary I must be consecrated to my work.
4. In order to be a missionary I must have good health.
5. In order to be a missionary I must be intelligent.
6. In order to be a missionary I must be able to adapt myself to new and different surroundings and people.
7. In order to be a missionary I must be practical.
8. In order to be a missionary I must be able to manage my money.
9. In order to be a missionary I must be able to get along with people and be able to do teamwork.
10. In order to be a missionary I must be able to stick to my job.

I want to be everything that these ten rules say and imply, and by so doing, I am sure that I shall be a successful foreign missionary. Those who may have to work with me will depend upon me, and God expects me to fill the place to which He may call me.



December 13

Juniors Interpret the Headlines

BY FORDYCE W. DETAMORE

Order of Service

SONG: "Send the Light," No. 178 in *Gospel in Song*.

SENTENCE PRAYERS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

OFFERING.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

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

BROADCAST RADIO PROGRAM: "2,000-Year-Old News Bulletins."

CLOSING PRAYER.

BENEDICTION.

Note to Leader

This has been drawn up in the form of a radio program. If possible, try to arrange a real or make-believe microphone

before which the Juniors can stand to give their "broadcast" talks. After opening exercises are out of the way, let the program proceed as though going on the air.

2000-Year-Old News Bulletins

STATION ANNOUNCER: This is station LOVE bringing you the latest news flashes. Stand by for the special broadcast, Prophecy in the News, which follows these news flashes.

NEWSBROADCASTER: And now, ladies and gentlemen—and Juniors, your sponsor brings you the latest news headlines: "Boy Eleven Imitating Movie Gangland Slays Buddy." A boy eleven years of age this morning, in typical gangland style accidentally shot his playmate with a .22 rifle which he thought was empty. The boy explained to officers that they were playing wild west desperados as they had seen in the movies.

"Mother Deserts Three-Month-old Baby." A baby was found this morning on the steps of the Brown home. A note was left which read, "You can take better care of him than I can. Don't try to trace me, for I am leaving town."

"Tornado Strikes Western Oklahoma." A storm swept down on western Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle last night, destroying 3,000 homes and taking the lives of at least fifty. This is the fourth severe storm to strike the nation within a week.

"Divorce Worst in History." The Bar Association of Chattanooga, Tennessee, has brought out a special report on the national divorce situation. There were 502,000 couples divorced last year. That is one out of three marriages. In 1890 there were only 61 divorces for every 1,000 marriages. Now the rate is 310 divorces for every 1,000 marriages.

"Earthquake in California Claims 10,000 Lives." A severe earthquake struck with sudden death last night the town of Pinto claiming the lives of at least 10,000. The whole town was demolished. Eyewitnesses stated that mountains seemed to dance lightly while buildings crashed. Fires which followed brought still greater suffering to the inhabitants of the town. Severe cold and exposure greatly increased the fatalities.

"Man in California Claims to Be Christ." Yesterday a man appeared in Los Angeles claiming to be Christ returned. While he did not come down from the clouds of the sky, spectators testify that the man does resemble the popular paintings of the Christ. It is said that thousands are flocking to him and that hundreds have been healed.

"Famine Rages in Europe and Orient." It is officially reported that upwards of fifty million may perish of hunger this winter in Europe and the Orient unless immediate relief can be obtained. The grain shortage in other parts of the world make relief seem almost beyond hope. A special council is being called to study the international famine threat.

"Flying Bullet' Breaks All Speed Records." The daring Pilot Smith yesterday afternoon flew his plane at the unprecedented speed of nearly 700 miles per hour. It is officially stated that soon this type of plane will be sufficiently perfected as to be able to travel at speeds up to 1500 m.p.h.

"Scientist Discovers Thirty-Million-Year-Old Relics in Mexico." A learned scientist announces his unearthing of remarkable ape-man specimens dating back nearly 30 million years. He states there is undeniable evidence that these are relics of the missing links which tie man and the chimpanzee into one interlinking lineage.

"Broadway Church to Hold Carnival." Of great interest is the big carnival to be held on the grounds of Broadway Church next Friday and Saturday. Proceeds are to go toward the building of the new church swimming pool and dance hall. The pastor states that one of the most popular entertainment troupes in the country has been engaged for the evening entertainment. The beauty contest will be one of the main attractions.

"Six Thousand See Ball Game in Rain." Six thousand football fans last night mocked the weather by sitting out the big ball game between the home and the visiting high school teams. Drenched, but gay, thousands stayed till the last.

"Thirty-Three Diseases to Help Fight Next War." General Eisenhower yesterday in his news conference graphically described the horrors of next world war, due not to the use merely of atomic weapons, but the use of germ warfare. The war department has now perfected methods of scattering germs in alien territory so that a whole nation may suddenly be nearly paralyzed. Thirty-three different types of diseases are now considered possible weapons in the event of war with another nation.

"War Said Inevitable." Secretary Smith made the flat assertion last night in his nation-wide address that war within the very next few years or perhaps months is inevitable.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the news till now.

THEME SONG (To be sung by one or more Juniors): "Lift Up the Trumpet."

"Lift up the trumpet, and loud let it ring;
Jesus is coming again!
Cheer up, ye pilgrims, be joyful and sing;
Jesus is coming again!"

"Coming again, coming again,
Jesus is coming again!"

STATION ANNOUNCER: And now, station LOVE takes pleasure in bringing you the special broadcast Prophecy in the News by (supply Junior's name).

BROADCASTER: Good morning, listeners. We are happy to be with you again this morning for our weekly round-up of the news in the light of Bible prophecy. But first, let us take a moment for prayer. I am glad to have — here with me in the studio, and he will lead us in prayer. Shall we bow our heads.

(Prayer)

BROADCASTER: And now a word before we go further in our program. We want to invite all you Juniors listening in to enroll in the Voice of Prophecy Junior Bible Correspondence Course of twenty-four lessons, fully illustrated and printed in twelve colors—a course every Junior should take. Write to the Voice of Prophecy, Box 55, Los Angeles, California. Thank you!

Certainly today, friends, as we listen to the news, we are reminded that we are indeed living in a grand and awful time.

SONG: "To Be Living Is Sublime," one stanza.

BROADCASTER: This morning as we listen to the news, our minds are carried back to the words of the Master and His messengers nearly two thousand years ago.

One day the disciples came to Him "saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matt. 24:3.

Jesus' reply is the great signs-of-the-times chapter of the Bible—Matthew 24. Not only this chapter but many other passages of the Bible tell us what conditions would be like in the last days. In the light of those two-thousand-year-old news forecasts, let us review today's news—our world today as described by Jesus and His apostles and prophets of yesterday:

"Boy Eleven Imitating Movie Gangland Slays Buddy." Here is the sad story of this little fellow who unintentionally but fatally shot his pal. He told the police he was imitating his favorite movie hero. How this carries our minds to the prophecy of Hosea. (Read Hosea 4:1, 2, 6.)

Today thousands of children are suffering because their parents have forgotten God.

"Mother' Deserts Three-Month-Old Baby." You have heard this tragic story of a deserted child. How much like what Paul foretold. (Read 2 Tim. 3:1-3.)

What a list of the sins of the last days! "Tornado Strikes Western Oklahoma and Panhandle." In the last few hours thousands have been left homeless by angry winds and waters. As David said,

"Fire, and hail; snow, and vapours;
stormy wind fulfilling His word." Ps. 148:8.

Yes, and besides, let us read what Jesus foretold in Luke 21:25, 26.

Certainly we have reached that age that Jesus foretold, when the earth would be filled with storms and catastrophes.

As the Spirit of God is withdrawn, more and more havoc will be wreaked on man by his enemy Satan. Satan's power will become more manifest as God's restraining power is withdrawn.

"Earthquake in China Claims 10,000 Lives." Just as Jesus foretold:

"And there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Matt. 24:7.

There have been more destructive earthquakes in the last forty years than in the preceding one thousand years. Surely the end must be near.

"California Man Claims to Be Christ." Often today false prophets and false Christs appear, but we need not be deceived; Christ foretold these very deceptions. (Read Matt. 24:23-26.)

We can know when Jesus really returns for Jesus says:

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24:27.

And John adds:

"Behold, He cometh with clouds: and every eye shall see Him." Rev. 1:7.

"Famines Rage in Europe and Asia." Isn't that exactly what Christ foretold would follow the increasing wars of the last days? Let me read it to you again. (Read Matt. 24:7.)

"Flying Bullet' Breaks All Speed Records." We are certainly living in a day of knowledge as far as inventions are concerned, and also the world indeed is running to and fro, just as the angel told Daniel. (Read Dan. 12:4.)

"6,000 See Ball Game in Rain."

"Broadway Church to Hold Big Carnival and Beauty Contest."

What do these headlines make you think of? (2 Tim. 3:1, 4, 5.)

We have certainly reached a pleasure-mad age. Even many of the leading churches have sold out to pleasures and questionable entertainment to attract the crowds. No wonder John pled as he did. (Read 1 John 2:14-18.)

Indeed we have reached the "last time."

"Thirty-Three Diseases to Help Fight Next War." Oh, what news! Did not the Master describe "pestilences" as accompanying the warfare of the last days? (Read Matt. 24:7 and Luke 21:11.)

"War Said Inevitable." People no longer ask, "Will war come again?" but, "When will the next war start?" (Read Joel 3:9-14, and also what Jesus said in Luke 21:10, 11, 28.)

Surely the day of Jesus' coming is nigh at hand according to all the signs in God's Word. The question we must ask ourselves today is, "Am I ready?" for the coming King is at the door.

SONG: "At the Door."

CLOSING PRAYER.

STATION ANNOUNCER: This brings to a close another broadcast of Prophecy in the News. Tune in again next week.

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December 20

Spreading Christmas Cheer

BY J. O. IVERSEN

Order of Service

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

SENTENCE PRAYERS.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:34-40.

OFFERING.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

SONG: (A theme song might be substituted.)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS.

STORY: "Georgie Graham's Christmas."

ACROSTIC: "Christmas."

SYMPOSIUM: "How I Can Spread Cheer at Christmas Time."

I. They're Fun to Make.

II. Throwing Boomerangs.

III. Why They Thought It Was a Good Idea.

RESPONSE: (Give Juniors opportunity to add any ideas or tell of similar experiences of their own.)

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

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Superintendents

One very interesting and effective way in which Junior M.V.'s can do missionary work is by spreading cheer at Christmas time. Not only are many people made happy because of these acts of kindness, but also the Juniors who spread the cheer

are blessed. The program for today suggests various things Juniors can do during the Christmas season to spread good cheer and make a lot of people happy in so doing.

The acrostic poem "Christmas" may be given by a group of young Juniors, or it may be given by just one. After the different parts have been given, it would be interesting and helpful to have various Juniors tell of little experiences they have had at the Christmas season in helping others who aren't as well off as we might be in becoming happy. It would also be helpful here in the program to organize for spreading cheer.

The superintendent might add other features such as a quiz, poem, or any other item of this nature to help make the program interesting.

Christmas

C is for Christ—like every day of the year.

H is for help—joyful with cheer.

R is for radiant—your face to behold,

In giving to others more than twofold.

S is for Saviour who gave us His all.

T is for trust in the dear Master's call.

M is for more than gifts we can bear.

A is for all we can possibly share.

S is for smiles to drown every care.

Georgie Graham's Christmas

The stories told of Christmas cheer never grow old to any of us, and especially stories of unselfishness and love. For instance, the story about Georgie Graham. Have you heard of Georgie Graham? If not, we want you to meet him so that you may share with him the true spirit of Christmas.

Georgie Graham had no father—he had died just a year before our story begins—so Georgie's mother had to work to support her children. Georgie was ten, the eldest of his brothers and sisters, and so felt that he must help his mother in supporting the family. One winter morning when Georgie appeared in answer to our advertisement for an office boy, Dr. Beattie looked surprised as he laid his hand on Georgie's head and said: "You're a little shaver to do what I want done. Can you be trusted to go about the city to collect bills, or be left here in the office during my absence?"

Georgie assured the doctor that he would try his very best to please him. So Georgie spent the few weeks remaining before Christmas running errands for Dr. Beattie. With Dr. Beattie's permission he saved the carfare he usually used every day to buy the lovely kid mittens with the fur tops for his mother for Christmas. Her hands did get so cold when she walked to work. Georgie loved his mother and wanted her to have much the same care that his father had given her when he lived.

Dr. Beattie had a great deal of admiration for Georgie's unselfish devotion to his mother and for his eagerness and willingness to work hard for his family.

The two weeks before Christmas passed quickly, and the day before Christmas Georgie had permission to stop on his way uptown to purchase the longed-for mittens. His face was radiant as he brought them back to the office. All day the package lay on the desk, and at evening he carried it home inside his jacket, and from there transferred it to his bed under his pillow until the next morning.

Georgie was up even before the sun on Christmas morning. Tiptoeing downstairs, he placed the lovely mittens beside his mother's plate at the table. After placing the gift there in the dimness of the early morning, he went out to the shed to fix his skates—because he must skate on Christmas day.

The sun was flooding the earth with beautiful sunlight when Georgie heard his mother calling him to his simple Christmas morning breakfast. As he walked in through the kitchen door, the bright sun shone full upon a brand-new overcoat and a pair of top-boots placed at Georgie's place at the table. No one seemed to know much about it, but his mother said a stranger had left the package at the door after Georgie had gone to bed. When they were seated at the table and after mother had tried on her mittens, she dropped a crisp ten-dollar bill into Georgie's hand.

When Georgie's mother learned of the miles that the loving little feet had traveled in tender thought for her, she blessed the kind friend who had seen and appreciated it all and had given her dear boy such a warm overcoat and boots that had helped make such a bright Christmas.

We don't have to have lots of money to spread a little Christmas cheer—just a few simple kindnesses may help to make somebody's Christmas a little brighter.

—MRS. N. K. BRADFORD, Abbreviated,
from *Our Little Friend*.

How I Can Spread Cheer at Christmas Time

I. They're Fun to Make

As Christmas comes and goes each year with all its pleasant thoughts, we Juniors are given many opportunities to spread the cheer that goes with this season of the year. There are a lot of things we can do to spread happiness to both young and older ones. I think that this year we Juniors should do more than

we have ever done to make people happy, because when we help others we help Jesus. It is Jesus who said: "Because ye have done it unto one of the least of these, . . . ye have done it unto Me."

What happens to your *Little Friend* or *Youth's Instructor*? Even when we are through reading them, they shouldn't be thrown away or put away where they will never be seen again. Why not give these papers to our sick and shut-in friends at Christmas time? Isn't it a dreadful thing to be sick or crippled and not be able to walk, play, skate—especially at Christmas time when there is so much happiness and excitement everywhere? We who are well and strong and who enjoy so many blessings should be happy to help the less fortunate than we, and here's one way to do it!

Let's gather all our old *Little Friends* and *Youth's Instructors* and bind them into a single book. Or, if you like, we can make several books and make each of them smaller, depending on how many we want to prepare. Then, get some pieces of cardboard, paint them or cover them with colorful pictures and construction paper, letter the title on the front and place perforations close to the bottom and top of all the papers and cardboard, and use these cardboards for covers. Find some colored string or ribbons and bind them together. You know, this will be a lot of fun for those of you who make these books, and you may be assured that the ones to whom you give them will be both happy and thankful for your expression of love and thoughtfulness.

If several of you want to get together, as a group, and make up these books, you will spend much pleasant time in so doing.

If we don't know anybody who happens to be sick or shut in, we can ask our church pastor, because he meets a lot of these people, and he will be able to give us their names. And what a fine thing it would be if we could visit these folks and give them the book at the same time.

Let's try to let our light shine a little brighter this Christmas season and help make the path of someone a little brighter and more cheerful.

II. Throwing Boomerangs!

Did you ever play with one? It's a very queer and interesting thing to play with. You throw it in a certain direction, and soon it comes right back to you again. And, if you're not careful, hits you.

Here's a boomerang that will give you hours of fun at Christmas time—the

boomerang of spreading good cheer. The more you throw out, the more will come back to you again to make you and me happy.

A good idea would be to take our Sunshine Band, or form one, and go out singing the beautiful Christmas carols such as we hear in churches and over the radio at Christmas time. We can carry on this plan in two different ways.

One way would be to go to the more fortunate homes before Christmas time and sing our carols. While singing these songs, two of our folks could solicit in these homes for money to use in buying boxes of food and other worthwhile gifts for our poorer and less fortunate friends. People like to hear Juniors sing, and as these songs such as "Silent Night," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," float upon the winter air, it will warm the hearts of the banker, the grocer, and the storekeeper, and they will want to help our Juniors.

The second way to throw boomerangs is to visit other Juniors who may be shut in or are crippled and who can't get out to play like other boys—just like Johnny Carrington, who is recovering from a bad accident, or Sylvia Brown, who will never be able to walk again. Then there are the children's wards over at the hospital filled with boys and girls who won't be home at Christmas time. Wouldn't they be happy if we could go and sing for them and maybe bring them a little gift at the same time? Let's be sure to remember Grandma Carver who lives by herself down the street. Say, we can have loads of fun this Christmas. Let's organize into a—what shall we call it? "The Sunshine Brigade." You know, we can't throw happiness at someone else without getting a little on ourselves.

III. Why They Thought It Was a Good Idea

Ideas! There are all kinds of them, some good and some not so good. But here is an idea which is very, very good. We saw the idea put to work in a Junior Missionary Volunteer Society at Christmas time.

The Juniors presented a program before the holidays, and what a good program it was, too, with carols sung, pieces spoken, and an appropriate dialogue on making Christmas pleasant for others. At the close of the program they announced that a very special offering would be taken to buy food for Christmas baskets, and that on the morrow they would visit some poor families, leaving baskets and boxes of food so that on

Christmas day these people would enjoy a real Christmas dinner.

The morrow came, and after an interesting time collecting the food and sacking the boxes, they went on their tour of the homes wherein lived poor folks. They thrilled to the "thank you's" and to the happy expressions on the faces of the boys and girls in these homes. And the morning for them was nearly as happy and exciting as Christmas morning was a few days later. It was a morning long to be remembered.

There are a lot of homes whose tables will be almost bare of good food at Christmas time if our J.M.V. Societies do not help in bringing them boxes and baskets of tasty food for the Christmas dinner.

You may know of some boys and girls in your neighborhood who are poor. Perhaps their mother and dad are unable to work. If you don't know of any such names, maybe the Dorcas leader in the church can supply you with some, or perhaps your pastor, because he sometimes visits such people in their homes.

After you have gotten some names, perhaps you can take a special offering in your meeting or in connection with a special evening program at Christmas time, and then with your Junior sponsor, go shopping. In addition, each Junior might ask mother if she could spare a few cans of vegetables or fruit, or any other food standing in the refrigerator or on the shelf that wouldn't be missed too much. Then, bring these articles to your leader's house, the church basement, or your church school room, and then with your leader and sponsor, fill the boxes. It sounds like fun, and it is!

After securing the services of some of the senior members, or parents and their cars (depending on the number in your group), proceed to distribute the boxes to the homes, and watch faces light up! and your own, too, when you realize that someone else's Christmas will be happier because of your kindness.

It's a good idea, isn't it? Try it, and it will work!

❖ ❖

December 27

The Gospel Advance in the Middle East

BY G. ARTHUR KEOUGH

The material for use on this date will be found on pages 9-12.

★ Home Missionary Department ★

“Make Ready a People Prepared for the Lord”

The Challenge of a More Effective Evangelism

BY M. K. ECKENROTH

IN this hour of the world's history there is one word alone that stands above all others and presents to the Christian believer a terrible challenge. That word is evangelism. Evangelism in its broad sense may be applied to a number of soul-winning enterprises; but evangelism in its restricted sense, and to a more definite application, refers primarily to the finest co-ordination of humanity with the Divine for the redemption of fallen beings. It is a complex science involving the most serious issues ever entrusted to man. It is the work ordained of God “to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Luke 1:17.

We are charged by God to keep faithfully the trust reposed in us. The exhortation of Paul to the young preacher, Timothy, is a tender appeal to the church of God today: “O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust,” “that they may lay hold on eternal life.” 1 Tim. 6:20, 19. Keeping this trust is a solemn charge indeed. “The work that the Gospel labels as missionary work is a straightforward, substantial work which will shine brighter and brighter unto the perfect day.”—*Manuscript*, 215B., 1899.

This statement of the servant of the Lord clearly places upon us the respon-

sibility of being engaged in this missionary work of proclaiming the gospel and evangelizing the world. The Lord expects every member of the church to be a soul winner because the world stands in such desperate need today of that which the church alone can give. As evangelists and ambassadors for God these challenging days should cause us to be more diligent and more energetic in carrying on a larger evangelistic program. The missing note in modern living is evangelism. The world needs to understand the story of salvation and the way of redemption clearly, and it must be made as real to them as Calvary itself.

John R. Mott said of the times: “Man today is on the spot. He is ripe for great decisions. The soul of humanity today is being plowed up, and the time of unprecedented opportunity is close at hand.”

The unconverted are outside the church. We need to get to them and proclaim to them the message of this hour. “God calls for consecrated workers who will be true to Him—humble men who see the need of evangelistic work and do not draw back but do each day's work faithfully, relying upon God for help and strength in every emergency.”—*Evangelism*, p. 24.

Participating in this great evangelistic movement is a well-trained army taken from the ranks of the church, moving forward in complete unity with one objective in mind. The instruction is clear that spiritual laymen are to participate in the work of salvation along with the ordained workers.

“The church has a special responsibility laid upon her to attend to these souls who have followed the first rays of light they have received; and if the members of the church neglect this duty, they will be unfaithful to the trust that God has given them.”—*Review and Herald*, April 28, 1896.

“This is home missionary work, and it is as helpful to those who do it as to those for whom it is done. The kindly interest we manifest in the home circle, the words of sympathy we speak to our brothers and sisters, fit us to work for the members of the Lord's household, with

whom, if we remain loyal to Christ, we shall live through eternal ages.”—*Evangelism*, p. 353.

Surely here is a challenge for a greater evangelism. The need of full participation by every member of God's church is required. A complete consecration is called for. We are almost home. Yet there is still so much to do we are almost staggered by the task. Along the way of life there are many weary souls. O that the membership comprising the church might rise to its privilege and even now engage in giving rest and comfort to those who seek it!

A little while ago a boy was riding along in a crowded streetcar. A poor washerwoman boarded the car, but because there was no seat available she had

Notes to Leaders

Though the first Sabbath of the month is the one regularly devoted to the special Home Missionary program, it is suggested that in December the Home Missionary church service be held on December 20, thus avoiding any conflict with the regular week of prayer services.

Please bear in mind that the programs suggested in the *GAZETTE* are merely suggestive insofar as the actual items are concerned. It is our sincere desire, however, that the subject under consideration for the first Sabbath of each month shall be followed, even though some times it may be omitted and others substituted. With ingenuity and forethought the missionary leader may so plan and enliven the program as to make it a vitalizing influence in the church.

The first reading for December 20 is entitled “The Challenge of a More Effective Evangelism,” and it is a timely message. The short readings are interesting and inspiring, but after these are given, there should still be time for some interesting experiences of local church workers following the short mission experiences given here. Relating such experiences on the program will catch the attention of everyone present.

May our souls be so inspired by the gospel commission, and so stirred with the needs of a godless people in a godless world, that we will go out in “the spirit and power of Elijah” and preach the gospel by every available means at our command. Don't fail to present the Evangelism Covenant Card which has been sent out for use on this day.

Suggestive Program for Sabbath, December 20, 1947

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OPENING SONG: “Christ for the World,” No. 452 in *Church Hymnal*.

SCRIPTURE READING: John 1:35-48.

PRAYER.

OFFERING FOR CHURCH MISSIONARY WORK.

SPECIAL MUSIC (or hymn No. 543).

READING: “The Challenge of a More Effective Evangelism,” by M. K. Eckenroth.

SHORT READINGS: “The Neglected Outlet.” “A Lay Member's Report.” “In Prison—Ye Came.”

MISSION AND LOCAL EXPERIENCES.

EVANGELISM COVENANT CARDS.

CLOSING SONG: “Go Labor On,” No. 441, in *Church Hymnal*.

to stand. She had worked hard all through the day; her countenance showed that. Noticing the poor woman, the lad quietly arose from his seat and, going over to her, said, "Please, Ma'am, you may have my seat."

The washerwoman looked at the boy and said, "Ah, sonny, I hate to take your seat, but I am tired. I do appreciate it very much."

The little fellow looked up at her with pride and joy, and said, "Oh, it's all right, ma'am; it is not far to home anyway, and if it will give you rest I am glad to give it to you."

So it is with life. Many there are who are weary and burdened with their cares and responsibilities. The unprecedented times through which we are passing offer to the church the greatest evangelistic opportunities. These are days when we are almost home; when with pride and joy we should be able to say to the weary travelers of life, "We are almost home. What I offer will give you rest and I am glad that I can tell you about it."

This appeal comes at an hour when evangelism should more firmly take root in the hearts of God's people. Let us arise even now and do our appointed task.

The Neglected Outlet

"The electrician had stopped at the street corner to renew carbons in the are lamp. A small boy had stopped to watch him. As the day was bright and sunny, the boy was astonished to see that the man had on rubber boots. 'What do you wear those boots for?' he asked. 'Do you think it's going to rain?'"

"The workman laughed good-naturedly. 'No, sonny, I wear them so as to be safe from electric shocks when I handle these lamps. Electricity can't go through rubber very well, and one of the funny things about electricity is that it can't get into a person unless it can get out again.'

"Is not that true of other things in life also? Take love. It can't get into a human heart unless it can get out again. It must either find an outlet in service, or die. Yet many persons forget that truth."

"The clearest stream in the world will quickly become a stagnant pool if its waters find no escape. Clog the channels of usefulness with the rubbish of selfishness, harshness, or indolence, and the streams of affection will soon become a foul and stagnant morass that reflects no loveliness and enriches no barren places."—Selected.

A Lay Member's Report

News From India's Northern Frontier

THE day of great doings is dawning. Peshawar echoes the Macedonian cry with outstretched hands, "Come over and help us." We feel the time of great opportunities has arrived in this frontier outpost, and with this as a strong base of operation, the entering of Afghanistan with the third angel's message is possible after very prayerful planning.

Many influential lay leaders of other denominations are tired of what they have received and are thirsting after the truth. They are pleading for the third angel's message to be taught them, volunteering to finance and maintain our preachers and schoolteachers. This group

**EMPHASIZE
GREATER LAY
EVANGELISM
on December 20**

**More Members Giving Bible
Studies and Conducting
Public Efforts**

numbers over fifteen hundred souls, and for them schools are urgently needed. Doors are opening everywhere for Bible studies and vernacular Sabbath schools.

Not being able to speak Urdu fluently, I am unable alone to supply their wants. We need a strong, consecrated Urdu preacher, and a worker to answer this call, and with the Lord all things are possible.

While giving a Bible study last Sabbath evening, with some deeply spiritual seekers after truth, a Christian lady doctor and her husband, who is also a doctor employed in the mission hospital, happily surprised us by explaining the subject of the millennium as we had presented it to them. At first they disagreed with this doctrine of the millennium as we teach it, but now they believe and are teaching it to others. The lady doctor has a group of ten people with whom she holds Bible studies in Urdu on Saturday nights, giving them the identical studies that we imparted to her. My wife and I felt as if we could weep with joy to see how the Lord, knowing our inability to speak the language, has raised up one who can do it so well.

Another couple with whom we have completed the full course of studies, have kept their little baby from being christened because they want one of our

pastors to dedicate him, preliminary to their baptism later on.

We have just begun a series of studies with another interested family. At the last study we had with them, over a week ago, many of their friends were present, including a professor in a Christian college, and the deep interest shown was strikingly manifested on their faces.

I have just made contact with a major while on leave here, and hope to follow up this interest. Who knows, these contacts may prove to be steppingstones for our advance into Afghanistan and beyond. Ecclesiastes 11:1 reads, "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days."

We request your prayers that our humble efforts may be crowned with success, and that the Lord who giveth the increase will provide more workers for this needy field. STEPHEN HASLAM.

"In Prison—Ye Came"

INSPIRED by the words of Jesus, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me," Brother Martin Heller, local elder of the Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, church, went to the warden of the Allentown prison about three years ago, and requested the privilege of doing missionary work for the inmates. The warden readily gave his consent to such a plan, allowing Brother Heller the hour between two and three in the afternoon on the first Sabbath of each month.

With true missionary zeal and foresight Brother Heller organized a missionary band in the Bethlehem church, and they have been conducting services in the prison ever since. The program they put on has been very well received. The warden greatly appreciates the work that is being done, and the prisoners often say that they can hardly wait for the month to pass for the band to come again; and many express the desire to have the program once every two weeks instead of only once a month.

The prison chaplain has been very cordial, and came in a number of times to listen to the program. In his closing prayer he has invoked God's blessings on the band, praying that these Christian workers might continue their efforts to bring hope and cheer and faith in God to the bound as well as to the free.

The members of the band enjoy witnessing for Jesus. Brother Heller says the success of their efforts is due to the willingness of everyone to be ready to fill in on the program whenever needed.

★ Missionary Leadership ★

Sermons We See

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day."

It was the evening of the first day after the entrance of sin into this world, and realizing the urgency of bringing a message of repentance, faith, and hope to our first parents, the Creator of the universe visited the Garden of Eden and chose as the text for His first sermon that immortal promise of a Redeemer found in Genesis 3:15. As He told them the story of His life manifested through the plan of salvation, the Saviour illustrated His text by taking an innocent lamb and slaying it to remind them of the fact that they had sinned, that sin brings death, and that they had hope through Christ, the coming Redeemer. As Adam and Eve wore their clothing made of skins they had a continual reminder of that memorable sermon and its meaning for them. Thus by means of visual education the Saviour impressed the truths of the plan of salvation upon His hearers.

Centuries passed and in directing the education of Israel, Christ instructed that the commandments of the Lord should be written upon the gates and the doorposts of their homes, thus giving them a visual reminder of their duty to God and to their fellow men. The sanctuary service, with its numerous object lessons, was a visualized portrayal of the plan of redemption. By means of dreams

and visions the Lord visualized His messages for the prophets.

The Master Teacher, during His earthly ministry, made constant use of the visual aids of His day to impress the lessons of divine wisdom and practical truth forcibly and impressively upon His hearers.

The early days of the Advent Movement were characterized by the charts and symbols used so widely by our pioneers in the preaching of the prophetic message. In speaking of the value of truth-teaching devices, the messenger of the Lord counseled: "We should seek to follow more closely the example of Christ. . . . His active ministry consisted not merely in sermonizing but in educating the people . . . , simplifying His discourses by the use of parables and symbols. Instruction has been given me clearly and distinctly that charts should be used in the presentation of truth. And these illustrations should be made still more impressive by words showing the importance of obedience."—*Evangelism*, p. 203.

Visual aids help to gain and hold the interest of the audience and make an indelible impression upon those who "see the sermon." By making the lessons very real and practical, they stimulate to action. In the words of a visual education specialist, "Visual aids are streamlined education. People have the opportunity to learn more in less time, the encourage-

ment to remember longer what they learn, and the stimulus to put into practice what they have learned."

The experience of public schools, industry, and the armed forces has proved to church leaders in recent years the value of visual aids for religious purposes. Everywhere Christian educators and ministers recognize that the most lasting impressions are made upon the mind through the eye, and they are using modern methods in the presentation of Bible truth. With increasing success our laymen are presenting the third angel's message with the aid of projectors and the excellent films which so clearly present our doctrines. This is indeed a fulfillment of the prediction made by Sister White that "such methods will be used more and more in this closing work."—*Ibid.*, p. 205.

The pastor of a large city church was called away for a period of months, and left to the laymen the work of following up the interested people with whom he was in contact. Some members who had never before given a Bible study were urged to go along with those who were showing the pictures. Enthusiasm grew, and it was not long until others were giving studies and the members of that church had five projectors and a film library of their own. When the pastor returned after three months there were eleven people who had fully accepted the truth, and seven were ready for baptism.

For twentieth-century needs, God has given twentieth-century tools so that you and I can do a bigger and better job for Him. The new book *Training Light Bearers* gives an excellent summary of the various helps that are available. For full particulars write your conference home missionary secretary.

PERCY W. MANUHL.

Brother Martin Heller (2d from left), front row) and the Group From the Bethlehem, Pennsylvania Church, Who Regularly Visit the Allentown Prison. Mr. Dressler, Prison Warden (4th from right, front row) Co-operates With This Project, as Does Mr. Heydt, the Prison Guard (standing behind the group).



Age No Barrier to Missionary Activity

SECRETARY R. H. FICKLING, of Florida, tells of one of the most earnest and successful lay members, Mrs. H. P. Heiner, of the St. Petersburg church, who, although about eighty years of age and depleted in physical energy, distributes our literature and obtains subscriptions for the *Signs of the Times* and *Life and Health*. Recently she distributed two hundred copies of *Our Little Friend* and *Signs of the Times*, and obtained fifteen annual subscriptions for the *Signs* and for the *Life and Health*, giving three Bible studies to interested individuals discovered while working.

Training the Laity

By MARY E. WALSH,
Columbia Union Bible Instructor

THIS is a subject that should receive careful consideration by every conference worker. The talented lay members scattered throughout the churches possess great potentialities. Much has been lost to the cause because they have not been trained and set to work.

"The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church-membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers. . . . It is training, education, that is needed. Those who labor in visiting the churches should give the brethren and sisters instruction in practical methods of doing missionary work."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 117.

"Let some help the people to learn how to give Bible readings and to conduct cottage meetings."—*Ibid.*, p. 83.

"A wise general instructs his officers to train every soldier for active service. He seeks to develop the highest efficiency on the part of all. . . . He counts on loyal and untiring service from every man in his army. The responsibility rests largely upon the man in the ranks. And so it is in the army of Prince Emmanuel."—*Ibid.*, p. 116.

"The leaders in God's cause, as wise generals, are to lay plans for advance moves all along the line. In their planning they are to give special study to the work that can be done by the laity for their friends and neighbors."—*Ibid.*, p. 116.

"From door to door His servants are to proclaim the message of salvation."—*Ibid.*, vol. 8, p. 16.

"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. . . . And let all be taught how to work."—*Ibid.*, vol. 9, p. 82.

When I read these statements from the pen of Inspiration, I am stirred to the depths of my soul. As I look over the field and see how this counsel from the Lord is being disregarded, I am profoundly amazed. Were an angel to speak to us in the language of heaven, would we be aroused to the importance of this work? I believe we would go forth from this meeting freighted with a burden for the members under our supervision. This work of training and developing workers from the ranks of the laity will pay large

dividends both in soul winning and in deeper spirituality throughout the church. It will solve the difficulties which sometimes arise among the members over some trivial matter.

In a church that was divided and subdivided into factions, a Bible training class was conducted. An intensive program was put on, and every member was enlisted and encouraged to attend the class period regularly. Every person brought his Bible, and was encouraged or required to turn to each text for himself. Before many evenings together the Spirit of God came into our midst, and personal differences were banished. The current of thought was changed, and



there was manifested a burden of soul which was not evident before. When they were right with God, then, and only then, could they work for others.

Before the class closed, a number of outside people embraced the message, and this brought a transfusion of new spiritual life to the entire body who had been attending the class. Some of those who were involved in the controversies, and had lost their first love, acknowledged that through the course given in the Bible training class, their love was restored; they received a new vision of the sacredness of the message, and its power to transform the life. What was wrought in the lives of the members of this particular church has been duplicated wherever such a class has been held.

The conducting of such classes has a twofold purpose. The first and primary one is to establish our members in the message so that they will know what they profess. It is a deplorable fact that the vast majority of our dear people are incapable of giving a coherent study from the Word of God on the doctrines of the message. The day is not far distant when they will be obliged to bear witness before cavaliers whose purpose is to confuse and bring the truth into disrepute.

Here is a statement from the Spirit of prophecy that bears out this assertion: "Have you that intensity of zeal, that

piety and devotion, which will enable you to stand when opposition is brought upon you? If God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when we shall be brought before councils, and every position of truth which we hold will be severely criticized."—*Review and Herald Extra*, Dec. 11, 1888.

Are we, brethren and sisters, getting our people ready to stand before such councils? Surely it is of utmost importance to familiarize our lay members with the tenets of the three angels' messages. When they have something to tell, the Lord will give them the power to tell it.

While teaching the doctrines, instruction can be given on how to impart to their friends and neighbors the knowledge they have acquired. So the class will have accomplished its twofold purpose—establishing the members, and they, in turn, imparting the truth to others. It will also help to solve the crying need for conference Bible instructors, as many can be encouraged to secure a higher training by attending our colleges.

I would suggest that wherever conference Bible instructors are located, they should be promoting this kind of work. They can give field experience to those who are especially adapted to holding Bible studies and cottage meetings. Thus will be fulfilled the Word of the Lord written in the *Review and Herald Extra*, December 24, 1889: "The Bible will be opened from house to house, and men and women will find access to these homes, and minds will be opened to receive the Word of God."

(To be concluded)

"Use Me or Lose Me"

A SIWASH Indian knew of a very excellent spring of water. Every time he used it he covered it up. He was afraid other tribes might discover it and use it. He dreaded the day when that refreshing water would no longer be his to enjoy.

Others, however, did find that spring. They used it constantly—and so did the Siwash Indian. To his utter amazement, he discovered that the more people used it the more water there was to use.

People are like that spring. The more we are used by God and man, the more use we can be. God is like that spring. The more we depend and rely on God, the greater His providences, and the more astonishing His mercies.

Someone has correctly said, "Use me or lose me." That's right!—*The Church Herald*.

★ Departmental Activities ★

A Monthly Missionary Soul-Winning Service

If it is true that the church has been organized for soul-winning service, then why don't we make more room in our church services when we can talk about soul winning, when we can pray about it, when we can challenge one another to greater soul-winning activities?

If the most effective way of creating a longing in the hearts of members to take part in soul-winning work is the recital of soul-winning experiences, then why don't we conduct our missionary services in such a way that members can relate their experiences on how God saved their souls and how someone else helped them to find salvation as well as how they have been instrumental in saving others?

If what our churches need today is not sermonizing but to be taught to labor for those for whom Christ died, why do we as preachers and missionary leaders continue to preach to our people even on our home missionary day and doggedly persist in doing the very thing we are told will not bring the greatest results in soul-winning work? Can it be that we have lost our true vision of the work, that we follow the way of least resistance or of least effort, or that we are not engaged in soul-winning work ourselves and, therefore, have no fresh experiences to relate to stir the hearts of our people?

If it is true that where there is one there should be hundreds laboring for lost souls, then why don't we select a time at least once each month when the hundreds are pressed to talk about this soul-winning work in the manner described above and not at some other time when only a few will attend? A Wednesday night or Friday night service can never take the place of a regular eleven o'clock church service to find and to stir the masses to greater soul-winning work.

The monthly soul-winning service cannot be made a real success without much effort, study, planning, and prayer, but if properly conducted, it will bring rich rewards. These meetings can rekindle the fire on many an altar where the flame has well-nigh gone out. They can warm up many a heart that has grown cold. They can moisten many an eye that has gone dry. They can cause the Divine Spirit

from above to leap once more from a complacent, sluggish mind to a lukewarm heart and stir the soul to new feelings of holy emotion and ecstasy and bring new joy to the participant. Our message will become more clear and our Christian experiences more real. The best preacher giving the best sermon can never accomplish what a soul-winning experience meeting can do. Try it and be convinced yourself. At these meetings when we talk about tract distribution some members can tell how a tract brought him to the light or how someone else was saved that way. When lay preaching is discussed, let some brother relate his experiences in

Working for God— A Questionnaire

1. How many should be taught how to work?

Answer: "Let all be taught how to work."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 82.

2. When should church members be taught to work?

Answer: "Especially should those who are newly come to the faith be educated to become laborers together with God."—*Ibid.*

3. How many of those converted are to be assigned work?

Answer: "Everyone who is added to the ranks by conversion is to be assigned his post of duty."—*Ibid.*, vol. 7, p. 30.

4. What is the best help that your pastor can give you?

Answer: "The best help that ministers can give the members of our churches is not sermonizing, but planning work for them."—*Ibid.*, vol. 9, p. 82.

5. Should the pastor arrange work for every church member?

Answer: "Give each one something to do for others."—*Ibid.*

6. Where should these members engage in the work?

Answer: "Wherever a church is established, all the members should engage actively in missionary work. They should visit every family in the neighborhood."—*Ibid.*, vol. 6, p. 296.

7. What good will result from engaging in the Lord's work?

Answer: "If set to work, the despondent will soon forget their despondency; the weak will become strong, the ignorant intelligent, and all will be prepared to present the truth as it is in Jesus."—*Ibid.*, vol. 9, p. 82.

lay preaching or tell the experience of another. When we discuss house-to-house visitation, someone can tell an experience on how a visit at a time of utmost discouragement, brought a great blessing to some heart. When we discuss the topic of our humanitarian work, one may relate a recent experience on how a poor family was won through human kindness and how prayer for a discouraged mother brought new hope and life.

In larger churches there is plenty of material to draw from. A wide-awake leader will cull out those experiences that will be helpful to him and will assist members before the time comes on how these experiences can be related most effectively. In small churches where the well might run dry, experiences can be obtained from books or periodicals or from leaflets. Where the audience is large, members can be taken onto the platform. In the smaller churches it is better to have them report their experiences right from the floor. There are obstacles and discouragements, to be sure, but when we are out to accomplish so much for God, nothing can be too hard.

At the close of such services let members make requests for prayer. Let laymen come forward and offer that prayer in behalf of others. Our prayer meetings can then be more to the point.

Always have books, tracts, periodicals, on hand to pass out at the close of each monthly missionary meeting, also leaflets on how to do this work. Someone should have charge of the literature table or tract rack. If members are too poor to buy new material, let the different homes bring together copies of our periodicals and books and tracts, and put them on this table for the purpose of exchanging and passing them out. Every member should be encouraged to take something along from such a meeting. No one should leave empty-handed as they go out of the church to meet the lost, judgment-bound world.

If we have more frequent missionary committee meetings to talk about this great work and to plan together and to pray about it, great things can be accomplished. Assignments can be made to each of these members attending the missionary committee to help prepare a good program and some good music, and help locate individuals who have had soul-winning experiences.

Our time is short. The field is large. And many are looking wistfully to heaven, waiting only to be gathered in. Let us be up and doing.

D. E. REINER.

The Literature Ministry

Established by God

"OUR publishing work was established by the direction of God and under His special supervision. It was designed to accomplish a specific purpose. Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world. By the great cleaver of truth He has cut them out from the quarry of the world, and brought them into connection with Himself. He has made them His representatives, and has called them to be ambassadors for Him in the last work of salvation. The greatest wealth of truth ever entrusted to mortals, the most solemn and fearful warnings ever sent by God to man, have been committed to them to be given to the world; and in the accomplishment of this work our publishing houses are among the most effective agencies.

"These institutions are to stand as witnesses for God, teachers of righteousness to the people. From them truth is to go forth as a lamp that burneth. Like a great light in a lighthouse on a dangerous coast, they are constantly to send forth beams of light into the darkness of the world, to warn men of the dangers that threaten them with destruction."—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, pp. 138, 139.

To Do Work of John the Baptist

"The publications sent forth from our printing houses are to prepare a people to meet God. Throughout the world they are to do the same work that was done by John the Baptist for the Jewish nation. By startling messages of warning, God's prophet awakened men from worldly dreaming. Through him God called backsliding Israel to repentance. By his presentation of truth he exposed popular delusions. In contrast with the false theories of his time, truth in his teaching stood forth as an eternal certainty. 'Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,' was John's message. This same message, through the publications from our printing houses, is to be given to the world to-day."—*Ibid.*, p. 139.

Large Part in Finishing Work

"Let it never be forgotten that these institutions are to co-operate with the ministry of the delegates of heaven. They are among the agencies represented by the angel flying 'in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud

voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come.' Rev. 14:6, 7.

"From them is to go forth the terrible denunciation, 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.' Rev. 14:8.

"They are represented by the third angel that followed, 'saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God.' Rev. 14:9, 10.

"And in a large degree through our publishing houses is to be accomplished the work of that other angel who comes from heaven with great power, and who lightens the earth with his glory."—*Ibid.*, pp. 139, 140.

Object of Publications

"Our publications have a most sacred work to do in making clear, simple, and plain the spiritual basis of our faith. Everywhere the people are taking sides; all are ranging themselves either under the banner of truth and righteousness or under the banner of the apostate powers that are contending for the supremacy. At this time God's message to the world is to be given with such prominence and power that the people will be brought face to face, mind to mind, heart to heart, with truth. They must be brought to see its superiority over the multitudinous errors that are pushing their way into notice, to supplant, if possible, the word of God for this solemn time."—*Ibid.*, p. 150.

Reach Corners of Earth

"I have been shown that the press is powerful for good or evil. This agency can reach and influence the public mind as no other means can. The press, controlled by men who are sanctified to God, can be a power indeed for good in bringing men to the knowledge of the truth. The pen is a power in the hands of men who feel the truth burning upon the altar of their hearts, and who have an intelligent zeal for God, balanced with sound judgment. The pen, dipped in the fountain of pure truth, can send the beams of light to dark corners of the earth, which will reflect its rays back, adding new power, and giving increased light to be scattered everywhere."—*Life Sketches*, p. 214.

Harvest of Precious Souls

"I have been shown that the publications already have been doing a work

upon some minds in other countries, in brasking down the walls of prejudice and superstition. I was shown men and women studying with intense interest papers and a few pages of tracts upon present truth. They would read the evidences so wonderful and new to them, and would open their Bibles with a deep and new interest, as subjects of truth that had been dark to them were made plain, especially the light in regard to the Sabbath of the fourth commandment. As they searched the Scriptures to see if these things were so, a new light shone upon their understanding, for angels were hovering over them, and impressing their minds with the truths contained in the publications they had been reading.

"I saw them holding papers and tracts in one hand, and the Bible in the other, while their cheeks were wet with tears; and bowing before God in earnest, humble prayer, to be guided into all truth,—the very thing He was doing for them before they called upon Him. And when the truth was received in their hearts, and they saw the harmonious chain of truth, the Bible was to them a new book; they hugged it to their hearts with grateful joy, while their countenances were all aglow with happiness and holy joy.

"These were not satisfied with merely enjoying the light themselves, and they began to work for others. Some made great sacrifices for the truth's sake and to help those of the brethren who were in darkness. The way is thus preparing to do a great work in the distribution of tracts and papers in other languages."—*Ibid.*, pp. 214, 215.

Is It Wrong to Report?

THERE are very sincere Christians all over the world who feel that it is distinctly wrong to tell of what they have done for Christ. They think that missionary reporting is out of order, and they base their convictions on Matthew 6:3 which says, "When thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth." They think that this prohibits any form of reporting. Whatever it does mean, and I think the meaning will be clear as we proceed, it surely cannot mean the telling of what God has done through them, as that would do away with a large portion of the book of Acts. Notice Acts 11:4, "Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them." This was simply a missionary report of his visit to a family.

Acts 14:27 says, "They rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how He had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles." Acts 15:12 reads, "All the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them." Acts 21:19, "He declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry."

No, it isn't wrong to tell of the work of God through one's effort. To the contrary, one should feel as did Nebuchadnezzar after his reason had returned to him. He said, "I thought it good to show the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me." Dan. 4:2.

The Spirit of prophecy refers to this verse twice: "I was shown that this scripture does not apply to those who have the cause of God at heart, and use their means humbly to advance it. I was directed to these texts: 'Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.' 'By their fruits ye shall know them.' I was shown that Scripture testimony will harmonize when it is rightly understood. The good works of the children of God are the most effectual preaching that the unbeliever has."—*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 193.

"In these words Jesus did not teach that acts of kindness should always be kept secret. Paul the apostle, writing by the Holy Spirit, did not conceal the generous self-sacrifice of the Macedonian Christians, but told of the grace that Christ had wrought in them, and thus others were imbued with the same spirit. He also wrote to the church at Corinth and said, 'Your zeal hath stirred up very many.' (2 Corinthians 9:2, R.V.)

"Christ's own words make His meaning plain,—that in acts of charity the aim should not be to secure praise and honor from men. Real godliness never prompts an effort at display. Those who desire words of praise and flattery, and feed upon them as a sweet morsel, are Christians in name only."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 120, 121.

It is ostentation and boasting that is condemned, but not glorifying God by demonstrating what the Holy Spirit is able to do through a humble child of God. Consequently, missionary reporting with the right motive, and of the right kind, is perfectly proper, and it is a glory to God to reveal to others His power upon human hearts.

HENRY F. BROWN.

★ Cleanings for Soul Winners ★

Opportunities

THAT windmill worried him a lot. He and his brother were partners in the feed store, and his brother insisted on letting the mill run on Sunday. Of recent years he had become dissatisfied with the spiritual help he had received from his connection with the Dutch Reformed Church. He was not the only one that felt that way. His new seeking after truth was shared by about eight others, and they met together weekly for special prayer and Bible study. He had been trying to persuade his brother to suspend all business operations on Sunday, and at last he succeeded in getting this promise from him: "I believe," said he, "that Sunday is no more sacred than any other day. However, if you will bring me one text from the Bible that says we should keep it, we will close down the mill on that day." This was surely a fair proposition, and he reported it very enthusiastically at the next prayer meeting of the group. Only one text! Surely there must be dozens of them! The matter was as good as settled!

After the usual earnest prayer for divine guidance, they opened their Bibles and began to study this question. To their amazement, they found no word of Sunday's sacredness. Saturday was the Bible Sabbath. Of this there was no question. When first they started this fellowship in seeking after God, they promised obedience to the word, whatever the sacrifice it required of them. And so the matter of Sunday and the mill became submerged in the wider issues of obedience to the letter as well as the spirit of the law.

There lived on the diamond fields of South Africa, in those days of the late 1870's, a unique character. His name was William Hunt. He had been gold mining in northern California some years before. In a near-by town was a large tent. It had not been there long, and was evidently used for religious meetings. He decided to go and listen. In spite of years spent in the rough life of mining camps, he had a strong desire to serve God. After the meeting was over, he went and introduced himself to the speaker. "Mr. Loughborough," he said, "I believe what you have said about the Sabbath and that the return of Jesus

will soon take place. I would be glad if you could supply me with reading matter on these Bible subjects you are presenting here." Mr. Hunt took a supply of our literature back to his mining camp. When the heavy day's work was finished, he sat beside his campfire with his new-found treasure—the treasure of the third angel's message. When Sabbath came, the pick and shovel and pan were left alone and the day was spent with his Bible and truth-filled literature. His mining operations were only moderately successful. Then came news of a rich gold strike in Australia. He packed his pick and shovel, his personal effects, and as much Adventist literature as he could get and sailed through the Golden Gate to what he hoped would be a golden West. But he was not too successful in Australia and was unhappy there.

Meanwhile, on the African veldt there occurred an incident that was to change the lives of many people, not the least of whom were these eight seekers after truth and William Hunt himself.

A mining engineer was traveling through the country, and stopped one night at the home of a Boer stock farmer. His grandson, Piet, told me this story when I met him out West this summer. Piet and I were in school together when we were boys, and we were very happy to talk over old times again. He said, "This miner noticed that the youngsters were playing with some pebbles. He called to one of them. 'Sonny, let me see those stones, will you?' 'Sure,' said the boy. The miner examined them carefully, turned to the boy, and said, 'I'll give you a shilling (a quarter) for that one.' A whole shilling! For a common stone he picked up on the veldt! The man must have lots of money, to spend it so freely. However, that was none of his business. He could use the shilling. 'Yes,' he said, 'give me the shilling. You can have the stone.' The miner sent that stone to Denmark to be cut, and it found its way at length into the crown jewels of Great Britain and brought the miner £10,000 (\$50,000 approximately). Thus were diamonds found near Kimberley!"

The news traveled around the world. It reached the Australian mining camp where William Hunt was becoming dissatisfied, and he sailed for Africa. First, however, he wrote to the publishing

house in Battle Creek and ordered more literature to take with him. He lived alone on the diggings. In one corner of his room was a pile of copies of the *Review and Herald* that reached almost to the ceiling. His mining operations were quite successful, but they did not change his modest manner of life. He kept on hand and distributed a stock of Seventh-day Adventist literature to all who would accept it.

In the course of time the eight seekers after truth came across some of these papers. They read them with interest. Here was news! There were other people in the world keeping Saturday! They thought they were the only ones. They lost no time in getting in touch with the source of this information.

"Is it really true, Mr. Hunt, that there are other people keeping Saturday?"

"Certainly! Over in America there is a religious society whose members keep it. They are called Seventh-day Adventists. I heard one of their preachers in California. He had a tent that he used to preach in, and it was pitched in a town near my mining camp."

"Do you suppose they would send us someone to teach us about those things? We know so little about the Bible."

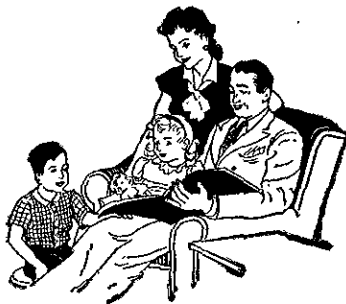
"Of course I do not know about that. But it would be a good thing to write to them and see."

The Spirit of prophecy tells us that we would have finished the work and all be living in the peace and happiness of the eternal kingdom had we been faithful to use the opportunities that God gave us. Here is an illustration of a wonderful opening that lay dormant for nearly ten years.

In the *Review and Herald* of June 6, 1878, was published an appeal from a Mr. J. H. C. Wilson, written from the diamond fields. He was a class leader and local preacher of the Methodist Church. "While disputing with some of the brethren," he says, "Brother Hunt placed in my hands the *Signs of the Times* treating on the subject. I studied it well and compared it with Scripture, and such beautiful harmony was displayed that I was led to read several of your works and compare them with Scripture. From this examination I am forced to acknowledge that the truth is with you." He said his wife shared his new-found faith, and there were others also who were interested, some of whom he felt sure would join them. "There is a great work to be accomplished here in the midst of the wealth-seeking thousands of the diamond fields," he wrote.

I do not know whether Mr. Wilson was a member of that group of eight or not. I do know that there were two others in the same district who started to keep the Sabbath about that time. Mr. J. G. van Druten, and Mr. Peter Wessels. They took this decision as a result of personal, independent Bible study. Who knows how much further advanced our work would have been in the Dark Continent today had we sent missionaries to them in answer to that first appeal?

BEN IRA.



San Quentin and Seventh-day Adventists

COME with me, for I am inviting you to attend a real live Seventh-day Adventist Sabbath school within the great gray walls of the San Quentin adult house of correction—the largest of its kind in the world.

Through the kindly co-operation of Chaplain Warwick and Warden Clinton Duffy every courtesy is accorded Adventists in their work of giving assistance to the rehabilitation of the men there.

Each week our Sabbath school begins promptly at 1 P.M. with a good old song like, "I Love to Tell the Story," or "In a Little While We're Going Home"; prayer by one of the inmates; and then the mission story. Often prayer requests are made for the children, mother, or the wife at home. You will be interested to know that from fifteen to eighteen study the lesson daily.

Often an inmate is asked to review the lesson of the previous week, and the writer or a visiting friend gives the lesson study. After the Sabbath school we have our regular sermon, closing the services at 3 P.M.

Three Sundays a month a Bible class is held at 1 P.M. With Bibles in hand everyone present is given a chance to read a scripture and to take part in the study. Often the class is thrown open for questions, and an interesting and spiritual hour passes quickly.

Recently one young man going out on parole was baptized. He is now a member of the church. Thus we see the fruitage of prison work. Jesus said, "I was in prison, and ye came unto Me." We are keeping two hundred *Signs*, ten *Health* magazines, and scores of tracts available to the inmates at all times. We are appealing to our Adventist brethren to help us now as in the past. Mail your remittance directly to the conference treasurer, Northern California Conference, Box 149, Oakland 4, California. We thank you for your good response last year and also, in advance, for what we are sure you will be glad to do this year. Your money is used to purchase the above-mentioned papers for distribution among the inmates.

We have a fine group who are taking either the Voice of Prophecy or the Radio Bible School course of lessons.—H. A. RENTERO in *Pacific Union Recorder*, June 25, 1947.

It is only by activity that men can hope to be happy.—*Expositor*, May, 1928.

"THE mission of the church is missions."

Ten Types of Givers Found in the Bible

1. THE Willing Giver—Abraham in the offering of his son.

2. The Big Little Giver—the widow who in giving two mites gave most of all.

3. The Givers Who Were Not Niggardly—the Macedonians, who gave up to their ability and beyond.

4. The Unpretentious Giver—the good Samaritan, who made no show of his giving.

5. The Sacrificial Giver—David, who in buying the threshing floor of Araunab would not give to the Lord that which had cost him nothing.

6. The Voluntary Giver—Zacchaeus, the man who did not wait to be asked to give.

7. Givers Who Had Nothing to Give—Peter and John: "Silver and gold have I none," but gave themselves.

8. The Covetous Givers—Ananias and Sapphira, who held back a part and suffered dire penalty.

9. The First Givers—the wise men, who came from the heathen world!

10. The Giver Who Did Not Count the Cost—Mary, who gave lavishly of the gifts of love.

—ROY F. MILLER.

To Which Do You Belong?

A Missionary Society

1. Meets at least once every week.
2. Plans work for every church member.
3. Organizes the work and workers.
4. Assigns a missionary task to every new convert.
5. Interests young and old in soul-winning endeavor.
6. Keeps the interest alive by personal experiences.
7. SENDS REGULAR REPORTS TO THE CONFERENCE.
8. Studies the best methods of other societies.
9. Invites outsiders to join.
10. Opens and closes its meetings promptly.
11. Reaches all its financial goals enthusiastically.
12. Freely uses maps, pictures, charts, and other interest-arousing material.
13. Never gets into a rut.
14. Never lets the missionary spirit die.
15. All this and much more does this society do.

An Omissionary Society

1. Omits its regular meetings very often.
2. Omits making plans for the year's work.
3. Omits organizing the workers or work.
4. Omits enlisting new members or assigning tasks to do.
5. Omits calling in the young people to participate in missionary meetings or missionary endeavor.
6. Omits calling for personal experiences.
7. Omits sending in faithful reports to the conference.
8. Omits the important work of studying the successful methods of other societies.
9. Omits seeking new members who bring new blood and new life.
10. Omits introducing any new features into the program.
11. Omits reaching some of the goals and thus begins a program of retreat and defeat.
12. Omits sending to conference for new material.
13. Omits planning interest-arousing meetings.
14. Omits keeping the missionary spirit alive.
15. Yes, all of these and many more omissions.

—Arranged by A. A. ESTER.

Mission Experiences

I HAVE just returned from the division council held at Bulawayo. My heart was thrilled as I met the missionaries from the different parts of this large division. The testimonies of some of these workers made me feel the need for greater consecration of myself and my means to God's cause. Elder W. P. Owen, from Barotseland, told of the trials his family had

passed through and how their little son had been near death's door, but in answer to prayer, his life had been spared. His wife had been ill, but their courage is strong, and they are willing to return to their fields and continue to work for others.

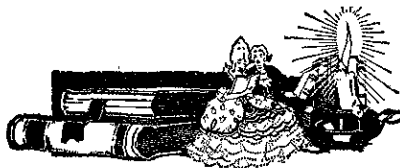
Brother Walter Cooks had a wonderful story to tell of God's power to keep and to heal. In answer to the earnest prayers of his wife and the native evangelist, God had raised him up from a bed of sickness when it seemed that nothing could be done to save his life. He praised God and asked to be allowed to continue his work at Musofu Mission.

Such consecration and willingness to be spent in God's great program for saving souls should inspire every church member to greater sacrifice and more liberal giving to support these loyal workers. God is calling not only for means but for lives. The harvest truly is white, but the laborers are few. At this council we heard many reports of wonderful openings for new work where many chiefs and their people are calling for our workers and teachers to come and teach them, but we do not have the workers. May God place a burden on every believer to go where God calls and to help support those who go forth as workers.

MILTON ROBISON.

There's Heaven in It

"We turn our sad, reluctant gaze
Upon the path of duty;
Its barren, uninviting ways
Are void of bloom and beauty.
Yet in that road, though dark and cold
It seems as we begin it,
As we press on—lo! we behold
There's Heaven in it."



Let Your Light Shine

"I WOULD not give much for your religion unless it can be seen. Lamps do not talk, but they do shine. A lighthouse sounds no drum, it beats no gong, and yet far over the water its friendly spark is seen by the mariner. So let your action shine out your religion that the main sermon of your life be illustrated by all your conduct, and it shall not fail to be illustrious."—*Watchman-Examiner*, Aug. 28, 1947.

Believe It or Not, It's in the Bible

1. EVERY book in the New Testament was written by a foreign missionary.
2. Every letter in the New Testament that was written to an individual was written to a convert of a foreign missionary.
3. Every epistle in the New Testament that was written to a church was written to a foreign missionary church.
4. Every book in the New Testament that was written to a community of believers was written to a general group of foreign missionary churches.
5. The one book of prophecy in the New Testament was written to the seven foreign missionary churches of Asia.
6. The only authoritative history of the early Christian church is a foreign missionary journal.
7. The disciples were called Christians first in a foreign missionary community.
8. The language of the books of the New Testament is the missionary language.
9. The map of the early Christian world is the tracing of the journeys of the first missionaries.
10. Of the twelve apostles chosen by Jesus, every apostle except one became a missionary.
11. The only man among the twelve apostles who did not become a missionary became a traitor.
12. The problems which arose in the early church were largely questions of missionaries' procedure.
13. Only a foreign missionary could write an everlasting gospel.
14. According to the apostles, missionary service is the highest expression of Christian life.—WILLIAM ADAMS BROWN in *Watchman-Examiner*, Aug. 21, 1947.

Her Alabaster Box

HUDSON TAYLOR tells us that after a great missionary meeting at Cardiff he received a letter from a widow, who said: "I could not put into your hands yesterday any money or jewels, for my husband is dead and we have hard shifts to live. But I have one jewel—my daughter. She has long wanted to go. I could not let her go from my care, but last night I gave my alabaster box of very precious ointment to Christ; and if you will see to her going out now, I will be glad to send her."—*Sunday School Times*.

"IF a man love not the immigrant in his own country whom he has seen, how shall he love the foreigner in the heathen country whom he has not seen?"

Weekly Church Missionary Services

December 6

THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE SOCIETY OF MISSIONARY MEN

THE Missionary Men of the church will accomplish more real good for God and mankind if properly organized and with definite objectives in view, than if the men work singly in a scattered way without definite, united plans. God has a work for the men of the church, and He expects this work to be done with power and influence.

Here are some of the things that some societies are doing successfully.

1. Concerted effort to assist poor families in food, clothing, and establishing the home. Helping different members of the family to find employment when necessary. If there is sickness, a united organized plan of procedure should be carried out to see that proper medical assistance is secured. If necessary, financial help should be given the family.

2. Educational plans for the church school, and the assistance of poor, worthy students in church school and academy.

3. Projects. A variety of worthy projects are being promoted by the men.

- a. Thousands of copies of our literature are being sent to lighthouse keepers and other similar groups that would be overlooked.

- b. Academy projects for new construction work, or other conference building plans approved by the conference committee, and shared with Missionary Men.

- c. Special efforts to reach non-Adventists, husbands of S.D.A. sisters, or their brothers and others.

- d. The big brother idea and plan to reach the boys and young men grown up within the influence of the church but not yet members.

- e. Any other work Adventist men can do in promotion of the regular missionary work of the church, as giving Bible readings, holding public services, and conducting lay public efforts.

If the church officers and Missionary Men would give careful study to some or all of these tried plans, it would strengthen the church missionary program and bring new souls into the fold.

December 13

PUBLIC LAY EVANGELISM

WHEN Jesus first started His public ministry He called laymen from various walks of life and trained them in personal soul-winning work and public evangelism. He had a large following of men that highly prized His ministry, instruction, and training. Christ's methods were so well thought out and simple that His instruction, exhortations, and vision impressed His followers to believe that they could do a similar work.

At about the same time He ordained and commissioned the twelve to go forth

in public ministry. He appointed the other seventy (Luke 10), to do a similar work but unlimited in territory. A chief part of Christ's work was to train others. He enjoyed this form of public work and laid great emphasis upon it, for He saw the results of His own work multiplying. Luke 6:13 suggests that the twelve were selected from a much larger group who had been with the Master Trainer from the beginning of His public evangelism.

The church board should carefully look over the available men of the church, select and encourage any who may be able to do this public evangelism, and pray with them and for them. Expect them to go forth as did the seventy. Public efforts may be held in the church, or any other public place that may be opened for this kind of work. A private home where interested ones can come together provides an excellent opportunity for Bible work. The church should always give good support to this wider form of lay evangelism.

No brother who feels called of God to do public evangelism, if consecrated and in harmony with our denominational plans, should wait to be officially "called." On your knees, brother, ask God to give you wisdom, His Holy Spirit, and courage to do and dare for Him.

Thousands of faithful laymen have answered this call in America and all other overseas fields. Wonderful reports of how they have been successful come to our attention. There is a wide field here, and God will use many thousands in this way to help finish His work.

Fresh from God's Word comes the command, "Go into My vineyard today, and whatsoever is right I will pay you." God is fulfilling His commission through the remnant church. "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them." Mark 16:20.

The first six months of 1947 there were 538 new believers baptized in Hungary, and 216 of these were won directly through lay preaching. The work of lay preaching in Hungary is having a wonderful revival.

More than 75 per cent of those baptized into this message in the Philippines during 1946 were won through laymen.

So it is around the world. The Holy Spirit is working wonders through the laymen's talent.

W. A. BUTLER.

December 20

BIBLE EVANGELISM

THOUSANDS of new recruits are being enrolled in the new course, "Training Light Bearers." This is true in all parts of the earth. Our people are responding wonderfully and are eager to know how to give Bible studies, systematically, forcefully, and in the spirit of Christ. Many saved in the kingdom of God will

be there as results of the lay Bible work done. As a part of the training, the one taking the course is expected to give studies to one who is not an Adventist.

In every church the lay Bible Readers' Class (those who have taken the course) should meet each week and review how God is blessing and helping them to reach interested families or groups. They should pray for those who are deciding. They should study how best to give any study upon which they may need help. The leader of this group should be a successful Bible instructor himself, helping to bring people into the truth.

Special consideration should be given to methods of bringing people to a decision. Then the new believer should be introduced to the Sabbath school and regular services, and encouraged to come to these meetings.

Many excellent helps have been provided for the lay Bible instructor, both for his own personal benefit and also to help the new believer as he comes along step by step into the truth. The Crisis Series books, *Present Truth*, and *Signs* are among these helps.

December 27

BRANCH SABBATH SCHOOLS AN EFFECTIVE SOUL-WINNING CHANNEL

WHAT next? This is the natural question to ask when a new person desires baptism and is coming along into the truth. If there is a group of new believers somewhat separated by distance from the church, start a branch Sabbath school. Especially should this be done when new believers accept the truth through a lay public effort, or when any other now group has just taken a stand for the truth. This branch Sabbath school would be conducted just as any other such school, using the regular Sabbath school supplies and methods. Officers of the regular Sabbath school may help, but the regular instructors (those that brought the people into the truth) should continue a personal interest in these until they are firmly established.

Another phase of branch Sabbath schools is that of creating an interest in a certain community and developing it to the point where a group agrees to a plan to hold a Sunday school class on Sunday, or Sabbath school on Sabbath. Many such branch Sabbath schools are successful all over the country because their primary objective is to bring the truth to these families or communities. And many are brought into the message in this way. The plan of procedure is similar to the regular Sabbath school in the church, having different ones not Seventh-day Adventists help and assist in carrying on the school.

The branch Sabbath school may be started with children first, but soon the adults also come and take part. Our overseas missions and churches in most instances have a much larger Sabbath school attendance than church membership, and the Sunday school and branch Sabbath school idea is a very definite part of every mission.

Department of Education

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

Family Religion

A Child to Rear

I HAVE a child to rear. I would be strong,
That something of my strength may flow to
him;

I would be glad, that something of my song
May lift within his heart and mind to brim
Into some clearer cadence all his own:
A lovelier song than I have ever known.

I have a child to rear. I would be wise
To say him nay if that command be best;
I would be honest that his earnest eyes
May find no hidden shame within my breast.
I would be kind and just that he may know
There is but one straight open road to go.

I have a child to rear. Lord God, I ask
Thy help in doing my great blessed task.

—GRACE NOLL CROWELL
(Used by permission.)

Notes to Leaders

Although the term *religion* is usually understood to refer to the church and its activities, it should be brought forcibly to the attention of every parent that real religion has its roots in the daily life in the home. Furthermore, if religion is to be a vital part of the child's experience, then the Christian life must be daily demonstrated to him in such a way as to captivate and motivate his interest and energies.

We need not look far today to see the lack of vital home religion—yes, even in professed Seventh-day Adventist homes. Can this be because we do not really understand what religion is and what we can expect it to do in our lives? "Religion does not consist merely in a system of dry doctrines, but in practical faith, which sanctifies the life and corrects the conduct in the family circle and in the church."—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 337.

Again: "Religion is not merely an emotion, a feeling. It is a principle which is interwoven with all the daily duties and transactions of life. Nothing will be entertained, no business engaged in, which will prevent the accompaniment of this principle."—*Ibid.*, vol. 2, p. 506.

When we realize that our children's religion begins in the home, and that our example has a vital part in its growth, we shall be more in earnest about it. "Abraham was honored of God because he cultivated home religion, and caused the fear of the Lord to pervade his whole household."—*Ibid.*, vol. 5, p. 547.

This Home and School meeting should cause each parent to ask himself the question, Does my life cause my child to want to be a Christian? The work of the minister is important, but what our children see in our daily home life has far greater influence for or against their salvation. Shall we not make this meeting one of consecration and rededication to our important task? "Parents, remember that the harvest you reap is the fruit of

your own planting." Mrs. E. G. White, *Review and Herald*, Feb. 28, 1907.

I want to share with you excerpts from an article by Hazel Thomson in *The Sunday School Times* of June 7, 1947, concerning a present problem:

"Juvenile delinquency has spread with such alarming rapidity that, to stem the tide, officials [in New York City] are resorting to such tactics [bringing the parents to trial for the crimes committed by their children], and we believe they are 'on the right track.'"

"But, you say, that is of no consequence to Christian parents. 'The very fact that we are Christians,' some may say, 'protects us from the evils of juvenile delinquency.'"

"It is true, our children may never rob banks, commit murder, and become a menace to society, and yet, we are aware of the fact that easygoing Christian parents are responsible for loose living among their children. . . .

"One of the most alarming delinquencies of Christian parenthood has been the lack of passion for the salvation of their children. We see parents in seemingly perfect contentment in regard to the soul condition of their offspring. . . .

"There is a dangerous tendency among us Christian parents to desire popularity, prosperity, and position for our children. We see some parents prod and push their children into the limelight. They are zealously active in placing them on church programs and in seeking prominence for them. It is pleasant to have talented children, and they should be encouraged to consecrate their talents to their Maker. However, ambitious and proud parents often create the undesirable results of arrogant snobbishness and pride."

As we discuss the topic of family religion these three questions should be considered:

First, What do we mean by "religion" for little children and for growing boys and girls?

Second, What does each child need that a truly religious life may bring him?

Third, What means will be effective in the development of Christian attitudes and behavior?

Much help in preparing this program may be gained from an article by Mrs. E. G. White entitled "Religion in the Home," in the *Review* of August 8, 1935, if you have access to it.

"God bless us every one."

FLORENCE K. REBOX.

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"The Lord would use the church school as an aid to the parents in educating and preparing their children for this time before us. Then let the church take hold of the school work in earnest, and make it what the Lord desires it to be."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 167.

The Proving Ground

BY DONALD F. HAYNES

THE home is the proving ground of Christianity. If it is the real thing it will work in the family. If it is not the real thing its weakness and make-believe will be revealed there first. Children seem to have a special sixth sense for detecting and exposing hypocrisy.

High professions, long prayers, sonorous testimonies make little impression on the children in the home unless father and mother implement these things with a daily program of applied Christianity expressed in sympathetic attitudes, aggressive and comprehensive planning for recreation and fun, and an active participation in the children's own world.

The mainspring of the family's religion is the morning worship season. This must be short and to the point. It must be interesting, and a sincere expression of the reality of the parents' concept of God. It must not only enlighten the children about God, but by its order and intensity it must convict them that God is, and that He cares about them.

The family's religion expresses itself in various ways throughout every day's program. For example, in the matter of discipline. One little girl, fast growing into adolescence, was having trouble with her emotional equilibrium. It appeared to her that mother and daddy didn't care any more, and were casting themselves in the role of policeman and detective. They weren't really, but that's the way it looked in the rapidly shifting kaleidoscope of her changing world.

Daddy had tried a number of different methods to gain her co-operation and support in the routine functions of the home. He raised her allowance. He made it a point to plan with mother for their daughter's happiness, in special outings and other events of an unusual nature calculated to impress her that her parents really did care. He talked with her quite frankly about the situation, and pointed out its potential dangers to her happiness. He prayed with her. He punished her.

Then one day when a crisis seemed imminent, he asked her for a proposition of her own as a basis for the future op-

eration of the home—perhaps something like the Junior Missionary Volunteer law which she had already made her own in her course to the Companion level—a set of guiding principles which would avow her interest in the maintenance and prosperity of her home. He pointed out that he had made her a number of propositions, and that she had found them all quite unsatisfactory in their application. He urged upon her that he *did* want to help, and was ready to go the limit. Would she think about it now, especially from the standpoint of her first allegiance to God? Only the Lord could give her a really permanent victory. As she permitted Him to change her heart, she would find help and strength in correcting her attitudes. The next move was therefore up to her.

It was Friday afternoon when this conversation took place. That evening at the going-down-of-the-sun worship time she said, with a big smile that strongly suggested something wonderful had happened, "Look on your desk." Whereupon daddy found the following memorandum:

"By the grace of God

I will be kind and true.

I will be obedient.

I will help lift the burdens of the home, and make it a home where the angels will want to dwell."

It was signed with one of her familiar family nicknames, and it came straight from her heart. She had come to realize that when her parents admitted their mistakes they meant it; and even though they had failed, often and miserably, they really did love her and were supremely concerned with leading her into the kingdom.

It is now a new home. A wonderful victory has been won for God because through the years He has been the acknowledged Head of that household.

In the child's training, for life in school, in music, in household duties, in reading, in radio tuning, in play associations, in everything that enters the day's program, God must be shown to be in charge.

This same child, when a tot of three, on finding the radio changing programs from one fifteen-minute period to another, making the familiar transfer from a good to a worthless program and blaring forth a cacophony of swing tunes, would come running into the parlor saying, "Dirty music! Dirty music!" and forthwith snap the switch.

There is no limit to the religious training available now for children through helpful, wholesome, and at the same

time highly fascinating reading. Several houses are publishing exhaustive lists of juvenile reading that really answers the challenge of the cheap and the trifling. Basil Miller, Dan Gardner, Sara Gosse-link, Neil Northey, Catherine Coblenz, our own "Uncle Arthur," and many others have done outstanding work in this field. The Book and Bible House stands ready to help by suggesting titles and ordering the books desired.

Family religion—an endless subject. Would that we might encompass its glories in one short recipe. But it can't be reduced to words. Family religion can be made to work only by those parents who join hands together in grasping the hand of God. No power on earth can successfully withstand that combination. Family religion is an experience, a daily walk, a form of behavior, an experience originating with God, flowing through the hearts and hands of loving parents, and thus blessing the lives of the children God gives them.

Attracting Children to Religion

BY KATHRYN D. MYERS

THE world is becoming more and more aware of the necessity for the religious training of children. In *The Manual of Child Development*, a handbook for parents and teachers published by The University Society, Incorporated, of New York, occurs the following statement that might well have come from one of our own writers: "No little child should be without religious training, for it is as essential to the balance and beautiful growth of his character as the proper food to his body. The parents in the home are the ones whose high privilege it is to begin their children's religious training. It is a pity that so many, through thoughtlessness or neglect or a false sense of unfitness, neglect this sweet duty."

When worldly educators are advocating religious training in the home, ought not Seventh-day Adventist parents with the wealth of counsel on this subject available, be foremost in setting the example for such training? Do we take seriously enough our responsibilities in educating our children to appreciate religion, and to realize its importance in their lives? Are we cultivating in them a love for religious activities? Are we providing them with the foundation upon which to build their own Christian experiences? Are we helping them to develop characters that will resist the multiplied efforts of Satan to claim them in these

last days so full of temptations? What are some of the things we can do to create and maintain an interest in religious things?

In the religious training of our boys five and eight years of age we are endeavoring to—

1. Teach progressively of God and His relationship to them.

2. Teach when, how, and why to pray.

3. Teach how to learn the will of God.

4. Give them a desire to do that will.

The first necessity in interesting children in religion is to be deeply interested in it yourself. Realizing that parents stand in the place of God before their children, how necessary that we reflect the character of God in our own lives. Children sense the sincerity or insincerity of our efforts to live aright, and if we can show them that each member of the family is struggling to overcome his faults and needs the encouragement of the others, it will spur them on to greater interest in their own Christian development.

We have found that the best place to stimulate interest in religion is around the family altar. We have tried to build family worship around the needs and interests of the children, and have found that even as babies they enjoy it. In the morning we read from various Bible-story books written especially for children. There are several of these available at our Book and Bible Houses and we have also found some acceptable ones at the dime stores. Our boys never tire of hearing the familiar stories repeated. One story a day is sufficient for the morning worship period, with a hymn and prayer added. In the evening we devote the worship time to the study of the children's Sabbath school lesson, using a different method each evening, including the Bible text, *Little Friend*, Bible-story books that contain the lesson, and other helps. One evening is spent in asking questions, and one in having the boys tell the lesson story. The more we can get the children to contribute to pleasant worship periods, by reading themselves, choosing the Bible selections, and offering prayer, the better.

Friday evening is a special time at our home, especially on long winter evenings. Then we have extra stories and more songs, and often use those Bible quiz books which the children greatly enjoy. Interesting discussions frequently develop, and in this way they have assimilated much of the doctrines we want them to know. We always try to answer their questions honestly and sincerely,

and encourage them to ask more of us.

We have always taken the children to church, even as babies, because we believe that if they get the church and Sabbath school habit when children, they will be more apt to be regular attendants when older. We try to plan for special Sabbath activities so that the day will be a pleasant time and not be spoiled by too many don'ts. They have Sabbath color books, puzzles, nature books, and games, and, of course, a Sabbath walk. We sometimes find a few things we as adults might prefer to do on Sabbath, but feel that if we can help our children develop a real love for the Sabbath, it will be worth any small sacrifice on our part in keeping them happily occupied.

We are instructed to make a spiritual application to everyday activities and in that way to teach many religious principles. This requires considerable thought and constant effort, but the results are well worth it. One feels greatly encouraged when the children occasionally make their own comparisons between some occurrence and a principle they have learned.

In the matter of discipline there is much opportunity for religious influence. If we will only take the time to help our little ones to feel real sorrow for their mistakes and not just sorrow for the punishment involved, we shall do much toward ensuring their salvation.

We always gain new courage from reading the chapters in *Ministry of Healing* on "The Home," when we realize that if we study how to train our children and try to practice what we learn, the Lord will bless our efforts and save each one. They are the only treasures we may expect to take into the kingdom with us, so is it not urgently important that we devote our best talents to them?

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A Christmas Wish

I WISH that I might lead to Christ's dear feet—

Those nail-marked feet—
Some straying soul, some wandering one
Who has no Christmas in his heart or home.
The year has been so blank and dark,
And my devotion but a spark,
A glimmering light, uncertain, dim,
So poor the service I have rendered Him
Who loves me so.
That while I smile this Christmas day,
And join my friends in mirth and play,
I cannot let the day depart
Without an honest look into my heart.
Be this my prayer:

O Jesus, let my earnest word be brother to
my deed.
And let my uttered love to Thee be more
than creed:
And when upon the threshold of another
year I stand,
With joy may I stretch forth to Thee
A full and not an empty hand.

—Author unknown.

Home Religion

BY G. W. CHAMBERS

PRACTICAL religion in the home is of the utmost importance. The success of home and church, of state and nation, depend on this vital factor.

"The well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, depend upon home influences."¹

"It is by the youth and children of today that the future of society is to be determined, and what these youth and children shall be depends upon the home. To the lack of right home training may be traced the larger share of the disease and misery and crime that curse humanity."²

Family worship is the source of power which will make family religion a vital force in the home. It is at these sacred gatherings that spiritual strength is gathered from the bread of God's Word and the refreshing breath of prayer. It is here that we gain the power which is essential to the translating of our profession of religion into the practical activity of Christian living, before those who know the worst as well as the best, concerning this application of our religion to everyday life. If our religion can stand this acid test of family life, it will not fail when tested in the church and in the world.

"The work of sanctification must begin in the home. It is God's purpose that the families of His people shall be symbols of the family above. Those who are Christians in the home will be Christians in the church and in the world. Many do not grow in grace and in knowledge of the truth because they fail to cultivate home religion."³

Parents should throw the protecting circle of prayer about their children before they allow them to face the physical, mental, and moral dangers which may come to them with each new day. Ample time should be allotted to this all-important part of the morning's program. Each member of the family should be permitted to take part in these blessed seasons, both in the discussion concerning that which has been read and in the prayer season. *As soon as the child learns to talk to his parents, he should be taught to talk to God!* That at least some parents neglect this is revealed by the fact that some Juniors seem to be totally ignorant of the simplest form of prayer. To such parents God's warning may well be repeated. "Pour out Thy fury upon . . . the families that call not on Thy name."⁴

How can children be interested in family worship? The most successful and interesting devotional reading plan we have ever found is the "Character Classics," a parallel reading of the Bible and the writings of the Spirit of prophecy. Year 1 deals with the four Gospels and *The Desire of Ages*. The daily reading assignments take seven to ten minutes. Not only did this reading program hold the children's interest, but it brought blessing to each one of us. I heartily recommend it to you. The leaflets outlining this reading program may be secured, free of charge, from your conference Missionary Volunteer secretary.

Fully as important as family worship is the practice of spending some time in private prayer. Every Christian should take time to talk to God alone, laying bare the needs, the hopes, the disappointments, and the failures of the inner life. Especially is this needed by parents.

"Parents, be sure to spend some time each day in private prayer, asking the Lord for wisdom, lest self-importance take possession of your hearts, and you give the talent of speech into the control of satanic agencies."⁵

"The power of a mother's prayers cannot be too highly estimated. She who kneels beside her son and daughter through the vicissitudes of childhood, through the perils of youth, will never know till the judgment the influence of her prayers upon the lives of her children. If she is connected by faith with the Son of God, the mother's tender hand may hold back her son from the power of temptation, may restrain her daughter from indulging in sin. When passion is warring for the mastery, the power of love, the restraining, earnest, determined influence of the mother may balance the soul on the side of right."⁶

God give us more such mothers! To them it may well be said, "I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children."⁷

No study on home religion would be complete if obedience were not mentioned. The parents who do not insist on obedience from their children are preparing them for the lake of fire, for disobedient children will be lost! Such children are guilty of breaking one of the Ten Commandments, the law by which all will be judged. Only at the peril of eternal loss may parents neglect this part of home religion. Many and varied are the ways by which obedience may be obtained, but at all costs it must be obtained. A disobedient child is a disgrace

to his parents, a shame to the church, and a problem to the state.

"Kindly, but firmly, correct every inclination to wrong that may appear in the lives of your children. But when you are obliged to correct a child, do not raise the voice to a sharp key, bringing into it that which will arouse the worst passions of the child's heart. Do not lose your self-control. The parent who, when correcting a child, gives way to anger, is far more guilty than the child."⁸

Husband and wife must work as a team, especially when dealing with problems of discipline. "They should not differ in the presence of their children."⁹ "When right words and deeds are left out of the home life, there come in un-Christlike words and deeds. Parents and children work at cross purposes with God."¹⁰

"The home in which the members are polite, courteous Christians exerts a far-reaching influence for good."¹¹

"The angels of God will often visit the home in which the will of God bears sway."¹²

May God help us so to order our homes that they will be blessed by the influence of the Holy Spirit and by the presence of heavenly angels.

REFERENCES

- ¹ *Ministry of Healing*, p. 349.
- ² *Ibid.*, p. 351.
- ³ Mrs. B. G. White in *Review and Herald*, Aug. 8, 1935.
- ⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 10-25.
- ⁵ Mrs. B. G. White in *Review and Herald*, Aug. 8, 1935.
- ⁶ Mrs. B. G. White in *Review and Herald*, Nov. 1, 1934.
- ⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 49-25.
- ⁸ Mrs. B. G. White in *Review and Herald*, Aug. 8, 1935.
- ⁹ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁰ *Ibid.*
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*
- ¹² *Ibid.*

A Sacred Trust

BY MR. AND MRS. TED DORTCH

RELIGION and life begin in the home, and when life begins, education begins. Upon the parents rests the great responsibility of educating their children to understand, appreciate, and love religion.

Through the years, as God has placed little lives in our home, we have tried to keep ever in mind that He has entrusted this precious heritage to us to train for Him. All the laws formulated for the guidance of our children have been based upon God's law, for we realized that this is the only way they can be true laws. It has always been our wish and prayer that our children shall develop well-balanced characters; and we have realized that such characters do not "just grow." A work of such magnitude and importance requires patient, persevering effort—in thought, study, and prayer, as

well as action. In trying to achieve the desired results, we must be willing to "live with our children." Not only in theory should the child be taught, but by precept and example. If we, their parents, say that religion is love, kindness, obedience, service, and unselfishness; and they see us cross, unkind, and selfish, surely our "teaching" has accomplished less than nothing.

From infancy the child must see in his parents a living example of religion. Nothing is to be gained by force or "preaching." "Above any other agency, service for Christ's sake in the little things of everyday experience has power to mold the character and to direct the life into lines of unselfish ministry. To awaken this spirit, to encourage, and rightly to direct it, is the parent's . . . work."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 401.

We, as parents, must acknowledge Christ as our Master, and devote ourselves to His service. We must look upon our children as belonging to God, but entrusted for a time to our safekeeping. Our homes must be scenes of action, inspired by love for God and for our fellow men. The children need to see their parents manifest patience and tender regard for each other and for their children. The Christian home is where the children must be taught—and required—to show courtesy to one another, respect for their elders, and reverence for God. The work of consecration is needed in every home. Only as we daily place ourselves anew in God's hands, are we able to draw supplies of heavenly grace for the many trying duties and responsibilities of the day. Thus a Christian home becomes a place where love dwells, and religion is real.

There must be mutual confidence between the parent and the child, as well as sympathy and understanding. In all our dealings with our children we try to put ourselves in their place, and look at matters from their point of view. If the child recognizes in the parent a leader and not a driver, as he grows older he will naturally turn to the parent for counsel and help in all matters pertaining to his life.

Religion is most necessary to the child when he reaches the teen age, and accordingly we find the religious instinct then very strong. Parents must be alert to recognize this heart hunger at the right time, and help to supply the longed-for love, attention, and affection, and to minister to the spiritual needs at this critical time in life. The religion of this

particular age is one of action, and we parents must keep "a jump ahead" of our children, and be ready to plan with them the right kind of recreation. We must spend much time with our boys and girls, even if it does mean sacrifice; we must plan for and with them, and let their young friends in the community or church know that we are one with them in our love and thoughts.

Every don't must be balanced by a do. When we discover that our children are planning for something questionable, we immediately plan for something good to take its place. Children like system and organization; they like to belong to a society or club of some kind; they like the feeling of co-operation with others; and most of all they like to see things done in a big way. All these activities, if carried on in the right spirit and manner, are a part of their religion. Put confidence in your children; make them partners with you in the business of the home. Give them an allowance of some exact amount each week or twice monthly, as their share of the family funds. Then help them to make a budget, including tithe and offerings, and certain small necessities, as well as toys and treats. Even though the amount may be small, it will teach them to save and to know the value of money and property. No child will take part of his tithe or Sabbath school offering to spend for something he wants, if he is taught while young to recognize and love God as the source of all good and to be happy in paying tithe and giving offerings from his own money.

Let us make our homes safe and happy places where our children love to be, and to bring in their chums and playmates. Let us always say, "Let us do so and so," and never give the children cause to think we are "bossing." "Let's go," and "Let's do," are the rules we follow; and we find that they work, always bringing pleasure to both parents and children.

We plan together for all the church-related activities and services, making them a vital and important part of our lives. The church and the church school are a part of our family religion, and we endeavor to give them our wholehearted support as a family.

It is our hope and prayer that some glad day we may, in confidence and joy, deliver into the hands of God the perfected lives of all our children.

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"The Christian that is not making other Christians is as much a contradiction in terms as a fire that is not heating, or a flame that gives no light."

★ Our Foreign Missions ★

These pages provide interesting and helpful material for church elders and conference workers in promoting foreign mission work, and may be used on the second Sabbath of each month when the church offering for missions is taken.

"Prove Me Now Herewith"

"PROVE me now herewith, . . . if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing." Mal. 3:10.

I don't know how, but while I was at Caribbean Training College we students had the impression that we should not pay tithe since we were in training. I felt a sense of relief from this God-given duty until, after two years, one of our brethren from the General Conference visited the college, and in a discussion showed the importance of tithe paying. He also stated that students, of all persons, should pay tithe, as they would be the future workers in the cause of God. Thus they would be able to tell others of the blessings derived from tithe paying.

His message found a responsive chord in the hearts of most of us students. The words, "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me," kept ringing in my ears. Hitherto there was no provision made for the payment of tithe by work students, and we did not have the cash. But after this message provision was made, and we were without excuse.

I had a great struggle over two questions: First, could I afford to pay tithe? and second, should I pay my back tithe? I had a few dollars to my credit, and paying the back tithe would put me on the wrong side of the ledger. Those were moments of anguish. It seemed hard to make the right decision, but, thank God, I made it and paid my tithe, including the back tithe.

Paying the back tithe put me in debt with the school, and that meant no class-work for me for the coming quarter. It was just about time to begin next quarter's work. The evil one told me that I had made a mistake and that I should go to the cashier and let him know I had changed my mind and would be glad for a refund. But I did not do that.

Matriculation day came. My classmates and other students, some of whom did not pay tithe, were all attending classes. I took the matter to the Lord in prayer and reminded Him of His promise to those who would be faithful. God has told us to put Him in remembrance. (Isa. 43:26.) For four days I asked the Lord to permit me to go to school that quarter

although I was in debt. On the fourth day I had the assurance that my prayer would be answered.

That afternoon I placed myself in a conspicuous spot where the principal could see me, for I felt he had something to say to me. Calling me, he said, "Luther, my wife and I were thinking of you today about two o'clock, and even though no student is allowed to take classwork with a debit, yet we will take a chance on you, for we know it is no fault of your own." I was permitted to go to my classes, and I am glad to state here that the next week someone in the States sent some money to the school to help a needy student. I was the fortunate one then. From that time I have never owed the school, even though I took full classwork until graduation. I can truly say that it pays to give the Lord His own.

"Prove me now herewith, . . . if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." May God help us to be faithful to Him.

LUTHER JONES.

New Ministry Magazine Price

Nearly all our denominational periodicals have found it necessary to raise their prices due to the war and rising costs. In spite of all this, the subscription price on the workers' own journal of interchange, "The Ministry," has remained the same until the present time. However, beginning September 15, 1947, we have been forced to increase the price from \$2.00 to \$2.50 a year.

One of the outstanding features of "The Ministry" for 1948 is a series of articles prepared by Arthur L. White, grandson of Ellen G. White, setting forth the human-interest side of Mrs. White's life and experience. These articles are based on Mrs. White's handwritten diaries, letters, etc. Here you will meet her as a homemaker, a neighbor, a speaker, a writer, and the messenger of the Lord. Since her death, a whole new generation of Seventh-day Adventists have come upon the scene, and "The Ministry" is particularly fortunate in being able to arrange for this series of articles.

The studies on other denominations and isms, which began in 1945, has been a feature of special interest which has been included in every issue during 1947 except January, and will run on into 1948.

Studies in hand, which will be published as soon as possible, cover the beliefs of the Dutch Reformed, Seventh Day Baptist, Jews, the Yoga system of philosophy, and the Bahai faith.

Although "The Ministry" is primarily for gospel workers, a miscellaneous group of lay preachers, church elders, and other missionary-minded church members are also receiving its monthly visits. Send orders to "The Ministry Magazine," General Conference Office, Takoma Park 12, D.C.

Faithfulness

IN the province of Mato Grosso, in Brazil, surrounded by dense jungle, where is heard the singing of the canaries, the cooing of the innocent dove, and also the screeching of the tiger, we have a very active Sabbath school directed by an ex-student of the Brazil college. It is wonderful to see how the young people of that church help in all the activities in such an animated, courageous, energetic way.

The thing that impressed me most, however, was the faithfulness of the members of that church, both young and old. One beautiful Sabbath morning we were gathered together for Sabbath school. The heavens were a beautiful blue. The shining sun as it dried the ground caused a slight vapor to rise from the earth. The beauties of nature caused our hearts to turn to God in sincere worship. In that moment I saw, coming up the path to the church, a little old woman, Sister Julia Correa. Leaning heavily on her cane, she came hobbling along for a distance of ten miles on foot. She told me afterward that she had read from the morning watch that day a verse which said, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: . . . yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness." Isa. 41:10.

This encouraged her to make an effort to attend the meeting, and, grasping the strong arm of God with one hand and her cane in the other, she had come to Sabbath school, stopping now and then for a little rest, but arriving on time, happy to take her place among the worshippers. What a marvelous example of faithfulness in carrying out the apostle's instruction: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is." Heb. 10:25. Often we who live near the church fail to attend the services. This little sister felt that it was a precious privilege to attend church even though she had to walk ten miles, limping along on a cane.

RUDOLPHO BELZ.

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NOT in our learning, not in our position, not in our numbers or entrusted talents, not in the will of man, is to be found the secret of success. Feeling our inefficiency, we are to contemplate Christ, and through Him who is the strength of all strength, the thought of all thought, the willing and obedient will gain victory after victory.—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 404.

Baptism at Basseterre, Trinidad

SUNDAY, December 15, 1946, was a high day for the members of the Basseterre, Moruga, church. At 9 A.M. the church building was filled with members and visitors where a preliminary examination of the candidates was held. Elder Jones spoke for a few minutes on verses found in Romans 12.

The candidates were then given an opportunity to testify of their faith. Our hearts were thrilled as we listened to one young man who six years ago was so seriously injured in an automobile accident that the doctors despaired of his life. Even up to the present he still suffers from the effects of the accident and cannot carry on a steady conversation, but he was thankful that God had spared his life so that he could accept the Advent message.

Another candidate, a young girl, the dancing queen in her community, thanked God for rescuing her from a world of pleasure and frivolity into this Advent message, and she means to dedicate her life to His cause.

A young man told how, when he was working for the Americans as a truck driver, his truck went over a cliff several hundred feet and was broken in three places. He suffered serious cranial injuries which resulted in his being taken to the mental hospital twenty-nine days after the accident. Now he thanks God for having spared his life so that he can stand on both legs and, with a sound mind, dedicate his life to the Master.

We listened as another young lady told how nine months ago she heard the Advent message over in St. Vincent, where Brother Gabriel held an evangelistic effort. She accepted the truth, but was prevented by her parents from attending the meetings. She decided to marry and come over to Trinidad. Her husband, who was favorable to the message, resided about two miles from Basseterre, Moruga, where a series of evangelistic meetings were being held. She thanked God for thus leading her where she can worship Him according to the dictates of her conscience.

A young couple who have lived in the district for about a year thanked God for bringing them from their former environment to a place where they could hear and accept the truth.

As we listened to these twelve candidates tell of their determination to be true to God, I am sure that many silent petitions ascended to the throne of grace on their behalf.

MRS. IVY JONES.

SPECIAL DAYS AND OFFERINGS

December 6
Annual and Week of Sacrifice Offering

December 13
Second Sabbath Mission Offering

December 20
Home Missionary Day *
Topic: Greater Lay Evangelism Movement

December 27
Thirteenth Sabbath Offering
Southern Asia Division

* **SPECIAL NOTICE:** The Home Missionary Day for December has been appointed for the third Sabbath instead of the first, because that is the last Sabbath of the Week of Prayer. This day has been set apart for the consideration of our lay evangelistic work. Let all our churches on this day not only promote lay evangelism but also use laymen in the service by giving them a part on the program and report the activities of lay evangelistic efforts in the community.

Sincerity and Zeal of the Indian Brethren in the Advent Cause

ONE of our laymen, by name Devadose Pillai, was transferred to a city called Tuticorin. We have a small church building and a few members there. When our brother compared the many thousands of people in that town with the very few members of our church, his heart was touched. He thought that he should do something to swell the church membership. He approached the worker and asked whether the mission could arrange to hold a series of meetings for the non-Adventists. He was informed that funds for that purpose would not be available that year since all the funds had been dispersed during the budget meeting. Then the brother asked our worker whether the mission would arrange to send a speaker if funds were provided. Our worker said that they could arrange for somebody. Hearing this, the brother, who is an honest tithepayer and generous giver for all church enterprises, told our worker that he would sacrifice some of the comforts and conveniences of life in order to provide funds for the evangelistic effort. Actually the brother has indeed sacrificed. He has donated Rs. 330 and he has given all possible help in conducting the meet-

ings. The meetings were held for eight weeks and not without a reward. So far two have been baptized. Several others are attending services, and soon they may be baptized also. That good brother has purchased a Singer sewing machine for the Dorcas Society, and he is still willing to do anything for the expansion of the third angel's message.

Now is the time for the sons and daughters of India to accept this message. Soon hard days are going to come, and it will be impossible to have as much liberty and convenience to spread this truth. While it is day we request our brethren and sisters to help with men and means so that you may have the joy of heaven in seeing a large number of souls being won to Christ.

ENOS DAVID.

Lengthening Shadows of Armageddon

(Continued from page 1)

We cannot wait until the battle of Armageddon to proclaim it. It will then be too late. Now is the accepted time. Let the church in this hour of the world's peril arise to her God-given responsibility and proclaim this message with a loud cry. The Lord will add His blessing. The promised power will come when we are prepared through such service and consecration to receive it. May 1948 be a year of great advance for the Advent message and see the outpouring of the Spirit's power upon His people before it is too late.

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