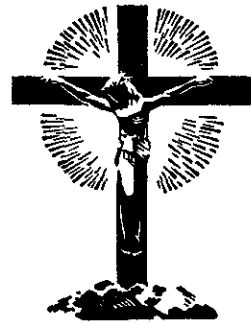
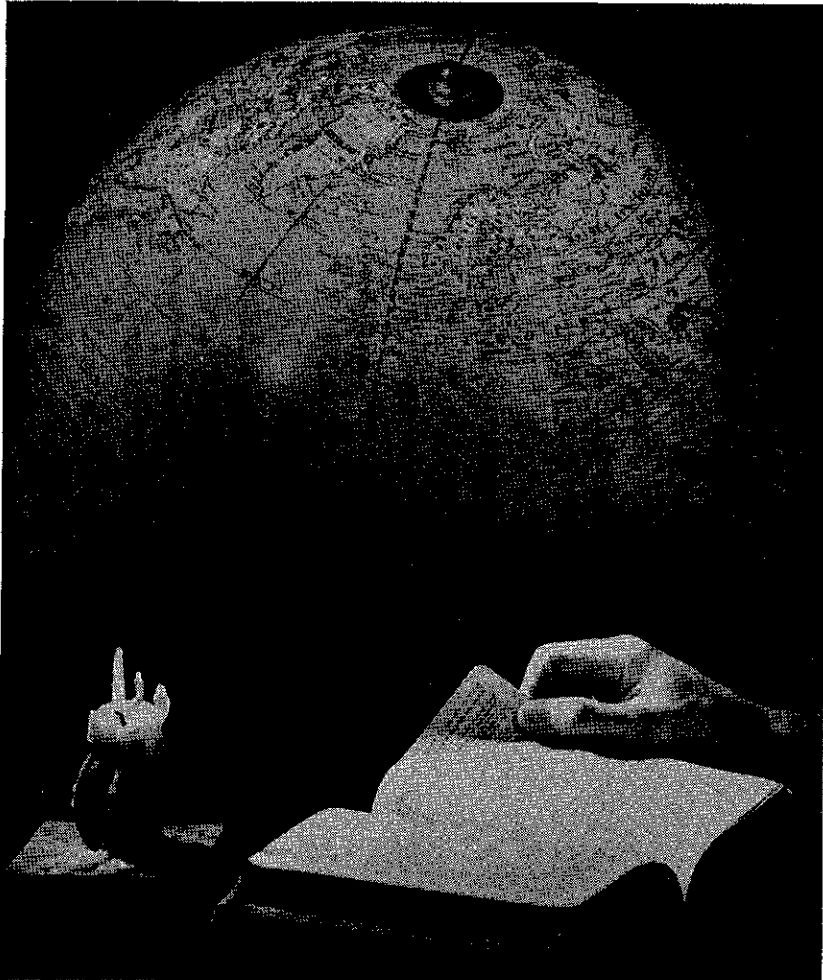


THE CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE

Vol. 36

January, 1949

No. 1



STIR ME!

By Bessie Porter Head

Stir me, oh, stir me, Lord! I care not how;
But stir my heart in passion for the world.
Stir me to give, to go—but most to pray.
Stir till Thy blood-red banner be unfurled
O'er lands that still in heathen darkness lie—
O'er deserts where no cross is lifted high.

Stir me, oh, stir me, Lord, till all my heart
Is filled with strong compassion for these souls;
Till Thy compelling "must" drives me to prayer;
Till Thy constraining love reach to the poles,
Far north and south, in burning, deep desire;
Till east and west are caught in love's great fire!

Stir me, oh, stir me, Lord! Thy heart was stirred
By love's intensest fire, till Thou did'st give
Thine only Son, Thy best beloved One,
E'en to the dreadful cross, that I might live;
Stir me to give myself so back to Thee,
That Thou can'st give THYSELF again through me.

Stir me, oh, stir me, Lord! For I can see
Thy glorious triumph day begin to break.
The dawn already gilds the eastern sky.
Oh, church of Christ, arise! AWAKE! AWAKE!
Oh, stir us, Lord, as heralds of that day!
For the night is past—our King is on His way!

EDITORIAL

Facing the World's Crisis

As we enter another year we look out upon a world whose foundations are crumbling before our eyes. The present international situation is without precedent in the history of the human race. Men are groping about in the fog of uncertainty, stunned, looking for a leader who can show them the way out of the debacle that points to but one final outcome—the total destruction of civilization.

A pall of smoke is hanging over the world, obscuring the light of hope. Ever since the close of the recent world war fear has been growing in intensity and the conviction is gripping men's hearts that another world war is in the making and that it is only a matter of time until the tramp of marching men will again be heard in every land and the flame of war will redden the sky as the cities of earth burn like torches, and weary, heartsick people will flee once more from the terrors of modern warfare.

And what does all this mean to Seventh-day Adventists? For years we have been looking forward to the day when the nations of the world will join in battle in the last great conflict before the coming of Christ. The Eternal One has a conflict with the nations. He is indicting them for their wickedness and has decreed:

"I am summoning a sword to fall on all the inhabitants of the world, says the Lord of hosts. So prophesy all this against them; tell them: The Eternal will roar from on high, from his sacred abode he will utter a cry, thundering at his own homestead, shouting at all dwellers upon earth, as men shout loudly at the vintage. The din resounds to the world's end, for the Eternal arraigns the nations, he indicts all mankind, and puts the wicked to the sword. The Lord of hosts declares: from race to race calamity extends, a mighty storm is stirring from the earth's far ends." Jeremiah 25:29-32, Moffat.

This prophecy is nearing its fulfillment. Soon these judgments of His wrath will be falling upon a world in rebellion against God. "The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant." Isaiah 24:5.

Soon—no one knows how soon—these conditions will be upon us. During these days, while here in America we are enjoying comparative peace and prosperity, we should put forth all our energies and rededicate our lives and our means to the finishing of the task that has been committed to us.

We are facing a new year. Its opportunities are still ungrasped and its problems still unknown. We are living, however, on borrowed time. We cannot expect 1949 to be a year

of peace in a world in turmoil, but to the child of God it may be, and I trust will be, a year of victory and willing service as the message sweeps on to its triumph.

—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.

Dorcas Leader—Church Board Member

Question: A California reader asks, "Will you please explain whether the leader of the Dorcas Society is a member of the church board?"

Answer: Inasmuch as the leader of the Dorcas organization is elected by the church and occupies an important place in the missionary activities of the church, it was recommended by the Autumn Council of 1945 that the leader of the Dorcas organization be a member of the church board. The Church Manual, published in 1942, does not make provision for the Dorcas leader to be on the church board but the next revision of the Manual will include the Dorcas leader among the elected officers who are members of the board.

Transferring Members

Question: If a church member moves to another city is it proper to vote him a transfer even though he has not requested it?

Answer: No, this is not in harmony with our church policy. It is customary to vote a letter of transfer only when the member concerned has requested it. Church membership is a personal relationship of an individual to the body of Christ and the church should recognize this relationship and avoid anything that appears like an arbitrary action.

The member however, should be encouraged to keep his membership in the church where he is attending. The church clerk may properly suggest to an absentee member that it would be to his advantage to change his membership to a church nearer the place where he resides or write to the clerk of the other church asking her to get the member to consent to a transfer of his membership.

Baptism Creates Interest

Pastor S. L. Khandagale writes that he is exceedingly happy to report that one more person has been baptized during their village effort at Paragaon Kodali, Kolhapur State. He says that baptism by immersion has caused a great deal of interest in the village and is the main topic of conversation. The people seem to feel that baptism is a wonderful way of taking one's stand for Christ. Many other Christians in the village have been led to study more about true baptism. There are still some who hope to be baptized at the close of the effort. Please pray for the effort.

INTERFERENCE

"With nations, with families, and with individuals, He has often permitted matters to come to a crisis, that His interference might become marked. Then He has made it manifest that there is a God in Israel who will maintain His law and vindicate His people."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, pp. 91, 92.

DIVINE ACCOUNTING

"I was shown that the recording angel makes a faithful record of every offering dedicated to God, and put into the treasury, and also of the final result of the means thus bestowed. The eye of God takes cognizance of every farthing devoted to His cause, and of the willingness or reluctance of the giver. The motive in giving is also chronicled."—*Testimonies* Vol. 2, pp. 518, 519.



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

United States	
Yearly subscription	\$1.50
Clubs of two or more copies to one address, one year, each	1.35
FOREIGN SUBSCRIPTIONS	
Canada	
Yearly subscription	1.70
Clubs of two or more copies to one address, one year, each	1.55
Others	
Yearly subscription	1.80
Clubs of two or more copies to one address, one year, each	1.65

EDITOR JAMES I. ROBISON

Associate Editors
Theodore L. Oswald, Eldine W. Dunbar
B. E. Roenfelt

Assistant Editors
Cora F. Thurber Marjorie W. Marsh
Arabella J. Moore Mary L. Scott

EDITORIAL COUNCIL
M. E. Kern H. T. Elliott

PUBLISHED monthly by the SOUTHERN PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION, 2119 Twenty-Fourth Avenue, North, Nashville 8, Tennessee. Entered as second-class matter March 26, 1948, at the post office in Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A., under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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

Church Pastors

OLIVER MONTGOMERY

For many years we as a people did not follow the plan of having pastors for our churches. But in recent years this plan has been growing among us until now a great many of our larger churches have regular pastors.

Ministers are not elected by the churches to their office as pastors. All our ministers are employed by the conference and their work is directed by the conference committee. Therefore, a minister's position as pastor of a church is by appointment of the conference committee.

A pastor who is an ordained minister is authorized to exercise all the functions of an ordained minister in the church over which he presides. It is his responsibility to foster and carry forward all lines of spiritual work in the church.

He takes rank above the local elder or elders. They are his assistants. He is the spiritual leader and adviser of the church. He should instruct the church officers in their duties, and counsel with them in all phases of church work.

By virtue of his appointment as pastor, the ordained minister is not an ex-officio member of the church board, nor is he its chairman. However, it is highly desirable that the ordained minister be a member of the board of the church that he is pastoring and that he act as its chairman. Therefore, the conference committee, in appointing a minister to the pastorate of a church, should recommend to that church that they elect him as a member of their board and choose him to serve as its chairman.

The pastor in charge of a church is not an ex-officio member of a nominating committee. He may be chosen by the church to be a member of this committee, but is not a member by virtue of being pastor. If he is not elected as a member, his counsel should be sought by the committee.

A licensed minister may be appointed by the conference committee to serve a church as its pastor, or he may be appointed to serve a group of churches as director of a district composed of several churches. In such a case he is recognized as the spiritual leader and adviser of the church or churches under his care. He should counsel and lead the church in all branches of church work and missionary activity. He should in all his service and ministry in and for the church, work in the closest harmony and co-operation with the church elder and the church board.

As has been stated in another chapter, if a licensed minister is expected to function as a local elder and perform the duties of

that office, he should first be elected by the church that he is to serve and be ordained to that office. He should be elected as elder in each church that he is to serve in that capacity. A licensed minister who is serving as pastor of a church in which he has not been elected to serve as elder, will always recognize the elder of that church as the presiding officer.

There should be the closest and most cordial understanding and co-operation between the pastor and the church elder. The pastor should not set aside or ignore the elder, but should counsel with him and utilize his capabilities in carrying forward the work of the church.—*Principles of Church Organization and Administration.*

+++

Elder Pierson takes a great interest in personal evangelism. At Vaughansfield in St. James he held an effort and at the same time trained several laymen. This has resulted in the raising up of two other Sabbath schools and twenty-three believers baptized. Also in a district adjacent to the Union office he, along with the other members of the Union staff, held an effort and now they have a Sabbath school of sixty members. This effort was held in just an ordinary coconut booth, still it has brought good success. It is not an elaborate structure that draws the people, it is the message that the preacher brings. We should not forget to mention the wives of these Union workers. At this humble booth you will find Mrs. Franz acting as superintendent of the Sabbath school, Mrs. Barclay is in charge of the children, and Mrs. Pierson has charge of the youth. They are making plans for the erection of a proper place of worship in this West Indian island.

—W. S. NATION.

+++

"We bless Thee for Thy peace, O God
Deep as the boundless sea,
It falls like sunshine on the road,
Of those who trust in Thee;

"That peace which suffers and is strong,
Trusts where it cannot see;
Deems not the trail way too long,
But leaves the end with Thee."

—Selected.



The Challenge and the Answer

In this column each month we will present valuable quotations or interesting facts that our pastors, church elders, and lay workers will find useful in their sermons or talks. Clip them out for your notebook.

DURING 1947 THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY—

—distributed at home and abroad 785,767 Bibles, 2,220,614 Testaments and 6,304,058 portions, a total of 9,310,439 volumes; reached a total of 17,775,649 volumes through its emergency program in seven and one-half years, distributed to service men, prisoners of war, and civilian populations in Europe and Asia; produced 150,000 Japanese Bibles, an undertaking which required the largest amount of paper ever used in publishing a single edition of any Bible or Testament in the history of Bible production; brought the total of its publication of German Scriptures since 1941 to 4,902,091, nearly all of which have been donated to the German peoples.

TONGUES IN NEW YORK

"No other city can approach New York, where seven out of every ten residents are immigrants or of immigrant parentage. It is an old story that New York has more people of Irish blood than there are in Dublin, more people of Italian blood than in Naples or Genoa, more people of Russian origin than in any Soviet city after Moscow and Leningrad. All races of earth are represented in the city's lesser contingents. It is no doubt true that a United Nations delegate or employee can walk out into a New York street and ever so much more quickly find somebody speaking his home language than he could in any other world metropolis."—*The New York Times*, December 19, 1946.

Record \$9,600,000,000 Spent on Alcoholic Drinks

Americans spent a record \$9,600,000,000 on alcoholic drinks last year, the Commerce Department reported last night.

That works out to an average outlay of \$66.66 a person among a population of 144,000,000 as of last July 1, or \$103.22 for each of the 93,000,000 over 21 years old.

Total spending on alcoholic beverages, including taxes, was \$140,000,000 higher last year than in 1946, the department said. It was up a whopping \$6,010,000,000 from pre-war 1939.—*Washington Evening Star*, June 11, 1948.

+++

"Moderate drinking is the school in which men are educated for the drunkard's career."—*Ministry of Healing*, pp. 332, 333.

The Church Temperance Secretary

By GRACE CLIFFORD HOWARD

Office Secretary, American Temperance Society

IS THERE someone in your church who is temperance-minded, someone who is full of enthusiasm and zeal, not only for helping those affected by the drink evil, but also for teaching others about the harm in the use of beverage alcohol and all other narcotics? Someone who knows the definition of true temperance—"True temperance teaches us to abstain entirely from that which is injurious, and to use judiciously only healthful and nutritious articles of food?" If there is such a person, that one would make an ideal temperance secretary.

The activities which a temperance secretary may instigate are many. One naturally thinks of a membership drive as one of the very first, because without members no society can flourish. These members need not be limited to the church alone; anyone who is willing to sign the pledge and pay his membership fee is entitled to become a member. It is surprising the number of places where new members may be found when one begins to look in earnest. The temperance secretary should get the enthusiastic, church membership not only to join themselves, but also to find others whom they know in business, socially, or through other connections, to join. He should encourage all the brethren and sisters to enlist as members, dentists, doctors, the schoolteachers whom they know, and storekeepers where they trade, for membership in the American Temperance Society. No church should be satisfied with anything less than a 200 per cent membership.

One special privilege of membership is receiving the new temperance journal, *Listen*, which is sent free to all but the junior membership. This new magazine has received much praise from sources outside our own ranks, and it is a publication that any person interested in temperance would gladly receive.

Then, too, the church temperance secretary takes it upon himself to see that this paper is sent to ministers of other churches in his community, that the teachers in both Sunday schools and day schools receive copies, that the newspaper editors and officials of the city or town receive every issue. Payment for such copies is a legitimate expense to be borne by the local American Temperance Society and may be taken from the funds which accrue

~~~~~

### I'm Growing

What a change has taken place  
Since a year ago!  
Something has been happening  
To make this change, I know.  
My clothes no longer fit me, for  
I'm very glad to say  
That I've been growing—growing—  
Since a year ago today.  
I'm growing, growing, growing!  
I'm growing every day!  
And that is why I'm going  
To live the healthful way.  
I want a body that is fit,  
And I shall plan and work for it.  
I'm growing, growing, growing—  
I'm growing every day.

—FLORENCE E. MARSHALL, in *Are You Awake?*

~~~~~  
from the membership dues retained by the local church. *Listen* is a well-illustrated and authentic journal with news notes about temperance and outstanding articles.

All our membership have long known the quarterly *Temperance Bulletin*, that eight-page leaflet crowded full of important items about all phases of the alcohol problem. This is the cheapest (in cost) piece of temperance literature which the American Temperance Society prints. The church temperance secretary will find this a most useful piece of printed matter to circulate among his own church membership, to offer to ministers of other churches to slip into their church bulletins. It is useful on Temperance Sundays, it can also be used when local option issues come up in a community, or on other occasions

when the public needs to be aroused about temperance. Then, too, public school teachers might find the Bulletin useful and inexpensive to use in classwork when studying about the effects of alcohol. It would be well for the church temperance secretary to estimate how many of these Bulletins could be used in his community and then to place a standing order with his Book and Bible House so that this publication could be delivered regularly for circulation. The cost of these, too, could be borne by the local temperance fund. In quantity, the Bulletin sells for \$1.00 a hundred or \$7.50 a thousand.

There are few people who do not read a daily paper. Those who are interested in temperance could be encouraged to clip items pertaining to alcohol and narcotic problems which should be forwarded weekly to the national headquarters of the American Temperance Society in Washington, D.C. Such a group is already in existence and is known as the Spotters' Club. The encouragement of membership in the Spotters' Club might be one of the activities of the temperance secretary. These clippings are used extensively in the editorial work of the society, in the new magazine, *Listen*, in the *Temperance Bulletin*, the monthly Speakers' Bureau Release, and in talks given by the various officials of the national temperance society. The Spotters' Club has been of great help in sending out material from headquarters, and new members are always welcome, for all the important papers of the United States are not yet covered.

Frequently some church other than our own asks for a program on temperance. The alert temperance secretary has already formed within the membership of his church a "Temperance Team" prepared to furnish interesting and profitable temperance programs. Young people make most acceptable participants in such teams and, for that reason, this activity becomes especially suitable for the Young Peoples' Missionary Volunteer Society. Consecrated young people may well carry a message of cheer for the inebriate and information about the effects of alcohol to the uninformed. Not only churches, but other young peoples' societies, schools, service clubs, missions, women's organizations, and other groups will welcome a team of alert, well-prepared, and devoted young people.

Our motto, "No compromise and no cessation of our efforts till victory is gained," leaves no time for idle folding of the hands, either on the part of the membership or the temperance leader. The field is wide and the need is great. With drinking one of the most popular pastimes among both men and women today, a mighty army needs to be raised to halt this practice. If the church membership can be fired to action by a devoted and aggressive church temperance secretary, many souls will be saved in the kingdom who did not know the evils of intemperance until they were awakened by the efforts of these faithful workers.

+++

"Total abstinence is the only platform on which God's people can conscientiously stand."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, p. 75.



The Apostle James on Prayer

JAMES 5:13-18

Apostle James emphasizes the great importance of prayer in the fifth chapter of his epistle. Prayer is our supreme privilege. It is the greatest act of which man is capable—the act of communion with God. The Bible is the most helpful book in print on the subject of prayer. Notice, for example, that in six short verses in the epistle of James we are given a remarkable description of the different forms of prayer.

1. Individual prayer—"let him pray." (Verse 13.) In the supreme act the soul of the individual is in contact with God the Father, and this contact is made through His Son, our Redeemer, the only mediator necessary, and the only One who can really mediate for man. The individual may pray anywhere, at any time, under any circumstance. There is no substitute for individual prayer, secret prayer.

2. United prayer—"let them pray." (Verse 14.) This suggests a group anywhere, or the church united in prayer, and the elders leading out in prayer; hearts united in seeking God, and led by one appointed for such service; several praying over the sick, to be accompanied by the anointing oil, the means suggested by God for this healing service. And all united "in the name of the Lord," relying on His power for the desired blessing. United prayer increases confidence and faith.

3. Believing prayer—"the prayer of faith." (Verse 15.) Believing prayer is the prayer of dependence. Faith is that act of the soul by which everything is committed to and left in the hands of the Lord. This is trust, and trust is prayer. Believing prayer clarifies the vision, calms the troubled mind, and gives poise and balance to the character. It fosters humility and submission, and these qualities are to be cultivated in our individual lives if we expect God to do His will through us and work out His purposes in our characters.

4. Intercessory prayer—"pray one for another." (Verse 16.) This is the highest type of prayer. Jesus set the example in it as He poured out His heart to the Father for His disciples. And on the cross He prayed for those who nailed Him there. Jesus lives to intercede, and those who engage in intercessory prayer have fellowship with Him in a special sense. He desires for us a greater vision of the world's need, and this will lead to more intercessory prayer.

5. Effectual prayer—"The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Verse 16.) Effectual prayer is always fervent, real, warm, and sincere. This is not a loud prayer, nor a long one. It is effectual because it comes from the heart that feels deeply, and possesses a burden for some vital matter or some particularly needy person.

6. Definite prayer—"Elias . . . prayed earnestly that it might not rain." (Verse 17.) A mark of a good prayer is its definiteness. It is a great mistake to pray for "everything," and such a prayer is a weariness to all who hear it. And weariness is just the opposite of what

true prayer gives the mind and body. Definite prayer is pleasing to God. Short prayers filled with reverence, earnestness, sincerity, and faith bring blessing to all present.

7. Repeated prayer—"he prayed again." (Verse 18.) We are to "wait on the Lord." He may be testing us. Many give up praying too soon. They do not wait for God's answer. God has reasons for delaying answers sometimes. It may not be best for us to see results at once. God's best things are sometimes long in coming. Our patience is developed in such matters, and patience is one of the great qualities He desires to see in His children. Prayer is essential to our individual growth in the spiritual life. The little estimate that many professed Christians put on prayer is evidenced by the little time they give to it. We must "take time to be holy" and "speak oft with the Lord."

—ERNEST LLOYD.



Jerusalem, My Home

O city by the glassy sea;
I tune my harp and sing of thee;
Methinks I see the towers rise
In sunlight splendor toward the skies.

Methinks I see the gates of pearl
Thy flaming banners wide unfurl!
O city by the glassy sea,
Jerusalem, I sing of thee.

Oft in my dreams with rapture sweet
The loved of other days I greet,
And hand in hand we pluck the flowers
That bloom in thy sequestered bowers.

And best of all, His face I see,
The Man who gave His life for me;
And o'er thy golden streets we roam,
Jerusalem, my home, my home!

O city by the shining sea,
Thy walls and bulwarks beckon me.
O land of never-fading spring,
Of thee, Jerusalem, I sing.

—Selected.

Progress of the Work in the Palestine-Transjordan Mission

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Matthew 23:37, 38.

The words of the startling denunciation, pronounced by the lips of the Saviour nearly twenty centuries ago, have echoed down through the ages, and today the city of Jerusalem again is experiencing desolation. As curfew is imposed to bring a pause in the lawlessness until the light of a new day, the "Holy City" truly is a most desolate place. Streets are entirely deserted except for armored cars on patrol duty. Hearts of men and women are filled with fear and foreboding of what the new day may bring. But even in the darkness and seeming chaos of this troubled land, God must have a purpose and pattern for the shedding of His light to those who sit in darkness.

The work in the Palestine-Transjordan Mission is not a large work. The membership is under one hundred. But God does have many faithful, honest children who will remain true to Him in spite of difficulties. In Amman, Transjordan, we have a good mission school with seventy-six pupils in attendance. Miss Ruby Williams, a true soldier of the cross, is leading out in the work of the school in that place.

We find an awakening interest among the Jewish Christians. Several weeks ago the writer was asked to address such a group who were gathered together to pray for the soon coming of Jesus. The subject presented was "Christian Discipleship." It was truly thrilling to have the privilege of presenting Christ to these souls, in the very city where He was rejected and put to death. He came to His own and His own received him not, but we pray that the day will soon come when many of these "children of Abraham" will receive Him as their personal Saviour. As a result of that meeting, several began attending our Sabbath services. The Sabbath gives us common ground for understanding. On December 6 a Jewish gentleman who had learned from a friend about our services on the Sabbath attended for the first time. It was a day of extreme tension in and around Jerusalem. Buses and taxis were all stopped, and people seemed to be fearful to go out of their houses. As he lived out in a Jewish colony, about ten miles from the city, and as there was no transportation available, he started out to walk. The walk would have been dangerous as his way led through hostile territory, but the Lord rewarded his faith, and a police car came along and gave him a ride into Jerusalem. He attended our service, and seemed favorably impressed. After the service he started home, but no transportation could be found until five-thirty on Sunday morning. When he arrived home he

(Please turn to page 32)



Young People's Department

OF MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS



NOTES TO OFFICERS

Why the Gazette?

The *CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE* is a *must* for M. V. Society officers. Wide-awake local society leaders *need* the *Gazette* because—

**It keeps societies in step with the world-wide denominational program.

**It provides well-organized helps for the societies' progressive and objective functioning.

**It presents a balanced and seasonal approach to the needs of Missionary Volunteers.

**It brings forward at planned intervals the proper emphasis on basic features, i. e., personal devotions, Bible year, Character Classics, reading courses, etc.

**Its officers' notes are designed to keep officers alert and up-to-date in their leadership.

Your Devotional Service

The success of your devotional meeting depends on certain basic things:

First comes purpose. And what are the purposes of the society's devotional meeting? These occur to us:

To come closer to a richer, deeper understanding of God.

To give a clearer idea of life's problems.

To train young people for leadership in the church.

To help each one to be more Christlike.

To foster the educational features.

To promote earnestly and constantly the Character Classics and the Morning Watch.

To foster an interest in real missionary endeavor.

To give youth a chance to express themselves in worship.

Bible Episodes in Hymns

Many hymns have been composed with a Biblical episode in mind, and these stories are often very interesting to our young people. Some hymns could be sung or read with a special effort being made to compare the hymns to the specific Scripture passage from which the hymn is derived.

In connection with many of these hymns it will be possible to find a religious picture which is also related to the same Scripture passage. In that case, the Scripture, the hymn, and the picture can be used in conjunction with one another, each helping to bring out the beauty and truth of the others.

A portion of the time in the meeting can be given to volunteer suggestions from the youth as to hymns which recall certain Scriptural references.

You Are Called—

Welcome to the office, Missionary Volunteer leader for the New Year! Just pull up a chair and sit down for a few minutes and let's talk over the prospects. This year 1949 should result in the greatest year of achievement in Missionary Volunteer evangelistic endeavor.

You are called to leadership at a time when the Missionary Volunteer movement is aggressive and exceedingly active in worthwhile projects.

You have come into responsibility when larger numbers of our young people than ever before are inquiring for a leadership which will be onward and aggressive.

You will need to orient yourself as soon as possible with the Share-Your-Faith program as it is being carried out in hundreds of centers throughout North America and the world.

You will want to become acquainted with the urgency of a Share-Your-Faith project in your own community.

You will want to discover the equipment and facilities that are available to help young people Share-Their-Faith.

You will want to discover how to co-operate with other departments of the church in finishing the work of Christ in all the world.

You will want to integrate the Share-Your-Faith experiences with the complete organizational plans of your society.

You will want your society to be a live unit in the sisterhood of Missionary Volunteer societies.

Be faithful in your own personal devotional life. Kneel quietly in the presence of God and welcome the impressions of the Holy Spirit upon your own heart.

Seek the counsel of your Missionary Volunteer secretary in the conference. Read carefully the bulletins issued from his office.

Become acquainted with the M. V. Leaflets and the way they can help your young people.

Study the officers' page in the *Church Officers' Gazette* month by month.

Call your executive committee together regularly and solicit their contributions and suggestions as well as enlist them and inspire them with your vision of the possibilities of soul-winning endeavor in your particular community.

The days before us are loaded with opportunities. As never before people are anxious about the future. We Missionary Volunteers have a message which we dare not hide—yes, a message which it is a privilege and a duty to share with others.

We are counting heavily upon you in 1949, Missionary Volunteer Society leaders. May the Lord greatly bless you.

Share-Your-Faith Experiences

One of our Missionary Volunteer Societies sponsors a branch Sabbath school every Sunday morning on the sun porch of a rest home.

Eight Missionary Volunteers visited homes within two blocks of the meeting place, taking *Little Friends*, and inviting children to attend their Sunday school. Out of the children contacted, a small group were gleaned who come regularly. At least three Missionary Volunteers come regularly to help with the music and lesson study.

At first the children found it difficult to grasp the memory verses since Bible study was so very new. Now, however, they are learning the books of the Bible and well-known passages of Scripture. The oldest girl who came (age eleven), having never owned a Bible or having never prayed before, said in her closing prayer recently, "Dear Jesus, bless these girls who come here every week. They have helped us a lot."

+++

A Missionary Volunteer, in a Share-Your-Faith testimony, said that one morning he was a little behind schedule in his preparation for going to work. He thought he did not have time to read his Morning Watch text in the book, *Power for Today*. So he took the book with him and during the first few minutes before time to start his work he sat at his desk and read the selection for that day.

Two of his associates whose desks were near his saw him reading and asked to see the book. They were favorably impressed and asked who published it. During their spare time that day they read portions from the book, *Power for Today*, and inquired what church it represented.

In closing his testimony, this young man said, "It is my purpose to keep the book, *Power for Today*, on my desk hereafter, and thus share it with others."

January 29

No topic has been arranged for January 29. Officers, the Young People's Department suggests that you consider the needs of your particular society carefully and plan a discussion for January 29 which will be most helpful to your members.

Tips to M. V. Officers

The strength of a Missionary Volunteer Society lies in the constant co-operation of its officers' staff.

The staff should meet for prayer every week, at least. The officers' group should constitute the central prayer band of the society.

It is well for the leader to offer prayer at the opening, if it is only a sentence.

If you must call for someone to lead in prayer, do not call on the stand-bys. Call on someone who has not often performed this service, but obtain his consent in advance.

Whatever you say, say it with vim. Talk so that you can be heard. Aim your voice at the rear seats and those up front will hear.

If you want co-operation along certain lines, make the arrangements in advance so that there can be preparation.

It is not necessary to have everything in each meeting different and sensational, but one good new method will change a fair meeting into a very good one. A little freshness in method will give life to everything and make the meeting memorable.

The opening part of the meeting is so important that great attention should be paid to it. The leader's purpose should be to have it dignified and worshipful, yet free and devoid of formalism.

M. V. services, with the hymns carefully chosen, ushers instructed and on duty, with everything carefully planned and fitted together, will furnish real inspiration.

Share Your Faith! Keep the service bands active.

Have prayer bands regularly.

Advertise your meetings in advance and be enthusiastic about the plan for each one. Use posters, and other advertising methods.

Begin and close the meeting on time.

Report regularly to the conference M. V. secretary.

Ask Yourself

1. Does your Missionary Volunteer Society have a library? (It should.)
2. Are you adding books to the library each year? (You should be.)
3. What per cent of your books remain on the library shelves and what per cent are being circulated regularly? (All of them should be in circulation.)
4. What system do you have for lending the books? (You should have some system.)
5. Do you lose very many books during the year? (You should not.)
6. Do you urge your young people to build up their own private libraries? (You should.)

Do You Advertise?

"It pays to advertise." Do you believe that motto? Put it to the test in your Missionary Volunteer Society work, and prove its worth. How?

1. In your society meeting, briefly announce the topic of the next meeting, propound a leading question on the next week's subject for the consideration of the members during the week, or present the local problems which may be relieved by a discussion and resulting action the next week. Announce any other meetings which are to be held during the week.

2. Extend written or verbal invitations to the society meetings. The names of the members of the society may be divided among the members of the publicity or welcoming
(Please turn to page 17)

Senior Meetings

January 1

THE NEW YEAR AND SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

By C. LESTER BOND

ORDER OF SERVICE

DEVOTIONAL AND FEATURES.

OPENING HYMN: "Tread Softly," M.V. Songs, No. 23.

PRAYER: Sentence prayers by members of the society.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERTORY.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

DISCUSSIONS.

TALK: "Youth Faces the New Year."

TALK: "Let's Increase Our Membership."

PANEL DISCUSSION: By officers and selected group of the members.

CLOSING.

ENROLLMENT OF MEMBERS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

YEAR: Under direction of the Society leader.

CLOSING HYMN: "I'll Be a Voice," No. 40.

BENEDICTION.

Suggestions to Leaders

1. Devote a part of the society meeting to setting forth the ideals and meaning of the Missionary Volunteer Pledge, and the objectives of the M. V. Society. This will be done through the presentation of the topics for today.

2. Present the Application for Membership cards. (These may be obtained free from your Conference Missionary Volunteer Secretary.)

3. Have the Application cards filled out during the meeting, and collect them before the closing song. *All the information called for on the blank is important, and will enable your Conference Missionary Volunteer secretary to work intelligently for the youth of your church, therefore urge all to give the complete details called for.*

4. Make sure that no one is overlooked. It is advisable to give opportunity for enrollment at two or three succeeding meetings.

5. Those absent from the meetings on these occasions should be visited by a society officer or by a member of a committee that may be appointed to solicit new members throughout the year.

6. Review all applications in the executive meeting, and approve them.

7. The secretary then should copy the names of the applicants, with certain other information, in the society secretary's record book.

8. Send the approved application cards to your conference M. V. secretary.

9. The conference M. V. secretary will issue certificates of membership and mail them to your society secretary. He will keep the application cards for his files in the conference office.

10. The society secretary will also sign the certificates of membership and formally present them to the members at one of the society meetings.

Youth Faces the New Year

We are in a world different from any we have ever lived in before; we are entering a new, uncharted year, a year that has many forebodings. There was a time when the

majority of homes in civilized lands were proud of the fact that they were religious. God was there recognized and worshiped, but the religious outlook for the youth of the world today is most discouraging. Even in the United States, which has often been called a Christian nation, there are 10,000 villages without a church of any kind—Jewish, Roman Catholic, or Protestant—and 30,000 towns without a pastor. There are 13,400,000 children under twelve years of age who are receiving no religious instruction, and more than one half of the people of the nation are not connected with any institution representing organized religion. More than one third of American youth are not touched by any church, and of those who attend Sunday school, only 40 per cent ever join the church.

The political outlook is not much more encouraging. Since the close of World War II there has been unrest in every part of the world, and the leaders of nations are finding it most difficult to settle problems that have grown out of the war. Added to these perplexing international situations are the almost universal conflicts between capital and labor, resulting in animosities and bloodshed.

Youth face the new year with a great question mark regarding possibilities in the business and vocational world. Young men and women have been thrust into an abnormal situation in which they must compete with the most highly skilled and trained artisans in almost every field of endeavor. Will they find employment to their liking? Will there be positions opened to them? Will they share the high incomes that benefit those of older years?

Youth face the new year with the need and the desire to continue their education. Some have been encouraged in this by provisions made by their governments. The youth of the church who face these problems must determine where they will attend school. Will it be in the schools of the world, where the expenses may be less, yet where they face the issues of skepticism, agnosticism, and infidelity? Or will they place themselves in one of our denominational schools where the environment and instruction given will be in keeping with the Word of God and will help to prepare them for a place in God's great work?

The youth, with their normal craving for recreation and sports, face the new year at a time when the world is given over to pleasure seeking more unreservedly than ever before, and when the devil is setting before them his masterpieces of amusement which are designed to becloud the thinking, defile the very being, and result in the loss of eternal life.

The youth of the church face in the new year most serious questions of association, and

of their relation to lowered standards in youth about them.

Despite the discouraging outlook for the new year in the fields of religion, politics, vocation, education, recreation, and association, the outlook in connection with the church and the work of God is exceedingly bright. It is apparent that the best days of the gospel message are just ahead.

Youth of the church must face the new year with a realization that they were born to live for Christ, that they are here to share their faith with the people about them who are not walking in the light of truth. The new year must see a genuine revival of true godliness in the lives of the youth of the church, and in the church itself. As followers of Jesus Christ, Christian youth have the world's great hope. The church, through Jesus Christ, has the cure for the evil that is spoiling life on earth. This is no time for easygoing churchmanship.

Times like these demand members in the church and the Missionary Volunteer Society who stand openly for what they believe. Loyalty to Christ requires of Christian youth a new sort of working, and giving, and praying. Yes, the New Year can mean all this to us, if by the grace of God each Missionary Volunteer does his part.

Let's Increase Our Membership

The Missionary Volunteer Society of the church occupies a unique position. It is designed to win and train the youth of Seventh-day Adventist parents, and so to utilize their capabilities that they may be instrumental through personal and group missionary work to win young people not of our faith. These objectives are concisely set forth in the slogan, "To save from sin, and guide in service." The society which meets these ideals in its program, is a live, growing society. There is no neutral ground, however, and the society that is failing to accomplish these ideals and purposes is a dying society.

Before the society can make material growth in membership, it is necessary for the present members to put from their lives everything that would separate them from God, so that they may indeed be true witnesses for Him. God tells us that we are His witnesses, and that we are to bear testimony to the fact that He is the only Saviour. All about us are young people who need such testimony borne before them. Individually we cannot bear such testimony until we know for ourselves that He is our Saviour; that is, we cannot lead anyone else to the foot of the cross in penitence until we have first been there ourselves. The psalmist recognized this, for it is made clear in his prayer of penitence that he must be free from sin before he could be an efficient soul winner for God. (Psalm 51:7-13.)

First of all, we need in our society every young man and young woman who is now a member of the church. Then our work of securing recruits for the Missionary Volunteer Society should extend to the young

people who have been reared in Seventh-day Adventist homes, but who either are not members of the society or are not Christians. We need their support and co-operation and prayers, and we believe they will be benefited greatly by becoming active members of our society. We need them to help us in working for those who are not now members of the church.

The missionary endeavors of our Young People's Society must not end with the youth of Seventh-day Adventist families. We should continually be putting forth efforts for the conversion of our young friends and neighbors about us. Often very simple methods bring wonderful results. Every member of the society can participate in inviting these young people to attend our Missionary Volunteer meetings. In one small society where the members faithfully followed this suggestion, five young people were led to take their stand for God and His truth during the year, and in turn they became active workers for the Master.

Our society may do, also, what other societies have done in conducting Sunday schools, or branch Sabbath schools, and through this medium interest boys and girls and youth in our work, and later invite them to the society and other church services. Many of those interested by this method will take their stand for the truth, and may then be enrolled as active members of the society.

Also, everyone can take part in the circulation of the leaflets, periodicals, and books that are made available by our publishing houses. Probably more persons are brought to a knowledge of God's truth through our literature than by any other means.

Nothing, however, can take the place of Bible studies and cottage meetings conducted in the homes of interested people. Many members of our society should qualify themselves for this type of personal work. Let us watch for and take advantage of every opportunity of reaching the youth of our community and lead as many of them as possible to enlist under the banner of Christ.

Thus the Missionary Volunteer Pledge will occupy its rightful place, and every member of the society will be able to stand with his fellows and truthfully say, "Loving the Lord Jesus, I promise to take an active part in the work of the Young People's Missionary Volunteer Society, doing what I can to help others, and to finish the work of the gospel in all the world."

Panel Discussion

WHO MAY BECOME MEMBERS OF THE MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER SOCIETY?

1. If you would build a society that will be a blessing to all concerned, every person who becomes a full-fledged member must first make an unconditional surrender to the Master. He must be a Missionary Volunteer in deed and in truth. For this reason only those who are church members in good and regular standing may become regular members of the society.

2. For the benefit of young people who

are not church members, but who may desire to participate in the activities of the society, the Associate Senior membership has been provided.

3. Both the Regular Senior and Associate Senior members are restricted to persons who are between sixteen and thirty years of age, except in the case of duly elected society officers who are above thirty. Officers, regardless of their age, are always eligible for membership.

4. Boys and girls ten to fifteen years of age may become Junior members of the Senior society in case there is no Junior society in the church.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SENIOR MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER PLEDGE?

1. The Missionary Volunteer Pledge expresses tersely, yet comprehensively, the ideals and objectives of the Missionary Volunteer organization.

2. The Pledge occupies a unique and important place in the economy of society life. The sincere Christian will live this pledge in his everyday life and work. He will love God with all his heart and do all that he can to advance His cause.

3. To stand together and repeat in unison this challenging pledge will stimulate interest in militant Christianity, and be an impelling force in the thinking of the young people of the church.

4. Carefully analyze every clause of the Pledge. Make this the main part of the discussion.

+++

January 8

PERSONALITY POWER

BY WARREN N. WITTENBERG

ORDER OF SERVICE

DEVOTIONAL AND FEATURES.

OPENING HYMN: "Give Me the Bible," M. V. Songs, No. 59.

PRAYER: By several young people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: INCLUDE 1949 PLANS FOR PRAYER AND MISSIONARY BANDS.

REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

VOCAL SOLO: "Teach Me to Pray," Rodeheaver's Gospel Solos and Duets No. 2.

INTRODUCTION BY LEADER.

DISCUSSION.

TALK: "The Desire for Power."

PDEM: "When I Read the Bible Through."

PERSONAL TESTIMONIES: "How God Answered My Prayer."

CLOSING.

SONG: "Like Jesus," No. 76.

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

Since the success of every other feature of our Missionary Volunteer work is largely dependent upon the success of our devotional features, it is important that much prayer and study be given to this program. Leaders themselves should resolve to start the year by carefully observing the Morning Watch and as many other of the devotional activities as possible.

One portion of the program is devoted to personal testimonies. Two testimonies from Seventh-day Adventist young people have been

suggested, but it is hoped that each society will find young people among its own members to give such testimonies.

An abundant supply of Morning Watch calendars and the various leaflets mentioned today should be on hand when the program is presented. See M. V. Leaflets 15, 16, 18, 19, 24, 25. They should be made available at the close of the meeting. Invite the young people to make resolutions to participate in one or more of these devotional activities during the year.

As an additional feature give definite suggestions on making the Bible Year and Morning Watch a joyous experience. Recommend that pencil and paper be kept handy during their devotional hour. Invite the youth to listen for God's voice to their conscience saying do this or that, visit a neighbor, or write a letter.

Leader's Remarks

Books on personality are very popular these days, and they include a multitude of ideas for making us more attractive and impressive to others. The radio waves abound in "personality pointers."

We Missionary Volunteers should be interested in having strong, likeable personalities. Without apology we should be the most attractive young people in our neighborhood and in our city. We should have powerful personalities. But, oh, how different must be our motives and objectives from those of the people of the world! Therefore, the source and means of development are different, too.

Peter and John were men with striking personalities. Why? The answer is found in Acts 4:13. (Read.) The Christian's motive in desiring to be attractive is found in John 12:32. (Read.) A magnetic personality to draw others to Jesus is found in spending time with the Master. (Read portions of *Desire of Ages*, p. 363, *Ministry of Healing*, page 512, and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 86, 87. Note such expressions as "persuasive power," "face was radiant," "life will breathe out a fragrance.")

To help you during 1949 to find personality power that Heaven commends and that young men and women are eagerly looking for is the purpose of this discussion.

The Desire for Power

What is there about a great locomotive that thrills every boy and girl or senior young person? Why are we fascinated by a mighty steam shovel that literally moves the earth, or a great bulldozer that levels off mountains and pushes over great trees? It is the wonderful power of modern machinery that attracts our interest. In a similar way we are thrilled with the physical power of a strong young man with bulging muscles, or the persuasive power of a youth with pleasing personality and silver tongue.

God wants Adventist youth to inspire others with wonderful demonstrations of powerful characters. Notice this unique statement that God has addressed to us through the Spirit of prophecy. (Be sure to read *Ministry of Healing*, p. 396, pars. 2 and 5, and p. 397, top, and par. 1.)

Let us read what the Bible says. (Read 1 John 2:14.) Could this be said of us, fellow young men and young women? Are we strong characters? Are we overcoming sin in every encounter with the wicked one? Are we strong to influence others for the right? Nothing in this world is more refreshing and challenging than to see a strong Christian young man or young woman—one "whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, . . . who will stand for the right though the heavens fall."—*Education*, p. 57. Such

When I Read the Bible Through

I supposed I knew my Bible,
Reading piecemeal, hit or miss,
Now a bit of John or Matthew,
Now a snatch of Genesis,
Certain chapters of Isaiah,
Certain psalms (the twenty-third),
Twelfth of Romans, first of Proverbs—
Yes, I thought I knew the Word!
But I found that thorough reading
Was a different thing to do,
And the way was unfamiliar
When I read the Bible through!

Oh, the massive, mighty volume!
Oh, the treasures manifold!
Oh, the beauty and the wisdom
And the grace it proved to hold!
As the story of the Hebrews
Swept in majesty along,
As it leaped in waves prophetic,
As it burst to sacred song,
As it gleamed with Christly omens,
The Old Testament was new,
Strong with cumulative power,
When I read the Bible through.

Ah, imperial Jeremiah,
With his keen, corsucant mind!
And the blunt old Nehemiah,
And Ezekiel refined!
Newly came the minor prophets,
Each with his distinctive robe;
Newly came the song idyllic,
And the tragedy of Job;
Deuteronomy the legal,
To a towering mountain grew,
With its comrade peaks around it—
When I read the Bible through.

What a radiant succession,
As the pages rise and fall,
James the sturdy, John the tender,
And the myriad-minded Paul.
Vast apocalyptic glories
Wheel and thunder, flash and flame,
While the church triumphant raises
One incomparable name.
Ah, the story of the Saviour
Never glows supremely true
Till you read it whole and swiftly,
Till you read the Bible through!

You who like to play at Bible,
Dip and dabble here and there,
Just before you kneel, aweary,
And yawn through a hurried prayer,
You who treat the Crown of Writings
As you treat no other book—
Just a paragraph disjointed,
Just a crude, impatient look—
Try a worthier procedure,
Try a broad and steady view;
You will kneel in very rapture
When you read the Bible through.

—AMOS R. WELLS.

young people constitute the greatest need of the world today. We can be strong in character. We can start right now in January, 1949.

We all like a helpful secret. Here is one. Give it to everyone you can. (Then from another room, but so it can be clearly heard through a public address system or through an open door, have some unseen person read, "Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 254.)

You remember our text in 1 John 2:14 gave the secret of being strong. (Read again.) Fellow youth, let us during 1949 take time to pray and to study the Book of Books so that the word abideth in us. Then we will

be able to stand for the right no matter what anyone else does. God can make us a power in soul winning.

Your Missionary Volunteer society has several plans to suggest that will help you experience this power. One is the important devotional feature of the Morning Watch. As usual, we have the Morning Watch booklet and also the book, *My Lord and I*, which is a commentary on the text to guide us in this daily appointment with God.

The Character Classics reading plan has become an established M. V. project. (Explain fully.) For real adventure in reading we suggest that you use M. V. leaflet 25, and follow this plan.

If you care to read the Bible entirely through in one year, try the Bible Year. The Senior Bible Reader's Record Card (M. V. Leaflet 16) gives the daily reading schedule and individual check chart.

Would you be strong during 1949? Would you thrill others with the power of dynamic Christian youth? Then take time each day to participate in some or all of these M. V. devotional activities during the coming year.

How the Lord Answered My Prayer

We were experiencing a wonderful Week of Prayer. The Spirit of God led many to forsake their lives of sin and take up the cross of Jesus. I had prayed that God would let me be a guiding light to someone, and in my little everyday duties to strengthen my own character.

The midnight hour had just passed when someone tiptoed into my room and hesitatingly called my name. She asked me to pray and talk with her. We had a wonderful consecration service together, and as we prayed God took our sins away and once more we were white as snow before Him. God's blessings were upon us, and this young girl left my room a child of God.

The work of the previous day and the emotional strain of this night left me with a severe headache and unable to sleep. The day ahead held many responsibilities. Rest would be necessary if I were to do my duties faithfully. I offered a short prayer with complete faith that God would answer. I had no more than ceased praying when my headache was gone. I slept well and met the day with renewed strength.

Because God so often has answered my prayers for these "little things," I know that He will answer all our prayers.—Bettie Zollinger, student nurse at Washington Sanitarium.

+++

After my baptism in May, 1946, I attended my first camp meeting the following July. Less than a year before I was using a wheel chair which had been my help for nearly nine years. Because I was expecting my handicap in walking to be with me for a long time to come, I was taking a course in radio servicing, for I knew that would be a trade practical in my circumstances.

But God had other plans. While at camp meeting, the conviction came to me that I should plan to enter one of our colleges to prepare for a definite place in the Lord's vineyard. I could not see, however, how this could be arranged, for I had not worked during my convalescence and I did not believe I should depend very much on help from my parents as they were opposed to my religious convictions. But, believing God's promise, that if I should ask in faith He would grant the need, I prayed that somehow the way would open that I could make special preparation for His work. He had made the call, so would He not grant the means to answer the call? The answer to that prayer came very soon. Less than a month after camp meeting word came to me that a group of Christian people whom I had

never met had become interested in me and wished to make it possible for me to make a start in college. Since then help has come from other sources also.

Today I am in my second year of college, preparing to be a minister. Not only has the Lord provided the financial means, but He has touched me so that I am no longer confined to a wheel chair and may better engage in His active work as well as help support myself. Surely the Lord will supply our needs when we come to Him in faith, trusting His promises.—Norman Harris, student at Washington Missionary College.

+++

January 15 HAVE A FAITH

BY D. A. DELAFIELD
ORDER OF SERVICE

DEVOTIONAL AND FEATURES.

OPENING HYMN: "Sing Them Over Again to Me," No. 547 in *Church Hymnal*.

SCRIPTURE READING: Revelation 14:12.

PRAYER.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERTORY.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

SONG: "Rock of Ages," No. 474.

DISCUSSION.

INTRODUCTION BY LEADER.

TALK: "Faith of Jesus."

BIBLE DOCTRINES QUIZ. (By pastor, elder, or church leader.)

TALK: "I'm Proud of My Faith." (Call on a new convert to give his own testimony.)

CLOSING.

CALL TO BELIEVE. (Made by Leader.)

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION. (By pastor, elder, or church leader.)

CLOSING HYMN: "Give Me the Bible." No. 655.

BENEDICTION.

A Word to Leaders

The purpose of this meeting is to provoke our Senior Missionary Volunteers to the consciousness that they have a faith that is worth living and dying for. Many of our youth take our doctrinal beliefs for granted, forgetting that each cardinal point of faith held by Seventh-day Adventists was dug from the gold mine of Scriptures by our pioneers after weeks and months of strenuous study and prayer, often with fasting.

The doctrinal quiz, to be conducted by the pastor or some church leader who is loved by the youth, may help some of the youth to see how far short they fall of a true knowledge of their faith. All should be encouraged to go home from the meeting with a determination to study carefully every point of Bible doctrine that we hold. At the conclusion of the program the M. V. leader should make a short appeal to all. Call for a renewal of baptismal vows by Seventh-day Adventist youth present at the meeting, and for an acceptance of the teachings of the church by those in attendance who have not yet made their decision for Christ and the truth. Names and addresses of the latter should be secured and given to the pastor.

The Faith of Jesus

Our subject today is "Have a Faith." This word "faith" as it is used in our theme for today does not mean faith in the sense of trusting in God but faith in the sense of "that which is believed; especially a system of religious beliefs." Some of you have studied Bible Doctrines in school and know what Seventh-day Adventists believe. Some of you learned the truth by attending evangelistic

meetings or perhaps you studied with a Bible instructor or a minister. Others became Adventists through the medium of the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence Course. The important thing today is that we all believe what we learned and know our faith so well that we can share it with others.

Suppose that you were drafted into the army and asked to prove your position of non-combatancy from the Scriptures. Could you do it? Could you present Bible arguments for observing the Sabbath?

Suppose that you were asked by the minister of another denomination to give an explanation of the sanctuary and the 2300 days. Would you have to refer him to your pastor for an answer? There is no substitute for a knowledge of the Scriptures and no excuse for a failure to know what you believe. So today everyone will be given an opportunity to discover just how much he knows about the beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists.

It is thrilling to think that our doctrines are the same as those taught by Jesus. (Read John 7:16, 17.) In Bible prophecy God marks out Seventh-day Adventists as distinguished from other Christians in the latter days by the fact that they keep the commandments of God, and have the faith of Jesus. (See Revelation 14:12.) To believe as Jesus believes is to solve every major problem relating to life, death, and the hereafter. Now, let us really see what we know about the faith of Jesus.

Bible Doctrines Quiz

PASTOR: As you all know, we do not have a church creed, but there are certain fundamental beliefs that we all should know and be able to prove from the Scriptures. The answers to these questions that I shall ask have been placed in the hands of members of our society who will stand and read them at the proper time. (*Clip answers from Gazette and pass out before meeting.*) The Scripture proof for these answers is found in the *Church Manual*, pages 81-86, and in the *S.D.A. Yearbook*, pages 346-348. Now before these responses are read we would like to give you a chance to discuss these questions from the floor. *After each question we will allow time for a brief discussion.* In this way we can all have a part.

1. QUESTION: How many persons make up the Godhead and what is the work of each?

ANSWER: "The true and living God, the first person of the Godhead, is our heavenly Father, and He, by His Son, Christ Jesus, created all things. Jesus Christ, the second person of the Godhead, and the eternal Son of God, is the only Saviour from sin; and man's salvation is by grace through faith in Him. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead, is Christ's representative on earth, and leads sinners to repentance and to obedience of all God's requirements."

2. QUESTION: What is the full, sufficient, and inspired guide and rule of faith and practice for Seventh-day Adventists?

ANSWER: "The Bible is God's inspired word, and is the full, sufficient, and only basic rule of faith and practice."

3. QUESTION: Through whom do repentant sinners receive forgiveness of sin?

ANSWER: "Through Christ, believers receive forgiveness of sins which are forsaken and confessed, and for which, as far as lies in their power, restitution is made."

4. QUESTION: In order to enter the kingdom of heaven what spiritual experience must come to the life of the believer in Christ?

ANSWER: "All who enter the kingdom of heaven must have experienced conversion, or the new birth, through which man receives a new heart and becomes a new creature."

5. QUESTION: Who dwells in the regenerate heart of the Christian, giving power to obey the ten principles of the law of God?

ANSWER: "Christ dwells in the regenerate heart, writing upon it the principles of God's law, leading the believer to delight to obey its precepts, and imparting power for such obedience."

6. QUESTION: When is the investigative judgment to take place?

ANSWER: "Upon His ascension, Christ began His ministry as High Priest in the holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. . . . A work of investigative judgment began as Christ entered the second phase of His ministry, in the most holy place. This work of the investigative judgment in the heavenly sanctuary began in 1844, at the close of the 2300 years, and will end with the close of probation."

7. QUESTION: What event is the goal of the plan of redemption?

ANSWER: "The second coming of Christ is the hope of the church, the climax of the gospel, and the goal of the plan of redemption, when Jesus will come literally, personally, and visibly, with all His holy angels. Many signs of the times testify that His coming is at hand. And the almost complete fulfillment of all the various lines of prophecy indicate that 'He is near, even at the doors.'"

8. QUESTION: When Christ appears the second time what will become of the righteous and of the wicked?

ANSWER: "The righteous dead will be raised to life at Christ's second advent. Together with the righteous living, they will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and will go with Him to heaven, there to spend the thousand years known as the millennium. The wicked who are living at the time of Christ's second advent will be slain by the brightness of His coming. These, with the wicked dead of all ages, will await the second resurrection, at the close of the thousand years."

9. QUESTION: What events will take place at the close of the thousand years?

ANSWER: "At the end of the thousand years, the following events will take place: (a) Christ and the righteous will descend from heaven, within the Holy City, the New Jerusalem; (b) the wicked dead will be resurrected for final judgment; (c) the wicked will receive the final wages of sin when fire comes down from God out of heaven to consume them; and (d) this fire, which destroys the works of sin, will purify the earth. The earth, cleansed by fire and renewed by the power of God, will become the eternal home of the redeemed."

10. QUESTION: Is the following statement true or false? The seventh day of the week is the Christian Sabbath and should be observed from sunset Friday night to sunset Saturday night.

ANSWER: "The seventh day of the week is the eternal sign of Christ's power as creator and Redeemer, and is therefore the Lord's day, or the Christian Sabbath, constituting the seal of the living God. It should be observed from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday."

11. QUESTION: How much of our money is holy to the Lord and set apart for the support of the ministry? Does God call upon us to give more than this percentage as a part of His plan for preaching the gospel in all the world?

ANSWER: "The tithe is holy unto the Lord, and is God's provision for the support of His ministry. Freewill offerings are also a part of God's plan for the support of His work throughout the world."

12. QUESTION: What is the condition of man in death, and how does he receive the gift of immortality?

ANSWER: "The condition of man in death is one of unconsciousness. All men, good and evil alike, remain in the grave from death to the resurrection. Immortality comes only through the gospel, and is bestowed as a gift from God at Christ's second coming."

13. QUESTION: Is it true that the Christian is called upon to live a sanctified life and that his conduct and deportment should differ from that of unbelievers about him?

ANSWER: "The Christian should recognize his body as the temple of the Holy Spirit. Therefore he should honor God by caring for his body, abstaining from such things as alcoholic beverages, tobacco in all its forms, and from all unclean foods."

14. QUESTION: What special gift of the Spirit is an identifying mark of the Seventh-day Adventist church?

ANSWER: "The presence of the gift of the Spirit of prophecy is to be one of the identifying marks of the remnant church. Seventh-day Adventists recognize its manifestation in the work of Ellen G. White."

15. QUESTION: Does the Bible teach that the church should be duly organized and supported by its members?

ANSWER: "The Bible teaches a definite church organization. The members of this organization are under sacred obligation to be subject thereto, loyally to support it, and to share in its maintenance. They are admonished not to forsake the assembling of themselves together."

16. QUESTION: By what ordinance do we enter the church and give to the world evidence of our acceptance of the atoning work of Christ?

ANSWER: "Baptism by immersion typifies the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and openly expresses faith in His saving grace, and the renunciation of sin and the world, and is recognized as a condition of entrance into church membership."

17. QUESTION: What medium has God provided for keeping our Christian experience and growing strong in the battle against sin?

ANSWER: "Through the study of the word, God speaks to us, imparting light and strength; and through prayer the soul is united with God. These are Heaven's ordained means for obtaining victory in the conflict with sin, and for the development of Christian character."

18. QUESTION: Does God expect Seventh-day Adventist youth and church members in general to share their faith with the world?

ANSWER: "Every church member is under sacred command from Jesus to use his talents in personal soul-winning work in helping to give the gospel to all the world. When this work is finished, Jesus will come."

LEADER: We have all been helped by this quiz, I am sure. But are we all satisfied with our knowledge of our faith? Let us all be sure that we have a faith to share.

God in His mercy has brought this wonderful truth to us. I have asked —, who recently has accepted the truth, to give a brief testimony telling us why he became an Adventist and what the truth means to him.

Call to Believe

I think it would be a wonderful thing for us today, young people, to reaffirm our faith in the doctrines held by Seventh-day Adventists by renewing our baptismal vows. How many of you are in agreement with the beliefs expressed in this quiz today? How many by faith will call upon Christ to help them share their faith? (*Show of hands.*)

Those of you who have not yet been baptized but who plan to do so at your first opportunity are invited to raise your hands. Let us stand for a prayer of consecration to our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Talk faith, and you will have faith. According to the seed sown will be the harvest. —Ellen G. White, *Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions*, p. 142.

January 22

PROBLEMS IN MILITARY SERVICE

By F. H. Yost

ORDER OF SERVICE

DEVOTIONAL AND FEATURES.

OPENING HYMN: "O Jesus, I Have Promised," No. 288 in *Church Hymnal*.

SENTENCE PRAYERS.

OFFERTORY.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

REPORTS OF MISSIONARY BANDS.

SONG: "All the Way," No. 259.

DISCUSSION.

INTRODUCTION BY LEADER.

TALK: "Conscientious Co-operators."

PANEL DISCUSSION: "Problems in Military Service."

Problems relative to Selective Service Act of 1948. (See Suggestions to Leaders.)

"Seventh-day Adventist Soldiers and the Sabbath."

CLOSING.

CLOSING HYMN: "How Firm a Foundation," No. 255.

BENEDICTION.

Suggestions to Leaders

The main difficulties of Seventh-day Adventists in military service arise because for reasons of conscience Adventists do not (1) bear arms, or (2) work at ordinary weekday tasks on the Sabbath.

The materials furnished for this program deal with these two problems, and with the duty of Seventh-day Adventist youth in relation to the Selective Service Act of 1948.

We suggest that those participating in the program be, if possible, young men within the eighteen-to-twenty-six age limits of the Selective Service Act, or veterans of World War II who were conscientious objectors in the sense of having been noncombatants.

A panel discussion dealing with these problems can be readily formed from material contained in the following (write *at once* for this material):

The Selective Service Act of 1948. May be secured through your Senator or Congressman.

Seventh-day Adventists and Civil Government. Authorized by the General Conference Committee, September 25, 1940. May be obtained through your local conference M. V. Department.

Why Seventh-day Adventists Are Noncombatants. Pamphlet of the Seventh-day Adventist War Service Commission, reprinted October, 1944. May be had from your local conference M. V. Department.

Why Seventh-day Adventists Observe the Bible Sabbath. Pamphlet dated 1945. May be had from your local conference M. V. Department.

Article "Conscientious Co-operators," by Carlyle B. Haynes in the *Youth's Instructor* for August 24, 1948.

"Conscientious Co-operators"

Seventh-day Adventists are not pacifists. A pacifist in regard to war is one who will not participate in military service in any way. He will not respond to a draft law, wear a uniform, salute or obey military officers, or bear arms.

Seventh-day Adventists are not pacifists. In wartime we will do all the things that a pacifist will not do except to bear arms. That we cannot do.

Because we cannot bear arms or take human life we are classified as conscientious objectors. And in that sense, and in that sense only, we are conscientious objectors. (See Carlyle B. Haynes, "Conscientious Co-operators.")

tors," in *Youth's Instructor*, August 24, 1948.)

We are limited-service conscientious objectors, and are placed in noncombatant branches of the service, usually the medical corps of the army, or the hospital and pharmacist branch of the navy. But in every other respect we are not conscientious objectors. We think of ourselves as "conscientious co-operators," because, while we have conscientious scruples concerning the bearing of arms and the taking of human life, and in respect to the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath, we will co-operate with the authorities in whatever does not lead us to disobey God.

The Bible is very clear on two things: (1) That men should love and obey God, as set forth in Matthew 22:37-40; 19:16, 17; 1 John 2:3-6; (2) That men should respect and obey human government, as required in 1 Peter 2:13-17; Romans 13:1-7.

Obedience to God must come first, because He is the Creator, and the all-powerful Ruler of the universe, the Saviour. The eternal kingdom of God and its interests must be first, and it is in this kingdom that the "citizenship" of the child of God is. Philippians 3:20. [Greek "citizenship" rather than the English "conversation."] Christ declared while on earth, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My kingdom not from hence." John 18:36.

What had happened to the kingdom of the Jews? The Hebrews had been the people of God, and had had His truth to give to the world. God had given them opportunity to serve Him as a nation, but this they had failed to do, and when Christ came, He broke "down the middle wall of partition" between Jew and Gentile (Ephesians 2:14), and commanded that the gospel should go "to every creature" (Mark 16:15). After that, there was no nation or race who were the peculiar people of God, but "whosoever believeth" (John 3:16) would be a citizen of the kingdom of God. Christ now gave opportunity for the world to become a great brotherhood made up of whoever "shall do the will of God." (Mark 3:35.)

Christians, therefore, are to love all men, and particularly are admonished by the Lord not to hate but to love their enemies. (Matthew 5:43-45.) The commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," is translated by Christ into terms of loving rather than hating (verses 21-26), and comes to us today as a commandment to "permit to live."

The purpose of the gospel is to convert the hearts of men. Civil governments, on the other hand, are for the protection of men in society, and for the punishment of evildoers. The Christian is to co-operate with whatever government under which he finds himself a subject and a citizen, and to do his duties toward men as faithfully as he meets his duties toward God. Only when government ceases to be a terror to the evildoer (Romans 13:3) and seeks to compel men to disobey God must the Christian make his choice, and "obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). This hard choice was made by Abraham

when he left Ur of the Chaldees; by Jeremiah, by Daniel, by Christ Himself, and by the apostles who followed Him, and it is a choice which has been made by faithful Christians, witnesses for Christ, ever since. Therefore, the Seventh-day Adventist puts forth every effort to demonstrate his loyalty to government, and to give his co-operation in meeting the just requirements of the state.

The historical position of our church was well summed up at the Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee in 1917. (See Leaflet, *Seventh-day Adventists and Civil Government*, Sept. 25, 1940, p. 11.)

Because the kingdom of God is not of this world, and therefore is not to be fought for in carnal warfare; because the Christian loves his enemies; and because we are told to permit to live, Seventh-day Adventists do not take life, and are compelled by conscience not to bear arms in military service.

Rather, we wish to restore to health those who are sick, or wounded, regardless of the cause of the injury, and to seek to bring men back to the image of their Maker, spiritually and physically. We therefore gladly co-operate with government in the emergency of war, and are particularly happy to do our part in the medical services of the armed forces.

Seventh-day Adventist Soldiers and the Sabbath

Question: What Bible texts concerning the Sabbath have particular application to Sabbath observance in the army?

Answer: (a) There are six days for ordinary work, but the seventh day is to be kept by all. (Exodus 20:9, 10.)

(b) Christ Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. (Mark 2:28.)

(c) Christ made it a personal habit to attend public worship on the Sabbath. (Luke 4:16.)

(d) It is right to do good on the Sabbath. (Matthew 12:12.)

(e) Christ healed the sick on the Sabbath. (Mark 3:1-5.)

(f) The people of God are not to do their own works or think their own thoughts on the Sabbath. (Isaiah 58:13, 14.)

Question: What work can we do on the Sabbath?

Answer: On Sabbath we do necessary or helpful things, which are not the common work of the week days by which we earn our living or meet the requirements of our regular employment or occupation. Emergency work for the good of others, which could not be done before the Sabbath came, such as necessary ministry to the sick or needy, is proper on the Sabbath day.

Question: Is it proper to attend to any routine duties on the Sabbath?

Answer: In our homes, some routine work is necessary on the Sabbath. Hospitals and sanitariums must be maintained as on other days. But work of this sort can be kept to a minimum on the Sabbath by conscientious planning beforehand and by preparation before the Sabbath comes.

Question: What kind of duties should be avoided on the Sabbath under military service?

Answer: Seventh-day Adventists should arrange to be excused on the Sabbath from drilling, practice marching, standing inspections, sentry duty, and ordinary routine work. Routine work in military hospitals on the Sabbath can often be avoided by arranging for substitutes, or by exchange of days of service. It is well to arrange for a pass to be absent from the military post during the Sabbath hours.

Question: How should the Seventh-day Adventist soldier use Sabbath time while in the army?

Answer: He should be all the more careful in his observance of the Sabbath, because he has received special consideration. The Sabbathkeeper in military service is often closely watched by others. The Sabbath is not merely leisure or recreation time. It is for worship: worship in church (Hebrews 10:25); and personal worship, in Bible study and prayer. It is for rest, but particularly for spiritual restoration.

Question: Has there been official recognition that Adventists in the United States military service are to be free to observe the Sabbath?

Answer: Yes. Responsible officials are to be commended for the recognition they have given to the right of worship, even under the exigencies of war. President Roosevelt wrote concerning Sabbath observance in the armed services during the last war, as did General Marshall, while Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

The commanders of most army camps and forts in this country issued orders that Adventist soldiers be released from duty on the Sabbath. Here is a typical order:

HEADQUARTERS
Fort Belvoir, Virginia
Office of the Commanding General
September 16, 1941

AG 006. (Ex. Div.)

Subject: Religious Holidays.

To: Commanding Officers, All Units.

1. Bona fide members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church should be excused from military duty, as far as military necessity makes it advisable, on Saturday, so that they may observe their Sabbath day. Those who are so excused will be considered as first on the list for any duty that it may be found necessary to perform on Sunday.

By command of Brigadier General Marks.

(Signed) D. A. Elliget,
Captain, Corps of Engineers,
Post Adjutant.

Question: What has been the effect of faithful Sabbath observance in the armed services?

Answer: The observance of the Sabbath by those in military service is a striking testimony to the goodness of God in accepting the worship of His children, and to the necessity of obeying Him. Many young men and women have been converted to Christ and to present truth by the godly life of Sabbathkeepers in the service, and by the clear Bible answers they gave to questions asked them. Conscientious observance of the Sabbath is always a testimony of the goodness of God and the requirements of His holy law.

Junior Meetings

January 1

RESOLUTION DAY

By FLORENCE L. ROSCOE

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

Songs.

REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

PRAYER.

INTRODUCTION: "Why New Year's Resolutions?"

(See Notes to Superintendents.)

SCRIPTURE LESSON: "Resolutions—Bible Times."

(See Notes.)

TALK: "J. M. V. Pledge." (See Notes.)

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

ACROSTIC: "How to Have a Good New Year."

POEM: "A New Year Resolve."

RESOLUTIONS: (See Notes.)

SONG: "Like Jesus," No. 76.

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Superintendents

SUPERINTENDENT'S INTRODUCTION: "Why New Year's Resolutions?"—Juniors have all made resolutions in the past, and like others, have soon forgotten them. Endeavor to show the Juniors that even though many resolutions may be broken, every worth-while accomplishment is the result of a resolution. Emphasize the fact that when they sign the Junior M. V. Pledge, the boys and girls are not simply making a statement or an agreement with the members of the society, though the society agreement is a part of the pledge, but that they are making a promise to God. The experience of Ananias and Sapphira, because of their failure to keep their promise to God, shows how sacred God regards a promise.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: "Resolutions—Bible Times."—Have a Junior sketch briefly the events which led to the resolutions of these men and women. A list of outstanding Bible characters who made some definite pledge might be placed on a blackboard.

TALKS: "J. M. V. Pledge."—The interpretation given in the *Junior Handbook* furnishes very good material for building the talk on the Junior Missionary Volunteer Pledge. Divide it into phrases, and have a talk given on each.

RESOLUTIONS:—Before leaving the subject of resolutions, give the Juniors opportunity to suggest some good resolutions for the members of your society. If a blackboard is available, write on it a list of the resolutions or the theme of the resolutions as they are suggested. The list may include the points of the Junior Law, different lines of missionary endeavor, ways the Juniors can help make their home happier for all its members, things a Junior can do for his church, Junior society, and church school. Even a Junior has an influence upon his associates. Help your Juniors to discover ways in which they may lend a helping influence. Good reading should not be forgotten in these resolutions.

Order early from your conference M. V. Secretary or your Bible House a supply of M. V. Record Blank 1-J, the cards on which your prospective society members apply for membership. If these cards have not been filled out during December, be sure they are filled out today. The society secretary will send them in to the conference M. V. secretary, who will in return send permanent membership cards to be given out to the members.

Resolutions—Bible Times

Resolutions are not a thing of modern times only. We find that some of the earliest characters mentioned in the Bible made resolutions and pledges.

DANIEL "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat." Daniel 1:8.

ESTHER, when shown the need of her people which she was in a position to supply, declared, in the face of danger, "So will I go in unto the king, . . . and if I perish, I perish." Esther 4:16.

JOSHUA, when all Israel had turned aside from following the Lord, announced boldly to the assembled host, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15.

RUTH, having found the true people of God, would not be turned aside, resolving, "Whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." Ruth 1:16.

ABEL fulfilled his agreement with God. Although we have no record of his resolutions, we are told of his faithfulness. (See Genesis 4:2-7.)

PAUL states his pledge thus, "Forgetting those things which are behind, . . . I press toward the mark." Philippians 3:13, 14.

A New Year Resolve

To keep my body strong, that I may be
Ready for service when He calls for me;
To keep my spirit pure, that I may hear
And answer quickly to the summons clear;
To keep my courage firm, that I may know
No thought of fear when I am called to go;
To keep my trust in God forever true,
That I may do what He would have me do;
To march straight onward where my Captain leads,
Proving my loyalty by simple deeds—
This is my prayer, Lord, may I faithful be,
That by true service I may honor Thee.

—BESSIE DICKERSON-DUCEY.

The J. M. V. Pledge

"By the grace of God." Without help from God it is useless for us to make resolutions. The tower of Babel was a failure because it was attempted without God; but when Israel went up to take Jericho, the city was laid in ruins, for God went with them. Daniel was able to withstand the temptations of Babylon when he was all alone, because he lived out his resolution "by the grace of God."

"I will be pure and kind and true." When the king of Babylon ordered meat from his own table for Daniel and his companions, God gave special strength to these young people because the resolution they had made meant, "By the grace of God, I will be pure; I will not defile myself with meat offered to

idols." Joseph, in the heathen home where he was a servant, determined to keep himself pure. Therefore God honored him. We read in the Bible that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost, and so we must not defile them; we must keep them pure and free from such poisons as tobacco and alcohol.

An Indian was once found by a white man where he lay, wounded, by the roadside. The white man took him into his home, nursed him, dressed his wounds, and in a few days sent him on his way a well man. Many months later this white man was captured by a band of Indians. At night he was bound to a tree while the Indians, around their campfire, talked of plans for the following day. Late in the night the white man was awakened by an Indian who freed him from his bonds, led him to the bank of the river, and showed him a canoe tied there. The parting words of the Indian as he sent the white man away were, "White man help Indian, now Indian help white man." This was the same Indian who had been treated kindly by the white man months before. His kindness to the Indian was repaid with freedom when his captors were planning to kill him. Yes, it always pays to be kind.

"I will keep the Junior Law." "The Junior Missionary Volunteer Law is for me to—." We often repeat the law, but how many times do we repeat it without even thinking what we are saying? Yes, we can repeat it without error, and we have heard it explained in detail on our Investiture programs, but our pledge is to *keep* the law, and not merely to *repeat* it. Let us go back and read again our interpretation of the Junior Law, and then put each phrase into practice in our daily lives. Let us truly mean it when we say, "I will keep the Junior Law."

"I will be a servant of God and a friend to man." A servant must know his master's will and obey that will. To know the will of our Master we must study His letter to us, and that brings us back to the Junior Law, for if we "keep the Morning Watch" we will be learning each day a little of God's will for us, and will dedicate our lives to His service each morning before the work of the day is started.

To be a friend to man also is linking our Pledge and Law together, for when we "go on God's errands" they will take us many times on errands of love for neighbors or for some poor person who needs our help.

How to Have a Good New Year

(Exercise for seven Juniors, each holding a card bearing the letter he represents.)

N—Never hurt another's feelings.

E—Evade evil.

W—Work with a will.

Y—Yield not to temptation.

E—Ever speak the truth.

A—Always be kind.

R—Ready to hear what our parents say.

January 8

THE MORNING WATCH HOUR

By JONATHAN E. ROACHE

ORDER OF SERVICE

SONG: "Father, Lead Me Day by Day," No. 21 in M. V. Songs.

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Timothy 2:1-15.

PRAYER.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

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

INTRODUCTION BY LEADER: (See Notes to Superintendents.)

TALK: "An Appointment with God."

POEM: "The Kneeling Camel."

TALK: "Juniors and the Devotion Hour."

SONG: "Just A Little Talk with Jesus," No. 25.

STORY: "A Clean Sword and a Dirty Bible."

TALK: "They Loved the Bible Unto Death."

INTERVIEWS. (See Notes.)

SONG: "Like Jesus," No. 76.

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Superintendents

The importance of the Morning Watch and a careful and prayerful study of the Bible cannot be overemphasized. Hold up before the Juniors the life of Christ, and how often He prayed. Briefly relate experiences of Daniel, his habits of prayer and study, and the devotion of some contemporary men they know. Show them that Jesus is depending on them so to live that they may become strong workers in His cause. Enlist every Junior on a program of Junior Bible study for the year. Get a supply of Junior Bible Year leaflets (M. V. Leaflet 17) and give one to each junior. Also have enough Morning Watch Calendars on hand for distribution.

INTERVIEWS: Interview two boys and two girls who have read the Bible Year or who are reading it. Ask them to tell of the benefits they have received, or high lights in their reading. Similarly interview two older persons and one Junior who can testify to the value of prayer.

An Appointment with God

Do you ever stop to think how dangerous it is for us to dare to leave our homes in the morning without praying to God? Do you ever stop to think how many pitfalls we might fall into because we did not ask God to go with us? Do you realize the great power and help that can be ours if we pray to God?

Daniel knew the value of prayer. Did he not pray in that great hour of crisis when in the lion's den? Prayer was his only hope then. And God answered him. Did he not pray again and again when his enemies sought to destroy him because of their bitter hatred? And God heard and delivered him. So Daniel *knew* that the only way he would be kept from physical harm and from falling into temptation was by praying to God. (Read Psalm 55:17.)

Habakkuk *knew* that if he did not take time to listen to God's voice speaking to his heart he would go astray. (Read Habakkuk 2:1.)

Some of the great poets *knew* the value of prayer. Said Tennyson:

"More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of."

Said Wadsworth:

"Oh! there is never sorrow of heart
That shall lack a timely end
If but to God we turn, and ask
Of Him to be our friend!"

At the beginning of this new year should we not look deep down in our hearts and realize how often we have failed to ask God to go with us through the day, and promise to commune with Him more frequently this year? Then will we be strong to overcome the evil one, and grow into upright young men and women for God. The Morning Watch is our daily appointment with God. Shall we not determine to keep this appointment?

The Kneeling Camel

The camel, at the close of day,
Kneels down upon the sandy plain
To have his burden lifted off,
And rest again.

My soul, thou too shouldst to thy knees,
When daylight draweth to a close,
And let the Master lift the load
And grant repose.

Else how couldst thou tomorrow meet,
With all tomorrow's work to do,
If thou thy burden all the night
Dost carry through?

The camel kneels at break of day
To have his guide replace his load,
Then rises up anew to take
The desert road.

So thou shouldst kneel at morning dawn,
That God may give thee daily care,
Assured that He no load too great
Will make thee bear.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN.

Juniors and the Devotion Hour

Hear the clock, tick, tock, tick, tock? Yes, it's time for another day's work to begin. Where shall I start? you may ask yourself. Ah! that is easy, even though you have many things in mind.

Jesus, our friend and true example of Christian living, possessed a beautiful character. We want to be like Him; therefore it is necessary that we devote time to talking to God as He did, and studying His Word.

Who, then, should study the Morning Watch daily? Juniors? Yes, all Juniors. Because a word with God and the consciousness that He is with you are the greatest aids to a happy day for boys and girls.

When you study your Morning Watch daily, you are reminded of God's great love for man; you see the beauties of nature—the sun, the stars, the flowers, the birds, and the trees—which He has made for you to love and enjoy. You also learn how Jesus lived with His fellow men, with other boys and girls; He was gentle, kind, fair, and honest in all of His associations, as you are expected to be with your friends and loved ones.

From the Morning Watch verses you learn how to live—how to eat, sleep, dress, walk, talk, study, and play with a cheerful heart.

You learn of music, art, literature, inventions, and discoveries of great men. In addition, you learn of experiences from the lives of men and women who have made God's word the guide for their actions, as you are doing.

The Bible is a wonderful book. Study it well—especially the Morning Watch verses. Commit these verses to memory. With such thoughts nourishing your minds day after day, and year after year, your lives will be molded into beautiful characters that will tell others of the love of your Saviour and your joy in serving Him.

Juniors, begin now to study your Morning Watch. Your daily experiences will then bring you "favor with God and man."

"A Clean Sword and a Dirty Bible"

Nearly one hundred fifty years ago, one of the King's Scottish regiments was quartered in Edinburgh Castle. There were a number of God-fearing officers belonging to that regiment who kept up a curious old custom. Every evening, after mess, they drank together this standing toast: "A clean sword and a dirty Bible!"

What did they mean by this strange toast?

A clean sword! What they meant by that was that they hoped and prayed they would never be called upon to stain their swords with the blood of their fellow men. Or perhaps they also meant that if they were called to go to war it might be only in a righteous cause. Both ideas may have been in their minds when they drank a toast to a clean sword.

A dirty Bible! What was the meaning behind such words? They were thinking of a Bible whose pages were thumbed and soiled and frayed by constant use. It often happens that the Bible is so seldom opened that it remains as clean and new as when it was first bought. Such Bibles are of little use. Our Bibles should be in such constant use that their pages may show signs of it.

It is now clear that there was more sense in this toast than at first appears. If we use our Bibles so often that they become soiled, we shall doubtless do our best to carry out what is taught in that Book.

The quaint old toast of the officers stationed in Edinburgh Castle long ago is thoroughly sound: "A clean sword and a dirty Bible."—*The Bible in the World*.

They Loved the Bible Unto Death

In the Dark Ages there were many young people who were persecuted for reading the Word of God. Many of them answered with their lives.

"The Protestant religion had for a time been established in England as the religion of the state. Then the multitudes were, perforce, Protestant. Now came the Catholic Queen Mary, and the multitude attended mass again.

"It was perilous not to do so. Bishop Bonner, of London, and others like him, had everywhere agents spying upon those who did not

conform to the religion established by law. This bishop's name stands for heartless cruelty. He it was who took Thomas Tomkins, the godly weaver, by the hand, and held the hand over a candle of three or four wicks, till the sinews burst, just to show him how the fire at Smithfield would hurt if he persisted in denying the mass. The old weaver said afterward that 'his spirit was so rapt that he felt no pain,' and without a fear he went to the stake in Smithfield market square.

"Not a few young people followed the older confessors in those troubled times. Young John Leaf, a candlemaker's apprentice, nineteen years old, answered before Bonner in London, and died at the same stake in Smithfield with John Bradford, the Oxford scholar. Rose Allin, a girl of twenty, was brought before a magistrate in Clochester. He took a candle, no doubt in imitation of the London bishop, and burned her hand on the back until the sinews cracked, all the time saying, 'Wilt thou not cry? Wilt thou not cry?' She told him she thanked God that he himself had more cause than she to cry."—*The Junior Hour*.

Today we live in a land of freedom—a land where there is freedom to worship God according to one's conscience. No one can prevent us from reading the Bible. But the time is coming when we, too, shall be called upon to witness for Jesus as did the young people of the Dark Ages. Then our Bibles will be taken from us. How will we stand? They stood because they loved the truth of God and were strengthened by the words of courage of which they had drunk deeply when they had their Bibles. The only way that we will be able to stand is to become so familiar with the promises and truths of the Bible now that the Holy Spirit will be able to bring them to our remembrance when they are needed most.

Listen to the advice Paul gave Timothy, his junior by a number of years: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15. Juniors will be called upon to testify for their Maker, and diligent Bible study will make them wise unto salvation. (Read 2 Timothy 3:15.)

Today we stand on the threshold of a new year. Shall we not ask God to forgive our negligence in reading His holy Word, and promise to be more faithful during this year? May God help us to do so.

+++

"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

Prayer is heaven's ordained means of success in the conflict with sin and the development of Christian character.—Ellen G. White, *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 564.

The word of God, spoken by one who is himself sanctified through it, has a life-giving power that makes it attractive to the hearers, and convicts them that it is a living reality.—*Desire of Ages*, p. 142.

January 15

LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION TEAMS

By MRS. LLOYD HOLBERT

ORDER OF SERVICE

SONG: "The Captain Calls for You," No. 75 in *M. V. Songs*.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 25:31-46.

PRAYER.

JUNIOR PLEDGE.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

OFFERTORY.

SOCIETY BUSINESS AND OTHER REPORTS.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

DIALOGUE: "Joe's Plan Worked."

STORY: "Jay and His Pony."

DISCUSSION.

STORY: "Ruth's Experience."

DISCUSSION OF PLANS: "Juniors Distributing Literature."

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

BENEDICTION.

Joe's Plan Worked

CHARACTERS: Miss Smith and six boys and girls: Bobby, Joe, Mary, Carol, Darlene, Harry.

MISS SMITH: We have had a very interesting Sabbath school this morning. I want to thank each of you for the part you have taken. Larry's mission story was thrilling and the twins sang beautifully. I want to thank Joe for bringing his little friend, Bobby, with him again this morning.

BOBBY: I like to come to this Sabbath school. I'm going to come with Joe every Sabbath. Maybe I can get the boys I play with to come, too.

MISS SMITH: Joe, could you help Bobby bring his little playmates?

JOE: I'll try, but I don't have any more copies of the *Little Friend*.

MISS SMITH: I don't believe I understand.

JOE: Well, you see, Miss Smith, I found Bobby one Sabbath afternoon when I was passing out my old copies of *Our Little Friend*. I always keep them on the table in my room when I finish reading them. One Sabbath mother suggested I go for a walk and take some clean copies with me to give to the children in the neighborhood.

MISS SMITH: That was a fine thing to do.

JOE: I took only six copies the first time and all the children seemed glad to get them. So the next Sabbath I asked mother if I could do it again.

MARY: Oh, I'd like to do that. I'm going to do that with my *Little Friends*.

MISS SMITH: Tell us more, Joe.

JOE: I didn't see some of the children, but when I went to Bobby's house, he was playing on the porch, and he said he liked the paper. I told him I could bring him one every week. Then I asked him to come to Sabbath school with me.

MISS SMITH: I think the experience Joe has told us has given us a new idea.

CAROL: There are several children on my street and I have a big pile of *Little Friends* saved.

DARLENE: I'll go with you Carol, if you will go with me on my street. I might be afraid to go alone.

CAROL: Oh, that will be fun.

HARRY: I have saved all my *Little Friends*. I can let Joe have some of them.

MISS SMITH: You boys and girls have been saving your pennies, nickels, and dimes to send to our missionaries so they can tell the children in China, Africa, and faraway India about Jesus. Maybe we haven't thought about the children we could help who live close to us. Joe's plan has worked so well that I think it would be excellent if we would all try it. How many would like to?

OTHERS: I would, Miss Smith.

MISS SMITH: The Lord will bless you, I'm sure. While your money is helping to support our missionaries in the foreign fields, you can all be missionaries for Jesus here at home.

Jay and His Pony

Jay is a Junior ten years old. A nice lady is coming to his home each week and teaching his daddy and mother the Bible. Jay loves to have her come for he learns so much about the Bible and he loves Jesus. One day his daddy and mother and the three children were baptized. Now they go to the new church every Sabbath.

One Sabbath he was given a Missionary Card on which to report the missionary work he had done during the week. He looked at it carefully and wondered what he might do. Giving out literature seemed the easiest thing to do. So he gathered up all the papers he could find and on Sunday morning he put them in a bag, got on his pony and went down the country road. He stopped at every home and gave them some of his literature. It was fun. The next week he did it again.

One day one of the neighbors asked Jay several questions. Jay asked her to come to his home the night they had the Bible studies and the lady who taught them the Bible would answer all her questions. She came, and her husband came with her. Now they both love the studies just as Jay and his daddy and mother love them. The man has quit drinking and smoking and he does not swear any more.

Jay is so happy. He is praying that some day they will give their hearts to Jesus and be baptized. When Jay grows up he wants to be a minister, but now he is happy riding his pony down the country roads passing out literature.

Discussion

At this point the leader might discuss with the society what they can do to distribute literature. If the society does not already have several reading racks at places such as railroad and bus depots, barbershops, etc., this might be discussed and planned for.

Another very interesting project is to make *Little Friend* and *Youth's Instructor* booklets for distribution among the children at the hospitals. *Life and Health*, *Signs of the Times*, *Our Times*, *The Message Magazine*, and *Liberty* booklets may be made for distribution among adults. These booklets are made by placing one or two magazines between two pieces of bright-colored construction paper. With a paper punch make a couple of holes

in the material and tie it together with ribbons that match or harmonize in color with the construction paper. Colored pictures cut from magazines may be pasted on the front cover to make them more attractive.

Still another idea is systematic distribution of *Present Truth* or *Good News* from door to door on Sabbath afternoons.

There will be some from the society who will be very successful selling single copies of magazines, the paper-covered *Bedtime Stories*, or Crisis Series books.

Remember, Juniors love activity.

Ruth's Experience

Ruth sat quietly and listened to the minister talk about winning souls for Christ. When the Sabbath morning service was over and Ruth was alone in her room, she knelt by her bed and asked the Lord to help her be a soul winner. "I must do something," she thought, "and get started right away." For had the minister not said Jesus wanted everyone to work for Him?

The next week Ruth had made her decision. She would try to sell some magazines. They were only fifteen cents apiece. Maybe she could sell a few, and that would be working for Jesus.

The first day she had sold all but one when she began to get tired. "I'll just take it home with me," she thought, "and maybe I can sell it tomorrow."

When she reached the corner where the traffic light was, there were several people waiting for the light to turn green. While she waited, she showed her magazine to the kindly gentleman standing beside her. When he saw it was a Christian magazine, he handed it back to her and said, "No, thank you, I wouldn't be interested. I have visited all the churches in this city and I haven't found one yet that teaches the Bible and does what it says."

"Oh, how dreadful," said Ruth. "Have you been to the Seventh-day Adventist Church?"

"Adventists? I never heard of them," the man replied.

Then Ruth explained about their going to church on the seventh day—the day the Bible tells about. She told him many interesting things, answered his questions, and then invited him to visit her church.

As he started across the street he said, "Maybe I will visit your church."

Ruth hurried home to tell everyone about her success. She had sold all her magazines—and had invited one person to come to her church.

Sabbath morning she could hardly wait until time for Sabbath school. She anxiously watched the door. Finally it opened, and a strange gentleman entered—yes, it was the man she talked with on the corner. He had come. Ruth bowed her head and thanked the Lord. She liked being a missionary for Jesus.

Next to acquiring good friends, the best acquisition is that of good books.—C. C. Colton.

Juniors Distributing Literature

How many of you Juniors here today would like to be a missionary? (*Ask for a show of hands.*) Yes, it would be wonderful to get on a giant airplane or a large ship and go to some far-off land like China, South America, or Africa, and tell the people about Jesus and His wonderful love. But did you ever stop to think, Juniors, that we have a mission field right here at home?

It is not necessary to make a trip across the ocean to be a missionary. Every one of us can be a missionary now. But you might say, "I cannot give a Bible study. I cannot preach a sermon. I cannot give treatments to the sick." But there is something that every one of you can do. What do you think it is? (*Ask two or three for answers.*) Yes, that is absolutely correct—distributing literature.

I think of two little boys in California who get on their bicycles on Sunday mornings and go to many of their friends and neighbors and give them tracts that tell of Jesus and His love. All of you like to ride bicycles, don't you? Wouldn't it be fun to take a bicycle ride on Sunday mornings and at the same time do some real missionary work?

Many times grown people will accept a tract or magazine from a boy or girl quicker than they will from an adult. The Bible says that "a little child shall lead them." Many juniors when making a nip with mother and dad during vacation like to take tracts and magazines with them and give them to the attendants at the filling stations or to the people they meet at the tourist courts or hotels.

Why don't you hand copies of *Our Little Friend* and the *Youth's Instructor* to your friends and neighbors after you have read them? They will enjoy them and thank you for your kindness.

All boys and girls like to have a little spending money. Some juniors deliver daily newspapers to earn spending money. Don't you think it would be much better if you would sell our own church magazines? Then you would not only be earning spending money but you would also be doing missionary work. If we want to be missionaries when we grow up, we must begin by being missionaries now.

—D. A. McADAMS.

+++

Twelve Things to Remember

The value of time.
The success of perseverance.
The pleasure of working.
The dignity of simplicity.
The worth of a character.
The power of kindness.
The influence of example.
The obligation of duty.
The wisdom of economy.
The virtue of patience.
The improvement of talent.
The joy of originating.

—MARSHALL FIELD.

January 22

GOD IS MY BEST FRIEND

By W. B. CLAWSON, JR.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus!" No. 11, in *M. V. Songs*. (See Notes.)

SILENT PRAYER.

SCRIPTURE READING: Verses on friendship from the Bible.

PRAYER: By Junior boys and girls.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

REPORTS OF MISSIONARY BANDS.

OFFERTORY. (See Notes.)

SYMPOSIUM: "Friends." By six Juniors.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Living for Jesus," No. 32.

TALK: "My Best Friend and Yours."

POEM: "The Friend of Friends." (See the *Gazette*, October, 1948, page 13.)

TALK: "Sharing-Our-Faith."

CLOSING SONG: "Like Jesus," No. 76.

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Superintendents

A SING from the screen with slides or from filmstrips would add variety and interest. This might be a help in getting the juniors to be on time if it is announced at the previous meeting.

OFFERINGS.—To build up your offerings, you might have the boys' and the girls' offerings taken separately. Count the amounts and announce them.

Friends

1. ABRAHAM is called a "Friend of God" in James 2:23. All through the life of this patriarch we see a living example of friendliness—he shared his faith at all times. In being friendly Abraham entertained heavenly guests. Abraham "commanded his whole household after him." When he was severely tested—asked to offer his only son, Isaac, upon an altar—God proved to be his best Friend. God withheld his hand and supplied an offering. God is always present to help when we need it most.

2. As a child MOSES learned at his mother's knee lessons most precious and dear to him. Here he learned the sacred truths which stood him through the tests of later years. Being taken from home at an early age, alone with God in the Egyptian courts, he was able to remain true to his faith. The seed had been planted in his early life. It had taken firm root. Moses chose to suffer for a season with God's people rather than enjoy the comforts and high honor of Egypt. Because of this choice, he lives today as representative of all those who die in Christ Jesus.

3. No sweeter story of friendship can be found than that of David and Jonathan's love for each other. Jonathan was willing to risk his life for his friend, David. (Read 1 Samuel 20:32-34; 41, 42.)

4. Alone with God upon Mt. Carmel, ELIJAH stood against 450 prophets of Baal to prove to the people that his God was the only God, and that they should again repent of their sins and turn back to serving the living God, and there is none other. God rewarded Elijah as fire fell upon the altar consuming the

sacrifice, the wood, and the stones, even to licking up the water. Oh what a Friend we have!

5. She was only a **LITTLE CAPTIVE MAID**, but she loved her master, Naaman, who was stricken with leprosy. True to her God, she let her light shine as she worked about the place. She believed and had faith in the things she had been taught at her home in Judea. She had heard of Elisha and his miracles. As she worked with her mistress, she grasped the opportunity and said, "Would God that my lord, Naaman, would go see Elisha, the prophet of God, for he would recover him from his leprosy." This little girl did what she could, remained faithful to God, and God rewarded her efforts. Naaman was healed.

6. **STEPHEN**, the deacon, remained true to his Friend until his death. Just before he was stoned, God honored his friendship, and looking into heaven Stephen saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God.

My Best Friend and Yours

Six thousand years ago God placed man in a beautiful garden—a garden not marred with sin. This was to be the home of Adam and Eve. They were to take care of the garden. God had given them everything for their comfort and enjoyment.

But because of disobedience they had to give up this home. No longer could they remain in the garden. They were now slaves to the devil.

God, our Friend, in His goodness and love provided a plan to redeem lost man. He did not leave him in despair, but told him of the plan of salvation. As Adam and Eve saw the leaves and the grass wither and die, how they must have longed for the Redeemer to fulfill His promise! (Genesis 3:15.)

Adam must have suffered as he slew his first lamb for the evening sacrifice, knowing that all this was the result of his and Eve's disobedience, and realizing that this lamb symbolized the supreme sacrifice that Christ would have to make in order to purchase back the lost race.

God was good to us in offering His Son to pay our death penalty—His only Son. What love! How happy and glad man should be to receive Him as his personal Saviour! How thrilled man should have been to receive Him when He was born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago! After a short life He was led to Calvary's hill. There between two thieves He died of a broken heart—forsaken by His own and rejected, He died for you and me.

Juniors, it is a simple love story that you all know. But have you accepted Jesus' invitation? Have you taken time to respond to His calling? I know many of you have, but what about you boys and girls who have not? Do it now! Give your heart to that One who has done so much for you. You will never be sorry. You have nothing to lose, and all to win. Jesus is your best Friend.

Jesus is looking for boys and girls to share their faith with those who do not know Him

and His love for the world. Will you join other Juniors in sharing your faith?

Sharing-Our-Faith

There are many reasons for sharing-our-faith, and many ways in which to do it. Today let us talk about a few.

**** Love for our friends.** I am sure each of us has some special friends we enjoy being with, talking with, and most of all we want to keep on enjoying their friendship. What a disappointment it would be to have Christ say to us, "Where is that friend you enjoyed while on earth?" Could we be happy if we had not invited our friends to be ready to go to heaven when Jesus comes?

**** God's love for us.** When we receive some earthly gift, or are going to make a trip with our parents, the first thing we do is to tell our friends about it. And so it is with our love for God. We just cannot help but talk about it and tell others about it.

**** Joy in service.** I think this is one of the greatest reasons for sharing our faith. There is no greater thrill or happiness than to help someone find Jesus as his personal Saviour, to have him rejoice in this message with us, and go out and work for others.

**** Another reason for sharing our faith is to save a soul.** The devil is hard at work to capture every soul he can. We, too, must be active if we would win souls for Christ. Boys and girls, heaven is a real place. God is preparing a place for each one of us where we can live on and on, enjoying our friends and the beauty and goodness of God, throughout eternity.

**** The greatest reason of all is to be loyal to Jesus—to exemplify in this darkened world of sin by our words, dress, and actions the love of Jesus.** He who has done so much for us day by day is calling for Juniors to stand for Him.

Let us act as one missionary's son did. He was only a little lad of not five years. He was with his daddy and mother and little brother en route to Africa. While on the boat, walking down the deck, the hardened captain asked, "Tad, where are you going?" Tad spoke up quickly and said, "To Africa." Then the captain inquired, "Then where?" And Tad answered, "Home to Jesus!" Oh, what a sermon the captain had that day! Let us live our religion and work while we have the opportunity.

+++

Many long for special talent with which to do a wonderful work, while the duties lying close at hand, the performance of which would make the life fragrant, are lost sight of. Let such ones take up the duties lying directly in their pathway. Success depends not so much on talent as on energy and willingness. It is not the possession of splendid talents that enables us to render acceptable service; but the conscientious performance of daily duties.—Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings*, p. 219.

NOTES TO OFFICERS

Do You Advertise?

(Continued from page 7)

committee, each of whom will be responsible for inviting several people.

3. Mimeograph a page and hand it to the Missionary Volunteers. This may give a glimpse of the coming meeting, and sometimes a reminder of some of the missionary work the society members can do, certain comparisons of work done, a choice poem or quotation, or the Missionary Volunteer Pledge.

4. Print the announcement of the meetings of the society and society bands in the weekly church calendar or bulletin.

5. Display attractive posters after the meeting or during the week. Visualization to interpret verbalization has established its worth. Evolve the poster from the theme to be presented, and let it carry one message only. Make wise use of color, pictures, cutouts, simple lettering. (One must be painstaking and imaginative, but not necessarily an artist, to be a successful poster maker. The materials need not be elaborate or expensive. They may include colored crayons, water-color paints, inks of several tints, lettering pens, white marking pencils for use on dark paper, carpenter's pencils with broad graphite to use in various widths, or notched to make letters of two or three lines, colored papers and cardboard, carbon paper for tracing, samples of wall paper for backgrounds, flowers, leaves, etc., cutouts from magazines, floral catalogs, mission papers, etc., library paste, various Dennison devices.)

Keep your advertising simple and dignified, such as is becoming to a Christian, a winner of souls.

Story of an Adventist Song

There is a song in our *Church Hymnal* which is little known today, but which was a great favorite of the pioneers. It has an interesting story. Sometime in 1845 (as Elder Arthur White fixes the date), not long after the great disappointment of 1844, Ellen Harmon, a frail young woman of seventeen who had been chosen of the Most High as His messenger to His remnant church, became critically ill.

Since the accident which had invalidated her in childhood she had never been strong, and now, with the burden of guiding the believers through the discouragements and confusion which followed the disappointment, and with much criticism cruelly focused upon her, she fell desperately ill in Portland, Maine.

She describes her situation thus: "Discouragements pressed heavily upon me; and the condition of God's people so filled me with anguish that for two weeks I was prostrated with sickness. My friends thought I could not live; but brethren and sisters who sympathized with me in this affliction met to pray for me."—*Life Sketches of James and Ellen White* (1888), p. 215.

During this special season of prayer on her behalf Ellen Harmon was greatly strengthened; and as the praying group encircled her

bed, they were suddenly aware that she was being taken in vision.

"Prayer prevailed. The power of the strong foe was broken, and I was released and immediately taken off in vision. . . . Then I saw for the first time the glory of the new earth."—*Id.*, p. 216.

As long as they lived those praying people never forgot that wonderful experience when they were privileged to witness the messenger in the first vision given her of the new earth.

Almost transfixed, they stood about the bed while the frail instrument of God's purpose, who had been at death's door when they entered that room, described with clear voice and strong gestures what was being shown her in vision.

Among those who surrounded Ellen Harmon's bedside that day and heard her vivid description of the new earth was William H. Hyde. The presentation made such an impression upon him that later he was moved to put it into verse. His verses found their way into publication, and, set to the music of an unknown composer, were soon upon the lips of all the early believers. They sang the hymn in meeting; they sang it at their work; they sang it in their homes. Immediately it became a great favorite in early Adventist ranks.

When Ellen Harmon became Mrs. James White, in 1846, she sang the song often in her home wherever that might be.

In 1849, when James White compiled the first hymnal of our denomination, bearing the lengthy but distinguishing title of *Hymns, for God's Peculiar People, That Keep the Commandments of God, and the Faith of Jesus*, this song was number nine in that original collection of fifty-three songs printed without musical score.

When Ellen G. White's first book, *Experiences and Views*, appeared in 1851, the words of this song were printed on the back cover of the paper-bound book. So it may safely be assumed that there was no Adventist of the early days who was not familiar with the pioneer song, "We Have Heard From the Bright, the Holy, Land."

Mrs. White loved this song, and throughout her life frequently sang it.

During her last illness, in 1915, the helpers at work about her home and office at Elmhaven, in California, often heard her eighty-seven-year-old voice raised in the strains of the song of the beautiful land whose glories she had been shown in the early days of her messengership and many times thereafter.

This song (*Church Hymnal*, No. 305) is movingly beautiful when sung by a young woman as a soprano solo, but is also impressive as a congregational hymn. Every stanza should be sung to gain the full impression of the description.

This is another of the songs which should be revived in our church services and in our homes. The frequent singing of this song will incorporate into the thinking of young and old the glories of that land toward which we all turn with longing, and will instill a desire to share in those glories.

—STELLA PARKER PETERSON.

Ten Commandments for Leadership

[These suggestions to Sunday school superintendents are easily adaptable by M. V. Society leaders and executive committees.]

"How am I doing?" Rane Roaks, the new superintendent at the Grace Church Sunday school asked his friend, principal of the local high school.

"Fine so far, but—"

"That's what I was thinking you'd say, but what?"

"Well, as I tell my teachers, there's room for improvement. Usually we work together on a schedule that will improve these teachers-in-action. That's what you need."

Rane thought it over, and worked out a schedule by which he could improve himself while carrying on the routine activities of his task. His problem was no different from that of any superintendent, minister, teacher, staff executive, or supervisor of a department. Here are a few things which even good leaders may find helpful:

Do the usual thing in the unusual way. This takes the program out of the rut. Most programs have settled to a dead sameness. The usual program must be carried out, but this does not imply that it needs to be done in a rutty manner. Leaders should seek out opportunities, for example, for opening the school in a different way. They can check the songs, the speakers, the announcements, and all items, and try to vary the approach.

Analyze all talent at hand. Many leaders use the same talent month after month, with no endeavor to reach out for new. There are various talents in every group, but they lie below the surface. Many people who could be serviceable never have a chance to display their ability. A talent hunt, or a "talent scout," would be a good plan. If you are a leader, check through the entire organization, and list what each member can do, and what he likes to do. Then with this check list before you, put those talents to work.

Keep after your personnel. You build a school by locating new people and holding old ones. Some leaders think it is enough to find new people and feed them into the school. But often while they are doing this they are losing their old members. Check on your teachers each week to see if they will be present. Stir them up to do the same for their classes. Never let an absentee go even two Sundays without trying to find out the cause for his failure to attend.

Contact workers regularly. Contact the community week by week. Contact your prospects systematically. Contact your absentees immediately.

Show an uncommon spirit of service. You as executive must literally serve the organization. Some leaders struggle between the choices: Shall I be a platform manager, or a servant of the people? The growing leader is the servant in every case. Be the first at the sick bed. Know the youth by name, and do

not be above visiting with them. Use your automobile for every conceivable task.

Develop a spirit of consideration for subordinates. Remember their fine points and forget their rough failures. Do not hold a grudge against them when they fail to back your program. Simply ask yourself, did I co-operate with them? Keep them believing in you by believing in them, and acting as though you believed they can do their job satisfactorily. Do not snoop around like you were hunting for some failure on their part. Thank them publicly for all their uncommon services.

Be dissatisfied with present accomplishments. The leader who would improve himself while in the harness of activity must not rest content when he has held a crowd-getting rally. He must be dissatisfied with what was done, and work out a crowd-holding campaign. While the attendance record goes up, he must be planning new strategies by which it will climb higher. Set quota goals of achievement, and when they are attained go after still harder-to-achieve objectives.

Study human nature. Many leaders can handle the platform perfectly, but they cannot handle human beings. You should study to know what offends the weakest-willed person in the school. Fit your thinking to the slowest-moving pupils, and lead them along with you. Do not alienate people from your program by being hardheaded in that you must have your own way all the time. Give the other fellow a chance to have his way for a while, and he will be willing to help you arrive at your objectives.

Study business efficiency and management. The church school is a growing concern with a mass of details which must be handled effectively. You should study matters relating to personnel management, efficiency in handling an office staff, the best methods of teacher supervision.

Strike a balance between the program that is good for the school, and what the school wants. Some leaders force a program upon their constituency because it is what the school ought to have. You can go only so far in such a procedure. If you carry it through to its logical conclusion you will lose the opportunity of serving the organization. Find out what the school wants to do, and try to fit into that program.—Condensed from *The Lookout*.

Hats Off to the Boy!

It is a great thing to teach a boy how to do things—and it is a great thing to teach him that he has a personality to mold, a leadership to acquire over himself, and a soul to develop and save. Hats off to the boy! He is the future leader of mankind. His life is big with possibilities. He may make or uncrown kings, change boundary lines between states, write books that will mold character, or invent machines that will revolutionize the world; so I say again, "Hats off to the boy!"—GEORGE H. KNOX.

—
"What is your spiritual income?"

Home Missionary Department

Ambassadors for the Heavenly Kingdom

By G. R. Nash, Home Missionary Secretary

Atlantic Union Conference

Suggestive Program for

Sabbath

January 1

OPENING HYMN: "Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus!" No. 354 in *Church Hymnal*.

PRAYER.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

READING: "The Divine Plan."

POEM: "The Starless Crown."

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Others," *Gospel in Song*, p. 64.

OFFERING. (For Church Missionary Supplies.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

TALK OR READING: "A Call to Universal Action."

CLOSING SONG: "Working, O Christ, With Thee," No. 345 in *Church Hymnal*.

Notes to Leaders

This first missionary service for the year 1949 should be a challenge to every missionary leader and to every Seventh-day Adventist. Another year of opportunity to engage in soul-winning labor is before us. It offers the greatest opportunities that we have ever had in our history as a denomination to work for the Lord. I believe that we are on the verge of greater things. The Lord is making bare His holy arm and will do a mighty work for us if we will only give ourselves to Him as willing instruments. This fact should be urged upon the members in every possible way. This program has been prepared with this in mind.

The general topic of the entire program is "Ambassadors for the Heavenly Kingdom." We have made out a suggestive program for your consideration. Special attention should be given to this well in advance of the day that it is to be rendered. The one who is to offer the prayer should be given advance notice. Someone should be chosen who will offer a short prayer with a definite view of the program in mind. The reading, "The Divine Plan," probably will need to be read. If possible, the poem, "The Starless Crown," should be memorized. If this is impossible, then choose someone who will be able to read it with thought and meaning.

For "Questions and Answers" we would suggest for your consideration that the questions be copied off and given to certain ones in the congregation and let them stand and ask the questions in the order listed. Make this as spontaneous as possible, then the missionary leader or the one leading out in the program will give the answers. "A Call to Universal Action" should be given as a talk, if possible. After the talk has been given

it is hoped that the enrollment cards will be passed out and that every individual in the church will enroll in one or more Service Companies. These pledge cards should be collected and given to the missionary leader for study by the church missionary committee.

The Divine Plan

The apostle Peter sets forth a challenge to the church in these stirring words: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." 1 Peter 2:9.

Another prophet of old surely pictured the conditions which were to prevail in these last days when he said, "Behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people," then he adds the encouraging words, "but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee." Isaiah 60:2.

God's promises in behalf of, and His plan for, His chosen people are set forth in unmistakable language in the scriptures quoted. Repeatedly the Spirit of prophecy refers to the divine purpose for the church. The following clear statement emphasizes the fact:

"The unselfish labor of Christians in the past should be to us an object lesson and an inspiration. The members of God's church are to be zealous of good works, separating from worldly ambition, and walking in the footsteps of Him who went about doing good. With hearts filled with sympathy and compassion, they are to minister to those in need of help, bringing to sinners a knowledge of the Saviour's love. Such work calls for laborious effort, but it brings a rich reward. Those who engage in it with sincerity of purpose will see souls won to the Saviour; for the influence that attends the practical carrying out of the divine commission, is irresistible.

"Not upon the ordained minister only rests the responsibility of going forth to fulfil this commission. Every one who has received Christ is called to work for the salvation of his fellow-men. 'The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come.' The charge to give this invitation includes the entire church. Every one who has heard the invitation is to echo the message from hill and valley, saying, 'Come.'

"It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the

work of soul-saving depends alone upon the ministry. The humble, consecrated believer upon whom the Master of the vineyard places a burden for souls, is to be given encouragement by the men upon whom the Lord has laid larger responsibilities. Those who stand as leaders in the church of God are to realize that the Saviour's commission is given to all who believe in His name. God will send forth into His vineyard many who have not been dedicated to the ministry by the laying on of hands.

"Hundreds, yea, thousands, who have heard the message of salvation, are still idlers in the market place, when they might be engaged in some line of active service. To these Christ is saying, 'Why stand ye here all the day idle?' and He adds, 'Go ye also into the vineyard.' Why is it that many more do not respond to the call? Is it because they think themselves excused in that they do not stand in the pulpit? Let them understand that there is a large work to be done outside the pulpit, by thousands of consecrated lay members.

"Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church, so that every one shall be working for Him according to his ability. When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned, and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory. 'This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.'—*Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 109-111.

The above quotation plainly presents the divine purpose and our duty. We cannot afford to delay longer. We are living in a changing world. These are tremendous days. They are days of challenging opportunity for the church of God. During the entire history of this movement there never has been a more opportune or favorable time for proclaiming the outstanding truths that we as a people hold. The people of the world are bewildered and confused. Strife and violence, agitation and the fear of war abound everywhere. Old, established customs are breaking down and there is a demand for new and untried things. No wonder the people of the world become confused and staggered by the rapidly changing conditions!

It is in just such a time as this that the

message of God is to be proclaimed with great power. This is a work and a responsibility that rests upon every follower of Christ.

We plead with every church member to respond to this urgent appeal. Shall the Lord have to wait longer for the spirit of service to take possession of his people? We trust that the answer will be, "No!" The call is a call for every-member evangelism. As the prophet Isaiah when he heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" may we, also respond by saying, "Here am I; send me." Isaiah 6:8.

Questions and Answers

1. *Question:* Do you really believe that God expects work from every church member?

Answer: Yes, I definitely believe that God does expect personal service from every church member. Listen to the following:

- (a) "God expects personal service from every one to whom He has intrusted a knowledge of the truth for this time. Not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, but all can be home missionaries in their families and neighborhoods."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 30.
- (b) "Long has God waited for the spirit of service to take possession of the whole church, so that every one shall be working for Him according to his ability."—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 111.
- (c) "Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 327.

2. *Question:* I understand that it is in the divine plan that all should be laborers together with God, but what about those who do not have natural ability?

Answer:...

- (a) "God will do the work if we furnish Him the instruments."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 107.
- (b) "To every one who offers himself to the Lord for service, withholding nothing, is given power for the attainment of measureless results."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, p. 30.
- (c) "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.
- (d) "Success depends not so much on talent as on energy and willingness. It is not the possession of splendid talents that enables us to render acceptable service; but the conscientious performance of daily duties, the contented spirit, the unaffected, sincere interest in the welfare of others."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 219.
- (e) "The Lord imparts a fitness for the work to every man and woman who will co-operate with divine power. All the re-

quisite talent, courage, perseverance, faith, and tact will come as they put the armor on."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 333.

3. *Question:* Do I understand from the quotations just read that we do not have to study or prepare, but just give ourselves to God as instruments and then expect Him to do the work by some miracle?

Answer: We have a part to play.

- (a) "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15.
- (b) "Men of God must be diligent in study, earnest in the acquirement of knowledge, never wasting an hour. Through persevering exertion they may rise to almost any degree of eminence as Christians, as men of power and influence."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, p. 411.
- (c) "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5.

4. *Question:* I have never seen any results from my work. What do you advise me to do?

Answer:

- (a) "The duke of Wellington was once present where a party of Christian men were discussing the possibility of success in missionary effort among the heathen. They appealed to the duke to say whether in his judgment such efforts were likely to prove a success commensurate to the cost. The old soldier replied: 'Gentlemen, what are your marching orders? Success is not the question for you to discuss. If I read



O Church of Christ Arise!

O church of Christ, awake!
Arise and work and pray!
Thy worldliness forsake;
Yield God thy heart today!

Canst thou with tearless eyes
Regard earth's moral night?
Go forth! Evangelize!
And battle for the right!

O church of Christ, arise!
How long must Jesus wait?
Cut all thine earthly ties,
For time is growing late.

O church of Christ, arise!
Accept His proffered power.
Behold earth's low'ring skies,
And know this is thy hour!

—ADLAI ALBERT ESTEB.

your orders aright, they run thus, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Gentlemen, obey your marching orders."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 115.

- (b) "He commands His servants to present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent, except at the peril of their souls. Christ's ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty, and leave the results with God."—*Great Controversy*, pp. 609, 610.
- (c) "If you fail ninety-nine times in a hundred, but succeed in saving one soul from ruin, you have done a noble deed for the Master's cause."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, p. 132.

5. *Question:* What is meant by "Service Units"?

Answer: By "Service Bands" or "Companies" we have reference to groups of individuals, banded together under a special leader, with the aim of accomplishing some certain project. We might list the following as examples:

- (a) Bible Evangelism unit
- (b) Literature unit
- (c) Dorcas Welfare unit

I would recommend Home Missionary Leaflet No. 16 for further study.

Question: Who makes up the Church Missionary Committee?

Answer: "In every church, large or small, the missionary committee is the same as the church board. This policy is established by a recommendation passed by the General Conference in the year 1930, which stands on record as follows:

"Recognizing the urgent need of the utmost simplicity in the organized plan of the missionary movement in our churches, and in order to facilitate the successful development of our evangelical work,

"We recommend, That the church board constitute the missionary committee; provided, however, that in churches where it is necessary, the church board appoint a subcommittee to lay definite plans for the missionary work of the whole church, this subcommittee to consist of the missionary leader, church missionary secretary, Missionary Volunteer leader, Junior Missionary Volunteer superintendent, and any other members of the church board thought best." Home Missionary Leaflet No. 2, p. 6.

+++

Fathers and mothers should feel that a duty devolves upon them to guide the affections of the youth, that they may be placed upon those who will be suitable companions. They should feel it a duty, by their own teaching and example, with the assisting grace of God, to so mould the character of the children from their earliest years that they will be pure and noble, and will be attracted to the good and true. Like attracts like; like appreciates like. Let the love for truth and purity and goodness be early implanted in the soul, and the youth will seek the society of those who possess these characteristics.—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 176.

The Starless Crown

Wearied and worn with earthly care, I yielded to repose,
And soon before my raptured sight a glorious vision rose.
I thought, while slumbering on my couch in midnight's solemn gloom,
I heard an angel's silvery voice, and radiance filled my room.
A gentle touch awakened me, a gentle whisper said,
"Arise, O sleeper, follow me!" and through the air we fled.
We left the earth so far away that like a speck it seemed,
And heavenly glory, calm and pure, across our pathway streamed.

Still on we went; my soul was wrapped in silent ecstasy;
I wondered what the end would be, what next would meet my eye.
I knew not how we journeyed through the pathless fields of light.
When suddenly a change was wrought, and I was clothed in white.
We stood before a city's walls, most glorious to behold;
We passed through gates of glittering pearl, o'er streets of purest gold.
It needed not the sun by day, nor silver moon by night;
The glory of the Lord was there, the Lamb Himself its light.

But fairer far than all beside, I saw my Saviour's face,
And as I gazed, He smiled on me with wondrous love and grace.
Slowly I bowed before His throne, o'erjoyed that I at last
Had gained the object of my hopes, that earth at length was past.
And then in solemn tones He said, "Where is the diadem
That ought to sparkle on thy brow, adorned with many a gem?
I know thou hast believed on Me, and life, through Me, is thine;
But where are all those radiant stars that in thy crown should shine?"

"I did not mean that thou shouldst tread the way of life alone,
But that the clear and shining light which round thy footsteps shone
Should guide some other weary feet to My bright home of rest,
And thus in blessing those around, thou hadst thyself been blest."
The vision faded from my sight; the voice no longer spake;
A spell seemed brooding o'er my soul, which long I feared to break;
And when at last I gazed around, in morning's glimmering light,
My spirit fell, o'erwhelmed amid that vision's awful night.

I rose and wept with chastened joy that yet I dwelt below,
That yet another hour was mine, my faith by works to show,
That yet some sinner I might tell of Jesus' dying love,
And help to lead some weary soul to seek a home above.
And now while on the earth I stay, my motto this shall be,
"To live no longer to myself, but for Him who died for me."
And graven on my inmost soul this word of truth divine,
"They that turn many to the Lord, bright as the stars shall shine."

—SELECTED.

A Call to Universal Action

A definite time has been planned by God in which we are to do His work, and a definite time has been set by our heavenly Father when His work is to be finished. And further, this peculiar people, chosen to show forth His praises, to be His light bearers, must have a definite experience with God and in the things of God. The plan and purpose includes all the believers.

"The Saviour's commission to the disciples included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time. It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of saving souls depends alone on the ordained minister. All to whom the heavenly inspiration has come, are put in trust with the gospel. All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men. For this work the church was

established, and all who take upon themselves its sacred vows are thereby pledged to be co-workers with Christ. . . . Whatever one's calling in life, his first interest should be to win souls for Christ. He may not be able to speak to congregations, but he can work for individuals."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 822.

There are at least two things that stand out in God's purpose for His people concerning which there can be no question. One is that by being true to this purpose the church will receive great blessing; the other, that this plan and method outlined by Him "who cannot err," is the one that will most effectively reach the lost. Because God, who has given to "every man his work," has also promised and provided the required power and wisdom for accomplishing the purpose outlined.

"The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with

His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God. When we have entire, whole-hearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God."—*Christian Service*, p. 253.

Let us note carefully the words, "but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God." We must be "an enlightened people," "have entire whole-hearted consecration," and be "laborers together with God," then the great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which "lightens the whole earth with His glory," will be poured out without measure. Bearing this in mind let us meditate on these quotations:

"The elders and those who have leading places in the church should give more thought to their plans for conducting the work. They should arrange matters so that every member of the church shall have a part to act, that none may lead an aimless life, but that all may accomplish what they can according to their several ability."—*Christian Service*, p. 62.

"Every one who is added to the ranks by conversion is to be assigned his post of duty."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, p. 30.

The missionary committee should give study to the name of each church member and assign him or her to some post of duty. The leader should then tactfully approach the members, one by one, and ascertain their feelings, endeavoring to guide them in their choice.

The church members should be encouraged to take up simple lines of work at first, and soon they will be prepared to launch out into broader fields. Those in need of instruction should be carefully taught both in theory and in practice; and those who lack interest to put forth any effort should be tactfully and prayerfully labored with until they join the ranks of workers in one or more service units. Then as we organize the church for really efficient service, district the territory to be worked, and lead our believers into the field, we have every reason to believe and to expect that God will give the increase.

This new year should mark a greater era in universal and personal soul-winning service for God's remnant church. May workers, church officers, and lay members consecrate all they have and bend every energy to this most worthy objective. Shall we not each one determine by God's help, that we will win at least one soul during 1949? Is there one today who would like to reconsecrate and rededicate himself to the Lord and thus promise to join one or more service units with a goal of at least one soul won to Christ?

NOTE: At this point let those stand who want to give expression to their consecration. After the consecration prayer—pass out the covenant blanks (which will be provided in ample time for this service) with a view to getting every member of the church enrolled for definite lines of service.

Missionary Leadership

Personal Evangelism— How to Begin

Soul winning is the greatest work of the church. When the church, as an evangelizing agency, loses sight of its mission, it fails in its purpose. Upon all who believe in Christ and accept His salvation there rests a solemn responsibility to proclaim that salvation and to share Him with others. The message of the second advent, fully believed, is what the blood is to the body; when it is not believed and preached, there is poor circulation. Any person, having accepted Christ, must either spread his religion or change it. "The spiritual faculties cease to exist if they are not exercised, and it is Satan's design that they shall perish."—Mrs. E. G. White, *Review and Herald*, Jan. 24, 1893.

Begin in the home. Erect or repair the family altar and make Christianity an experience to be desired by the children. Some parents possess a burden for others, meanwhile neglecting the salvation of their children. This is a mistake for which they must give an account.

The business dealings of the father and the way he works at his job should reveal Christ's character. This far outweighs any preaching he may force upon his fellow laborers or contacts.

How to begin? "Let us remember that a Christlike life is the most powerful argument that can be advanced in favor of Christianity, and that a cheap Christian character works more harm in the world than the character of a worldling."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 21.

The vessel must first be cleansed, and the channel kept unobstructed for the constant inflow of the Holy Spirit. We need Christ's help to overcome sin and live a godly life. We must receive power from above for successful soul-winning service.

"There is no limit to the usefulness of the one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God."—*Christian Service*, p. 254.

The secret of success in this movement is the acceptance of Christ's charge to bring disciples to Him. Indifference to the privilege of personal evangelism is the greatest enemy.

This is a work that cannot be performed by proxy. The Good Samaritan not only saw the man who fell among thieves, but he "came where he was" and ministered to him.

Everywhere there are opportunities to witness for Christ, but only the consecrated, prepared, and alert believer will discern them. A casual conversation may easily be directed to a discussion of the significance of current events. A Biblical answer, tactfully given, will arouse greater interest in the honest individual's search for truth. Literature is abundant

and should be employed. Sympathy expressed in deeds, prayer for the sick, and a brief, social, get-acquainted visit to one's neighbors may create an opportunity to witness for Christ. Many do not attend any church. Invite them to the house of God. Young people, confused and torn by conflicting emotions, can be won to Christ with proper encouragement. By exercising great care and thoughtful skill we may remove prejudice instead of creating it.

Never forget your need of the Holy Spirit in meeting various types of personalities. Reactions will not be the same and prospects differ widely. Notwithstanding one's immediate experience in personal evangelism be confident of this promise: "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psalm 126:5, 6.

To sum up we emphasize the following points:

1. Obtain an experience in Christ and a burning desire to tell others.
2. Receive adequate preparation for conflict with the evil one by prayer and daily study of God's Word. Enroll in and complete the course "Training Light Bearers."
3. Offer your services to the pastor or church leader for a co-ordinated effort of personal with public evangelism.
4. Invite one other member to accompany you while Bible studies are given. Request that member's prayers while the truth is being presented.
5. Equip yourself, if possible, with a projector and doctrinal filmstrips. Stay by the chosen topic and present all subjects in logical sequence, never taking too much time for presentation.
6. Upon your return home engage in earnest prayer that God may impress the truths of the Bible study on the hearts of the listeners.
7. Persevere in this work until the individual accepts Christ, is examined, and baptized by the pastor. Then continue to pray that he will remain steadfast. Once you experience the thrill of bringing a lost soul to Christ, you will never cease to do personal evangelism.

—W. B. HILL.

Setting Every Man to Work

"For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch." Mark 13:34.

The challenge of a world filled with vice and crime is the strongest appeal today to enlist every member in missionary endeavor. The following quotations are of sufficient

force to stir every member to action in the present crisis.

"We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another,—fire, and flood, and earthquake, with war and bloodshed. We are not to be surprised at this time by events both great and decisive; for the angel of mercy cannot remain much longer to shelter the impenitent."—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 278.

"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. 1, p. 260.

In the organization of our church there is a place for every member to be active in missionary work. "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."—*Ibid.*, Vol. 9, p. 117.

The present need is discernment, training, education, and leadership which will place definite responsibility upon the individual. We have a very definite statement from the pen of Mrs. E. G. White, "Those who labor in visiting the churches should give the brethren and sisters instructions in practical methods of doing missionary work."—*Ibid.*

Members of the church board constitute the church missionary committee. In counsel with the board, the pastor or district leader should appoint consecrated, God-fearing men who have leadership ability to direct the various bands for missionary work. The church should sponsor Bible workers, lay preachers, literature, and prayer bands as well as Missionary Men activities, Branch Sabbath schools, and Dorcas. It will be well for pastors and district leaders to meet with their church boards before the close of the year to make definite plans for missionary service that will be ready to offer the church on the first Sabbath of the new year.

The first Sabbath in January, Home Missionary Day, would be an opportune time for the district leader or pastor to present a stirring message on the importance of every member taking an active part in missionary work. A consecration service followed by an altar call at the close of the message will be of inestimable value. After the consecration service, the Personal Soul-winning Covenant cards should be passed to every member, and they should be urged to sign them. Each one should specify by a check mark the line of work desired. The cards should be signed,



classified, and given to the leader chosen to direct the band designated on the card. In turn, each leader should be given the opportunity, *then and there*, to call a meeting of his group, stating *where*, and at *what time* the first meeting will be held to organize his band for definite missionary work.

We want to emphasize in a strong way that leaders should let their members know that they believe in them, and that God has endowed every one with the ability to do something. Every church should feel responsible for the territory within the reach of its missionary activities. We have the following instructions on this point: "Wherever a church is established, all the members should engage actively in missionary work. They should visit every family in the neighborhood, and know their spiritual condition."—*Id.*, Vol. 6, p. 296.

In "setting every man to work," obtaining reports is of vital importance. Depicting in words the various activities of bands, or individuals, will do much toward spreading the "working-for-others" attitude. The length of time or the magnitude of the experience is not to be considered, but let us remember that it is the *act of kindness*, whether great or small, which presents the Christlike spirit to others that counts. Reports will encourage and inspire those who are less courageous to take an active part in the missionary endeavors of the church.

Nothing will stimulate the members to more zealous work than encouraging them to report their work. "Every act of love, every word of kindness, every prayer in behalf of the suffering and oppressed, is reported before the eternal throne, and placed on Heaven's imperishable record."—*Id.*, Vol. 5, p. 133.

—T. M. FOUNTAIN.

More Bible Studies, Please

In the Florida Conference a new enterprise is being sponsored. This conference has set as an objective a thousand Bible studies a week. The Home Missionary secretary writes, "To attain our objective of one thousand Bible studies a week, we must start modestly and increase month by month, every church participating, striving to make its members more capable in giving Bible studies and more earnest in seeking honest souls. Members can learn how to give Bible studies effectively and convincingly through the Bible Service Training Course conducted in the church with the textbook entitled, *Training Light Bearers*. Many persons would give Bible studies regularly but they feel incompetent and therefore excuse themselves from this sacred responsibility. Many of these persons could readily learn if they accompanied a member when he goes forth to give a Bible study. This is the way some people can learn quickly, for by observation they learn how to give Bible studies.

"We trust that every local elder and church missionary leader will give continued promotion to this important matter. At the end of the month we shall study with special interest the total number of Bible readings given by

the members of each church. We expect to issue a conference-wide report showing these totals. Our objective for each church for the first month of this new project will be very modest, namely, not less than one Bible study for every five members on our church books. For the next month we shall increase



this to one Bible study for every four members. Ultimately we can actually attain one thousand thought-provoking, capably directed Bible studies a week."

Does this plan not suggest objectives that could be reached in each one of the fields? We know that there is a special place for each member of God's church in the service of the Master. Let us appeal to our members to do a larger work for God, realizing that God is depending upon them to finish the work under the direction of pastors and church officers.

Let us achieve this objective: *Every member a victorious Christian and soul winner, every church a training school and an evangelistic unit.*

—J. E. EDWARDS.

Tie a String to It

The Home Missionary report of the Florida Conference, as compiled by the secretary in the office, reveals the remarkable fact that 217,802 pieces of literature have been distributed by the members of the Florida Conference during the past twelve months.

The servant of the Lord has told us to put literature into the hands of everyone who will receive it. Wouldn't you like to know what happens as a result of the truth-filled papers that are distributed free? Think of the years past—many years—and the thousands upon thousands of pieces of literature that went into homes. The majority of those people were never seen again, and if that literature did arouse a spark of interest no one knew about it. No one followed it up.

Now we can know for a certainty how our literature is appreciated. Tie a string to it so that the interest will be followed up. Place a 20th Century Bible School invitation in each piece of printed material that is distributed, each book that is loaned, given away, or sold. Then when an interest is aroused, the Bible school invitation will draw the person into the correspondence school for more information on the truths which impressed him. The student is then encouraged, the interest fostered, and an abundant supply of reading

material is available for his use. The Sabbath truths are presented and when favorably received the name is reported to the minister or Bible worker nearest the student, and the worker in turn directs the interest to the church. Many members can be added to our churches by following this method.

Giving out literature is just half the task. We must not leave it unfinished. Give the people something to turn to. What would you think of a firm which advertised great bargains, but did not tell where they could be purchased; or an organization offering medical help without charge, but listing no address; a market offering great food specials, without revealing its location? We do not want to give out literature and leave the purpose or the interest in mid-air. Give the people something to turn to, something to tie to—a Bible Correspondence School invitation is a cord that will draw them into the fold.

Think of the interests we might have had in hand today, the new members which might have been added to our churches, if a Bible school invitation had been included in the 217,802 pieces of literature distributed in the Florida conference during the past twelve months.

These Bible school invitations are supplied free. Obtain them from your church missionary leader or secretary.

—R. H. FICKLING.

How to Remove Prejudice

Over and over we are told in the gospel story that the priests were filled with such hatred against the Saviour that they would have killed Him long before they did, but "they feared the multitude." (Matthew 21: 46.) These people had been ministered to by Christ, and they considered Him to be a prophet. (Mark 11:18.) Time after time He had healed their sick, He had given sight to the blind, cured the lepers, and raised the dead, and the conclusion was forced upon them because of these miracles, that He was a prophet. (Luke 7: 16.)

"The Christian world is now making movements which will necessarily bring commandment-keeping people into prominence."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 546.

Because of our loyalty to certain principles, the observance of the law of God, the opposing elements of human society will soon persecute us. Surely in the interest of advancing God's cause we should be trying now to form a favorable and protective public opinion. We should do as Jesus did, remove prejudice by acts of kindness and mercy.

"It is our duty to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger. We should endeavor to disarm prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people."—*Id.*, Vol. 5, p. 452.

"Nothing will or ever can give character to the work like helping the people just where they are."—*Id.*, Vol. 6, p. 280.

"As a means of overcoming prejudice and gaining access to minds, medical missionary work must be done. . . . We are to work as

gospel medical missionaries, to heal the sick souls by giving them the message of salvation. This work will break down prejudice as nothing else can."—*Id.*, Vol. 9, p. 211.

"The sick and suffering are to be helped. Many for whom this work of mercy is done will hear and accept the words of life. . . . Be sure to work in a way that will remove prejudice."—*Id.*, Vol. 9, p. 34.

Jesus was able to lengthen His days of ministry because He formed about Him a protective public opinion. So we should form a public opinion that defends us, that esteems us highly for the sake of our work, that removes prejudice and prolongs our days of tranquility and ministry in this world.

—HENRY F. BROWN.

Keep the Lights Burning

Many years ago a lake steamer was plowing its way through the stormy waters of Lake Erie. The captain of this vessel was eagerly peering through the driving rain and the black night to pick out the lower harbor lights at Cleveland. He could see the upper lights along the banks, but there were no lights at the harbor entrance. The mounting intensity of the raging storm made the captain decide to endeavor to find the way through the breakwater into the city harbor without the lower lights. A short time later this lake steamer dashed against the rock wall and was pounded by the angry waves. As a result many lives and the ship's cargo were lost.

The way to heaven is clearly lighted by the Bible. The upper lights are burning. The Holy Spirit and the angels are actively engaged in convicting souls of sin and directing their hearts toward Christ. But in order for

these souls to make the heavenly harbor, it is imperative for each church member to be a personal light bearer for God. The lower lights of a converted life must be lighted. You must direct the sinners to Christ. God depends upon you to let your light shine, helping others to find the harbor of salvation.

Watching the fulfillment of the prophecies, hearing civilization in its death cry, comprehending that this is the midnight hour, you realize that this is the time to serve as God's light bearer. "Each has his part to act; to each is granted a measure of light, adapted to the necessities of his time, and sufficient to enable him to perform the work which God has given him to do."—*Great Controversy*, p. 343.

Members who are able to leave their homes for a short time could maintain tract racks at airports, in railroad and bus depots, ferry lounges, hotel lobbies, professional offices, beauty salons, neighborhood stores, and barbershops. Others would be interested in procuring store windows for the display of our literature and the calling of attention to free tracts in the rack on the store's door.

Perhaps you are thinking, "I can't do very much," but be encouraged by this statement: "A company of believers may be poor, uneducated, and unknown; yet in Christ they may do a work in the home, in the community, and even in the 'regions beyond,' whose results shall be as far-reaching as eternity."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 106.

Are you reluctant because your education is limited? Listen to these words: "One may be able to say but few words in public, and to do but little in the vineyard of the Lord; but he is in duty bound to say something, and to be an interested worker."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 303.

the old and tried methods have been made more perfect. The press, the radio, the Bible Correspondence School, evangelism—all these agencies are used and they mean more souls.

The Lord is opening fields of opportunity and our workers are taking advantage of these opportunities that come to them. This fact is revealed in an article written recently by Elder W. R. Beach, president of the Southern European Division. He says, "We have come to a new day in the work in Europe. Tens of thousands stand ready to listen to the Advent message. In lands where walls of opposition have been met, there is today a remarkable readiness to learn what God has to say about world events. Surely under these circumstances we must rally to the task and be unrelenting in proclaiming the solemnity and the certainty of the coming Christ." This division at the last council held in Zurich set a goal of 12,000 souls in 1948.

We thank God for the awakening in all parts of the world field. We are grateful for the souls that have been won in the past, but surely a new day has dawned and we must expect to win thousands in the closing hours of probationary time. A stronger and more fruitful evangelism should be the keynote of every conference throughout the world field.

—W. B. OCHS.

Bible School Experiences

The Twentieth Century Bible School has proved to be a very effective and inexpensive soul-winning endeavor. People who may be living 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." This woman has been attending one of our Sabbath schools for some weeks and doubtless will be baptized soon.

We also find people who are strongly entrenched in other congregations who are face to face with mighty decisions. 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 of people that I am right and they are wrong about Sunday keeping?"

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 hus-

News from Soul Winners

Soul-Winning Experiences from Europe

Soul winning is the prime or chief reason for the existence of our denomination. Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14.

Reports come to us from all parts of the world field indicating that God is doing a marvelous work through His servants everywhere. These encouraging reports cause us to believe that this is God's day of power and the church's day of opportunity. Now is the time to arise and finish the task committed to us as a people.

Trials, hardships, or persecution will never stop the winning of souls. When hardships are the greatest we seem to have the best success in the winning of souls. While in Germany not too many months ago, a minister attending one of the workers' meetings said, "The second war, as the first, has been a blessing to the

cause of God. The workers seem more earnest, more devoted, and the results in souls won is the best proof. The interest in Germany is so large at the present time that the workers are unable to keep up with the work."

The truthfulness of this statement is found in the fact that in 1946 they baptized 3,014; in 1947, 5,573; and during the first six months of 1948, 3,353. In an effort held in Bremmerhaven, 400 to 500 people attended the meetings regularly. A young man who was studying for the priesthood attended one of the meetings. When he heard the sermon on Daniel 2 he became so interested that he sat up all night studying this chapter. He was anxious to know if the chapter referred to the papacy. Because of his great desire to learn the truth of God, he not only learned the truth, but accepted it, and today he is a baptized member.

In the Southern European Division God is doing a great work for His people. New forms of denominational activities for soul winning have been introduced and developed while

band 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 intense activities of God's people in securing interest through this avenue. Surely we can expect a large harvest of souls.

—J. O. MARSH.

Soul Winning in the Byways and Hedges

I used to watch with close intent to discover the secret of the success in winning souls that attended the work of some in mission lands who had no particular advantages of training for such work. We would be inclined to say that they had no special gifts for service. Yet as they went about there came fruitful results.

I found that of a truth there is a training we can hardly define—an invisibly imparted gift for bringing souls to Christ.

The last time I was in a council meeting of workers in the Spanish-American fields at Balboa, Canal Zone, I met the leader of our work in Mexico, the late Elder C. E. Wood.

"Well, brother," I said to him one day, "how is that little old lady in your field getting on, the lady who goes out with a black bag full of papers and tracts and wins souls? I think it was a hundred souls she had won when I saw you last."

"I can tell you this, brother," he replied; "she is still going strong. I believe the record is one hundred fifty souls won to the truth by that same little lady with the black bag."

How does one account for such reports? And such reports seem to come most frequently from the fields where the multitudes have had few religious privileges. It seems, truly, that we are in the time of the last call to the supper—it is going out into the hedges as well as the highways, and everybody is to go out and compel them to come in. In regions where there has been little light these long years the Lord of the harvest seems to speed on the work. The reaping in

the neglected parts must be finished with that in the older fields that have had greater labor. It is one harvest field.

The secret of some of this rapid ingathering in the byways, as we might call it, is pointed out in such a word as this from the Spirit of prophecy:

"We need to understand better than we do the mission of the angels. It would be well to remember that every true child of God has the co-operation of heavenly beings. Invisible armies of light and power attend

the meek and lowly ones who believe and claim the promises of God. Cherubim and seraphim, and angels that excel in strength, stand at God's right hand, 'All ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.'—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 154.

No wonder the Scripture tells us that God will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness. We shall see it in the days ahead of us.

—W. A. SPICER.

Weekly Church Missionary Services

January 1

Plans for the New Year

This is the first Sabbath of 1949. The new year lies before us with all its possibilities and opportunities. It is our desire as a church to make plans that will lead us into greater activity this year than we have ever experienced during the past.

We have often read the statement, "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. . . . Let all be taught how to work."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 49. It is not the sermons that will be preached from the public desk, nor the sermonettes that may be given during the missionary service, that will be the most help to our church. What will accomplish most is to organize ourselves, as a church, for service that includes every member working in some capacity.

Again we read from the messenger of the Lord: "In the common walks of life there is many a man patiently treading the round of daily toil, unconscious that he possesses powers which, if called into action, would raise him to an equality with the world's most honored men. The touch of a skillful hand is needed to arouse those dormant faculties. It was such men that Jesus called to be His collaborators; and He gave them the advantage of association with Himself. Never had the world's great men such a teacher. When the disciples came forth from the Saviour's training, they were no longer ignorant and uncultured. They had become like Him in mind and character, and men took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus."—*Desire of Ages*, p. 250.

It is hoped that each member of the church will begin considering and making definite plans to enter one of the service bands to do active missionary work in some capacity. Your missionary committee is making definite plans for the coming months, and these plans include every member of the church.

[NOTE: Here let the leader state a few of the plans that the Church Missionary Committee has in mind so that the members will know

that there is an aggressive Program being formulated.]

—G. R. NASH.

January 8

What Price Liberty?

Some time ago it came to light that the Roman Catholics in Dixon, New Mexico, had taken over the public school there. They had moved the pupils into the parochial school where they were taught by nuns, with the usual pictures, crucifixes, and materials of worship, and were subjected to the round of daily Catholic ritual. One Protestant pastor of the town found his children crossing themselves at the conclusion of the offering of thanks at the family dinner table.

The Protestants of Dixon have organized, and employed skilled lawyers, at great expense to themselves, to put a stop to this religiously indefensible and politically unconstitutional situation, and are instituting court action against the state school authorities and the Catholic church officials to answer for their conduct.

This is as it should be, and the same thing will doubtless need to be done in other places. It is estimated that in perhaps half a hundred places in this country a similar unconstitutional taking over of public schools by the Catholic parochial school system, at public expense, is going on even as we talk about it.

Why should we take alarm at this situation? Because a union of church and state is contrary to Christ's admonition, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" Matthew 22:21. It is dangerous to the safety both of civil government and of any church which engages in such union. For the state to support religious schools, or for a church to intrude itself into the schools of the state, constitutes a union of church and state, and provides a serious menace to religious liberty. The church must be free to teach religion through its own agencies and at its own expense. If a church unites with the state for this purpose, it will eventually find itself under the management and dictation of the state; or to preserve itself



the church will find it necessary to rule the state. A thousand years of history show us the extremely serious danger in either of these relationships.

The people of Dixon, New Mexico, have made heavy sacrifices to meet a menace to their precious liberties. But these sacrifices are justified. No price can be set upon liberty, especially religious liberty. It is worth any cost to maintain. The three Hebrew worthies realized this, and when commanded to worship the Babylonian image, gave a brave answer, "We are not careful to answer thee in this matter" (Daniel 3:16), and went into the fiery furnace rather than disobey their God and go against their faith. The apostles realized it, too, and when they were told they must no longer preach Jesus, they replied without hesitation, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29), and suffered scourging and imprisonment as a result.

Whether it be a matter of Sunday laws, or of protesting the right to worship, or of maintaining the right to teach religion and to propagate the doctrines of our faith, we must be alert to our duty to God. No better way has been found continuously to instruct men in authority concerning the principles of religious liberty than through the pages of *Liberty: A Magazine of Religious Freedom*.

—FRANK H. YOST.

January 15

"Ye Are My Witnesses"

"Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen." Isaiah 43:10. In Volume 9 of the *Testimonies*, page 33, we read these words: "The Lord is calling upon His people to take up different lines of work. Those in the highways and byways of life are to hear the gospel message. Church members are to do evangelistic work in the homes of their neighbors who have not yet received full evidence of the truth for this time." And again we read from *Christian Service*, page 9, "A distinct work is assigned to every Christian."

Each one of us is expected to witness for the Lord. Many are already witnessing. In Randolph Center, Vermont, during 1948, twelve precious souls were led into baptism as a result of such witnessing. One of our members desired to let his light shine and thus witness for the Lord among his neighbors. Our brother, like many others, felt that there was little he could do. He finally was impressed to slip a tract into the toolbox of a neighbor's tractor. Later he left a "Present Truth" in the same neighbor's cow barn near the milking machine. At first the literature was ignored. One evening while milking, Mr. O'Connell, the neighbor, felt rather depressed, and while the milking machine was running he picked up one of the papers and began to look it over. What he read interested him, and for approximately a year he continued to read and study the "Present Truth" while milking.

Finally one day while our Brother Perry and Mr. O'Connell were cleaning the attic

of the house where Mr. O'Connell's foster parents had lived, they came across a copy of a *Patriarchs and Prophets*. They also found *Bible Readings* and *Heralds of the Morning*, as well as other literature. Mr. O'Connell began to study *Bible Readings* and discovered truths that attracted his interest and gripped his heart. Then Mr. O'Connell questioned Brother Perry concerning the truths of the Bible, whenever he had opportunity. Frequently they made trips to town and nearby cities and upon these occasions there were many questions asked and answered.

After Mr. O'Connell decided to accept the Sabbath truth, he began to tell others. Soon he won his own wife. Then he interested his brother-in-law's family, the Rands.

Brother Perry began to talk to a Mr. Wyman one day in the hayfield. Later he read the Bible to him whenever he had opportunity. Finally Mr. Wyman became interested in the Scriptures. His mother bought him a Bible which he began to read. Mrs. Wyman was a Catholic and definitely opposed to her husband's becoming interested in our message. Vigorous discussions followed. One day Mr. Wyman asked his wife, "Why are you a Catholic, anyway?" When she stopped to think she realized that she really did not have a very logical answer to that question. At this point Brother Perry loaned her a Catholic Bible and a *Great Controversy*. The tide eventually changed in favor of the truth.

Both were baptized a few weeks ago. Altogether, as a result of the labor of Brother Perry and Brother O'Connell, twelve have been baptized.

Yes, brothers and sisters, our members are truly witnessing for the Lord, but this good work must be amplified many fold. He is counting on us—yes, on you. He wants all of us to go forth and do a similar work. "When the call comes, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' send back the answer, clear and distinct, 'Here am I; send me.'"—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 333.

—G. R. NASH.

January 22

Today Is Ours Tomorrow—What?

In Southern Rhodesia, South Africa, where there are many small gold mines, the story is told of an individual who was working in one of the mines, helping to put in a new shaft. When the task was nearly finished and while the man was still at the bottom, the earth caved in and buried him. Instantly the alarm was sent out and the natives from the surrounding villages hurried breathlessly to the scene of action. Shovels, spades, ladders, and ropes were brought by eager and willing hands. "Save him! Oh, save him!" was the cry from the lips of all.

Men worked with untiring energy until the sweat stood in beads upon their half-naked bodies. Their arms and legs trembled with the exertion. At length a pipe was forced down, through which they shouted to the man to answer if he were still alive. The

answer came, "Still alive, but hurry. It is fearful down here." With a shout of joy they renewed their efforts and at last he was saved. The cheer that went up from those natives seemed to pierce the very heavens. "He is saved! He is saved!" echoed through every village in the district.

Souls without God and without hope are perishing on every hand. Their blood will be required at our hands if we do not do our duty. There is danger in delay. We have no time to lose. Nevertheless, some are standing idly by as if there were no crisis to face.

Monsignor Fulton Sheen in *Look*, July, 1947, made this statement: "Millions of men and women today are uncertain of what they want to do with the years ahead of them. There are ten million Americans who are hungry for a conversion today. The age of indifference to religion is ended. People are tired of having their sins explained away. They want their sins forgiven." According to the *Christian Herald* the number of Americans belonging to churches increased by 3,713,006 during 1947.

This truly is our day of opportunity, but how are we responding? Listen to these timely words from the pen of Inspiration: "Wake up, brethren and sisters, wake up. Sleep no longer. 'Why stand ye here all the day idle?' Jesus calls you, saying, 'Go work today in My vineyard.' Whoever has received the Holy Spirit, will make it manifest; for all his powers will be employed in the most active service. All who actually receive Christ by faith, work. They feel the burden of souls. God now calls upon every one who has a knowledge of the truth, who is a depository of sacred truth, to arise and impart the light of heaven to others."—*Christian Service*, p. 80.

"At this time—a time of overwhelming iniquity—a new life, coming from the Source of all life, is to take possession of those who have the love of God in their hearts, and they are to go forth to proclaim with power the message of a crucified and risen Saviour. They are to put forth earnest, untiring efforts to save souls. Their example is to be such that it will have a telling influence for good on those around them. They are to count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord."—*Testimonies* Vol. 9, pp. 43, 44.

What we fail to do now, will have to be done under most difficult circumstances because the restraining Spirit of God is being withdrawn from the earth. We are amid the perils of the last days and we must expect even greater perils in the future.

Robert Hutchins, Chancellor of the University of Chicago, speaking to the nation over the air, told his audience: "We have now arrived at the ultimate stage in history. What is ultimately required of us is required of us now." Now, today, while it is still light, while time lasts, we are to work; realizing that the night cometh when no man can work. We must arise and take up this work as a church. This is not a time to talk or plan but a time to act. Action is required, not from a few but from the entire membership.

(Please turn to page 30)

Department of Education

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

Christian Recreation

Notes to Leaders

The tremendous power within us as parents to mold the life of the child under our protection should arouse us to noble resolutions and definite actions.

Christian recreation is an ever-present problem that is seldom successfully provided for by parents and churches. The program prepared for this month, however, should give an opportunity for frank discussion that will lead to practical suggestions and actual accomplishment.

Endeavor to have as many members as possible take part in the program so that more are *doers* and not *hearers* only. On a side table display M. V. leaflets on bowling, dancing, motion pictures, and "What About the Movies?" The same department supplies also "The Young People's Workers' Aid," which consists of loose-leaf notebook-size pages on such topics as worldly amusements, games, the dance, and the movies. Prepare a display of books on recreation so that parents may examine them before and after meeting.

May God bless us as we plan to make our leisure time, our recreation time, a part of our living-together family time.

—ARABELLA J. MOORE.

Recreation

By L. A. SKINNER

The Bible Christian is joyful and happy in his daily living. His pleasure comes partly from recreation. It is, therefore, an important consideration for every Christian youth to select wisely his sources of recreation. Isaiah 12:3 states that we should "draw water out of the wells of salvation" with joy, and Jesus Himself stated that He wished His followers to have joy to the full.

This question of recreation is a controversial one because of the fact that we live in a world where love of self and love of ease have taken control. At the instigation of the devil the world presents those types of amusements and leisure-time activities which will unfit individuals for serious and sober thinking or for preparation for the close of probation and the judgment. It is imperative, therefore, that Christian youth think sanely and soberly about this question.

The first consideration is that youth's attitude toward recreation depends upon his own elevation in spiritual living. The young man or woman who is enjoying a sincere, enthusiastic Christian experience, appreciating the things of God that are ennobling and

My New Year Aim

Not yet attained, but still my feet are pressing
Toward those heights which lie outstretched before;
That which the past has held of heavenly blessing
Will not suffice, I hunger still for more,
And now as dawns for me one more New Year,
So grand, O Lord, 'twill bring me yet more near.

More near to Thee! Yea, Lord, and ever nearer,
Forgetting all the things now left behind;
My aim is higher ground, with vision clearer
To see Thee close, though steep the path may wind.
Forgive, O Lord, the blindness of the past;
Be still my Guide, I pray, and hold me fast.

"One thing I do," my time cannot be squandered
In grieving o'er mistakes of years now gone;
Though in side paths my feet have often wandered,
Yet reach I forward still—Lord, help me on!
And grant this year, in mercy given me,
May lead to unrodd heights, close, close to thee.

—Author Unknown.

uplifting, will have very little difficulty in deciding what is desirable and what is not. The young person who is less spiritual is the one who is constantly asking why it is wrong to do this and why it is wrong to do that. In other words, it seems as though this problem of recreational selection becomes harder as the spiritual level of the life declines. Our first great responsibility, then, to youth is to build them up in their Christian faith and love for God, which automatically solves many of these perplexing questions.

As leaders and parents discuss this question of recreational standards, it must be remembered that as a denomination we have set up certain standards concerning which we legislate. These standards, for example, include the prohibition against smoking, drinking, and dancing. These we put up as tests of fellowship, and disciplinary action on the part of the church is called for if these standards are disregarded. There is another set of standards which we may term "educational" standards. These we do not legislate on, but constantly carry on an educational program which will lift the living level of our people to these ideals which are so clearly set forth in the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy. Such standards have to do with motion pictures, tithe paying, dress, and diet.

It is necessary for all of us to be patient and understanding in regard to our fellows. Some try to legislate, but we must be more patient with the longer method of education and elevation of spiritual life. There is an arousing statement found in *Messages to Young People*, page 371, which says that "amusements are doing more to counteract the working of the Holy Spirit than anything

else, and the Lord is grieved." And if this be true, then certainly it is worthy of very serious study. One way in which our youth can be encouraged to form habits of strength will be for the adults to unite together in a common practice and attitude toward the various questions of recreation. Dorothy Dix has said in one of her columns that the unanswerable argument of a teen-ager when he asks his parents to do something which is questionable and gets a negative reply is, "Everybody does it." This seems to be one argument that the parent has no ability to overcome. Dorothy Dix also says that this is certainly an admission of unnecessary weakness. She says that parents should get together and become united in regard to certain standards and therefore create such a situation that the young people will delight to do what is right.

May I suggest a list of possible sources of recreation in the order which I believe is significant.

First, useful employment. If one is enthusiastic about and delighted in the type of work he follows, joy and satisfaction will come to his life. There should be, of course, both mental and physical exertion so as to give a normal balance. Especially is manual labor found of recreational value when one's regular employment is sedentary and confining.

The second source of recreational relaxation is in unselfish ministry through missionary work. In making others happy there is a constant source of content to one's own heart. Missionary service usually involves some physical exertion and in this way the very finest type of value comes to the individual.

Third, outdoor activity, such as hiking, camping, and swimming. Living in the out-of-doors; getting acquainted with the forests and fields and lakes; understanding the significance of God's handiwork; adapting oneself to the primitive and basic, without conveniences; cooking, sleeping, eating, traveling in the pioneer spirit, brings an exhilaration and a refreshment that is unequalled. Especially is this significant to Seventh-day Adventist youth who are looking forward through prophetic predictions to the time when, apart from the cities and communities, they will be called upon to join groups scattered far from civilization as a result of loyalty and determination to be true to the law of God. Unless we are becoming accustomed to outdoor life now, it will prove an especially hard task to join in this experience before the coming of Christ.

Fourth, the study of nature opens up

wonderful opportunities for recreation and relaxation. Become familiar with birds, flowers, trees, stars, animals, insects, reptiles, sea-shells, and marine animals. These many open doors are intriguing and enticing and always admit one to a better knowledge of God. This becomes a field of activity which is especially appropriate for Adventists, for no one can as adequately interpret the things of nature as the one who believes in creation and in creation's God. This is a field where Adventist youth should become specialists, and where there should be much more interest than there is at the present time.

Fifth, various vocational interests and hobbies open up avenues of recreation which are very profitable. The ability to take wood or metal or leather or plastics and form a useful article, build something worth while with one's own hands, is a contribution to joyful living that is unexcelled. Many of these hobbies now present themselves for our enjoyment. Much has been done recently to encourage this type of activity in our midst and much more could be done which would be far more profitable than some questionable things that are taken up.

Sixth, active games. These games should be planned and chosen with the idea of teaching co-ordination, teamwork, good sportsmanship, strict honesty, and fair play, as well as the liveness and alertness needed in the life of young Christians. Such games as volley ball, capture the flag, and dodge ball represent games which may be used to teach valuable skills.

Perhaps we should list a series of seven tests by which recreation may be judged. These seven are as follows:

1. Effect on spiritual life.
2. Effect on the functions of the higher faculties.
3. Effect on our relationship to sober duty.
4. Influence.
5. The money involved.
6. The time involved.
7. Effect on one's health.

These certainly should be considered in the selection of one's recreation.

Someone may raise the question of motion pictures. Certainly motion pictures have an educational value and may be employed for a very constructive purpose. It seems wise, however, to raise a warning against the trend that seems to be apparent in our midst, a trend which is growing more liberal in the selection of motion pictures to be shown in our S. D. A. gatherings. There are many individuals who cannot see the difference between some of the pictures shown with the blessing and approval of some of our groups and those found in the regular theaters. It would be well for us to study the M. V. Leaflet on motion pictures and review the principles set down there for desirable and undesirable movies.

Someone may raise the question of bowling. Apparently quite a number of our young people are tempted to engage in this activity. *Messages to Young People*, page 398, speaks specifically of bowling and warns us of the dangers involved in this recreation. There is

also an M. V. Leaflet which has guidance for those seeking information.

The Lord wants His people to be the most cheerful and happy in all the world. *Messages to Young People*, page 363, paints the picture of the pseudo Christian who is always long-faced and sorrowful and suggests that this is not God's plan for Christian living. We are face to face with the most serious scenes of this world's history and on the threshold of eternity. Certainly it is now time to give very serious heed to the counsel of God in regard to the recreational phases of living.

Guidance for God's Children

Recreation versus Amusement

"There is a distinction between recreation and amusement. Recreation, when true to its name, re-creation, tends to strengthen and build up. Calling us aside from our ordinary cares and occupations, it affords refreshment for mind and body, and thus enables us to return with new vigor to the earnest work of life. Amusement, on the other hand, is sought for the sake of pleasure, and is often carried to excess; it absorbs the energies that are required for useful work, and thus proves a hindrance to life's true success."—*Education*, p. 207.

Happiness versus Gloom

"Christians should be the most cheerful and happy people that live. They may have the consciousness that God is their father and their everlasting friend."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 363.

"We should never give to the world the false impression that Christians are a gloomy, unhappy people. If our eyes are fixed on Jesus, we shall see a compassionate Redeemer, and shall catch light from His countenance. Wherever His Spirit reigns, there peace abides. And there will be joy also, for there is a calm, holy trust in God."—*Desire of Ages*, p. 152.

The Duty of Christians

"It is the privilege and duty of Christians to seek to refresh their spirits and invigorate their bodies by innocent recreation, with the purpose of using their physical and mental powers to the glory of God. Our recreations should not be scenes of senseless mirth, taking the form of the nonsensical. We can conduct them in such a manner as will benefit and elevate those with whom we associate, and better qualify us and them to more successfully attend to the duties devolving upon us as Christians."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 364.

Modes of Recreation

"There are modes of recreation which are highly beneficial to both mind and body. An enlightened, discriminating mind will find abundant means for entertainment and diversion, from sources not only innocent, but instructive. Recreation in the open air, the contemplation of the works of God in nature, will be of the highest benefit."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, p. 653.

"The true Christian will not desire to

enter any place of amusement or engage in any diversion upon which he cannot ask the blessing of God. He will not be found at the theater, the billiard hall, or the bowling saloon. He will not unite with the gay waltzers, or indulge in any other bewitching pleasure that will banish Christ from the mind."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 398.

"Every talent of influence is to be sacredly cherished and used for the purpose of gathering souls to Christ. Young men and young women should not think that their sports, their evening parties and musical entertainments, as usually conducted, are acceptable to Christ.

"Light has been given me, again and again, that all our gatherings should be characterized by a decided religious influence."—*Id.*, p. 391.

"The religion of Christ is cheering and elevating in its influence. It is above everything like foolish jesting and joking, vain and frivolous chit-chat. In all our seasons of recreation we may gather from the Divine Source of strength fresh courage and power, that we may the more successfully elevate our lives to purity, true goodness, and holiness."—*Id.*, p. 364.

"Even the great God is a lover of the beautiful. He has given us unmistakable evidence of this in the work of His hands. He planted for our first parents a beautiful garden in Eden. Stately trees were caused to grow out of the ground, of every description, for usefulness and ornament. The beautiful flowers were formed, of rare loveliness, of every tint and hue, perfuming the air. . . . It was the design of God that man should find happiness in the employment of tending the things He had created, and that his wants should be met with the fruits of the trees of the garden.

"God, who made the Eden home . . . so surpassingly lovely, has also given the noble trees, the beautiful flowers, and everything lovely in nature, for our happiness."—*Id.*, pp. 364, 365.

"No recreation helpful only to themselves will prove so great a blessing to the children and youth as that which makes them helpful to others."—*Education*, p. 212.

Satan's Designs

"Satan invents earthly allurements, that the carnal mind may be placed on those things which cannot elevate and refine and ennoble; its powers are thus dwarfed and crippled, and men and women who might attain to perfection of character become narrow, weak, and defective."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, p. 581.

"Satan makes special efforts to lead them to find happiness in worldly amusements, and to justify themselves by endeavoring to show that these amusements are harmless, innocent, and even important for health. He presents the path of holiness as difficult, while the paths of worldly pleasure are strewn with flowers.

"In false and flattering colors, he arrays the world with its pleasures before the youth. But the pleasures of earth will soon come to an end, and that which is sown must also be reaped."—*Messages to Young People*, p. 367.

Parents' Part

"In this age of the world, children should have strict watch-care. They should be advised and restrained. Eli was cursed of God because he did not promptly and decidedly restrain his wicked sons. There are parents . . . who are doing no better than did Eli. They are afraid to control their children. They see them serving Satan with a high hand, and pass it by as a disagreeable necessity, which must be endured because it cannot be cured."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, p. 651.

"Youth cannot be made as sedate and grave as old age, the child as sober as the sire. While sinful amusements are condemned, as they should be, let parents, teachers, and guardians of youth provide in their stead innocent pleasures, which will not taint or corrupt the morals. Do not bind down the youth to rigid rules and restraints that will lead them to feel themselves oppressed, and to break over and rush into paths of folly and destruction. With a firm, kind, considerate hand, hold the lines of government, guiding and controlling their minds and purposes, yet so gently, so wisely, so lovingly, that they will still know that you have their best good in view."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 335.

"I saw that our holidays should not be spent in patterning after the world, yet they should not be passed by unnoticed, for this will bring dissatisfaction to our children. On these days when there is danger that our children will be exposed to evil influences, and become corrupted by the pleasures and excitement of the world, let the parents *study* [italics mine] to get up something to take the place of more dangerous amusements. Give your children to understand that you have their good and happiness in view.

"Let several families living in a city or village unite and leave the occupations which have taxed them physically and mentally, and make an excursion into the country, to the side of a fine lake, or to a nice grove, where the scenery of nature is beautiful. They should provide themselves with plain, hygienic food, the very best fruits and grains, and spread their table under the shade of some tree, or under the canopy of heaven. The ride, the exercise, and the scenery, will quicken the appetite, and they can enjoy a repeat which kings might envy.

"On such occasions parents and children should feel free from care, labor, and perplexity. Parents should become children with their children; making everything as pleasant for them as possible. Let the whole day be given to recreation. . . . All who can, should feel it a duty to pursue this course. Nothing will be lost, but much gained."—*Counsels on Health*, pp. 195, 196.

Home, Parents, and Recreation

"The evil influence around our children is almost overpowering; it is corrupting their minds and leading them down to perdition. . . . It is the duty of parents to watch the going out and the coming in of their children. They should encourage them, and present inducements before them which will attract

them at home, and lead them to see that their parents are interested for them. They should make home pleasant and cheerful."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 1, pp. 400, 401.

"Instead of sending her children from her that she may not be annoyed by their noise or troubled by their little wants, let the mother plan amusement or light work to employ the active hands and minds. By entering into their feelings, and directing their amusements and employments, the mother will gain the confidence of her children; thus she can the more effectually correct wrong habits."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 115.

"Let parents devote the evenings to their families. . . . Let the evenings be spent as happily as possible. . . . Make your rooms as cheerful as possible. Let the children find home the most attractive place on earth. Throw about them such influences that they will not seek for street companions, nor think of the haunts of vice except with horror."—*Counsels on Health*, p. 100.

"Let her keep cheerful and buoyant. Instead of spending every moment in endless sewing, make the evening a pleasant social season, a family reunion after the day's duties. Many a man would thus be led to choose the society of his home before that of the club-house. . . . Many a boy would be kept from the street. . . . Many a girl would be saved from frivolous, misleading associations. The influence of the home would be to parents and children what God designed it should be, a lifelong blessing."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 294.

Recreation in Workshop

"When children reach a suitable age, they should be provided with tools. They will be found to be apt pupils. If the father is a carpenter, he should give his boys lessons in carpentry."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 122. (If the father is not a carpenter, it gives him a chance to learn together with his boys.)

"For every child the first industrial school should be the home. And, so far as possible, facilities for manual training should be connected with every school."—*Education*, p. 217.

"Even from the view-point of financial results, the outlay required for manual training would prove the truest economy. Multitudes of our boys would thus be kept from the street-corner."—*Id.*, p. 218.

Let parents seek, in their own character and in their home life, to exemplify the love and beneficence of the heavenly Father. Let the home be full of sunshine. This will be worth far more to your children than lands or money. Let the home love be kept alive in their hearts, that they may look back upon the home of their childhood as a place of peace and happiness next to heaven. The members of the family do not all have the same stamp of character, and there will be frequent occasion for the exercise of patience and forbearance; but through love and self-discipline, all may be bound together in the closest union.—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 176.

Ideas and Discussion

What are some intellectual recreational pursuits?

1. One family successfully became a "curious" family. The children could think up more questions than the parents could answer. The parents, too, had questions, as their educational advantages had been limited. So the family started a collection of clippings from newspapers, magazines, and church papers. Two of the children were custodians of the drawer of clipping envelopes. They were all amazed at the wealth of information the family had gathered. They learned to evaluate subject matter, to check facts, to secure additional accurate information. The importance of grouping topics, the rudiments of filing, the habits of alertness, observation, and independent research were fostered. The "curious" family was a happy family working together in a project that included every member of the family. It is surprising how much fun something like this can be.

2. Another family learned that simple pleasures shared are better than any big thrill. It all began by the transplanting of a redbud tree out of the woods into the neglected back yard. Then came more trees, shrubs, wild flowers, and even rocks. The back yard became transformed into a spot of beauty that brought joy not only to the family, but the neighbors as well. Bulletins from the Department of Agriculture on woods, plants, and moisture were secured. Much was learned about agriculture, soil, moisture, trees, shrubs, flowers, landscaping, and rock gardens. That recreation also afforded an opportunity for participation and enjoyment by every member of the family. This recreation which combines the intellectual and the physical, is enjoyed at the moment and more so in later years.

3. Some families have fun with tropical fish. Their brilliant, colorful, fantastically shaped bodies darting in and out, feeding, fighting, and breeding make an entrancing spectacle. They are a delight to care for and intriguing to the imaginative housewife who makes the tropical fish tank take over the duties of the coffee table. Something different is a combination aquarium. What fun it is to learn the kinds of water plants, the cork-screw Vallisneria, the Cabomba Sagittaria and other Latin-named greenery, that give off oxygen and take in carbon dioxide! What fun to study their habits, to realize that some are cannibalistic, while others have close family relationships!

There should be some kind of a program of pleasure in every home that will be of interest to the whole family. Give some time to exploring the possibilities of "fun for the family."

Why do children collect in corner drug-stores and on street corners?

Houses do not always make homes. Parents so often restrict the privileges of the children in the use of the comforts of the home that they feel like caged animals. It's "Don't do

this," and "Don't do that," "Turn off the radio," and "Stop the noise," so, off to the streets they go.

A home alive with interesting activities which fulfill the physical, mental, cultural, and spiritual hungers of each member of the family group is more attractive than the street corner. Why not have a family business meeting where together all take part in deciding how the income should be spent, how the family problems will be solved and what the family will do together in a social way during the month?

Is the Home and School Association responsible for the recreational activities of the children of the church?

What a splendid project for a Home and School Society! If at least one person in the group would specialize in recreational ideas and plans, he could be ready to give leadership to the children of the church in this field. There should be a recreation room with adult sponsorship, trained if possible, where the children and young people could gather for games, clubs, hobbies, and social fellowship. As a whole, we are rather lax in providing proper recreation for our youth. Study the possibilities in connection with each church and school.

Susan seems to be forever "just going for a ride with the girls." How can I encourage the girls to more profitable ways of spending time?

One mother invited the girls to gather at her home where the basement playroom was the ideal place for a workroom. There they started a project of helping thinly clad children of Europe. They first made mittens and small sweaters. Soon some of the mothers came, too, and it was not long before a regular mother-daughter club was formed. Ideas multiplied and many different projects were carried out. The mothers were often surprised at their daughters' clever suggestions and their excellent work. The girls were responsible for the club and elected their officers. The girls were receiving valuable training in leadership and co-operation. All experienced a feeling of satisfaction in being useful and in doing something constructive. The fun and the companionship the mothers enjoyed with their daughters was priceless. Every meeting afforded an opportunity for round-table discussion on topics vital to both mother and daughter—boy friends, lipstick, delinquency, and dating. The club seemed to iron out those mothers' problems.

I am so busy these days earning a living wage. Am I fulfilling my responsibility?

Being father and mother endows you with two great privileges—the responsibility for the well-being of your children, shelter, food, and clothing, and the joy of their companionship. Providing for the physical needs is not enough. The best investment parents can ever make is to take time out with the children. The father who thinks he is providing for his son every time he puts his hand into his pocket to buy the lad something should put

his strong arms about the boy and take him hiking, fishing, swimming, or skating. A boy's best pal is his dad, if dad has worked at keeping young, going skating with him, building a workshop with him, making lovely pieces of furniture for mother and sister, playing games with him, or together learning the secrets of good photography.

What about television? Are such sets advisable in the Adventist home? Do the advantages actually outweigh the disadvantages? Is there enough of the desirable type of program offered to warrant the expenditure of the large sums of money involved? Does television bring into the home the temptations of the world from which we strive to safeguard our children?

Could we sponsor a Seventh-day Adventist recreational center?

Is there a member in this church with a talent, a hobby, or a specialized training that he could share with the younger members? Is there one who could share his knowledge of ceramics, sailing, painting, plastic art, taxidermy, or some other unusual gift or practical wisdom?

What are the possibilities in our church? How can we best provide for recreation for our children?

+++

To-day Is Ours

(Continued from page 26)

"Heavenly angels have long been waiting for human agents—the members of the church—to co-operate with them in the great work to be done. They are waiting for you."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, pp. 46, 47. How much longer must they wait?

—G. R. NASH.

January 29

Eternal Vigilance, the Price of Liberty

Our people are discovering that in community after community local ordinances are being enforced to stop our colporteurs from selling books, or our people from soliciting funds for missions. Our duty in such cases is clear. The Lord has told us to "preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15), and in this as in all else we "ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). But we do not need, in these cases, to defy the public authorities in order to obey God. Under the blessing of the Lord, it is not only our God-given duty but our constitutional right to carry on our gospel work, and numerous decisions of the United States Supreme Court, which are a part of the supreme law of the land, have been handed down to protect the right of religious propagation and solicitation. Misunderstandings of our rights on the part of civil officials must always be tactfully handled;

there must be no bluster or defiance. But there should be no compromising of principle.

Some time ago, in a leading city of Louisiana, one of our busy colporteurs was arrested while selling a health book from door to door. He was accused of violating a city ordinance forbidding peddling. When the city officials insisted that the ordinance forbade the work the colporteur was doing, a skilled local attorney of excellent reputation was engaged. After a conference between conference officials, with the lawyer, on the one side, and the city authorities on the other, the latter insisted that they would enforce the ordinance; and they were then told that if necessary, the denomination would carry the case all the way to the United States Supreme Court. The lawyer drew up and presented to the city attorney an excellent brief, proving that our health books are as much a part of our message as any book we publish, and pointed out the Supreme Court decisions which maintained the right to distribute religious literature, by sale or gift, without government censorship, formal permit, or license fee.

In a few weeks the city attorney notified our lawyer that the city was willing to recognize our rights, and that our colporteurs could proceed with their work without let or hindrance.

This shows very plainly the need of reaching local officials who are governing our towns and cities with the kind of information concerning religious freedom that *Liberty* contains. Every mayor and councilman should receive each quarterly issue.

Every senator and congressman should also be reached. When the 80th Congress passed into history at the close of the special session this summer, there were on the calendar for consideration a number of bills which could jeopardize liberty. There were bills which, in granting Federal funds to aid public schools, left it possible for Federal moneys to go to the aid of parochial schools. There was a bill to compel candidates for naturalization as citizens to take an oath that they would bear arms in case of war, or be denied the privilege of citizenship. There was a bill so to amend the United States Constitution as to declare this to be a Christian nation, thus opening up the way for a dangerous union of church and state in this country. It is extremely likely that some such bills will be presented in the new Congress meeting this month, and perhaps others of an even more menacing nature.

The admonition of our Lord to "watch therefore" (Matthew 24:42), which He gave concerning the signs of the last days, is applicable to our concern with religious liberty. We should watch any situations or proposals, local or national, which seem to threaten our liberties. We should come in contact with civil officials and let them know our position on these matters. We should see to it that *Liberty: A Magazine of Religious Freedom* is put into the hands of influential citizens, to keep them informed. Vigilance is a cheap price to pay to protect our liberties.

—FRANK H. YOST.

Our Foreign Missions

Voice of Prophecy

We are very glad to report that Voice of Prophecy contacts are bringing definite results. For your encouragement we are reporting a few of the many letters which we are receiving from our indigenous and European workers.

Pastor M. D. Moses, Western India, sends this report: "The other day I had been to Ahmednagar and I found a student who was keeping the Sabbath. He gave me a donation for the work. I found many other people taking the course in Ahmednagar. One highly educated family heard of our work and requested me to send their names to our office. To my surprise I found out that wherever I went, many students are taking this course and are greatly interested. Wherever I found one I gave him a Bible study. I am really encouraged to see how the Voice of Prophecy is preparing the people of India for the kingdom of God. I met another student who believes our truth, and he had some questions on the Sabbath and baptism. We had a good study together on these subjects. He likes our *Signs of the Times* and wants to subscribe to it. He will be sending money for the Voice of Prophecy work in a day or two. His wife is a doctor in the Mission hospital and is studying our course. He is trying very hard to give up his smoking. He has asked us to pray earnestly that he will get the victory. I want to say again that the money spent on the Voice of Prophecy is worth spending.

From Mysore State comes the word that Pastor A. Jesudas has been doing faithful work in contacting many of the Voice of Prophecy students. Listen to this encouraging report. He says: "One of the most interested and sincere persons I have ever seen is an orthodox Brahman. He was earnestly searching for truth for some time. Then he read your advertisement in the paper and decided to take the Voice of Prophecy lessons. During the course of our conversation, which lasted four hours, he said, 'I am fully convinced of the truth and I have accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour. I have been faithfully keeping the Sabbath since I learned of it through the Voice of Prophecy.' When I spoke to him about baptism, tears trickled down his cheeks and he said, 'Sir, if I get baptized, I will be persecuted by my people, because they are orthodox Brahmans. I believe that every true Christian should be baptized, so I too must be baptized whether my people persecute me or not.' I feel constrained to say that for the finishing of the work of God in this land, filled with the darkness of heathenism, the Voice of Prophecy is doing a mighty work. May the Lord bless the Voice of Prophecy is my sincere prayer."

From the war-torn, unsettled Northwest comes this report from Pastor Simpson, "Owing to my failure to make a train connection, I decided to visit one of your students in Agra. When I arrived, their joy knew no bounds. They were very glad to see me. They told me that they had been praying that a Voice of Prophecy representative would come, and now God had answered their prayers. This family had been keeping the Sabbath and paying their tithes since they learned the truth through the Voice of Prophecy."

William Moses reports, "You will be glad to know that I am visiting many of the Voice of Prophecy students in Poona. Their interest has been aroused through the study of the Voice of Prophecy lessons. Several are definitely preparing to take baptism soon."

From Pastor T. V. Zachariah comes the word, "I visited one of your students on an estate the other day and found he was keeping the Sabbath and looking forward to the time when he will completely join us. Another student, a doctor, is convinced of the Seventh-day Sabbath and is keeping it. He said that he had been greatly helped by the study of these lessons."

—A. E. RAWSON.

+++

A personal letter has recently been received from Pastor Hide Kuniya, the first convert in the Orient and our pioneer minister. Knowing that our readers will be glad to hear from this aged worker, I quote the following from his letter:

"Often I recall the days of our mission work in Japan and the tent meetings we held. Those were my most happy experiences. Although we did not see large results in those days, lately I have received many invitations from different parts of the field for meetings and Bible studies. Many say that they hated the teachings then, but now know that the doctrines of the church are true, and if I will come they will listen attentively!

"My health is better now than ten years ago. I often walk eight or ten miles in a day. There is much to be done yet. It is no time to be indolent and asleep. Now is the time to preach the message in Japan. I pray God may richly bless the workers."

Pastor Kuniya is now in his seventies. We trust that God will continue to bless his work and give him strength for the task.

—V. T. ARMSTRONG.

+++

"Put your names on every temperance pledge presented. Thus you lend your influence in favor of signing the pledge, and induce others to sign it."—Ellen G. White.

The Liberian Mission

John Hallowanger, one of our licensed ministers at Konola, was asked to take the leadership left vacant by the passing of Pastor Durning. This meant new and greater responsibilities for our African brother but he has shouldered them courageously and well. The work at Liiwa has gone on and the evangelists there have been faithful to their tasks. Sabbath-school work is expanding in the villages and the evangelistic meetings have brought good results. On December 26, we visited the Liiwa district and witnessed the baptism of fifty-nine precious souls as a result of the work of the evangelists there.

Liiwa presents a challenge to our work in Liberia. There are many villages surrounding our station and open to the influence of our work. The chiefs have asked us to put a school on the station for their children to attend and to bring some kind of medical aid to their district. They have promised to co-operate in any plan we bring and are waiting for our response. With better trained workers in this area as we are able to secure them, we can hope for very encouraging results in the days ahead.

—G. NATHANIEL BANKS.

New Interest in Rore, West Nigeria

Rore is about six miles from Omu-Aran. There we have a church house, with three baptized members, and with about eight Sabbath school members.

Rore church and town have been visited by all the workers who have stayed at Omu-Aran during the years. There had not been any new interest until early in the year 1946. That year the few faithful members there thought of having a school which would be run by the mission authorities.

These members took their idea of opening a school to the chiefs and all the people of Rore, because they had no school. The nearest school was about six miles from them, but that did not help for these people do not allow their children to leave home. The idea that a school be opened was agreed to and accepted by all the people of the town.

A plot of land was given by the government and the school was registered, but the school was not built, therefore, the classwork was conducted in the church house. Now the town people have built the school and the teacher's house, according to the manager's plan.

In our Sabbath school where we used to count about eleven members in those past hard years, we now have enrolled forty-eight every Sabbath, and when there are visitors, we count over fifty attending the Sabbath school.

All the children that we have in this school are from heathen homes. They are all enrolled as Junior Missionary Volunteers. There is great hope of these children becoming full members in years to come, and they are lights or candles in their homes and also in the town.

—J. O. OLOMOJOR.

The Prayer of Faith

On February 15, 1948, two of the deacons of the Hope Bay Church, Jamaica, were asked by a sister to accompany her to visit and pray with a sick woman who was not a member of our faith. This woman, as well as her little daughter, had been ill for some days with a burning fever and terrible headaches. They were both taken to the doctor, who examined them and gave them medicine. They returned home, but their condition grew worse. The sick woman, hearing of the Seventh-day Adventist faith, felt that if she asked the believers to pray for her she would be healed.

Our brethren complied with this request, and prayed earnestly for her recovery. They spoke to her about the necessity of confessing her sins and making a resolution to give her heart to God upon her recovery. She made her vow, and our brethren remained until about twelve o'clock that night, then left for their homes.

According to the testimony of her mother, she got up, and expressed the fact that she was healed. She was again reminded of her vow to God, and as a result of this experience, she has now decided to accept the message.

The first Wednesday of March was a day of prayer and fasting in the church, and she joined in this service. On Friday afternoon she joined us in the vesper meeting, and since then has started to send four of her children regularly to the Sabbath school.

She expressed her gratitude to us for our prayers, but we told her that her healing was due to the providence of God. She has decided to substitute prayer for medicine in the future. "To God be the glory, great things He hath done!"

—S. C. MYERS.

Arizona Indians Buy Adventist Books

A couple of weeks ago I visited some Navaho homes to which I had been referred by the secretary of the Indian Council. I took an order at every home. The last home in this group was on a side road and the next to the last house. As I was about to finish the canvass, the man (who up to that time had appeared like a decrepit old Indian with no interest in life, and especially none in the book I was showing) suddenly said, "Do you believe in the Ten Commandments?" I said, "I certainly do." After talking about the commandments for some time, he said that he had never found any church that kept all of the commandments unless it was the Seventh-day Adventists, and he did not know much about them. After showing him in the book the charts of the Ten Commandments as they are recorded in the Bible, and as they are found in the catechisms, and telling him that I was a Seventh-day Adventist, he paid cash for *Daniel and Revelation* and *Great Controversy*. Then he cordially invited me to visit them again.

—CHARLES DINNIS.

Special Days and Offerings

January 1

Home Missionary Day
Topic: Ambassadors of the
Heavenly Kingdom

January 8

Second Sabbath Mission Offering

January 8-29

Liberty Magazine Campaign

January 29

Religious Liberty Day
and Offering
Topic: Our Duty in the
Present-day Crisis

Publishing Now in Syriac

As the result of the work of Pastor Philip Dos in Iraq a number of people who use the Syriac language have been interested in the Advent message. Recently arrangements have been made for some tracts dealing with the signs of the times, the second coming of Christ, the law, Sabbath observance, and Sunday, to be printed in Syriac. The work of the Middle East Union is already being conducted in seven languages: Arabic, Armenian, French, Greek, Pharsee, Russian, and Turkish. We are more than happy to welcome another language, for "this gospel of the kingdom," said Jesus, must go "to every kindred, tongue, and people."

It is interesting to note the Syriac is a dialect of Aramaic, the language spoken in Palestine when Jesus was on earth. It was the language of Christian writers east of Antioch and at Edessa, the center of Christianity in the last third of the second century.

The Bar . . .

By a convict, twenty-five years of age, in
Joliet Prison, Joliet, Ill.

The name of each saloon is Bar,
The fittest of its names by far.
A bar to heaven, a door to hell;
Whoever named it, named it well.

A bar to manliness and wealth,
A door to want and broken health.
A bar to honor, pride, and fame,
A door to grief, and sin, and shame.

A bar to hopes, a bar to prayer,
A door to darkness and despair.
A bar to honored, useful life,
A door to brawling, senseless strife.

A bar to all that's true and brave,
A door to every drunkard's grave.
A bar to joys that home imparts,
A door to tears and aching hearts.

A bar to heaven, a door to hell;
Whoever named it, named it well.

Palestine—Transjordan Mission

(Continued from page 5)

found that his colony had been attacked about half an hour before his arrival. His friends were very much astonished to witness his safe return. Last Sabbath saw him at the services again and after the service it was our privilege to study the Bible together for over two hours. He expressed great pleasure at finding someone who would sit down and study the Word of God with him. His search for truth seems so genuine that not even the possibility of violence to himself will stop him.

In Holon, near Tel Aviv, we have a young couple, Brother and Sister Levy, who are new in the truth. During a visit with Sister Levy the other day she expressed the longing of her heart to do something for the Master. She said that to name the name of Jesus would mean the possibility of being expelled from her community. She is even fearful of having Christian literature in her home. In her search for something which she could do, Sister Levy found an aged neighbor woman who seemed fearful of death. One day, while talking with this neighbor, Sister Levy told her that she need not fear death if her heart was right with God. She said the aged woman seemed interested and asked many questions. Their visit made such a change in her that others of her neighbors came to our sister and asked what she had told her neighbor to bring about such a change in her life. She no longer seemed to fear the future and her first thought was to please God in all of her actions. And so the work goes on in spite of difficulties.

—L. J. NORRIS.

Moslem Convert Wins Others

About one year ago Brother Djamaan Soelaiman, our faithful and zealous Malay Moslem convert who accepted the truth in Kuala Lumpur in 1940 and suffered many persecutions for Christ's sake, contacted two polished young Malay Moslems in Singapore. He brought them to Brother R. A. Pohan's home where they received regular studies from the Bible. As their interest in the truth grew, they became faithful members of our English Sabbath school and soon took their stand for the truth. On Sabbath, May 1, we had the privilege of witnessing their baptism. For this we are very grateful to the Lord. Let us remember them in our prayers that they may remain faithful and loyal to the truth and in their partnership with Christ for service and sacrifice. Very little effort has been put forth to bring Christ to the two million Moslems in Malaya. May God place a deeper burden for souls upon His people. Let them remember that all the host of heaven stands ready to co-operate with them in the finishing of the work.

+++

"The honor of God, the stability of the nation, the well-being of the community, of the home, and of the individual, demand that every possible effort be made in arousing the people to the evil of intemperance."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 346.