

The Church Officers' Gazette

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No. 1

Soul Liberty—A Gift of the Gospel

BY HEBER H. VOTAW

THERE is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." 1 Tim. 2:5.

Thus the Scriptures set forth in unqualified language the supremacy of God and the mediatorial work of His Son. The passage brings men into the picture too. They "are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

Not only is the sacrifice sufficient, but the Mediator is supreme. There is neither need nor room for penance and priest. This truth is the central theme of the gospel. This distinguishes the religion of Jesus Christ from both paganism and apostate Christianity. This guarantees access of the soul to God, clearly declaring that the transgressor need not fear that any mortal can bar him from communion with the heavenly Father. Here is the essence of soul liberty—the greatest boon that the earth's inhabitants can know.

Every dictator, civil or ecclesiastical, has sought an allegiance from his followers that can rightly be given only to God. The political dictator can brook no refusal to follow his every command, and sees a rival in God. When Nebuchadnezzar set up his golden image, bade everyone worship, and promised a fiery furnace for those who refused, he brazenly asked, "And who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?" The ecclesiastical dictator claims to speak for God, but puts himself athwart the road that leads to God. Among the pagans the journey to bliss is thought to be safe only if food is sent along, and the

heathen priest's incantations scare away the evil spirits. Among too many Christian lands priestly prayers, burial in consecrated ground, and masses, bought by gifts to the priests to get the soul out of purgatory, are held essential to future life.

Christ came into the world to "deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Heb. 2:15. The Saviour could truly say, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36.

What someone has called "holy boldness" is a marked characteristic of God's children. Their humility and their courage are thought by some to be contradictory. Not so. Because their trust is in God, there can never be any self-exaltation, and because their trust is in God, there is never any fear of man. When Annas and Caiaphas, John and Alexander, and "as many as were of the kindred of the high priest" brought Peter and John to account for preaching Christ, "they marvelled" "when they saw the boldness" of these apostles.

In the beginning of the Christian church all the forces of Judaism and the Roman Empire were arrayed against this infant organization. The disciples, facing imprisonment and death, prayed that God would grant unto His servants "all boldness" as they spoke His Word. The record continues that when they had prayed and the Holy Ghost had filled them, "they spake the word of God with boldness." This boldness led the apostles when they were forbidden to preach in

Christ's name to reply, "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29. It was the same godly courage which caused the three Hebrew children to tell Nebuchadnezzar, "Be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." Dan. 3:18.

Such courage, such boldness, will be needed more and more as we near the end of time. But before the final crisis comes we have a work to do. Our task and the methods of labor to be used are set forth in many striking statements in Sister White's writings, but only a few can be cited.

"The banner of truth and religious liberty held aloft by the founders of the gospel church and by God's witnesses during the centuries that have passed since then, has, in this last conflict, been committed to our hands."—*Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 68, 69.

Perhaps besides the actual apostles who founded the Christian church, no other men have done more to bring the knowledge of real salvation to mortals than the Reformers. Note this quotation:

"Those reformers whose protest has given us the name Protestant felt that God had called them to give the gospel to the world, and in doing this they were ready to sacrifice their possessions, their liberty, and their lives. Are we in this last conflict of the great controversy as faithful to our trust as were the early reformers to theirs? . . .

"In those days the truth was brought
(Continued on page 32)



YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

of Missionary Volunteers



NOTES TO OFFICERS

Digest of Membership Requirements for Senior M.V. Society

FOR the benefit of Missionary Volunteer officers, new and old, we present the Senior M.V. membership plan.

The conditions of regular membership in a Senior M.V. Society for young people ages sixteen to thirty are membership in a Seventh-day Adventist church and a willingness to engage in active service for Christ. The following is the Senior membership Pledge, which members take on joining the society:

"Loving the Lord Jesus, I promise to take an active part in the work of the Young People's Missionary Volunteer Society, doing what I can to help others and to finish the work of the gospel in all the world."

This pledge should be featured on the occasion when membership is solicited.

In some churches there are young people with Christian ideals, who, although not church members, are interested in missionary work and desire to help. Such young people may be accepted into the society as associate members by so stating on their application card. Associate members may not hold office, but they should be received cordially into all the society work and into its bands, and be encouraged to become regular members as soon as possible.

New Frontiers in Personal Devotion

THE year 1948 pushes us nearer the invisible line of the close of probation than we have ever been before. As M.V. officers we must lead our young people into deeper experiences of prayer and Bible study. Unlimited resources of grace and power are still awaiting our demand and reception.

MORNING WATCH, BIBLE YEAR, CHARACTER CLASSICS, PRAYER BANDS, M.V. WEEK—these devotional features invite you to new discoveries in spiritual dynamics. Appoint someone to keep these opportunities ever before the members. Use some method of appeal and enlistment in these devotional plans. Follow up such enlistment with encouraging experiences from time to time, which will keep each one faithful in the devotional habit.

As incentives to prayer and Bible study, there is nothing quite so effective as attempting to share one's faith. It is when we face the humanly impossible that we sense our limitations and grasp in faith for the arm of the Lord. Let us make 1948 the greatest year in Missionary Volunteer devotion.

VOLUNTEER Now!

Share Your Faith
With a Million People
* in 1948 *



Here's How

The M.V. Society Executive Committee

THE M.V. Society executive committee, with the society leader as chairman, and the society secretary as secretary, directs the society in all its activities. It is composed of the society officers, the leader, assistant leader, secretary-treasurer, pianist, chorister, devotional secretary, educational secretary, fellowship or social secretary, librarian, band leaders, publicity secretary, the Junior superintendent, the leader of the church missionary organization, the M.V. sponsor, and the elder or church pastor or both. This committee, which is composed of those chiefly responsible for the welfare of the society, should meet regularly each week to pray, study, and plan for the salvation of the young people of the church and the success of the society. There should be a free discussion of all the problems connected with the work, so that the decisions made may represent the combined thought of all.

This committee constitutes the officers' Prayer and Personal Workers' Band, and should carry a very definite burden for the spiritual welfare of all the young people connected with the families of the church. Each M.V. officer should endeavor to be a personal worker, searching out the discouraged, the backslidden, and the unconverted.

The executive committee is responsible for the society meetings, and should make them a powerful factor in accomplishing all the purposes of the society. The spirit, consecration, wisdom, and enthusiasm of this committee will permeate the whole society.

A church elder, or some other qualified church member, who is interested in the young people and understands the true objectives of the Senior Missionary Volunteer Society, should be elected by the church to serve as the young people's sponsor. He is an important member of the executive committee. He is there to advise and counsel. He should keep himself well informed on Missionary Volunteer matters by study and by counseling with the conference M.V. secretary, and thus help the executive committee keep in close touch with the conference work and the work of the church in all lines.

To have a steady, wide-awake, inspiring, and continuous spirit of enthusiasm in the Missionary Volunteer Society, there must be a smoothly functioning and enthusiastic executive committee at work behind the scenes.

Volunteer Now!

SPECIAL PROGRAM ON THIS TOPIC
will be found under January 10.

Youth's Congress Pictures Wanted

to be used in printing the official record: 2x2 Kodachrome or black and white slides. Prints of any size, shape; and clear negatives of good quality. Be sure to supply us with your name and address.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

General Conference

Takoma Park, Washington 12, D.C.

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"True reverence for God is inspired by a sense of His infinite greatness and a realization of His presence. With this sense of the Unseen, every heart should be deeply impressed. The hour and place of prayer are sacred, because God is there. And as reverence is manifested in attitude and demeanor, the feeling that inspires it will be deepened."—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 48, 49.

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When America's keenest minds are using the newspapers, magazines, movies, and radio to entice youth to drink whisky, smoke cigarettes, and make heroes of criminals, these youth should have opportunity to hear the other side of the argument from someone.—ROGER W. BABSON.



SENIOR MEETINGS

January 3

Drink Deep in '48

BY W. A. NELSON

Order of Service

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

SCRIPTURE READING: "Verse and Reference Drill."

PRAYER.

SONG.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

M.V. OFFERING.

LEADER'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

TALK: "The Hour Is Late! It's '48!"

TALK: "A Moment in the Morning."

SPECIAL MUSIC: "The Beautiful Garden of Prayer," No. 142 in *Gospel Melodies*.

TALK: "Character Classics."

POEM: "I'm Glad." (Printed opposite March texts in 1948 *Morning Watch*.)

CLOSING SONG: "Take the Name of Jesus With You," No. 15 in *M.V. Songs*.

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

This is the day when Missionary Volunteer leaders the world around invite their groups to make all personal pursuits secondary to that of preparing for the coming of Jesus. The leader should make appropriate remarks on the time in which we live. Fires, accidents, and unrest all show us that we have come to the last hour.

It will be the aim during this meeting to show the individual member the need of personal help by way of Bible study and communion with God. Before we can help anyone else we ourselves must know the joy of close fellowship with God. After God speaks to our own hearts we are ready to enter successfully into the great youth-for-youth evangelistic program.

SUPPLIES

The leader should have a supply of Morning Watch calendars and Character Classic leaflets on hand so they can be passed out at the close of the service.

Verse and Reference Drill

WRITE out a number of familiar Bible verses on slips of paper, and on corresponding slips write the references. Distribute among the members. Each in turn reads a verse and the one who has the corresponding reference stands and reads from his slip of paper. For instance, if the verse read were "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want," the one having "Psalms 23:1" on his slip would stand and read the reference.

The Hour Is Late—It's '48!

THE Motto and the Aim of the Missionary Volunteer Society correctly express the feelings of Seventh-day Adventist young people. The love of Christ constrains us. This love fills our hearts, and we are determined we are going to be growing Christians. This, the first Sabbath of the New Year, we must decide on a program which will help us make this growth. A daily devotional program must be organized and followed. "We must daily sit down at God's table. We must receive strength from the Living Vine, if we are nourished."—*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 560.

When we are growing ourselves we are ready to help other young people. We must make 1948 an outstanding year in soul winning. Youth-for-youth evangelism must be the key thought for every Missionary Volunteer leader and society group. When General Booth was asked to send a cable message to his followers who were meeting in New York, he sent this word, "Others." Our Aim, "The Advent Message to All the World in This Generation," challenges all of us to enter wholeheartedly into the youth-for-youth program.

The fact that we have not completed the giving of the gospel message is delaying the coming of Jesus. "If every soldier of Christ had done his duty, if every watchman on the walls of Zion had given the trumpet a certain sound, the world might ere this have heard the message of warning. But the work is years behind. While men have slept, Satan has stolen a march upon us."—*Ibid.*, vol. 9, p. 29. The hour is late. Let us redeem the time in '48!

A Moment in the Morning

THIS is the season for beginning again. Perhaps we have wasted many of our days. We have done nothing with them. We have made no one happier, including ourselves. Now the New Year gives us an opportunity to do things and to do them better than we have ever done them before.

Let us apply our New Year's interest and enthusiasm to our Missionary Volunteer Society. No matter how many

times we have started to keep the Morning Watch or to read the Bible through, at this the beginning of the year we can renew our interest and determine to do just a little better than we did last time. We have the privilege of burying our failures in the dim, dusty past. We are free. The page is white. What shall we write on our page?

For one thing, can we not each one determine to observe faithfully the Morning Watch?

"A moment in the morning, take your Bible in your hand,
And catch a glimpse of glory from the peaceful promised land;
It will linger still before you when you seek the busy mart,
And, like flowers of hope, will blossom into beauty in your heart;
The precious words, like jewels, will glisten all the day,
With a rare, effulgent glory that will brighten all the way."

"A moment in the morning—a moment, if it is no more—
It is better than an hour when the trying day is o'er.
'Tis the gentle dew from heaven, the manna for the day;
If you fail to gather early—alas! it melts away.
So, in the blush of morning take the offered hand of love,
And walk in heaven's pathway and the peacefulness thereof."

—ARTHUR LEWIS TUBBS.

Yes, a moment is all it takes, but what a world of difference it makes in the day, and in the whole New Year!

The secret of successful Christian living is found in prayer and Bible study. Forty years ago the plan of the Morning Watch was instituted. The Morning Watch has inspired thousands to form the prayer habit and has aided them in becoming better qualified as soul winners. It will do the same for you, young man, young woman. As we face the new year let us determine to press together and be a united group of Missionary Volunteers, breaking all previous records in prayer and Bible study and ultimately in soul winning.

Character Classics

A FAMILY had a beautiful and valuable vase which had been handed down from the generations of the past. It had been carefully treasured although it was kept on the living room mantel as an object which all might enjoy. One day when the mother came home after making an afternoon call, her daughter said to her:

"Mom, you know that vase which you told us had been passed down from generation to generation?"

"Yes," replied the mother.

"This generation has just dropped it," said the daughter.

It is easy for us to become so familiar

with treasured possessions that we handle them carelessly and fail to appreciate their value. This may even be true of the Bible and the writings of the Spirit of prophecy.

The young people's book *Messages to Young People* says, "Youthful minds fail to reach their noblest development when they neglect the highest source of wisdom,—the word of God. That we are in God's world, in the presence of the Creator; that we are made in His likeness; that He watches over us and loves and cares for us,—these are wonderful themes for thought, and lead the mind into broad, exalted fields of meditation. . . . We should not be satisfied with a superficial knowledge, but should seek to learn the full meaning of the words of truth, to drink deep of the spirit of the Holy Oracles."—Pages 283, 284.

Some may prefer to read and study the Bible and the Bible only. Others may have read their Bible through several times and would prefer spending a longer time in completing the Bible and at the same time do some supplementary reading. The Character Classics plan enables us to complete the reading of the Bible in four years. While reading the Bible, we read a corresponding volume of the Spirit of prophecy. As an example, while reading the four Gospels, we will read *The Desire of Ages*. The writings of the Spirit of prophecy help us to understand the Bible. They give the setting for the Bible statements.

The year ahead is new and untried. We know not what to expect. We must be fortified against temptation. We must be prepared to face problems. We must make right decisions. The Bible must be our guide. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Ps. 119: 105. It alone can give lasting satisfaction. We will never regret the time we spend in reading the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy. By reading these we will be satisfied. Jesus said, "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:14.

Drink deep in '48.

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"In his own strength man is strengthless; but in the might of God he may be strong to overcome evil and to help others to overcome. Satan can never gain advantage of him who makes God his defense."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 175.

January 10

Volunteer Now

BY THEODORE LUCAS

Order of Service

SONGSPARATION.

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

OPENING EXERCISES.

INTRODUCTION OF TOPIC: (See Notes to Leaders.)

TALK: "Share Your Faith."

DISCUSSION: "What Youth Can Do."

DEMONSTRATION: "Share Your Faith Plans."

SIGNING OF PLEDGE.

LITANY OF DEDICATION.

CLOSING PRAYER.

Notes to Leaders

The Youth's Congress held last September in San Francisco began a great wave of evangelism among our youth. To keep this mighty wave rolling, our young people must be continually engaged in an endless campaign to win their fellow youth by sharing their faith. This Volunteer Now program originates for that purpose. Do your best as officers to arrange this program in such a way that it will contribute much toward arousing new zeal and evangelistic fervor among the young people of your society.

The "Volunteer Now" leaflet introduced at the Youth's Congress has had wide distribution and is to be used in connection with the presentation of this program. Take the suggestions which are made here and taken from the "Volunteer Now" leaflets and use them as demonstrations to show what young people can do to share their faith. Put forth every effort to make the program as solemn as possible.

When the share-your-faith pledge is signed, have it done in unison. This pledge can be signed on the "Volunteer Now" leaflets supplied your members, or you can write the pledge on a blackboard, or at the top of a sheet of paper and have everybody sign it.

After the signing of the pledge, follows the program which was used to close the Youth's Congress, that is the Litany of Dedication to be read responsively together with the closing prayer.

Share Your Faith

OUR youth evangelism must be so challenging that the ordinary young person is drawn by its possibilities, and his dominating desire becomes that of sharing his faith with others. Our first great concern should be that of having young people who are so convinced that evangelism is a normal function of Christian youth that their radiant spiritual personalities will furnish the central motivating cause.

The aim of youth evangelism is to reach out and win the youth of the community. It is obvious that many of them will not respond to mere invitations to

come to church. We must find them where they are. As Jesus entered into fellowship with Pharisees, publicans, and sinners in order to minister to these people, so do we begin with fellowship to reach the unreached.

Back in the first century a Christian named Paul had looked forward confidently to the time when "every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." That was an amazing faith for the century in which the life of Jesus had been cut off by a shameful execution and for a time when His followers numbered only a handful of oddly assorted people.

The summons to the work of evangelism is a summons to every one of us. Evangelism is not the monopoly of preachers but the natural job of every Christian. When a young man is gripped by the knowledge that Christ is Lord, he cannot help being caught into the great company that seeks to claim the world for Christ.

Evangelism is concerned with fields of living. If Christ is Lord, then His authority must be recognized in every field of activity. In our day great stretches of business and industry and professional life have been organized without regard for the law of God. The rights of man are disregarded and trampled upon. Desire for technical progress has become an end in itself. Greed for profit becomes the dominating motive. Success is measured in terms of mastery of a skill. It is part of the task of evangelism to bring all life under the sway of Christ, for His word proclaims that it is only under Him that men can have abundant life.

We live in a day when men are looking for a new faith by which to live. Mussolini in Italy and Hitler in Germany came to power with such amazing speed, not because of their greatness, but because people were hungry for an idea and a plan. Mussolini and Hitler supplied them with both. In our day men are still looking for an idea and a plan, and we must see that the youth who have it will supply it.

What Youth Can Do

1. *Youth can keep a prayer list.* Prayer helps to release Christ's redemptive power in life. It prepares the other person for response.

2. *Youth will try to hold the young people we have.* Perhaps our first business as evangelists is to know all young people who constitute our potential fellowship, to seek to enlist all of them,

and to keep them interested and active.

3. *Youth will look for other young people.* Out beyond our M.V. group there are other young people about whom we must be genuinely and constantly concerned.

a. We can look for them among our acquaintances. Young people themselves know where non-Christian youth are.

b. We can go over the record books of our church, our church schools, and our M.V. Societies.

4. *Youth will use various ways to bring young people into M.V. fellowship.*

a. Invite young people who are out of touch with the church to attend an M.V. meeting.

b. List the young people in the community who should be in the church, but who are not; assign the names to individuals who know them, and have them see each one personally.

c. Help our minister conduct a series of evangelistic services. Perhaps we can plan a share-my-faith Week.

d. Study our youth program and use it so that it will win and hold young people.

"Share Your Faith" Plans

TRACT TAG NIGHTS.—Distribute tracts in downtown area on shopping nights. Follow with a projector effort in a downtown hall. Begin meeting not later than 9 P.M.

SINGING QUARTET.—Mixed quartet sings in residential section to find interest for community Bible schools. Ring doorbell and explain you are from Missionary Volunteer Society and have come to bring cheer to their homes by singing gospel hymns. After singing, inquire concerning family, the children, the youth. Invite them to attend young people's meeting. Before leaving, have short prayer and leave appropriate literature.

YOUTH EFFORT.—This is a major project. Co-operate with the group. You may be asked to usher, distribute handbills, operate projector, sing, speak—do what you can!

TEMPERANCE TEAMS.—Give temperance programs in churches, clubs, grange halls, junior and senior high schools.

READING GUIDANCE PLAN.—Loan seven Crisis books, one at a time, for weekly reading. Supply readers with a guidance sheet on which they fill in answers procured from the book itself. Certificates are available for those completing this reading plan.

HAPPINESS PACKAGES.—Include in these packages cheering poems, Bible selections, pictures, and stories of interest

labeled in smaller envelopes for each day of the week to be opened daily. Distribute these as you visit hospitals, orphanages, and like places.

BRANCH SABBATH SCHOOLS.—Give special attention to juniors and young people.

TRACT RACKS.—Maintain these in drugstores, restaurants, depots, neighborhood stores, hospital reading rooms, and in the offices of professional men.

WINDOW DISPLAY PLAN.—Apply for use of vacant store-window space. Clean it up. First week place the image of Daniel 2 in the window with question, "Did you know that this was in the Bible?" Place arrow pointing to tract rack, above which are the words, "Help yourself to a free tract." The second week display model of sanctuary. These models are obtainable. Ask questions concerning longest time prophecy and again call attention to literature rack. Here's an opportunity for creative designing.

LIBRARY CONTACTS.—Form groups of two, three, or four to contact libraries or branch libraries. Take a brief case or a suitcase of attractive books. Lay out the array on the desk of the librarian. Inform her that the books are available for library with the promise to put them on display where the new accessions are placed. Make wise selections.

OUTDOOR STREET CORNER OR PARK MEETINGS.—Conduct song service and a brief Bible study, use projector, mimeograph song sheets. Give chalk talks. Promise to answer their questions the following week. Sermonets.

COMMUNITY BIBLE SCHOOLS.—This plan has been proved. Form share-my-faith teams. Use projector and filmstrips. Arouse community interest with other plans suggested here.

WRITE LETTERS.—Write friendly letters to newlyweds and new parents in your community.

MASTER COMRADE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUBS.—Form a club of neighborhood juniors. Present Progressive Classes. Sponsor weekly excursions, hikes, cycling trips, and the Vocational Honors.

BIBLE LAWN PARTIES.—This is a warm-weather project. Use a projector. Throw on the screen gospel songs as well as Bible subjects. This type of summer evangelism will appeal to the youth of your community.

Volunteer Now Pledge

I VOLUNTEER now to join the mighty march of my fellow Missionary Volun-

teers toward a total mobilization plan for soul-winning evangelism and will do my best to share my faith with twenty people (two new contacts a month) in 1948.

Signed.....

Litany of Dedication

I LIVE; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.

O Christ, we cannot live without Thee, for in Thee we live and move and have our being, apart from Thee we can do nothing.

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

O Christ, we cannot bear to think of others living without Thee, for Thou art the Way, the Truth and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Thee.

When Jesus saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then said He unto His disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.

O Christ, we cannot be idle while the longing of Thy heart for Thy young people is unsatisfied; therefore, as Thou didst come to seek and to save the lost, we dedicate ourselves to the joyous mission of making Thee known to others.

Closing Prayer

(in unison)

"LORD, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, un-Christ-like self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul." "Help me to do my best. Teach me how to do better work. Give me energy and cheerfulness. Help me to bring into my service the loving ministry of the Saviour." Amen. (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 159; *Ministry of Healing*, p. 474.)

The Silent Prayer

LORD, lay some soul upon my heart,
And love that soul through me;
And may I nobly do my part
To win that soul for Thee. Amen.

January 17

Is Sociability an Asset?

BY L. A. SKINNER

Order of Service

SPECIAL MUSIC.
 SECRETARY'S REPORT.
 ORAL OR WRITTEN MISSIONARY REPORTS.
 REPEAT THE M.V. PLEDGE IN UNISON,
 CONGREGATION STANDING.
 PRAYER.
 OFFERING.
 SONG.
 LEADER'S REMARKS.
 TOPIC: "Association, Negative."
 TOPIC: "Association, Positive."
 POEM: "My Chum."
 TOPIC: "Seven Principles Governing Association."
 LIFE EXPERIENCES OR CASE STUDIES:
 "Andy's Story" and "Jimmie's Experience."
 "Charles' Success" and "George's Failure."
 "Hank Found a Way."
 DISCUSSION.
 "VOLUNTEER NOW."
 CLOSING SONG.
 BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

Among our young people there is a very definite question as to when it is safe to associate with non-Christian young people and when it is not safe. This program material is provided for the purpose of laying down some fundamental principles, which have to do with association in its positive and negative phases.

A study of the Bible and Testimonies on positive association provide the material which emphasizes our responsibility as Christians to mingle with our fellow men in order to represent the gospel in action.

A study of these same books on the negative phase of association sets forth the principles which call us out of the world and make us a separate, peculiar people. In between these two positions there is at present a hazy, twilight zone in the thinking of many of our young people. Jesus said in His prayer in John 17, "I pray not that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil."

The objective in this program is to reveal to our young people the responsibility they have of sharing their faith and setting up some safeguards which will protect them from potential dangers in the world at large.

In the seven principles governing association of Christian with non-Christian, statements from the Spirit of prophecy reveal the careful balance which keeps us from isolationism, which was the sin of Israel, and show us the way of personally witnessing without copying or imitating the practices of those around us.

Obviously, this material had better not be used at all if it is going to be read verbatim. Whoever is assigned to these studies should have a comprehensive view

of the entire program and its objective, and should feel free to add to it or delete from the material provided here. These scriptures and Spirit of prophecy statements may be typed and handed to members of the audience if desired.

It would be highly desirable under proper guidance and chairmanship to close this program with a discussion. When material is presented from the positive and negative standpoint, the most favorable situation develops for a live discussion. The case history stories found here of real life experiences will contribute to the success of the discussion.

Association, Negative

2 Cor. 6:14, 16-18.

Rev. 18:4.

Amos 3:3.

"THE youth fail to realize how sensibly both their character and their reputation are affected by their choice of associates."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 411.

"Do you desire to form correct habits? Then seek the company of those who are sound in morals, and whose aim tends to that which is good."—*Ibid.*, p. 415.

"We should choose the society most favorable to our spiritual advancement. . . . We may be placed in trying positions, for many cannot have their surroundings what they would; but we should not voluntarily expose ourselves to influences that are unfavorable to the formation of Christian character. When duty calls us to do this, we should be doubly watchful and prayerful, that, through the grace of Christ, we may stand uncorrupted."—*Ibid.*, p. 419.

"They [Christian youth] should shun the society of those who are absorbing every evil influence, who are inactive and without earnest desire for attainment of a high standard of character, who cannot be relied upon as persons who will be true to principle."—*Ibid.*, p. 423.

"Love those best who love Christ most."—*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 48.

"Let the youth who are forming character be kept away from places where they would have to mingle with a great company of unbelievers, and where the forces of the enemy are strongly entrenched."—*Ibid.*, vol. 8, p. 225.

Association, Positive

Matt. 5:13, 16.

2 Cor. 3:2.

Matt. 28:19, 20.

John 17:15.

"BUT God did not intend that His people, in self-righteous exclusiveness, should shut themselves away from the world, so that they could have no influence upon it."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 369.

"Do not withdraw yourselves from the world in order to escape persecution. You are to abide among men, that the savor of the divine love may be as salt to preserve the world from corruption. . . . It is to sanctify the daily life, to manifest itself in every business transaction

and in all social relations."—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 306, 307.

"Social power, sanctified by the Spirit of Christ, must be improved in bringing souls to the Saviour."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 402.

"Through the social relations, Christianity comes in contact with the world."—*Ibid.*, p. 403.

"Salt must be mingled with the substance to which it is added; it must penetrate and infuse in order to preserve. So it is through personal contact and association that men are reached by the saving power of the gospel. . . . We must come close to those whom we desire to benefit. . . . The love of Christ is diffusive and aggressive."—*Mount of Blessing*, pp. 59, 60.

"I have been shown that we are not to shun the W.C.T.U. workers. By uniting with them in behalf of total abstinence, we do not change our position regarding the observance of the seventh day. . . . The Lord has taught us how safe is the cable that anchors us to the living Rock. Here is an opportunity to labor for those who have truth on some points, but who on other points are not safely anchored. Keep in touch with the people wherever you can."—*Counsels on Health*, p. 437.

"In His wisdom the Lord brings those who are seeking for truth into touch with fellow-beings who know the truth. It is the plan of Heaven that those who have received light shall impart it to those in darkness."—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 134.

My Chum

He stood at the crossroads all alone,

With the sunrise in his face;

He had no fear for the path unknown,

He was set for a manly race.

But the road stretched east, and the road

stretched west;

There was no one to tell him which way

was the best.

So my chum turned wrong and went down

and down.

Till he lost the race and the victor's crown,

And fell at last in an ugly snare,

Because no one stood at the crossroads

there.

Another chum on another day,

At the selfsame crossroads stood;

He paused a moment to choose the way

That would lead to the greater good.

And the road stretched east, and the road

stretched west.

But I was there to show him the best;

So my chum turned right, and went on

and on.

Till he won the race and the victor's crown;

He came at last to the mansions fair,

Because I stood at the crossroads there.

Since then I have raised a daily prayer

That I be kept faithfully standing there,

To warn the runners as they come,

And save my own or another's chum.

—Author Unknown.

Seven Principles Governing Association

of Christian With Non-Christian

1. CHRISTIAN must possess positive charge of faith.

2. Christian must mingle with definite motive of sharing his faith.

3. Christian must be a thermostat and not a thermometer.

4. Christian is jeopardizing his own experience if he mingles for purpose of pleasure and fellowship.

5. Christian should not only have the objective of winning individuals to Christ but also of demonstrating the advantages of Christian living.

6. Christian must take the initiative, be enthusiastic, and be prepared to withstand ridicule patiently.

7. Christian must be alert and sensitive to detect the first signs of tendency to give in to his environment.

Christians must mingle—share. "They shut themselves away from the world in order to escape temptation. The restrictions that God had placed upon their association with idolaters as a means of preventing them from conforming to the practices of the heathen, they used to build up a wall of separation between themselves and all other nations. They robbed God of the service He required of them, and they robbed their fellow-men of religious guidance and a holy example."—*Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 14, 15.

"The followers of Christ are to be separate from the world in principles and interests; but they are not to isolate themselves from the world. The Saviour mingled constantly with men, not to encourage them in anything that was not in accordance with God's will, but to uplift and ennoble them. 'I sanctify myself,' He declared, 'that they also might be sanctified.' John 17:19. So the Christian is to abide among men, that the savor of divine love may be as salt to preserve the world from corruption."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 323.

"We are not to practice its ways [the world's] or follow its customs. Continually we are to resist its lax principles."—*Counsels on Health*, p. 592.

"The question may be asked, Are we to have no union whatever with the world? The Word of the Lord is to be our guide. Any connection with infidels and unbelievers that would identify us with them, is forbidden by the Word. We are to come out from among them, and be separate. In no case are we to link ourselves with them in their plans of work. But we are not to live reclusive lives. We are to do worldlings all the good we possibly can.

"Christ has given us an example of this. When invited to eat with publicans and sinners, He did not refuse; for in no other way than by mingling with them could He reach this class. But on every occasion. . . . He opened up themes of conversation which brought things of

eternal interest to their minds."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 394.

"It is not God's will that we should seclude ourselves from the world. But while in the world we should sanctify ourselves to God. . . . We are to be in the world as a corrective influence, as salt that retains its savor. . . . We are to exert a saving influence upon the world."—*Counsels on Health*, p. 592.

Andy's Story

HE LED HIS ASSOCIATES TO CHRIST

ANDY was a worldly lad and a keen cricketer. (Cricket is Australia's national sport.) When the claims of this message came to him, he responded and became as ardent in the game of life as he was in the game of cricket. At first he thought he would give up his sport. Then he said to the Lord, "Lord, shall I give up cricket, or do you want me to stay on as a witness before the members of my team?" He said he was impressed to stay on. He did so, and because he had two brothers who were also members of this sports team, he prayed earnestly for their salvation, and soon began to tell them and his mates of the wonderful change that had come into his heart and of the claims of this message. God was with him, and Andy was finally rewarded by seeing his two brothers and three other members of his team—five out of the eleven—give their hearts to the Lord and accept this message.

Jimmie's Experience

HE LOST GROUND THROUGH UNFAVORABLE ENVIRONMENT

JIMMIE had a background of Adventist parents, home, and school. He developed an unusual ability for playing baseball and was very fond of it. His amiable disposition and cheerful personality opened the way to many friends. His services as a ballplayer were being sought by a number of teams. At first ball playing was secondary, and Jimmie maintained his strict adherence to Bible principles. After a few seasons of popularity and outstanding success, however, it became apparent that the non-Christian associations were leaving a mark on the young man. Notwithstanding earnest counsel and warning, Jimmie permitted the world to claim his talents and ability.

Charles' Success

HE LIFTED NON-CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES TO HIGHER LEVEL

CHARLES came to a Seventh-day Adventist college as a careless young man.

His bent to mischief brought him in conflict with the administration. During a revival service he was converted, partly, he said, because he remembered his mother's prayers. Now he was most enthusiastic in his new relationship to Christ. One day the dean came and asked Charles whether he would be willing to leave his comfortable room and Christian roommate, and live with one of the careless young men who was having difficulty. This Charles agreed to do. Before many weeks this indifferent roommate was led to the Lord in conversion. Again the dean assigned Charles to another needy roommate. Before the year was over, Charles had won three roommates, two of which had been associated with him in various questionable pursuits before his change of heart.

George's Failure

HIS CHOICE OF ASSOCIATES DETERMINED HIS COURSE

GEORGE came to one of our denominational colleges from a distant State. He made it clear in the first testimony service that he had recently decided to dedicate his life to the Lord and had come here to prepare for service. There were many earnest students, and there were some whose influence was exerted on the side of evil. George began to associate with a group of young men who were antagonistic toward the standards of the school. They were critical, deceptive, and secretive. Before the year was over, George had become involved in an escapade of rather serious nature which forfeited his membership in the college family.

Hank Found a Way

HE SHARED HIS FAITH IN AN UNFAVORABLE ENVIRONMENT

BECAUSE of adverse circumstances, Hank found it necessary to attend high school in his city during his senior year. At first he felt like a misfit and occasionally regretted his high ideals. As he continued his Morning Watch devotions he was impressed that he had been commissioned to represent the third angel's message to the hundreds of students who knew nothing of God or the Bible. He covenanted with God to be true. He carried his Bible to school every day on top of his books. He distributed pencils on which a Scripture text was written. He carried attractive youth leaflets. He took advantage of every opportunity to perform a service for students and teachers. One day a faculty member asked Hank

to get him a New Testament. Then one day, Herb, a fellow student, confided to him that his parents were quarreling and contemplating divorce, and all that he had thought secure was breaking up before his eyes. He had watched Hank, and now he came to him for help.

This was the golden moment. Hank found some promises in the Bible and explained the love and compassion of Jesus. Step by step Hank led Herb to Jesus Christ, and out of the experience Hank heard the call of God in his own heart to prepare for the ministry.

How to Use the Stories

These true incidents may be used merely as life experiences illustrating the opportunity and danger of associations. Or, they may be used as case studies and form the basis for worth-while discussion. Analyze each story. Why did one fail while another succeeded? What Bible principle was followed or transgressed? These stories will suggest other personal experiences from which the audience will want to ask questions. A careful chairman can guide the discussion and summarize in such a way as to clarify this vital issue of when it is safe and when it is not safe to fraternize with non-Christian associates.

Volunteer Now

Join fifty thousand Missionary Volunteers in sharing your faith with one million people in 1948!

The last evening of the Youth's Congress in San Francisco, ten thousand Seventh-day Adventist young people stood to their feet in solemn dedication, pledging their best efforts to "share their faith with one million people during 1948." Since that time other thousands have enlisted. If you have not signed up, "Volunteer Now!" All of us can be back-fence evangelists; we can reach out to tell those with whom we come in contact of God's great plan for our planet. The expression of a sincere experience with God, a kind deed, a cheering word, or a thoughtful, courteous act, accompanied by the blessing of the Holy Spirit, will have their effect upon the individual. Two new contacts a month will constitute your share of this concerted movement to reach one million people in 1948. Follow up these contacts. Seek to enroll the individuals in radio Bible Correspondence courses or in a Bible study and cottage meeting group. Yes, it may be you can enroll them in the Sabbath school in your local church. May God make this the most fruitful year in youth evangelism and in the personal Christian experience of each young person in the church!

January 24

Widening the Horizon

BY E. W. DUNBAR

Order of Service

OPENING EXERCISES.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 4:3, 4.

INTRODUCTION BY LEADER. (See Notes to Leaders.)

TALK: "Expanding My Horizon."

SYMPOSIUM: "Windows."

TALK: "An Opportunity for Missionary Volunteers."

TALK: "What We Should Gain From Our Reading."

STUDY: "My Reading." (See Notes to Leaders.)

CLOSING EXERCISES.

Notes to Leaders

Read with a purpose. The result of this meeting should be to impart to the young people a more definite understanding of the best things to read. Statistics prove that the youthful age is the reading age. So it is especially important that the Missionary Volunteer learns to select that which will be educational and helpful in future life rather than detrimental to character building. It is said that William Carey, when a young man, read Cook's *Travels* and was influenced to give his life to missions. How many lives have been directed into useful channels through the reading of good books is impossible to estimate.

"Books are the windows through which the soul looks out. A home without books is like a room without windows."—HENRY WARD BEECHER.

Encourage our young people to read with a purpose. Read for culture, for devotion, for a larger life. The opportunities today for reading good books are unlimited. Wherever we may be we have access to books through the libraries, the extension services of our schools, and the conference M.V. libraries, which make available good books to the most remote. However, we must be able to choose and know upon what basis books must be selected, since many libraries and booksellers feature only those types which appeal to the greater number, which books are usually not the best. Make use of the conference lending library.

Opportunity will be given in this meeting to describe the Missionary Volunteer Reading Course books. Give real emphasis to these courses. Long winter evenings can be made very enjoyable through the reading of good books.

It would be well to have available for the young people on the night of your program some of the M.V. leaflets on good reading, such as M.V. Leaflets 33, 34, and 35.

Possibly with the counsel of the executive committee, specimens of good books in devotional fields, travel, science, missions, and so forth might be displayed and featured during this program.

Study: "My Reading." Study the book *Messages to Young People*, section 9, pages 270-290. With the needs of your

young people in mind, choose the most helpful statements from those pages, and use them as the basis for the study on the subject of reading. If you know that your young people are tempted in novel reading and in the choice of poor literature, emphasize the danger of these habits and urge positive principles. If you know that they read very little, stress the value of learning from others in this manner. Whatever their condition, encourage a systematic, well-balanced reading program for each young person.

Expanding My Horizon

A WOMAN, in search of living quarters in the city, found two apartments of which she could take her choice. The rooms in one were large, and from the windows she could view the other side of a narrow street. The rooms of the other were small and were on the top floor, overlooking an uptown park, so that from the windows she could see over the roof tops and the green treetops and far across the island to the blue beyond. She chose the small apartment. "The other has more room for furniture," she explained, "but this has more room for me." And she added, "No room can be really crowded if it has a window with a view."

Books are like windows. You can look through them. And sometimes you can see a long way. Sometimes they open on a vista of centuries past. Sometimes into the future. Sometimes they picture your neighbors across the sea, and sometimes, the person you may become. No life need be crowded in these days when such limitless expanses are possible to the view through our book windows.

A well-known blind man, in company with his daughter, visited the Grand Canyon some years ago. A guide was engaged to take them through the canyon. As the party proceeded on its way, the blind man kept asking the guide questions about the canyon that no seeing man had ever asked. The guide wondered how this man, who was blind, knew so much about something he had never seen. Finally he asked him, "How is it that you in your blindness know so much about this canyon?" The man replied, "My daughter read a number of books on the Grand Canyon to me before we left home." Book windows had opened up a new world to this blind man. Book windows can do that for every one of us.

It is told of Henry Clay Trumbull, the famous editor and author, that when a young man he was asked to speak at a Sunday school meeting, he decided to use the coral as an illustration. He started to read about it, became interested, read

one book after another on the subject, and ended by making a thorough study of corals. He looked back upon that use of books as the beginning of his lifelong digging for facts.

The great traveler and author, Bayard Taylor, received his liking for travel from a guidebook to Europe, which he read when a boy. He read it with so much care that he came to know it from cover to cover, and it decided the bent of his life.

When Theodore Roosevelt was a boy, he owned and read a book entitled *Missionary Travels and Researches in Africa*, by David Livingstone. It was through this book that he became interested in African exploration. Theodore Roosevelt is also reported to have read the Bible a great deal. When he planned his trip to the African jungles, he made out a list of the books he wished to take with him. The Bible was at the head of the list.

Captain Roald Amundsen, explorer, when but a child was fired with the ambition to be an explorer. He said, "When I was but a little boy, I read books on exploring. I knew just what I wanted to do, and where I wanted to go. These things I have done."

When Napoleon Bonaparte was a lad, he spent much time in the reading of wars and conquests. As a result, he became one of the greatest warriors of all time.

When Daniel Webster decided to take the advice of his family and become a lawyer, his brother, Ezekiel, who had been appointed head of a private school in Boston, wrote him, "Come down to modern Athens. Teach Latin and Greek for an hour and a half each day. It will pay your board, and you can pore over dusty volumes in somebody's office the balance of the time to your heart's content." So Daniel hied himself to Boston. The teaching was easy, but finding a post as law clerk was another matter. He was absolutely unknown in the city, and he had come with such dispatch that he had failed to bring any credentials with him. But study law he must, and would.

Finally he decided to try to get into the office of ex-Governor Gore, the best posted man in the city. When he succeeded in getting a hearing with the lawyer, he frankly stated that he had come up from the country, where he had been reading law by himself for two years and longed to get into a good office. The good man listened carefully while Daniel presented his case and begged him to consider his application as soon

as communications could be received from certain mutual friends at home. Then as the boy arose to leave, Mr. Gore spoke genially, "Stay, my young friend. You say you have come to Boston to study and wish to waste as little time as possible? I'll take you at your word. You may as well hang up your hat and go to work. Go into the other room and study the first chapter of this book, Ward's *Law of Nations*. In half an hour I shall ask you to give me a brief summary."

How fortunate that for years Daniel had been setting himself to just such tasks. "I always made what I read my own," he tells us. "When a half hour or an hour at the most had elapsed, I closed my book and thought over what I had read. If there was anything particularly interesting or striking in the passage, I tried to recall it." So now, of course, when he did his best, his best delighted Judge Gore and gained him the desired place.

"This, books can do—nor this alone; they give
New views to life, and teach us how to live;
They soothe the grieved, the stubborn they chastise;
Fools they admonish, and confirm the wise;
Their aid they yield to all, they never shun
The man of sorrow, nor the wretch undone;
Unlike the hard, selfish, and the proud,
They fly not sullen from the suppliant crowd.
Nor tell the various people various things,
But show to subjects what they show to kings."

Windows

(During each discussion present either in tableau or as a picture something symbolic of each phase of the discussion.)

Christian Living

The book which gives us the best picture of true Christian living is the Bible. In this wonderful book we find the best types of literature along with experiences which may be most helpful to us. Mrs. E. G. White has said: "In order to have a healthy tone of mind and sound religious principles, the youth must live in communion with God through His word. Pointing out the way of salvation through Christ, the Bible is our guide to a higher, better life. . . . There are treasures in the word of God that can be discovered only by sinking the shaft deep into the mine of truth."—*Messages to Young People*, pp. 273, 274.

Also, have you delved deeply into authoritative commentaries, into other good books and Bible translations? The reading of the accounts of other men's experiences can help to strengthen our faith.

The Morning Watch, the Bible Year, and our fine denominational books and periodicals widen our horizon of Christian living.

The World Today

Pictures of the world today may be found through the reading of first-class current magazines and books. Everyone should keep informed concerning what is happening in the world about him; and as a student of the Bible every Adventist should be able to interpret world events in the light of Bible prophecy. Although the reading of the record of the day's events is important, we must exercise caution lest we allow this phase of reading to take an undue amount of time, to the loss of our view of its purpose and its relation to other coming events. A unique class of periodicals has made its appearance in the last few years. I refer to the class of which the *Reader's Digest* is perhaps the best known. This small magazine undertakes to present a condensation of the outstanding articles that appear in the month's magazine world, preserving even the personality and the style of the writer. Its topics cover a wide range of subjects, so that one could scarcely read it faithfully month after month without being at least conversant with the issues of the day. One may not read every statement made; he may not even care to scan every article presented. He must choose. There are several other worth-while digests on the markets also, in general as well as in specific realms.

New Friendships

Books which help us to look into other lives, to live with them through biographies, histories and books of travel, help us to make new and worth-while friendships.

Biographies add to our lives the experiences of the wise, heroic, and great of earth. Charles Kingsley advised: "Take by all means biographies; where-soever possible, autobiographies, and study them. Fill your mind with live human figures; men of like passions with yourselves; see how each lived and worked in the time and place in which God put him." Do you read several biographies a year?

History provides a background for the events of the present day. How well do you know the history of your country? of the way our people lived in different periods? The world's most interesting and thrilling experiences have been real and not imaginary. You may desire to know more of history, so that you may better understand prophecy.

Through the windows of our library we can see into all the countries of the globe. By reading, one can gain a far clearer idea of the world, its cities, people, scenery, customs, and industries, than any single traveler can possibly obtain in a lifetime of journeying. This is because there are books about every corner of the earth, delightful books, informing books, lavishly illustrated books. Why not decide to go somewhere through books every month this year?

Missions

All biographies of noble men and women make inspiring reading, but no

biographies are more uplifting and thrilling than those of great missionaries. During recent years missionary literature has increased, and today we have fascinating accounts of missions in almost all lands, accounts of how the Lord is using men and women to bring the message of salvation to heathen lands, and of how the heathen are eagerly responding. Many of these mission experiences are related from week to week in our church periodicals, especially the *Review and Herald* and *The Youth's Instructor*. (Here you may tell an up-to-date mission story from one of our periodicals, thus calling attention to the point which you have made.)

Vocations and Hobbies

Each of us today has a hobby if not a profession, and good books have been written in line with all our interests, whether they be gardening, cooking, sewing, printing, interior decorating, book-keeping, salesmanship, teaching, preaching, colporteur work, nature, or a hundred other things. Digging deeper into the realm of one's interest or profession can but be a source of joy. And in these days, when leisure time is so important, the interest in hobbies, arts, and crafts may mean a vocation, or at least a source of monetary or aesthetic remuneration to you and others.

Nature and Science

Any study of natural subjects will add enormously to the interest of our daily walks, and of the world wherever we go. Astronomy will open up to us the marvels of space. Botany and zoology will introduce us to our friends of the trees and the meadows. The study of trees alone will add to your knowledge of the wonders of creation, and will picture before you vast fields for further research and intensive study. The trees in your home yard, or those which you pass on the way to school or work, will become your closest friends. Other sciences will present to us the marvelous workings of invisible and microscopic powers. The study of nature or science does not have to deal with some subject far removed from your daily experience. The view from this window is the more beautiful when we can distinguish God's love and care in the animals and birds and insects and plants, which we have never really noticed before. Watch for good nature books and magazines.—MARJORIE WEST MARSH.

An Opportunity for Missionary Volunteers

SUGGESTION: Arrange on the platform a screen or a model, five or six feet high, to represent a huge book, with the back of the book toward the entrance to the platform. Print on the cover the words, "M.V. Reading Course for 1948." After a few introductory remarks by the leader a young person representing a character in one of the Reading Course books steps out of the big book and relates an incident or tells a story that is in his book. In the same way another book is

represented by another character. For example, the person who represents a devotional book might tell of a certain problem involving the Christian life as related in the book, and how some young person solved the problem. For a book on nature or science, have someone tell some of the unusual facts given in the book, or a brief review of the book itself. Perhaps a dialogue might be arranged from one of the books, or a poem from one of the books might be read. Each speaker thus concludes his remarks by mentioning the book he represents and making some statement which will intrigue his listeners. Whet the appetites of your members to read these books. Be enthusiastic.

What We Should Gain From Our Reading

A FAMOUS librarian, by the name of George Eliot McCormack, was asked to tell what he thought people ought to gain from reading. His reply was in outline form, and contained seven points.

1. WE READ TO GET INFORMATION. Books afford the greatest opportunity for self-education. However, I believe people do not read primarily for information, but rather for the following reasons; therefore, I should say that—

2. WE READ TO BROADEN OUR HORIZON. Our experiences and opportunities are necessarily limited. Books enable us not

only to travel around the world but to widen our experiences and interests. Moreover, such books send us back refreshed and rested and ready for our daily task.

3. BOOKS BRING TO US UNDERSTANDING. Through the great characters of literature we learn to understand people's motives, the cause of failure. In fact, we see their innermost hearts and souls, and realize that after all, humanity is one. Therefore, when we turn to the people around us, we have more understanding hearts and greater sympathy.

4. BOOKS BRING TO US COMPANIONSHIP. The most potent force in life is strong personality. We meet only a few people of strong personality, but through books we meet and have companionships with the great personalities of the ages.

5. OUR BOOKS BRING TO US A WORLD VIEWPOINT and an understanding of the desires and motives of peoples of other lands. Our period of isolation is ended, and we as intelligent citizens must have a world understanding as well as our statesmen.

6. BOOKS BRING TO US THE GLORY OF THE COMMONPLACE, and thereby open our eyes to the beauty of our simple, everyday life.

7. BOOKS KEEP BEFORE US THE VISION OF THE IDEAL.



JUNIOR MEETINGS

January 3

My Bible

BY W. A. NELSON

Order of Service

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

PRAYER.

SONG: Sing a group of favorite M.V. Choruses.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

M.V. OFFERING.

LEADER'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

TALK: "The Book of Books."

EXERCISE: "My Favorite Bible Story."

(Let each younger Junior tell what his favorite Bible story is. There will not be time to relate the story.)

SPECIAL SONG: "Living Bibles," No. 52.

SYMPOSIUM: "Interesting Facts About the Bible." (By eight older Juniors.)

STORY: "The Lost Bible."

BIBLE GAME: "Guess My Name."

CLOSING SONG: "Give Me the Bible," No. 59.

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Superintendents

The purpose of this meeting is to interest the Juniors in the reading of the Bible. Have them begin reading the Junior Bible Year. The outline is given in the Morning Watch Calendar, or your conference M.V. secretary will furnish you with a Junior Bible Year leaflet if you request him to do so. During the Morning Watch many Juniors read more in their Bible than the Morning Watch text. But if they choose to read at another time of day, urge them to keep the Morning Watch as they pledge themselves to do if they are trying to be true Friends, Companions, or Comrades. Make certain that each Junior has a Morning Watch Calendar in addition to the Junior Bible Year leaflet.

SYMPOSIUM: "Interesting Facts About the Bible." Distribute numbered parts to eight older Juniors and have them stand in a line and present these facts about the Bible.

BIBLE GAME: "Guess My Name." For this exercise it will be best to use a blackboard. In a vertical line write the capital letters, READ YOUR BIBLE

IN '48. The leader will read the statement, and when the correct answer is given, the spelling of the name will be completed.

The Book of Books

THE Bible is not an ordinary book. It is different from any other book written. Compared with the Bible, all other books are dead. It is living, and carries heavenly blessings with it wherever it goes.

"But," you say, "the Bible is old." Yes, it is old, but it has not grown weak or feeble with age. In fact, it is more powerful than ever before.

Can you imagine a book that is valued at \$1,000,000? It is said there is a copy of the Bible in the Library of Congress at our nation's capital that is easily worth that much money. This book is one of the three perfect copies in existence today that were printed by Gutenberg about 1450. It is the greatest treasure of all the millions of books in the Library of Congress, and how fitting it is that God's Word should be the most precious volume in all the world!

This story shows us how the Bible was treasured many years ago, when in the country of Bohemia no one was allowed to have a Bible in his house, or to read the Bible or even hear it read. It also makes us think about the time when we, too, will have God's Holy Word taken from us. For we are told that is exactly what will happen before Jesus comes. How precious then will be all the memory verses and texts we have learned!

A long time ago, in Bohemia, soldiers were sent to search all the houses and take away all the Bibles they found. Of course, everyone watched for them. If the boys and girls saw the soldiers coming, they ran to every house, telling the people to hide their Bibles.

"Listen!" a little boy cried as he opened the door to one of the village homes. "Soldiers are almost here!"

A young girl was alone in the house. She was making bread. Although she was a young girl, she could think very fast. She spread the bread dough on the table. Then she put the Bible on it and wrapped the dough around it carefully. Putting the loaf in a pan, she quickly set it in the oven.

The soldiers banged on the door and came in.

"Where is your Bible? Give it to us!" they commanded.

The young girl held the door open.

"You are welcome to hunt for the Bible," she said.

So the soldiers looked for the Bible.

They looked under the bed. They looked on top of the chests. They looked in corners and around the chimney. If they opened the oven door, all they saw was a big loaf of bread baking. The Bible was safe.

Interesting Facts About the Bible

1. THE Bible was the first book printed (about 1450).
2. The King James Version for English-speaking people is the most widely circulated book in the world.
3. The Bible contains 1,189 chapters and 66 books.
4. The 19th chapter of Second Kings and the 37th chapter of Isaiah are nearly alike.
5. The middle verse of the Bible is Psalms 118:8.
6. Ezra 7:21 contains all the letters of the alphabet except J.
7. The first Bible printed in this country was in the Indian language in 1663.
8. The longest verse is Esther 8:9.

The Lost Bible

THE mountain trail was rough and steep in a certain part of Guatemala. The missionary who was hurrying along as fast as his horse could climb was very tired. He stopped his horse at a spot where the path was not so rough.

"You need to rest, and so do I," he said.

He opened the saddlebag to get his Bible. He felt in one side of the bag and then in the other side.

"It is gone! It must have slipped out hours ago. And I can't go back now, for

the trail is much too dangerous after dark."

The tired missionary leaned against his horse for a few minutes, with his eyes closed. "Dear Father," he prayed, "You know where my Bible is. If I never see it again, may someone find it who will read it and learn of Thy love for him."

He opened his eyes and jumped into the saddle, "Come, Pedro!" he said to his horse. "We must not stay here. They are expecting us before dark in the next village."

He followed the trail that wound around great rocks and on down the mountainside until he reached the town where he was to talk to the people about Jesus.

Oh, how he missed his Bible! But he knew many, many verses and whole chapters by heart, so day after day he taught the people about Jesus and of His great love for them. Then, many weeks later, he started back over the mountain.

He asked about his lost Bible at every town on the mountainside, but no one had ever seen a book and none had ever heard of a Bible.

The missionary knew that God was watching over that Bible, so once more in the last village, the smallest and poorest of all on the mountainside, he asked about the missing Bible.

Now, there was an Indian farmer living in this village. He had been along the trail after the Bible had fallen from the saddlebag. He had picked it up. But he could not read so he took it to the only man in the town who could read.

The people gathered about this man as he read from it. How good the Bible

Guess My Name

1. I AM the mother of Joseph.
2. A royal crown was set upon my head.
3. My rod budded, blossomed, and bore fruit over night.
4. Three times daily I prayed to the God of heaven.
5. I am that great band to whom Solomon was speaking when he said, "Remember now thy Creator."
6. A minor prophet am I and the author of one of the shortest books of the Bible.
7. The anger of the Lord was kindled against me because of my disobedience in regard to the ark.
8. I hid the spies in my home in Jericho.
9. Ruth gleaned in my fields.
10. This boy was placed on the sacrifice altar by his father.
11. During a feast I saw a hand writing on the wall.
12. Life was given me by Jesus after I had been in the tomb.
13. I am a beautiful garden, the first home of man.
14. I am a book of the Old Testament.
15. Elisha cured me of my leprosy.
16. Multiply the number saved in the ark by one-half the number of the tribes of Israel and you will have this.

(Answers)

RACHEL
ESTHER
ARON
DANIEL
YOUTH
OBADIAH
UZZAH
RAHAB
BOAZ
ISAAC
BELSHAZZAR
LAZARUS
EDEN
ISAIAH
NAAMAN

'48

stories sounded to them! Each evening they had this man read more to them.

When the missionary stopped and spoke about his Bible, all the people of the village came running to him.

"We believe the words of the Book! Stay with us! Teach us about the God of the Book!"

So the missionary stayed for a while. He helped them build a chapel. He taught them more and more of God's love for them.

"God meant for you to lose the Book. God meant for one of us to find it so we could learn of Jesus," they said.

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart." Jer. 15:16.—INEZ BRASIER.



January 10

Volunteer Now for Jesus

BY THEODORE LUCAS

Order of Service

SONGSPARATION.

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

OPENING EXERCISES.

INTRODUCTION OF TOPIC. (See Notes to Superintendents.)

LEADER'S TALK: "Listen to the Ticking."

BIBLE DRILL: "Jesus Wants Juniors." (See Notes.)

VOLUNTEER NOW EXPERIENCES: To be given by Juniors. (See Notes.)

POEM: "Service for the Saviour."

APPEAL: "What You Can Do."

VOLUNTEER NOW ACTIVITY. (See Notes.)

LITANY OF DEDICATION. (See p. 5.)

CLOSING PRAYER. (See p. 5.)

Notes to Superintendents

The Youth's Congress held last September in San Francisco began a great wave of evangelism among our youth. To keep this mighty wave rolling, our Juniors must join this campaign to win other fellow youth and to do service for their Saviour. This Volunteer Now program originates for that purpose. As leader, put all your enthusiasm into the arranging of this material for presentation so that boys and girls might be aroused to greater service for their fellow youth.

Try to do something different with the Bible drill. Perhaps you could make a little game out of it, giving the boys and girls the text and asking them to find the special thing that the text mentions and then applying it to soul winning as the drill suggests.

Distribute the parts of the program to the Juniors who are alive when it comes to presenting material in an interesting way.

Have a Junior boy or girl memorize the poem "Service for the Saviour."

The appeal should be made by the leaders, using the suggestions presented.

For the Volunteer Now activity set up some kind of arrangement comparable to soldiers enlisting in the service of their country. This does not have to be elaborate. Boys and girls can line up and file past the desk of the leader. As they pass the desk they are to sign the prepared Volunteer Now pledge. This can be mimeographed or simply written out on paper by the leader. You can make it easier by writing the pledge at the top of a sheet of paper, and the Juniors could sign their names one after another.

Listen to the Ticking

IN the days when there were no refrigerating plants, a large icehouse stood at the eastern edge of Ironton, Missouri. The foundation is still there, but the icehouse is gone. When the days of continued freezing weather made the ice on the near-by stream thick and firm, the icehouse was filled and ice was provided for the community until well into the summer.

One winter, when the ice harvest was good, a crew of men sawed the ice into big blocks and stored them in the icehouse under heavy layers of sawdust. The icehouse had heavy walls and was dark inside, designed to keep the heat of spring and summer from melting the ice.

One day one of the men while at work discovered his watch was missing. He had been helping to stock the icehouse, and he felt certain that his watch had dropped from his pocket and was buried in the sawdust. It was a good timepiece, and the man greatly felt the loss.

With a lantern and a rake, he searched through the sawdust, and in every cranny of the building. His efforts were unavailing, and he finally offered a liberal reward to anyone who would find the lost watch. Other members of the crew took turns with lanterns and rakes, but the watch was not found.

A small boy stood at the door of the icehouse and watched the actions of the anxious men. At the noon hour the men went away to lunch, and the boy slipped quietly into the icehouse. When the men returned, the boy was standing outside the door with the lost watch in his hand.

The surprised owner grabbed the boy and the watch. "How did you find that watch, my boy?" he said.

"Well," replied the boy, "I lay down on the sawdust and kept very still, and soon I heard the watch ticking."

May we not listen quietly—perhaps we will hear the still small voice ticking out

the command "This is the way, walk ye in it. Volunteer Now."—Adapted from the *Sunshine Magazine*, September, 1947.

Jesus Wants Juniors

JESUS wants everybody to work for Him. (Rev. 22:17; Isa. 55:1, 2.)

He wants some of us to be fishers of men, to pull them out of the depths of sin. (Mark 1:17.)

Some He wants to be hunters to hunt people out of dark places of sin. (Jer. 16:16.)

He wants some to be shepherds to see that the lambs are fed properly. (John 21:15.)

He wants some to be nurses. (1 Thess. 2:7.)

He wants some to be soldiers. (Eph. 6:10, 11.)

Volunteer Now Experiences

MARY, watching her mother fill in her missionary report blank, asked, "Mother, may I report too? Help me to do something for Jesus." Mary was surprised how much she was able to do for Jesus. The next week Mary was able to report her *Little Friend* that she had given a sick girl, errands for a crippled lady, flowers picked for the ill, and help given a feeble grandmother.

One day as Junior Jerry inquired of the man who was redecorating his mother's kitchen if he loved Jesus, he was told Yes, he loved Jesus, but he had never had the courage to ask anyone else if he loved Jesus. Junior Jerry's example inspired the man to tell his partner, who did not know Jesus, the story of Jesus and His love. As a result, one man re-consecrated his life and the other man began his friendship with Jesus.

Elder R. G. Stridland tells the story about George. He was a lad, eager to go Ingathering. He learned his canvass carefully and repeated over and over to his church school teacher, "I am a Junior Missionary Volunteer out working for Jesus. We help the poor and the blind, the sick, and those who do not know the gospel. How much would you like to give?"

The day came when George and his teacher approached a grocery store where George was to make his first appeal. A big man with a broad smile greeted George. George, already excited, grew more so as he held out his shaking hand containing the can and said, "I am poor and blind and sick, and do not know the

gospel—how much would you like to give?"

The groceryman chuckled, donated a number of coins and wished the boy success.

Although George got a little mixed up, he had no thought of stopping. He tried harder and did better. By doing his best and serving willingly, George made his Minute Man goal.

With their teacher as their director the Juniors worked with a will to master certain selections on their harmonicas. In a short time they could play "Jesus Loves Me" and a few other simple numbers well enough, and they were ready to go out Ingathering.

The enthusiastic little band, all dressed in red-and-white costumes, gathered one Saturday night on a busy street corner and started playing beautiful music on their harmonicas. Soon a large crowd gathered round to listen. The solicitor also dressed in red and white stepped forward and explained the purpose of the music and asked for a donation. This procedure was continued, and by the end of the campaign a large sum was brought into the Lord's treasury.

An enthusiastic group of boys and girls, identified as Junior Broadcasters, called at every home near the church. They were happy to be messengers running errands for Christ.

In distributing literature they would announce, "Here's some good news, a cheering Bible message, absolutely free. It is good reading."

Week after week the Junior Broadcasters ran up and down the steps inviting neighbors to attend the meetings at the church. Several months later the Juniors were thrilled when eighteen were baptized, many of them from their neighborhood route.

Service for the Saviour

My Saviour, I am happy
To give to Thee my all;
So teach me now to labor
And listen to Thy call.

I know that my companions
Need courage, for the way
Is oft beset by trials
Throughout each busy day.

Give strength, O Lord, for service;
Give courage for my need.
Incline my heart to love Thee.
For this to Thee I plead.

I would be pure, my Saviour;
I would be true to Thee;
So hold me in Thy keeping,
That I might serve for Thee.

—BURTON CASTLE.

(Written especially for Theodore Lucas.)

What You Can Do

Boys have been organized into a band of messengers to help the pastor and officers of the church. Juniors can help in the distribution of literature and in the preparation of placards and devices for use in the different departments of the Sabbath school. Girls can assist the welfare society in carrying flowers and securing groceries and clothing for those who are in need. One of the most helpful ways in which we can give support to our church is by calling for our friends on Sabbath morning to take them to Sabbath school. There are many little ways in which we may be helpful about the church, such as passing songbooks, ushering, taking the offering, caring for supplies, and even taking care of the furniture and furnishings in the church. Boys have repaired chairs and made useful articles, such as bookracks, plant stands, and collection baskets. Girls have made curtains, posters, and other decorations.

Volunteer Now Pledge

I VOLUNTEER Now to join my fellow Junior Missionary Volunteers to share my faith with other Juniors.

Signed _____
_____ Junior

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January 17

A Servant of God and a Friend to Man

BY LEE CARTER

Order of Service

SONG: "My Jesus, I Love Thee," No. 43
in *M.V. Songs*.

SENTENCE PRAYERS.

OFFERTORY.

REPORTS OF MISSIONARY WORK.

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

LEADER'S INTRODUCTION OF SUBJECT AND SPEAKERS.

TALK: "Two Powerful Forces in the World."

TALK: "One Lad Made the Wrong Choice."

TALK: "A Lad Who Made the Right Choice."

REMARKS BY LEADER.

CONSECRATION PRAYER.

SONG: "Living for Jesus," No. 32.

BENEDICTION.

Two Powerful Forces in the World

(NOTE.—To illustrate this talk, suspend a small steel ball of nail between two strong magnets. As the piece of iron moves away from one magnet and toward the other, the nearer magnet exerts more force upon it, pulling it out of plumb while the other magnet exerts less force upon it.)

ONE time as I was driving along the highway I noticed some flatcars on a siding. From a large crane on one of these flatcars was suspended a powerful electromagnet. As I stopped to watch a while, the magnet was swung around over a pile of scrap iron. When the magnet was lowered toward the pile the iron started moving—some small pieces even stood on end as if to reach up to the magnet. Soon small pieces of metal were lifted up from the rest by the unseen, yet powerful force of the electromagnet. As the magnet came to rest on the pile of scrap, the iron seemed to cluster around it. Clinging close to the magnet as it was lifted were several hundred pounds of the scrap iron.

As I watched I thought how each one of us is like a little piece of steel suspended between two powerful magnets. One of the magnets is Christ, and the other, Satan. We cannot see the strong forces that radiate from these two sources of power in the earth, but we have felt the drawing power of each. When we find ourselves hesitating midway between these magnets, their pull seems about equal; but if we turn our faces toward the powerful magnet, Christ Jesus, then each step forward will cause the "still small voice" to become more distinct and the attractions of the world to grow dim. As we continue to draw closer to Jesus, He will continue to have an ever-increasing influence over our lives, and Satan will have less and less.

On the other hand, if we take a step in the wrong direction, our desire to do right will become weaker and the attractions of the world will become stronger. Some say that they fully intend to give their hearts to the Lord, but that they first want to have just a little taste of the world. If that temptation should ever come to you, just remember that after each step in the wrong direction it is that much harder to change and start living the Christian life. If you can't resist the tempter now, what chance will you have if you place yourself more definitely under his influence? If we choose the great broad way of the world that leads down to destruction we will someday find ourselves so close to Satan that, like the iron against the magnet, we will be completely in his power, and the "still small voice" can no longer be heard. This is the unpardonable sin—the sin against the Holy Spirit. Those who choose the strait and narrow road and continue to walk in it will in the near future stand in the presence of Jesus on the sea of

glass. Through your choice day by day you are determining your eternal destiny. Let us choose to face Jesus and walk ever forward.

One Lad Made the Wrong Choice

ONE day, while sight-seeing for a few hours between busses, I noticed several hundred people gathered in little groups on the courthouse lawn in a fair-sized Southern city. A large van was on the lawn near the building. From the rear of the van two black cables could be seen running up and through a barred window on the fourth floor of the courthouse. Soon I heard someone say that at twelve o'clock noon a young man was to be electrocuted. I decided to try to get in and watch the electrocution. The guards at the main entrance politely told me that the witnesses had been chosen and that no one else could be permitted to enter the death room.

Near the other end of the hall I found a small spiral stairway leading up toward the jail that was on the fourth floor. After a number of minutes of climbing the steep stairs I suddenly came face to face with the barred back entrance to the jail. A guard was standing just a few feet from the door. As his back was toward me he had not seen me come quietly around the last bend of the stairs. While I was standing there wondering just what I would say to the guard, two officers came up the stairs. As soon as the first officer had passed me I started following him. When the guard turned around he saw the three of us walking in single file up to the prison door. He must have thought that the officers were bringing in another prisoner, for he quickly opened the door and without asking any questions let the three of us pass in and down the long hall.

When we reached the death chamber, without asking any questions another guard opened a door, and the three of us walked in. The small room was quite well-filled with the twelve seated witnesses and about a dozen other people standing around the walls. In the front of the room facing the people was a large, high-backed, dark-colored, strongly built, heavy chair. This was the death seat. The air in the room was heavy with tobacco smoke. There is a very strange feeling that comes over one as he enters such a room for the first time. You can feel a tenseness in the very atmosphere.

One of the officers told me briefly the history of the lad who at that very moment was in a room just across the hall

fearfully watching the hands of a clock as they pointed ever closer to the fateful hour of twelve. When the young man was just a boy his parents always let him have his own way. They never taught him to leave other people's things alone or to recognize other people's rights. He never learned the first lesson of self-control.

To be a "servant of God and a friend to man" was far from the goal of this boy's life. By taking the first step in the wrong direction and following it with many other steps in the same direction, this boy soon became a servant of Satan and an enemy to man. He chose the broad easy road that leads downward to everlasting death. Most of his youthful life had been spent behind prison bars. He had robbed stores, stolen cars, and in many other ways revealed that he was rapidly and surely drawing closer to the dangerous and powerful magnet on the left—Satan. Jesus, the life-giving magnet on the right, became farther and farther away as he continued his downward course.

Just as the little piece of steel made the last swift movement bringing it in contact with the magnet and completely under its influence, so this youth made the last fearful leap that brought him completely under the control of Satan. One evening in a fit of anger he needlessly killed a man. A few months later the judge declared that the youth was an enemy to society and must pay for his crime with his life.

The hands of the clock in the death room pointed to five minutes until twelve. Only a few hours before the father and mother had said farewell to their son. How their hearts must have ached as they walked out the door, realizing that they would never see their son alive again—all because they had failed to teach him to be a servant of God and a friend to man. The parents would have given all that they possessed to have their boy back again, a babe in their arms, but it was forever too late. For us, Juniors, it is not too late if we will heed the warning presented by the life of this young man.

Just as the hands on the clock pointed to twelve, two officers brought the young man across the hall and into the death room. I shall never forget the expression of fear and defiance that was on his face as he passed me. Quickly he was fastened to the chair and then given a chance to make his last statement. Quietness came over the room as we strained to catch his last words. What a pity! He had not

learned his lesson, for he was still defiant against God and man. He had gone too far in the wrong direction. The hand of the sheriff threw the switch. The lad had met the first death spoken of in the Bible, but not the end.

A Lad Who Made the Right Choice

LET me tell you about an Australian lad who purposed in his heart that he would be a servant of God and a friend to man. Norman Wiles was the son of a wealthy and influential businessman who cared nothing for religion. Norman's father thought that to be a Christian was a waste of time. When Norman heard the thrilling story of a soon-coming Saviour he determined to serve Him and attend a Seventh-day Adventist college. Mr. Wiles had planned for Norman to follow in his footsteps as a worldly businessman.

"But Norman Wiles could not change. He had heard the Master's call. He had seen the sinner's Friend. And something stronger than any earthly tie, than any worldly ambition, bound him to his purpose to live the life that wins, following Him who came to seek and save the lost. All the flattering offers that wealth and influence could present failed in their purpose of beguiling him away from his God. Then his father refused to acknowledge him as his son any longer. Still he was true to the heavenly vision. With aching heart the homeless lad went on with his training for service. And when his training was completed, he and his young wife gave themselves to work 'in the regions beyond.' He made one last effort to persuade his father that his choice was best. He went to his father's office and told him about the mission before him; but his earnest pleading met only cold glances from his father. He could see nothing of worth in Norman's course. His parting words were, 'If you are such a fool as to spend your life thus, the sooner you get out of that door the better.'

"And Norman Wiles went out, never to see his father again. Bidding farewell to the homeland, he and his devoted wife sailed for the New Hebrides, to settle among the Big Nambus, the untamed warrior tribe of those islands. We cannot picture the feelings of their young hearts as they wandered alone among the cannibals they had come to save.

"Surely only those who had laid all upon the altar would venture into such dangers. Malarial fever came and weakened these hard-working missionaries.

Then came tribal warfare, and the Big Nambus feasted upon the prisoners they had taken, and then on their own slain. Truly the outlook was discouraging. But these earnest young Christians worked on in faith.

"Black-water fever came next, and after four days of illness, Norman Wiles died. Alone among the cannibals, the heartbroken young widow buried her husband in a lonely spot. There was no casket, but the loving hands that had cared for him during his last illness now wrapped that precious, lifeless form in grass mats, and a few trusted natives laid it away to rest."*

If you should visit the New Hebrides today you would find Mrs. Wiles faithfully carrying on the work to which Norman had dedicated his life. Norman was a servant of God and a friend to man.

* Matilda E. Andross, *The Life That Wins*, pp. 88, 89.

Remarks by Leader

BOTH of these men lost their lives while they were young: one because he chose to be a servant of Satan and an enemy to man; the other, because he was a servant of God, gave his life willingly for his fellow men, whom he loved. Both are today asleep in their graves. The one who was a servant of God will hear the call of the Life Giver and come forth from the grave to life everlasting. The servant of Satan will sleep until the end of the one thousand years, then to come forth to hear for the second time the death sentence. By our actions, day by day, we are determining whether we will stand upon the sea of glass with Norman Wiles and the faithful of all ages, or be cast into the fires that will completely destroy the wicked.

How many will stand with me today, and thus say to the Lord and man that by the help of God you will face the powerful magnet on the right—Christ Jesus—and ever be a true servant of God and a friend to man?

(At this time while all are standing call for a consecration prayer.)

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No one can possibly enjoy communion with God and go where God does not go.

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"If we place ourselves under objectionable influences, can we expect God to work a miracle to undo the results of our wrong course?—No, indeed."—Mrs. E. G. WHITE in General Conference Bulletin, March 30, 1903.

January 24

Choosing Good Books

E. W. DUNBAR

Order of Service

OPENING EXERCISES.

BIBLE LESSON: 1 Timothy 4:12-16.

TALK: "Choosing My Book Companions."

TALK: "Why Read?"

POEM: "A Plea."

TALK: "Read What?"

DIALOGUE: "Which Way Do You Read?"

CLOSING EXERCISES.

Notes to Superintendents

It is the purpose of this meeting to give the boys and girls a broad and concise understanding of the best things to read. We shall take up the *what* and the *why* of good reading.

It would be well at some time in the meeting to present to the Juniors the set of current Junior Reading Course books in digest form. Each book might be introduced with a short story, or interesting episode, or summary by a Junior. Emphasize the fact that the reading course books are selected with a view to variety. Good books are like telescopes. Though you can see many interesting things in the heavens with the naked eye, a good telescope makes clear new vistas of enjoyment. So it is with books along various lines. If we are interested in certain hobbies, or in geography, or history, or travel, or various nature subjects, they serve as telescopes to enlarge our field of enjoyment and to provide new inspiration for further study.

Choosing My Book Companions

Books, like friends, must be very carefully selected; and, like friends, the books we read serve as companions with us throughout our lives. This does not mean that we will carry them around with us in order to have them for our companions. But the things we learn from reading them become a part of our lives, and in that way, travel with us wherever we go. Just as a reel of motion-picture film has thousands of different exposures, or separate pictures, on it, so on the brain of every boy and girl who reads books there is photographed a memory of the various episodes, stories, and lessons which the books contain. How important it is that we choose the very best for our book companions throughout our lives.

The story is told of a blind man, in company with his daughter, who visited the Grand Canyon in Arizona some years ago. A guide was engaged to take them through the canyon. As the party proceeded on its way, the blind man kept asking the guide questions about the canyon that no seeing man had ever asked before. The guide wondered how that man, who was blind, had learned so

much about something he had never seen and possibly never could see. So finally he asked him, "How is it that you, in your blindness, know so much about the wonders of this place?" The man replied, "My daughter read a number of books on the Grand Canyon to me before we left home."

This leads me to make the suggestion that before taking a trip anywhere, you will be repaid a thousand times over if you read all you can about the places to be visited. It will mean so much more to you if you do that.

Books have a tremendous influence upon our lives. Many boys and girls who are not Christians make a companion of the funnies, the comic books, and other light, cheap reading matter. And I fear there are some boys and girls who are Christians who are tempted by these so-called funnies. But the average funny paper and comic book is not entirely a laughing matter. A careful examination of a large number of these funnies over a period of thirty days revealed that underneath the surface of respectability and wit or comedy there are crimes featured and disrespect to religion emphasized, which would certainly have an effect upon the boys and girls who absorb these things. In six hundred comic strips, which millions of people read in the newspapers, it was found that a large percentage of them were dangerous and made light of religion and contained things which will build up in the minds of boys and girls a disrespect for the good things of life. In some of these comic strips we see grandma asking one of the children to bring a light for her cigarette, or fifteen-year-old Johnnie leaning against the barn rail carelessly rolling himself a cigarette. These things are bound to have an influence on our lives as we read them and absorb them. Card playing, horse racing, gambling, and crime of all kinds, with trickery and lies, certainly do not make up the diet which Junior Missionary Volunteers should have in serious times like these.

Since we could never read even all the good things there are to be read, we shall need to choose only the very best for our companions.

Why Read?

WHY read? Answer: For the sake of developing a mind worth having. Our minds, besides helping us get along through life, must be lived with. We cannot run away from ourselves. So the fuller are our minds with good things and good thoughts, the happier we will

he. Some people store up riches. One such person said, "It was great fun getting it, but I gave up too much for it. I starved my mind. Now I am lonely, restless, and unhappy."

Our real riches are those stored away in the mind and soul. Our reading molds and forms our character. We become like the ideals and persons we read about in magazines and books. The strange part of it is that we do this without thinking about it. We may read for pastime, but that has a mighty effect on our characters.

The time will soon come when many of you boys and girls will be working for a living. When that time comes, you will enjoy your work much better and rise faster if you have gained all the knowledge possible about your work through reading. And last but not least, we must remember that we need to read every day for inspiration. That is where the study of the Bible has its importance in our daily reading. May the Lord help us to be faithful in this.

Read What?

WHAT shall we read? There is so much to read and so little time in which to do it. For these two reasons we must choose our books in order to get the most good out of our reading.

Along with the Bible, we should read a good book or two on the life of Jesus. We must be faithful in our reading of our reading of the Word of God, as the former speaker brought out, because we need the devotional habit of communing and talking with Jesus.

We do not need to be encouraged to read *Our Little Friend* or *The Youth's Instructor*, for we enjoy this kind of devotional and interesting reading. We should be very happy to have the privilege of reading such fine literature.

Then there is biography, the stories of great men and women. This is among the richest of all general reading. From such books we learn many helpful things, including truth, wise counsel, inspiration. When these things are all put together, they help greatly to mold our characters and our thinking. Our Junior Society promotes a Junior Missionary Volunteer Reading Course each year. The best books are chosen for this course. There is a variety of material in it, and we should count it a real privilege to be able to have these good books in the Reading Course every year. Naturally, these will be only a beginning of the good things we will want to read. But let us determine to base our choice of

literature upon right principles and absorb only those things into our minds which will help in the great work of character building. That is the most important work of all.

A Plea

Don't throw me on the floor,
When I'm your guest;
Don't soil the black, red, green, or blue,
In which I'm dressed;
Please don't compel me
(You'd not think it right)
To hold a window up,
Some rainy night!
With paper knife don't carelessly
My body hack.
Don't fold me stiffly o'er,
And break my back;
For me reserve the quiet,
Cozy nook.
More precious friend you've not,
A wholesome book!

—ADELBERT F. CALDWELL.

Which Way Do You Read?

(Enter George and Dick, each carrying a newspaper. They throw themselves carelessly into chairs and spread out their papers to read.)

GEORGE: Father says it's educational to read the papers and keep up to date with events in the world. He says that some of the most learned men he knows did not attend school very long, but they improved their opportunities by reading history and keeping up with current happenings.

DICK: Yes, my dad's told me things like that, too; so I'm trying to get the newspaper habit. And really I like it pretty well. Of course, I always turn to the funnies the first thing.

GEORGE: Well, father says that some of the cartoons are very good and once in a while there's a funny sketch that is true to life and one can get a lesson from it; but as a rule, he says, it doesn't pay to spend time on them. Sometimes they look very tempting, and I'll not say that I always pass them by, but I know father knows best; so I'm trying hard to learn really how to read the paper to get the most out of it. While I'm a boy I have lots of time, but when I'm a grown man perhaps there'll not be time for everything, and, of course, I want the best.

DICK: Oh, I have time now; when I'm older I won't care about the funnies, I guess. Say, but there have been a lot of murder cases lately. The paper's full of 'em. I've been following one through. This fellow surely was slick. He about got away with it, too. Sometimes I think I'd like to make some easy money like that. But then, of course, I'd want to be sure I wouldn't get caught. (Reads aloud a snatch or two from some crime column.)

(George breaks in between snatches, reading some up-to-date happening on world events. Both boys read intermittently for a few minutes. Dick always chooses the gruesome and George that which is clean and educational.)

DICK (after George has read an item): Doesn't that stuff seem dry to you? It surely does to me. Now, for instance, I like much better to read this continued story. I'm glad dad takes this paper; it always has a good story.

GEORGE: That's why these real things seem dry and uninteresting to you, Dick. Those stories are only imaginary; many of them not at all true to life. And they're surely not worth remembering.

DICK: Huh, I don't try to remember 'em.

GEORGE: But when you read so much of that kind—don't you remember how Miss Jones explained to us how our minds soon became like sieves?

DICK: Say, George, is that the reason it's so much easier for you to remember your history lessons? And your arithmetic, too; but I don't see how it helps you in that. You don't get mathematics from the paper, do you? (Both boys laugh good-naturedly.)

GEORGE: No, I don't suppose so, but you know what Miss Jones said about remembering what we read, how it strengthens the mind. Father says she's right, too, and some evenings he takes time to help choose the most worth-while things to read in the paper. Then other evenings I tell him about what I've read that day. He wants me to learn to make the most and best possible use of my time, so that when I'm a grown-up man—

DICK (interrupts him): Oh, yes, I know you're always talking about when you've grown to be a man. Guess I'll grow up as soon as you will (a little thoughtful pause), but that doesn't say what kind of man I'll be, does it? Really, I've never thought much about it, George, but I know my father and mother want me to be a good man. Guess they just never thought about helping me to read. I'm going to ask dad to help me, but since these stories and funnies have got the start of me, I expect I'll need your help sometimes, too, George.

GEORGE: Sure, that will be great fun; we'll read together lots of times like this, only we'll choose just the best—both of us.

DICK (joyfully): Agreed, old pal! (Puts hands on George's shoulder as they walk out.)

★ Home Missionary Department ★

Helping to Fulfill the Divine Commission

Share Your Faith

BY W. A. BUTLER

THE prophet Joel gives the last-day prophecy inviting sinners to prepare to meet their God. And we note here that God calls every member of the household to participate in giving this last message. Sons and daughters are called into action, the old men, the servants, and the handmaids—every member of the family, and the servants are included. It is an all-out plan and program.

While we are bearing the last message to a lost world, God is gleaming "the remnant whom the Lord shall call." This is a striking, all-comprehensive text. Every member of the household of faith shares with others the glorious words of truth and faith; for verse 32 further states, "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered."

Every child of God is to go forth delivering the invitation. He will share the good news with all the members of his own household, the household of faith, and then also hurry out into the highways and byways urging and compelling the people to come into the kingdom of God.

Sharing! what a wonderful privilege to share with others the light and truth, freedom and faith, that have been shed from above upon our own hearts so liberally. The whole animal kingdom is sociable, each among its own kind. They share their joys and their troubles. They rejoice together and suffer together. They have their own language of understanding. This is true among the animal family and the bird family. The beehive is a busy place, each bee sharing in producing in a well-organized way and all eating together at the same table.

This work that God has committed to us of spreading the good news of His kingdom is a thousand times more important than anything pertaining to dumb creatures. No comparison can be made between the soul of man made in the likeness of God and one million sparrows. This God has told us.

With us, to whom have been committed the saving messages from above, the living oracles of God, it is a life or death question. We are duty bound under heaven to share with others the life-giving bread from above.

Thank God that is just what every sincere, wide-awake Christian desires to do. We hurry here and there spreading the printed page everywhere, caring for the sick, administering to those who are in need, clothing the poor, and feeding the starving. Yes, it is the greatest pleasure to open the Word of God to a hungry heart and see him eat of the bread of life freely, and accept Jesus as his personal Saviour.

Suggestive Program for Sabbath, January 3

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OPENING SONG: "Work While It Is Today," No. 347 in *Church Hymnal*.

SCRIPTURE READING: Revelation 14:6-14.
PRAYER.

READING: "Share Your Faith," by William A. Butler.

POEM: "Christ Versus Alexander," by Charles Ross Weede.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

READING: "Useful Instruments," by J. E. Edwards.

PLANS AND ORGANIZATION.

CLOSING SONG: "Ye Servants of the Lord," No. 351.

"And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." "And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen." Mark 16:15, 20.

We are authorized and commanded by this gospel commission to go everywhere and carry the Saviour's invitation to every soul. And we must make our message so plain, simple, and enhancing that souls will want to come right along with us. In this grand work the whole church is invited to take part.

"Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church, so that every one shall be working for Him according to his ability. When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfilment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned, and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory. 'This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.'"—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 111.

In a good measure many are letting the light of truth shine from God's Word and their own hearts. But this good work must be amplified manyfold. Each one present today should ask himself, "Am I working to capacity in personally trying to prepare others for the soon-coming Christ? Do I have a prayer list? What am I doing to reach these very souls on my prayer list?"

One brother had a prayer list of ten persons. Topping the list was his own mother, a Catholic, and she could neither read nor write. Then followed in his list brothers and sisters, then others. As he knelt in prayer he would read off the list beginning with number one and praying for each one separately, earnestly entreating God that this one, then another one, might accept the third angel's message. They all came into the truth, each one in order as on his list. This is a singular experience, of course, but he had



a prayer list. He prayed for those people individually, went and talked and studied with them. Shall we say, he compelled them to come in?

A colporteur, after having delivered some books in a certain community, returned and effected an opening for Bible studies. Faithfully each Sunday night the message was studied. A prayer list of twelve was maintained. He enlisted others to pray for this small neighborhood group. Nine of the twelve have become Seventh-day Adventists. What a joy there is in sharing with others the grand things of the kingdom.

All over the world our good literature is reaching and bringing into the church many souls. The correspondence courses everywhere are winning thousands.

Useful Instruments

THE story is told of how Fritz Kreisler, the famous violinist, secured his treasured violin, which he calls Heart Guarnerius. One day when he was in an antique shop he heard someone playing a violin in the room behind the shop. Charmed with the pure liquid, penetrating tone of the violin, he asked if he could buy it. The dealer told him it was not for sale, because it had already been sold to an Englishman who had a passion for collecting old violins. Kreisler, after handling the violin, said, "I must have this violin. I will give you all I have for it." And then he asked, "What will this collector do with the violin?" "Oh," said the dealer, "I suppose he will put it in a glass case and keep it for people to look at."

"This is not an antique to look at," said Kreisler. "It is an instrument to bless the world with."

Still determined to get the violin, he went to see the Englishman who had bought it, and week after week he called upon him to plead with him to sell the instrument. One day the Englishman permitted the violinist to take the instrument out of the case and play it. "I played that violin," said Kreisler, "as one condemned to death would have played to obtain his ransom." When he finished playing, the Englishman was so moved that he said, "I have no right to keep it. It belongs to you. Go out into the world and let it be heard." And Kreisler used it for a medium for his wonderful music to bless and inspire the world.

Are you giving the truth of God's Words to others? Is the world better for your service? Let us yield ourselves to

Christ as instruments through which He can pour blessings to others.

Join the host of fellow Adventist believers in their daily-tract service. Win souls in '48 by giving away a tract a day.

J. E. EDWARDS.

Christ Versus Alexander

WHILE perusing *Peniel Portrait* by David Bronstein, we found the following poem, which we pass on for the consideration of Jews and Gentiles:

Jesus and Alexander died at thirty-three.
One lived and died for self; one died for you and me.
The Greek died on a throne; the Jew died on a cross;
One's life a triumph seemed; the other but a loss.
One led vast armies forth; the other walked alone;
One shed a whole world's blood; the other gave His own.
One won the world in life and lost it all in death;
The other lost His life to win the whole world's faith.

Jesus and Alexander died at thirty-three.
One died in Babylon; and one on Calvary.
One gained all for self; and one Himself He gave.
One conquered every throne; the other every grave.
The one made himself god; the God made Himself less;
The one lived but to blast; the other but to bless.
When died the Greek, forever fell his throne of swords;
But Jesus died to live forever Lord of lords.

Jesus and Alexander died at thirty-three.
The Greek made all men slaves; the Jew made all men free.
One built a throne on blood; the other built on love.
The one was born of earth; the other from above;
One won all this earth, to lose all earth and heaven;
The other gave up all, that all to Him be given.
The Greek forever died; the Jew forever lives.
He loses all who gets, and wins all things who gives.

—CHARLES ROSS WHEAT.

Notes to Leaders

IN planning for the missionary service for the first Sabbath of the new year, it will be well for each missionary leader to weigh the needs that exist in his particular locality against the efforts that currently are being carried on.

If certain phases of missionary endeavor are being neglected, this is a splendid opportunity to lay the need before your church. Surely one of the new year resolves of every member should be more ardent work for souls, and this first Sabbath is a splendid time to harness these resolutions into a concerted, well-organized effort adapted to the needs of your community and the capabilities of your membership.

May the Lord bless those who take part in this service that it may be the means of ushering in a bountiful year, rich in its harvest of souls!

A Quiet Chat With the Home Missionary Officers of 1948

If you are continuing your office in 1948 or taking it up anew at the new year, you will be happy to find everything in good order. This chat is directed particularly to a new officer, though the principles involved apply equally to one carrying on into 1948.

Naturally, your interest in making the work a success will lead you to examine the past, that you may pick up the threads of the present in order to carry on intelligently and without interruption of program. Your association with the 1947 officers during the last few weeks of the year will enable you to take hold in a manner that will mean continuity of effort and program.

The 1947 officers will be happy to help you and will have all records complete with conference and Book and Bible House and church board. The record books, with entries to the end of the year, will be handed you, as well as the duplicate reports of the year's activities, either in monthly or quarterly form, according to your church procedure.

You will certainly want to get acquainted with the band leaders and the territory being worked, and also meet the instructors in the Bible training class, the simple treatments' class, and in the cooking class. Your responsibility will be to take over as before and carry on the work being fostered by the church board. The 1947 officers will gladly help you in grasping the program. Of course, you will understand that the previous officers are not handing you their program to become your program. It is the church program, the Lord's work, in which He expects all to be sincere and faithful. After a few weeks' contact with the 1947 officers you will be able to carry on in a manner that will maintain continuity of effort—ono great, grand work.

In such mutual association there will be no cause for critical comparisons. Those preceding you did their best, and set a record you will want not only to equal but to exceed. That is proper, for in a growing work, especially in these closing days of probation, every year will have to exceed former years, because the times demand and assure growth. We should never be satisfied with seeing the work merely hold its own. Bigger and better things ahead challenge us to better methods and more earnest endeavor. "As thy days, so shall thy strength be." Success to you in 1948!

GEORGE BUTLER.

★ Missionary Leadership ★

Training the Laity

BY MARY E. WALSH

(Concluded from last month)

The Roman Catholic Church recognizes the potentiality in her laity. She is organizing her members to spread her doctrines far and wide by the use of the printed page. The following is a statement relative to her goal:

"The Roman Church is pushing a plan to put a Catholic newspaper into every non-Catholic home in the nation. A weekly circulation of 100,000,000 is anticipated. These subscriptions are to be paid for by Catholics who are being organized for a 'militant crusade in the cause of truth.'—*Prophecy Monthly*, p. 25.

The Church of Rome has many sodalities, orders, and organizations by which she advances her sphere of influence in the non-Catholic world. The one which stands head and shoulders above all is the society known as Catholic Action, instituted and sponsored by the late Pope Pius XI. When addressing the College of Cardinals on the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Lateran Treaty, he called it "the apple of our eye."

Catholic Action is definitely "an integrating and integral part of the sacerdotal ministry." The late pope of Rome gave great impetus to the work of the laymen. His appeal to the laity to organize for the propagation of Catholic doctrines throughout the world has not gone unheeded. A few excerpts from a publication known as *The Catholic Mind* will give some conception of what the Catholic Action organization is:

"Catholic Action is the cooperation of the laity in the apostolate of the Hierarchy. This means, simply, that the laymen are to share the teaching mission of the church. Go ye therefore and teach. That is the task of Catholic Action."—Page 555.

"Catholic Action is no longer a phrase, an idea. It is a fact, and the most vital fact, historically, of this generation. Catholic Action is in being. It is advancing as no other social movement, I believe, in the world's history has advanced. Literally, from China to Peru, it marches. The Church is now in what would seem to be its greatest wave of

expansion since Apostolic times. *And this great expansion is chiefly due to the summoning of laymen to the apostolate.* Think of Shanghai, one city alone, where Catholic Action has instructed three-quarters of a million converts and begun instruction with another eight hundred thousand pagans. Think of the Young Christian Workers, founded by three men eighteen years ago in Brussels. In July of last year those three men saw 85,000 young Christian working people assemble in Paris, delegates from the young Christian workers of twenty-four countries. It marches."—*Ibid.*, pp. 554, 555.

The objective of this militant body is set forth in the following quotation:

"We shall conquer ourselves for Christ. Then we shall conquer our families, our friends, our workmates, our factories, our suburb, our city, our country, for Christ."—*Ibid.*, p. 556.

Yes, Rome is out to conquer, and conquering she is, while we as messengers of heaven sit complacently by. It is interesting to note the methods and techniques which are being used by this organization:

"When we see ourselves as obliged to teach Christ in the world, we need not see ourselves as aggressors in debate and argument. We do not need to challenge our friends. But we do need to win their interest and their sympathy by our interest and sympathy in them. *We must make them see in our lives, that it is a good thing to be a Catholic.*"—*Ibid.*, p. 557.

In this way she not only is gaining accessions from the Protestant world but is steadily growing in prestige.

The experience of Nehemiah in building the walls of Jerusalem, I believe, was recorded for the advent people. Nehemiah could never have finished the work alone; he had to have the co-operation of the rulers and the common people.

The same enemy who inspired the triple alliance—Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshm—to intercept the building of the ancient wall of Jerusalem will leave nothing undone today to hinder the building up of the laymen's movement. Sanballat and his co-partners invited Nehemiah to meet them in "the plain of Ono." To how many plains of "oh no"

does the enemy inveigle workers and laity today?

Nehemiah's manly firmness and unequivocal reply to his crafty opponents reveal a determination to complete his God-appointed work on the wall. Five times the enemy tried to weaken his hands with enticing and intimidating words, and turn him from his objective, but to no avail. The wall was completed amid opposition and ridicule. To the enemy, the "feeble Jews" were incapable of the task they had undertaken. The derisive and flouting words were:

"What do these feeble Jews? . . . will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish which are burned?" Neh. 4:2.

While there was indeed much "rubbish", this was not all that Nehemiah had to face. The hardest experience of all to encounter was from his own brethren. Their unbelief, faithlessness, and discouragement cast a shadow over his noble spirit and drove him to prayer. Ten times this organizer and builder of the seemingly defeated cause of God had to meet the brethren's contemptuous word, "It cannot be done, too much decay and rubbish." His prayer in that dark and foreboding hour should inspire us: "Should such a man as I flee?" "O God, strengthen my hands."

He prayed, worked, organized, and inspired every available man to do something, even if it did not amount to anything more than holding a shield; but, who was, nevertheless, an integral part of the work of God.

The analogies recorded in the book of Nehemiah are quite applicable to the closing days of the Advent Movement. We have our Sanballats—the foes within, and our faithless timid brethren within the fold, who will look at the decay and rubbish that is to constitute the building material and say, "There is no use in even attempting to train the members to do missionary work; they are wholly incapable."

Perhaps it is true that in some of our churches there may be little talent and seemingly few qualifications, but all should be given a part commensurate with the inherent ability of each member. We have this encouraging statement from the Spirit of prophecy:

"It is not learned, eloquent speakers that are needed now, but humble, Christ-like men and women, who have learned from Jesus of Nazareth to be meek and lowly, and who trusting in His strength, will go forth into the highways and

hedges to give the invitation, 'Come; for all things are now ready.'—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 36.

In spite of the poor material with which Nehemiah had to work, the record states: "So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work. . . . And the rulers were behind all the house of Judah." Neh. 4:6, 16.

The work of God would have been finished years ago if all of us, conference workers and lay members alike, had done our part. Again I quote from the Spirit of prophecy:

"If every soldier of Christ had done his duty, if every watchman on the walls of Zion had given the trumpet a certain sound, the world might ere this have heard the message of warning. But the work is years behind. While men have slept, Satan has stolen a march upon us."—*Ibid.*, p. 29.

What might have been! The ensign of truth would have been unfurled in countless homes had the laity been trained and sent into action. The enemy has stolen a march on us, and we are today at a great disadvantage which only time, courage, untiring exertion, and unfailing trust in God can correct.

The task of enlisting, drilling, and organizing the church for service is not beyond our scope and endurance. We have all the artillery of heaven at our command. What is needed is a vision and an unconquerable will to undertake and accomplish the task. All who will avow their trust in the guidance of the Spirit of prophecy, and whose undaunted courage will be kept inviolate, will see the glorious fulfillment of the following prophetic statement:

"Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were converted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence."—*Ibid.*, p. 126.

Should the same spirit of apathy and halfhearted elements which have caused us to neglect the training of the laity, play their part in the future as they have done in the past? What will be the consequences? Brethren, we must guard against complacency. We must not underestimate the greatness of the task. This program calls for mental vigor, organization, leadership, and prayer. Yes, it may call for "blood, sweat, and tears." With

confidence in the willingness of our laity to respond to the call of the hour, with the unbounding determination of our ministers and Bible instructors to train every member for service, we will gain the inevitable triumph. Victory is assured. The enemy will be vanquished.

The question which faces us here today is, shall we heed the call of heaven to arise and harness the laity for service, and thus retrieve the past? This, dear brethren and sisters, is the *challenge of the hour*.

"Remove Not the Ancient Landmarks"

By D. E. REINER,

From a Sermon Given at Home Missionary Council, May 20, 1947

"REMOVE not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." Prov. 22:28. We are the sons of the Advent pioneers, who set up the great enduring landmarks of this message. Among the landmarks committed to our care are the mighty doctrines, hewn from the very rock of God's Word by earnest study and fervent prayer. In spite of poverty and difficulty, our fathers set up great institutions—colleges, sanitariums, and publishing houses. They started them in the corn fields and in the wheat fields, not only in America, but in other parts of the world.

In those days "the finishing of the work of God" was a household phrase. The coming of Jesus was constantly emphasized. I remember when Elder Roth's father used to stop at our place. When he and my father said good-by, they would say, "If I don't see you again, I will see you over there." As children we were startled and stirred—the Advent hope was a reality. Let us not remove those ancient landmarks. Let us pray for the fervor our fathers experienced when they loaded their buggies with tracts and set out, often for a week at a time, to warn friends and neighbors of the second coming. On Sabbath they gathered and told their experiences, gleaned from arduous trips, often eighty-five miles from their homes, the entire journey being undertaken by horse and carriage.

These men did not wait for a campaign. Their lives were devoted to a daily campaign for souls. We have such men today. We need many more. Let us revive in our own lives that zeal that characterized the efforts of our fathers. Let us preserve the ancient landmarks.

At Autumn Council we were challenged

to go out to North America and warn every home, every individual. In the Central Union we have set up a definite program—a dark-county program. County by county, tracts and other literature will be intensively distributed. Every home will be visited. As one conference finishes, it will help another conference. Of Nebraska's ninety-five counties we have already covered twenty-three:

Testing times are already upon us, not a test of doctrines, not a test of organization, but a test of our personal consecration. Let us make certain that in our own lives we have not removed the ancient landmarks. An enemy of the truth said, "The Adventist denomination is like a potato plant—the best part is under the ground." It is our privilege to disprove that accusation.

In simple faith and courage born of consecration, God-fearing men began a movement, which according to God's plan embraces all the world—every creature. Our heritage is a message that is to thunder as a loud cry around the world! Let us determine that the ancient landmarks will stand sure!

"Never Hear the Last About You"

A BOY of nine had spent three months in a large city hospital fighting infection which had set in after a serious automobile accident. Only after many weeks of care did he show any signs of improvement. The doctors had despaired of his life. One day when the specialist who had saved his life came to see him and informed him that soon he would be going home, the little fellow threw his arms around the doctor's neck saying, "My mamma will never hear the last about you."

When we think of what Jesus has done for us our hearts go out to him in deep love. Our cry should be, "The people of neighboring dark counties will never hear the last about You." Gladly let us give our time, our talents, our energies, systematically sending our literature about a soon-coming Saviour. No sacrifice will be too great to herald this Advent message to neighbors and friends.

"The Lord is soon to come. . . . We have no time to lose."—MRS. E. G. WHITE, *Review and Herald*, May 24, 1906.

Demonstrate your love for Christ by service which exclaims, "My neighbors will never hear the last about my Saviour." J. E. EDWARDS.

★ Departmental Activities ★

Home Missionary Work in the Northwest India Union

WHEN we fully understand the depth of the meaning of the message God has given to our lay members through Sister White, as recorded in *Testimonies*, volume 9, page 117, we see that there is an eagerness to join this band of workers and thus hasten the finishing of the 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." This solemn statement acts as a strong stimulus to our lay members, and we are happy to report that today we have some lay members who are doing active missionary work.

Sister T. E. Sandberg, of the Northwest India Union, has passed on the following experience. "In one instance a brother was transferred from one place to another. At first he could not understand why he was asked to be separated from the church and its activities that he had learned to love. However, the thought that God had a definite work for him to do in that city stirred his heart, and he was encouraged to do missionary work and stir up an interest. God blessed his efforts, and ere long he had a good Sabbath school organized with a total of fifteen members including children. This work grew, and today we have an organized church there and a family of missionaries. Efforts have been held from time to time, and the one just recently closed has brought in many souls. But it was a lay preacher who started the good work in that particular place.

"We have another man and his wife who have had a similar experience. They too were transferred to a place where we had no work. They caught the vision that God had placed them there, and, having a definite purpose in mind, they too began to do active missionary work. On my recent visit there I found a keen interest aroused in many homes where Bible studies are held regularly. The little daughter attended a nondenominational school, as we have no school of our own. She is too young to attend our boarding school at Mussoorie. In her childish way she presented the message

to her teacher, and this fine woman is today studying with deep interest, and awaiting baptism. Truly a little child can lead them!

"A year ago we baptized a woman who is now doing active missionary work. She has interested two Church of England ministers. She and her family have been used of God in preparing a young man from England in the truth, and he too is awaiting baptism. It looks as though God sent these people there to pave the way for our missionaries, for we now have a couple who have been asked to take care of the work in this section of our field, and as soon as they can find accommodation there they are to begin their work.

"In another city in our union we have four lay members who have done excellent work in holding the church together for the last four or five years. A peculiar situation arose. The regular pastor of that church had to leave, and there was no other worker to take his place, so these lay members kept the church together, conducted the regular services, and carried on their missionary work. Today we have a worker there. The one who, perhaps, did more than others in carrying on faithful work and who held the believers together, was one of our sisters. We are glad that the women as well as the men have a part in this great task of preparing souls for the coming of Christ.

"In another city we find the same situation. Because of a lack of laborers we have not been able to replace our worker there, and the little company found themselves without a leader; but this did not deter them, for one of the members opened his home for the regular Sabbath school. Other members of that company co-operated with him, and for a year or more they have kept together, doing excellent work. Today we have a worker there."

How readily God blesses the consecrated efforts of the humblest instrument who is willing to work for Him!

Another interesting letter comes from Stephen Haslam, a lay preacher in

Peshawar. He writes: "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 support by financing and maintaining our preachers and schoolteachers. This group numbers over 1,500, and for them schools are urgently needed. Doors are opening everywhere for Bible studies and vernacular Sabbath schools. Not being able to speak their language [Urdu] fluently, I am unable to supply their wants alone. We need a strong, consecrated Urdu preacher and a worker to answer this call. We believe that with the Lord all things are possible.

"While at 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 have 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 has kept their little baby from being christened. They desire one of our pastors to dedicate the child as a first step 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 got in touch with a major while on leave here, and hope to follow up this interest. Who knows but that these contacts may prove to be stepping-stones for our advance into Afghanistan and beyond?"

This little picture of what our lay members have been doing in faraway India will give you an idea of how wholeheartedly our members co-operate with us in every phase of church activity.

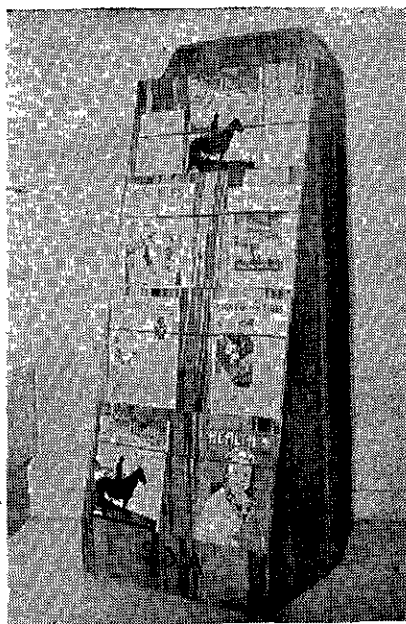
E. D. THOMAS.



Free Literature

DURING World War II a large number of Seventh-day Adventist soldiers were stationed in the various Army camps located in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. It was a real inspiration to our local churches to have these faithful believers with them on the Sabbath. Many of these young men helped with various lines of Sabbath school or church work and were liberal with their offerings. They gave evidence of a good Christian background.

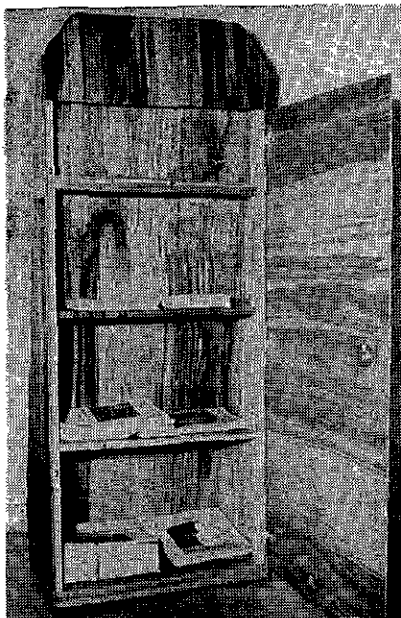
I could cite a large number of instances to show the spiritual vision these men had and the great blessings they brought to our churches by willingly contributing of their varied talents. I cannot thank them personally one and all even though I would like to, but here I wish to mention especially the work of Dr. Paul K. Marsh, who was stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, and who, dur-



FRONT VIEW: This rack affords a fine display of various periodicals. Eye appealing and easily accessible

ing the time he was in our field, served as missionary leader of the Columbus church.

In addition to directing the activities of the missionary band with a weekly mailing list of three hundred names to which was sent free literature personally addressed, Dr. Marsh built a tract rack that is a credit to any missionary so-



BACK VIEW: Convenient storage space is provided so that the display racks can quickly and easily be replenished

ciety. The accompanying picture will show its construction and practical use. There is a place in the back for storing supplies, and one person stopped by daily to see that the rack was kept well filled with free literature. In fourteen-months' time over eight thousand pieces of literature were taken from this rack, which was located in the bus depot. In each piece of literature was placed a 20th Century leaflet advertising a brief course of Bible studies. The interest in that locality is now so great that it keeps not only the pastor busy but also a Bible instructor and ministerial intern. They are on the move all the time visiting those who desire to learn more of the truth for this time.

Last year Elden Kenyon baptized sixteen in Columbus, and so far this year sixteen more have been baptized. No large public meetings have been held aside from Elder Kenyon's evangelistic meetings in the church three nights a week. The rest of the meetings are Bible studies in the homes. The Lord is blessing this simple, personal, soul-winning program, and a very fine class of people are taking their stand for the truth.

We hope that more of our churches will soon catch a similar vision, being content to work in a quiet, effective way, and thus bring into use much of the talent which is now lying dormant among our believers.—I. M. EVANS, copied from *Southern Tidings*, Sept. 19, 1947.

More Bible Studies, Please

A FEW years ago newspaper headlines reported several air raids over continental Europe in which one thousand or more planes participated, carrying high-powered bombs which shattered factories, bridges, office buildings, churches, and homes. These air raids, using one thousand or more planes, were considered an achievement—an evidence of striking power by the United Nations. The cost was tremendous! No expenditure was too great in order to destroy the enemy.

In the spiritual realm, we too have striking power—against wickedness—the power of the truth sent home to the heart through Bible studies, under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Every earnest Bible study is a spiritual high-powered bomb hurled against the powers of darkness. We have vast resources in “planes” (4,500 Seventh-day Adventist members loaded with precision-directed truth, packaged in brief Bible studies). We should have “night raids” throughout Florida in which a thousand Bible studies are given in one week. It will take time to work up to such an extensive program, but ultimately we can do it. Within one year, by extensive promotion in every church, encouraging every able-bodied person to accept the responsibility of giving one or more Bible studies a week, we can give more than one thousand Bible studies each week. This is the picture as given us by Mrs. E. G. White:

“Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families, and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth.”—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 126.

To attain our objective of one thousand Bible studies a week, we must start modestly and increase month by month, every church participating, striving to make its members more capable in giving Bible studies and more earnest in seeking honest souls. We are calling this matter to the attention of every church board, which is really the missionary committee of the church. Upon the church board rests the responsibility of assigning missionary work to every church member. Many persons would give Bible studies regularly but they feel incompetent and therefore excuse themselves from this sacred responsibility. Many of these persons could readily learn if they accompanied a member when he goes forth to give a Bible study.

That is the way some people can learn more readily than if they took a course on how to give Bible studies. After two or three demonstrations they could conduct a good Bible study themselves. Other members will learn through a layman's Bible training course conducted in the church. The textbook for this course is entitled *Training Light Bearers*, which sells for \$1 in paper binding and 1.50 in cloth binding. Another very helpful book that will aid our members in giving thought-compelling Bible studies is *Half Hours With Your Bible*, price \$1.50 in cloth.

We want every local elder and church missionary leader to give continued promotion to this important matter. At the close of September we shall peruse with special interest the total number of Bible readings given by the members of each church, and we expect to issue a conference-wide report showing these totals. Our objective for each church for the month of September will be very modest, namely, not less than one Bible study for every five members on your church books, and for the month of October we should increase this to one Bible study for every four members. Ultimately we can actually attain one thousand thought-provoking, capably directed Bible studies per week.

Such a program will bring a rich harvest of souls and we will see new members added to our ranks throughout Florida. In the ten-minute missionary service between Sabbath school and preaching service, encourage the members to give a one- or two-minute report of the experiences they are having while conducting these Bible studies among their neighbors and friends.

R. H. FICKLING.

Adventist Message Demands Literature

"THE nature of our message is such that the preaching of the word without our publications could accomplish but little. The living preacher can create an interest, and cause conviction; but the clear and connected theory of the present truth must be read, studied, and clearly seen, from our publications."—JAMES WHITE in *An Appeal to the Working Men and Women in the Ranks of the Seventh-day Adventists*. Steam Press, Battle Creek, 1873.

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"SOME people are members of the church, but they belong to a great many other things."

★ News From Soul Winners ★

Medical Missionary Work in Santo Domingo

ELDER A. R. SHERMAN, veteran missionary of South America, now the director of the Santo Domingo mission field, tells of a trip into the interior. He says he made the trip over mountains and through rivers carrying dental instruments with him, remaining there four days.

He states, "I arrived there Friday just before sundown. Sabbath we had a wonderful day, an all-day meeting, and we also had the Lord's supper. Sunday the people began to come from all directions. It was just impossible for me to attend to all of them. I worked from early morning until sundown just as hard as I could, extracting teeth Sunday and Monday. Tuesday I told the people I would be glad to help them in their physical ailments. It was indeed a day that reminded me of the days when the Lord was here on earth. It was just impossible to find time even to eat. Mothers and fathers and children were waiting all day long without eating a morsel, hoping that they might get some relief from their aches and pains.

"I had the privilege of examining many of them and giving them counsel. That day I worked until nine o'clock in the evening. I was so tired I could hardly stand up straight. I begged the people to go home and let me get a little rest, because at half past three in the morning I had to start on my return trip. When I said good-by to these dear people, many were in tears. How much they appreciated what was done for them! Surely the medical work is the right arm of the message. How thankful I am that I can make use of the knowledge I gained while at the Foreign Mission Seminary many years ago. We need not fear fanaticism or hostility when we can show the people that we have something for

them, and that we are willing to do them a kindness.

How true it is that "The Holy Spirit operates the same the world over. When it is received into the heart, the whole character is changed. If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." Old habits and customs and national pride and prejudice are broken down."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 364 (ed. 1892).

"The work in this republic is onward. There are many places where we find it impossible to go. Calls are coming from all directions, but, oh, where are the workers?"

HENRY F. BROWN.

The Southwest Pacific

At no time in the history of missions have there appeared such opportunities for fruitful advance as now meet our vision. Here in the Southwest Pacific, where some of the most bitter fighting in recent strife took place, and where thousands of victims of fighting lie buried, hundreds of thousands of living natives anxiously and appealingly await the coming of the gospel.

Brought into contact with the worst phases of civilization as seen in war among the nations, the primitive peoples have discovered what to them is a new world. Rudely awakened from the insular tribal customs that have restricted them for centuries, they have been compelled to see many things of which hitherto they knew nothing. New peoples, white



Crowds gathered for medical treatment in one of the villages in Santo Domingo. Some waited all day for help

and brown, new ideas, and new evidences, both of destruction and construction, have tremendously changed and enlarged the vision of these island folk.

Amid the turmoil and the bitterness of war some seeds of good have also been dropped. Under the convicting Spirit of God these seeds have been nurtured, and there has arisen in the hearts of thousands a desire to enter into a better and a richer way of life.

No organization can reveal and impart this life more effectively than can that organization whose members believe in and teach the truths of God's Word in its fullness. Seventh-day Adventists, whose concept of Christianity has to do with the physical, the mental, and the spiritual uplift of the downtrodden, the unenlightened, and the sinful people of these lands, are welcomed on every hand. It is indeed our great day of opportunity. We must not neglect to seize it before it passes. Difficulties face our workers, yet our men are pressing into new areas, everywhere finding a waiting people. In unexpected places churches have been erected, and heathen men and women have been found worshiping under the instruction of some little-known teacher, who, faithful to his task in the absence of the white leader, has carried on his mission. He has been discovered by our white missionaries as they have gone back to the fields from which war drove them in the years gone by.

Old men whom our workers thought almost impossible of change are turning in large numbers from their heathen practices, and many of them are now setting the example in Christian living to the young people of their tribes.

Our ships destroyed by war are being replaced by better ones. Our hospitals are being rebuilt, and supplied with much-needed equipment. New mission and training schools are being erected, and quickly overcrowded by the many pressing in for instruction.

New areas are opening before us. Before the war these were not known to be populated. Now we find some splendid people living among these valleys of the great island of New Guinea. Roads have been made, flying fields laid down, and areas that formerly would have taken days and weeks to reach, are now within hours of easy access.

Leper work is being undertaken by us in several centers, and our doctors and nurses are constantly enlarging their field of service in the helping of the sick and the diseased.

This is indeed the time of our opportunity. With a vision of a world in need, a growing knowledge of the shortness of time, and a deepening consciousness that God has called us to finish His work, we in the enlightened, prosperous lands of earth should sacrifice as never before, that through our gifts, and the blessing of the Lord attending them, we may

soon face a completed task. The Missions Extension plan affords to our members a further opportunity of hastening the glad and glorious day of Christ's appearing. We know that all will respond in a self-sacrificing way to assist in seizing this opportunity. For this we are grateful, because thousands of souls will rejoice with us. W. G. TURNER.

★ Gleanings for Soul Winners ★

The Anvil of God's Word

*Last eve I paused beside a blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring its vesper chime;
Then looking in I saw upon the floor
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.*

*"How many anvils have you had," said I,
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"*

*"Just one," he answered; then, with twinkling eye,
"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."*

*And so the Bible, anvil of God's Word,
For ages sceptic blows have beat upon;
Yet though the noise of Paine, Voltaire,
was heard,
The anvil is unworn—the hammers gone!*

—L. B. CAKE in the *Current*.

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If we have sown the genuine gospel seed in tears, in the day of Judgment we shall find that not so much of it has been wasted as we may have imagined; for the gospel seed is immortal and, like money, may pass through the hands of many before it actually comes to the one whom God intends it shall reach. . . . That which, from a human standpoint, may seem like a dismal failure, when viewed from God's standpoint, who can watch it through its numerous windings down to the end of time, is a signal triumph.—DAVID PAULSON, *Footprints of Faith*, p. 38.

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BLESSED is the man who has the gift of making friends, for it is one of God's best gifts. It involves many things; but, above all, the power of going out of one's self, and seeing and appreciating what is noble and loving in another.—THOMAS HUGHES.

It Is Hard

To apologize.
To begin again.
To admit error.
To be unselfish.
To face a sneer.
To be considerate.
To endure success.
To keep on trying.
To profit by mistakes.
To forgive and forget.
To think and then act.
To keep out of the rut.
To make the most of little.
To shoulder deserved blame.
To subdue an ugly temper.
To maintain a high standard.
To recognize the silver lining.
But it always pays you!

—Selected.

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Someone, Somewhere

THERE are burdens you can share, there are hearts bowed down with care, there is someone, somewhere, you and I can cheer. There are clouds that shade the day which you and I can drive away. There is love with which to cast out every fear. If God's love is in your heart you have sunshine to impart, and so someone, somewhere, comes within its gleam; you can bless the darkest day and the beautiful display, and bring to life man's fairest, fondest dream.

Oh, there's much that we can do in the world we travel through, for that someone, somewhere, we may meet today. It may only be a smile, but 'twill surely be worth while, if it helps a wand'ring one to find his way.—STANLEY COMBRIDGE.

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NATIONS cannot afford to leave vital problems to the haphazard methods of physical force.—GARDNER MURPHY.

THE revelation of God's love to man centers in the cross. Its full significance tongue cannot utter, pen cannot portray, the mind of man cannot comprehend. Looking upon the cross of Calvary we can only say, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."—*Ministry of Healing*, pp. 423, 424.

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Have You A Word For Jesus?

HAVE you not a word for Jesus? not a word to say for Him? He is listening through the chorus of the burning seraphim! He is listening: does He hear you speaking of the things of earth, Only of its passing pleasure, selfish sorrow, empty mirth? He has spoken words of blessing, pardon, peace and love to you, Glorious hopes and gracious comfort, strong and tender, sweet and true: Does He hear you telling others something of His love untold, Overflowings of thanksgiving for His mercies manifold?

Have you not a word for Jesus? Will the world His praise proclaim? Who shall speak if ye are silent? ye who know and love His name. You, whom He hath called and chosen His own witnesses to be, Will you tell your gracious Master, 'Lord we cannot speak for Thee'? 'Cannot!' though He suffered for you, died because He loved you so! 'Cannot!' though He has forgiven, making scarlet white as snow! 'Cannot!' though His grace abounding is your freely promised aid! 'Cannot!' though He stands beside you, though He says: 'Be not afraid!'

What shall be our word for Jesus? Master, give it day by day; Ever as the need arises, teach Thy children what to say, Give us holy love and patience; grant us deep humility, That of self we may be emptied, and our hearts be full of Thee; Give us zeal and faith and fervor, make us winning, make us wise, Single-hearted, strong and fearless,—Thou hast called us, we will rise! Let the might of Thy good Spirit go with every loving word; And by hearts prepared and opened be our message always heard!

Yes, we have a word for Jesus! Living echoes we will be Of Thine own sweet words of blessing, of Thy gracious 'Come to Me,' Jesus Master! yes, we love Thee, and to prove our love, would lay Fruit of lips which Thou wilt open, at Thy blessed feet today. Many an effort it may cost us, many a heart-beat, many a fear, But Thou knowest, and wilt strengthen, and Thy help is always near. Give us grace to follow fully, vanquishing our faithless shame, Feebly it may be but truly, witnessing for Thy dear Name.

Yes, we have a word for Jesus! we will bravely speak for Thee, And Thy bold and faithful soldiers, Savior, we would henceforth be: In Thy name set up our banners, while Thine own shall wave above, With Thy crimson Name of Mercy, and Thy golden Name of Love. Help us lovingly to labor, looking for Thy present smile. Looking for Thy promised blessing, through the brightening 'little while,' Words for Thee in weakness spoken, Thou wilt here accept and own, And confess them in Thy glory, when we see Thee on Thy throne.

—FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

Weekly Church Missionary Services

January 3

MISSIONARY MEN AND LAY EFFORTS

THE missionary men of the church will have many and various phases of work to do, from helping the poor and needy in the neighborhood to teaching and preaching the third angel's message. One of the original purposes of organizing this society was to encourage and promote lay evangelism. The men of the church are especially equipped to do this kind of work.

The society encourages regular seminar work in training men to carry on public and personal evangelism. Many of these men have already had experience in holding leading church positions as elder, superintendent, Sabbath school teacher, or similar training. Therefore, they should be ready for action and to lead right out in this larger work of public evangelism.

And this is what many of our men's societies are now doing—holding public efforts in different places. The men of the church take the lead and seek out suitable places where cottage meetings and public efforts can be held. Then men of experience are sent out to follow up these interests. The Seventh-day Adventist church is a good place to light up on Sunday nights. Invite the neighbors to attend the meetings. Other public places may be secured as long as they are clean and reputable. A renovated store or garage is all right in proper seasons, and if heated in winter.

Men of the church, dear brethren, if you are not now active in some cottage meeting or Bible study or public effort each week, please give this phase of gospel work your prayerful and careful consideration, and seize the first opportunity to spread the light in arousing those who are now outside the ark of safety.

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January 10

WOMEN AS MISSIONARIES

ESSENTIAL as are the Peters and Pauls of the Christian church, they can never fill the place that God designed the Dorcas and the Lydias, and the Marys and the Marthas to fill. Teamwork is an essential part of Christianity. The giving of the gospel to all the world indeed requires the fiery enthusiasm of Peter and the rugged endurance of Paul; but it also calls for the gracious hospitality of Lydia, the capable efficiency of Martha, the intuitive understanding of Mary, and the good works of Dorcas.

In 1879 a woman whose God-given inspiration has blessed this denomination through the years, Mrs. Ellen G. White, wrote in the *Review and Herald*, "Women who can work are needed now, women

who are not self-important, but meek and lowly of heart, who will work with the meekness of Christ wherever they can find work to do for the salvation of souls."

Surely that need has become more acute with each passing year, and today no God-fearing woman lacks an opportunity to work for the salvation of souls. To a Christian woman the saving of her own household is naturally her foremost work, as she helps to create within her own home an atmosphere that instills a love for God, a thoughtful concern for fellow men.

As she joins in Dorcas work and in family and church missionary projects, her talents and capabilities are combined with others in effective service. A woman's greatest opportunities to speak a word in season often come, however, in those more casual missionary contacts, where spiritual help can be given incidentally. In informal chats with neighbors, the groceryman, the baker, and other business people, she will often discern an opportunity to speak of spiritual things.

In this hectic age, when the mere buying of groceries can be an exhausting and trying ordeal, when selfishness and greed is prevalent, when irritation is so general, tranquillity so rare, a woman who consistently manifests sweetness of temper bears an indisputable testimony to the power of Christianity.

To such a woman, it is natural for a neighbor to turn in time of distress. Of such a woman the skeptical repairman takes note before he denies the value of religion. From such a woman the bakeryman gladly accepts a book or tract when it is graciously offered as a source of help and inspiration. Of such a woman the neighborhood merchant thinks when the business outlook is bad and the future dark. Of such a woman the wise man said, "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies."

Whether her regular work is running a household smoothly or efficiently discharging her duties in the business world, the Christian woman will carefully balance her activities so that she has time and strength to work for God. She will strive to be as capable as was Martha, as receptive to spiritual opportunities as was Mary. GRACE FIELDS.

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January 17

THE COMING CRISIS

CRISES rarely develop suddenly. The final stages may come rapidly. "The last movements will be rapid ones." But usually for a long time beforehand, seemingly insignificant events take place which only those who are watching closely recognize as the preludes to some great climax.

It is thus with the coming crisis with respect to religious liberty. Prophecy has forecast the trouble that is to come upon the people of God. "He spake as a dragon"; "make an image to the beast"; "no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark"; "cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed" (Revelation 13)—these are very familiar phrases to us. They have meaning. They indicate the coming crisis.

What are the indications?

1. Increasing success is being achieved in the direction of church union. There is the Federal Council of Churches, largely modernist. Now we have the American Council of Christian Churches among the fundamentalists. The World Council of Churches is hastening to achieve its world-wide objectives. Dr. E. Stanley Jones, the noted missionary from India, urged last fall that church unity be hastened, in order that the church might have the power to influence the Government effectively.

2. There is a growing insistence on the part of ministers and social workers for the teaching of religion in the public schools or under public school auspices.

3. Sunday laws are being actively fostered, usually under the guise of protecting public health or maintaining public order. We read in the *Testimonies*, volume 9, page 51, that "evangelists should be finding their way into all the places where the minds of men are agitated over the question of Sunday legislation and the teaching of religion in the public schools. It is the neglect of Seventh-day Adventists to improve these providential opportunities that is hindering the advancement of the cause."

4. Church and state are gradually drawing toward union. This is being effected in various ways. There is the repeated interference of the churches in matters for which the Government is responsible. There is the insistence of the churches, both Catholic and Protestant, that they are entitled to some form of Government support, either in cash or property donations.

These are the issues before us. Any one of them might quickly develop to a crucial stage, and become a vehicle for the fulfillment of Revelation 13. "The final movements will be rapid ones." Earnest consecration, clear thinking, and a sincere application of the principles of Christian liberty are needed today.

FRANK H. YOST.

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January 24

GIVING THE TRUTH BY CIRCULATING "LIBERTY"

THE doctrine of soul liberty and of a total separation of church and state, when rightly presented, makes a strong appeal to all lovers of the American way of life. The guarantees of liberties as set forth in the Bill of Rights are being overridden by national, state, and municipal administrators. This is possible

because the people do not understand the proper relationship of church and state and the fundamental principles underlying individual liberty.

There is just one magazine in all the world that devotes its discussions exclusively to the proper spheres of religion and civil power, and that is *Liberty*, the official organ of the Religious Liberty Association. Sister White says that the organ of the Religious Liberty Association "has been, in God's order, one of the voices sounding the alarm, that the people might hear, and realize their danger, and do the work required at the present time." She further states that this magazine "is like a trumpet giving a certain sound; and all our people should read it carefully, and then send it to some relative or friend, thus putting to the best use the light that God has given them."

The religious liberty message in the final world crisis, Sister White says, is "the very present truth... for this time." Referring to some who thought that the religious liberty message was "distinct from the third angel's message," she said, "May the Lord forgive our brethren for thus interpreting the very message for this time... The banner of truth and religious liberty held aloft by the founders of the gospel church and by God's witnesses during the centuries that have passed since then, has, in this last conflict, been committed to our hands."

God has ordained that the *Liberty* magazine when placed in the hands of lawmakers and government administrators shall be the means of holding in check measures to restrict our liberties. It has been used of God to change the minds of men concerning Sunday laws and other religious legislation. It has a larger number of friends today than ever before in its history, but its circulation of less than 200,000 is a small beginning on what should be a great work. Many people have said that there should be printed at least a million copies every issue.

The *Liberty* magazine champions the message of soul liberty, so ably defended by Roger Williams, for the benefit and protection of the individual. Individual enterprise, initiative, and freedom of action are being pushed into the background in favor of group privileges. Unless the rights of the individual are preserved, we are all soon to become slaves under the tyranny of a ruthless majority.

The *Liberty* magazine is the one beacon light that shines brightly and distinctly in this modern darkness of confused thinking, and bears faithful witness in defense of the lofty ideals and fundamental principles as conceived by the founding fathers of our glorious Republic, by the founders of the great Protestant Reformation, and by the pioneers of the primitive Christian church. By your liberal donation to the cause of freedom and in behalf of the proposed increased circulation of *Liberty* you can help to make it possible for this valuable magazine to be sent to every member of Congress, to every State official and leg-

islator, to all judges, editors, and librarians, and to thousands of lawyers, teachers, and preachers. C. S. LONGACRE.

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January 31

CHILDREN AS MISSIONARIES

A LITTLE girl living with a worldly family said, "Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria!" And through the influence of a little girl who was not afraid to speak up for God, an influential military man was cured of his leprosy and avowed his belief in the true God.

When God spoke to a small boy who lived among backslidden strangers, that boy answered, "Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth." The Lord did speak, and His servant heard, and as the years passed "all Israel from Dan even to Beer-sheba" was blessed by Samuel, who as a child learned to work for God.

A boy only twelve years old sensed His responsibility to speak words of truth to those who would hear. He said, "I must be about My Father's business," and His faithful attention to God's work resulted in the salvation of mankind.

He who has given to every man his appointed work did not forget the children. There are tasks for children's hands to do, errands for children's feet to run.

"Children are the younger members of the Lord's family," says Ellen G. White. "They should be led to consecrate themselves to God, whose they are by creation and by redemption... They should be trained to help in various lines of unselfish service... Children should share spiritual as well as physical burdens. By helping others they increase their own happiness and usefulness."—*Testimonies*, vol. 7, p. 63.

As the church plans various missionary projects, provision should always be made for the children. If handbills and literature are to be distributed, let the children help in the work. Properly supervised and directed, their energy and enthusiasm can be a real boon to church missionary activities.

A children's or youth's Sabbath school class may function effectively as a sunshine band unit. In one place a group of junior girls have been organized by their Sabbath school teacher into a club with various activities, recreational as well as missionary and devotional. Once a month this group goes to a local public institution for the aged and infirm. To watch the faces of pitifully unfortunate old people as these girls sing to them and then speak to each one individually, asking whether they would like a paper, is to be convinced that these youngsters are not too young to do missionary work. And the conversation of these same girls, as they go home after such an excursion, is ample evidence that doing good is the best kind of fun.

As we plan our church missionary activities, let us include the younger members of the household of faith. Let us teach them how to work and avail ourselves of the help they are so ready to give, remembering that "of such is the kingdom of God."

★ Department of Education ★

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

Training the Child to Think and Act

A New Year's Greeting

DEAR friend of mine, the year is new;
I wish a Happy Year for You!
Whatever lies within its hand,
Easy, or hard to understand,
Whether it brings you smiles or tears,
Filling your heart with hopes or fears,
May He who marks the sparrow's fall
Protect and guide you through it all.
The path you tread has once been trod
By Him who is the Son of God.
Fear not the future; trust it all
To Him who marks the sparrow's fall.
Dear friend of mine, the year is new,
God grant a Happy Year to you!

—CHAS. M. SHELDON.
Used by permission.

Notes to Leaders

The New Year season gives us all a desire and an opportunity to make the coming year better than the past. As we look over the year 1947 we see where we have missed golden opportunities in training our children; we see where we should have been more alert. We see problems ahead of us, and we long to do better. We are not left to face these problems alone. "Let parents study less of the world, and more of Christ; let them put forth less effort to imitate the customs and fashions of the world, and devote more time and effort to moulding the minds and characters of their children according to the divine Model."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 91.

The great responsibility that rests upon parents and the supreme importance of their work is repeatedly emphasized in the writings of the Spirit of prophecy. The first talk of the evening could very well be devoted to a short study of some of these paragraphs which stress the great effort that homemakers must put forth in order to meet the standards God has set up for them. In *Counsels to Teachers and Parents* one can find such material in abundance on pages 107-131, 155, 156.

The articles that appear in this number can be used as the basis for discussions, with application to various age groups of the principles set forth. Make the meeting practical and helpful to parents of both older and younger children.

It is still not too late to start classes in the home education courses, which are such a help to mothers and fathers. While the children are going to school studying, let parents too keep mentally alert by studying.

May this new year, with its opportunities for progress and study, find us constantly drawing nearer to Him and to our eternal home where unbroken families may enjoy the blessing He has prepared for those who are faithful.

—ARABELLA J. MOORE.

Teaching Children to Think and to Act

BY DORIS H. BROWN

LITTLE Bobby in his play pen throws his rattle aimlessly, and it falls outside. He looks to grandma, knitting near by, to restore his toy to him. She smiles, but wisely waits until he has crawled to the nearest point and reached his hand through the bars, possibly bumping his head and grunting with the effort. When it is obvious that he cannot possibly reach it himself, she pushes it a little closer with her toe so that he can grasp it. Thus the baby is encouraged to attack his own problems, but help is given before there is danger of discouragement or a temper outburst. If she were to hand him the rattle every time as soon as it dropped, she would be encouraging his dependence upon others instead of helping him to make the delightful discovery of his own powers.

Little children are moving about constantly, busily trying to manipulate any movable object, rearranging toys, chairs, rugs, and vases in accord with some imaginary or real life situation. These activities often meet with adult disapproval, and sometimes children are punished as if they were deliberately upsetting the order of things or not using ordinary common sense. Most adults are not conscious of the long process of learning from daily experiences that finally resulted in their own "common sense," but suppose they were born with it.

Emotional behavior on the part of adults, such as raising the voice, slapping, or pouring out a rapid torrent of scolding, teaches the child nothing except that he has displeased them. He has no new idea for future attempts—except perhaps that he would better keep out of sight if he wishes to repeat what he has done. If, however, he is met with calm interest and helped to see why what he has done is not going to bring satisfaction or will require too much work to clean up, he chooses not to do it again.

A very efficient busy parent may kill all initiative in his child by repeatedly refusing his assistance because he is too slow or too awkward—then later lament

that his child takes no interest in home activities. A child's first halting, blundering efforts to help must be prized and appreciated and the imperfect product of his work praised, for it is really the perfect result of a first trial by incompletely developed muscles. It is not necessary to pretend that it is as good as mother or father can do, for even a child will be able to note certain differences. If he mentions some dissatisfaction with what he has done, a considerate parent will say, "Oh, I think it is very good for your first time. Next time you will be able to do it still better. I am proud of what you have done!" A remark like this will lead to a desire to try again. But if one should say, "Oh, Junior, the mess you've made in my clean kitchen! All the wasted material! Junior, whatever were you thinking of?" Junior would be an unusual child indeed if he ever asked to be allowed to try again.

A basic principle in all learning is that it must bring satisfaction and a feeling of success. Small, simple tasks may be deliberately assigned to allow for a feeling of success in learning some extremely difficult skill or process. A chart on the wall where Jill may make a mark or paste a star when she has remembered to hang up her clothes without being reminded, mother's friendly interest in the growing record, her encouraging words and smiles are worth more than a volume of talk about neatness and unwrinkled clothing. A spirit of family co-operation may be fostered by making a picture chart of the daily duties of various members of the family. Daddy's list would include morning and evening chores, because he has to go away to work during the day to earn the money to buy the things we cannot grow or make ourselves. He is very good to us and gives up a great deal of time just for us. We will try to make him happy before he leaves in the morning, and help with his chores so he will have some time to play with us in the evening. Mother's list is long and complicated, but it is easy to see that she does many things just for us. Jill's list is not very long, but it will certainly make a little less for mother to do. Even baby can be

taught to put his toys neatly in the drawer or on the shelf before nap time so mother can rest too.

After this sort of family planning, it is not unusual to hear, "Mother, if I dust the furniture for you, would you have time to come into the playroom and show me how to make the curtains for the playhouse?" or, "Mrs. Markham came to visit yesterday and kept you from canning the peaches, so we can't go downtown until tomorrow, can we, Mother?" Remember the day when mother would have said, "We aren't going to town today. You run along and play; mother is busy. Junior! Not another word! Mother knows best!"

Now eavesdrop on that shopping trip for a moment. "Mother, may we all have ice cream sodas today?" asks Jill. "Y-e-s, we may if we want them," answers mother hesitatingly. "Or we could use the sixty cents to buy a quart of ice cream to take home and surprise daddy, if we wanted to." "Oh, let's do that!" they decide, "It will be so much more fun!" Daddy often saves his treats to share with them, you see, delighting everybody with the surprise of it, and this is their chance to overwhelm him for a change. Many parents wait for an unselfish suggestion of this sort to originate in the child's mind; but they are mistaken, for children have to be taught unselfishness, love for mother and daddy and sister, as well as the other important ideas of co-operation, ownership, kindness to animals, courtesy to everyone, and reverence and love for God. The most lasting knowledge comes from experience, and the best situation for planned learning experiences is not to be found in the schoolroom with its large, loosely knit group, but in the home where every member is loved and wanted and is of infinite importance to every other member.

In order to make a home the best growing-learning place for the children, the parents must be well prepared with a fund of information about growing children so that they will not expect kinds or degrees of learning or skills that are impossible at the various stages of growth. Inexperienced parents (and that takes in all parents, for every child is different from every other) are apt to conclude that a child is dull if he fails to learn at once something presented to him. Much apprehension, fear, and self-consciousness could be avoided if parents would go to the library and get a recent book or two on child growth and mental development. These books tell the

results or conclusions from long, painstaking studies of thousands of children of all ages, so that one may know in which ways his child is developing according to normal growth patterns, and in which respects he is not making proper growth, what to expect him to inherit from his parents, and what he will have to be taught. In this way a parent may be helped to assume right attitudes toward personality peculiarities that appear at different ages. He will be helped to know whether he is expecting too much or too little; he will understand the relation of maturity to all learning, and will learn to respect individual differences and not to compare his child with the next door neighbor's child to the detriment of either. If he reads with understanding he may even reach the conclusion that his child is the product of a long line of ancestors, different from all of them in some ways, like all of them in other ways, yet a distinct personality, the heritage of the ages entrusted to the parent for safekeeping, polishing, and finishing, but not for remodeling. When the parent learns to respect his child for his differences and to cherish his personality as distinct, his behavior toward his child will become tactful and gentle; he will be filled with so much humility in view of his great responsibility that he will lose all pomposity, false dignity, and superiority. Then he and his child, on one common level, may work together at the business of learning to live happily and sensibly in this world. The child will love his parent and cling to him, but will progressively learn to make his own decisions without fear, and will not be helpless.

Junior Thinks, But How?

BY RUTH DURNING WOODRUFF.

A WONDERFUL honeymoon was over, and Jack and Betty Smith came home to a tiny apartment built just for two. How happy and complete life really seemed! Soon everything was in its place. Jack's clothes were put in perfect order. Except for picking up the evening paper, the living room was always in perfect order. Preparing the meals and doing the dishes was real pleasure. The cupboards fairly sparkled with pretty arrangements, and the dishes were used to serve new and delicious foods. When Jack came home at the close of the day he found waiting for him a tidy house, his wife in a neat crisp dress, and a delicious evening meal. "What more could a man desire?" he thought. "Truly, this

is a 'little heaven on earth to go to heaven in.'"

Life moves forward on wings. When Junior arrived, the young folks were sure their happiness was complete. But what a change the third partner brought into the well-regulated home. Now Junior steers the wheels of the household. He awakens the family in the morning; he is the last consideration before sleep. He must be fed, bathed, and cared for. The meals, dishes, laundry, and all the so-called important things of home become secondary. Sometimes now when Jack returns from work he finds Betty tired and the house upset, with toys all around. As for dinner, Betty apologizes that it will be just a snack. But Jack is good-natured about it, for he realizes to a degree that rearing Junior is a big job.

Right now their child must be taught to fit into the household and to take his place as a member of the family. Along with each day's necessary tasks, the training of Junior must be kept in mind as the most important work in the home. Junior will think and act for himself in spite of anything, but *how* he thinks and *the way* he acts depends upon his parents' guiding. "Parents have to do with the very foundation of habit and character. . . . The children will be what their parents make them."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 131. The training of children is the nicest work given to man. If all through childhood every move is made for the child, he develops a helpless complex and becomes a burden to his parents and to everyone with whom he comes in contact. If, however, he is taught from the beginning to be helpful and self-reliant, he becomes a pleasure to all.

I hear mothers say, "I tell and tell Jane to hang up her clothes, but she never does it herself." I wonder whether that mother ever taught Jane to hang up her clothes when she was small. Little children love to do things. Why not let them do constructive things? It is important for the small child to have a play box or cupboard for his toys, and hangers within reach for his clothes. Then, as soon as the child toddles, he can help the mother pick up his things. He can fold his clothes at night. He can put the socks in the shoes and the shoes in the proper place. He can learn to dress and undress himself, and to enjoy doing so. He may be slow, and mother could no doubt do it better and more quickly; but when she does, it is no help to Junior. I have been surprised to find that it does not take much more time or patience to teach these fundamentals at

two years of age than it does at four. But see the hours saved, and the experience the child gets before school years.

You have heard parents say, "Junior is such a good boy, he does everything I tell him to do." Did you ever stop to think that perhaps the youngster is not well-disciplined at all? If Junior does everything mother tells him, he is likely to do everything anyone else tells him to do. He must certainly be taught obedience; but more important, he must be taught to choose right from wrong voluntarily. Real obedience is controlled from within and not by an outside force.

Occasionally we come across a lazy child, but not very frequently. It is surprising and interesting to note how very much a little device will help. Place a chart where grown people can see it. Mark it with a star when Junior remembers to do his work well. Give him an extra pretty plate at dinner, or a surprise under his plate if he thought without being told. Or just a little extra praise will help. Someone has said, "Praise loudly and blame softly."

Every child should be dealt with as a person who is growing up. Parents must bear in mind that little lives advance rapidly, and we should let our vocabulary advance with them.

Games can be played to stimulate thinking. One is a five-minute pickup. Mother and children see how many things can be found out of place and put them away. Two counts are given for each thing, one for finding it and one for remembering where and how to put it away. It is interesting to note how at first a child will not see articles out of place; but soon he will notice everything out of place at any time and will straighten the rug or pick up the toy.

Another game I have found helpful is "What would you do?" This makes good group discussion or works well between mother and child. Several days before the child goes alone to the store a few blocks away, talk over with him the following possible situations. What should you do when you come to the street crossing? What would you do if the store were closed? What would you do if you could not get your purse open? What would you do if someone you did not know stopped in a car and asked you to ride? The child becomes prepared to meet the unusual. For example: What would you do if you were lighting the papers for mother, and accidentally caught on fire? Then the character thoughts: What would you do if you forgot to give back the change to mother?

or, What would you do if you broke something?

This game has a big advantage, as it can so often bring in little character stories of good and bad habits. Children never tire of stories.

The third game I have found helpful, I call "Persons." Mother says, "I am Mrs. Jones, and my little girl has had a birthday party. We have had such a good time. You are ready to go home." The child answers, with help at first, "Mrs. Jones, I had a nice time at your party. Thank you." Sometimes I'm the new neighbor boy or girl; again I'm a little boy or girl and the child is a minister or teacher, and I am introduced. Occasionally the child is the mother, and so on to bring back the essentials of etiquette. Thus Junior learns naturally what to do when emergencies arise in his life.

The home is a good practice place. The child learns to think by thinking, and to act by acting. Let us strive and pray that he will think right, then act right. Above all, we should be on guard, that our lives exemplify our teachings.

The School, a Training Ground

BY DORA GREVE

THE school is to supplement the work of the home. What a challenge! Here the Christian teacher endeavors to co-ordinate a multitude of personalities, dispositions, and characters; "that our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace." (Ps. 144:12.)

"And just how," you ask, "can the school function as a vital factor in training the child to think and to act?"

We answer, "Teach the fundamentals."

"But what are the fundamentals?"

We reply, "To surround the child with an atmosphere of beauty and order vibrating with deep spiritual overtones, and here, by precept and example, lead him gently but firmly in the paths of unselfish human relationships up the steps of mental and physical attainments by way of the prayer life to the very gates of the city of God."

"But," I hear you say, "we still dwell on the earth, therefore let us come down to earth and consider practical things."

Routine, humdrum and commonplace as the term may sound, is a vital factor on the school training ground of character development. It is 8:15 in the morning. The room fills quickly with eager, lively boys and girls. There is talking and laughing, but the voices are

low and well controlled in an atmosphere of quiet freedom. Diligence and Drill are reviewing their memory verses for the Bible class. Preparedness and Foresight are sharpening their pencils for the day's work. Seldom does anyone leave the room, for the halls also must be kept quiet and orderly as children enter the building and go to their various rooms. At 8:25 the Morning Watch bell rings, and in this classroom the Creator is given a warm welcome as each pupil opens his Bible and finds God's special message for the early morning hour. The door closes at 8:30. Everyone stands, and all voices in unison give utterance as the heavenly Father draws near through His Holy Word. Without direction every knee is bowed before the throne of God.

Most of the young learners give careful attention to the fascinating stories in the history class that follows, but Disturbance and Inattention think of something to chat about and lose the thread of the story. Be careful, boys. It doesn't pay to yield to the tempter as he steals upon you through the wandering mind. A kindly reproving glance reminds you, but your thoughts still stray.

Time for morning recreation. Disturbance and Inattention anticipate the fast-moving skill and rollicking comradeship of the ball game. But just one minute, boys. Remember your uncontrolled thoughts and your careless words of the history class. Retribution comes quickly. Sorry, lads, but you cannot learn unless you first learn to listen. Then let your speech in the classroom be such as shows learning, and is of benefit to the group. No, there is no ball game for you this time. You may have opportunity for physical activity, but you cannot join the game. Remember, self-control and obedience are essential to building a life for eternity, boys. Next time guard well your thoughts and deed.

My! what a rattling of lunch covers and bucket tops. Everyone must have a little snack at recess. Of course, you all know the messy results. And then too, what about the health principle involved? How can such a situation best be remedied? Eating at recess seems to be a habit of long standing in this classroom, but the new teacher doesn't approve. Before long there is a story about a nourishing breakfast and a well-balanced lunch. After a friendly, informal discussion, the children enthusiastically agree to follow the lesson in the story and cease mixing their play period with a midmorning meal. The next day little Miss Information exclaims excitedly to

her teacher, "Oh! Miss Persuader, Unconvinced is eating an apple." The next scene reveals little Miss Unconvinced with her half-eaten apple interviewing Miss Persuader. "But my mother says I should eat at recess," she reasons.

"Wouldn't you like to ask your mother for an extra piece of fruit or another glass of milk at breakfast so you won't be hungry before lunch time? Don't you want to try that?" replies Miss Persuader. "Do it because you really want to. It will help us all to be one hundred per cent in overcoming a bad habit." And the child is persuaded in her own mind to act aright.

The school also faces the task of vitalizing the daily lessons into vehicles for the development of thought and action. And hundreds of teachers in our schools endeavor to provide for such growth through history, arithmetic, reading, English, and spelling.

Parents and teachers, will you not now resolve in a new way to train the boys and girls to think and to act for God? And will you not give deep consideration to the following classic words from the pen of Inspiration? "It is the work of true education . . . to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thoughts. Instead of confining their study to that which men have said or written, let students be directed to the sources of truth, to the vast fields opened for research in nature and revelation. Let them contemplate the great facts of duty and destiny, and the mind will expand and strengthen. Instead of educated weaklings, institutions of learning may send forth men strong to think and to act, men who are masters and not slaves of circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions."—*Education*, p. 17.

The Kind of Mother I Would Like to Be

Being a Wise Mother Is Difficult
When the Youth of Today Can
So Easily Detect Insincerity

BY MYRTLE C. GUTTERY

BEFORE my daughter was born, I determined that I was going to be the wisest, most efficient mother in the world. I realized, however, that to be such a mother required a great deal of preparation on my part, so I subscribed to child welfare magazines, read books on child training, and practically committed to memory Dr. Holt's *Baby Book*. I was quite sure that, even before the baby's arrival, I could distinguish between a

cry of pain and a cry of temper and that I knew what to do.

I then pitied the poor Victorian mother who knew so little about the care of a child's body, who fed her child whenever he cried, who let him suck his thumb! But later it occurred to me that, while the Victorian mother was sadly inadequate in the physical care of her child, she paid a great deal of attention to things that seem to bother modern mothers little . . . a child's soul and a child's graciousness of manner.

Recently I was a guest in the home of a charming woman of seventy. The doorbell rang and, when my hostess answered it, in breezed a girl of fifteen or sixteen. To my hostess' invitation to be seated, she replied with a raucous laugh, "I'll just do that little thing." I knew the girl. She comes from a good home, has had exceptional advantages of education and travel, but there is no evidence that, either in the home or in the school, she had been trained in the gentle art of courtesy. Experiences such as this made me decide that the kind of mother I'd like to be was a combination of the modern, efficient mother and the Victorian, with her emphasis on a clean mind and gentle manners. I resolved to give as much attention to developing a healthy mind in my daughter as to keeping her body healthy.

Freedom and the insistence on being allowed to live one's own life is the slogan of the present generation. When Jane was six or seven, she put into unmistakably plain words her desire for independence. As I was putting her to bed one night, she pleaded, "Mother, please let me be the boss of myself tomorrow for the whole day." I thought a minute before I replied, "Yes, on one condition—that I, too, am boss of myself." The idea of mother ever being anything but the boss of herself was a huge joke to Jane. The next morning she came downstairs dressed in her very best frock! She found the table bare. "Where is my breakfast?" "There's food in the refrigerator," I calmly replied. "You are the boss of yourself today, so you may fix anything you like." I tried not to spoil the day for her, and yet to make her realize that none of us had independence—none of us freedom in this modern world. And before that day was over, Jane recognized that not only her own happiness but the happiness of the others depended upon her co-operation.

The years have passed and, although she no longer expresses it so crudely my daughter still insists at times on being

boss of herself. I have no desire to curb her in true freedom—I have a great admiration for rugged individualism—but I should like to foster in her the courage it takes to stand alone. I do not wish her to be spineless, to accept her opinions ready-made from me any more than from a member of her crowd. But I do pray that somehow I can direct her independence along helpful lines, so that she will think through a problem carefully and allow herself to hear both sides before she decides how she will act.

In encouraging this spirit of freedom, I've allowed my daughter to do many things that have frightened me nearly to death. Stifling one's fears is not easy, hut, as mothers, we have no right to consult our feelings—to let our fears interfere with our child's happiness or well-being. Our feelings have nothing whatever to do with the matter. The only question that should arise is, Will that experience be good or bad for my child? not, Will it be hard on my nerves?

As a wise mother, I'd like to be able to judge between essentials and nonessentials. I'd like to be a wonderful housekeeper, but not if my spick-and-span, everything-in-its-place house meant that my daughter would never feel free to bring her friends home with her. . . .

I'd like to be a marvelous cook. However, if fussing over an elaborate dessert left me at the end of a busy day with frayed nerves or crowded out the bedtime story, I hope that I'd feel it was not worth the effort expended.

We mothers should sometimes check up on what we are making the essentials by asking ourselves, "What are we most interested in—our daughters' clothes, their popularity, or their ideals?" My daughter once made this remark about one of her teachers: "I like Miss Brown. She is the only one of my teachers who I feel is more interested in the kind of person I am than in the grades I make." That is the kind of mother I'd like to be, one whom my daughter recognizes as placing character and conduct above clothes or good marks.

Above everything else, I hope that no matter how shriveled my body becomes, I may still be young in mind and in spirit so that I shall understand my daughter—that we shall not speak a different language. To retain this elasticity, there must be no harking back to the days when I was young. I know that I must know the world in which my daughter lives and the problems she faces.—*The American Home*, June, 1947. (Used by permission.)

★ 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.

War Experiences of Bible Society Representatives

At a conference of Bible societies in England last year, which was attended by distinguished representatives from most European countries and America, heroic stories were related of suffering and daring for the Word of God during the war years. "The conference owed its existence to the demonstration of the power of God's word in the Bible during the war years and the clamant urgency of greater and more constant supplies of the indispensable Book."

These are some of the experiences related:

Mr. Enhole of Poland: "In the early days of the German invasion, a bomb dropped near the Warsaw depot, blowing out windows and doors. One little pane of glass only remained, on which were the words, 'Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away.' Those words remained on that small fragment, and through the long months and years people as they passed by took off their hats, made the sign of the cross, and said, 'It is a miracle.'"

"The work was continued, although difficulties were great. The name of The British and Foreign Bible Society had to be changed, because the Germans objected to anything connected with Britain. The title The Bible Society was put up in both Polish and German. In spite of the dangers and problems 266,000 copies of the Bible, New Testament, and portions were supplied through the depot alone. Colportage was forbidden, but a few men worked privately, taking great risks. Most of the Scriptures issued were in Polish and Ukrainian, with a few Russian books. Later on there was a total prohibition of the sale of English, French, and even Turkish Scriptures. In the face of overwhelming difficulties, 6,000 Bibles and 22,000 New Testaments were printed; this without any payment. It was a marvel to the people to see that the one British institution in Poland which was not closed was the Bible Society."

"Four times I was called to the Ges-

tapo, and the last time I never expected to return home. I was questioned about the society, and very closely about Mr. Haig (secretary for Europe). When I said that the work had nothing to do with politics, I was asked, Are you against Hitler? I said I did not know, but that the Bible said that all governments come from the Lord. The Gestapo official replied, 'That is true; now you are free.'

"During the early days of the war I was transported for some weeks to eastern Poland, and my wife took charge of the depot and was there alone through the siege of Warsaw. Later, during the insurrection, she went into Warsaw to get food, and she then helped to put into safekeeping twelve cases of Scriptures, molds, typewriters. Then, owing to the state of the city, she was unable to return, and for six weeks lived in the cellar. The Germans at that time decided to send women and children into concentration camps, and my wife was chosen to go to the mines. She made a protest, for her health was very poor, and though she suffered much physical ill-treatment, eventually she succeeded in getting away."

Among Bantu and Nandi

CHEBWAI MISSION has the task of bringing the light of present truth to the inhabitants of northwest Kenya. In this area are to be found well over twenty tribes, which can be divided roughly into two language areas; Bantu and Nandi.

The Bantu tribes number seventeen, and although each has its own dialect, they are sufficiently closely related to be able to understand each other. This is a great advantage when it comes to sending a worker from one tribe to open up work in another.

So far only three of these seventeen tribes have been entered with the third angel's message, and in only one do we have baptized members. That is among the Kabras, on whose reserve the mission is situated. But the prospects in the other two are very encouraging, and we greatly rejoiced to see twenty men from the

Wangao accompany our evangelist to our camp meeting last year, and six from Kitosh, where the work has been going only a few months. Inquiries have come from the Maragoli, and four boys from that tribe are in our mission school, although there are plenty of schools of other denominations nearer their homes to which they might have gone. We are placing an evangelist in that district this year, with access to two other tribes, and a second evangelist will endeavor to reach three further tribes near the Uganda border.

The Nandi people are divided into four groups, and each group into as many subdivisions. They are very interesting people, and the prospects for the work among them are bright. Although only two of their tribes have been entered, the bulk of our membership is to be found among them—last year more than half the number baptized came from that part of the field.

Like most cattle people, the Nandi are intensely conservative, and have not taken kindly to the European type of education. They believe in the existence of a creative being, but that this being can only be approached through the spirits of the dead. Accordingly their religion is centered in the cult of the dead rather than in a remote and not-always-friendly spirit.

For a long time the Nandi objected to manual labor, this being done only by women. They would not use plows, for if they did there would not be any cattle to look at. This seems foolish to us, but well illustrates the African mentality. To the African cattle owner, looking at his cattle is definitely a form of work! Many Nandi will not sell milk to a European for fear he might boil it and thereby insult the cattle, which would have a bad effect upon the milk supply. Today, happily, nearly all these things are altered. We have a very encouraging work among the Nandi, but not a single school. We hope that funds will soon be available for this vital advance step.

D. M. SWAINE.

Political Unrest in India

EVEN though there is considerable trouble in the Punjab, our work is being carried on as usual; and in no place, to my knowledge, have we had to close down the work, with the exception of our school in Lahore, which was in the old city. We had to close that down because of the trouble there. Things became very serious in Lahore, and it was not safe to

have our teachers in that place and the children coming out to school. In fact, the children were unable to come out at all. Probably very soon we can reopen the school.

We are now conducting some very good evangelistic efforts in the villages and have excellent attendance at these, with large, interested crowds. If we had a dozen families to place in the field, we would be able now to reap a large harvest of souls. It seems as if this is the opportune time to preach the message and have the people step out and accept.

R. L. KIMBLE.

News From India's Northern Frontier

THE day of great things 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 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 their support by financing and maintaining our preachers and school-teachers. This group numbers over 1500, 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 to supply their wants alone. We need a strong, consecrated Urdu preacher and a worker to answer this call, and, we believe, with the Lord all things are possible.

While at 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 we could weep for joy to see how the Lord, knowing our inability to speak the language, has raised up one who can do it so well.

STEPHEN HASLAM.

SPECIAL DAYS AND OFFERINGS

January 3

Home Missionary Day
Topic: Share Your Faith

January 10

Second Sabbath Mission
Offering

January 17-24

Liberty Magazine Campaign

January 24

Religious Liberty Day
and Offering
Topic: Soul Liberty—A Gift
of the Gospel

Soul Liberty—A Gift of the Gospel

(Continued from page 1)

home to the people through the press. Luther's pen was a power, and his writings, scattered broadcast, stirred the world. The same agencies are at our command, with facilities multiplied a hundred-fold."—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 403.

How true it is that in these days the facilities offered by the modern press are a hundredfold greater than anything that Luther had with which to work. The great presses of today print in an hour what it would have taken a week to do in Luther's time. While our work has been made easy, our responsibility has been greatly increased.

In the fight for the preservation of religious liberty this denomination has a journal, *Liberty*, which through its entire history has furnished a medium for reaching men in public life, as no other paper we publish could have done. In our work for the leaders of state and nation through our religious liberty literature, we are endeavoring to follow this admonition:

"Men will soon be forced to great decisions, and it is our duty to see that they are given an opportunity to understand the truth, that they may take their stand intelligently on the right side."—*Ibid.*, vol. 9, pp. 126, 127.

Hundreds of legislators have had their eyes opened to the doctrine of soul liberty and the right of individual conscience through a reading of *Liberty*. Whenever a bill involving religious lib-

erty or the separation of church and state has been introduced into Congress, men have been quick to advise us about it and even to suggest ways that the danger might be met.

At the present there is new agitation for Sunday laws in many places, and the churches, both Protestant and Catholic, have begun to urge the teaching of religion in the schools. The messenger of the Lord was told what we should do when such conditions arise.

"Evangelists should be finding their way into all the places where the minds of men are agitated over the question of Sunday legislation and the teaching of religion in the public schools. *It is the neglect of Seventh-day Adventists to improve these providential opportunities that is hindering the advancement of the cause.*"—*Ibid.*, p. 51. (Italics ours.)

She warns us further.

"We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude, doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience. . . . Let there be most earnest prayer; and then let us work in harmony with our prayers."—*Ibid.*, vol. 5, p. 714.

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God's plan is first to get at the heart. Speak the truth, and let Him carry forward the reformatory power and principle. Make no reference to what opponents say; but let the truth alone be advanced. The truth can cut to the quick. Plainly unfold the word in all its impressiveness.—*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 400.



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