

THE CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE

Vol. 35

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No. 7



"I Have Loved Thee"

Mrs. Thirza Buckman

*"The Lord hath appeared
of old unto me, saying,
Yea, I have loved thee
with an everlasting love:
therefore with loving-
kindness have I drawn
thee." Jeremiah 31:3.*

Amazing! Oh, how can this be,
That God should love and care for me?
It cannot be because I'm good,
Or always do that which I should.

I have no merits, I confess;
I am myself unrighteousness.
Oh, it is this, just this, I know—
It is because He loved me so.

Clear, from afar, I heard the call,
"I've loved thee, notwithstanding all.
I know thy failings, weakness, too;
Draw near, I long to strengthen you.

"My love is tender, deep, and strong.
What though the journey may seem long?
Your burdens you may cast on Me;
Come, let Me carry them far thee.

"I see thee, child, I count thy tears;
I know thy burdens, all thy fears."
Oh, sweetly now I hear Him say,
"Yea, I will hold thy hand away.

"My home with you I long to share,
In that dear country's balmy air.
Oh, how I long that you may see
The place I have prepared for thee!

"Remember, I was crucified
For you, was slain, in travail died.
My joy can never be complete
Until My precious ones I greet.

"With joyful heart I then shall sing,
And all the bells of heaven will ring;
With My redeemed, all glorified,
Then, then I shall be satisfied."

What can I, Father, render Thee
Far all that Thou hast borne for me?
I'll take the cup, and wilt Thou fill
According to Thy blessed will.

I call upon Thy Holy name
To cover all my guilt and shame.
Then, reproduce Thyself in me.
Amen, Amen. So let it be.

EDITORIAL

Education of Our Youth

PROBABLY no question arouses more general interest or more willing sacrifice among Seventh-day Adventists than the education of our children and youth. The denomination is spending millions of dollars annually on Christian education. But why all this effort and expense when there are established public schools everywhere which without cost to us will educate our children and prepare them for life? The reason is obvious. We know that during the formative years not only the future well-being but the eternal destiny of our children are determined. We therefore spend willingly our meager savings or go without luxuries or even necessities to make possible the training of our youth for the kingdom of heaven. This is the only excuse we have for conducting a system of schools apart from the world. The subject of Christian education, therefore, touches every home financially and spiritually and is of vital interest to every parent.

There is no lack of educational opportunities in the world. The printing presses are turning out millions of textbooks, and governments are erecting fine school buildings and furnishing them with the very latest equipment and facilities. Thousands of teachers are being efficiently trained in the arts and sciences, and they are being paid out of public treasuries to carry the blessings of education to the children and youth of the nations. But what has been the moral fruitage of all this effort? Do we see large returns in the way of a more stable social development and a strengthening of the moral fiber of the nations? No! In fact, as we look out upon the world around us, we see just the opposite. At no time in history has the moral decadence of the race been so manifest, and juvenile delinquency so alarming. Crime is on the increase everywhere, and lawlessness, sex orgies, and drinking parties have become commonplace, especially among the teen-age groups who are the direct product of modern educational methods.

The responsibility for these appalling social conditions must be shared, and that in no small degree, by the public schools and colleges of today. Anyone who has watched the educational trends during the past half century must realize that the situation that the world faces today is largely the result of a wrong education—an education that has denied the authority of God's word and set aside the binding claims of His law. Secular education has demonstrated its utter inability to change the hearts of wayward youth or to arouse their wills to build a better life and guide them into paths of righteousness. Knowledge in itself is no savior. An education apart from God, in which science is deified and in which infidel sentiments are interwoven into

nearly every class recitation, will surely befog the minds of youth and cast them upon the rocks of uncertainty and leave them without a foundation for faith—adrift in a world of doubt and scepticism. Such conditions breed juvenile delinquency and crime and are fertile soil for the growth of revolutionary theories of government that now threaten the peace of the world.

In the light of these facts how can we expect the schools of the world, or teachers who have no love for God or faith in His word, to prepare our Seventh-day Adventist youth for the hour of temptation and the coming of our Lord? If our young people are to be saved with us in the eternal kingdom of God, they must during the days of their youth be developing a firm and unwavering confidence in the word of God and in this last message that we have been commissioned to carry to the world.

On July 24, the church will observe Educational Day. It will give every church elder and pastor an opportunity to rally our people to a fuller support of our schools and colleges. This is a work that lies nearest to our door. Giving to missions and sending relief to Europe are important and needful, but they can never be substitutes for providing a Christian education for our own children and youth.

The servant of the Lord has said: "As a church, as individuals, . . . we must make more liberal efforts for the training of our young people. . . . The church is asleep, and does not realize the magnitude of this matter of educating the children and youth."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 43.

Let July 24 be a rally day, but also a day of planning that every Seventh-day Adventist child or young person who intends to be in school next year may be in a Christian school which will be to him a harbor of refuge in these troubled times.

—EDITOR.

Question Corner

In this column each month will be answered questions on the work and duties of church officers or questions concerning any problem that may arise in connection with the local church or any of its departments. We welcome your questions and ask that they be sent to the Editor, *CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE*, c/o General Conference, Takoma Park, Washington 12, D. C.

How to Pay Tithe

QUESTION: Does not the General Conference have a leaflet of instruction on how farmers, storekeepers, manufacturers, and other types of businessmen should figure out their tithe? If so, please send a copy.

ANSWER: No, the General Conference has never provided such a leaflet and the reason is obvious. Tithe paying is a duty man owes to God and not to the conference. The Lord has laid down certain principles in both the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy with reference to how we should pay our tithe, but He has never given instruction so implicit and inclusive that we have no opportunity to exercise our own conscience and judgment in the payment of tithe. "Every Christian is a steward of God, entrusted with His goods. Remember the words, 'Moreover it is required of stewards, that a man be found faithful.' 1 Corinthians 4: 2. Let us be sure that we are not robbing God in any jots or tittles; for much is involved in this question."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 246.

We believe that a businessman who has taken God into partnership, and who approaches the problem of figuring out his tithe under the direction of the Spirit of God and in harmony with the instruction in the Scriptures, will be led to a right solution of his problem. There are so many different conditions in business enterprises that any attempt by the General Conference to lay down rules for tithe paying would only lead to confusion and misunderstanding.

However, "God desires all His stewards to be exact in following divine arrangements. They are not to offset the Lord's plans by performing some deed of charity, or giving some gift or some offering, when or how they, the human agents, shall see fit. It is very poor policy for men to seek to improve on God's plan, and invent a makeshift, averaging (Please turn to page 4)



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ARE YOU MOVING?

You should notify us in advance of any change of address, as the post office will not forward your papers to you even if you leave a forwarding address. Your compliance in this matter will save delay and expense.

Church Officers' Round Table

Captain of the Lord's Host THE CHURCH MISSIONARY LEADER

By HENRY F. BROWN

WE are very definitely instructed that many of the ills of the church are due to the fact that our members are not busy in God's work. This makes the task of the missionary leader one of prime importance. We would almost make bold to say that it is the most important position in the church. It is his work to lead the church members into a program of Christian witnessing. The motives behind this program are twofold: First, one's own spiritual life demands that he pass on the truths to others. His ability to receive depends upon the amount he expends for the benefit of others. Second, the Seventh-day Adventist church is a militant organization. We have learned that we cannot hold our position merely by defensive warfare. Our message is for the world, and we must give it energetically, and aggressively until the world is warned.

Let us discuss the strategy the missionary leader should follow. First, he is to know the territory of his church. In order to do this, he should have a map defining explicitly that portion of the city (if there are two or more churches in the city) which definitely belongs to his church. This should be outlined as to the very streets. If it is a country church, he should know just which portion of the county, or township, belongs to his church. This is necessary so that he may form his plan and look forward to a completion of his task. Such planning is also necessary so that during Ingathering and other activities there be not a duplication of effort to the embarrassment of the church.

He should know where the foreigners live, and which languages are spoken within his church territory. He should know just where the needy families live in his district, and have them listed so as to arrange definite help for them.

Then, above all, he should know where there are interested people. An exact record should be kept of the interests that have been developed due to previous contact, by colporteurs, Ingathering, or other visiting.

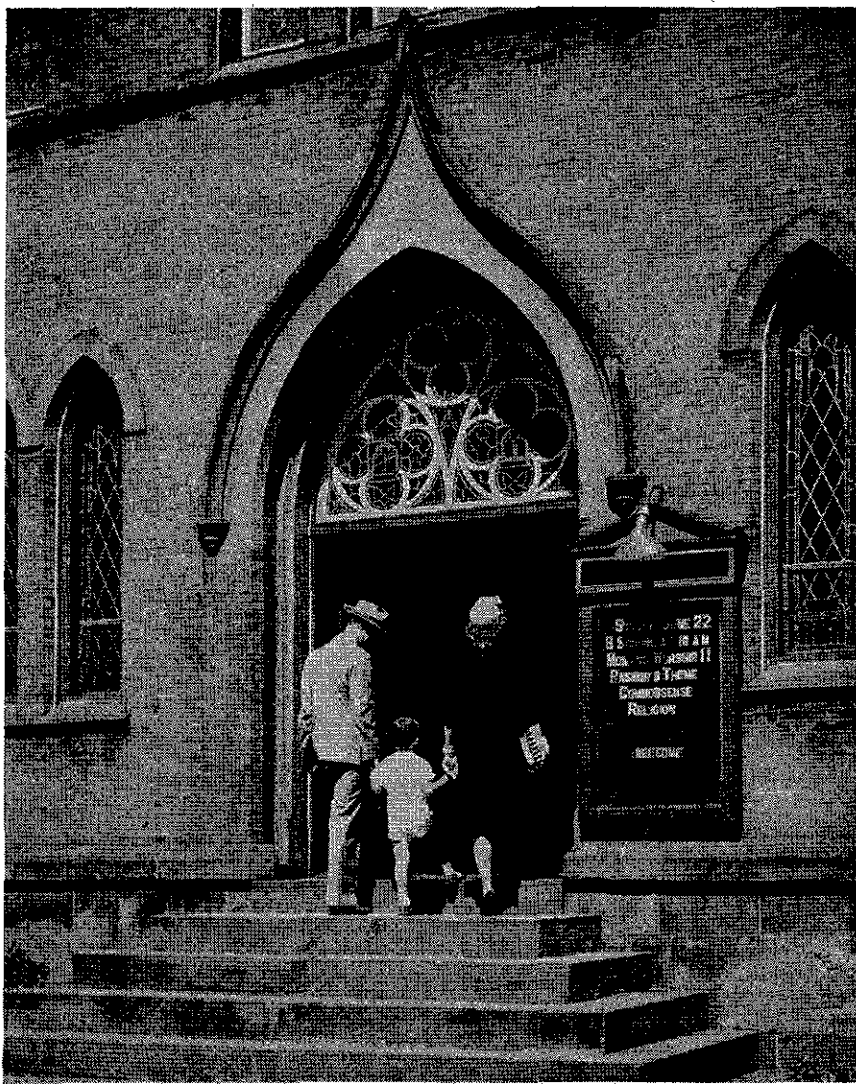
He must know his own forces. The missionary leader should secure from the church clerk a complete list of the church members, and have a card index file of the membership, with their children, their addresses, and the phone numbers. Divide these into groups according to the activities each would choose to engage in. In many churches on the first Sabbath of the year a little covenant card is passed out and each member is asked to indicate the type of missionary activity he

would prefer to do. But experience demonstrates that many times the task that can best be done by the individual is not indicated, and many times it is true that the work the individual member has the talent to do is least suspected by that member himself. All of this information is of value to the missionary leader. Each member of the church is expected to witness for Christ in some congenial way under the general direction of the Missionary Volunteer, Junior Missionary Volunteer, the Society of Missionary Men, and the women's activities, allowing each member to work in his own particular way. God has not given the same talents to all, and consequently there must be an adaptation of activities to fit the talents of the members.

Adventist lay activity follows two general types. First, there is the evangelistic work, orally carried on by personal witnessing, the giving of Bible readings, and lay preaching. This would include temperance work, branch

Sabbath schools, and Sunday schools. Literature evangelism is carried on through the handing out of the casual-contact tract, the systematic coverage of territory, the Bible Correspondence School, tract rack maintenance, magazine circulation, and church publicity. The second general method of Adventist evangelism is through the welfare work. The ladies of the church maintain cooking schools for the benefit of the non-Adventist community, or train certain women to be home nurses or to care for the needy.

It should be the objective of the missionary leader, through the course of years, to establish new churches within his territory. A healthy colony of bees swarms once a year. The hive becomes too crowded and one group swarms off and establishes a new colony. Healthy churches should do likewise. It should be a part of the strategy of the missionary committee, under the officership of the missionary leader and the missionary secretary, to choose strategic centers, and say,



"In five years we must have a church in this suburb, or in that little town." Then work toward that end. The church in Sao Paulo, Brazil, has ten branch Sabbath schools. Berlin had more than twenty churches before the war. Rather than build a larger church when the old one gets crowded, start new groups which will then serve as centers of evangelism for that neighborhood.

In order to accomplish this end, it should be the purpose of the missionary leader to have a systematic coverage of every home within his territory periodically. Let one campaign be the placing of the *Present Truth* in every home, or perhaps an invitation to enroll in the Bible Correspondence School, or a coverage with the Prediction Series of tracts. As interest develops, Bible studies will be called for. Perhaps a cottage meeting or a lay-preaching effort can be carried on; perhaps the interest can be crystalized into a branch Sabbath school, or it may even begin in the form of a Sunday school before people have accepted the Sabbath. Little by little the interest will grow until a new church is formed.

There are several activities that should be carried on constantly, such as the maintaining of tract racks in barbershops, bus stations, beauty parlors, or any place where men and women congregate. The Adventist magazines should be placed in public libraries and their subscriptions maintained from year to year. Our better books should also be placed in the public libraries, and it should be explained to the librarians that you wish an Adventist shelf to be built up containing all of the finest of our literature. A definite member of the church should be chosen to be responsible for these various activities. A brother who perhaps cannot give Bible studies could be assigned three or four tract racks. It should be his responsibility to keep them clean and provided with literature. This project should be carried on from year to year.

There are three or four special efforts which will require considerable planning. First is the Ingathering. Ascertain early in the year what the goal of the church is to be and then plan for each member to contact those individuals he can best approach in the business district, others to meet their personal friends and acquaintances, and still others to work in their neighborhood, each being responsible for the minute-man goal for that year. Let this be done with dispatch, with the least amount of disturbance to the regular worship of the congregation.

Yearly we have the *Signs of the Times* evangelism to plan for. By means of a group of assistants to the missionary secretary let every member of the church be approached in his own home and his club pledged, so that on the Sabbath there will be little need for the business phase to be entered into.

The *Liberty* magazine should be placed in the hands of every opinion-molding citizen, be he a high-school teacher, local or state official, or a professional businessman.

Subscription to the *Review and Herald* should be urged upon every member of the

church at least once a year. Rather than have the business of resubscribing done in the church, would it not be a good thing to have these assistants to the missionary secretary visit the members in their own homes and take their subscription for the *Review*? If it is found that some cannot pay the full price, perhaps it can be arranged with the Book and Bible House to have a club come to the church and have them distributed weekly.

In order to carry on his work the missionary leader must have regular meetings with his missionary committee. They should plan in a businesslike way to carry on the work of Christ's church. He will work in very close co-operation with the Missionary Volunteers and the Junior Volunteers in order that they may know his plans and work intelligently.

The missionary leader will carry on a training program in order to better fit his members to carry on his grand, aggressive attack against the forces of sin. Yearly he will have a class in "Training Light Bearers," preparing them to give Bible studies to their neighbors and to their acquaintances. Where a qualified individual is in the church, a home nursing course can be conducted; or where there is a conference nurse, possibly it can be arranged for her to come and conduct this training course. In many churches a salesmanship class can be directed by some resident colporteur, so that part-time colporteurs and salesladies can sell *Life and Health*, *Our Times*, *The Message*, and Canadian *Signs of the Times* in assigned territory. Then when a lay-preachers' institute is held in the conference, well-chosen men should be asked to attend it and develop their gifts in lay preaching.

Records must be kept. Consequently the missionary leader will want to see the individual reports of his workmen. These are taken weekly on the yellow card in the ten-minute missionary period between Sabbath school and the worship service. Monthly his missionary secretary will provide him with a summary of the church activities, which should include reports from the Dorcas society, the Missionary Volunteer society, the activities of lay preachers or part-time colporteurs in the church.

He will very jealously keep his Ingathering records, with a list of donors, so that this activity can be intelligently entered into the following year.

Such a program, directed by a live, consecrated, intelligent missionary leader, will be a blessing to any community. The active missionary endeavors will cause the name Seventh-day Adventist to be respected in that community, and the church will be influential in extending the kingdom of God.

Question Corner

(Continued from page 2)

up their good impulses on this and that occasion, and offsetting them against God's requirements. God calls upon all to give their influence to His own arrangements. He has made His plan known; and all who would co-operate with Him must carry out

this plan, instead of daring to attempt an improvement on it."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 248.

A careful study of the Bible and the instruction in the Spirit of prophecy on the subject of tithing will give every businessman the divine counsel that he needs in the payment of an honest tithe.

Church Business Meetings

QUESTION: Could you make some suggestions as to how the church business meeting might be made more attractive and thereby draw a larger attendance?

ANSWER: It is most unfortunate that many church members take so little interest in the business and financial aspects of our church work. The business meeting is one of the most important gatherings of the church. Here are rendered the reports from the treasurer, clerk, and departments of the church, and the business interests of the church attended to. These are important and should interest every member, who through his gifts, tithes, and missionary activities has made these reports possible.

It would be well to make an urgent appeal to the church on the Sabbath to attend the business meeting. A well-announced meeting is half the battle. Point out the importance of every member being acquainted with the business of the church of which he is a member, also his responsibility in these lines of church work. Then see to it that the reports at the meeting are well prepared, and, if possible, duplicated copies placed in the hands of all those who attend. This is especially important for the treasurer's report. A blackboard graph on the growth of the finances of the church in relation to membership would add interest, also comparative graphs showing the relation of the current quarter with corresponding quarters for several preceding years. The departmental reports from the Sabbath school, Missionary Volunteer society, the Dorcas society, the Society of Missionary Men, and the Church Missionary leader should be well prepared and not only give statistics but interesting items of missionary work or soul-winning experiences.

A brief, appropriate Bible study by the elder or pastor as an introduction would be in order, but this should not be more than ten minutes long. Special music could be prepared or other interesting items included, but the success of the business meeting will depend first upon a successful announcement, and then upon live, interesting, informative reports from the church officers. All who attend should have the privilege of asking questions about any of the reports, which should be briefly but courteously answered by the elder or the secretary concerned.

Church work succeeds when it has good leadership, the enthusiastic support of the members, and when there is good teamwork on the part of all who bear responsibilities in the church. A business meeting reveals to a large extent whether such leadership and teamwork are present in a congregation.

THIS IS THE HARVEST HOUR

W. H. BRANSON

**Christian, rouse! fight in this warfare,
Cease not till the victory's won;
Till your Captain loud proclaimeth,
"Servant of the Lord, well done!"
He, alone, who thus is faithful,
Who abideth to the end,
Hath the promise, in the kingdom
An eternity to spend.**

—Selected.

"Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." John 4: 35.

A few years back we passed the century mark of the great judgment-hour message. For more than one hundred years this people have been raising the cry, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh." Millions of books, tracts, and periodicals have been printed and scattered over the earth. Millions of sermons have been preached by our evangelists. Medical and educational institutions have been established upon every continent and in scores of island fields, and these have been exerting a mighty influence in favor of the truth. Hundreds of churches have been established, and their members have joined in the effort to send forth the call to the nations to prepare for the advent of Christ and the end of this world.

Thus, seed has been sown everywhere, except, perhaps, in the most remote places. And a whole century has passed. We have been long at the task. Surely now we should expect to reap a mighty harvest.

The Lord tells us that this message is to go forth with a "loud cry"—like an angel flying through the heavens, calling to the nations to repent and turn to God! It is to stir men's hearts everywhere, and thousands are to be converted in a day. In fact, the advent call is to develop into the greatest religious movement of all time. It is to constitute God's final appeal to the nations.

And now is the time for the harvest. This has been long delayed. Comparatively few have accepted the message. Millions have heard and have hesitated to step out and obey God. They have not, as yet, dared to pay the price. These must now be gathered in. Other millions wait in darkness because they have not yet heard the message. Many of these will respond. They must be reached without delay. Of this class the Lord has said: "Thou has delivered Me from the strivings of the people; and thou hast made Me the head of the heathen: a people whom I have not known shall serve Me. As soon as they hear of Me, they shall obey Me: the strangers

shall submit themselves unto Me." Psalm 18: 43, 44.

"All over the world, men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the very verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 71.

This is all in fulfillment of God's promise recorded in Acts 2: 17, "I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh." Not only upon the church will God's Spirit be poured, but also upon those who are groping in darkness but who are seeking for the light. God's Spirit will prepare them to receive His gracious invitation as soon as it is brought to them.

Now is the time of the harvest. Already we have delayed much too long in garnering in the multitudes who must yet be brought to Christ. It is *this* generation that is to respond to God's call to the marriage supper of the Lamb, not another.

Seed must still be sown, but seed sowing alone will not suffice now. Every evangelist who goes into the field to conduct an effort must reap as well as sow. No colporteur, doctor, nurse, teacher, is to be satisfied with merely exerting an influence for the truth; he must work to bring the lost into the church. Every church member should be searching for souls as they who must give an account to God.

God and the angels have long waited for our full co-operation in reaping earth's full harvest. Let us arise and put in the sickle. The fields are white to the harvest.

Joys and Sorrows of the Advent Message in Germany

Since the year 1933 there have been many obstacles in the way of preaching the advent message in Germany. Publication of religious literature was more and more curtailed, so that fewer periodicals, books, pamphlets, and tracts could be published and circulated by us. Religious propaganda was frowned upon, and

many of our friends, as yet unbaptized, who had been attending our lectures and church services did not dare any longer to take part in our activities. The evidences of an approaching war were already in the air. Many of our brethren and co-workers in the ministry had been drafted into military service.

In World War II many of our meeting places were destroyed by air attacks. The catastrophe to our German people was terrific, not only in respect to material things but still more in spiritual. While some of the older people found their way back to their former spiritual relationship, there were hundreds of thousands of the middle-aged and younger people who found no solid foundation to fall back on. In the face of spiritual calamity one was reminded of the word of the Lord in Jeremiah 2: 13, "My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me the Fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

Men were to find the way back to the real source of life. This is our day. It is the hour when the advent message must be proclaimed as the only reality of truth, as the answer to the question of humanity. Hence, our services on the Sabbath, as well as our religious meetings on Sunday and on other days, and our young people's services, are enjoying a very good attendance. Since many of our former meeting places had been destroyed so that our believers have to gather in those that still remain, these facilities have proved to be altogether too small.

In this report I would refer in particular to the Home Missionary aspect of the advent work. During the increased interest which is

(Please turn to page 32)





Young People's Department

OF MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS



NOTES TO OFFICERS

The Hub of the M.V. Wheel

To have a true-running, efficiently operating Missionary Volunteer Society—

1. The Senior Missionary Volunteer Society should have an advisor to act and be known as the Missionary Volunteer Sponsor. This person should be an elder or other qualified individual elected by the church. He should serve as a member of the church board and also as a member of the society executive committee. He should be considered the special advisor of the young people of the church, and should act as a guide and counsellor to the M.V. leader and the other officers of the Missionary Volunteer Society.

2. Endeavor to keep the fundamental objectives of the Missionary Volunteer Department before the officers and members of the society. The success of any group depends upon its faithfulness to the true purpose of the organization.

3. Encourage and help the society executive committee to function intelligently and with earnest purpose in laying a well-balanced program of activity for the society. (Study M.V. leaflet four for direction in society executive committee work.)

4. Encourage and assist every new society officer to understand and faithfully discharge the details of his work.

5. Appoint and direct the various sub-leaders, known as devotional secretary, educational secretary, etc., to promote their lines of endeavor regularly and systematically.

6. Use the weekly society meeting topics in the GAZETTE and keep in line with the departmental cycle of subjects.

7. Adapt and foster the following service bands:

- Crusader Corps (with the Crusader filmstrips and projector).
- Prayer and Personal Worker's Band.
- Christian Help Band.
- Literature and Correspondence Band.

8. Plan to organize every member of the society in some activity, encouraging a general participation in the Share-Your-Faith movement. Also endeavor to enlist every member in some portion of the program periodically. Avoid using the superior-talented young people to excess.

9. Provide time and opportunity for the relating of missionary experiences of young people who have engaged in this type of work.

10. Be sure that every society meeting contributes to the general purpose of the organization.

11. Enthusiastically motivate the society meeting by

- Putting novelty of approach and variety into the activities which might otherwise be commonplace and routine.
- Delegating certain responsibilities and the assignment of definite duties to individual members.

c. Taking M.V. reports in the society meeting.

12. Maintain an optimistic attitude toward the members and the work of the society by believing in, commending, and encouraging at every opportunity.

Missionary Volunteer Leaflet Rack

A year ago the principal of one of our academies made a simple, attractive rack to hold Missionary Volunteer leaflets. He filled it with the various subjects dealt with in the more than forty leaflets offered to Missionary Volunteers. At this writing over two thousand leaflets have been chosen from the rack by his students. He reports that he has yet to find one leaflet torn up or lying around.

Young people like to read Missionary Volunteer leaflets. Make them available by putting up a Missionary Volunteer rack in your school or Missionary Volunteer Society room. They help mold character.

May we suggest a few Missionary Volunteer leaflets which we believe could be placed in a Missionary Volunteer leaflet rack? Here they are:

The Lifework.

To Love, Honor and Cherish.

What About the Movies?

The Character Classics.

Victory in Christ.

How Shall I Choose My Calling?

I Will Be a Christian Sometime.

"We Will Now Take the Offering"

Custom and tradition, as well as need, have decreed that an offering shall be taken at each Missionary Volunteer meeting. But the manner in which the offering is taken often indicates the planning, or lack of it, on the part of the officers.

x No 1. Has anyone seen the baskets?

x No 2. Here Johnny and Freddie, will you take the offering tonight?

✓ Yes 3. The ushers will come forward now and receive the offering.

Never say, "The evening's offering will now be taken." Always explain what your society is doing with the money. Tell what your current project is. Let the people know what happens to the money they give, and how it is spent. Double your offering by explaining your project.

Offerings should be counted immediately after the meeting and handed to the church treasurer as soon as possible. The executive committee, in harmony with instructions from the conference Missionary Volunteer secretary, decides how the money is to be spent.

May the giving of gifts to God be intelligent, dignified, and indicative of good order and careful planning.

Too Many Vacant Chairs

Every organizer knows the encouragement and lift he gets out of an executive committee meeting that is well attended. But he also knows the dragging attempts to success which are so evident in a poorly attended staff meeting. Too many times our Missionary Volunteer executive committee meetings are not well attended. This is especially true during the summer months, when so many officers and leaders, as well as members, are away on vacation or sporadic trips, or when they have permanently moved. It is the responsibility of the M.V. Society leader to keep all such vacancies filled. When it is known that key officers are to be absent for a period of weeks or months, plans should be laid to fill their vacancies, either during their absence or permanently when necessary.

This late in the year, when the church nominating committee is disbanded, the vacancies created in the major offices of the M.V. society are filled in the following way: When the office of M.V. leader, or any other major office, becomes vacant during the year, the church board usually inaugurates the appointment of the new leader. Minor officers, such as band leaders and assistants, usually are appointed by the M.V. Society, and the replacement for such offices when vacated should be promptly attended to, the executive committee making recommendation to the society for its approval.

For the welfare of this important branch of the Lord's work, we must endeavor to maintain a strong organization throughout the summer months and on through to the close of the year.

Tract Racks

ANOTHER SHARE-YOUR-FAITH SUGGESTION

One of the fine things about Share-Your-Faith is that there is a project for every Missionary Volunteer.

The tract rack is a Share-Your-Faith adventure in which every young person can participate. A tract rack in a bus depot did a "big business" in 1947. In a little over a year eight thousand pieces of free literature were selected from the rack. In each piece of literature was placed a Twentieth-Century Bible leaflet advertising a brief course of Bible studies. The interest in the locality of this particular tract rack has become so great that it is almost impossible to keep up with the requests from those who wish to hear more of the truth for this time.

Daily attention should be given to the tract rack to keep it neat, clean, and up-to-date. Missionary Volunteers can share their faith in this quiet, effective way.

A good idea is like a match. It is useless unless you strike it into flame.—Selected.

Senior Meetings

July 3

CHRISTIAN PATRIOTISM

By F. G. ASHBAUGH

ORDER OF SERVICE

SONG: "I Have Promised," No. 37 in M.V. Songs.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

REPORTS OF MISSIONARY BANDS.

OFFERTORY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

LEADER'S INTRODUCTION: "Christian Patriotism."

STUDY: "The Doctrine of Christian Patriotism."

TALK: "Christian Patriotism in Wartime."

TALK: "Christian Patriotism in Peacetime."

SONG: "Father, Lead Me Day by Day," No. 21.

BENEDICTION.

Christian Patriotism

Christian patriotism is one of the great doctrines of the Bible. Christians are enjoined to be mindful of their obligations to the state, called in the Bible "the king," "Caesar," "the high powers," "the powers that be," etc. It must follow then that one who neglects, ignores, or spurns the franchise (the right and duty to vote), or otherwise rejects God's clear instruction regarding his duty to his country, is not wholly obedient; and consequently not the highest type of Christian. To be a Christian is to be Christlike, to follow Christ in complete obedience, the essence of which is to love God with all the heart and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

The Doctrine of Christian Patriotism

Let us look at the Bible doctrine of Christian patriotism.

"Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king." 1 Peter 2: 17. We like most of this scripture. It is appropriate to honor all men for they are the purchase price of the blood of Jesus Christ. To love the brotherhood is a well-known obligation and conceded by all to be of paramount importance. "Fear God, and give glory to Him." Revelation 14: 7. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Psalm 111: 10. There is no question about this; but what about "honor the king?" Here the term "king" seems to stand for country, or government. "Honor the king." Do your duty as a citizen.

Do not neglect this world while preparing for the next world. It may be a lot of bother. It may be a thankless task. You may consider it hopeless and futile. But, remember, God is speaking. It is He who says, "Honor the king." You do not honor the king, but crooks, when you stay home on election day.

When there is a moral issue like the liquor traffic or wet and dry candidates before the people, and you fold your hands and say "What's the use?" instead of going to the polls, you are not obeying God, you are not honoring the king.

"And He saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto Him, Caesar's. Then saith He unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." Matthew 22: 20, 21.

This is a clear-cut pronouncement of the separation of church and state and the duty of Christian patriotism given long before the promulgation of the constitution of the United States of America, where for the first time in the history of mankind this divinely inspired principle was written into national law.

If this statement by our Lord, this glorious principle and way of life, had been heeded by the nations and the church, there would have been no fires of Smithfield, no burning of Huss and Jerome, no butcheries by the Duke of Alva, no St. Bartholomew Massacre, no persecutions of the Vaudois, the Albigenses, or the Waldenses, no inquisition with its rack and melted lead poured down throats. Over 100,000,000 noble human beings would have been spared untold cruelties, sufferings, and death.

But notice, please, the positive side. That Caesar here means the civil government, no one questions; hence the clear teaching—give to the civil government what belongs to it. If you do not receive this as a privilege, you must face it as a command. God does not intend that His people shall ignore their duties as citizens in this world. In a democracy every citizen has a responsibility which he ought not to shirk, neglect, or evade.

One more important scripture will suffice to make clear the Bible doctrine of Christian patriotism. (Read all seven verses of Romans 13: 1-7.)

It is evident that God is not responsible for every tyrant that has appeared on the pages of history—the Neros, the Hitlers, the Tojos, etc.—but God has ordained civil government for a purpose. It is an ordinance of God in its proper sphere and within its proper limits. When government has tried to coerce men's consciences and influence them to disobey a plain command of God, His servants have declared, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5: 29), and God has given His approval of this course by performing miracles in support of opposition to civil government when the civil government had wrongly stepped into the realm of religion. The case of Daniel in the lion's den and the three missionary volunteers in the fiery furnace is proof of this.

In Wartime

To the Adventist Christian the blasts of war bring new tests and calls for increased devotion and sacrifices for our common heritage of liberty and freedom. It is here that Christian patriotism stands out in all its glory and splendor. Can the Christian stand by idly when his country, with its free institutions, is imperiled by a cruel and rapacious enemy? Have we no stake, no responsibility when our sacred altars, our homes, and our loved ones are all threatened by a common ruin? Is our Constitution worth defending? It is the most glorious document conceived by the mind of man. Would we see the stars and stripes lowered in ignominy and shame and an alien banner put in its place? Any red-blooded American would cry out, "A thousand times, no!" Here is where we need to keep close to God, to keep our balance, to keep an even keel, to think calmly and bravely.

If the word of God applies to all men of all nations, under all conditions, whether in peace or war (and we believe it does), then there must be some way for the Christian to serve his country and his God at the same time. Our armed forces are divided into two sections called "services" and "arms." To have all arms without the services would be utterly impossible and ruinous. The brave men under arms would soon starve. There must be a Quartermaster Corps to feed and clothe the men. There must be a Medical Corps to care for the sick and injured men. True, the arms section is more glamorous. The average American boy looks with disdain on the "pill rollers"; he says, "Me for the air force, the infantry, or the tanks." But somebody must serve in the Quartermaster and Medical corps and other branches of noncombatant service. They are just as necessary in defending and preserving our liberties as any other branch of service, glory or no glory. Here is where Christian patriotism finds its opportunity. Here is where the problem of Sabbathkeeping can be most easily solved. True, it takes more courage to turn down the glamor and glory. It takes moral courage, especially when the tide is running strongly the other way, but that is the difference between *patriotism* and *Christian patriotism*.

Twelve thousand Adventist boys wrote a chapter in the last world war that can never be forgotten. I am looking at the December, 1945, issue of *Snapshots from Life in the Service*. This number has some real snapshots in it. Here is a picture of President Truman pinning the Congressional Medal of Honor on Desmond T. Doss, the hero of "Hacksaw Ridge." Next to him (in my *Snapshots*) is Vernon D. Reynolds—"We were going over an exposed slope when scouts ahead were hit by machine-gun fire. . . . I crept out to administer aid." (Bronze Medal—Dec. 1944, Germany.) "Pfc. Reynolds advanced through fierce enemy fire to go to the aid of a wounded comrade." (Silver Star March 24, 1945.) Later he received the Presidential Unit Citation and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. Then comes

Moises Gonzales. "Exceptionally meritorious conduct," and "keen presence of mind." (Legion of Merit and Purple Heart.) He persuaded twenty-five Nazi soldiers who had first captured him that their situation was hopeless and marched them back, prisoners, to the American lines. Next is Keith Argaves the rugged paratrooper (Purple Heart; Presidential Citation) who suffered so much in Italy; Byron H. Eller (Silver Star for Gallantry in Action); Duane N. Kinman who saved a soldier's life near Metz, France, by cutting a slit in his throat; William J. Shasky, India, China, Burma area with the Medical Air Evacuation Squadron (Bronze Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster); Clinton Lyle, Hoatsoh (Silver Star for rescue work at Tarawa).

These are but a few samples of hundreds and hundreds who answered their country's call to service and reflected great credit upon their country and upon their church. This is Christian patriotism in wartime, Christian patriotism in action to save life; Christian patriotism at its best—a glorious chapter written amid the freezing snows of Italy; the battle of the bulge in Belgium; the steaming, mosquito-infested, reeking, muddy jungles of the tropics—that will never be forgotten.

In Peacetime

It goes without saying, that in peacetime Christian patriotism will be demonstrated by aloofness from and opposition to every subversive element in our land, and to rackets and shady deals of every kind and description; by obedience to our laws and active support of good government as well as active opposition to crooks, gamblers, the liquor traffic, and kindred evils.

A Christian patriot will be a good neighbor, kind, and thoughtful of others, ready to help in emergencies, alert to the first encroachment on civil and religious liberty, the first to promote and encourage civic enterprise and community betterment. He will be as a rock in a weary land—a man of honor, integrity, dependability, and trustworthiness—for the lack of which the world is perishing today.

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July 10

YOUTHFUL WITNESSES

By B. W. MATTISON
ORDER OF SERVICE

SONG: "Dwelling in Beulah Land," No. 105
M.V. Songs.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 3: 16-18; 6: 20-22;
Hebrews 11: 24-26, 32-40.

DUET: "The Journey's End," No. 109.

INTRODUCTION by Leader.

CHORUS: "Traveling Home," No. 106.

DIALOGUE: "Youthful Witnesses—Past and Future."

TRIO: "Faith of Our Fathers," No. 50, or
"When We All Get to Heaven," No. 111.

BENEDICTION.

Notes

It would be well for the leader and all who take part in the program today to read carefully chapter 39, "The Time of Trouble," in *The Great Controversy*. From their study of this chapter they may wish to enlarge upon the dialogue. Help the youth to realize the importance of being ready *today* for Christ's coming.

Youthful Witnesses

PAST AND FUTURE

SCENE: In the mountains, during the time of trouble. If possible, an imitation campfire scene should be arranged. Instead of chairs for the participants to sit on, benches, covered with blankets, will lend to the general idea. The group is seated around the campfire, gazing into the fire thoughtfully.

CHARACTERS: Seven young people.

RALPH: What are you thinking about so seriously, John?

JOHN: Oh, I was just thinking back over the things that have happened in the past few weeks. I remember how we used to study in our Bible classes about the time of trouble and how we would have to flee to the mountains, but somehow it never seemed real—I just couldn't imagine what it would be like.

MARY: That's right. Somehow I didn't realize that I would actually have a part in some of those scenes. We used to study about the early Christians who had to flee to the mountains, but it just didn't seem that such a move would ever be necessary for us who live today. I am sure I would have spent more time in studying the light given us on the closing scenes if I had really believed that it would come so soon.

LILA: Over and over again we heard the ministers say that "the last movements will be rapid ones," and that certainly has been fulfilled. Why, it was just six weeks ago that we last met in the church for young people's meeting. Were you there, Ned?

NED: Yes, and it was a wonderful meeting. We knew by that time that we would have to leave our homes and all that we had, and when Elder James explained the seriousness of the situation and what it would mean and then asked for everyone to stand who would be willing to stand for the truth no matter what happened, why I believe every single person in the room stood.

RALPH: I wonder where they all are tonight.

JOHN: We'll probably never all be together again on this earth.

LILA: But won't we have a wonderful reunion in heaven, when we can meet all of our friends again, and find out all the experiences they have had.

MARY: You know, I would like to meet some of those young people who lived back in the dark ages, who were tried for their faith and put to death—some of them. They really had courage. I'd like to talk with them and hear their stories firsthand.

RALPH: We can do that when we get to heaven.

LILA: I don't think we will have to go through the tortures that some of those early Christian youths endured. During the time of pagan Rome the early believers really suffered for being Christians. Have you ever heard the story of Blandina?

NED: No, tell us, Lila.

LILA: (Tells story—"A Heroine in a Pagan World." See *Youthful Witnesses*, by W. A. Spicer, pp. 29, 30.)

JOHN: Oh! Sometimes I wonder if I would be able to stand if I had to endure such suffering.

RALPH: Well, we can't stand in our own strength, but we can call upon the Lord to help us. I think He must have given extra strength for endurance to those who had to suffer so much.

MURIEL: It seems to me that I read somewhere that one of the martyrs who was being burned at the stake was asked to raise his hand if he could not feel the flames, and he held up his hand to the very end.

RALPH: That may be true, but I do not think that we will be saved from all suffering, especially when our salvation cost so much and caused so much suffering to our Saviour. We ought to be glad and willing to suffer for Him.

MARY: I think it was not so much will power or physical courage that enabled men and women to stand through the trying hour. They were so filled with a love for Christ that they forgot their own suffering.

JOHN: Probably more good was done for the cause by those who gave their lives than they could possibly have done if they had lived. For every Christian who gave his life, many, many more were influenced to take their stand. Did you ever hear the story of the forty wrestlers for Christ?

MURIEL: Let's hear it, John.

JOHN: (Tells story of the "Forty Wrestlers for Christ.") (Then follows a moment of thoughtful silence.)

RALPH: Those men were really sure of their faith, to be so willing to die. We haven't had to give up very much after all, I guess.

LILA: No, we haven't. People have given up just as much in war—their homes have been destroyed and all their earthly possessions taken from them. It makes me think of that song that says:

"Am I a soldier of the cross,

A follower of the Lamb?"

I can't remember all of the words, but the thought is that others have given up much more than we have. I wish you could hear the whole song.

TRIO (sing): "Am I a Soldier of the Cross?" No. 356 in *Church Hymnal*.

NED: "I'll bear the toil, endure the pain, supported by Thy word."—How true that is. If we did not have some of those wonderful promises in the Bible, and if we did not know that our heavenly Father will keep His word and take care of us, then we would really be afraid.

MARY: I am so glad that we had to memorize some of those verses in school. I used to hate to spend so much time learning memory verses, but now I see the purpose of it.

RALPH: Just think what it must have been like when people were not allowed to read the Bible for themselves.

NED: (Tells story of "William Hunter." See *Youthful Witnesses*, by W. A. Spicer, pp. 87-91.)

MURIEL: That is certainly a thrilling story of courage, isn't it? And there are so many stories just like that. Many had to give up their lives for the sake of the gospel, but in many other cases God spared the lives of His children, and worked out deliverance for them. I pray that we may be kept as faith-

ful as those faithful ones of other days.

MARY: Listen, I hear somebody coming!

RALPH: Who can it be?

(Silence, as all listen. Dick appears, with pack on back.)

DICK: Hello, folks. I didn't scare you, did I?

JOHN: We couldn't imagine who could be out here in this lonely place.

DICK: I just came up from the valley, and things are really looking serious down there. I left while it was still dark this morning so no one would see me. The whole town was in an uproar of excitement; in fact, it seems that the whole nation is on fire. They are really checking up to see that everyone is keeping the Sunday observance law. They are taking a census to find out just what church everyone belongs to, and making out some kind of certificate for all those who are obeying the law. The people have to carry their certificates with them at all times, and must show them whenever they enter a public building or buy a railroad ticket or purchase anything at the stores. Our people cannot possibly sign the statement that must be signed in order to secure the certificate. I hope all our church members have left the city by this time.

RALPH: Oh, I hope Bob and Clara got away in time. They wanted to sell their house before they left. We tried to get them to come with us, but they did not seem to see the need for haste. What is money in a time like this!

MURIEL: Sit down, Dick. We were just going to have worship together.

JOHN: Ralph, you have a Bible, read us something.

RALPH: What would you like to hear?

MARY: Why not read the forty-sixth Psalm?

RALPH: (Reads Psalm 46.)

NED: Thank God for the wonderful assurance of protection!

LILA: I was really frightened at Dick's report; but I know that God will take care of us.

JOHN: You know, folks, it can't be long now. I wouldn't be surprised if some of us would be called upon to face persecution and death as those young people we have talked about tonight. (Others nod and say, "That's right.") I think we should pray about it, but first let me pledge myself before all of you, that no matter what comes, no matter what trial or persecution I may be called upon to face, with the Lord's help, I will never deny Him. Will you join me in this pledge?

ALL: Yes. I'm with you. We'll join you, John.

JOHN: Let's all pray together.

(All kneel and repeat Lord's prayer. As prayer ends, trio sings.)

Forty Wrestlers for Christ

One day in the reign of Decius, a Roman emperor who hated the Christians, news came to him that his gladiators, forty in all, had accepted Christ and had openly professed their faith in Him and were leading many to follow them. The enraged emperor immediately gave orders: "Let these men be transported to the loneliest spot on a frozen lake of northern Armenia, and there, without food, shelter, or clothing, let them die."

When this cruel message was carried to the gladiators, they said: "We will never deny Jesus, our Saviour." Guarded by a group of soldiers, they were transported to northern Armenia, and there in the wildest

spot near a frozen lake among the eternal snows they were turned out into the wintry night to die of starvation, exposure, and cold.

That night, as the chief of the guards lay in his tent, he was roused by a chant that was borne to his ears on the night winds. Listening, he heard,

"Forty wrestlers, wrestling for Christ,

Ask of Him the victory, and claim from Him the crown."

Turning to his companion, the guard said, "The devotion of these men to their leader is amazing. I tell you I know something about the devotion of Roman soldiers to their emperor and empire. I have seen it on many a battlefield. But never in the breast of the bravest Roman have I seen a devotion like this."

Just then the flap of the tent opened and a poor wretch, one of the wrestlers, stumbled in, fell on his knees before the guard, saying, "I give up Jesus; I recant; let me live." On the night air came the chant again, but this time:

"Thirty-nine wrestlers, wrestling for Christ,

Ask of Him the victory, and claim from Him the crown."

The guard looked down with pity on the wretched deserter and said, "Art thou the only one that durst ask this of me?"

"The only one," answered the man.

Quickly tearing off his robe, the officer threw it over the shivering man, saying, "Then I will take thy place."

He went out into the darkness of the night. In a few moments the chant again arose:

"Forty wrestlers, wrestling for Christ,

Ask of Him the victory, and claim from Him the crown."

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July 17

NATURE TRAILS LEAD TO GOD

BY ERNEST BOOTH

ORDER OF SERVICE

SONG: "This Is My Father's World," No. 646 in *Church Hymnal*.

PRAYER.

REPORTS OF MISSIONARY WORK.

OFFERTORY.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

SONG: "Fairest Lord Jesus," No. 165.

READING: "Lessons from Nature." (See *Counsels to Teachers*, pp. 54, 55.)

READING: "Nature Trails Lead to God." (See Notes.)

NATURE QUIZ. (See Notes.)

TALK: "On the Trail—Looking for Birds."

TALK: "Botany Trails."

TALK: "Insects? Why Not?"

PRESENTATION OF PLANS for future Nature Hikes, etc.

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

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

READING: "Nature Trails Lead to God." This would be effective if accompanied by appropriate kodachrome slides and a musical background.

NATURE QUIZ: The leader may read the true or false statement, get an oral response, then read the correct answer; or paper and pencils may be passed, the answers written, and corrected at the end of the quiz.

REFERENCES FOR further study:

For beginners especially:

Jacques, H. E., *Pictured-Key Nature Series*,

William Brown Company, Dubuque, Iowa, *How to Know the Land Birds, How to Know the Water Birds* (In preparation), *How to Know the Spring Flowers, Plant Families—How to Know Them, How to Know the Insects*.

For eastern bird students:

Peterson, Roger Tory, *Field Guide to the Birds*. (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1947.)

For western bird students:

Hoffman, Ralph, *Birds of the Pacific States*. (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.)

Booth, Ernest S., *Birds of the West*. (Address the author, College Place, Washington, 1948.)

Nature Trails Lead to God

In the heart of man there is a longing to worship something greater than himself. The heathen feel this need, and not knowing God, they worship the works of God. Great mountains, rivers, giant trees, heavenly bodies, the sea—all have inspired pagan man with a sense of awe and fear, and in his blindness, he has borne his sacrifices to them.

But how much better it is when man knows his Creator. (Read Psalm 121: 1, 2; 72: 3.)

Fortunate is the one whose trail leads into the mountains. There is little room on a mountainside for anxiety and rush.

WHO KNOWS A MOUNTAIN?

"Who knows a mountain?

One who has gone

To salute its beauty

In the dawn;

One who has slept

On its breast at night;

One who has measured

His strength to its height;

One who has followed

Its longest trail,

And laughed in the face

Of its fiercest gale;

One who has scaled its peaks,

And has trod

Its cloud-swept summits

Alone with God."

—ETHEL ROMIG FULLER, in
White Peaks and Green,
used by permission.

It was on a mountainside that Christ went to pray alone in the early dawn. To a mountainside He gathered the multitudes and told them to consider the lilies of the field. In a hillside olive grove He went through His final struggle, and arose, strengthened by heavenly messengers, to walk unflinchingly to Calvary's summit. So will the majesty of great mountains, their upright trees, the brave alpine flowers, teach us of many things.

And should your nature trail lead down to the seashore,—there you will be reminded, "The sea is His, and He made it." (Read also Psalm 107: 23, 24.)

But should your trail lead far from the mountains, woods, and seas, you may still find God in a garden, in a city park—wherever there is beauty, and a heart to see.

"God is not far from any one of us.

The wild flower by the wayside speaks his love;

Each singing bird bears tidings from above;
Sunshine and shower his tender mercies prove—

And men know not his voice!

"God is not far from any one of us.
He speaks to us in every glad sunrise;
His glory floods us from the noonday skies;
The stars declare his love when daylight dies—
And men know not his voice!

"God is not far from any one of us.
He watches o'er his children day and night;
On every darkened soul he sheds his light;
Each burdened heart he cheers, and lends his
might

To all who know his voice."

—THOMAS CURTIS CLARK.

Used by permission.

Nature Quiz

Answer true or false.

1. The Arctic Tern travels at least 25,000 miles each year in its migration.
True. These birds are the world's greatest travelers. Their summer and winter homes are 11,000 miles apart, and they fly circuitously, following the sun in the path of the greatest amount of daylight.
2. All birds fly south when winter comes.
False. Many birds (principally the seed-eating birds) are nonmigratory.
3. Birds have been clocked at speeds nearing 180 miles an hour.
True. The duck hawk claims the title as the world's fastest bird. Such high speeds are not long maintained, however, but are reached when the bird is "power diving" at its prey.
4. Male mallard and wood ducks always retain their distinctive flashy plumage.
False. Many ducks, including mallards, wood ducks, gadwalls, shovellers, and mergansers go through what is known as the "eclipse." Towards midsummer the bright plumage of the drakes is shed and replaced for about two months by the more somber garb of the female. No one knows the reason for this phenomenon.
5. One never finds a song bird swimming in streams.
False. The water ouzel, or dipper, is capable both of excellent singing and of underwater locomotion.
6. Scientists have analyzed chlorophyll, the green pigment in plants, and can now artificially manufacture sugar from air, water, and sunlight as can the green leaf.
False. Scientists have analyzed chlorophyll, but they have not learned the green leaf's secret process.
7. All conifers (cone-bearing trees) are evergreen—that is, they retain their needles through the winter.
False. The tamarack, while a cone-bearing tree, sheds its needles every fall.
8. Bats are one of our most beneficial mammals.
True. As a mosquito control they rank high, eating great quantities on their nightly flights.
9. One can tell a poisonous mushroom because it will always discolor a silver spoon.
False. There is no such method for testing poison qualities of mushrooms. The edible and the poisonous varieties should be thoroughly learned.
10. There are at least three poisonous lizards in the United States.
False. There is only one poisonous lizard—the Gila (heel-la) Monster of the Southwest.

On the Trail—Looking for Birds

Men have studied birds since time began, yet there is much about them that is a mystery. We can learn to recognize them by their colors, their flight, their songs and call notes; we may learn where they build their nests, how they rear their young, and where they spend the winter, but even then there is much to learn beyond this. One must experience the thrill of discovering his first hermit thrush, his first Townsend's solitaire, his first creeper's nest, in order to appreciate what it is that lures the bird student on in the study of birds.

Migration is one of the fascinating mysteries of bird lore. Carefully trained ornithologists propose several possible explanations—yet no one knows why the birds leave their breeding grounds in the late summer to fly south to spend the winter in Central or South America. Most of the birds leave the north while the weather is still very warm, and while insects are abundant. Then they come back north before the weather is warm, and long before insects are abundant. So it does not seem to be a sudden lack of food that causes birds to migrate. It is certainly not cold weather, for they migrate during the hot part of the summer. Many birds remain in the north in winter, but they are almost always seed-eating birds. Exceptions are the chickadees and nuthatches, insect-eating birds that never mind the coldest weather in the northern states.

Birds have an uncanny compass that steers them in the right direction in order to reach their destination. They are known to return to the same back yard to nest year after year, even though they have spent the winter in Brazil. Our knowledge of migration has been gathered mainly from records of banded birds. Small aluminum bands bearing serial numbers are placed around the legs of birds by specially trained bird students. If a bird bearing such a band is found dead, the band or the number of the band is sent in to the Fish and Wild Life Service, Washington, D. C. There the records will show where and when the bird was banded. These data, with the information where it was found dead, often prove that birds travel thousands of miles in their migratory journeys.

Thousands of years ago the Lord called attention to the wandering of the birds. Read Job 39: 26, and Jeremiah 8: 7.

Keep a bird list every year, and see how each year's list exceeds the one before. It is possible, with a little traveling about the country, to average one different kind of bird for every day of the year. Binoculars will help, and a good bird field guide is almost a necessity. But most important are keen eyes and a genuine interest in birds.

Sin has marred so much of what God created—yet somehow the bird trail has a way of leading one back to the beginning of things, when God was close by in the Edenic woods. And this is one hobby you may pursue into the eternity of the new earth. In the study of birds, as in the study of any of God's handiwork, we may "Look up through Nature to Nature's God."

Botany Trails

Along any trail you may take this summer there will be so many kinds of wild plants that you may become discouraged with the thoughts of learning their names. Yet with a little effort and time it is not difficult to learn to recognize every kind of wild flower in one's home locality. Try making a list of the plants you know, then write down a short description of those you do not recognize.

The next time you go out looking for flowers, take along one or two good flower books. An inquiry addressed to the botany department of your state college or university will give you the name of the best flora, as such botany books are called, for your particular region.

So you may learn to recognize the various plant families in your area. There are about 300 families of flowering plants in the world, but only a few of these will be found near you.

But the study of plants is not merely the learning of names. You should find out a few things about the lives of plants. Can you tell what makes the sap of a tree stop flowing in the fall, and begin to flow again in spring? Have you ever thought what makes sap flow up the trunk of a tree, against the force of gravity? Water will run only downhill—then why will water in a tree run up? Root hairs (the tiny hairlike branches on the smallest roots) absorb water from the soil. The water travels from cell to cell through tiny pores in the cell walls until it reaches the center of the root, where a sort of water pipe, called a *vessel*, is found. This vessel is composed of a mass of cells open at the ends so that water can flow freely up the stem. Water enters the root hairs from the soil by a process called *osmosis*. This means that if there is less water inside the cell than there is in the soil outside the cell, water will go through the cell wall into the cell. But that does not say why the water goes up through the plant vessels. One group of botanists say that leaves have a pulling power on the water in the vessels, almost like a pump. You know that you can pump water up out of a well because the pump causes suction in the pipes, and the suction is stronger than the pull of gravity. We may also say that the leaves pull water up the tree, for water is always evaporating from the leaves through tiny pores, and more water must be drawn into the leaves from the stems of the plants, and that makes still more water come up through the trunk of the tree from the roots.

This all sounds very well until someone asks how the sap rises in early spring before the leaves come out on the tree. And botanists do not have the answer to that question. We can only say with Job, "Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this?" Job 12: 9. Some day we may find out the answer, too.

It is a good idea to make a plant collection. You can learn the common flowers in your neighborhood, and also get your M.V. Honor at the same time.

If your trails do not lead you into far fields, begin a collection of local plants.

Insects? Why Not?

This is an age of insects—if numbers have anything to do with it. These small creatures number 1,500,000 kinds. All other animals number only 200,000 kinds. Then, too, insects are the most prolific of all animals, often occurring by the billions in many parts of our country.

You may have felt that insects were repulsive—perhaps even dangerous to man. Few realize that the only dangerous insects are those which carry diseases—like house flies, mosquitoes, bedbugs, and biting flies. Many insects are destructive to our crops, and we must spend millions of dollars every year to keep insect pests under control. But in spite of all this, insects are a fascinating group to study. Most people call them bugs, but only one small group of insects should be called bugs (this is the one to which the bedbug and the bright-green plant bugs belong). Other insects should be called by such names as beetles, butterflies, moths, dragonflies, caddis flies, bees, wasps, ants, earwigs, or whatever-it-is, but not *bugs*.

The wasp-ant-bee family is the most intelligent of all insect families—if insects may be called intelligent. Some ants have been known to work out problems of simple kinds. For instance, Wheeler (the veteran ant student) observed an ant who wanted to get across a crack in a porch of a house. The crack was too wide for the ant to step across, and it extended the full width of the porch. After several trips along the full length of the crack, the ant walked back over the porch until it found a small stick. This it dragged to the crack, pushed it over the crack, then walked calmly across to the other side.

Ants are known to co-operate in work. A group of leaf-cutting ants in the tropics will climb a tree and chew off bits of leaves which fall to the ground. Other ants on the ground carry these to underground passages where mold grows on the leaf fragments. The ants feed, then, upon the mold.

Wasps live interesting lives. Some are solitary, but many live in colonies. One type of wasp catches spiders, stings them carefully, not injecting too much poison, but just enough to paralyze the spider so it cannot get away. The wasp then lays an egg on the back of the spider. When the wasp egg hatches, the young wasp larva has fresh meat to eat, for the spider, although paralyzed, is still alive. The young wasp grows better on fresh food than it would on a dead spider.

If you have some friend who keeps honey bees, you will find him glad to help you learn about them. Their organization within the hive leaves nothing to be desired. Their ceaseless activity in their appointed duties is amazing. And the results of their labors are indeed helpful to the colony, and pleasing to their human friends.

The natural world is not as it came from the hand of the Creator. The great controversy has its echoes even in the insect world. But the amazing adaptability of the small creatures as they struggle to survive in a hostile world fills one with admiration—

grudging though it may be. And it is economically sound to learn which insects (there are many) should be encouraged and protected, and which (there are very many) should be destroyed by every means at hand.

Wise Solomon was versed in natural lore—and you may be sure he found his wisdom along the nature trail. (Read I Kings 4: 33, 34.) Can we, thousands of years later, do better than to follow his example?

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July 24 ALTARS IN THE LIFE

By O. S. HERSHBERGER
ORDER OF SERVICE

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

PRAYERS: by three youth.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

REPORTS OF SERVICE BANDS.

OFFERTORY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 29: 12-14 (first part).

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

TALK: "Kinds of Altars."

TALK: "Biblical Altars."

TALK: "Missionary Altars."

DUET: "Steady and True," No. 64.

TALK: "Present-Day Altars."

SONG: "I Have Promised," No. 37.

BENEDICTION.

Kinds of Altars

In speaking of altars one usually thinks of raised structures or places where sacrifices are offered to a deity, but to the Christian there are invisible altars in each life which mean far more than a pile of bricks and stones. Times of great decision for the right are mental and spiritual altars that rise far above anything material that could be built on this earth. These great monuments in the life which reach to heaven itself leave the modern towers of Babel far below in real values.

The worth-while altars include a *decision for Christ*, as at baptism, a step which fortifies the youth to build other altars for God and which acts as an anchor in times of temptation.

The *decision to obtain a Christian education* is a very important altar to erect, and of course it should be backed with the right course of action—determination to succeed in spite of obstacles, and the ability to endure until the goal is reached.

Making the *right decision in one's life calling* is of great consequence, as choosing the right avenue of work means the difference between making one's lifework a joy or a drudgery. It also means a life of Christian service, and persons won to eternal life.

Choosing a *life mate*, or erecting the marriage altar, is no small responsibility. It is extremely important to make a wise choice of a companion, as one or the other of the contracting parties can either make or break the home. It is therefore necessary to study diligently the counsel given in the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy in regard to marriage, so that a person will not choose a life partner

blindly, and ever afterward have cause to regret. Of course if one is to avoid having a home "where the shadows are never lifted," he or she must marry one who is true to the principles of the third angel's message.

There are other altars to erect, but by making them a subject of prayer and study, and by basing them on the Bible and the principles of our faith, God will open the way and give a clear understanding to us of what should be done.

Let us not think of our present-day altars as those made with hands. Cain and Abel erected identical altars, and each brought an offering. Abel's offering was accepted, Cain's rejected. It was not the material altar that made the difference. It was the spirit of obedience that made Abel's offering acceptable. That spirit was his altar. The altars erected in youth are the controlling influence in our destiny.

Biblical Altars

Notable altars in Biblical history include Joseph, who, when he was being taken into Egypt by the band of slave traders, looked into the distance and saw his father's tents and purposed in his heart that the God of his father would also be his God.

"As the caravan journeyed southward toward the borders of Canaan, the boy could discern in the distance the hills among which lay his father's tents. Bitterly he wept at thought of that loving father in his loneliness and affliction. . . . Alone and friendless, what would be his lot in the strange land to which he was going? For a time, Joseph gave himself up to uncontrolled grief and terror. . . .

"Then his thought turned to his father's God. In his childhood he had been taught to love and fear him. Often in his father's tent he had listened to the story of the vision that Jacob saw as he fled from his home an exile and a fugitive. He had been told of the Lord's promises to Jacob, and how they had been fulfilled,—how, in the hour of need, the angels of God had come to instruct, comfort, and protect him. And he had learned of the love of God in providing for men a Redeemer. Now all these precious lessons came vividly before him. Joseph believed that the God of his fathers would be his God. He then and there gave himself fully to the Lord, and he prayed that the Keeper of Israel would be with him in the land of his exile."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 213, 214.

Then and there Joseph built the first altar of strength, adding successive ones until God's people were rescued and preserved from starvation in the well-favored land of Goshen.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the three Hebrew worthies, were young men of sterling character who were faced with a great, high, golden altar of this world, but they refused to worship the idol and were not overcome by the fiery furnace in which they were placed. Their fidelity to their God proved to be a greater altar than the imposing structure which they faced.

"Forgotten was the great golden image, set up with such pomp. In the presence of

the living God, men feared and trembled. 'Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,' the humbled king was constrained to acknowledge."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 510.

Christ walked with them in the fire, and as a result they were not burned; and He will walk with us today through the "fiery furnace" of our greatest temptations if we will but call upon Him in our hour of trial.

Esther, although she was the greatest queen in the world, did not forget to honor her God and her people, but risked her life in going before the king, saying, "If I perish, I perish." She and her maidens fasted and prayed, and the source of her strength is the source of our help today if we will call upon God. The altar she erected saved the Jewish people from the wicked hands of those who would have destroyed the nation.

"There is earnest work to be done in this age, and parents should educate their children to share in it. The words of Mordecai to Esther may apply to the men and youth of today: 'Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'"—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 321.

Missionary Altars

Robert Moffat when a boy was the only convert of the year in a little church in England many years ago. The deacon of the church bitterly reproached the minister for having no more converts, and Robert Moffat, though only a boy, was so filled with loving sympathy for the old pastor because of his sorrow that he went to him, laid his hand on his black gown, and said, "Do you think if I were willing to work hard for an education, I could ever become a preacher?"

"A preacher?"

"Perhaps a missionary."

There was a long pause. Tears filled the eyes of the old minister. At length he said, "This heals the ache in my heart, Robert. I see the divine hand now. May God bless you, my boy. Yes, I think you will become a preacher."

Some years later there returned to London from Africa an aged missionary. The following was written of him: "When he went into an assembly, the people rose; when he spoke in public, there was a deep silence. Princes stood uncovered before him; nobles invited him to their homes. He had added a province to the church of Christ on earth, had brought under the gospel influence the most savage of African chiefs, had given the translated Bible to strange tribes, had honored the humble place of his birth, the Scottish kirk, the United Kingdom, and the universal missionary cause." Yes, the one convert who made his decision to dedicate his life to God proved to be one of the greatest missionary altars ever erected.

The heroic spirit animated the belief of David Livingstone, famous pioneer missionary to Africa. His life was inspired by a great purpose—to honor God, to bless his fellow men. From his earliest years to his last act

he was ever setting up worthy altars for God, as is apparent from these last words that he wrote on his last but one birthday: "My birthday! My Jesus, my king, my life, my all. I again dedicate my whole self to Thee. Accept me and grant, O gracious Father, that ere this year is gone, I may finish my work. In Jesus' name I ask it."

He was born of hardy Scotch stock. His was a good heritage from Christian parents and grandparents. He accepted this responsibility through life, and from time to time gave definite evidence of Christian honesty and integrity, all of which added to his own Christian influence and power. His early life was marked with difficulties and trials, but, better still, marked with overcoming.

When a young man, David Livingstone decided to go to China as a missionary. However, just at that time the Opium War made it impossible for him to go. While waiting for an opportunity to go to China, he heard Robert Moffat make the statement that in Africa he could stand on the hill and see the smoke of a thousand villages untouched by Christian influence.

This was a mighty challenge to David Livingstone, and he immediately offered his services for Africa. He built an altar and decided to give his life to this great, needy field. No other man ever had so much material and spiritual influence over the people of Africa as David Livingstone.

Another missionary who erected most of his altars through prayer, influencing a number of great leaders, accomplished a wonderful work for the Indians of America—David Brainerd. Impressively one person wrote of him as follows:

"Now that man did his greatest work by prayer. He was in the depths of those forests alone, unable to speak the language of the Indians, so he spent whole days in praying that the power of the Holy Ghost might come upon him so unmistakably that these people would not be able to stand before him.

"That man prayed in secret in the forest, and a little while after, William Carey read his life, and he was so moved by it that he went to India. Henry Martyn read his life, and by its impulse he went to India. Payson read it, as a young man of twenty years, and he said he had never been so impressed by anything in his life as by that story. Murray McCheyne read it, and was powerfully moved.

"The hidden life, a life whose days are spent in communion with God in trying to reach the Source of power, is the life that moves the world."

Present-Day Altars

A young man of eighteen became interested in the third angel's message and decided to be baptized. When his parents learned of this, they ordered him to leave home and never return. It was quite a trial for the boy, but after much prayer and Bible study he decided to follow the teachings of the Bible, and he erected his altar accordingly.

He was baptized and joined the church, but was completely cut off from his family. However, after a few years the mother wrote

the young man and asked him to come home for a visit, but warned him not to say anything about his new religion. He was only too happy to accept this invitation, and enjoyed the visit very much. Nothing was said about religion during the time of the first or second visits. The new religion was never mentioned, but later on the family began to ask questions. All questions were answered from the Bible, but nothing more said except to answer the questions.

As time went on the mother became more and more interested, and finally accepted the message for these last days. The young man is now a worker for the Lord.

In a large church a few years ago the young people were given to attending theaters. In many cases the parents took the children. One day after a sermon a girl fourteen years of age who had not yet been baptized was convicted of the fact that the theater is no place for Seventh-day Adventists. That Saturday evening when the family was preparing to go to the theater, she told them that she was not going. They wanted to know why, and she gave her reasons. They just smiled and said, "You will soon get over this."

As time went on, though, the girl refused steadfastly to attend the theater. After a few weeks the father's conscience began to bother him, and he had another talk with his daughter. After this visit he, also, decided never to attend the theater again. The Spirit of God kept working with the family, and finally every member quit attending the theater.

The influence of this girl kept working in the church until every young person quit going to the movies. This young lady had erected her altar, and the influence was felt throughout the whole church.

Another young lady erected her altar, and its influence changed the life of a certain young man. She did not know about the struggle that was taking place in his heart. This young man had inherited a strong passion for liquor. Here is his story: "One evening not long ago at a banquet where wine was served, I came very near breaking my pledge. The smell of wine was so tempting that I could hardly resist. But just as I was about to yield, I heard a young lady say, 'No, thank you.' This gave me courage. I watched her all the evening; and said to myself, 'If she drinks, I will.' I was hoping, yet fearing, that she would, but as often as she was asked, she refused; and so, unknown to her, she pulled me through." Christian, walk carefully. The altar in your life is having its influence.

Altars in the life? Yes! we erect altars for Christ by our decisions to accept baptism, to obtain a Christian education, to choose a lifework which will tell for Christ, to choose a mate who is true to the principles of the third angel's message, to live a daily life true to the Lord. As we take a retrospective view of our lives and look toward the future, let us determine that we shall dedicate ourselves anew to erecting altars of lasting importance.

Junior Meetings

July 3

A J.M.V. IS PATRIOTIC

By MARJORIE WEST MARSH
ORDER OF SERVICE

SONG: "True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted," No. 51 in M.V. Songs.

PRAYER.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

SONG: "How Betsy Made the Flag," No. 175.

POEM: "Our Flag."

DRILL: "Flag Etiquette." (See Notes.)

STUDY: "The Loyal Citizen."

TALK: "What is Patriotism?"

POEM: "True Patriotism."

TALK: "Heroes."

POEM: "Soldiers of the Everyday."

DISCUSSION: "How Can I Be Patriotic and Loyal?" (See Notes.)

SONG: "America," No. 172, or "God Save the King," No. 173.

BENEDICTION.

banana peels, paper, and litter in the school yard, in public parks or streets, or around home. They prohibit the breaking of shrubbery or railings guarding public or private property; the writing or carving of letters on seats, walls, and public places. They cause us to think of others and to try to be more helpful and kind to them, radiating cheer, giving aid to those in real want, being friendly with foreign-speaking people who need friendship, and so demonstrating in a practical way that we are devoted to the welfare of our country.

Draw from the Juniors further suggestions.

Odd jobs—what Junior boy would not like to be able to repair mechanical appliances, to use a hammer and saw in altering and making things about a house? Why not learn to do so now?

What Junior girl would not like to be able to cook a balanced meal? Though they may not learn the specific calories or vitamins in each serving of food, girls can easily learn the composition of balanced meals and the preparation of tasty foods.

During vacation time, and also after school hours, girls can help care for the younger members of the family and for the neighbors' children while the mothers are busy.

What a thrill for a Junior to wear a dress she herself has created! And what a greater thrill to make over or alter clothes so that they may do further duty and still be attractive.

Laundry work and housekeeping will appeal to girls also. The patriotic Junior girl will delight in assisting mother in this necessary work.

Juniors can be helpful in saving steps for adults, in carrying messages and parcels.

A well-planned, well-cultivated garden can accomplish several things: give Juniors joy in learning about growing things—and earn a Vocational Honor, by the way—help supply food the nation is needing, and free adults to do things which Juniors cannot do.

It is a patriotic duty for Juniors to learn to earn, to save, to spend wisely.

The boys and girls will suggest other specific duties they can perform. Urge them to carry conscientiously their end of the load, as loyal citizens and Christians.

The Loyal Citizen

1. While our first duty is to God, our second is toward our fellow men. (Matthew 22: 37-39.)

2. Christians are to give loyal, patriotic obedience to civil government. (Matthew 22: 17-21; Romans 13: 1.)

3. Paul appreciated his privileges as a citizen, as well as his duties. (Acts 22: 25; 21: 39.)

4. The way to honor one's country best is to live each day a life that honors its ideals and its laws. (Romans 12.)

5. Paul emphasized our obligation toward civil rulers. (Romans 13: 7.)

6. We are asked to pray for the rulers of nations. (1 Timothy 2: 1-3.)

Our Flag

We hail our flag of liberty!

Its folds in hues resplendent spread;

The blue for truth and loyalty,

The crimson red for blood we shed,

The spotless white for purity.

Our flag has never known defeat.

Its staff e'er stands on holy ground;

Its cause is just, its mission meet.

Its principles of right are sound,

Its every star with hope replete.

Thank God, this flag, in every clime,

Upholds the right, condemns the wrong,

Sustains the just, denounces crime,

Defends the weak against the strong,

Its purpose high, its aim sublime.

Long may it wave o'er our fair land,

A diadem of stainless fame;

Fit symbol of our freedom grand,

For aye aglow with glory's fame,

Securely held in God's own hand.

—C. S. LONGACRE.

What Is Patriotism?

Patriotism is a much bigger thing than cheering when the flag goes by, standing up when the national air is played, applauding a speaker, boasting of the battles your country has won, or bragging about its greatness.

It is right for you to thrill over the great deeds of your great men. It is right, too, that you should take a proper pride in your country's resources and greatness.

But real patriotism goes deeper than these things. It begins when in your heart you resolve to be a worthy citizen of your country. It begins, too, with a loyalty to home, relatives, and friends; with a clean life, and a resolute purpose to be true, kind, and honest in your personal dealings with others.

To love your country so intensely that you crave for her the highest ideals, the noblest purposes, the best good for all her people—that is real patriotism.—Selected.

True Patriotism

Who loves his country will not rest

Content with vow and pledge alone,

But flies her banner in his breast

And counts her destiny his own;

Not only when the bugle plays

Stands forth to give his life for her,

But on the field of common days

Is strong to live his life for her.

He is not satisfied to claim

As heritage her power and fame,

But striving, earns the right to wear

The shining honor of her name.

—Author Unknown.

Heroes

We sometimes think that heroes are found only in the ranks of the armies. But in addition to the brave soldiers who are loyally defending their country, and those who are helping to care for the sick and the wounded wherever they may be, there are quiet heroes who do noble deeds from day to day and who

Notes to Superintendents

We hope through the topic today to help the Juniors understand what is true greatness, and inspire them to build into their lives those qualities which will make them truly great.

DRILL: "Flag Etiquette."—Public School Law No. 623, which codifies the rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America, an action of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Seventy-seventh Congress, may be secured free by addressing the Document Room, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DISCUSSION: "How Can I Be Patriotic and Loyal?"—Discuss with the Juniors patriotism and loyalty to country. What can Juniors do to show their loyalty? How can they be of the greatest help to their country?

Among the ruins of Pompeii was found the body of a Roman sentry at the city gate, where he had been stationed by his captain, his hands still grasping his weapon. There, while the heavens threatened, the earth shook, and the floods of cinders and ashes overwhelmed him, he had stood by his post; and there, after a thousand years, he was found.

Juniors may not be called to show their loyalty to their country in this manner, but daily they are called upon to show respect for that which represents the country—the country's flag, the country's ruler, etc.—to exercise their liberty so that it will not interfere with the liberty of another, and to be faithful in their personal duties and loyal to public rights.

Teach the Juniors not to be troubled if they do not have a chance to show their loyalty in some spectacular way. God made millions of spires of grass where He made one tree. The earth is fringed and carpeted, not with forests, but with grasses. Be sure there are enough of the little virtues in the life.

Small duties of patriotism forbid leaving

show bravery and loyalty to their trust in times of danger at home.

A great flood threatened to submerge a whole town. The telephone operator stayed at her post bravely, telephoning to everyone to flee to the hills to safety, while the waters rose and her own chances of escaping death grew smaller and smaller. She was a heroine, though she wore no armor and fired no gun. She was loyal to her townspeople.

A colored boy ran his car up and down the elevator shaft in a burning building at the risk of his own life, in order to save those who were trapped by the flames in an upper story. He was a hero, though he never carried a flag nor received a medal.

A J.M.V., also, is brave and loyal and patriotic at all times.

Soldiers of the Everyday

The soldiers of the everyday
Who stand for honor and fair play,
Who never whine and never shirk,
Who do not grumble as they work,
Who seldom talk of recompense,
Are patriots—in every sense.

Though times be hard, though hours
be gray,
These soldiers of the everyday
Still dare to smile and dream and sing,
Accepting what the hours may bring
With gratitude instead of tears,
With words of hope instead of fears.

Their battlefields are homes and streets,
Their victories and their defeats
Are seldom recognized or known,
And yet they do not fight alone,
Ask God to bless them when you pray,
These soldiers of the everyday.

—Author Unknown.

July 10 PREPARING FOR THE FINAL TEST

By IDA LOUISE WILLSON
ORDER OF SERVICE

SONG: "Can He Count on You?" No. 49 in M.V. Songs.

PRAYER.
REPORTS OF MISSIONARY WORK.
SECRETARY'S REPORT.

OFFERTORY.
ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SONG: "Father, Lead Me Day by Day," No. 21.

SUPERINTENDENT'S TALK: "The School of Life."

TALK: "Daily Christianity."

TALK: "Character Development."

TALK: "Laboratory Studies."

TALK: "Loyalty."

DISCUSSION.

SONG: "Like Jesus," No. 76.

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Superintendents

Be sure that those who talk to the Juniors today study "The Time of Trouble," chapter thirty-nine of *The Great Controversy*, in order to present this program in the light of what is given there. The talks should be reduced to the terms of the Juniors in your society so that they will feel the subject is something

definite to them. That is the only way by which they will be interested in actually preparing for the time of trouble that we believe to be startlingly near. We advise that sympathetic Senior Missionary Volunteers give these talks, or that the superintendent study with any of the older Juniors who may give them.

The points brought out in the program should be written plainly on a blackboard or shown on posters as they are mentioned by each speaker.

Close the meeting with an open discussion of the points, asking the Juniors to suggest others, and answering their questions.

The School of Life

Willingly or unwillingly, we are all students in the school of life. That we cannot help, for we are here. The good and wise students will have their reward, and the lazy and careless ones will have theirs; but the rewards will be different.

Our world is nearing the time when all living people will be tested on what they have learned and on how they have made use of it. The test is called the "time of trouble." (Read Daniel 12: 1.) If all of us are alive when it comes, we shall have to be tested; and it will be a harder examination than any we have had in grammar or in arithmetic.

Because the test is going to be hard, and because no one knows how soon it will come, we should think about what we must do to be ready for it at any time—as we study arithmetic every day to be ready for the examination we know our teacher has in store for us.

We do know, though, that the time for our last test is not far away. When Jesus was here on earth and talked with His disciples about His return in the future, He told them that certain happenings in nature and in the actions of people would be signs that His second coming was to be soon. He said also that if we were not careful we would be so interested in other things—unimportant ones—that we would not be ready to pass our test.

Every day we are having little tests over the ground we have covered so far in life. But our last, and by far the hardest, examination in the school of life will come just before Jesus returns to the earth again, for when He comes this time, He is going to take away with Him those who have passed.

What makes this time of trouble, or the examination, so hard for us is that what is called "the presence of God" will not be in our world. That presence is really God's own Power that He sends to help us to be kind when we are unkind, thoughtful when we are careless, cheery when we are disappointed, patient when we think we ought to have something different from what we really got, helpful when we feel lazy or tired. When the time of trouble comes, God's Power won't be here to help us be kind, thoughtful, cheery, patient, helpful; for He is going to give Satan a chance to tempt us extremely hard, in order to prove to Satan that we do love God and that we are so in the habit of doing what God wants us to do that we won't do anything else, though many, many people

will scoff at us, and even the laws of the land may try to force us to do things we shouldn't do.

But we will be distressed because we never knew before what it felt like not to have God's presence. We will wonder if He really does love us after all. We will be troubled for fear we have not asked Him to forgive us for all the wrong things we have done or for the good things we have forgotten to do, since we know we cannot pass the final examination if we have hid any sins and not told the Lord we are sorry for them.

The difference between those who pass and those who do not pass, is simply the difference between those who are good and those who are bad—those who love God and desire to do right, and those who love to have their own way better than God's way.

This examination is the last chance to pass that will ever be given us in the school of life. If we do not pass it, we will have failed forever. So today we shall talk about a few things that go into the make-up of one who will be good.

Many colleges and universities require that students who wish to attend their classes first take what are called "entrance examinations." Those who pass successfully may enter the college and study whatever they wish. Let us think of the time of trouble as being not only our final examinations here, but our entrance examinations to God's university of heaven.

Course of Study

I. Daily Christianity

Do you remember the first thing you learned to do when you started to school, the one thing without which you could scarcely learn to do much else in school? To read.

Unless you make being a Christian every day your first study, you'll never be able to learn anything else. You must learn it as you do your grammar, reading, and English. Having in your heart the desire to be a Christian every day, from the time you awake till the time you sleep, is accomplishing the task of being a proficient reader. If you can understand well what you read, you can study other subjects that you like and can read interesting books. Just so, if you make it your habit to be a Christian in the best way you know, every day, you will soon be interested in studying other subjects in God's course that will qualify you to pass the examinations of the time of trouble.

When you have learned a few words, you do not stop reading. You keep reading all the time you are learning other things. So you must keep on being a Christian all the time you are branching out.

II. Character Development

1. DETERMINATION AND FIRMNESS—

While you are learning to be a Christian every day, you will soon find that you will have to study other subjects (that is, develop

definite habits of good character) in order to make progress. One of the best things to study early is *mental arithmetic*, a subject which keeps you awake and alert.

What is meant by this is that you must study how to be determined and firm—conscious of your own faults and alert to overcome them. It takes real determination and wide-awakeness to be a Christian all the time, to admit you're wrong sometimes, to keep yourself from forgetting that you weren't going to say mean things about anybody, to determine that you were going to be a good sport, to be honest, be respectful to your mother and father. You have to be wide awake and determined to remember to pray and read your Bible; for Satan's best success isn't always in making you think you hate to be good, but in making you forget to try. You may need determination to keep from looking at somebody else's problem in arithmetic, especially if it is a hard, interest problem, or algebra. If you are determined to be a Christian, you'll scorn being the kind of person who looks at others' grammar lessons while he writes his own; you'll scorn copying somebody's lesson, or even a little part of it. You'll scorn being a coward. You'll want to stand on your own ability.

Juniors, when you come to the time of trouble, when all the world will hate the few who love Jesus Christ and obey Him, there will be nobody to help you then. What you have already done for yourself will be all that counts for you. If you have thoughtfully, earnestly, and determinedly learned to be the best kind of Christian possible, and to be brave and to have faith, you will not have to worry about the time of trouble.

2. CONFIDENCE AND FAITH—

Here is another subject in our course of study that is going to prepare us to pass the tests of the time of trouble. This is like the study of *history*, which is really a study of the past experiences of men and nations. We shall need to have practice and exercise—past experience—in the study of faith.

If you do not understand how to have faith, begin now, Juniors, to learn. If you know you are a Christian, know, too, that if you obey God and feel He is your friend, you will rely on Him to take care of you, to teach you more about faith, and to help you be thoughtful and pleasant to every one. If things happen to you that seem unpleasant or unjust, remember that God allows troubles in order that you may learn to be patient—not complaining, to be trusting—not always getting discouraged and giving up trying. This is faith.

3. SELF-DENIAL—

Self-denial is one of the little extras we sometimes study that we do not always think necessary—like *drawing* and *music*. But it is one of the things that go into the makeup of the best Christians, as music is one of the things well-educated people learn to appreciate.

Not every one has the gift of music or drawing. Some people simply cannot draw,

nor sing a tune correctly. But they all can study so that they know how things are drawn, how music is made, and which paintings and music are most beautiful. They may even learn to draw simple things carefully or perform on some instrument or sing a little.

Not every one has the gift of self-denial. Many people dislike to deny themselves anything they feel they need. (That was one thing wrong with Satan in the beginning, you remember. He felt he had to be everything that was important and beautiful in heaven. He wasn't going to deny himself any whim that entered his head. He brooded on sinful thoughts until his sinfulness showed itself to the other beings in heaven, as sinfulness will always eventually show itself, no matter how cleverly one tries to hide it.) But you can learn to deny yourself. The best way to do it is to take yourself by the shoulder and say, "Look here! You mustn't be a spoiled child. You are going to learn to be happy and good and useful."

Mrs. White wrote that those who are unwilling to deny themselves and to pray long and earnestly for God's blessing, will not obtain it. "Angels record every prayer that is earnest and sincere. . . . The deepest poverty, the greatest self-denial, with His [God's] approval, is better than riches, honors, ease, and friendship without it."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 622.

III. Laboratory Studies

If you have studied cooking, sewing, bookkeeping, agriculture, or woodworking, you know that you must do laboratory work in these classes. In cooking you must actually cook certain things in a prescribed way; in sewing you must cut and finish an article of clothing; in bookkeeping you must actually have record books and learn where to enter all sorts of business items; in agriculture you must learn about soil and seeds and actually raise something; in woodworking you must handle and use tools to make things.

1. CONFESSING SINS—

Christians have laboratory studies too. One of the most important of these is being sorry for the wrong things you do and asking God to forgive you. This is like studying *geography*, the subject that teaches you where you are in the world in relation to other things. Having God forgive you is assuring you of what your standing is in the record books of heaven, for no one will be allowed in heaven who has a single unconfessed sin.

Confessing sin is not a matter of God's forcing you to do something unpleasant because He thinks you should. It is a sign that you recognize you have thoughtlessly or willfully done something you realize isn't good and kind and Christlike; that you are sorry; that you want God and your friends to help you do better.

When Jacob wrestled that night with the Angel and would not let Him go, it was because Jacob had been worrying for years about stealing the birthright from Esau. He wasn't sure he was forgiven, and he knew he had

done wrong and must be forgiven. When the time of trouble comes and God is allowing Satan to tempt you, the records of heaven will have been checked already and it will have been decided whether you shall have eternal life or shall die with the wicked. If you have confessed every wrong thing you have done, it will have been blotted out of heaven's record, marked "forgiven," and no matter how Satan will tempt you, that record will stand. But it will then be too late for any more sins to be forgiven. The time for repenting will be past. God is now giving you time to say you are sorry, to ask Him to forgive you, and then, by His help, to do better.

2. OBEDIENCE TO COMMANDMENTS—

This is your *arithmetic* or *algebra* lesson. You know you can work no problems unless you follow the rules for multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction. They are iron rules.

The commandments are iron rules for Christians in working their daily living problems. In order for you to pass the test of the time of trouble, your record will have to show that you have worked your problems by the rules given you. Otherwise they will have been worked wrong.

3. WORKING FOR GOD—

This laboratory experiment is one which you will have to perform before you can pass the test of the time of trouble. Unless you learn to help your friends and family, you will not be eligible for heaven, for no one enters there who has not helped some one find Christ. In the time of trouble Christians will reproach themselves because they have not done more to help others, because they do not have more power against Satan's forces. If they had worked more to help their friends to be Christians, there would not be so many in Satan's army to use their strength against God's people.

Loyalty

If some one accuses your chum of lying or stealing or cheating, you quickly defend him or try to prove the accusation unjust. Thus you show your loyalty to some one you like. Some one—Satan—has accused God of being cruel, domineering, and merciless. Does it not arouse your loyalty to God to have one tell untruths about Him? Satan always says sneeringly—though he is so deceitful he never lets you see him sneer—"All right; prove it! Just prove that God is just or kind or merciful!" Juniors, that is what you can do every day of your life by being Christians.

Do not look to the time of trouble too much as a time of misery. To be sure, we need to look forward anxiously. But be intent on your studies in the school of life, for by learning them well you do two things: (1) You show to every one that you are a partner of God in helping to prove to the universe that He is everything true and good and powerful; and (2) thereby you fit yourselves to pass your final examination—the entrance examination to the university of heaven.

July 17 THE LANGUAGE OF THE TREES

By IRENE WALKER

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING SONG: "O Forest Fair!" No. 136
in M.V. Songs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 1. (Discuss freely the meaning of verse 3.)

PRAYER.

SONG: "Trees," by Joyce Kilmer.

STORY: "What Tree Is That?"

POEM: "Tree Pals."

SONG: "Under the Trees," No. 145.

DIALOGUE: "Friends."

EXERCISE: "What the Trees Teach."

ILLUSTRATED TALK: "Bible Trees."

POEM: "A Prayer."

SONG: "Come, Walk with Me the Woodland Trail," No. 157.

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Superintendents

The topic today is designed to help our Juniors get acquainted with the trees—not only the trees of their locality but also the trees of other parts of the world, and the trees of the Bible—and to learn lessons which they tell us.

AN OUTING AMONG THE TREES

All boys and girls who live in or near the country find one of their most cherished recreations in exploring the forest. We hope you can arrange a time this summer to take your Juniors to various places where they may become acquainted with their tree friends. Most of the suggestions which follow could be used for a hike on a weekday afternoon or evening.

Meet at a central point for a hike to a near-by grove. Take along the necessary materials for a picnic supper. Either before or after supper, use some of the following games:

A contest to see who can identify the greatest number of leaves and who can find the greatest variety of trees.

A blindfold contest to see how many trees can be named from the feel of the bark.

Put numbers on ten or more different trees within a given area. Give the hikers a list of the names of the trees. See how many can place the proper number beside each tree on the list.

See who can list the most uses for tree products. This could also be used as a group contest, dividing the party into several competing groups:

Trees used for beautifying purposes.

Trees used for windbreaks.

Trees used for fuel.

Trees used for furniture, tools, homes.

Ask the group to bring along cameras and make some photographs of trees. Have an exhibit of the pictures taken and vote on the first, second, and third best pictures.

Have someone look up the stories of famous trees. These could be told around the campfire.

If you have not done so in your society meeting, or in addition to that, you will want

to make a study of the trees of the Bible. Ask several Juniors to prepare for this. A concordance will help you to locate passages in addition to the ones you can remember.

In addition to this you may suggest to the Juniors that there are many ways in which trees make this world more beautiful. Help them to discover for themselves that their beauty lies in their different, interesting, and lovely shapes, in the shadows they throw in the sunlight, in the coolness of the shade they make, in the noises of their branches bending in the wind, in the music of the birds whose nests are in their branches.

The tree illustrates God's law of co-operation. Each part of the tree has a special task

What the Trees Teach

(Exercise for 14 Juniors)

1. I am taught by the *Oak* to be rugged and strong
In defense of the right; in defiance of wrong.
2. I have learned from the *Maple* that beauty, to win
The love of all hearts, must have sweetness within.
3. The *Beech*, with its branches wide spreading and low,
Awakes in my heart hospitality's glow.
4. The *Pine* tells of constancy. In its sweet voice
It whispers of hope till sad mortals rejoice.
5. The *nut-bearing trees* teach that 'neath manners gruff
May be found as "sweet kernels" as in their caskets rough.
6. The *Birch*, in its wrappings of silvery gray,
Shows that beauty needs not to make gorgeous display.
7. The *Ash*, having fibers tenacious and strong,
Teaches me firm resistance to battle with wrong.
8. The *Aspen* tells me, with its quivering leaves,
To be gentle to every sad creature that grieves.
9. The *Lombardy Poplars* point upward in praise;
My voice to kind heaven they teach me to raise.
10. The *Elm* teaches me to be pliant yet true;
Though bowed by rude winds it still rises anew.
11. I am taught generosity, boundless and free.
By the showers of fruit from the dear *Apple tree*.
12. The *Cherry tree*, blushing with fruit crimson red,
Tells of God's free abundance that all may be fed.
13. In the beautiful *Linden*, so fair to the sight,
This truth I discern: It is inwardly white.
14. The firm-rooted *Cedars*, like sentries of old,
Show that virtue deep-rooted may also be hold.

—HELEN O. HOYT, in *Teacher's World*.

What Tree Is That?

It had been a rainy week, but now Sabbath had come and the sun was shining. In the afternoon the whole family of the Browns went for a long walk in the woods. They found gay-colored toadstools and marvelous spider webs, hung with drops of water like jewels, and some early spring flowers. When they sat down on an old log to rest, John said, "Daddy, you know so much about trees. How can you tell them apart?"

"Well, son," said daddy, "there are a few simple things that would help you if you knew them. I will now tell you these, and if you learn them I'll teach you more later."

The boys were quiet at once,

"First," said daddy, "think of the oaks. All oaks have acorns. You can usually find a few about in spite of the squirrels. Their leaves all have one big main rib down the center. The outside of the leaf has different shapes. If it has rounded lobes, it is a species of white oak. If it has sharp-pointed lobes, it is a species of black oak. They are usually rather large trees, with spreading branches.

"The elms are more graceful than the oaks. Their branches curve beautifully. The leaf is oval shaped, a little rough, and always bigger on one side of the middle vein than on the other.

"The maples are almost as graceful as the elms. They always have winged seeds. Their leaves always have five ribs—a long middle rib, two almost as long on either side, and two short ones lower down. But remember that they all meet at one place where the stem begins.

"Fruit trees almost always have a plain oval leaf, but you can learn to tell them apart even in winter by their branches.

"The fine-textured bark of the beeches varies from dark gray to almost white. Sycamore trees have little balls, and light bark that peels off, leaving patches.

"And willows—"

"Have narrow, long leaves and grow by the water," interrupted Ted. "But, daddy, please don't tell us any more now. Ask us questions to see if we remember what you've told us."

"Fine," answered daddy.

Here are his questions. See if you can answer them as well as the boys did.

How can you tell—

An oak tree?

Black oaks from white?

An elm tree?

Fruit trees apart in winter?

A maple tree?

Beeches, sycamores, and willows?

NOTE.—It would be well if the leader could have some leaves from these trees and would diligently drill the Juniors on these points, reviewing them several times later.

Tree Pals

I found some pals on the trail today,

Companions tried and true,
And maybe they can be the same
Good friends to each of you.

There's a gnarly pine on the mountainside,
Which has braved the storms of years,
Whose twisted arms have known my hopes,
My gladness and my tears.

There's a cedar on a jagged rock
Who taught me long ago
That the roots of the tree that meet the storm
Must be anchored deep below.

There's a broken tree that told my heart
That, with trees as it is with men,
One must bear the sorrow of defeat
Then rise and go on again.

And so to my tree pals, thanks again,
Companions of the way,
I'll be glad tomorrow for the thoughts
You've led me to think today.

—VERNON BERRY.

Bible Trees

Either draw trees on a blackboard or have cutout trees ready to place on a table when a different tree is mentioned. Enlarge the list as much as you can. Trees are mentioned all through the Bible, particularly in the Old Testament.

A. Variety of trees named—36.

1. Old Testament—29.

2. New Testament—7.

B. Number of times trees are mentioned in the Bible—138.

1. Old Testament—126.

2. New Testament—12.

Let's see how big a forest we can make. We'll place a tree for every time we can think of a tree mentioned in the Bible.

Examples—

Tree of life.

Tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Oak tree Absalom hung on.

Sycamore tree Zacchaeus climbed.

Tree in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

Trees in Jotham's parables.

Juniper tree under which Elijah slept.

Tree from which Moses took a branch to sweeten Marah.

Oak tree under which Deborah was buried.

Fig tree Jesus cursed.

Friends

Ruth is sitting in a chair, reading. Ann comes into the house wearing her jacket and carrying a handful of leaves.

ANN: Well, bookworm, how are you? I've just had the grandest walk. If you don't believe it, look at all these souvenirs! [Holds out leaves.]

RUTH: Leaves? Who cares anything about them? They all look about alike. I don't understand how you can be always bothering with leaves. Every time you go for a walk you come home with a bunch of leaves, and then you bury your head in a tree book until you've looked them all up. What is the idea, anyway?

ANN: Why, I hadn't thought there was anything queer about that. It is fun. You haven't studied the trees enough to become interested in them—that's all. The trees are just like friends to me. As I go for a walk I say, "There are my old friends the elms, with their spreading arms," or, "Thank you, Mr. Sassafras; I'll chew a bit of one of your tender leaves." Sometimes I say, "Hello, Mrs. Locust. Any rooms to let in your apartment today?" because she already has a flicker, some sparrows, and a bluebird living in old woodpeckers' holes on her trunk.

RUTH: Well, I'd want friends that could talk and move about.

ANN: Sometimes I wish the trees could talk; and sometimes they almost seem to. The pine trees, especially, point straight toward heaven as if they'd say, "Think of God." The oak tree tells me to be brave and strong. The fruit trees say, "Be unselfish." But I'm glad they don't move.

RUTH: Why? They'd be more interesting friends.

ANN: No, the birds and animals are hard to get acquainted with because they can get away so fast. But because the trees stay right there, if you once learn them, they are always where you can find them.

RUTH: I hadn't thought about that. Will you help me to become acquainted with a few from time to time?

ANN: Surely, I will. And I'll show you how to look the new ones up in the book. It's ever so much fun.

RUTH: But I haven't any book.

ANN: I have an ideal! I have been wondering how I could remember your birthday next month. I'll give you a book on trees! We can both keep notebooks and make collections. It will be so much fun to study and hunt for our trees together!

A Prayer

Teach me, Father, how to be
Kind and patient as a tree.

Joyfully the crickets croon

Under shady oak at noon;

Beetle, on his mission bent,

Tarries in that cooling tent.

Let me, also, cheer a spot,

Hidden field or garden grot—

Place where passing souls can rest

On their way and be their best.

—EDWIN MARKHAM.

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July 24 THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO YOU

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

CHORUS RESPONSE: "My Prayer," No. 28.

REPORTS OF MISSIONARY WORK.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

OFFERTORY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

INTRODUCTION BY SUPERINTENDENT.

CONVERSATION: "Seed Sowing." (See Notes.)

READING: "My Darling."

EXPERIENCE OR DIALOGUE: "I Can't Afford It."

SONG: "Just Where I Am," No. 77.

STORY: "A Little Girl's Influence."

STORY: "A Boy's Appeal."

TALK: "Life Sermons."

TALK: "The Gospel According to You."

DISCUSSION. (See Notes.)

SONG: "Can the World See Jesus in You?"

No. 34.

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Superintendents

Everything we do affects ourselves and others. That is influence. Influence is power, and no power is ever lost.

"As a pebble dropped into the water

Sends its waves out more and more,

In an ever-widening circle,

Till they reach the other shore;

So a deed, a word, an action,

Dropped upon the sea of life,

Sends a blessing, or a cursing,

In this world of sin and strife."

This gives us a responsibility which we must face as early in our Christian life as possible. Each person with whom we have contact in life either does or does not find his way to Jesus through us. There is no dodging this duty.

CONVERSATION: "Seed Sowing."—Have two chairs arranged on the platform wherein a Junior and yourself may sit to carry on this conversation. Avoid anything stagey. One of the purposes of the J.M.V. Society is to train Juniors for future appearances before groups of people, whether they be congregated in churches or in cottage meetings, and whether the Junior when grown is presiding as a layman or as a minister. Over a period of time, try to have as many of the Juniors as possible participate in programs. Encourage them to take time and pains in preparing their part, making yourself available for suggestions as to improvement in diction, pronunciation, etc. It is suggested that in this "conversation," the Junior's part be memorized.

DISCUSSION: "Discussions" are a fine way to vitalize the Junior Society. They break down timidity, encourage self-expression and individual thinking, and when aptly handled by the superintendent, result in a more co-operative, unified group to fulfill the objectives of the organization. On this subject of influence, inspire the Juniors to testify wherein they can improve their influence about the home, at school, and over their pals.

Seed Sowing

JUNIOR: It seems to me, Mr. —, that a fellow can't as much as take a step in this life without its having either a good or a bad in-

The world is not without a ruler. The program of coming events is in the hands of the Lord.—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 753.

fluence on somebody. When you come to think about it, it makes a chap almost afraid to live these days.

SUPERINTENDENT: I don't know that there is anything gained by being afraid, unless it makes us more careful about our influence. We are all sowers, whether we want to be or not. The wise are careful about the seed they sow. You remember the story about the old monk who was shipwrecked alone on a desert island. He always carried with him a few roots and seeds. These he planted before he died, and sailors coming there twenty years later found the island waving with fruit trees. I presume you have heard the story of Johnny Appleseed, who passed through Pennsylvania in 1801.

JUNIOR: No, Mr. —; I don't have the honor of knowing the chap.

SUPERINTENDENT: He was a youth who sowed good seed, so to speak, and whose influence will never be forgotten. He collected apple seeds, the best he could find anywhere, with which to plant orchards in the then uncultivated States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan. When he came to an open, sunny spot in the forest, he would plant his seeds and protect them with a brush hedge. Years afterward, new settlers found hundreds of these embryo orchards in the forests. Three times he floated his canoe, laden with seeds, down the Ohio River to the settlers in Kentucky. And to this brave youth, called by our *Congressional Record* "Johnny Appleseed," whole States owe their wealth and treasure of vineyards and orchards.

This man is a beautiful type of all those who, passing through life's wastes, sow the land with God's eternal truths, whose leaves and fruits heal nations. Do not, my boy, be afraid to sow that which has been given you to sow, and with patience await the harvest. For if God remembers the roots in dark forests, He will not forget His truths in human hearts sown there by the influences of His people.

JUNIOR: Yes, of course, Mr. —; but most of our sowing is done in the dark, is it not, where we never have the chance to see the results?

SUPERINTENDENT: Oh, yes, it is true we very often do not see the results of our sowing, but we should be content, if the seed is good, to know that some day the flower and fruit will explain the seed and radiate its influence. The sower should not fear or be fainthearted, but embark with courage and determination upon life's journey. Rough times are certain to come, but we must press forward, ever trusting. You might ask what a child on some great ocean steamer in a winter's storm can do to overcome the tempest. Can it drive the fierce blasts back to their northern haunts? Can its little hand hold the wheel, and guide the great ship? Can its voice still the billows that can crush the steamer like an eggshell? Can its breath destroy the icy coat of mail that covers all the decks? What the child can do is to trust the captain who has brought this same ship through a hundred hard storms. He can behave himself properly, and trust and hope. In

the same way all of us upon this great earth ship have been caught, not in a storm, but in the Gulf Stream of God's providence. The warm tropic currents will sweep us over to the heavenly harbor if we have been faithful in our seed sowing.

JUNIOR: I am going to remember what you have just said, Mr. —. It throws a new light upon things. I shall try to remember that nothing that makes life better and happier will be forgotten or wasted, even if we do not see the results ourselves.—Adapted from Enid S. Smith.

"My Darling"

These were the words a New York newspaper reporter saw in the unlikely place imaginable—on the dashboard of a huge Broadway truck. The truck was caught in a dense blockade, but the driver sat patiently waiting, while truckmen all about him were swearing or abusing their horses.

"Yes, mister," said the driver, in reply to the reporter's question, "I painted those words up there myself. I wanted to have them where I could see them all the time, to remind me of my promise to my little girl when she was dying. 'Father,' she said, 'I'm going to die, and I want you to promise me one thing, because it will make me so happy.' 'Yes,' said I, with the tears running down my cheeks, 'I'll promise.' Then she looked me in the eyes, so sweet, and said, 'O father, don't be angry, but promise me you'll never swear any more, nor whip your horses.' That's all there is about it, mister, and I've just put those words up here to remind me of my little girl when I'm tempted."—*Sunday School Visitor*.

I Can't Afford It

"I can't afford it," said Ray Long, quietly.

The other boy looked at him in surprise.

"Can't afford it?" he repeated. "Why, it isn't going to cost you anything," he protested. "The trip is free. Mel Wood has offered to take the crowd over in his machine, and Art Hasoles has agreed to stand the hotel bill. I don't understand what you mean by saying you can't afford to go. There won't be a cent to pay."

"Yet, I expect it will cost me more than I want to pay, and I must decline," Ray repeated.

Ross Bickford wanted to know just what Ray meant, but he was peeved at the other's refusal to go and would not let him see his interest, and so turned his back on his friend.

Ray heard no more from them until Monday noon. Then he saw Ross and was surprised at the look on his face.

"Why, Ross, what's the matter?" he inquired. "You look sick."

"I am sick," Ross replied, "but not in the way you think. I'm sick at the narrow escape I had from making a fool of myself."

"What happened?" asked Ray.

"Oh, it wasn't so much what happened yesterday, although I was disgusted with some things said and done by the crowd! I never realized that in spite of their position and

money those fellows were just plain vulgar. "This morning the boss called me into the office. He was sorry, but I would have to change the company that I traveled with, or I could not continue in his employ; he did not think I could afford to have the reputation I would get by going with that crowd."

"I'm glad I found out in time, for it might have been too late. I see now what you meant by not being able to afford the trip. The cost is too high."—*Exchange*.

A Little Girl's Influence

In a certain hospital a little girl was to have an operation. She was placed upon the table, and the surgeon was about to give her ether, when he said: "Before we can make you well, we must put you to sleep."

She spoke up sweetly and said, "Oh, if you are going to put me to sleep, I must say my prayers first."

So she got on her knees with some difficulty, and said the child's prayer, "Now, I lay me down to sleep." Afterward the surgeon said he prayed that night for the first time in many years. No one can tell what influence a little child has, even over those who are older in years.—*Our Little Friend*.

Story: A Boy's Appeal

A young man told how he had been influenced to become a missionary. When he was a child he used to walk often through a certain churchyard. One of the gravestones by which he passed bore this inscription to the memory of a little boy eight years old: "Mother, when I grow to be a man, I should like to be a missionary; but if I die while I am still a little boy, will you put it on my tomb, so that some one passing by may read it and go instead of me?" Through reading this inscription so often, the thought had grown in this young man's mind: "I must go in place of that little boy."

Life Sermons

The conversation among a group of businessmen turned to the subject of religion.

Some one suggested that each tell why he became a Christian.

In one instance, it was a washerwoman who was always singing, "Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus."

Another declared that the compelling factor in his life was a neighbor who drove six miles over rough roads every Sabbath to attend church services.

Nearly half of those present had been won because of a Christian mother's life.

The Gospel According to YOU

"What is your favorite version of the Bible?" a group of boys were asked in a Sunday school class. Some said, "The King James," others "The Revised Version," and some liked Moffatt's or Weymouth's. But one lad said: "I like my mother's version best; she lives it."

"You are writing a gospel,
A chapter each day,
By deeds that you do,
By words that you say.

Men read what you write,
Whether faithful or true;
Say, what is the gospel,
According to you?"

Home Missionary Department

Supporting the Bible Correspondence School

Suggestive Program for Sabbath, July 3

OPENING SONG: "Lift Him Up," No. 520 in *Church Hymnal*.

SCRIPTURE READING: Revelation 14: 6-14, or use "The Three Angels' Messages," responsive reading, page 580 in *Church Hymnal*.

PRAYER.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

READING: "The Unique Function of the Bible Correspondence School," by R. J. Christian.

POEM: "Ambassadors for Christ," by Adlai A. Esteb.

READING: "Correlation of All Departments in the Bible Correspondence School Program," by A. H. Field.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LAUNCHING LOCAL PLANS.

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

BENEDICTION.

Unique Function of the Bible Correspondence School

By R. J. CHRISTIAN

Unnoticed, unheralded, and unafraid, the Bible Correspondence Schools of the church are doing their appointed work. Day after day, night after night, and week after week, they continue their appointed way, bringing the last message of mercy to the assigned homes where they are so gladly and eagerly received. Truly they constitute a last-day method for the giving of the message. They are definitely another avenue through which that other angel of Revelation 18:1 can and will work. Today nearly every conference in the North American Division is conducting a Bible Correspondence School, and the number enrolled is enormous. Individual schools vary in size from a few hundred students to better than 50,000 students. The questions arise: Do they do the work? Do they win souls? Do they teach the message? Are they practical? Are they adaptable for all types of territory? Are they up-to-date? Do they appeal to the people? Do the students carry through? Do baptisms result from their work? Do they help pay their way? Are they worth the effort necessary to keep them staffed and operating smoothly? To all of these questions the answer is, Yes.

Each year our academies and colleges put on recruiting drives to enroll new students. Homes are visited by members of the faculty, and contacts are made with the youth of our homes, and their interest in Christian education is aroused until the youth feel they

must be in one of our schools. Action results. Comes fall, they join other thousands of advent youth as students in one of our schools.

The above pattern is good. It has been proved over the years, and results have accrued that prove the plan as one to be continued and further developed; but, good as the plan is, it needs the backing and support of the parents and the other friends of Christian education. Enthusiasm is catching, and as the youth return from our schools, they add their weight to the discussions, and our schools are made yet more effective in their appointed work of training and saving our youth.

Now let us look at our Bible Correspondence Schools. Their faculties are busy six days a week. Hundreds of letters are handled daily, and the correspondence is constantly on the move. There are no vacation months in which their faculties can be assigned to field work in behalf of enrolling new students. Their faculties are kept ever busy making the contacts by mail and answering questions for the eager and inquiring students. Nevertheless, contacts must be made both with the old students and with prospective students.

Let us consider first the prospective student. There is a growing fear in the hearts of men. International trouble passes on down to the individual as he sits by his radio, as he relaxes from the busy day's activities, as he contemplates his tomorrows. But, that is the question. Will there be a tomorrow? If so, what will it be like? What will be its challenge? Indeed, what of the future? The mind, studying this thought, turns for an answer. It is not to be found in the daily papers. It is not blazoned in bold letters in the current magazines. Fear grows, terrible gnawing fear, fear of the present, and a far greater fear of the future—if indeed there is a future. This is the picture to be found in many a home today. Into just such homes thousands of lessons are going daily from our scores of Bible Correspondence Schools. But, alas, there are thousands of people as yet unenrolled and uncontacted for our schools.

Stop! Think! Have you invited your neighbor to enroll? Did you take a few minutes to discuss the current political trends and their far-reaching effects? Did you make an effort to interest that troubled heart in the Bible and its message for today? Your Bible Correspondence School is ready to go to work for you, but you should realize your responsibility as a field worker for the school. Look! Perhaps you did not realize you are a field

representative for the school. Every church member should recognize the school as his, and then work for its success. Pass out hundreds of enrollment cards on the bus, on the subway, on the train, over the back fence, as you make that medical missionary visit, and as you write those unbelieving relatives and friends. Is someone passing through an especially dark and difficult experience? Make a visit, write a note, tell of the comfort the message gives you, speak a word "in season." Take a Sunday morning to go from house to house and ask for enrollments, or after a hard day's work take a few minutes to make calls, asking for the privilege of enrolling some of your neighbors in the course. God expects you to do it. The school needs the names of new students, and you need the blessing to be received from just such spiritual exercise. Above all else, your friends and the ones you enroll need Christ and His saving message.

Listen! God is speaking to you! "Go work today in My vineyard," "Lo I am with you alway." "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. . . . For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest." Yes, pray that He will even send you. Our schools have a wonderful record of souls won to the truth—not by tens, not by hundreds, but truly thousands have already been baptized—as the result of this type of evangelism.

While it is true that our great Voice of Prophecy School far overshadows all of our other correspondence schools, yet it cannot do all that needs to be done. Our facilities are not too many, and our workers are too few. We should, by virtue of the lateness of the hour, greatly increase our enrollments in all of our schools. 'As we so often sing, "There's a place for every worker in the vineyard of the Lord." Today God calls for your help. Let our response be "Lord, here am I, send me."

Help is also needed in caring for the more advanced students who need personal assistance. Men and women come to the place in their studies where they need personal contact with those who can help tender feet over what appear to them to be rough and hard places. Here is a large field for lay endeavor. Your conference Home Missionary secretary will gladly welcome your help—help so badly

needed now with our thousands of advanced students. Yes, there should be students in your neighborhood who need just the kindly, personal help our consecrated youth and adult church members can give.

Indeed the Bible Correspondence Schools are a part of the advent movement. Working behind the walls and doors of the great apartment houses of our cities, working through reading racks in the bus, train, and plane depots, working in literature band work, working through personal distribution of literature, working along the shady streets of our cities and along the rural routes of our great country areas, reaching out to the great ranches, to the homes of the poor, and bringing comfort to those who pass close to the borders of the valley of the deep shadows, and bringing courage to those who study its lessons by way of spiritual review, these schools are doing a great work.

Time would not permit a detailed review of the good already accomplished. Suffice it to say our Bible Correspondence Schools are doing a unique work for God. Unnoticed, unheralded, and unafraid, they reach out through your co-operation to the homes of the needy, to the homes of your neighbors and my neighbors. Quietly working so as not to arouse prejudice, they are being used of God to turn the hearts of thousands to this message of mercy and salvation. They are our schools. They deserve and need our support and co-operation. If every church member would secure just one new enrollment a week for the next four weeks, we could add a million new students within a month right here in the North American Division.

Perhaps there's a friend or neighbor that you alone can interest in the Bible Correspondence School. Invite that person to enroll this next week. You're doing that individual a favor, a favor that you may be thanked for throughout eternity? Will you help?

Correlation of All Departments in the Bible Correspondence School Program

The Bible Correspondence School is no longer in the experimental stage. Thousands have been enrolled and many more are being enrolled every day. The results have been marvelous. Many are with us rejoicing in the truth because they have been invited to join this great band of Bible students.

This work has been promoted through the Home Missionary Department, but we should not feel that only those who are working in or for that department should carry all the responsibility. This, like other phases of our work, calls for co-ordinated evangelism.

In many places the Publishing department is helping the Bible School by securing new students. Some of our faithful door-to-door salesmen do not feel they have done their duty unless they have given the members of each home they visit an opportunity to join the Correspondence School. And many of these colporteurs are enjoying the greatest thrill that can come to any individual—the joy of seeing a soul accept Christ.

Ambassadors for Christ

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ."
2 Corinthians 5: 20.

"Ambassadors for Christ!" O Lord, how can it be
That sinful, mortal men of clay dare go and speak for Thee?
How can our human hearts that years of sin have stained
With poisons from the serpent's sting be ever drained?
How can our tongues, that shot the viper's venom far,
Be used to bless the world, and no more mar?
"Ambassadors for Christ!" O Lord, and can it be
That eyes so full of sin can ever see but Thee?
How can minds, filled with photographs of sin for years,
Erase from memory's halls those imprints with mere tears?
How can words, long the vehicle of sinful thought,
Now paint the sacred pictures that new sight has caught?

"Ambassadors for Christ!" O Lord, if this can be,
Then do Thy wondrous work, that we may speak for Thee.
Take Thou our mortal minds and wash with blood, not tears,
Those sinful, sad impressions of those careless years.
Take Thou our sinful hearts and make them, Lord, like Thine;
For only as our hearts are pure can our words be divine.

—ADLAI A. ESTER.

Some of our most energetic workers in any missionary activity are the Missionary Volunteers. They are full of life and zeal, and with proper instruction they can and are doing a great good in getting enrollments for the Bible School. Every one is pleased to see young people engaged in church work; nearly all are willing to co-operate with them by receiving the Bible lessons.

Our schools, working with the Missionary Volunteer department, are training our youth for efficient service. There, too, can the Correspondence course find real support.

Nor would we forget the Sabbath school department. We were in a Sabbath school class recently where the teacher realized that a visitor was in attendance. He asked her some simple questions on the lesson and made her feel at ease. Although he was also a visitor in that class, he made an opportunity after the recitation period to get acquainted with this non-Adventist lady. He found her very receptive and eager to accept an invitation to attend regularly. All strangers should thus be made welcome, and by inviting them to join the Bible Correspondence School, many will become regular Sabbath school members and will also join the church. There are various other ways in which the Sabbath school can co-operate with this work.

There really are no departmental divisions in our work, nor would the Lord have it so. As we all, from every department, work hand in hand, we will find the cause of God ad-

vancing with rapid strides. Where our Bible Correspondence Schools are the most successful, we find them supported by every one.

Every school will prosper as we give it our loyal support. This includes all of us, from the Conference president down to the tiny tots of the Cradle Roll.

—A. H. FIELD.

Notes to Leaders

In connection with the First Sabbath Service on the Bible Correspondence School, it would be well to consult your conference Home Missionary secretary and arrange with him some plan that can be launched in your particular locality. In some places names secured locally are referred to the conference Bible Correspondence School. In other churches circumstances permit the setting up of a local school in which the church members take an active part in the grading of lessons and other detail work.

Your conference Home Missionary secretary will be glad to advise you and help you plan, so that at the time of this service you will be able to launch a definite plan in which every church member can participate.

The Bible Training Class

Every pastor and district leader would like to have a church or a district in which every church was composed of members who were thoroughly trained in leadership and were experienced soul winners and efficient ingathering workers. It would not take long to finish the work if we had such churches, and if the members were filled with the Holy Spirit for this service! I believe every worker has longed to find such a church, and prayed that his church would become that very thing for God.

Here is a message from the Lord Jesus to our pastors and district leaders concerning this very thing: "Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught how to give Bible readings, how to conduct and teach Sabbath school classes, how best to help the poor and to care for the sick, how to work for the unconverted."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 149. "In every church the members should be so trained that they will devote time to the winning of souls to Christ."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 436.

Here is the divine plan for us to follow. Workers, you are *commanded* to train the members of your churches for service in the cause of the Lord. We spend thousands of dollars annually to educate our young people to become workers in the organized movement. These young folk we expect to become ministers, Bible instructors, and workers in other capacities in the field. But why should we neglect the potential possibilities of the lay members at home? With proper training they would be a powerful influence for the finishing of the work.

"How is this to be done?" you ask. There is no finer method than for the district leader, or the pastor of the church (and if there is neither to be had, then let the church elder

or leader take over) to organize a class in lay evangelism. This class ought to consist of members of the church whom the leader shall ask to join, and other members who will volunteer. Enlist as many members to take up this training as it is possible to secure. Plan your class training so as to make it interesting as well as helpful. Be sure that you actually teach your members *how* and *why*. Then put them to work.

In the early days of my ministry I was engaged in Home Missionary work as a departmental man. Everywhere I could see latent possibilities! It takes a great deal of patience and everlasting stick-to-itiveness to make this class teaching a success, but it pays big dividends. Try it, and see for yourself. This is the method that Jesus used in training His disciples, and it worked. Why should we not use His method today?

From my own experience I can say I know it works. I have known of ladies in these classes being chosen by the conferences and employed as Bible instructors. Why? Because these sisters had had training, actual experience in soul winning, and they were able to do acceptable work. I have seen young men and older men develop into strong church workers and efficient church leaders. I have seen members of various classes prove themselves capable soul winners and strong workers in our church campaigns. Our people long to do better work than they are able to do now. They want to become all that God desires them to be, and it is a great challenge to the leadership of our churches to train them to become all of that.

"The people have had too much sermonizing; but have they been taught how to labor for those for whom Christ died? Has a line of labor been devised and placed before them in such a way that each has seen the necessity of taking part in the work?"—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 431.

Too much sermonizing! Not enough teaching *how* to work for others. This is truly a positive indictment, and there is no excuse. In one church where we had separate classes for the men and for the women, we saw the laity raise up a second church in the same city. In fact, the pastor baptized about seventeen persons the first year the laity started to do what they had been taught to do.

"I had rather see a sermon than hear one, any day," said Edgar Guest. And this is true of human nature anywhere. Our dear people should be taught to *live* their sermons, and the public will be apt students. Here we are at the very threshold of eternity, with a gigantic task yet to accomplish for the Master. We talk about, and pray for, the latter rain, and the loud cry, and the infilling of the Spirit. But are these not one and the same work of grace? And this to be done *only* for those who are *actually doing* the work of God? Do we not read in Acts 1:8 that this power is given for *witnessing*? Is your church *witnessing* for Christ? Have you taught your members to *witness*? Do you know *how* to witness properly?

Make up your mind to try this class train-

ing work. Get your people together, and talk it over with them. Let them set the time, and then call the roll, and check absentees. Be kind, and loving, and helpful. You are doing them a great service. Don't push them. Lead them!

Use such helps as the course offered by the Home Study Institute, or the new Home Missionary Department book, *Training Light Bearers*. You could even use the Twentieth-Century Correspondence lessons. Make all of your lessons center in Christ. Put the spiritual mold on all of your work. Never be technical nor doctrinal. Every doctrine has its

center in Christ, so make Christ first. "*Christ in you, [is] the hope of glory.*" Paul tells us. Colossians 1:27. *Make sure Christ is in you, first of all, and then you will be able to show others what He should mean to them.* They in turn will be able to reveal Christ to lost sinners.

Such classes should operate the year around. Satan *never* takes a vacation. Catch the vision of Christ giving Himself for you, then give that same Christ to your members, and they in turn will want to see that same Christ in others.

—JOHN MITCHELL.

Missionary Leadership

No Summer Slump

The counsel from God's word to every Christian is found in 2 Timothy 4:2: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." The thought I wish to emphasize is, "be instant in season, out of season."

Many times we take an active part in church work if others are working. But we should plan our work so as to be active at all times. There should be no vacation in this matter of giving the last warning message. The apostle Paul, looking down to our generation wrote, "Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep." Romans 13:11. It is evident that while the world is ignorant of the time of its visitation there will be those who know the times and their significance. The following quotations are of value in helping us to know the times.

"The crisis is fast approaching. The rapidly swelling figures show that the time for God's visitation has about come. . . . Those who walk in the light will see signs of the approaching peril."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 209.

"The angel of mercy is folding her wings, ready to depart. Already the Lord's restraining power is being withdrawn from the earth. . . . Already the inhabitants of the earth are marshalling under the leading of the prince of darkness, and this is but the beginning of the end. . . . The Lord is soon to cut short His work, and put an end to sin."—*Ibid.*, Vol. 8, p. 49.

In view of these quotations given to us by the servant of the Lord, we, as church leaders, should definitely plan a program for the whole church for the entire year. If we have any vision, we will plan the church program for several years. "Wherever a church is established, all the members should engage actively in missionary work. They should visit every family in the neighborhood." Volume 6, page 296.

We are told in Proverbs 29:18 that "where there is no vision, the people perish." How true this statement is in connection with our missionary activities in the church. If we do

not have a vision surely the light and the message will finally go out.

All activities of the church, all of its organizations, have the same objective, that of saving souls. As we plan our objectives for the year, let us remember that our supreme objective is that of winning souls for God's eternal kingdom.

As we consider our topic, "No Summer Slump," we must consider the program for the entire year. One conference has as its objective for 1948, (1) Every church member "on fire" for Christ, (2) Every church "organized" for service, (3) Every church member "trained" for service. If this can be followed in every church we will be able to carry a well-balanced program and will not have a "summer slump" in witnessing for Christ.

Perhaps a few suggestions will help us as church officers and home missionary workers to carry on an aggressive program throughout the year. In January and February conduct in your church the course, "Training Light Bearers," and during the month of March have an aggressive mailing and personal distribution of literature in connection with this course. Then, of course, in April and May comes our Ingathering, and during that program those who are alert will be able to make many contacts for Bible study and proper follow-up. During the month of June organization can be fostered for an aggressive summer literature program. Usually during July there is the camp meeting season. August and September can be used for literature distribution in a systematic manner. Perhaps this period can be used in preparation for an effort that will be held by the pastor or evangelist in your particular city. In October, November, and December all will be able to assist at the fall effort by attendance at the meetings, bringing friends, distributing literature and handbills, and in other activities.

As the church considers the yearly program, it should not overlook the activity of enrolling friends and neighbors in the Bible correspondence course. This work can be carried on at all times.

Another suggestion has been made that can be carried out in connection with summer

vacations. As we travel along the highways, take literature along—Bible course cards and advertising—to pass out to filling station attendants, at auto camps, and elsewhere along the way, as circumstances permit.

We should never feel self-satisfied. We must not feel that we are doing all that we should. If we constantly feel that we are accomplishing all that we possibly can for God, we will never be stirred to redouble our activities for Christ. We are living in the sunset hour of earth's history. Let us "be instant in season, out of season," carrying on an aggressive year-around program for the finishing of God's message.

—CARL P. ANDERSON.

Missionary Promotion on the Sabbath

The destruction of Sabbath sacredness is the aim of Satan. World tensions and countless attractive influences designed to lull men to sleep are special temptations to the Christian to draw the mind away from God. Pleasure riding, the radio, newspapers, and secular visiting all tend to destroy the sacredness of Sabbathkeeping.

If the Sabbath is kept according to the design of God, then everything else in religion will cease to be a problem; for Sabbathkeeping exerts an influence on the heart that sanctifies the whole life.

The Sabbath must be a complete day dedicated to God. The modern trend is to have services only in the morning, the afternoon becoming a time of ill-directed personal activities. The Sabbath is the high day for the church—the day to study to show ourselves approved of God, the day to attend many types of services, the day to devote to missionary work and training. The lessons learned in the Sabbath school are not only learned to receive, but to give.

The outline given here is designed for a Sabbath afternoon program, and in its completeness, for a large church. However, small churches will be able to select the activities that will be suitable for the individual church.

Training classes are of prime importance. Each class is conducted for a period of six weeks only; thus a program for a year is easily arranged. For instance, the Master Comrade class is a training class for definite work in the church. Each Master Comrade should understand that his training is for a purpose—not to gain some church honor, but to prepare to lead junior and youth groups—and this can be successfully accomplished.

The need for unified thinking on the part of the teachers of the church is necessary to successfully carry on a church program, and to prevent every conceivable doctrine and theory being presented. To unify all the teachers in doctrine, and to instill in their students the one object for which the church exists—to save souls, and not to argue theories—will do more for church advancement than any other one thing. Thus is seen the need for officers' training classes, instructions on visiting the sick, study of the Spirit of prophecy, and training for giving Bible studies.

Work activities are a vital link in the Sabbath afternoon program. The church can purchase a wire recorder and much of the morning service can be recorded. In the afternoon this recording should be taken to as many shut-ins as possible. This connecting link with the church gives them great joy. The advantage of the wire recorder is that the same wire may be used over and over again for a new program each Sabbath.

Sabbath school absentee cards are used to advantage in the afternoon program. Every church member is enrolled in the Sabbath school, and a special group sends absent members weekly letters inviting them to Sabbath school, informing them they were "missed." This group also attends to the church mailing list, sending letters to nonmembers who visited the church the preceding Sabbath.

The local church should have its own correspondence school. The group taking care of this school receives the greatest blessing



through prayer for the students, correcting papers, and making personal visits to those interested.

Sabbath afternoon is ideal for a "Special Service." The four o'clock hour seems to be a good time. At this time a church forum may be conducted. During the first half of the forum, important news events bearing on Bible prophecy may be discussed, and during the last half, a detailed study of the book *The Great Controversy* may be carried on. The members are encouraged to bring in clippings for the news review. During the four o'clock hour, a separate, Junior Church service may be conducted. This service should be complete, with officers, announcements, and special music. In fact, it is patterned after the regular hour of worship. Juniors have complete charge of the service, with the exception of the sermon, which is given by an older youth or by the minister. This is a wonderful training class for the Juniors.

The suggestions which follow have a goal of providing something for everyone to do during the precious hours of the Sabbath. The result will be a missionary-minded church, winning souls for Christ.

"Manners easily and rapidly mature into morals."—Horace Mann.

Sabbath Afternoon Activity Outline

I. Adults

A. Training Classes:

1. Master Comrade Class.
2. Teachers' Training.
3. Officers' Training Class.
4. Layman's Evangelism.
5. How to Give Bible Studies.
6. Sabbath School Teachers' Meeting.
7. How to Visit the sick.
8. Testimony Study.
9. How to Be an Instructor for Correspondence Bible Course.

B. Work Activities:

1. Visiting Bands.
 - (1) Recorder for Shut-ins.
 - (2) Absent Sabbath School Members.
 - (3) Visitor Correspondence.
2. Addressing Weekly Church Letter.
3. Correcting Correspondence Course Lessons.
4. Distributing Literature.

C. Services:

1. News Events and Bible Prophecy.
2. Missionary Speakers.
3. Vespers.
4. Prayer Bands.

II. Youth

A. Training Classes:

1. Progressive Classes.
2. How to Visit jails.
3. How to Visit the Sick and Shut-ins.
4. How to Organize Evangelistic Youth Services.
5. Officers' Training.

B. Work Activities:

1. Folding and Mailing Signs.
2. Distributing Papers to Both Members and Neighbors.
3. Visiting Band.
4. Singing Band.

C. Services:

1. Study Forum.
2. Vespers.
3. Prayer Bands.

III. Juniors

A. Training Classes:

1. Progressive Classes.
2. Church Doctrines.

B. Work Activities:

1. Wrapping Church Papers.
2. Distributing Papers.

C. Services:

1. Junior Church (Complete).
2. Prayer Bands.

—A. N. JOHNS.

Inspiring Our Churches to Service

"Let those who have charge of the flock awake to their duty, and set many souls to work."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 436. These words should challenge every worker in the cause of God to arise and face our God-given responsibility of inspiring the membership of our churches to the finishing of God's work here in the earth. We are told in Volume 9, page 82, "The best help that ministers can give the members of our churches is not sermonizing, but planning work for them. Give each one something to do for others." Also, in Volume 7, page 21, it says: "Hundreds of men and women now idle could do acceptable service. By carrying the truth into the

homes of their friends and neighbors, they could do a great work for the Master." The greatest human resource waiting to be tapped and put to use in this crisis of the world's history lies right at home in the energies of our laymen. "Let ministers teach church members that in order to grow in spirituality, they must carry the burden that the Lord has laid upon them, the burden of leading souls to the truth."

The greatest prerequisite in the successful organization of churches for intensive missionary work lies in the leadership of that church. Sheep without a shepherd have a definite tendency to mill around and go nowhere. Just so in the church missionary program, we need more men and women with the zeal of Paul, men and women who are full of enthusiasm and fire for the message to the extent that they will leave no stone unturned until every soul-winning avenue has been exhausted and every layman put to work in that church. "Time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work."

In view of this solemn challenge and discernment of our responsibility there needs to be placed before our churches a definite and positive program, a program that is not fostered by one individual alone, but by the missionary committee of the church as a whole. Whatever program is sponsored in a local church along missionary lines should be such that it meets the approval of the district pastor and that it works in harmony with whatever conference-wide program is already in motion.

With church pastors, elders, and missionary leaders all on fire in this laymen's crusade, with a definite program to place before the church, and with material to back it up, more than half of our battles are already won in getting our churches organized and to work. Again let me emphasize the fact that in order for a church to progress in any missionary organization, the leadership of the church will have to have its heart, soul, and energies entirely behind the enterprise, otherwise the membership will become discouraged and the program will be a failure.

About the first of the year, the missionary committee of the church should meet and a survey be taken of the missionary work done the previous year. By so doing we can profit by our mistakes and thus plan a program that promises abundant results in souls. Once a definite missionary project has been launched, the duties of the missionary committee are not over. A meeting of the church missionary committee should be held monthly so that the missionary work of the church may continue to receive definite attention and promotion. It should be the aim of this committee to lay before the church a program in which every member will find a place to work. It should also plan for inspiring missionary services and make sure that the talent used will give inspiration to the church.

The missionary leader of the church is the spokesman of the missionary committee, and as such he should bend every effort to enlist the help of all church members in some defi-

nite line of missionary activity. As early as possible in the year, cards should be passed out to every church member on which are printed the different missionary projects that the church wishes to sponsor that year, such as singing bands, literature bands, personal Bible studies with projectors, branch Sabbath schools, Sunday schools, lay preaching.

After these cards have been filled out by all who desire to do so and have been collected and filed by the missionary leader, have the individuals separate into these different bands for specific instruction and organization. There are always those who need guidance in making their decision of what they want to do. Such might be invited to join a specific class to help train them in definite missionary projects. Let us never forget that throughout the entire missionary organization of the church, from the pastor down to the band leader, the leadership that has inspiration, enthusiasm, and a zealous

interest in finishing the work of God will accomplish great things for God in that church.

It is the responsibility of our live-wire pastors to inspire the missionary committee of the church to action. The missionary leader carries his enthusiasm from the committee to the church as a whole, stimulating it to action. With the church on fire for Christ, and divided into its different working bands, the band leaders should continue to inspire the members of those bands with the enthusiasm that began with the pastor of that church.

With truly consecrated and enthusiastic leadership all through our churches, with a definite program and materials with which to work, with the spirit of God permeating the simple missionary organization that has been set up in every church, *God's work will be finished quickly*. May God bless each of us to this end.

—R. E. ADAMS.

Departmental Activities

Your Work Cannot Fail

Our people are the most willing people on earth. Every time a need is presented, they respond wholeheartedly. Yet, why have many of our people been so slow to respond to the desperate need for workers to carry our message of hope to a fearful world? One excuse seems to be outstanding; that is that after working hard, they fail to see any results from their labor. For instance, they devote their hard-earned dollars and precious hours of time in passing out literature, expecting to see at least one person take his stand for the truth; when this does not happen, they think that they just do not have the ability that others have, and they become discouraged and quit.

Perhaps we have all been discouraged at times with the results of our work. Yet we have no reason to be, because God has promised that He will keep our work from becoming a failure. This promise we must accept by faith in every task, whether great or small.

In a large city, one of our most prominent evangelists with his large crew of workers had just completed a very successful evangelistic campaign. Among those baptized were a number of young people. These young people were turned over to one of the young ministers to organize for missionary work. Being young people and new in the truth, their energies were at a high pitch. Nothing less than a public evangelistic campaign would satisfy them. They scoured the town in search of a meeting place. They finally located an old church that had not been used for a long time. It was badly in need of repairs. But this did not stop the determination of these young people. They first donated all they had, and then they solicited the rest.

They used the money for materials; but they did the work themselves. They even painted the entire church on the inside. Finally everything was ready for the opening night.

Naturally everybody was expecting a packed house. A young interne, who is now a successful conference evangelist, was chosen as the speaker. All of the young people turned out that night to see the crowd. But only a few besides themselves came out. They were disappointed, but not discouraged. They began to suggest reasons for such a small number in attendance for the first night; and began to whip up new zeal to overcome these obstacles. But the next night it was even worse, and each night saw fewer and fewer until they had nobody but themselves attending. Even their own number had dwindled down like Gideon's army, because of the lack of excitement of a large crowd.

After three weeks, they decided to close, admitting their efforts to be a failure. The last Friday night of the series, the courageous pastor preached a sermon, telling these young people that no work of God is ever a failure; that they would see souls in the kingdom of heaven as the result of this evangelistic campaign.

After the young interne, together with all the other workers except the pastor, had moved on to other fields, the pastor learned that one of the married couples who had been prominent in helping in the series of meetings, was still giving Bible studies to a family whom they found while giving out literature. This family had never come out to the meetings—not even once. This young married couple came to the pastor several times with the intention of giving up the studies, but he encouraged them to go on. The night they planned to give their last study, the young

son of the family came in for the first time. Later he was examined on church doctrines and baptized by the pastor.

This young man soon after joined a C.C.C. Camp. Here he held Sabbath school and church by himself. His comrades made fun of him, but he continued. Finally he got some of his friends to join him, and for the sermon each Sabbath he preached our doctrines to them. Two of these boys were baptized by the same pastor who had baptized him. One of these boys in turn, went home and talked to his family about his new-found faith, and left them some literature.

After two years the same pastor was transferred to the city where this boy's parents lived. He baptized the mother. While he was examining the mother on the church doctrines, preparatory to baptism, a daughter, who was just getting ready to take the nurse's course at a hospital that was operated by her church, defiantly said that she would never change her religion. However two years later the girl wrote to this same pastor, asking him when she could be baptized. After finishing her nurse's course, she continued her training in one of our schools. During the summer months, she worked in a private hospital. Here she met a Catholic girl who had planned to be a nun. The nurse led her into the truth, and now the former Catholic girl is attending one of our schools. The mother entered the colporteur work, and continued until she laid down her life in service.

The son who brought the truth home to his family was later drafted into the army. He became friendly with another soldier, and by the time they arrived in England, his friend was ready to be baptized and join the church. After they got out of the army, they both entered one of our colleges in the United States. It was not long before the C.C.C. Camp convert had influenced his only brother to join them. The boy who

went to the C.C.C. Camp right after baptism is now one of our successful ministers.

None of this would have ever happened had it not been for the evangelistic campaign that was given up as a failure. And this is not all. New chapters are being added every year to this soul-winning story, and they will continue, becoming greater and greater until Jesus comes.

This is not an unusual experience. It is just God's fulfillment of His promises. But "when we give ourselves wholly to God, and in our work follow His directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment. He would not have us conjecture as to the success of our honest endeavors. Not once should we even think of failure. We are to co-operate with One who knows no failure."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 363. Again in *Ministry of Healing*, page 159, "The humblest workers, in co-operation with Christ, may touch chords whose vibrations shall ring to the ends of the earth, and make melody throughout eternal ages."

May God have all our energies to work for Him; and may we always believe that God will make every act that we perform for Him succeed.

Oregon Soul Winners

In Eugene, Oregon, both men and women are active in personal work. While there are a number of veteran workers in the church, many of the workers are new members. A group of sixteen does class and field work on Sabbath afternoons.

A group of women, mothers, and housekeepers, meet every Thursday morning for prayer and the practice of giving Bible studies to each other. They are now giving Bible studies to ten individuals whom they found in the distribution of the "Prediction Series."

Another class, in which a number of em-

ployed young women participate, was formed to meet on Tuesday evenings. For a while they did their class work and gave out the literature all in one evening, but now considerable more time is spent by some of the members doing follow-up work.

Remarkable results are being seen from the efforts of these members. Two sisters found a lady in the first square block they worked who was so interested she immediately began taking Bible studies. Another sister, though in very poor health, has visited her whole neighborhood within the past few months with literature. She has interested six families in taking Bible studies, and a number of the members of these families have either been baptized, or are now ready for baptism.

Co-ordinating All Departments for Soul Winning

(This is the first part of an article by Roy L. Benton, dealing with a subject vital to every Home Missionary worker. The last part of it will follow next month.)

Two phases of organization were employed in the establishment of our work throughout the world—geographical and departmental. We have divided the world into sections known as divisions, with responsible division officers and committees, in order that every portion of the world may come directly under the influence of our organized work. These divisions, in turn, are comprised of Union Conferences made up of Local Conferences, which include districts having churches, companies, and isolated members. This type of organization enables us to operate our work very effectively.

As the work grew, it became obvious that it must be considered from another angle—that of the various kinds of work within the denomination. As the objective of the denomination's work is soul winning, it, therefore, is the objective of each line of work to win souls. Through the gift of the Spirit of prophecy, we have been led, step by step, in promoting various lines of work—educational, health, religious liberty, publishing, Sabbath school, home missionary, young peoples', temperance, and press relations.

With the rapid growth of the work, each department has been more fully organized, until now we have many departments making up the whole; and there is a possibility that the leadership of each line may be tempted to push their department to the point where other departments may be disadvantaged. There is definite need to see that all departments understand and maintain an over-all objective.

Organization is the pooling of our individual and departmental efforts toward the reaching of collective goals. That goal, with us, is soul winning. Any plan, or any endeavor, which does not definitely contribute to soul winning is not to be considered. We are not set up to glorify men, but to glorify God. If the reaching of certain goals is only to call attention to an individual rather than to win souls to the gospel, we should abandon that endeavor. Church members and workers



Women's Missionary Group of Eugene, Oregon. Members are giving studies to ten individuals.



Misses Thelma Peterson and Leah Neighbors with Mrs. Lois Lotspeich with whom they are studying.

should be constantly reminded that our real success lies not in human efforts in rivalry and competition, but, rather, in our individual relation to God and our co-operative relationship to our brethren.

There is a place and a way for the educational work to win souls for God. There is also a place for the Missionary Volunteer department to do this, likewise the Sabbath School, Home Missionary, and all the other

departments, but in their forging ahead toward this objective, they must remember they are a *part* of a whole and not the whole. Each department is a wheel within the wheel, and each cog in each wheel has a definite work and responsibility, and the success of the work to be done by the master wheel depends upon the loyalty and co-operation of the wheels within the wheel.

(To be concluded)

For instance, here is a letter from a lady who belongs to a — church! "They are very stubborn about their belief of the Sabbath day. How can I convince a whole church that I am right and they are wrong about Sundaykeeping?"

Then again we find tremendous changes in the eating habits and living habits of people. Here is a testimony: "I would like to be enrolled in the Twentieth Century Bible Course again. I bought this book that I have been reading and studying from your representative. My husband has changed in some ways in keeping the Sabbath as I prayed and hoped he would. My health is the best it has been in eight years since I started keeping the Sabbath and eating what God told us to eat and not eating what He told us not to eat. My husband is very much pleased over my being healthier than I have been in so long. I made a vow to God that if He would show me the way, I would keep it, and I intend to do so."

We are to urge all of our people to faithfully distribute enrollment cards and really invite people to study in this way as it familiarizes individuals thoroughly with the doctrines of the message and establishes them in the truth. In fact, it truly brings them face to face with the necessity for a clear decision. Listen to this testimony, "Truly I am in the valley of decision. Please pray that God will help me to make the right decision."

Truly the agency of the Holy Spirit directs the activities of God's people in securing interest through this avenue.

J. O. MARSH.

Weekly Church Missionary Services

July 3

Securing Enrollments in the Bible Correspondence School

God is greatly blessing the Bible Correspondence School plan as a very definite source of soul winning. "Everyone who has received the gospel has been given sacred truth to impart to the world. God's faithful people have always been aggressive missionaries, consecrating their resources to the honor of His name, and wisely using their talents in His service."—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 109. The Bible Correspondence School produces stable commandment keepers.

HOW CAN ENROLLMENTS BE SECURED FOR THE SCHOOL?

One of the most effective ways to enroll students is to organize church members into bands and allocate each band a certain district, preparatory to the distribution of enrollment cards. These cards (most of them are the size of post cards, whether single, double, or triple folded) can be secured from the local conference Bible School. As a spearhead to precede the enrollment cards, several pieces of literature may be systematically given, one piece each week. This creates a definite interest on the part of the prospect to learn more of the word of God. As the last piece of literature is passed out, an enrollment card should be presented and the person invited to enroll.

Another good way to use the enrollment cards is to punch a hole in the upper left-hand corner of the card and attach a string, in color if desired, which enables the one distributing the cards to hang one of them on the door knob of each home. This presents the card in a very attractive manner. It is also possible to have the cards prepared in this way by the printer without too much expense. This type of program should also be systematically organized so that every home within the given district may be contacted.

Should the outlying territory be worked, it would be best to first secure from the post office the number of rural boxes, and address the enrollment cards to box holders. (For details consult the postmaster.) Never forget that everyone should carry a few enrollment cards for the Bible Correspondence School with him wherever he goes. There are always opportunities of enrolling students while work-

ing, traveling on the bus or train, shopping, visiting, vacationing, or wherever one may be. Still another very successful method of securing enrollments is on Saturday night to place the cards in the hands of people on the street and in the parked automobiles.

In mapping out the territory for various bands and church members to work, great care should be taken to perfect the organization so that the territory is covered thoroughly and systematically. Small charts such as the one below, showing the territory each group is responsible for, are helpful in this connection. Following such a plan materially cuts down the chance for misunderstanding which is likely to occur when people rely on verbal instructions.

Name _____
 Address _____ Church _____
 Band No. _____ District _____

L. D. PRATT.

July 10

Bible School Experiences

The Twentieth Century Bible School has proved to be a very effective and inexpensive soul-winning endeavor. People who live within a short distance of a church learn of the truth and are amazed to know that there is such a thing as a Seventh-day Adventist in existence.

This was the case with a young lady who wrote to us as follows: "I cannot describe the peace and understanding I have received since I began worshipping on His day. I feel like a person just beginning to live. For years I have yearned for the truth and a better understanding of God's word."

We also find people strongly entrenched in other congregations who face mighty decisions.

July 17

Follow-Up Contacts in Correspondence Schools

When Paul advised Timothy to "study to show thyself approved unto God . . . rightly dividing the Word of truth," he touched on an important means of convincing individuals of the truth of God's Word. (2 Timothy 2:15.)

The Bible Correspondence School has opened to us a different, a new, and better approach to many sincere hearts. However, as important as the personal study is to the individual interested, it is seldom sufficient in itself to win him to Christ. We must follow up every interest with a personal contact.

With the hundreds enrolled in our Bible Correspondence Schools it becomes impossible for the Bible School instructor or even the district pastor to contact all of these students. Here, then, is a vast missionary field for our trained layman. As soon as he is ready to enter this field of missionary endeavor, he will be supplied with names from the Bible Correspondence School or by the district pastor. He should make these contacts as a representative of the Bible School, inquiring as to the interest, and making himself available for help in the study of the lessons. If he cannot make personal visits, he can write letters.

One church took a list of twenty names and made follow-up contacts with personal letters and by sending a year's subscription to the *Present Truth*. Later the pastor held a series of meetings in this locality and some have

been baptized and others are definitely interested. It is indeed a privilege to help others to learn of Jesus.

"The spirit of unselfish labor for others gives depth, stability, and Christlike loveliness to the character, and brings peace and happiness to its possessor."—*Steps to Christ*, p. 84.

The time has come when every church member should be working for his friend and neighbor. Let us take advantage of these Bible School interests and work for them, making personal contact for Bible studies and missionary visits. We are told through the Spirit of prophecy that "Satan is now seeking to hold God's people in a state of inactivity, to keep them from acting their part in spreading the truth, that they may at last be weighed in the balance and found wanting."—*Testimonies*, Vol. I, p. 260. Let us arouse ourselves and contact these Bible School interests.

—W. A. SCRIVEN.

July 24

Decision Time for Bible Correspondence School Students

Today we are blessed with a response to our message unlike anything in the history of our work. Our ministers and Bible instructors are unable to make the number of calls requested from interested people desiring Bible studies. These calls come as a result of evangelistic efforts, radio broadcasts, Bible Schools, free-literature distributions and the colporteur ministry. The fast-growing local conference Bible Schools and Voice of Prophecy interests are piling up on the desks of the church pastors and the district leaders.

This prompts a special call for laymen at this time to unite their efforts with the ministers to help meet the numerous calls for Bible studies and personal visits necessary to harvest into the remnant church the Bible school enrollees. "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."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 352.

Decision time with the Bible Correspondence student is different from that developed by way of public efforts or literature ministry. Approaching the student for the first time finds us on vantage ground, doctrinally, for in most cases the student becomes definitely acquainted with the message through the progress of the course.

It should be remembered in connection with decision time for the Bible Correspondence School student that here is a soul who has been introduced to this message by mail. The personal contact is missing. We must assume the student believes what he fills out in the lessons, but we must be careful in assuming that the student plans to follow the teaching of the course. To make this second assumption at the time a personal call is made will, in most cases, put the student on the defensive, and a feeling may develop that there has been a subtle motive in the lessons. He may resent the fact that he has been persuaded to commit himself through the evidence pre-

sented, when at the same time he reserved the right of personal conviction. So, the one making the first call at the home of the student should not assume that the student has gone all the way because he has filled in the lessons. To assume a little at the wrong time can be to assume too much. We can assume they believe what they write in the lessons, but we must remember that not all of the decisions made on paper are fully realized, and for lack of the personal contact these calls for decision are not completely understood.

When we make our first visit, whether after lesson eight or eighteen, the student for the first time begins to see in his lessons more than just so much doctrine on paper. He sees the people of the message. The first visit to the home, whether early or late, may determine his decision. This first call generally produces one of two reactions—either outward pleasure regarding your call, or seeming businesslike indifference. The visitor must be careful at no time to let the enthusiasm of the moment cause him to assume too much, and to express himself as to the student's future conduct. This can change the atmosphere and put the student on the defense, regardless of seeming enthusiasm. This enthusiasm can stem from the fact that the student does not fully comprehend what he has been studying, and too quick an offensive on the worker's part at this time can quickly quench the fire.

The student who seems reserved is in most cases the student who realizes what is comprehended in the course—an ultimate decision to join the remnant church. His reticence may be the result of his realization of the seriousness of the decision. This class is won by doing just the opposite of what they expect us to do. We must show them that we do not want any semblance of pressure to be applied. We come to their homes purely to check upon their progress in the lessons, and to pray with them, calling their attention to the fact that we feel the need of being personally acquainted with our students.

Visiting the students periodically and becoming acquainted with them will add to their lessons a consciousness of a personal message. When they are invited by the school to make decisions on the doctrines and baptism, these become tangible decisions. For them, the representative is a tangible evidence that we are Christians and that others have done what the student is being invited to do.

When we have become definitely acquainted with the students we visit and have helped them or re-explained some of the points they do not completely understand and have seen them progress and complete the course, then it is well to include them in our plans as a people, and in our discussions as to the finishing of the work. Let us then tactfully assume that they are going to be with us. But in general we cannot safely do this until there is the strong bond of personal contact. Of course, there are exceptions.

Let us always remember that as messengers for God our conduct may determine the decision of the individual. Bear in mind that we have plenty of time to do the job right.

Let us sense what the student expects us to do, and disarm him by not applying pressure or undue force. The Spirit of God must bring conviction. A warm, friendly, Christian interest will relieve tension, and will open the door of the home for continual visits, conducive to spiritual growth as well as doctrinal enlightenment for the salvation of souls.

—D. W. O'FILL.

July 31

Bible Correspondence School Triumphs

The Bible Correspondence School offers a very fine avenue of missionary work. To make this school successful, a great deal of personal work should be done by chosen, outstanding, and well-trained men and women in the churches and in the community. Very few pastors and district leaders have sufficient time to do the follow-up work that is necessary. Generally the follow-up work that is being done is not sufficient to make the Bible School as successful as it should be. If we would take from the Bible School the personal work, it would be nothing short of doing missionary work by proxy, which, while better than nothing, is not good enough. Any correspondence work for souls will be successful in direct proportion to the amount of personal work given to the interest.

Individual members who are not qualified to do follow-up work may proceed from house to house and secure enrollments for the school. Others may mail out folders on rural routes to cover the countryside. Still other leading laymen may put on spearhead meetings for three evenings and thus secure enrollments to the Bible School, following that interest up three months later and in many cases establishing a new church as a result.

Last, but not least, is the house-to-house work with the Bible School lessons, taking the first two lessons to the home with all the instructions, everything that is in the envelope, and urging people to enroll. Write down the name and street number of the enrollee and promise to deliver those lessons every week personally. These lessons can be synchronized with a school, the individual picking up ten lessons every Sunday, sending them in one package to the Bible School; the school will return them to the individual, and then each student will receive his envelope with all the instructions, offering envelope, fresh from the school, at the hand of an individual representative. These contacts are most profitable, and it has been found that practically 30 per cent will become members of the church as a result of this personal week-by-week contact.

In the Southern Union in 1947, 271 individuals were baptized who first learned of the truth through the Bible School. That makes about 16 per cent baptized out of all who finished the course. The number finishing the course is 1677 and during the year students contributed offerings to the schools in the union amounting to \$11,992.95.

When we think of the many who are studying by correspondence, we can talk of Bible School triumphs today.

Department of Education

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

EDUCATIONAL DAY

ARE WE TRUE TO OUR TRUST?

Dear Pastors and Elders:

"Nothing is of greater importance than the education of our children and young people. The church should arouse, and manifest a deep interest in this work; for now as never before, Satan and his host are determined to enlist the youth under the black banner that leads to ruin and death."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 165.

"Character-building is the most important work ever entrusted to human beings; and never before was its diligent study so important as now. Never was any previous generation called to meet issues so momentous; never before were young men and young women confronted by perils so great as confront them today."—*Education*, p. 225.

Parents have a divinely imposed duty to educate their children in the fear and love of God, which necessarily implies the imparting of religious instruction. Convinced of the reality of the eternal world, the church would be true to neither God nor man if it did not place emphasis upon Christian education, thus preparing youth to enter into the realities of that eternal world. When Christ insisted that "it would profit a man nothing if he gain the whole world and lose his soul," when He instructed the young man to "go sell all that he had and to come and follow Him," when He taught very clearly that "we have not here a lasting city," and that He has "gone to prepare a place for us," He made paramount the importance of man's destiny. The Christian school keeps these higher interests before our youth. Parents and the church are privileged to co-operate in providing the advantages of such a Christian education for their children.

Once each year this vital subject is presented to our parents, to our young people and to the church. An opportunity is given to sacrifice for the support of Christian education in the elementary schools. The challenge of the Spirit of prophecy quotation which introduces the symposium is answered in the statements of our student veterans.

God grant that each heart will be impressed anew with the importance of this work and the necessity of sustaining it wholeheartedly, both financially and morally.

Yours in behalf of the education of our children,

ARABELLA J. MOORE.

Scripture Reading

"How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?" Judges 13:12.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is His reward." Psalm 127:3.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

"All thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children." Isaiah 54:13.

"The lambs of the flock must be fed, and the Lord of heaven is looking on to see who is doing the work He desires to have done for the children and youth. The church is asleep, and does not realize the magnitude of this matter."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI, p. 197.

"Parents should understand their responsibility, and help their children to appreciate the great privileges and blessings that God has provided for them in educational advantages. . . . Parents should feel that they have a solemn work to do, and should take hold of it earnestly. They are to train and mold the characters of their children."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 368.

"True education is that which will train children and youth for the life that now is, and in reference to that which is to come; for

an inheritance in that better country, even in an heavenly."—*Ibid.*, p. 328.

"If parents could be aroused to a sense of the fearful responsibility which rests upon them in the work of educating their children, more of their time would be devoted to prayer, and less to needless display. They would reflect, and study, and pray earnestly to God for wisdom and divine aid, to so train their children that they may develop characters that God will approve."—*Ibid.*, p. 30.

Suggestive Program July 24

SCRIPTURE READING.

SONG: "We Are Living, We Are Dwelling," No. 359 in *Church Hymnal*.

PRAYER: For our children and for wisdom in meeting our educational problems.

BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF DAY'S TOPIC based on the boxed insert. (By pastor or elder.)

READING: "Saving Our Children."

SPECIAL MUSIC or No. 350 in *Church Hymnal*, "We Have Not Known Thee."

SYMPOSIUM: "What a Christian Education Means After National Service," by veterans.

READING: "Testing Our Faith in Christian Education."

OFFERING: For elementary schools.

SONG: "Heir of the Kingdom," No. 185 in *Church Hymnal*.

Saving Our Children

G. M. MATHEWS

Ever since Adam and Eve, our first parents, were driven out of Eden, this world has been an unfortunate place in which to rear children. Now it is a thousand-fold more so. Something awful is happening to our youth. Seven out of eight of them quit attending the Sunday schools by the time they are fifteen years of age. Fully one half of our population never attend church—some say the average is nearer 70 per cent and increasing! Since the homes have fallen down on the religious instruction of the children, and the public schools maintain a strictly secular and sometimes even an antireligious program, the result is a generation of religious illiterates—youth who know little about religion and care less. One has but to observe the language, dress, ambitions, reading, and amusements of modern young people to become apprehensive as to the possibility of developing in our youth characters "formed according to the divine Likeness" amidst such associates. (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 332.)

From the Spirit of prophecy we quote: "We are living in an unfortunate age for children. A heavy current is setting downward to perdition, and more than childhood's experience and strength is needed to press against

this current, and not be borne down by it."—*Testimonies*, Vol. I, p. 397.

What would you think of a parent who selected a site for his home in a notoriously unhealthy swamp where swarmed mosquitos bearing the dreaded yellow fever germs, where camouflaged quicksand bogs were prevalent, and where many a man and animal had gone down to a horrible death; or near a river whose treacherous currents had caused the destruction of many who attempted to swim in its inviting waters? You would say, "The risks are too great. It would require a miracle to save his family in such a place." True. What must the angels think of parents who allow their children to grow up in environments just as unhealthy for spiritual development as these sites would be for physical health. I venture now the first requirement for saving our children: *We must separate them from spiritually unhealthy environments.*

Note carefully the words in this most earnest appeal from God through His servant: "Before the overflowing scourge shall come upon the dwellers of the earth, the Lord calls upon all who are Israelites indeed to prepare for that event. To parents He sends the warning cry, Gather your children into your own houses; gather them away from those who are disregarding the commandments of God, who are teaching and practicing evil. Get out of the large cities as fast as possible. Establish church schools. Give your children the word of God as the foundation of all their education."—*Ibid.*, Vol. VI, p. 195.

The other day a national authority, discussing the problem of juvenile delinquency, said, "It is not enough to keep our children out of jail!" All Seventh-day Adventists will promptly and heartily agree with this. Neither is a negative program sufficient to save our children. Then, in addition to separating them from the corrupting influences of the world, *we must provide an environment with positive religious values.*

The positive elements necessary for physical growth are sunshine, fresh air, food, moisture, and exercise. In like manner, certain positive elements are essential for spiritual growth in our children. There must be the warming, melting, subduing rays of God's love, the communion with God represented by the breathing of the plant or animal, the bread and water of life as found in the Word, and the participation of the children in building Christian character and in sharing their faith with others, which is spiritual exercise—both profitable and essential. It will be readily seen that more than Biblical knowledge is required; that public school education *with Bible added* is far short of the plan. To develop good plants, one must utilize all of the essential elements. And so in the development of Christian characters, there must be a well-balanced but adequate program.

Notice how these required positive elements blend into a beautiful whole in the church-school program. The opening devotional exercises really open the minds and hearts of the teachers and pupils alike to the warming, melting rays of the sunshine of

God's love. The day is turned over to Him! During the Bible classes, which occupy about one fourth of each day—the *first part when minds are fresh and alert*—the pupils are fed the bread and water of life and taught to *know, believe, and conform* to its teachings. Throughout the day, in every class, the beauty, the power, the necessity of religion in the life is held before the pupils. Submission to God, dependence upon Him for success, communion with Him in regard to all the experiences of life—these and all the other elements of sound spiritual growth run like golden threads throughout the day. The grace at meals, the J. M. V. Society program, which is held every Wednesday morning and conducted entirely by the children, the prayer bands, the missionary work sponsored by the teacher—all are mighty conditioners in the lives of the pupils. We live ourselves into right living, we do not teach it. Religion must be *caught*, not taught. In such an environment, with such subject matter, in contemplation of God and the "Great Goodness," the pupil develops attitudes, appreciations, interests, and life habits which bring about the fulfillment of that glorious, heartening promise of Proverbs 22: 6: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

But some may say, "That sounds good, but does it really work that way?" Yes, it does. There may be seeming exceptions in a particular school if checked for a short period, but the statistics which have been carefully gathered over a period of years for the denomination as a whole testify most eloquently to the truthfulness of these assertions. A few specific examples will bring courage to all. One of our most successful conference presidents tells the story that, as a lad in church school, he and some of his comrades once decided to refuse to take part in a program the church-school teacher was preparing. Though from a Christian home, he had never confessed Jesus as his personal Saviour. Try as he might, the little boys were adamant in refusing. The teacher lived in this lad's home and as the boy went up to his room to retire that night he had to pass by the teacher's room. The door was slightly open, and as he passed, he heard the teacher talking aloud. Wondering who could be in there visiting with the teacher, he stopped a moment to listen. The teacher was talking most earnestly to her dearest Friend; and, as the boy listened, he heard his own name mentioned in prayer—a request that God would make him a worker in His cause. The boy hastened to his room, and in tears and with a burdened heart he gave his life to Jesus. It was the beginning of a devoted life for Christ and His church. Heaven alone contains the full record of the wonderful things church-school teachers' prayers have wrought in this denomination. I can speak accurately of the scores of times when prayer changed things in my schools—when God's sweet Spirit wrought miracles in the lives of my students.

At a camp meeting of the Columbia Union Conference this past summer a father proudly

testified to me of the influence of church-school training on his son. The young man was offered a position on the railroad if he would give up his Sabbath. He faced the superintendent squarely and said, "I could never do that, sir." He told his father that it was the training he had received in our schools that was the basis of his strong convictions. He got the job anyway. Another young man, offered an advancement if he would "report for work on Saturdays," said, "That day is not mine to barter with, sir." Indeed, it is the day-by-day deepening and setting of these convictions and principles that makes the promise of Proverbs 22: 6 come to pass. Only the church-school program provides the "here a little and there a little" which makes these convictions part of the life.

I was visiting one of our church schools recently when the teacher pointed out the fact that their playground area was inadequate. She continued, "Since there was insufficient room to play I suggested that we might get physical and spiritual exercise at the same time if we took a part of the noon hour to distribute the Prediction Series tracts to the nearby areas." The idea was received enthusiastically by the children and now they spend several noon hours each week doing this type of missionary work. She stated that the children were anxious to tell of their experiences when school resumed after dinner. This is only one example of the way our schools train the children to love missionary work by actually doing it under the supervision of the teachers. What a powerful influence this has in developing workers with a vision of the great need of the world for the gospel, and in experiencing the supreme joy of sharing their religion with others! It is not surprising, therefore, to discover that our workers, practically without exception, come from our own schools.

The natural result of this kind of a program is baptism and active church membership—the highest and most profitable type of evangelism. Children who begin early in the church school and come from homes which co-operate with and supplement the program of the church school usually find their way into the church by the time they have reached the age of thirteen, and most of them not only do not apostatize later, but go on to higher schools and become full-time workers in the advent cause. Conversely, the statistics show that those who attend the secular schools drop out of the Sabbath schools about this age, and gradually slip away from the church and its teachings. In each case it is largely a matter of the things that were stressed.

And so the salvation of our precious children is largely in our own hands. It depends largely upon what we do for them during the early years. Mostly, it depends upon the program of life they live while in the elementary and secondary school period. God's program requires that we protect them from every evil influence possible during these important early years, and place them in an environment which will provide the positive spiritual program for the building of Christian character.

What a Christian Education Means After National Service

SYMPOSIUM

"Dear youth, what is the aim and purpose of your life? Are you ambitious for education? . . . The fear of the Lord lies at the foundation of all true greatness. . . . Take your religion into your school-life, into your boarding-house, into all your pursuits. . . . You want now to build as you will be able to furnish, to so relate yourself to society and to life that you may answer the purpose of God in your creation."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 82.

"Your intellectual and moral faculties are God's gifts, talents entrusted to you for wise improvement, and you are not at liberty to let them lie dormant for want of proper cultivation. . . . It is for you to determine whether or not the weighty responsibilities that rest upon you shall be faithfully met, whether or not your efforts shall be well directed and your best."—*Ibid.*, p. 86.

My time in national service took me two thirds of the distance around the world, providing extensive travel in both oceans, and an opportunity to set foot on the soil of twenty-four different countries.

In these visits I was impressed by the gross darkness of the inhabitants as respects a real knowledge of true Christianity.

These war experiences instilled in my heart a desire for mission service—a desire to present to these people pure Christianity as Jesus taught it. In preparation for such work following my discharge, I looked for a college that offered three things that I thought necessary in training for foreign missionary service:

FIRST—A place with a natural environment for true Christian living, a place that starts the student on the right road of living for Christ. I sought a campus where my student life could be in harmony with the principle of Christian living.

SECOND—I sought a college where the fundamentals of Christianity are taught directly from the Guidebook—the Bible.

THIRD—I sought a college that emphasizes service for others, a service that might mean presenting truth in the face of overwhelming odds.

With these points in mind, I could only turn to a Seventh-day Adventist college. To me, this returning to a Christian school means a preparation for a life for Christ in this world and for a still better life with Christ in the world to come.—M.R., W.M.C.

To the casual observer there is a distinct difference between a bugle and a school bell, a difference which sets them worlds apart.

Yet to me there is an undefinable something which the two have in common. True, they are both instruments of routine, but there is something more to the similarity than that.

A bit of reflection brings back the stimulation of the bugle call that set every nerve atingle and sent the blood surging through my veins. It was always a call to service, a challenge to new and untried things.

And here I detect the common entity which the school bell and the bugle share. The school bell is not a mere reminder; it is a call

to service, immediate and future. It, too, is a call that demands the best there is in me, not only now but always. It is a call to preparation for larger service.

Herein lies the prime reason for my liking Canadian Union College. I am enthusiastic about this college because day by day it opens before me ever-widening horizons—new fields of service, not only in the distant future but in the immediate present. The principles of integrity, purity, and spirituality which are maintained here are calls to better living that demand determined effort. The lives of Christian teachers and companions, lives worthy of emulation, are a real inspiration. The scholastic, social, and spiritual activities make each day a perfectly complete experience.

I like Canadian Union College because I want to be here. Stepping upon the campus seemed almost like a miracle to me. It was the answer to long years of waiting, working, hoping, and praying.—W.M., C.U.C.

That "eternity" of a little less than three years that I spent in national service was an ever-mounting reminder of my lack of formal schooling. My rehabilitation to school life was a happy, though a moderately difficult one. National service has sharpened my sense of values, and my study is with more purpose than it might ever have been without it. That I am in a Christian college under veteran benefits, leads me to believe that at times my Uncle Sam and my heavenly Father are related. Through them I may be able to give Biblical, technical, living proof of the hope that is within me.—G.B.E., S.M.C.

The value of a Christian education is not appreciated to its fullest extent until one meets the challenge of the world. Close association such as living in army barracks with men not of Adventist faith, as well as seeing the physical and spiritual needs of those in distant lands, presented many phases of this challenge. It was then that I realized most that my two years of work in a non-Adventist college did not fill the needs of a believer in the imminent return of Jesus.

Many times when called upon to defend our faith before superiors, or to present Bible truths to inquirers, it was necessary for me to spend time in study to be sure of facts that should be the ready knowledge of every Adventist.

I am thankful that God has permitted me to return home, and has made it possible for me to attend Pacific Union College to become more firmly grounded in the Bible truths, that I might be better prepared for the medical missionary work.—F.K., P.U.C.

During my service in the Army Nurse Corps it was never my privilege to be stationed with any Seventh-day Adventist nurses or doctors.

It is indeed a thrill to return to a Christian school where we are all working towards one end, where we can feel that we are more definitely a part of God's great plan. My experience in the Far East made me feel that I must prepare myself to work for my Master. Where better could I obtain the needed preparation than in a Christian college?

This spring my husband and I plan to re-

turn to these needy people, and endeavor to aid them in obtaining an education so they can better bring the light of this truth to their fellow men.—R.L.W., W.W.C.

Forty-two months of service in America's armed forces tended to crystallize and confirm in my heart a covenant which, as a boy, I had made with my Father in heaven. Army duty in ten States, in the Philippines, and in Japan presented varying fortunes. Sometimes these experiences were a source of discouragement, but they always strengthened a hitherto ill-defined urge to service in the Master's vineyard. Isaiah's "Here am I, send me" became a clarion call.

Coming to a Seventh-day Adventist college after these years of Army life means the opportunity of training myself more efficiently to take this "gospel of the kingdom" to men like that sergeant in my basic training group who so contemptuously expressed the hope that some day I might be called upon to face enemy gunfire with my Bible as my only protection. To me it means the inestimable privilege of enlightening those white-robed Shinto priests whom I saw prostrate themselves before the gates of the imperial palace in Tokyo. Finally, Christian education means that I may some day be better fitted to implant the name of Christ in the hearts of many with whom I marched, who used that name only in profanity.—R.R.S., U.C.

What does it mean to me to come back to a Seventh-day Adventist college? It means coming from the midst of worldly companions and practices into a holier atmosphere, where the Spirit of Jesus Christ is visibly manifested in the countenances, speech, and habits of my associates. It means being able to work toward a worth-while goal. In short, it means the salvation of my soul as well as the souls of those I hope to win to Christ when I enter the ministry; for if I had not returned to college, I doubt if I would be a Christian today.

I praise God for His wonderful guidance, for leading me back to a Christian institution where I can "study to show [myself] approved, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."—M.S., A.U.C.

During my active military service, circumstances often made it necessary for me to perform some unpleasant tasks and to experience some inconveniences. Doubtless this military service was appreciated by our national government and its individual citizens, which has been demonstrated in the passage of the G. I. Bill, whose provisions give veterans the right to attend educational institutions of their choice.

The opportunity of attending a Christian educational institution is the most precious legacy bequeathed to me by the government. Here, where the divine plan is precisely followed, I have received qualities of intrinsic value to well-rounded personal development.

Having attended a state educational institution prior to military service, I am acquainted with the comparative values of the two distinct theories of education. The Christian training is greatly superior. Now I am truly being prepared for the joy of service in this world and in the world to come.—M.T., O.C.

Testing Our Faith in Christian Education

BY L. R. RASMUSSEN

No one dare deny or ignore the tragic implications and challenges that the present world situation holds for the church. We have come to a great testing moment of human history in which everything is being tried as if by fire. The sinister forces arrayed against Christ and His church compel us to test our faith and re-examine our great commission, define more clearly our doctrinal position, and justify the existence of the institutions established and conducted by the church.

If ever there was a cause worthy of the faith and confidence of the remnant church, it is the cause of Christian education. The church's stability, growth, and vitality can be measured by the faith and interest it takes in the salvation and Christian training of its own children and youth. We have a definite eternal faith. To us this faith is our most precious possession—our very life. This faith of ours is not something that is to end with us. It must go forth to others, to create within them this same definite saving faith.

We are the trustees of the faith for our children and youth. In us, then, the church of yesterday and the church of tomorrow meet. We are, in this our day, living in a world of disillusionment, in a disintegrating world wherein the inner chaos of the mind is more tragic than any outer material chaos. We live in a world that has lost faith not only in God but also in man. In such an age the church is compelled to test its faith, not only its faith in its historical doctrinal positions, but also its faith in its institutions.

In this crisis hour let us re-examine and test our faith in that great institution of the church, the Christian school. Let us test our loyalty to our proclamation that we believe and have faith in Christian education. The willingness of men and women to give time and thought, money and energy to the establishment and maintenance of a church school is one test of what they think about the institution of Christian education. But the greatest test of faith in the educational program of the church is the test of whether we have faith strong enough to send all of our sons and daughters to our own schools.

What do we say when we state our belief in Christian education? Do we say that we have faith strong enough to follow the divine instruction and make provisions for all of our youth? No people have had greater faith in Christian education than the pioneers of this movement. These far-sighted men and women established colleges, academies, and church schools. They recognized that the youth of the church constitute its greatest heritage and asset, and that the very center of the work of the church is the training and saving of these youth. They saw that the great gospel commission to go into all the world could not be accomplished without an army of workers trained in the church's own schools.

Where are we today? Do we have as strong a faith in our schools? Is our faith strong

enough to cause us to sacrifice and struggle to maintain and strengthen them as our founding fathers struggled and sacrificed to establish them? Let us test our educational faith by our works.

Is it surprising that the servant of the Lord has written so much to the remnant church upon the topic of Christian education, and in so definite a manner? Ah, no! There are tremendous issues at stake. The importance of absolute fidelity in carrying out the divine plan in Christian education is clearly stated: "With us, as with Israel of old, success in education depends upon fidelity in carrying out the Creator's plan."—*Education*, p. 50. "The well-being, the happiness, the religious life of the families with which the youth are connected, the prosperity and piety of the church of which they are members, are largely dependent upon the religious education that they receive in our schools."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 497. Such stirring words should surely lead each one of us to test his own faith in the divine plan of Christian education.

In these solemn days—solemn both because of the near approach of the consummation of our hopes in the second advent, and because of the great and stirring events now so near at hand, which are to precede that consummation—we cannot afford to come short in the salvation of our own children and youth. We in the homeland have little conception of the struggles and tribulations facing our brethren in other lands in conducting our denominational schools. But even under trying circumstances, they carry on, realizing that our schools are the greater part of our mission program. Let us test our own faith on this one statement: "Nothing is of greater importance than the education of our children and young people."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 165.

To the believers in the Advent faith, to the believers in Christian education, let us proclaim our loyalty to Christian education by our works. Let us challenge our faith and works by investigation. We can look with a degree of pride upon that record.

Our schools stand at the center of the church's life and activity. Wherever our work has been established, our schools have been established. On every side, from the Christian homes and local churches comes an ever-increasing stream of fine young people to these schools. They come with eager minds to search after knowledge and truth and a Christian philosophy of life. They come by the thousands, by the tens of thousands. They come with burning hearts, seeking a cause big enough and holy enough to demand their all, and to have pointed out to them the many fields ripe unto harvest. They hear in these Christian schools the divine voice asking, "Who will go for Me?" Thank God for the youth who have heard this voice in the Christian school.

Then we look with pride as the order changes. Out in every direction from the gates of these Christian institutions go young men and women, poised, keen, strong in faith, noble and courageous. They are eager now to take their place and to do their share to ad-

vance the cause of Christ. Coming to meet them are our conferences and churches, seeking ministers and Bible instructors; mission fields seeking sturdy leaders to carry the light of the Christian message to dark places; schools seeking teachers who love children and youth; our publishing houses seeking skilled men of character; offices seeking refined Christian secretaries; hospitals seeking doctors and nurses competent to minister to the souls as well as to the bodies.

This is our faith in our schools! Let us proclaim our loyalty to the Christian education of this denomination. The final measure of success of any educational system is the character of its product. Can we not each and every one emphatically say that the product of our educational program justifies our continued confidence in Christian education? Does it not justify the millions of dollars which have been spent in establishing and maintaining these schools the past seventy-five years?

Where would our denominational work be today if it were not for our schools? Our educational system is one of the major factors which has contributed largely to the external growth as well as to the internal strength and doctrinal unity of this movement. Wherever we have a strong school, we have a strong church. Wherever we have a strong conference, there you will find a strong educational work. Wherever you find a strong mission, there you will find a strong school program. There is no such thing in this cause as a strong church, a strong conference, a strong division or mission, where there is a weak educational program. The church that cannot save and train its own young people can never hope to bring a saving message to the world. There should ever be a close relationship between the church and the school.

Let us, individually, test our own faith. What are we doing about this question of Christian education?

1. Are we willing to give of our means for its support?
2. Are we willing to give our boys and girls to be trained?
3. Are we, as church members, making provision for all of our youth?
4. Are we helping to make our denominational schools truly Christian schools? The church schools, academies, colleges, are our first responsibility.

Christian schools can die. Many Christian schools have died. Christian schools may still die. They die because the churches responsible for their life fail to meet that responsibility. The Christian schools cannot survive without a Christian constituency. In turn, the Christian schools are responsible to the churches.

Churches can die. Many churches have died. Churches may continue to die. Some have died for lack of Christian leadership. It is the responsibility of the Christian schools to educate Christian leadership for the churches: leadership in the pulpit, leadership in the pew, leadership in the mission fields.

Ours is a precious heritage. Let us build anew around the two institutions—the church and the school.

Our Foreign Missions

Voice of Prophecy Progress

The Bible Correspondence School in Africa is moving on into very large fields of endeavor. While we now have over 125,000 students, we believe it is possible to increase this number to 200,000 students by the end of 1948. We are putting forth our greatest advertising campaign, which will be launched during the month of March. We have discovered that the more we advertise and acquaint the public with what we are doing, the greater is the desire on their part to study our lessons. We have now established our own printing department with electric press equipment, and we hope we have overcome our greatest handicap—that of getting our lessons out to the public.

So many letters flow in to us every day from our readers telling us of their desire to keep the Sabbath that we are convinced God has multitudes of honest souls in this country who are seeking the light of truth. One of our students, a minister of one of the large denominations in this country, has recently accepted the truth, and when speaking at one of our camp meetings, he made this statement: "I am sure there are many ministers in the various denominations who are convinced that God has more light for them, and they will accept the light of this truth when it comes to them." Then he added significantly, "But, brethren, remember, it means much for a minister to confess that he has been wrong, and change his whole life practices. You should pray for them most earnestly."

Among the many recent outstanding experiences, let us refer to a few:

A lady who works in a large department store in one of our cities learned of this truth through the Voice of Prophecy. When encouraged to go to her employer to seek to get the Sabbath off, she made this contact, and then wrote: "I want to tell you of the wonderful experience I have had, and how God has blessed the interview I have had with my manager. I have been given the Sabbath off, and I no longer have the 'mark of the beast' in my hand. For a long time I had been praying that God would send me light from His word, for I had been dissatisfied with my experience. I praise the Lord for the peace that has come to me since I began to keep the Sabbath." This lady has now been baptized.

Two sisters, living in one of our large cities and who have been connected with a bank for some years, learned of the Voice of Prophecy lessons through the newspapers. They write that they had tried every form of religion in the country but could find no satisfaction or peace of soul. A letter at hand today expresses their joy and happiness in

the stand they have taken for the Sabbath truth. Work has been arranged with the bank so that they can fully obey the Lord, and they are looking forward to being baptized soon.

We have rejoiced to see how firmly native men take their stand for the truth. A man who has worked for twenty years in the Forestry Department in the Cape Province wrote us as follows: "I could no longer disobey God by breaking the Sabbath, so I resigned from my position at the end of December, and last Sabbath I kept my first Sabbath. I do not know what I will do, but this I will do—I will serve God and keep the Sabbath as long as I live, if God will help me."

One of our greatest inspirations is to see the number of young people, among all races, who, after studying our lessons, take their stand for this truth. Our schools throughout South Africa will have many of these young people in training this year. Helderberg, Good Hope, and Bethel Training College will have many students of the Voice of Prophecy. They are studying to become workers for the Lord, and we can say that a number more would have entered school this year if arrangements could have been made in time.

—E. L. CARDEY.

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

An unusual and very interesting incident has recently come to light as a by-product of the distribution of the relief clothing which has brought joy and comfort to hundreds of needy workers, believers, and others in our field.

The story comes to us from Brother W. Ismond, of the Northeast China Union. This field received an abundant supply of relief clothing, and distribution was made to our people wherever they could be reached. Because of the liberal amount it was decided to allocate some of this clothing to needy Russians stranded in Mukden, and as soon as this became known many came for help.

Brother Ismond writes: "They came,—men, women, and children—with shoes torn and clothing in rags; and the tales of woe that reached our ears stagger the imagination. We heard of fathers and sons being snatched from their families . . . leaving the women and children at the mercy of the soldiers, in poverty and want, a prey to disease, cold, and hunger. They told of cases where mothers lacked clothing to cover the bodies of their children for burial.

"One of these unfortunate women came to us with her little boy of five years, and, after receiving her portion of relief clothing, told us that her mother is now in Australia but that she had lost her address. She had had

no contact with her for the past seven or eight years. This woman was without food or sufficient clothing, her husband having been taken away by the soldiers."

So impressed was Brother Ismond with this woman's story that he wrote a letter to the president of the Queensland Conference, giving him the name of the mother and the city where she was supposed to have lived years ago—the city of Brisbane.

The chances seemed small that the mother could be located after so many years and with such meager information. Days and weeks passed without any word from Australia. Occasionally the woman would come again for help. There were days when she and her child had nothing warm to eat, and their lot was a hard one.

Then one day a telegram came, and later a letter, with the happy news that the mother had been located, and is a faithful Adventist sister in Brisbane. She had remarried since her daughter had last heard from her, and is known to our people in Brisbane by her present name, but when she was approached to help locate a Mrs. Trebuhina, it was learned that she herself bore that name before her last marriage. She is making it possible for her daughter and family to join her in Australia. What a happy reunion it will be for them!

A Fever Rebuked

For some years the members of our Hope Bay, East Jamaica, church had been giving literature to a prominent member of one of the other churches in the community. His response was indifferent. However, a few months ago this man went to the United States for several months. While there he began to take the Voice of Prophecy Bible Course and soon became convinced of the truth. He wrote home to the leader of the Hope Bay church, expressing his conviction and requesting baptism for himself and his wife upon his return to Jamaica.

Recently this man returned to Hope Bay and began to plan for baptism. The date was set—an early Sunday morning in December. The Sabbath preceding this date he and his wife attended all of the services of the day. But in the middle of the following night he was stricken with a raging fever. When day dawned he was no better. The wife sought the leader of the church, who came to see the sick man. Prayer for his relief followed, but the fever clung tenaciously. However, so determined to follow his Lord in baptism was the sick man that he decided to have the brethren help him to the river and be baptized regardless of the burning fever.

Even by the riverside the fever continued to possess him. Then he and his wife went down into the water for immersion. When Brother Jackson came up from the water, his fever was entirely gone. God had honored his faith. He was completely healed. Later in the day he was back at his work. Today Brother and Sister Jackson rejoice in the blessed third angel's message.

—S. C. MYERS.

A Look at the Philippines in 1948

Yesterday two of our colporteurs dropped into the Publishing House to pick up a few books. One of the brethren who came in has been canvassing in Manila and he has had several requests for the book *Education*. It seems that there is quite a demand for this book. He told me that in the Sto. Tomas University, which is probably the largest Catholic university in the Philippines, they are using Mrs. White's book, *Education* in their classes: I thought this was most unusual and very interesting. Probably because they are using it there, many people have become interested in this book. The other brother who came in also had an interesting experience to tell about canvassing the Dean of Baler Institute. He was selling the book *The Great Controversy* in the English language, and the gentleman he was canvassing became unusually interested in it. It turned out that this man was the head of the history department. He insisted that he have the copy that our colporteur was using as a sample, and, of course, our brother allowed him to have that particular book. He asked Brother Mora, the colporteur, to speak before his class. Our brother took his prospectus and gave a short lecture and canvass to the class and was able to sell fifteen copies of the book, *The Great Controversy*. Brother Mora told me that they are using our book as a textbook in their history studies, and he also stated that in that same institution they are using *Modern Medical Counselor* in connection with their home economics department.

These experiences were very heart warming to me and I thought you would enjoy reading them. Probably during the year 1948 we will have many more of this nature to send to you. The new year promises to be a most thrilling one here in the Philippines, and as we begin to produce books in the dialects, and build up our colporteur force even further, with the blessing of God, there should be almost no limit to what may be accomplished in the distribution of literature. According to the morning paper today, the business outlook here in the Philippines is even brighter for the year 1948 than it was during the past year. So with these opportunities before us, I ask that you in the Department in Washington remember in prayer the publishing work in this field.

—W. J. BLACKER.

God Said "Go" and It Went

Fred is a native of the island of Epi in the New Hebrides, and it was through this young man that God chose to work in fulfillment of the command given by Jesus so long ago. For many years we had sought ways and means to establish our work on the island of Epi, but the way seemed hedged about on every side. More than that, another mission body claimed that it was their island, and no other mission was to operate thereon. So far, they had seen that they had their way.

SPECIAL DAYS AND OFFERINGS

JULY 3

Home Missionary Day

Topic: The Unique Function of
the Bible Correspondence School

JULY 17

Midsummer Offering

JULY 24

Educational Day
and Offering for
Elementary Schools

Fred's father was a teacher for this particular body and had been trained in their schools, acquiring a knowledge of English, mathematics, and Bible. When he died, Fred began to study the books he left behind; and, as he read the Bible, the Spirit of God revealed to him the Sabbath truth as well as health reform, and its relation to unclean foods. Then he began to inquire concerning others who believed what he had had impressed upon his mind. After many inquiries he found that on an island across a very treacherous stretch of water lived an old man by the name of Mark. This man, so he was told, kept the seventh day of the week as his Sabbath, and did not eat pork or shellfish. With this knowledge Fred set out in his dugout for the island of Lopeio. On arrival he found Mark a genial old fellow and eager to tell him all he knew of the advent message he had learned to love. But Mark was old when the truth came to him, and he could not tell Fred all he wanted to know. How he longed that someone else were there to give this seeker for truth the light he so much desired! Between them they decided that they would make a request of the God of heaven that on the morrow Mark's teacher would pay him a visit, so that they could study together. The next morning both were eager and expectant, waiting for the Lord to answer their prayer. And He did not fail them, for during the middle of the morning a canoe was sighted making its way toward their island. Both men went down to the beach to welcome the visitors; and there, with others on the canoe, was Sam Dick, the man they were waiting for. You can imagine what a thrill this was for Fred. After the preliminary handshake all around, the trio retired to the house of Mark, and there studied long into the night, grounding Fred in the ways of the Sabbath mission.

Fred returned to his island home thrilled with all he had learned and heard. Naturally, he could not keep quiet, but began proclaiming his new-found faith far and wide. By the time this came to our ears, there was a Sabbath school of fifty meeting each Sabbath morning after having been taught the lesson daily by Fred, who had been instructed on what to do and how to do it by his newly found friends.

—A. D. PIETZ.

Advent Message in Germany

(Continued from page 5)

given the proclamation of the gospel, many of our brethren have been emboldened to engage again in renewed missionary activity. We know that much remains to be done, and it can be done. However we are very grateful to the Lord for the growth that we have experienced in the year 1947. From approximately one third of our brethren we have been able to receive reports of their devoted and faithful service in our Home Missionary work. During the past year they have made 120,825 visits, 200,827 Bible readings were given, 52,503 missionary letters have been written, and 24,355 souls have been brought into our general meetings. The fruit of this personal endeavor on the part of our believers amounted to 2,361 souls that have been baptized as a result. This is about 42 per cent of the total number baptized in 1947. Thus we have every reason to rejoice and to be grateful for the gracious leadership and the help of the Lord during the past year; and we look forward to the future with great courage inasmuch as we are convinced that we may ask great things and expect great things from Him. "Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things." Joel 2: 21.

As to the circulation of our religious literature, we were unfortunately not in a position to carry this through on a larger scale because the printing and the publication of literature was restricted on the one hand with regards to paper, and on the other also by the prohibition of the authorities. The fact that the General Conference was able to supply us with paper enabled us to materialize some of our plans which we had in mind, and we greatly hope to make further progress along this line in the new year. The first small books that have been printed—such as, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, *Steps to Christ*, and the pamphlet entitled, *The Adventists*,—have not only been purchased by our own brethren of the faith, but many of these books have been loaned out to friends and acquaintances, who by this means have become interested in the truth and also have been won to the faith. The series of *Lichtblicke* ("Light Flashes") with twelve subjects on the message, which are similar to the "Good News" series is now being printed. Though we could dispose of an edition ten times the volume that we are now planning, we will be, nevertheless, very happy and grateful if we can actually produce the edition that has been provided. Though the possibilities may fluctuate in these changing times—and they affect the Home Missionary work—there remains this certainty: The methods may change, but the work of the Lord must go forward.

—MAX BUSCH.

"We must be as courteous to a man as we are to a picture, to which we are willing to give the advantage of a good light."—Ralph Waldo Emerson.