

THE CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE

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No. 2



Prayer for a Home

God send us a little home
To come back to when we roam.

Low walls and fluted tiles,
Wide windows, a view for miles.

Red firelight and deep chairs,
Small white beds upstairs—

Great talk in little nooks,
Dim colors, rows of books.

One picture on each wall,
Not many things at all.

God send us a little ground,
Tall trees stand round.

Homely flowers in brown sod,
Overhead, Thy stars, O God.

God bless thee, when winds blow,
Our home, and all we know.

—FLORENCE BONE.

Editorial

Can Christianity Survive?

The Christian church today faces a crisis more grave than at any time since the Reformation. For years a great cleavage has been developing between true Christianity and pagan, totalitarian autocracy. This new order, under various names, had its birth in the modernistic, revolutionary teachings that have been coming out of the universities in so-called Christian lands for several decades. These ideologies, all proclaiming their chosen cure for the social defects of modern civilization, have been gaining in popularity for years. Their theories and untried philosophies were finally caught up by ambitious autocrats who, through widespread propaganda and unlimited promises, succeeded in establishing themselves in military dictatorships over some of the world's largest and strongest nations.

These dictators rode into power first in Russia, later in Italy, Germany, Spain, Austria, and in other lands. They have tried to put their theories into practice, advocating either one brand of totalitarianism or another. The direct result of the Fascist and Nazi regimes in Italy and Germany, with their assault on democracy and freedom, brought about World War II. This war was the greatest moral catastrophe that ever struck this world. Greater than the physical destruction was the overthrow of spiritual values and moral principles in almost every land on earth. The world that emerged from the war was mortally wounded so far as the basic principles of truth and justice are concerned. This was especially true in Europe and Asia, most of which now has come under the control of the most ruthless dictator that the world has ever seen.

This brings the world face to face with its greatest spiritual crisis since Reformation times. Morally even the so-called free nations are bankrupt. They have suffered an undermining of moral Christian standards and principles of right conduct that have been built up during centuries of Christian influence upon the social life of the world. The peoples behind the iron curtain have had even more fully these Christian standards torn from them by the ruthless hands of dictators whose studied program has been to root out Christianity and all that it stands for.

As a result of this twofold attack we see on both sides of the iron curtain a confused

state of social anarchy and spiritual chaos. Religion seems to have lost its power. The Christian church, in this crisis hour, is not able to give the needed spiritual lead or to point the way out of the darkness that is settling upon the earth. The thousand and one other problems—social, economic, military, and financial—claim supreme attention. Men are buying and selling, feverishly trying to escape the threatened financial panic that all fear; or heedlessly they are giving themselves up to pleasure seeking with never a thought of that coming day of reckoning when they must stand before the Lord in the judgment hour.

Where do we as Seventh-day Adventists stand in this hour? Surely this is our time! Now, today, when the world is spiritually bankrupt, when men and nations have lost their way and know not what is coming upon the world, now it is high time that we lift our voices in warning and pleading that men everywhere may turn from the chaos and confusion that has been thrust upon the world to the light of this present truth. Discouragement and despair have swept over this world, but these very conditions should bring hope and confidence to our people. We have been looking for just such conditions. We have long expected that the world would turn away from God and repudiate every principle of right.

A coming time of trouble and a world denial of Christ and His law has been our doctrine. As we see these things begin to come to pass, we should lift up our heads and rejoice, for we know that our redemption is drawing nigh. But we also have a tremendous responsibility resting upon our shoulders. We know the time. We, alone, among all people have the only saving message in this dark hour. The Lord is therefore counting on us to give the warning cry, to sound the alarm, that men everywhere may know that there is a way to escape the sure destruction that is coming upon this earth. May the Lord help His people to meet this crisis hour in a loud-cry message that shall warn the world of its coming doom and save a people for His kingdom!

—THE EDITOR.

* * *

Amidst the deepening shadows of earth's last great crisis, God's light will shine brightest, and the song of hope and trust will be heard in clearest and loftiest strains. —*Education*, p. 166.

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.

Paying Church Accounts

Question: When the bills for water, light, fuel, repairs, etc., are received, should the deacon authorize the church treasurer to pay the accounts?

Answer: The church treasurer is the custodian of all church funds, and he alone should both receive the funds and pay them out according to the policies laid down for the church. However the deacons are responsible for the care of the church, for arranging for janitor work, needed repairs, the purchase of supplies or fuel, etc. Therefore it is customary for the head deacon to

(Please turn to page 4)



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Church Officers' Round Table

"In Remembrance of Me"

(Luke 22:15-20)

BY ERNEST LLOYD

Our Lord knew plainly from the storm that was gathering about Him in old Judæa that He was moving rapidly toward the climax of His earthly career, and He desired to have the special meeting with His disciples mentioned in our text.

"With desire." "With an eager longing" is also suggested in the root of the phrase. And just as He earnestly desired to observe the Passover with the twelve who had been with Him during His earthly ministry, so He desires to meet with His disciples today.

We know very well that the final world storm is gathering, and God's people are facing great tests. Are we earnestly desiring to meet with our Lord in the communion service? To participate in it is a high privilege. I would like to suggest three thoughts for our meditation in connection with this service:

1. It has *remembrance value*. Jesus said, "This do in remembrance of Me." It is both divine and human to desire to be remembered. Just as we desire to be remembered by relatives and friends, so the Lord longs to be remembered by His redeemed people. He appointed this service that we may be reminded keenly of His death, His resurrection, and His wonderful declaration: "I am alive forevermore." How much these words mean to us! We love to remember them, for they assure us of eternal life. We keep alive the remembrance of our Lord's death for us by observing this important service, and one of the blessings received through it is the blessing of humility. Let us remember the words, "This do."

2. It has *fellowship value*. There may be differences tomorrow when one man goes to his conspicuous place of leadership and another goes to his place of menial toil, but in this service those differences have no place. We are all sinners redeemed by grace, and we are all *one* in Christ. True humility banishes all differences and gives us unity and fellowship together and with the Lord. Let us regard this blessed fellowship as a precious thing.

3. It has *prophetic value*. The words "I will not eat it until the kingdom is come" and "I will not drink it until the kingdom

is come" teach us to look forward to the grand consummation of all things. Thus our Lord took occasion to say twice in these verses that victory and triumph are ahead for His people. Indeed His best things are all before us. We belong to a conquering cause, and if we serve and suffer with Him here, we shall also reign with Him hereafter.

And so we have the remembrance of the past, fellowship in the present, and prophetic fulfillment in the future. What a wonderful heritage to us in this service! Let us therefore observe it with "great desire" as did our Lord when on earth with His disciples. Let us perpetuate His service faithfully in the church and perpetuate His character in our daily living. And living His life and honoring Him here, we shall share with Him in the glories of the future.

Reverence

If before an earthly king
We were called to stand,
Humbly would we bow the head,
Humbly fold the hand.
Had we done some sinful thing,
And defied his laws,
Gladly would we welcome one
Who would plead our cause.
Should we look about and laugh,
He would think that we
Did not care if all our crimes
Should be forgiven be.
Thus, when to the King of kings
One should kneel in prayer,
Humbly let our listening hearts
The petition share.
Foreheads bowed and hands at rest
Should our posture be,
While from wandering thoughts and
plans
Heart and mind are free.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN.

The Need of a Missionary Among the Deaf

Isaiah 29:18 reads, "In that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness." For many years the Seventh-day Adventist denomination has endeavored to fulfill the latter part of this prophecy in the capacity of the Christian Record Benevolent Association. Since literature is distributed free of charge to all the interested blind, something similar in nature should be done to bring the third

angel's message to the half million deaf people of North America.

Deaf people cannot hear. Therefore they will never be able to learn the gospel from the radio or speaking evangelist. Their only source of knowledge is reading. That means that the message of salvation must be brought to them either by the sale of literature or the "sign" language utilized by a visiting worker. An evangelist could explain an illustrated Bible lecture with the sign language.

Most of the two thousand deaf people that I have met during the three summers that I have canvassed among them have told me that they have a longing to know more about the Bible, but they find the language is hard to understand. They need someone to explain it to them. Surely we should not neglect these handicapped people any longer.

Free literature, including an invitation to join a Bible correspondence course, could be sent to the isolated ones; a marked questionnaire would reveal which interested ones are deaf, in order to identify them from the regular cards.

Pictures are a definite drawing card to the deaf. Many have confessed to me that they would have attended church much more regularly if pictures had been used to illustrate the sermons. There are great possibilities in using the Shuler filmstrips, which will hold the interest of the deaf from the very first. At the close of each lecture "Crisis" books could be sold to give them the study in detail.

How shall "the tongue of the dumb sing" (Isaiah 35:6) in the new earth if we do not bring them the third angel's message now?

—JOHN ISSLER.

* * *

For the first time Seventh-day Adventists have issued literature in Zambal, a language spoken in the province of that name. One of our college students, a young lady, translated the new series of tracts into that tongue for us. Oral work is being done in the Tingian tongue spoken by the mountain people in the Tombaga-Dilong area of the Mountain Province Mission. Oral work is also being done in Inabak, the tongue spoken by the people on Capul, a small island northwest of Samar. None of these languages have been listed yet in the statistical reports of the General Conference.

Prayer Meeting Helps

[In this column, from month to month, we will present studies that will form suggestions for prayer-meeting talks.]

The Lamb of God

ALMA E. MCKIBBIN

(From *Half Hours with the Bible*)

The Lamb

John 1:29. Jesus is the Lamb of God. Revelation 13:8. He was "slain from the foundation of the world."

Genesis 3:15. It was prophesied that redemption would come through the death of the Redeemer.

Isaiah 53:7. Jesus would be brought as a lamb to the slaughter.

Hebrews 9:22. "Without shedding of blood is no remission."

Leviticus 17:11. "It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."

John the Baptist introduced Jesus to Israel as the Lamb of God. By this he meant to tell them that Jesus was the real, the perfect, sacrifice who would die for the sins of the world, the seed to be bruised by Satan. He was the One foretold by Isaiah who would be brought as a lamb to the slaughter, for on Him would be laid the iniquity of us all.

The Type

Genesis 4:3-5. Sacrifices were offered from earliest times.

Hebrews 11:4. Abel's sacrifice showed his faith in the Lamb of God.

Genesis 12:7, 8. Abraham built an altar wherever he lived.

1 Corinthians 5:7. The Passover lamb typified Christ.

Hebrews 10:1, 2. Sacrifices were shadows of the perfect sacrifice.

Hebrews 10:4, 11. The blood of animals could not take away sin.

It is difficult now for us, who live after the Saviour *has* come, and who have the record of His life and death and resurrection, to realize what it meant to believe in a Saviour to come.

To help man to understand and to believe, God directed him to offer sacrifices. These offerings were animals, most often a lamb a year old, a firstling of the flock. It had to be without blemish, because it represented Jesus, the Lamb of God. Over the head of this innocent creature the sinner confessed his sin, then slew it. Thus he acknowledged that he deserved to die but that another would die in his place.

Abel offered a sacrifice that could be accepted by God because it expressed faith in Christ. And thus for four thousand years men who loved God showed their faith in a Saviour to come, the perfect sacrifice who would be the fulfillment of every type, every prophecy, every promise.

The types were shadows of the cross of Christ. The object that casts a shadow is real, but the shadow itself is not tangible. Many of the worthies of the Old Testament saw the meaning of the sacrifices very clearly. Abraham was one of these. Jesus said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day: and he saw it, and was glad." John 8:56. The ram provided in the place of Isaac represented the Son of God. Abraham had said, "God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering," and He did. By type and by promise God "preached before the gospel unto Abraham." (Galatians 3:8.)



The Antitype

Galatians 4:4. In the fullness of time God sent His Son.

1 Peter 1:18, 19. We are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God.

Hebrews 10:10-14. Christ's sacrifice was a perfect offering.

Hebrews 9:26, 27. He "put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."

1 John 1:7. The blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin.

When a type is fulfilled, then it passes away. It is of no more use or value, except as an evidence of the faith of those who lived when it was in effect. There is only one plan of salvation. Those who lived before Jesus came and died believed in a Saviour to come. Since the cross, we believe in the same Saviour who *has* come and redeemed us by His blood.

"They [the redeemed] overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb," and they "washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." So the blood of animals could not take away sin, but it could represent the blood of Jesus, which is a perfect and complete atonement for all our transgressions.

Additional References

Hebrews 9	Hebrews 9:14
Revelation 5	Ephesians 1:7
Hebrews 2:14	Colossians 1:14
Genesis 22:1-14	Revelation 1:5
Genesis 8:20	Revelation 7:13, 14
Matthew 26:26-28	Revelation 12:11

Paying Church Accounts

(Continued from page 2)

authorize the treasurer to pay these accounts as they come in or regularly if it is a monthly account, for he is the one who has definite knowledge as to the arrangements entered into in making the purchase or planning for the needed work. Such bills should be turned over to the treasurer by the deacon with his O.K. on them if they are satisfactory, and the treasurer will then make payment from the proper fund.

Young Men as Deacons

Question: The *Church Manual* suggests that one or more young men be selected to serve as deacons with some older men also. Should these young men be ordained when elected or serve for a time as learners before they are ordained?

Answer: The *Manual* suggests that only "consecrated young men" be selected for this work. If they were not ordained, they could not serve in the full capacity as deacons; therefore it is proper to ordain all those chosen by the church to serve as deacons even though some of them may be comparatively young. Only the more mature, settled young men who are consecrated and dependable should be chosen as deacons; then there will be no reason why they should not be ordained.

* * *

The workers at headquarters in Rangoon have been unable to get in touch with many of our workers and believers throughout Burma for more than a year. Many of the workers have not received their salaries for nearly a year and a half. But items of news are now beginning to come through. A letter received from Pastor Myat Po stated that he had received a few hundred rupees in tithe from the believers in his section of the field, but he had not touched any of it for his own use. No pay from mission headquarters for more than a year, but he was still careful and conscientious about the sacred tithe! God honors and blesses that kind of faithfulness.



Young People's Department

OF MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS



Dear Leaders—

Hello there, all you wonderful people! Leaders of youth—what a high calling! May we sit down with you a minute and chat a bit?

By the way, how do you like the way we're running the MV section of the *GAZETTE* now? Really, we want to know what you *do* like about it (if anything), and what you *don't*—no glossed-over diplomacy, just the honest truth.

Now, about that job of yours. Does anybody you know need to learn that half-hearted efforts mean just *half living*? Lead the way! Show by precept and example that your society and *you* are *living*, not just existing! Are you achieving what you aim at? Better still, are you aiming at what you *ought* to achieve?

This Way, Please!

Beware of dulling your meetings with the same old faces, the same old style program, the same old room. Dress up your program and your room! Get variety into your planning. Don't get in a rut and do things in exactly the same way at the same time. Put lots of surprises into your programs. Open up that reservoir of unused talent that is in *every* group of young people.

Nothing can take the place of prayer and praise in any MV meeting. Besides the regularly planned prayer, discussions can properly be opened and closed with prayer; and opportunities may arise during the program when all are in a mood for prayer or the singing of a hymn to fit the occasion.

Keep up the momentum and enthusiasm in the MV classes, both for Seniors and Juniors. Plan for an investiture service at least once a year, and make it a gala event. The more Master Guides, the better!

Who's Who in February

Our good program writer for February 3 is **J. R. NELSON**, Missionary Volunteer secretary of the Pacific Union Conference.

On February 10 we are introduced to the fine messages of **C. H. LAUDA**, president of the Carolina Conference.

RAYMOND F. COTTRELL, our writer for February 17, brings us the wealth of his experience in connection with the Bible and Evangelism Department of Pacific Union College.

The sparkling programs of February 24 come from **WARREN N. WITTENBERG**, Missionary Volunteer secretary of the Potomac Conference in the Columbia Union.



H. A. ROBERTS

Attendance Getters

Telephone campaign.

Announcement by mail: Picture of tail-less squirrel on envelope saying, "De-tails Inside." Postal card that must be held in front of a mirror to be read. Have a message about being pretty backward if you don't attend MV meeting. The message can be printed backward by typing on the wrong side of a stencil. Postal card with piece of string Scotch-taped across it and a message that the string is to be tied around the finger to remind you to come to MV meeting.

Envelope marked "Doctor's Orders!" with capsule inside holding "prescription" to come to MV meeting.

Discussing Discussion

The highlight of many an MV meeting is the open discussion. Its value is beyond question.

Discussion arouses interest, stimulates thinking, gives opportunity for audience participation when it is general, and leads to a better understanding of Christian principles. Use it often! Long ones, short ones. Planned ones, impromptu ones. Panel type, general participation. Previous research, interviews, case studies.

Be sure that no idea is left hanging in mid-air. The leader should see that the discussion moves toward a specific goal; that it is crystalized and finalized with definite summation, as from the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy; and that all feel a satisfactory solution was reached.

Use your ingenuity in planning and directing discussion.

It is appropriate for any subject which youth need to think over together.

Our Sponsor

A very special person in our church is our MV sponsor. He will know us all because he will want to help each one of us to conduct or take part in some activity. He will meet with us and go over details with care, coaching us, encouraging us, befriending us. He will keep ahead of us in plans, but will let us try out all our own ideas which are practical and workable. He will enjoy being with us; he will know our language. He will have fun. We shall feel like talking to him if some problem is bothering us, because we know he will not laugh at us or tell other people our secrets. He will never be shocked; he will never get weary. And if we seem unpredictable at times, he will never get discouraged—our sponsor!—Adapted from "A Program Guide for Christian Endeavor Societies."

Try it!

- Cover the near-by community with invitations to your meetings. It may prove fruitful.
- Survey your church records and see that every home with potential members of the MV society is visited.
- Present in person at the weekly prayer meeting the needs of your society, and request prayer for the work it is endeavoring to do.
- Correspond with missionaries who have gone out from your church. It often brings zestful letters to be read in your meeting.
- Record some of your best programs, and make arrangements to present these at jails or other institutions.
- Make someone responsible for providing fresh flowers or natural decorations the year round for your meetings. They say "Welcome!" as nothing else can.
- Start a project to train young people for assisting with the summer vacation Bible school of your church.
- Surely you have the three beautiful MV banners! Use them often!
- Use plenty of quizzes. Youth love them!

Poster Idea

OUR MV SOCIETY IS LIKE A BICYCLE
—WHEN IT STOPS GOING, IT FALLS
OVER. LET'S KEEP OURS GOING!

* * *

REMEMBER—we want your ideas and experiences—**SEND THEM NOW!** We will pass on the items of general interest to the Missionary Volunteers in the whole world, via *THE CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE*, the *Youth's Instructor*, the *Review and Herald*, and our own department's *Secretaries' Exchange*.

Senior Meetings

Program Pattern

SONG SERVICE.
 OPENING SONG.
 SCRIPTURE READING OR MORNING WATCH TEXT (occasionally).
 PRAYER (vary it with audience participation).
 SECRETARY'S REPORT (when desired for special purpose).
 ANNOUNCEMENTS.
 SHARE-YOUR-FAITH REPORTS (as often as available; for variety have one or more interviews or dramatize outstanding experience).
 MISSIONARY REPORTS (orally or use individual blanks).
 OFFERING (emphasize the objective).
 SPECIAL MUSIC.
 LEADER'S REMARKS TO INTRODUCE SUBJECT (make everybody sit up and listen!).
 TALKS, STORIES, DIALOGUES, OR OTHER PRESENTATIONS.
 RECITATION (poem on topic).
 OPEN DISCUSSION OF TOPIC, OR BIBLE STUDY, OR SYMPOSIUM.
 REPEAT IN UNISON, OR OTHERWISE PRESENT, MV AIM, MOTTO, AND PLEDGE.
 CLOSING SONG.
 CLOSING PRAYER (avoid formality but make it a teal finishing touch to a program the youth will not forget).

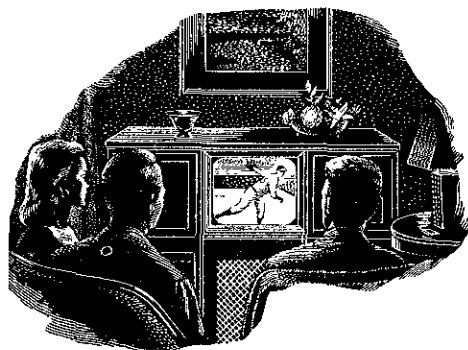
Prepare your programs for the month by choosing various combinations from the foregoing outline. If one main feature is planned, such as an extended dialogue, it is better to present this as the last number on the program. Variations can be added, such as interviews, pantomimes, court trials, true-false tests, questionnaires, quizzes, use of visual aids (slides, films, posters, charts, blackboard). Junior leaders can add map studies, memory games, chalk talks, drills, acrostics.

February 3

TV OR NOT TV?

BY J. R. NELSON

Program target: To analyze the issues created by the introduction of television and evaluate frankly the pros and cons.



This Week's Program

Television poses some new problems for youth as well as the home. Needless to say, the talks in this program should be well prepared. The speakers will be dealing with a tremendous power for good or for evil. This electronic device is one of the many new developments we may expect to see as a result of the increase of knowledge. It may be used to hasten the coming of Jesus, or it may be used to lead people to destruction.

The discussion may be in the form of a panel of speakers chosen in advance and should consist of persons in different fields of activity, such as parent, minister, doctor, student, teacher, and so on.

Remember the purpose of this program is not to condemn or condone but to inform not only our youth but also parents and leaders on the influence of TV. The question "TV or not TV?" may then be settled in the mind of each by carefully weighing the evidence and thus determining whether TV will be a servant or a master. The challenge of TV presents an excellent opportunity for some clear thinking and reasoning.

TV—Servant or Master

The vice-president of the American Broadcasting Company has predicted that in television there will emerge the greatest force for knowledge, education, entertainment, and current events yet devised. With color, perfected screens, a far-reaching network of stations, and lower prices, TV is here to stay and demands to be dealt with by every person. When one remembers that 90 per cent of one's knowledge comes through the eye, and that according to the optometrist's creed: "Next to life itself, our most gracious gift is sight," it is not difficult to see why TV is here to stay. With its potent influence upon our moral and cultural standards through its imminent mass production and entrance into the homes of millions of American people, TV challenges the thinking of Christian leaders. Will TV, with its demands upon our time, become a disturbing influence in the Christian home? Will it, as some people say, "corrupt and degrade our youth" and "create a distaste for the Word of God"? These and many other questions are being raised by thinking people everywhere. In our discussion of video we shall present the advantages and disadvantages of TV. The listeners will weigh the evidence carefully and decide whether in their own cases video will be servant or master.

Advantages—

Parents can always check on what kind of

entertainment their children are enjoying.

Teen-agers are encouraged to stay at home.

TV can help to keep the entire family at home.

TV is a boon to the aged, invalids, and convalescents, who can have entertainment in their room.

TV may become an important factor in preaching the gospel.

Our health message may be demonstrated on the TV screen.

Short illustrated color movies on prophecies may be televised.

When we recall the Chinese proverb that one picture is worth ten thousand words, it is easy to see the tremendous possibilities TV offers in the dissemination of knowledge.

Compare, for instance, the difference between the many words necessary to describe the contents of a room with the way which the eye absorbs the room's relations in a simple glance. In one glance the eye picks up a mental picture that would require a multitude of words to describe.

TV gives us experimental knowledge as compared with hearsay knowledge gained from reading. If, after reading about London, we become convinced there is such a city, we then have hearsay knowledge. If, however, we are so fortunate as to be able to take a trip to London, our hearsay knowledge is immediately changed to experimental knowledge. Although TV may not do all this, yet it simulates experimental knowledge, and thus its educational potentialities are immense.

In meeting man in his own home away from the crowd, TV gives religious educators an advantage the public hall or meeting-house does not offer. Although TV may threaten to convert any home into a theater, it is also true that it may turn every parlor into a church!

Whether the home will become a theater or a church depends upon the skill and morality of those who are controlling the knob. It should be borne in mind that man may be taught in his solitude by TV, and thus an access into his heart gained that is impossible in the church or public meeting place. The church might well consider the advantages of TV and its tremendous evangelizing possibilities. If the church will produce heart-gripping and soul-stirring illustrated messages on the outstanding truths of the Bible, it will find television magnates receiving their efforts with open, grateful arms. Of course it means original thinking and hard work to replace the old method with the new.

Disadvantages—

The living room becomes a playroom with too many neighborhood children running in and out.

Programs conflict with suppertime. TV interferes with family conversation, practicing, and reading.

Many of the programs are too exciting and present false values.

The desire to watch programs causes harmful hurry and carelessness in doing the necessary work around the home.

TV may cause late hours.

TV, because of its powerful appeal, may encourage viewers to forfeit their privileges of Bible study and prayer. Before TV one had time to relax at night, but with a private movie screen in the home it will not be easy to set aside a time for prayer and Bible reading.

The beer, liquor, cigarette, and cigar ads and commercials interwoven in the programs are objectionable.

The cost of TV sets is too high for the family budget of the average wage earner.

A pastor's wife says there are too many "westerns" and too much adventure of the lurid comic-book type. She says, also, that puppet shows are overdone and that many inferior, outmoded films are used, instead of character-building material which is fascinating as well as educational and recreational.

A doctor says there are too many commercials about liquor, beer, and cigarettes, which bring to the eyes and ears of children that which the Christian home cannot approve. He also says the continual excitement and visual strain are harmful to the nervous system and eyes of children.

A father says they have more fuss at home about bedtime since TV. The children skip through their homework and music practicing so they can watch the TV programs. When company comes in to see TV, the children try to make an excuse to "see the end of the program."

A teacher of a fourth grade says that during free discussion period her children want to talk about TV programs. They also use TV as a substitute for reading, and she thinks this is detrimental. Because children sit and passively participate by watching and not thinking, TV discourages interest in the active sports, hobbies, and recreation in which one gets healthful exercise and learns skills.

Parents will be tempted to let TV take their place in occupying the leisure hours of their children. In *Counsels to Teachers*, page 124, we are told: "Give some of your leisure hours to your children; associate with them in their work and in their sports."

Not only a disadvantage but a potential danger is the fact that TV will mean the secularization of our culture. No more harmful force in video could be imagined than its efficiency to blind people to their relationship and responsibility to God. In this sense TV will be as subtle as any tempta-

tion, especially when we consider inviting this temptation into our own homes!

Television's first home was the tavern. Here its secularizing potentialities were first tested and resulted in great prosperity to the tavern.

The lure and exploitation of fleshly lust by TV is one of its most subtle dangers. Before TV these dangers were barred from the home, but now they may find their way into the privacy of the Christian home.

TV is sure to warp the minds of our children unless parental guidance is *able* and *willing*. A well-known writer making observations on TV wrote recently: "A child with a TV set will see more gun-toting in one year in television than his parents have seen on the screen in a lifetime." The hazards of the western-type movie, beamed to the home specifically for the children and loaded with guns, dynamite, and murder, present no easy problem for parents.

Perhaps the greatest disadvantage of TV is that very few parents are capable of selecting or willing to select the proper programs for their children and for themselves. Before TV much of the objectionable in entertainment was too far away to be a problem, but now with TV the problem has been moved into the living room.

The question for each one to decide is, "Will TV be a servant or a master in my life?" If the latter, then we should think twice before we allow ourselves and our children to become slaves to an electronic device the influence of which may devour our very souls.

Does TV Open the Door?

Television is opening the door to a new era which will bring into focus one of the most potent character-forming factors in the lives of our people. With television now in 50 per cent of the homes in some of our cities and fast becoming America's number one facet of interest, entertainment, and the dissemination of propaganda, it is important that as a church we give some time to the study of this interesting newcomer in the home.

Television is here to stay. More than that, your children—in fact all the members of your family—are likely to change their pattern of leisuretime activity in the near future due to television. You are apt to become a television enthusiast just as soon as any of your friends or neighbors own a television set. Perhaps you already know the fascination this new form of entertainment has not only for children but for grownups as well.

Many parents are asking themselves, "Should we get a set, and if we do, will this mean battles, machine-gun firing, murder, and sudden death in our living room?

Will it mean the living room of our home has been opened to a flood of screen comics, rackets, assaults, robberies, and movies of every description?"

Perhaps our first thought is to ban television from our homes. Those who banned the radio from their homes for a similar reason found that the problems were not entirely solved. Banning television from our homes in many cases may not be the solution either. Perhaps doing something about the sadly neglected character education of our children would be in order. And perhaps we should act upon our convictions and refrain from becoming contaminated ourselves by the world's allurements.

At the present time most of the TV programs are not worthy of a Bible Christian's attention. More than that, they are harmful not only to the children and youth but to the adult Christian as well.

No doubt much is being done to encourage TV stations to develop better programs; and the stations, eager to build larger audiences, will do their best. But as in the case of the radio, the movies, and the comics, the majority of the people prefer the objectionable.

In *Parents' Magazine* of October, 1949, Judge Nochem S. Winnet, of the Municipal Court in Philadelphia, says under the caption "A Judge Looks at Comics, Movies, Radio": "We ourselves in our family life must set the standards for our children. If we like a diet of . . . comics, we can hardly blame our children for having the same tastes." The judge has given us a pattern to follow. Parents should set the right example for their children. TV in our homes opens the door and places upon parents and guardians a responsibility. Too many parents will be tempted to accept TV as an entertainment for their children. Said one mother, "While my children are happily and quietly watching their TV programs, I can work in the kitchen with peace of mind." But does she know what they are learning? And wouldn't it be better for the children to play outdoors than to sit with their eyes fixed on a TV screen, especially if they are school children? Television may be a tremendous power for good in the education of our children, but it may also be a tremendous influence for evil. The difference is parental guidance.

With TV in our homes it is up to us. Our characters will meet the supreme test. With a flip of the switch we stand face to face with temptations that before were far away. Yes, TV opens the door. It makes it possible to have the theater in the home, the comics dramatized before our very eyes, and comedy mixed with vulgar novels dramatized before our hearths. It will take a godly person plus the grace of God to control the knob on the TV set. The Word

of God says: "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." Colossians 3:2. TV says: "Set your minds on the prize fight on channel six, not on things that are above." The problem is, was, and always will be, *man*. If man can control himself and obey God, TV will take care of itself. Read Romans 8:35-39.



February 10 SUCCESS OR FAILURE?

By C. H. LAUDA

Program target: To define clearly true success and discuss principles of its attainment.

Songs

OPENING: "Onward, Christian Soldiers," No. 360 in *Church Hymnal*.
"Faith of Our Fathers," No. 349.
CLOSING: "Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus," No. 354.

How to Begin It

We have a very interesting topic to discuss in our MV meeting, one that should interest every one of us.

At the beginning let's ask ourselves the question, Am I a success or a failure? And together let's ask such questions as, What is success? What makes success? Can all be successful? Is success measured in dollars and cents? Is it measured in position?

The Bible, God's Word, the greatest Book in all the world, gives us the measure of true success. Notice Matthew 16:26: "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" According to this text success is measured by one's being saved in heaven, and really, isn't that success? Regardless of what you and I may gather here on this earth—property, riches, position, and praise of men—if our daily living causes us to lose eternal life, what have we gained? You'll agree with me, absolutely nothing.

We believe our program will give practical suggestions on being successful in life.

You'll Amount to Something

If you spend more time in study than in play.

If you do your studying in the early morning rather than just before midnight.

If you control your appetite rather than let it control you.

If you learn to express your thoughts in few and lurid words.

If you keep your promise even to your own hurt.

If you begin early to economize in energy, time, and money.

If you get such a hold on your temper that you never lose it.

If you choose to read only what is both instructive and inspirational.

If you don't hold a grudge against your foes.

If you develop a taste for pure water in preference to any alcoholic beverage.

If you grow to like a good crust of brown bread.

If you keep your disposition from growing old and long-faced.

If you succeed in *living* what you *preach*.

If you are able to climb high on the ladder of success and keep from becoming dizzy with pride.

If you set your mind and heart to learn one or a few foreign languages.

If you get into the habit of keeping your appointments at the right time and place.

If you seek for both the true and the beautiful in life.

If your aims are high and noble and true, and for the benefit of others.

If you become a good follower in view of becoming a good leader.

If you are able to fill the foremost place in the land and still be able to play with a little child.

If you prepare to be informed on any subject under the sun.

If you expect others to deal with you as you deal with them.

If you can reform without disliking the one who told you your faults.

If you can go to school and not expect your parents to pay all your expenses.

If you don't pat everybody on the shoulder just for the sake of being liked.

If to you cheating is synonymous with sinning.

If you can go through the ordeal of your enemies' crucible, and come out spotless and radiant.

And what is more, the world will be hunting for you!

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN.

The Way to Success

"The world makes way," it has been said,

"For the determined man."

It knows that with his thought well shaped,

"Twere hard to balk his plan.

With him success means something more

Than mere "catch as catch can."

He is the captain of his ship;

And ever, day and night,

The pilot firmly grasps the wheel

To steer the course aright,

And point the prow all safe and clear

By buoy and harbor light.

The man who wanders o'er the earth

With purpose vague and dim,

Whose thoughts are filled with shifting doubt

Instead of strength and vim,

Will find the future has, alas!

No prize in store for him.

He'll find, unless with faith and hope

And steadfast aim he delves,

He and his doubting kind must all

Be "laid upon the shelves."

There is no way to help the ones

Who will not help themselves.

Justice bestows the splendid gifts

On the determined man,

The type that has advanced the world

Since history began,

The hopeful, valiant ones who know

"They can who think they can."

If in the path where he must go

There now and then upsprings

What some would call a stumblingblock,

The hopeful heart still sings,

And makes of it a steppingstone

To rise to higher things.

—NIXON WATERMAN, in *Forbes Magazine of Business*. Used by permission.

Symposium—"Standards of Success"

Leader introduces the symposium by reading the first two paragraphs on page twenty-seven of *Messages to Young People*, under the title "Standards of Success." Six young people follow, basing their talks on the paragraphs listed under the following titles, pages twenty-seven to thirty-two in *Messages to Young People*.

1. "Faithful Integrity."
2. "Complete Consecration."
3. "Assert Your Liberty."
4. "Complete Surrender."
5. "Choosing Your Destiny."
6. "Heart-searching Questions."

Doing All to the Glory of God

Every one of us wants to be truly successful. Not one wants to be a failure. 1 Corinthians 10:31 gives to us the true secret of success: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, *do all to the glory of God.*" When you and I make Christ first and last and best in everything we do, He will make us successful, because He *is* success. No greater character ever lived than Jesus Christ. He was victorious over sin and death, and today He lives, that you and I might be truly successful and have the privilege of enjoying Christian living.

Not long ago a prominent magazine carried a story about eight rich men. Not only were these men rich, but they had reached the pinnacle of success, as the world counts success.

These men, eight of the world's most successful financiers, were together at a very important business meeting held in Chicago in 1923. Number one was president of the largest independent steel company; number two was president of the largest utility company; number three was president of the largest gas company; number four was president of the New York Stock Exchange; number five was a member of the president's cabinet; number six was the greatest "bear" in Wall Street; number seven was head of the world's greatest monopoly; number eight was president of the Bank for International Settlements.

Here was gathered a group of the world's most successful men. Twenty-five years later, let's see where they were to be found:

Number one died a bankrupt and lived on borrowed money for some time before his death.

Number two died a fugitive from justice and penniless in a foreign land.

Number three, at the time of the story, was insane.

Number four was recently released from Sing Sing Penitentiary.

Number five was pardoned from prison so that he could die at home.

Numbers six, seven, and eight died by suicide. So ends worldly "success." Not one of them had learned how to live.

Quite a story, isn't it? Although these men were called presidents of their companies at one time, yet what title do they carry now? Will they be numbered among those that will see God? What influence have they left behind to lead others into successful living?

Oh, I can certainly think of many men of the Bible that far outshine any of these presidents. Let's think of just one of the many fine characters of the Bible. I like to read about Paul. I call him the he-man of the Bible. There was no weakness or thought of failure in his life. Indeed not! He says in Philippians 3:13: "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." He did this, too. He didn't think of the mistakes of yesterday; he thought of today and the chance he had again of living successfully for Christ.

He tells us what to fill our minds with in chapter four, verse eight: whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. He tells us, "If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." It is marvelous character we find in this wonderful man, Paul. Are we successful in our Christian experience to the extent that we can say as he said, in verse nine, "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do"?

Fellow youth, that's success. Those words come from one who was truly successful. He practiced what he preached. He didn't have an easy life either. Notice all his troubles in 2 Corinthians 11: Five times he received thirty-nine stripes; three times he was beaten with rods; once he was stoned; three times he suffered shipwreck; he withstood many, many perils of waters, of robbers, of countrymen, by the heathen, in city, wilderness, sea, and among false brethren. Yes, he knew what it was to have would-be friends "stab him in the back," but none of these hindered his progress heavenward.

Ever before him was that great pledge, "This one thing I do; I press toward the mark; I desire above all to have the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." What a marvelous life! What a Christian giant! And what wonderful words came from his lips as he closed his earthly living! One can almost hear his robust tones as he says, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7.

Even at the close of his life he was not just thinking of himself, but he was thinking of others; for he goes on to say, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." Verse 8.

Will you be a success or a failure? Now is our moment of decision. Let us bow our heads as we ask God to give us the courage and the strength to live a successful life for Him.

February 17

CRUSADING WITH THE SWORD OF TRUTH

BY RAYMOND F. COTTRELL

Program target: To present the importance of, and plans and methods for literature distribution.

Songs for Your Program

SONG SERVICE: Select from this list: *Gospel Melodies*, Nos. 8, 22, 88, 160, 165, 166, 179, 181, 182, close with 131; *Church Hymnal*, Nos. 344, 348, 449, 451, 546, 549, 623, 626, 628, 629, close with 210.

DUET: Select from *Rodebeaver's Gospel Solos and Duets*, Vol. 1, No. 100; Vol. 3, Nos. 10, 63, 68, 119, 133.

CLOSING HYMN: "Lead On, O King Eternal." *Gospel Melodies*, No. 162, *Church Hymnal*, No. 362.

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 52:7, 10; 55:10, 11; 60:1, 2.

This Week's Program

Recent personal experiences of MV's in sharing their faith with literature would add much interest and local color to this program.



This should, of course, be planned for in advance.

Society leaders can add to the program, as suggested in the leader's introduction, "How to Begin It," with fascinating stories of the early gospel crusaders (to be found in the public library) and of our own

early work from the source given. Time should be reserved for a "planning session," in which the society is definitely organized for a literature crusade. As a fitting close, repeat in unison the MV Aim and Pledge, followed by special prayer for blessing on the plans launched and for the power of God to be manifested in using the youth as effective instruments in winning others.

MV leaders desiring further information on the Personal Evangelism Crusade at Pacific Union College are invited to write, sending a three-cent stamp for mimeographed material covering the organization and operation of this missionary endeavor. Address: Personal Evangelism Crusade, Angwin, California.

How to Begin It

In this program we turn the spotlight on: (1) the crusaders of long ago as men who sincerely believed that they were serving God by sacrificing the comforts and safety of life at home and setting forth to brave the dangers of a long and perilous journey to champion the cross of Christ; (2) pioneers of the advent message sacrificing in order to bring truth-filled literature to the world, particularly the vision of Sister White which gave birth to our denominational literature, and the mailing of the first issue of *Present Truth* (see *Story of the Advent Message*, by Andross, pp. 120-122); and (3) the objective of this MV meeting—to give study to means by which our society in 1951 can follow in the footsteps of the pioneers.

"To us is thrown from falling hands the torch
Our sires have borne; but now, 'tis ours to trim
And keep with honor bright—for, from the past,
Their name abides (a worthy heritage!)—
And in our turn we, too, must needs prove true."

Panel Discussion Outline

1. Introduction of panel personnel. (This should include perhaps four or six, in addition to the chairman, including an experienced person such as the pastor, one won to the faith through literature, some who have had personal experience in literature distribution and its results. All should be enthusiastic. The chairman should be carefully selected—one who is at ease in public, can think on his feet, is good in organization, has a measure of skill as a leader, is a good conversationalist and able to draw others into conversation, and understands the basic principles involved.)

2. Announcement of audience participation to follow the discussion by the panel itself.

3. Definition of terms. (Dictionary definition of crusade: "A vigorous, concerted movement." Sword of truth: see Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12.)

4. Chairman's preview of the discussion and its objectives.

5. Panel discussion.

6. Chairman's summary of points made by panel members.

7. Chairman's invitation for audience participation, with audience questions an-

swered by panel members as directed by the chairman.

Panel Discussion Questions

The following questions are suggestive. The chairman should study the problem through thoroughly in advance and will probably add questions of his own. Members of the panel should know in advance the nature of the topic to be discussed so as to be able to give some thought to it. They will do well to read as much of the material listed in "Where to Find It" as possible. The discussion itself, however, should have a high degree of spontaneity and avoid a stereotyped, cut-and-dried style. Some of these questions are discussed in the story of the Personal Evangelism Crusade. The parenthetical ideas are merely suggestive and not intended as complete answers.

1. What is a literature crusade? ("The pen is mightier than the sword." One of the simplest and easiest ways to Share-Your-Faith.)

2. What are the objectives of such a crusade? (Locating interested persons by door-to-door planting of the seed of truth.)

3. Is it the most effective way to achieve these objectives? (Hand-picked fruit is always best. We need to go out into the highways and hedges to invite people in.)

4. What results may be expected from such a project? (A consistent program carried out over a period of time is certain to produce worth-while results.)

5. What previous experience must one have in order to participate? (That is the happy part of it; all that is needed is a willing heart full of love for the Master.)

6. What qualifications and training are of particular value to a literature crusader? (A winning Christian personality, a sincere interest in leading others to the Saviour, and a growing knowledge of the Scriptures. See note on this page on Key Text Cards.)

7. What kind of organization is needed for an effective crusade? (Like any good army, both good leaders and good followers are essential.)

8. What are the characteristics of a good leader for such a project? (Enthusiasm, devotion, dependability, organizing ability, ability to inspire loyal and faithful participation.)

9. What literature should be used and what topics covered? (A series of good tracts or periodicals covering the major points of faith systematically.)

10. How can the project be financed? (MV offerings, inviting the church to assist by monthly pledges, or an appropriation from the church budget.)

11. What methods can be used to follow up interests discovered by the crusaders?

(See "The Personal Evangelism Crusade.")

12. Can our society launch such a crusade?

13. What things must be planned for? (Division of territory, selection of leaders, enlistment of personnel, literature, finance, transportation.)

14. What measure of responsibility does each member of our society have to participate in such an adventure? (See "Where to Find It.")

15. What rewards may be expected from faithful service? (Joy of seeing others find their Saviour; joy in the earth made new. And there is no joy to be compared with it.)

16. Have any of the panel members had personal experiences?

17. What experiences have others had? ("The Personal Evangelism Crusade" is offered as suggestive.)

The Personal Evangelism Crusade

For three full years more than six hundred students and teachers of Pacific Union College have participated in the various activities of the Personal Evangelism Crusade, by which 15,000 homes in the vicinity of the college have been reached regularly with personalized door-to-door contacts. If the distance traveled by all cars in just *one* crusade operation on *one* Sabbath afternoon were to be covered by a single car, that car would have to travel the astounding distance of more than 10,250 miles—farther than the distance from the college to Jerusalem!

Interests located are followed up in a variety of ways. A special class in how to give Bible studies prepares students for leading out in that line of activity. Another class in methods of branch Sabbath school work trains leaders for that important avenue of soul winning. Last year scores of people were receiving Bible studies regularly, and at the time of this report forty-six of these have been baptized. Last year there were fifteen branch Sabbath schools conducted weekly, some for children as a "story hour" and others for adults. Hundreds of copies of *Signs* are mailed out from the college every week to interested persons. Hundreds have enrolled in the Voice of Prophecy Correspondence Courses. Special work for foreign-language residents is carried on by students speaking and using literature in those languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, Greek, Russian, and others.

The Personal Evangelism Crusade is just now getting into high gear. This year six new districts have been added to the fifteen operating last year. Several new branch Sabbath schools have been started. A number of new services are being added, which

are nutrition, first aid, home nursing classes conducted in connection with the Sabbath schools, welfare activities in co-operation with the Dorcas society, and youth work in connection with the MV society.

Recently two student evangelistic efforts were conducted, and two new churches are in the process of organization in near-by cities. The same organization is used for the annual Ingathering campaign, with the same students and teachers returning to the same homes they have been visiting all year. On the Sabbath preceding Ingathering Field Day, a small leaflet is left by the crusaders at each home, together with a letter printed on the regular college letterhead inviting participation when crusaders call a few days later. Ingathering receipts are now treble what they were ten years ago.

For more than a century we have talked of the time for the latter rain and the loud cry; but the students of Pacific Union College are eagerly training for effective participation *now* in what they firmly believe to be the opening phases of that grand experience for which the church has waited so long. Another college has adopted the crusade plan, and several academies in the Pacific Union Conference are working in that direction. Graduates of the college are organizing churches in various places for similar activity, with good success. Hardly a day passes without students still in college stopping by to tell of the thrill that has come to their own hearts as experience after experience demonstrates the working of the Spirit of God on the hearts of their fellow men.

Key Text Cards

A set of Key Text Cards provides two hundred of the most commonly used texts of Scripture on twenty-four major doctrinal topics in convenient billfold size. The texts in each topic are arranged in logical sequence suitable for a Bible study, with the text itself on one side and explanatory notes and modern speech translations on the reverse side. One or more cards may readily be carried for use during spare moments of waiting, working, walking, or riding.

Key Text Cards are recommended as the simplest, easiest, most interesting, and most effective way of becoming expert in the use of the Bible in order to share one's faith with others. They are available through your Book and Bible House or direct from Key Text Cards, Angwin, California.

Where to Find It

ANDROSS, Matilda Erickson, *Story of the Advent Message*, pp. 119-129.

WHITE, Ellen G., *Messages to Young People*, pp. 197-230.

Christ's Object Lessons, chapter titled "The Reward of Grace."

Steps to Christ, chapter titled "The Work and the Life."



February 24

YOUR PLACE IN LIFE

BY WARREN N.
WITTENBERG

Program target: To stress basic principles involved in Seventh-day Adventist youth's choice of a vocation.

Songs

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

SPECIAL MUSIC: Solo, Fanny Crosby's "All the Way," No. 259 in *Church Hymnal*. Congregation join on last stanza.

This Week's Program

We suggest that after the opening song prayer be offered by three young people.

If further material is desired, see the story "Just Where Are You Going?" in *Highways to Happiness*, one of the 1951 MV Reading Course books.

The outline "God Can Guide Us Through" can be the basis of a panel discussion, with three youth taking the three divisions. Much can be added to this outline from the Bible, the Spirit of prophecy writings, and actual story examples. It is vitally important to a clear presentation and lasting impressions that the Inspired Word be used profusely in this program.

How to Begin It

Queen Esther was challenged with the words, "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Isaiah said, "Here am I, send me."

Seventh-day Adventist young people in this dramatic moment of earth's history can find true happiness only in being always just where God would have them be, doing just what He would have them do, in the way He would have them do it. The purpose of this program is to help you find your place in life. Almost all of us can make some adjustments and adaptations that, with God's help, will fit us better into His plan. We believe you will find this program interesting and practical.

God Can Guide Us Through

(See *Testimonies*, Volume 5, page 512)

1. The Bible. How can the Bible guide us?

a. By opening it and expecting the right text to come to view?

b. Through systematic study of the Morning Watch and the Sabbath-school lesson?

c. Through following the Bible Year plan?

d. By using a concordance to find stories and texts on God's guidance and leadership?

2. God's providential workings.

a. Note the "if" on this point: "It will be recognized if we do not separate our souls from Him by. . . ." See *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 512.

b. God's leading is often manifested, in answer to prayer, by His closing every way but one for us to follow.

c. If we pray for God to lead us through His providential working, we must be prepared to accept what may often seem to be obstacles and disappointments. These may be the means He is using to divert us from that which is not best, or to strengthen us for His larger plans.

3. The voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to our conscience.

a. We must be cautious here. Conscience is safe to follow only when educated by careful Bible study, prayer, and a consecrated life.

b. Remember Elijah? He found the voice of God not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire, but in the "still small voice." Oftentimes we must "come apart and rest awhile" to hear the voice of God. We must take time for communion with Him, when for a time the bustle and noise of the world are excluded.

c. An example of God's speaking to the conscience: A young man wrote to a friend overseas during World War II. One morning during his season of private prayer the young man at home was strongly impressed to write an extra letter to the friend overseas. So strong was the impression that a notation was made on paper, "Write to George today." Upon arriving at his office, he wrote the letter and sent it by the fastest means. Later it was learned that the extra letter reached George just after he had been wounded in battle, and it was the means of bringing him much-needed courage and faith. In a similar way God can speak to our hearts about our work or profession in life.

Preparing for a Profession

(Note: The different points suggested in this part of the program may be acted out in pantomime with music in the background. If paper and pencils have been distributed previously, the members of the society can be called upon to list in order the points silently illustrated by those on the platform. At the close of this portion of the program, a check could be made to see how many members wrote the correct items on their lists.)

1. *Save your money for future education for the profession of your choice.*

To illustrate this, one young man could silently be trying to get another to buy ice

cream or candy. The other young man could refuse and instead put the money into a little home bank. In pantomime a young lady could try to induce another to go out and play a game or just go window-shopping. The second young lady could refuse and instead accept employment from a neighbor as a baby sitter or in some other work, and then put the money earned in the bank.

2. *Develop hobbies and study for various vocational honors, and thus discover where your talents and abilities may be best directed.*

Have two young people with a *Junior Handbook* or *Master Comrade Manual* working on some practical vocational honor that could develop into a profession.

3. *Read good books—Reading Course books and others that might be of help in choosing a profession.*

Have several young people step up to a bookcase on the platform and choose books of the kind that would be helpful. Then have someone pull a novel or cheap story magazine out of the case. In pantomime someone could step up to that person, shake his head, and use kindly means to persuade the first one to read something better that might be taken out of the bookcase.

4. *Talk with successful men in various professions. Ask them questions and visit their places of business. If possible accompany them in their work occasionally.*

This might be a little more difficult to work out in pantomime, but it can be done. Use your ingenuity in working it out.

In Choosing a Profession, Consider—

1. What would Jesus have me do?

2. In what kind of work can I find the most happiness?

3. In what kind of work can I do the greatest amount of good for the world about me?

4. To what kind of work am I best adapted physically?

5. Do my talents seem to indicate ability for a specific work?

6. Is the profession I am considering one that will make it difficult for me to live up to and advocate standards of my church, such as health reform, Sabbathkeeping, and noncombatancy?

7. Is questionable social indulgence or the joining of organizations at variance with Christian principles required in the profession I am contemplating?

8. Is the work I am considering a good profession in the light of the coming crisis and the soon return of Jesus?

THE NEW 1951 READING COURSE BOOKS. THE NEW 1951 READING COURSE BOOKS. THE NEW 1951 READING COURSE BOOKS.

The Quest of Youth*By C. Lester Bond*

Here is counsel that has come out of the life experience of a successful leader of youth. His counsel in regard to religion, success, marriage, education, recreation, and life service is supported with many illustrations that edify while they entertain and clarify the principles enunciated. Price, \$2.75

Fuzzy-Wuzzy Tales*By Reuben E. Hare*

Thrilling stories of the Seventh-day Adventist natives of the islands of the South Pacific and their marvelous humanitarian deeds in World War II. Well illustrated. Price, \$2.50

Senior*Complete Course Club Price, \$10.95***Highways to Happiness***By C. L. Paddock*

Our Senior youth are sure to benefit by this interesting and helpful review of the principles and tenets of faith we hold. This book should strengthen the convictions of everyone who reads it and at the same time prepare him to give a reason for the hope within him. Seventy-seven illustrations, 12 in full color. Price, \$4.75

Scottish Heroes*By Harry William Lowe*

Valuable information concerning the Scottish heroes of Covenanter days in the battle between intolerance and religious freedom. Faithfulness to principle, loyalty to God and fellow men, and romance are all portrayed in this book. Price, \$2.00

Alaska Trail Dogs*By Elsie Noble Caldwell*

True stories of the real dogs of the North country—stories that will bring thrills and heartthrobs to dog lovers of all ages. Price, \$2.50

Boy of the Woods*By Maie Wells and Dorothy Fox*

A vivid and unforgettable picture of John James Audubon, great painter of birds. The reader will appreciate knowing him both as a boy and a man of adventure who experienced failures and successes and who showed fearless courage through it all. Price, \$2.50

Warriors of the Cross*By Merlin L. Neff*

This fifth, and last, volume of the Bible Pageant Series relates the thrilling story of the men and women who "turned the world upside down" for Christ. The loyalty of the first martyrs, the courage of the Apostle Paul, and the zeal of the Reformers like Luther and Knox are depicted in interesting language and colored illustrations that appeal to youth.

Price, \$3.50

Junior*Complete Course Club Price, \$10.45***Really-Truly Stories, Book V***By Gwendolen Lampshire Hayden*

These unusually well-told tales about real children and their exciting adventures will be read and reread for their own sake as well as for the moral lessons of trust, obedience, diligence, unselfishness, and gratitude which they illustrate. The narrative art and story interest which made the first volumes popular are sustained in this volume from the pen of a trained writer who has firsthand knowledge of the things she writes about. Two-color illustrations by Vernon Nye.

Price, \$2.00

Moose Country*By Sam Campbell*

Mysterious trails and lakes in the Canadian north woods furnish the setting for another of Sam Campbell's famous adventure stories in nature. In *Moose Country* he shares with the reader his deep love and knowledge of nature as found in Canada's rugged canoe country. Price, \$2.50

On the Trail With Freckles and Don*By Ruth Wheeler*

This is the story of the author's two teen-age boys, Freckles and Don, in Yosemite for an action-packed summer vacation. It is so well written that it may be used as a guide for hiking and camping in that magnificent national park. Price, \$2.50

Five Puppies for Sale*By Esther Brann*

Youngsters will love this easy-flowing story of six puppies—Boots, Spot, Bubbles, Blackie, Duchess, and Tiny Tim. But six of them were too many around John and Susan's home—five of them must be sold! The way each puppy found a new home is woven into a delightful story for youngsters.

Price, \$1.50

Primary*Complete Course Club Price, \$7.95***Sister White***By Arthur W. Spalding*

This life of Ellen G. White is filled with interesting anecdotes and incidents not published before about Mrs. White and the beginnings of the Advent Movement. These stories are told with a charm that will interest, please, and instruct all primary children. Beautifully illustrated with two-color drawings by Kreigh Collins.

Price, \$2.00

Tell Me About Prayer*By Mary Alice Jones*

This beautiful volume fills a need felt in every home blessed by children who are learning how to pray. It will answer many varied questions children ask regarding prayer. Moreover, it will enable prayer to play a natural and spontaneous part in the child's daily life. Richly illustrated. Price, \$2.00

Fun and Health*By Madge Haines Morrill*

This is a new adventure story in which Dick and his sister ask a little orphan boy to join their health club. The activities of the club are told here in fascinating fashion. Teaches tiny tots much about child hygiene and health habits. Price, \$2.50

God's Loving-Kindness*By Elizabeth B. Jones*

This is a devotional book for tiny tots—readings for each month of the year presented in story form, poems, and songs, with text selections from the Bible. It teaches children of God's continuous love for them throughout each season of the year. Well illustrated. Price, \$1.75

Junior Meetings

February 3

TV OR NOT TV?

By J. R. NELSON

Program target: To alert the minds of Junior-age youth in right choices, particularly applied to television.

Songs

OPENING: "Dare to Be a Daniel," No. 48 in *Missionary Volunteer Songs*.

CLOSING: "I Would Be True," No. 58. SCRIPTURE: Daniel 1:8-17.

Read "This Week's Program" on page 6.

The Radio That Wouldn't Play

Billy and Gerald went home from the Week of Prayer meeting at their church school more determined than ever that they wanted to be ready for the coming of Jesus.

They had made a decision that all evil habits in their lives would be forsaken and that they would speak no evil, hear no evil, nor allow their eyes to behold evil things. They knew this decision would mean that they would have to change some of their old ways very decisively—among them the type of radio programs they had been listening to.

Every night when school was over they had been rushing home to listen to certain radio serials of the wild west and selected mystery stories. But this night was going to be different! Yes, it was Wednesday night all right, the evening when their favorite radio programs would come on. But they had promised the Lord they would not listen any more, and they meant to keep their word!

That evening the two brothers began to find new things to interest them, completely ignoring the clock which told them that their favorite line-up of radio heroes was now on the air. They had a wonderful, happy time together until there was a slight lull in their play, and Billy happened to glance at the clock.

"Hey, Gerald," exclaimed Billy, "look what time it is! I wonder what Red R..... did tonight? Let's just listen in at the very close and see what happened."

"Oh, no!" Gerald excitedly answered. "You—you mustn't do that! We prayed to Jesus to help us not listen to Red R..... any more. We mustn't turn the radio on now!"

"Aw, Gerald," reasoned Billy, "it won't hurt just to listen to the very end. There won't be anybody killed or shot then. All I want to hear is how the story ends up, anyway."

Plead though he would, Gerald could not turn his brother aside from his new determination. Billy was older, and despite the vigorous protests of his brother, he turned the radio on. It lighted up, and Billy waited breathlessly while Gerald put his fingers in his ears. But he waited and waited! Not a sound came out of the radio!

"Oh, goody, goody!" exclaimed Gerald in great glee. "You see, the radio won't play. We prayed to Jesus to help us to get over listening to these programs, and now He's stopped the radio's voice."

Billy was confused. Try as he would, he could not get the radio to make any noise. Only a humm-m-m!

Just then father and mother came home from work to find a pair of very excited boys.

"I can't understand why the radio won't work," father remarked. "It was working perfectly this noon."

All the tubes seemed to be working. The radio was getting current. Then father discovered it! Somehow the ground and aerial wires were unhooked! Nobody knew how they became unfastened, but if you should ask Billy and Gerald, they have a good idea. They believe an angel must have touched the wires in answer to their prayer. What do you think?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all the radios in our homes would refuse to play when bad radio programs come on? Yes, but I'm afraid that will never happen. The only way they will not be heard is for YOU to turn the dial when programs which would lead us away from Jesus are broadcasted.

I am sure you know which kind of programs these are. Recently a Los Angeles citizen's group examined television programs over ONE station for a period of ONE week. This is what they found: "Ninety-one murders, seven staged holdups, three kidnappings, ten thefts, four burglaries, two cases of arson, two jail breaks, one murder by explosion of fifteen to twenty people, two suicides, one case of blackmail, cases of assault and battery too numerous to tabulate, also cases of attempted murder." (From AP news release, December 6, Washington.)

Radio and television are wonderful inventions, but each one of us must make the decision that Billy and Gerald made to speak no evil, do no evil, and above all hear and see no evil. Remember, "By beholding we become changed."

The standards of heaven and the standards of Hollywood are a long way apart. We can never hope to love Jesus and His Bible if we fill our minds with crime, vice, and sin, which we are sure to do if we listen to and watch the tainted programs that are filling the radio and television schedules today.

—JOHN HANCOCK.

Let's Shut the Door!

"Hey, Bob," came a voice from the library. Bobby was sitting at the piano practicing his lesson. His father was at work in the factory, and his mother had gone to the neighbor's to see their new baby. Bob turned to look in the direction of the voice, but could see no one.

"Bob, hey, Bob! Come here quick," continued the mysterious voice. Bob did not seem to recognize the voice and went to see who it might be. As he entered the parlor, the voice said, "Would you like to have some fun instead of just playing a piano?"

"Who are you?" asked Bob, looking around rather nervously and not seeing anyone.

"I am Satan," answered the voice very softly, "but do not be frightened, for I am going to show you something very interesting." For a moment Bob felt like running out of the house, but he was curious to see where the voice came from, so he remained in the parlor. Besides, why should he be afraid of anything in his own home?

"Where are you?" asked Bob glancing around and shaking.

"Oh, I am right here," replied Satan, "If you will just stay here and listen to me, I'll show you some very interesting things."

Bob hardly knew what to do. Should he run out and call his mother? Suddenly he heard a peculiar sound, and before he could move he found himself standing before a movie screen!

"See that beautiful picture?" asked the voice. Yes, Bob saw it and knew that he was looking at a movie full of things Christians would not look at! Satan had brought it right into his home! Bob knew it was wrong to go to the movies and remembered he had promised God he would never go.

"But, Bob, this is in your own home, and it can't be wrong," said the voice. Bob knew now it was the voice of Satan, and he felt like running away, but something seemed to hold him where he was. Then he closed his eyes for a moment.

"Look, Bob, isn't this funny?" cried the voice. Bob looked and before his eyes was spread a comic book, and the voice began telling him all about the comics.

"But we don't have the comic books in our house," said Bob, "and I don't care to look at them."

"You don't need the comic books, Bob. I'll bring them into your home and read them to you any time you wish," replied the voice.

"Oh, yes! How about murder and mystery stories, Bob? I have so many things like this I would like to show boys like you," said the voice.

"Bobby! Bobby! ! Bobby! ! ! You're going to be late to school! Hurry, Bobby, and get up!"

Bob sat up and rubbed his eyes. "Where am I, Mother?" he asked.

"Why, you are still in bed, and I am afraid you will be late to school," answered Bob's mother. At the breakfast table she wondered whether Bob felt well, and asked him if he were sick.

"No, Mother, but I had an awful dream!" Yes, Bob did have an awful dream.

Listen, boys and girls: Bobby's dream should be a lesson to all Junior youth. Yes, it is possible for Satan to come into your home through the radio or television! Many of those programs are controlled by Satan, and when we tune them in, we are opening the door so he can come into our homes! The movies, comics, mystery stories, and many of the programs for children invite him to come in. If your parents are Christians, they can help you select programs on the radio or television that are good. But remember, most of the programs are not fit for boys and girls, so your parents may have a hard time finding many good ones.

Not long ago one of the TV entertainers gave his heart to the Lord. He gave up TV for Jesus, and today he is telling Christian stories to boys and girls instead of being used by Satan to lead people away from God. Boys and girls, close the door to Satan! Don't let him into your home through TV or the radio. You can do this by refusing to turn the knob of your radio or TV set to his programs.

Real Courage

"Dad! Dad!" The voice came from the sleeping porch where Lynn slept. "Daddy, come here, please." It was in the middle of the night, but that made no difference. Dad was used to an occasional midnight call. Sometimes it was, "I'm cold, I'm cold"—or, "Please bring me a drink."

But this time . . . he found a frightened little boy sitting up in bed.

"Oh, Dad, I dreamed something terrible. I thought the cops were after me. Can I

come and get in bed with you and mamma?"

Lynn was shivering and clinging to his father's neck. Without discussion, for that always wakes everybody up, dad led the way back to the big bedroom and took Lynn in beside him. The boy snuggled up close and was soon breathing evenly, the "cops" and their terrors all forgotten. When morning came, nothing was said about the bad dream, for the children were hurrying to get off to school, and mother and dad asked no questions. . . .

The radio question was really a problem in the Norton home. Since the radio was in the living room, it could not be turned on without its being heard in other parts of the house. Besides, the programs which the grownups usually chose didn't interest Lynn a bit more than his selections appealed to them.

"Dad, I want a little radio of my own," he said to his father that evening, "one that I can keep in my room and turn on when I wish to. It doesn't need to be new, or cost much, but please buy me one, just for myself." . . .

So Lynn's radio was bought and installed. He was overjoyed, for now he need trouble no one and could be entirely independent as to what he heard and when. From the day of its installation the home became a very peaceful place for everyone.

"How little bother Lynn is since he got that radio," sister Nell remarked one day. "As soon as he comes in from school or play, he goes right to his room and entertains himself peaceably for an hour at a time. Sometimes it is hard to get him away from the radio even long enough for him to eat his supper properly."

Dad looked up with a worried expression on his face. "What programs does he hear?" he asked.

"Oh, I don't know," answered Nell, "Orphan Annie and things like that. Of course now that winter is here, there are no baseball broadcasts to listen to."

Mother and dad had a serious talk that night. At its conclusion they both looked very sober.

The next afternoon . . . mother came in [to Lynn's room] with some peanut brittle which she had just made. There he was with ear against the radio, listening intently, but it was turned down so low that no one else could distinguish the broadcast, even when within a few feet of the speaker.

"What program is that?" asked mother.

"It isn't bad, Mother, really it isn't."

"I wish you would turn it on louder, so that I can hear it, too."

"But it's almost done, Mother; you wouldn't get anything out of it. Oh, well—if you want me to, here goes."

A hard, low, sinister voice came over the air: "Get away from that safe! I got you

covered; don't move! Now stick 'em up. Ha! Ha! Ha! Crime bears bitter fruits."

Mother reached over and turned off the radio. "Oh, Lynn, is that what you have been listening to? I had no idea there were such programs on the air. What is that one called?"

"The Night-Life Detective.' But, Mother, it isn't always bad. Sometimes it's all right. That's the way with many of these programs—they're bad part of the time and good the other part. Nobody can help that."

"What else do you listen to, Son?"

"Well, there's 'Katy Kuhn—the Adventures of a Beautiful Woman of the World'; then after that comes 'John's Other Wife'; then I have fifteen minutes of 'Slippery and the Pirates.' But, Mother, they aren't always bad. You never can tell."

"Lynn, you know we have told you repeatedly that exciting stories are not wholesome reading, and have also taught you to keep away from the movie theater, for there one sees these harmful stories acted out before his eyes—on the screen. It is just as bad for us to hear that type of story over the radio as it is to see or read it. You can understand that, can't you?" . . .

"I know this will be a bit hard at first, but you'll get used to it. [Lynn had promised to listen only to good programs.] You remember how you learned to turn off the cheap, jazzy music when we first bought our big radio, and choose the good instead? And I think you do well now about picking out music. We can always count on you to make a good choice. And you like good music now, don't you?" . . .

It did take courage, for Lynn had been listening to several continued stories—dramatizations, they were, and some of them were fascinating.

But he gained the victory, and in place of those unwholesome, harmful programs he substituted several that were just as interesting, but in a different way. He grew to like "the only, the original, Professor Quiz" and his question box; he sometimes listened to Lowell Thomas and his news reports; he enjoyed the "Interesting People" hour. . . . "Mother, isn't this a good program I've found!" he exclaimed one night. . . .

"Yes, Lynn, this is certainly interesting," mother answered. "No one could ask for anything more so."

When the program was over, Lynn said, "Do you remember the night last winter when I crawled in bed with you and dad, feeling all shaky? I'd been hearing some exciting story about cops over the radio, and it made me dream some terrible things. Honestly, Mom, having me stop hearing those programs was the best thing you folks ever did for me."—*Choppy Waters*, by Ella Iden Edwards, Review and Herald Publishing Assn.

February 10

BE A SUCCESS!

BY C. H. LAUDA

*Program target:
To guide the thinking
of Junior-age youth
about success and how
to attain it.*

Songs

OPENING: "True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted," No. 51, in *Missionary Volunteer Songs*.
"The Captain Calls for You," No. 75.
CLOSING: "Can He Count on You?" No. 49.

This Week's Program

A good Scripture reading is found in Matthew 5:1-16. Four Junior youth could read four verses each, followed with prayer by three others. A nice variation for the program would be to have the boys and girls stand at attention and repeat in unison the JMV Pledge and Law. We suggest that you use also "Doing All to the Glory of God," which is found on page 8.

How to Begin It

Today we have a very interesting topic for our Junior Missionary Volunteer meeting. Look at the ladder that we have drawn here on the blackboard (or the poster we have made). It is a ladder of success.

Couldn't and Could

"Couldn't" and "Could" were two promising boys

Who lived not a great while ago.
They had just the same playmates and just the same toys,
And just the same chances for winning life's joys,
And all that the years may bestow.

And "Could" soon found out he could fashion his life

On lines very much as he planned;
He could cultivate goodness and guard against strife;
He could have all his deeds with good cheer to be rife,
And build him a name that would stand.

But poor little "Couldn't" just *couldn't* pull through,

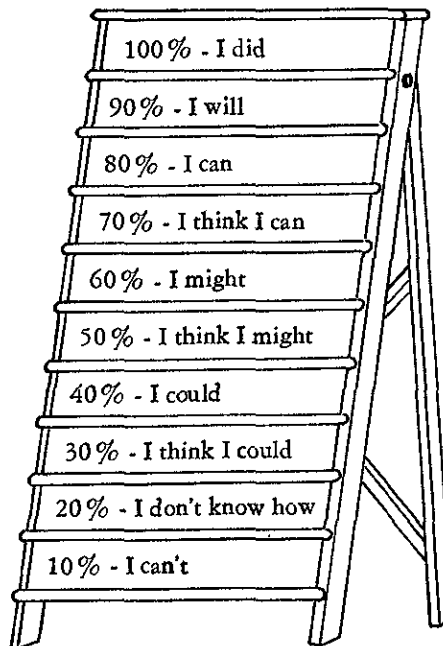
All the trials he met with a sigh;
When a task needed doing, he couldn't, he knew;

And hence, when he couldn't, how could he? Could you,
If you couldn't determine you'd try?

And that was the difference 'twixt "Couldn't" and "Could."

Each followed his own chosen plan;
And where "Couldn't" just wouldn't, "Could" earnestly would,
And where one of them weakened, the other "made good,"

And won with his watchword, "I can!"
—AUTHOR UNKNOWN.



Ladder of Success

All of you boys and girls want to be successful. No one wants to be a failure. And I believe our program today will help us all to know what true success is and how to be successful.

Our Bible in Matthew 16:26 asks us, If we gain the whole world but lose our own soul, what have we really gained? Oh, we may save lots of money and have houses and lands and high position in the world, and others may praise us; but if we are not ready to meet Jesus when He comes, and if we do not have the privilege of going to heaven, have we truly been successful?

We can have true success only when we live for Jesus, and when by His help we say No to wrong, and we live for Him in helping others. The poem "Couldn't and Could" and the story "Did I Do My Best?" will help us in our daily living. The talk "Message From a Postage Stamp" and our closing talk, "Doing All to the Glory of God," will be of real help to us in being true, successful Junior Missionary Volunteers for Jesus.

"Did I Do My Best?"

Some years ago a volunteer lifesaving crew was organized among the students at Northwestern University in Chicago. One morning word came that a steamer was in distress. The students hurried down to the

shore. The vessel was going to pieces. Men and women were in immediate danger. Among the lifesaving crew were two brothers from Iowa. One of them stripped off all surplus clothing and swam out and brought one passenger to shore. He went again and brought another, and then another, until there were eight or nine on the shore of Lake Michigan. As he stood shivering before the fire which had been kindled, he looked out over the lake, saw another man, and said, "I must go again." His friends gathered around him saying, "But it will mean death to you!" He broke from the crowd and plunged once more into the icy waters and brought several more to shore.

Again he stood by the fire, blue and chilled with cold—it seemed as if death had put its icy hand upon him. But he looked again and saw that others were in peril. He struck out through the storm again and rescued several more. That afternoon, pale and exhausted, as his fellow students gathered around him, he said, "Did I do my best? Did I do my very best? Oh, I am afraid that I did not do my best!" And as he tossed in delirium that night, his brother sat beside him. Trying to comfort him, he said, "Why, you saved seventeen!" "Oh," he said, "if only I could have saved one more!"

Oh! that's the spirit of Adventist youth—seeking to save others, being a blessing to humanity—a true servant of God and a friend to man.

—ADAPTED.

Message From a Postage Stamp

Today I want to talk to you about a postage stamp and the message it has for every one of us. (Show a three-cent postage stamp.) It is just a common, little three-cent stamp issued by our government of the United States. We place it on the letters we mail to our relatives and our friends.

1. This stamp, boys and girls, has no value except that given to it by the maker. Our government made this stamp. It has the government imprint upon it, and this gives it its true value. So it is with our lives. It is only as we bear the divine imprint of Jesus that our lives are of any real value to ourselves or others.

2. This stamp accomplishes the task it was given to do. Here is an important lesson for us. Often we object to the tasks given us. Sometimes we say No, and sometimes we only half do them. But when we place this little stamp on an envelope, it fulfills its task by carrying the letter to the person and place addressed. Don't you think we ought to do as well and fulfill cheerfully the task required of us?

3. The stamp does all expected of it.

When we buy a stamp and place it on the letter, it belongs to us, and we expect it to perform its task faithfully. God through Jesus has bought our lives; we are His. Do we faithfully do all He expects of us?

4. The stamp carries whatever message is entrusted to it. What is *our* message? Are we carrying it faithfully with joy and love—"The Advent Message to All the World in This Generation"?

5. The stamp has a wonderful trait—it never gives up when it gets a licking. The facts are, it sticks even closer! Let's learn a lesson from the stamp and stick to our tasks through criticism, trial, temptation, hardship, no matter how difficult the task may be. Let's stick to our job!

6. No postage stamp ever fought back or struck at anyone. When the canceling machine hits the stamp or the postman strikes a cancellation mark across it, the stamp just sticks by its job.

7. You know, the stamp minds its own business, too. It has been assigned its post of duty, and it belongs to the M.Y.O.B. Club—Mind Your Own Business.

8. There is another fine thing about the stamp. You can tell by its face what it is. This should be true of all of us as Christians. We should bear Christlike looks.

9. The stamp never gets discouraged. Addresses may change, and it may go from one city to another, even to another state and then a way across the country; still it stays by its job of carrying the message to the person it was assigned to. The Bible says, "Let us not be weary in well-doing."

10. One of the most wonderful things about the stamp is that it never gives up until it's dead. It keeps trying to do its duty until it finally lands in the dead-letter office. God expects you and me to do likewise. We ought to keep busy doing our best for Him as long as we live. Now I hope that every time you see a postage stamp, you will think of its message to you.

—SELECTED.

February 17

CRUSADING WITH THE SWORD OF TRUTH

BY RAYMOND F. COTTRELL

Program target: To inspire Junior youth to participate in the important work of literature distribution.

Songs for Your Program

SONG SERVICE: Select from this list: *Missionary Volunteer Songs*, Nos. 66, 67, 69, 70, 71, 73, 96, 97, 100, 103.

SPECIAL: "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning," No. 79.

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

SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:26-29 or Matt. 20:1-16.

This Week's Program

It is suggested that the opening prayer be a petition that Junior boys and girls may be faithful in letting their light shine and that at the close of the program blessing be sought on the plans laid and on the efforts to carry them out. Feature the JMV Aim and Pledge. Other ideas may be gleaned from the Senior program.

How to Begin It

Long ago there lived thousands of people known as Crusaders. This name was given to them because they made the long journey to the Holy Land to take it away from the Mohammedans, in order that Christians could visit the sacred spots connected with the life of Jesus. They wore the figure of the cross on their garments, on their armor, and on their shields. It was because of this that they were known as "crusaders," or "cross-bearers."

We cannot agree with them that it was proper to kill other men for whom Jesus died, in order to take the Holy Land for themselves; but we admire the spirit of sacrifice and bravery that led many of them to go on that long and perilous journey to Palestine.

Today the Lord Jesus invites you and me to join His army of volunteers and go forth, not to take the lives of others but to save them from eternal death. It is our privilege, too, to be cross-bearers, or crusaders; and we need that same spirit of devotion and bravery that inspired those courageous men of old.

It is the purpose of our program today to study ways in which we may be crusaders for Christ. Instead of swords of steel, we bear the sword of truth. (Refer to Hebrews 4:12.) Boys and girls, will you think of what you may do for Jesus as you listen to the program today?

The Gospel of Giving

The gospel of giving
Is a wonderful one.
It started with God
In giving His Son;
And Jesus soon gave
To a world of strife
The way to His kingdom
By giving His life.

The gospel of giving
Is our mission here,
To tell the salvation
That Jesus brought near;
And the gospel of giving
Is the gospel of love,
Which had its beginning
In heaven above.

—KATHLEEN DAVIS.

Symposium

Two or three Junior youth may develop the following quotations from the Spirit of prophecy into a symposium in which a question is asked by one member of the group and answered by a quotation read

by another. The quotations might be written on cards. Or, if desired, the leader might read the questions and have various ones. In the audience read the quotations in response.

1. I wonder how long it will be before Jesus comes back again? Is there anything I can do to hasten His coming?

"It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 69.

2. Do you really think it makes a difference whether I—just one person—do something to bring the light of truth to others? God could get along without me, couldn't He?

"Each has his place in the eternal plan of heaven. Each is to work in co-operation with Christ for the salvation of souls. 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*, pp. 326, 327.

3. That sounds definite, to be sure; but do you think that God expects the youth to work for others, too?

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

4. But surely I cannot be expected to accomplish very much. How could I do anything that would really matter?

"There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God."—*Desire of Ages*, pp. 250, 251.

5. I can almost feel the finger of Jesus pointing right at me—no use trying to escape! Where do I begin?

"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.

6. As a soldier of the cross, how may I prove a worthy warrior and merit the approval of my Commanding Officer?

"Not the amount of labor performed, or its visible results, but the spirit in which the work is done, makes it of value with God. . . . It is not the length of time we labor, but our willingness and fidelity in the work, that makes it acceptable to God."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 397, 402.

Illustrated Talk: Our Part in God's Plan

Materials needed: A good magnet, a piece of steel, a cardboard disc about four inches

in diameter made to represent our earth, a cardboard cross about eight inches long, Scotch tape, a blackboard, and colored chalk.

Directions: Attach the magnet to the back of the cross with Scotch tape, so that the magnet is completely hidden, and its sensitive end is at the foot of the cross. If possible the cross should stand upright with this end of the magnet as a support. In the same way attach a piece of steel to the disc representing the earth. During the talk place the earth on a lower level and the cross on a higher level behind the earth. Move the cross slowly down to make contact with the steel, and lift the earth up with it to the original level of the cross.

Print the word JESUS on the blackboard, two or three feet above the word YOU. Connect the two with a solid line, an arrow at its upper end. On the same level as the word YOU, and to the right of it, print the word OTHERS. Draw an arrow at the lower end of the vertical line, and a broken line from the word YOU to the word OTHERS, an arrow at its right end. Finally draw a solid line between the words OTHERS and JESUS, with an arrow at its upper end.

Outline for talk: Our world was lost in darkness, unable to lift itself from the depths of sin. (Place the world in position.) In His great mercy God ordained the plan of salvation whereby it is possible for sinners to be saved by grace. (Quote John 3:16 and Romans 6:23. Place the cross in position.) But men will not of themselves come to the cross, nor can the cross of itself come to them. How can the two be brought together? When Jesus returned to heaven, He gave that responsibility to His disciples, and they have passed it down through the centuries to us. (Quote Matthew 28:18-20 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.) We then must reach a helping hand to others, bringing the cross of Christ to them where they are. Only in this way will the good news of salvation reach other hearts and lift them heavenward. (Lift the world.) Yes, the cross is a great magnet let down from God to draw all men to the saving knowledge of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Jesus (write the word) has already found you (write the word) and me, and we are happy as we look to Him, our best friend, and live for Him. (Draw vertical line with arrow at top.) But there are still many people who do not know Jesus. They too, would be happy if they only knew Him as we do. (Write the word OTHERS.) Jesus so much wants to be their great friend, but needs someone to introduce Him to them. So He comes to you and me (draw arrow at lower end of vertical line) and invites us to be friendly to others (broken horizontal line with arrow at right end), in order that through us they, too, may become ac-

quainted with Him. At first they know only as much about Jesus as they can see in us. How important it is, then, that we be as nearly like Him as possible. (Quote Matthew 5:14-16.) Soon they will learn to know and love Him for themselves (diagonal line with arrow at top), and through them still others will hear the gospel story.

Jesus is waiting for all the "others" in the world to be invited to become friends of His; and when all have been given this opportunity, He will come back to this earth again to take us home with Him. Let us repeat the promise of Matthew 24:14 together. (Repeat.) I want to do my share to hasten the coming of Jesus, don't you?

Gordon Visits the Firemen

There is a Junior crusader for Jesus by the name of Gordon who lives far away in Hawaii—those lovely islands out in the middle of the vast Pacific where birds and trees and flowers always seem to think it is springtime, where the fragrance of ginger blossoms fills the air, and where it is the style to go barefoot all the year around.

Not long ago Gordon began to think about what he could do for Jesus near where he lived. One day as he was passing a nearby fire station with its huge red trucks, he began to wonder if the men there knew about Jesus and loved Him. After thinking it over for a few days, he decided to take some papers to them and talk with them.

Gordon felt just a little bit awkward as he walked up to the fire station, but he took a deep breath, straightened his shoulders, and tried to look dignified and businesslike as he spoke to the two men he found sitting on a bench just inside the open door. They were quite surprised, to be sure, but admired Gordon for his neat appearance, his friendly smile, and the little speech his father had helped him prepare.

Soon they were visiting together like old friends; the two firemen explained everything about the engines to him. They even invited him to slide down the pole which they used to get to the engines in a hurry when there was an alarm. Gordon almost felt like a fireman himself as he zipped down the pole.

When he was about ready to leave, a disturbing thought came to him; and he asked, "What do people do when their homes burn down?" The two men told him of some of their experiences and how sometimes people lose everything they own. Just then a happy plan was born, as Gordon remembered his friends, the Juniors, and the work of the Dorcas society to which his mother belonged. And so it happened that Gordon asked a second question, "Could we do something to help people when their houses burn?"

Gordon had almost forgotten the papers he brought with him, but he gave them to the men as he bade them good-by. They promised to let him know when there was another fire and help was needed—which happened not long afterwards. Each week Gordon calls at the fire station, has another visit with the men, leaves them another paper or two, and prays to Jesus to protect them and finally to help them escape the last great fire this world will ever see.

Interview

Perhaps two Juniors are already doing something in the line of literature distribution. If so, let an adult plan to interview them as a part of the program. If not, the following plan is suggested:

From two to four weeks prior to the date of the program, select two or more Juniors to work in pairs visiting homes in their neighborhood with fresh copies of *Our Little Friend* or the *Youth's Instructor*. An adult should help them prepare for their visits, suggesting personal appearance, what to say, friendliness, and so on. They may call at homes where there are known to be children or youth, or inquire at the door whether there are youth in the home. The Junior workers may suggest that they themselves have enjoyed reading the stories in these papers and that they would like to share them with others. It would be well to arrange for a second visit prior to the program, inquiring whether the papers were enjoyed and extending an invitation to come to Sabbath school if this seems appropriate.

The interviewer should talk things over in advance with the Junior youth to be interviewed, in order that he may know of the interesting experiences they have had and plan how to draw these into the conversation. Be sure to give the Juniors an opportunity to express their personal reaction and to say whether they think the other society members would enjoy joining them in such a project. This interview, if carefully planned, can be both interesting and effective in providing an incentive for all to take part in such a plan.

Discussion—Plans for Our Crusade in 1951

Introduce the discussion with the narrative of Paul's conversion, emphasizing Acts 9:3-6. Select questions from the panel discussion in the Senior program.

The Ant's Evangelism

There's a story I've been hearing
With a lesson that's most cheering,
And I'm sure that you will want to hear it,
too.

Well, a man was eating pastry—
And it must have been quite tasty—
When he thought of something he would
like to do.

He was sitting at his table
Eating all that he was able,
When he spied a little ant upon the floor.
Placing ant upon his pastry—
Which he'd thought was very tasty—

He was shocked to see the ant would eat no more.

But instead he left the table,
Ran as fast as he was able
Down the legs, and then he raced across the floor.
So the man gave close inspection
And he followed the direction
As he saw the ant rush through the open door.

On the street the ant found others—
I don't know if friends or brothers—
But what he said just seemed to thrill them all.

And not one made an indictment;
Every ant with great excitement
Turned to follow him in answer to his call.

He led them to that table
Where they ate all they were able,
While the man stood by inspired by what he'd seen.

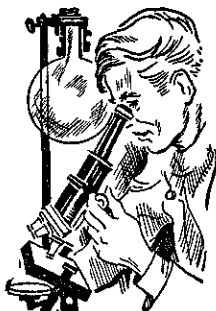
As he thought of all his neighbors,
And how circumscribed his labors,
He was shamed to be so selfish and so mean.

We believe the gospel story,
And we long for heaven's glory,
Let the world behold our hope to us is real.
And the message will grow sweeter,
And our feet become much fleetier,
When we get the ant's evangelistic zeal.

—ADLAI ALBERT ESTEB.

February 24 WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE?

BY WARREN N.
WITTENBERG



Program target: To direct into right channels the thinking of boys and girls as they reach the age when their future work will be given attention.

This Week's Program

Much of the material in the Senior program on this topic can be adapted for the Junior youth. The outline "God Can Guide Us Through" could be used effectively, with the boys and girls participating in reading some of the answers from the Bible and Spirit of prophecy writings.

"I Want to Be a Fireman"

Little Larry was sitting on his uncle's lap. It was a farewell visit before his uncle, a Seventh-day Adventist minister, was to leave to accept a call to an eastern city, clear across the continent. Uncle Warren told stories about the coming of Jesus and about many of the heroes of the Bible. Little

Larry's big, blue eyes, looking up into his uncle's face, seemed to reflect all the actions and struggles and final victories of the noble people of the past.

Uncle Warren just about ran out of stories and finally decided to try the question which is often asked boys and girls, "Larry, what do you want to be when you grow up?" The boy was silent for a while, then again those big, blue eyes looked upward; and this time they sparkled with delight as Larry said, "Uncle, when I grow up to be a big man, I want to be a fireman!"

Of course Uncle Warren thought that like most boys Larry was fascinated with the red fire trucks, the clanging bells, and the wailing sirens. To most boys all the metal fire hats and the scores of gadgets and equipment are very thrilling. So Uncle Warren asked, "Larry, why do you want to be a fireman?" It was the answer to this question that amazed him, for little Larry quickly responded, "Oh, Uncle Warren, I want to be a fireman 'cause they save people!"

At this point Larry's daddy, who was sitting across the room, dropped his newspaper and joined the conversation. Speaking to his brother, he began:

"Warren, I should explain to you the background of Larry's eagerness to be a fireman. It was just a few weeks ago when at two o'clock in the morning we were awakened by the roaring of the motors of huge fire trucks, the clanging of their bells, and the screaming of their sirens. The fire seemed to be just around the corner from our apartment house. We hastened to put on slippers and robes. We wrapped a small blanket around Larry and hurried down the stairs and around the corner to the scene of the blaze. Smoke and flames were pouring out of the windows of a large apartment house. With amazement and fascination, Larry watched the courageous firemen rush into the building—into the smoke, the flames, and the danger—and come out with men and women, boys and girls in their arms. Larry was very quiet during the whole experience. But those big, blue eyes were seeing things, and strong impressions were being recorded in his little mind.

"At the worst of the fire Larry was placed in his mother's arms while I rushed into the building to help rescue screaming, suffering humanity. One by one more boys and girls, and more mothers and fathers were brought out of the raging fire. It was hours later when things finally quieted down. We returned to our own apartment around the corner and left the smoking remains of a once-beautiful building. Little Larry was put back in his own bed; but before I left the room, our blue-eyed boy sat up straight, with a manliness that I shall never forget, and said, 'Daddy, when I grow up I want to be a fireman 'cause they save people.'"

Uncle Warren, the preacher, will never forget the story either. He was reminded of that wonderful statement in God's book of gems for youth, *Messages to Young People*, on page 227, which says:

"The work above all work—the business above all others which should draw and engage the energies of the soul—is the work of saving souls for whom Christ has died. Make this the main, the important work of your life. Make it your special life work. Co-operate with Christ in this grand and noble work, and become home and foreign missionaries. Be ready and efficient to work at home or in far-off climes for the saving of souls."

This preacher-uncle was also reminded of the oft-quoted statement by Carey, the great missionary to India, who said that he cobbled shoes to pay expenses but his great business in life was soul winning.

No matter what work we choose as a means of paying expenses, boys and girls, may God help us always to make soul-winning our great business in life. Whatever our profession, may our reason for following it be a great eagerness to "save people."

"An Oak or a Squash?"

Some boys and girls get tired of school and wish they could finish it all in a year or two. One time a wealthy man went to President Garfield when he was principal of a college. He said that he had plenty of money and wanted to get his son through just as soon as possible. He didn't want him to spend any more time studying than he could help.

President Garfield simply said: "Let me remind you that when God makes a great oak, He takes two hundred years; when He makes a squash, He takes two months." Just so, boys and girls, it takes time to make you the valuable workers God has planned you to be. The roots of the oak go deep into the soil. They go far below the surface. Anything that is worth while is worth time and effort. A Christian education not only requires years, but it must dig deep into your lives. You are building character for eternity.

If You Will

If God can make—of an ugly seed,
With a bit of earth and air,
And dew and rain, sunshine and
shade—

A flower so wondrous fair;
What can He make—of a soul like you,
With the Bible and faith and prayer,
And the Holy Spirit—if you do His
will

And trust His love and care!

—A. D. BURKETT, in *Now*, October 15, 1950.

Home Missionary Department

A Practical Application of Medical Evangelism

LEIGHTON R. HOLLY

A welfare and medical Center was opened at 1226 Taylor Street, Columbia, South Carolina. It is centrally located in the business district of the city. This center, consisting of only one large room, fills a multiple need. It serves as a collecting depot for donated clothing, as a workroom for the Dorcas ladies in repairing this clothing, and as a contact office and distribution center for those in need of assistance.

A welfare card was prepared. These cards are our best and cheapest means of advertising. They were used freely by the church members in making Ingathering solicitations and in distributing literature. The two phone numbers on the card are those of our Dorcas leaders, Mrs. John H. Young and Mrs. W. P. Harrison. These two hard-working sisters, together with a loyal and active group of Dorcas sisters to support them, have spent much time in collecting, repairing, and distributing the clothing. The center is kept open through the five working days of the week from three to five in the afternoon. A staggered schedule has been worked out among the Dorcas members, so that none find it necessary to give more than two hours a week at the welfare center.

Though this work is spearheaded by the Dorcas Society, it is a church project. There is plenty of work for all, such as picking up and distributing the clothing, passing out our health journal from door to door, and financing. The rent at the center is \$25 a month, which is taken care of by pledges of a dollar a month by twenty-five church families.

Five thousand *Life and Health* were ordered, and our laymen go out two by two on Sabbath afternoons into the homes of the people and pass out these free copies of our health literature, along with the welfare card. Whenever possible we endeavor to enter the home and direct the conversation along religious lines. The correspondence course card is then presented and prayer offered. Some blessed experiences have come from a number of these contacts.

The medical phase of this missionary endeavor is also developing very encouragingly. This is due to the faithful labors of our first elder, Dr. John H. Young. Fortu-

nate indeed is the church that has a practicing physician residing in the community whose life and profession conform to the great standards of our faith. Both Dr. and Mrs. Young have worked untiringly for the success of this noble undertaking. The physicians who are specialists in their various fields of medicine, whom Dr. Young has approached, have not only been willing but have seemed pleased to take part in this medical-welfare work. After the prospective patient has been properly investigated, his name and address is written on the back of our welfare card, along with

February 3—

Christian Home Day

The First Sabbath Service material for February is provided by the Educational Department and appears on pages 24 to 26. The Home Missionary Department considers it a privilege to co-operate in this effort to bring before our churches the foundation principles of Christian living, and bespeaks the full co-operation of church missionary leaders throughout the world.

the doctor's name whom he is to see and the hour of his appointment.

The results have already been most gratifying. In keeping with the messages from the Spirit of prophecy, we are seeing prejudice breaking down everywhere, especially among the businessmen. What can they say when the Ingathering solicitor presents a local welfare card of this kind? Through the years we have always had some difficulty in obtaining our Ingathering city permit in Columbia. One of the businessmen who in the past has been very pronounced in his opposition to our receiving our permit has now completely rightabout-faced. He is a member of the Merchants' Association, which issues these permits. When he was contacted this year for Ingathering, he gladly wrote out a check for the Minute Man goal and with a smile remarked, "From now on you folks will not have any trouble obtaining your permit, at least not so long as I'm a member of the committee."

All over the city where the welfare cards have been left, calls have been coming in

from people of culture and means requesting us to pick up furniture, gas stoves, bedding, clothing, etc. Our most pressing need right now is for more storage space. Announcements over our radio program on Sunday mornings are also bringing gratifying results. Since last October a protracted series of evangelistic meetings has been conducted here in Columbia. One fine lady whom the welfare center has helped (they lost their home by fire) is now attending the meetings and church, has received Bible studies from one of our laymen, and has now requested baptism. We believe, however, the real fruitage of this welfare work in evangelizing the city is yet before us.

In the final judgment day will many of us as Seventh-day Adventists be found wanting in the rudimentary principles of Christian service? When we read such sobering and challenging scriptures as Isaiah 58 and Matthew 25:31-46, and then consider our complacency toward such matters (and most of us have been guilty of this in the past), we are led to tremble as we contemplate the judgment. "The gospel of health," says the Spirit of prophecy, "is to be firmly linked with the ministry of the Word."—*Medical Ministry*, p. 259.

Note how the messenger of the Lord points up the important place that all lines of medical work should have in our program. It is "the door through which the truth for this time is to find entrance to many homes, . . . the pioneer work, . . . an agency through which the truth can be presented to the attention of unbelievers, . . . the right, helping hand of the gospel. . . . It will do much toward removing prejudice against our evangelical work. Every city is to be entered by workers trained to do medical missionary work."—*Evangelism*, pp. 513-516.

"The Great Physician, the originator of medical missionary work, will bless all who thus seek to impart the truth for this time."—*Counsels on Health*, p. 497.

* * *

Treating the Wounds of a Human Soul

"In treating the wounds of the soul, there is need of the most delicate touch, the finest sensibility. Only the love that flows from the Suffering One of Calvary can avail here."—*Desire of Ages*, p. 440.



Check Up Your Follow-Up

Anything worth while in this world is worth following through until full results have been achieved. Our farmers can teach us many lessons. Although they are interested in good soil and good seeds, they are also interested in taking care of the plants until they are fully matured, and the corn is in the shock. They know that the soil needs constant cultivation to keep it loose and fertile and to keep the destroying weeds out. They pray for rain and sunshine at plantingtime and continue to pray all the more during growing and harvesttime.

As we review our lives as Christians, we are impressed with the loving care that others bestowed upon us to find and save us and to help us to become established in the faith with a sound Christian experience. How thankful we are that they remembered us after that revival meeting when we made our first decisions for Christ! Who can count the many kind deeds performed and the prayers offered for us to help us along in our Christian growth? Yes, they believed in the follow-up plan.

Our denomination has done a noble work in preparing the way for soul-winning work. We have the most wonderful literature, well written and beautifully illustrated. The truth is beautifully presented, and the arguments are clearly stated. Our Bible correspondence school is as fine as man can make it. Tens of thousands of men and women in every walk of life are reading our literature and studying our courses. To thousands of these students has come the solemn conviction that we have the truth, and they must obey. As they are convicted, they have discovered that they will meet with many hard problems. Possibly the first problem to meet is, "How can I give my heart to God and gain that new-birth experience?" Then there is the problem of the job and the Sabbath-keeping. There are those family ties that are deep and strong, some of which must be broken. There are old-time habits of life

that must be changed. If ever they need a friend, they need one then.

Many have finished our courses and received their certificates and desire to meet those who have brought this new light to them. They write in and rather cautiously express their need for help, but sometimes they receive no personal help. Later they write again and talk about Sabbathkeeping and other truths. Finally they ask where there might be a church teaching these truths, and where they might worship. And still no visitor has come to help them. While all of this is going on, their old church members and friends get busy. They argue, warn, and often threaten. The devil also gets busy—and he has many helpers. Often the mind becomes confused, and doubt fills the heart. They stop studying and praying and soon go back into a lukewarm attitude. Too frequently they give up entirely. This results in heartbreaking experiences. Another episode is written, and who is to blame? Surely God will charge this to our sin of neglect. Why did not that organization that started the work also plan to carry it through? Why did those souls who were interested in paying for the literature and doing all the work stop so suddenly when a glorious victory of having a soul about ready to be taken into the church fellowship was in sight?

Will we ever learn? Nature teaches us that there are seasons for every growing thing. When the springtime and summer are past, it is useless to water and fertilize, for the time for growing and development has passed. Although growth might start, it will never mature and bring a harvest. But not so with a soul; many of them will never open their hearts and lives to the truth of God again. What we miss here, we often miss for eternity.

If we would only put ourselves in the other man's place, how differently we would do! Is not the other man's soul as dear to the heart of God as ours? Is not God just as eager to save him as He is to save us? We know that He used other men to bring the light of truth to us and help us in our Christian experiences. He is now waiting for us to go and do likewise for others. Is it not time for us to restudy the requirements of the golden rule, apply it to our hearts, and go out and practice it?

It is my humble opinion that we would double the harvest of souls that we are now reaping through the literature and correspondence school programs if we would follow up the interests. Conferences are beginning to talk more seriously about this follow-up work. They are making provision for pastors and district men to visit these and help them through. Some are making extra traveling allowances for such visits where considerable mileage is involved. Some conferences are considering employing

a full-time minister to visit the isolated members and to follow up our literature and correspondence-school interests.

Where this is not possible, consecrated and experienced laymen can be encouraged to make these visits. In the Central Union Conference we have prepared introductory cards to be used by laymen for identification as they go out as representatives of our correspondence-school office to visit interested ones. These reports are sent to the conference office with details on what was found. This information is then given to the district men for study and follow-up. If no reply comes back as a result of this, the conference president and the departmental man take over to see that this is done. Surely God will bless any conference that will take this matter more seriously, and they will be richly repaid with a harvest of souls.

It is not enough that we love souls only while seeking them out in the cold, but we must love them until they are brought in and after they are a part of our church. Do not the parables in the fifteenth chapter of Luke teach us that lesson? We read in John 13:1, last part, "Having loved His own which were in the world, He loved them even unto the end."

—D. E. REINER.

City Millions Ready for Truth

Vivid in the memory of a certain milkman is the finding of a copy of the pamphlet "Rome's Challenge" placed in the neck of a bottle on his milk route.

A devoted Seventh-day Adventist mother in Israel had placed it there, knowing that her milkman would find it and perhaps read it while she and the rest of the city slept. Read it he did, and he was stirred enough to ask numerous questions as to Bible truth from the six Adventist families scattered over his route. Questions led to discussion, and in every case literature on the various doctrines was given or loaned. Especially was this true in regard to the Sabbath.

Soon their tobacco-smoking, whiskey-drinking milkman had read through, besides the first pamphlet, a number of copies of *Signs of the Times*, plus *Straightening Out Mrs. Perkins*, and *The Marked Bible*. How plain and convincing was the message in these books and pamphlets! So tender and kind were these "queer" people who went to church each Saturday that by the time a year had elapsed, the subject of their missionary endeavor had given up his former employment, accepted the truth, and entered the colporteur work. He now sold the books and periodicals containing the sincere milk of the Word, which makes for the building of healthy spiritual bone and muscle.

Since that time the writer (for I was that milkman) has been privileged to be connected directly with the training of our colporteurs in such cities as Detroit, Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis, Milwaukee, and other centers where people congregate by the hundreds of thousands.

For a city dweller who came into the truth "by books" these metropolises hold a captivity. What can be done for these judgment-bound souls who constitute every conceivable walk of life?

Without doubt literature, systematically distributed and followed up, has a more lasting, telling effect than perhaps any other form of missionary approach. There is no more powerful weapon than the printed page with which to wage a relentless warfare against ignorance, error, and unrighteousness. Truly, "if there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures."—*Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 80.

As if in answer to the question of how to undertake successfully a city literature-coverage program comes the counsel from the messenger of God, "There should be a most thoroughly organized plan; and this should be faithfully carried out."—*Ibid.*

Specialization is one key to the problem; that is, certain individuals or groups of individuals can be made responsible for contacting specific classes of people. A nationally known magazine publishing house, for example, has no less than eight hundred salesmen covering the city of Baltimore, Maryland, a city of 850,000. Each salesman sells a magazine that fits a particular group, such as Sunday school teachers, lawyers, housewives, etc. The following are a few suggestions regarding a diversified literature-distribution program in our cities:

1. *A Health Journal to Every Doctor.* What would be more desirable than supplying all the doctors in a given area with *Life and Health* or the health journal serving that field?

2. *A Religious Liberty Journal to all Judges, Lawyers, and Important City Officials.* This is a literature project that will win friends and perhaps be the means of helping many a "Nicodemus" not only to intervene in behalf of God's church when the time comes, but to unite personally on the side of right.

From experience we have learned that a yearly checkup should be made to make sure the recipients are receiving the journal and wish it to continue. In one city of 550,000 this was done. It was found that only half the subscriptions paid for by the local church group were effective. Many of the addressees had moved, and in a few cases the journal was not appreciated. Hence there is wisdom in a periodical checkup.

3. *"Prophecy Speaks" to all Businessmen.* This would take care of another specialized coverage group. These men are thinking and are definitely searching for certainty. "Prophecy Speaks" for every businessman" has always evoked an enthusiastic response when presented to our church people.

4. *"Signs of the Times" to all Ministers.* By no means all the ministers in our cities are against us, and we were told very clearly to go directly to these leaders of the people, many of whom are ignorant of the last-day truths.

5. *Temperance Literature for Temperance-minded Bodies.* In this endeavor "we are to be the head, and not the tail."

6. *Tract Racks in Numerous Public Places.* The stories of conversion from a single tract are both thrilling and numerous.



Clean, colorful, attractively arranged literature in a rack, placed in a public building through which crowds pass, is always a good investment. It is just another way of keeping the publications from "falling dead from the presses."

"We should treat as a sacred treasure every line of printed matter that comes from our publishing houses. Even the fragment of a pamphlet or a periodical should be regarded as of value. Who can estimate the influence that a torn page containing the truths of the third angel's message, may have upon the heart of some seeker after truth?"

"In the miracle of the feeding of the multitude, the food was increased as it passed from Christ to the people. Thus it will be in the distribution of our publications. God's truth, as it is passed out, will multiply greatly. And as Christ was careful that of the fragments that remained nothing should be lost, so we should carefully treasure every fragment of literature containing the truth for this time. Every page that comes from the press is a ray of light from heaven, to shine into the byways and the hedges, shedding light upon the pathway of truth. Let us remember that somebody would be glad to receive every page that we can spare."—*Review and Herald*, Nov. 5, 1914.

7. *Send a Colorful Full-Message Monthly Journal to the Upper Class.* These people are busy, and a monthly publication will engage their attention far better than something coming more frequently. The secular monthly digests were originally directed to this group.

8. *Radio Logs to Every Home.* These will invite the folk to listen to the Voice of Prophecy or a local broadcast. Radio logs provide an excellent coverage plan and a thrilling, heart-warming Sabbath day missionary project.

9. *Personal Visitation of Homes With Twentieth Century Bible Correspondence Enrollment Cards.* This also is an excellent Sabbath endeavor.

10. *Tracts in Cars on Saturday Nights.* This may reach a class of people who would not otherwise be reached. This is true of Sunday and holiday picnickers. There should be, by all means, an address on each tract (preferably local) to which queries can be addressed. Much has been lost through the years by an all too promiscuous distribution of precious literature. On the first literature ever produced by this denomination, the first *Present Truth*, Elder James White wrote: "Will some brother or sister in each place where this sheet is received, send me in plain writing, the names and post-office address of all who are seeking present truth."

11. *Books and Periodicals in Public Libraries.* This is a plan that has been carried out most successfully. We personally know of many public libraries that have gladly purchased full sets of our children's books, antinarcotic books, health journals, and the Conflict of the Ages series.

12. *High School and Grade School Teachers.* Many an educator has expressed amazement at our wide range of juvenile, health, and inspirational literature, and has asked, "How is it that we haven't seen these books before? I've never seen anything better." One Lutheran pastor visiting a school, noticing a copy of *Christ's Object Lessons* that was recently purchased by a high school teacher, remarked, "There's the best book you have in the school."

13. *Single Copy Magazine Corps.* Eternity alone will reveal the good our single copy health and full-message magazine workers accomplish as they contact literally thousands of stores, office buildings, garages, gas stations, etc. Juniors, too, have a tremendous opportunity to build magazine routes within the maze of residential city streets, which can be covered after school, Saturday nights, and holidays.

If we have observed one thing in almost twenty years of literature ministry, it is that our church members will respond heartily with their means when a specific

literature project is presented for promotion. They like to give for something definite; for, trained to think in terms of souls saved, they begin to think of specific results.

The foregoing suggestions for city literature coverage by no means constitutes a complete picture. Such a program, however, makes the full and part-time colporteur-evangelist work far more effective.

Long ago the messenger of the Lord predicted, "The wider the circulation of our publications, the greater will be the demand." Our colporteurs have seen this state-

ment fulfilled again and again where they have followed through such a concerted literature coverage, especially in our cities. We enjoy today a harvest as a cumulative result of the hundreds of millions of pieces of Seventh-day Adventist literature that have been scattered. People have become educated to expect from us the best literature in the world. Now as never before, while we have full freedom, is the time to scatter our message-filled publications like the "leaves of autumn."

—P. M. LEWIS.

Weekly Church Missionary Services

February 3 The Christian Home

We as a people are unusually blessed because of the abundance of wise counsel given us on home and family life. Let us notice just a few of these as we observe Christian Home Day:

"The mission of the home extends beyond its own members. The Christian home is to be an object lesson, illustrating the excellence of the true principles of life. Such an illustration will be a power for good in the world. Far more powerful than any sermon that can be preached is the influence of a true home upon human hearts and lives. . . . Nobler principles of life are introduced into other households, and an uplifting influence works in the community."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 352.

"Parents may lay for their children the foundation for a healthy, happy life. They may send them forth from their homes with moral stamina to resist temptation, and courage and strength to wrestle successfully with life's problems."—*Ibid.*

"Happy are the parents whose lives are a true reflection of the divine, . . . whose tenderness and justice and long-suffering interpret to the child the love and justice and long-suffering of God; and who, by teaching the child to love and trust and obey them, are teaching him to love and trust and obey his Father in heaven. Parents who impart to a child such a gift have endowed him with a treasure more precious than the wealth of all the ages—a treasure as enduring as eternity."—*Id.*, pp. 375, 376.

"The directions given concerning the Hebrew children teach us that nothing which affects the child's physical well-being is to be neglected. Nothing is unimportant. Every influence that affects the health of the body has its bearing upon mind and character."—*Id.*, p. 380.

"The more quiet and simple the life of the child, the more favorable it will be to both physical and mental development."—*Id.*, p. 381.

"Teach them [your children] that if they desire health and happiness, they must obey the laws of nature."—*Id.*, p. 386.

"The father should enforce in his family the sterner virtues—energy, integrity, honesty, courage, diligence, and practical usefulness. And what he requires of his children he himself should practice, illustrating these virtues in his own manly bearing.

"But, fathers, do not discourage your children. Combine affection with authority, kindness and sympathy with firm restraint. Give some of your leisure hours to your children; become acquainted with them; associate with them in their work and in their sports, and win their confidence. Cultivate friendship with them, especially with your sons."—*Id.*, pp. 391, 392.

"In all that pertains to the success of God's work, the very first victories are to be won in the home life. . . .

"On Friday let the preparation for the Sabbath be completed. See that all the clothing is in readiness, and that all the cooking is done. Let the boots be blacked, and the baths be taken. . . . Before the setting of the sun, let all secular work be laid aside, and all secular papers be put out of sight. Parents, explain your work and its purpose to your children, and let them share in your preparation to keep the Sabbath according to the commandment."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, pp. 354-356.

Many are the assurances given us if we will do our part as parents. Here is just one:

"Brought up under the wise and loving guidance of a true home, children will have no desire to wander away in search of pleasure and companionship. . . . In after life they will bless their parents for the

faithful care and strict watchfulness that guarded and guided them in their years of inexperience."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 394.

February 10

"More Powerful Than Any Sermon"

"Have you met the new family that have moved in at the end of the block?" Mrs. Brown asked her neighbor as they hung up their Monday's washing in adjoining yards.

"No, I haven't," Mrs. White answered; "but I have noticed the big change in the appearance of the place since they moved in. Instead of an eyesore, it's going to be the beauty spot in this vicinity."

"That's just what I think, too. How have they made such a remarkable transformation in such a short time? It takes us so long to get anything done around this place. My guess is that they are going to be an asset to the community."

"I think so, too. And I suspect that the reason they get things done is that the whole family appear to be interested in the place. They are all working together—the two older children as well as the younger ones—and the parents are right out there with them. One day when I passed on my way to the store, I gathered that the whole family were deciding about the planting of something; for I heard the father say to the youngest, 'And what do you think about planting it there, Son? Do you agree with your big brother?'"

"That's fine training for those children, isn't it?" Mrs. Brown interrupted.

"Indeed it is. I was wishing I could join them, they seemed to be having such a grand time as they were working together. And I wished that our children would work with us like that, instead of always being away—out with the gang. They just aren't interested in the place, or in gardening."

"We—ell," Mrs. Brown mused, "I suppose our new neighbors' children wouldn't be either if they hadn't trained them to it. I guess we as parents are responsible for the way we bring up our children. But it's strange, I haven't seen the children going to Sunday school, have you? You'd think that when the parents do such a good job of keeping their children at home, working and counseling together on projects about the home, that they would be churchgoing people."

"It's true I haven't seen them send their children to Sunday school as we do ours, while we stay at home ourselves; but I have noticed that the whole family goes away Saturday morning. And it isn't any picnic or fishing trip either, for each one is

dressed in his best, and every single member carries a Bible. I never saw anyone else around here do that—and on Saturday morning, too."

"Well, it's plain to be seen that our new neighbors are different. I just like the way their children seem to be at home more than ours are, and they all seem to be having such a jolly time, too. I haven't seen a sour or grouchy face among them."

"I've noticed that, too. Do you suppose they have a religion that makes them that way? It looks as if we are going to be able to learn a few things about home life from them. And who knows? We might learn something more than we now know about religion, too. I mean to get acquainted with them."

"So do I. Let's call on them together some day this week and learn the secret of their success and happiness." And both women picked up their empty clothesbaskets and went into their respective houses.

—ARABELLA MOORE WILLIAMS.

February 17

Dorcas Welfare in Prophecy

One of the characteristics that will distinguish commandmentkeepers from others just prior to the return of Jesus is their self-sacrificing spirit. The people of the world will be careful in protecting their temporal security.

God has outlined the program for the church in the fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah: "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" Verse 6, 7.

What a mighty challenge is this prophetic program for Dorcas workers! Dorcas Welfare work is a fulfillment of prophecy in this the antitypical Day of Atonement. It is just as much a part of proclaiming the everlasting gospel as is the commission and work of the gospel minister.

There is a special work now before the church. "To become a toiler, to continue patiently in well-doing, . . . is a glorious work, which Heaven smiles upon. Faithful work is more acceptable to God than the most zealous and thought-to-be holiest worship."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 2, p. 24.

There is an overwhelming need for the fast that Dorcas workers are to proclaim. There are those who are famishing in the hovels and streets all around the world. Many are without a place to sleep and

clothing to wear. Multitudes are sick and afflicted. Misfortune has cast many into prison; they are bowed down with fetters, deprived of their freedom, and without hope. Identifying themselves as fellow sufferers, Dorcas workers follow the footsteps of Jesus.

The Lord has made various classes of people. The poor, the rich, the afflicted are here among us for a purpose. "The poor are purposely permitted to be thus of God, that we may be tested and proved, and develop what is in our hearts."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 2, p. 28.

"To my sisters I would say, be daughters of benevolence." "Wake up, brethren and sisters. Do not be afraid of good works. . . . Open your eyes and see who are around you; make yourselves acquainted with the helpless, afflicted, and needy. Hide not yourselves from them, and seek not to shut out their needs. Who gives the proofs mentioned in James, of possessing pure religion, untainted with selfishness or corruption? Who are anxious to do all in their power to aid in the great plan of salvation?"—*Id.*, p. 29.

We must educate ourselves to love to help those who need help. Jesus came to save fallen man and bring salvation. We are to do the same work. The servant of the Lord gives this admonition to all church members: "Read Isaiah 58, ye who claim to be children of light. Especially do you need to read it again and again who have felt so reluctant to inconvenience yourselves by favoring the needy." The prophet Isaiah is addressing Sabbathkeepers, not sinners, but those who profess godliness.

God is appealing to us not merely to pray or fast but to divest ourselves of selfishness. If we will engage in the fast of love and mercy, we will receive great blessings. "Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rearward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say, Here I am. . . . Then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness shall be as the noonday: and the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought [famine], and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." Isaiah 58:8-11.

"In the night of spiritual darkness God's glory is to shine forth through His church in lifting up the bowed down and comforting those that mourn. . . . On every hand are the needy and distressed. It is ours to aid in relieving and softening life's hardships and misery."—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 718, 719.

Jesus identifies Himself with His suffer-

ing people. There needs to be a consciousness of the presence of Christ in true Dorcas activity. Christ says to all Dorcas workers, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Matthew 25:40. It is in working with Christ that we partake of true worship. There are blessings awaiting all Dorcas workers.

The servant of the Lord says: "Though your efforts for good have been unsuccessful ninety-nine times, and you received only insult, reproach, and hate, yet if the one-hundredth time proves a success, and one soul is saved, oh, what a victory is achieved! One soul wrenched from Satan's grasp, one soul benefited, one soul encouraged. This will a thousand times repay you for all your efforts."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 2, p. 31. To you, the redeemed from the earth, Christ will say, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungered, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me." Matthew 25:34-36.

Let us put on our beautiful garments of self-sacrificing service. Then shall our righteousness go before us, and the glory of the Lord shall be our rearward.

—L. D. PRATT.

February 24

Every "Signs" Subscriber a Baptismal Prospect

The publishers and promoters of *Signs of the Times* regard every subscriber's name placed on its files as a sacred trust. They, therefore, feel duty bound to exhaust every resource at their command in an endeavor to lead each subscriber along the path to baptism and church fellowship.

To attain this worthy objective a five-point program has been established for every individual subscriber to the *Signs*. Briefly outlined, it includes the following steps:

1. Fifty issues of "Signs" delivered directly to the address of the subscriber during the year. This represents a veritable encyclopedia of adventism, totaling 800 pages, presenting no less than 500 sermonettes, covering a range of at least 325 different subjects, contributed by approximately 125 different authors.

And this "encyclopedia" is highly evaluated by literally thousands of readers "clear round the world" as evidenced by the veritable avalanche of recommendatory letters that come to the desk of the circulation

(Please turn to page 30)



Christian Home Day



"What Have They Seen in Thine House?"

"Because They Are Your Boys"

When Woodrow Wilson was president of Princeton University, he spoke one day to a gathering of alumni; and in the course of his speech he made this statement: "Some of you write and ask us why we don't make more of your boys. I will tell you the main reason—because they are *your* boys."

We are all the reflection of many influences which have touched our lives since earliest childhood. Our home, our friends, our school, our books, the playground, the theater, the club, the church, each has influenced us for better or for worse. The most important influence that has shaped our characters is the first and earliest influence, the home. H. Richard Rasmussen says:

"Parents determine not only our blood but also many other things. In a popular autobiography we read: 'As life tapers off, I can see that in the deep and fundamental qualities I am each day more and more like my parents. The influence of the home is upon us all. And in the deep and fundamental qualities we are every day more and more like our parents.'

"And by this same sign our children will be like us and will be molded by the home we make for them. As life tapers off for them, in the deep and fundamental qualities they will be more and more like us and their home."—*Treasury of the Christian Faith*, p. 150.

Boys and girls are what their parents make them. Good or bad, they have been largely influenced by home environment. As we look at our children, this may make us feel a glow of pride, or it may cause us to shake our heads in sorrow. Whatever the reaction, we ought to face the fact squarely that home influences are fundamental factors in shaping the personality and life of every son and daughter that God gives us. This is in harmony with the understanding of Mrs. E. G. White, a skillful mother, who wrote that "the well-being of society, the success of the church, the prosperity of the nation, *depend upon home influences*."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 349. "The happiness of families and churches depends upon *home influences*."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, p. 522. "To a large degree the happiness of men and women and the success of the

Christian Home Day

February 3, 1951

BY D. A. DELAFIELD

Suggestive Program

OPENING SONG: "Love Divine," No. 142
Church Hymnal.

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Kings 20.

PRAYER. (Pray that God will help us to make our homes a means of grace to save our children and our friends.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING.

SPECIAL MUSIC. (To be selected.)

READING: "Because They Are Your Boys."

READING: "Teaching Christian Principles at Home."

SPECIAL MUSIC. (To be selected.)

READING: "The Nature of Home Influences."

CLOSING SONG: "Lift Him Up," No. 520.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION. (Parents and children should be asked to join silently in a dedication of their hearts to the work of witnessing for Christ in the home.)

church depend upon home influence."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 204. (Italics ours.)

If the foregoing is true—and we believe it is—how important it is that home influences be of the right kind! There is also a distinct relationship between character and home influence. This is clearly stated in the following quotation from *Education*, page 283: "In the formation of character, no other influences count so much as the influence of the home." If the home is to have an influence that will develop character, it must have a spiritual atmosphere. We read in *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 144: "If the homes of professed Christians had a right religious mould, they would exert a mighty influence for good. They would indeed be the 'light of the world.'" Commenting further upon the importance of the religious mold in the home, the servant of God has said:

"From every Christian home a holy light should shine forth. Love should be revealed in action. It should flow out in all home intercourse, showing itself in thoughtful kindness, in gentle, unselfish courtesy."

The influence of a consecrated home upon its children is illustrated by the Old Testament character Elisha, who was successor to

the mighty Eli. Concerning this man of God, who for many years or more walked in and out of the homes and cities of Israel, we read:

"The early years of the prophet Elisha were passed in the quietude of country life, under the teaching of God and nature and the discipline of useful work. In a time of almost universal apostasy, his father's household were among the number who had not bowed the knee to Baal. Theirs was a home where God was honored, and where faithfulness to duty was the rule of daily life. . .

"Of a meek and gentle spirit, Elisha possessed also energy and steadfastness. He cherished the love and fear of God, and in the humble round of daily toil he gained strength of purpose and nobleness of character, growing in divine grace and knowledge. While co-operating with his father in the home duties, he was learning to co-operate with God."—*Education*, p. 58.

A New Testament example of the influence of the home in preparing workers for the cause of Christ is given to us in the character of Timothy:

"From a child he had known the Scriptures. The piety that he saw in his home life was sound and sensible. The faith of his mother and his grandmother in the sacred oracles was to him a constant reminder of the blessing in doing God's will. The word of God was the rule by which these two godly women had guided Timothy. The spiritual power of the lessons that he had received from them kept him pure in speech and unsullied by the evil influences with which he was surrounded. Thus his home instructors had co-operated with God in preparing him to bear burdens."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 440.

The early experience of Elisha and Timothy illustrates the influence of the Christian home upon our children. But what a tragedy that there are so few homes like that today! As Woodrow Wilson stated to the alumni of Princeton University, it is difficult to make more out of young people "because they are *your* boys." Our children are the reflection of many influences, principally home influences. How important then that we make every moment count while we have our children with us! We should create influences within our homes that will mold the characters of our children for successful life here and hereafter.

Sabbath -- February 3, 1951

Teaching Christian Principles at Home

Home is the most blessed spot on earth. "To Adam, Paradise was home. To the good among his descendants, home is paradise." Parents must make of their homes an earthly paradise if they are to exert a telling influence for good in the community, and it is the love of heaven that makes home like Paradise. That means that father must love mother, and mother must love father.

If a man does not love his wife, he will not find it very pleasant to go home to her when the day's work is done. And if the woman does not love her husband, she will not look forward to his arrival.

Home is simply the environment for our feelings. It is the climate for our temperaments, the atmosphere for our natures. We create home; home does not create us. I am speaking now of parents. They make or they break the home. Coldness, frigidity, unkindness, quarreling, bickering about this little thing or that, all can be avoided if parents have true love for each other. And it is the possession of this love, or the lack of it, that determines whether home shall be pleasant or unpleasant, whether it shall be really *home* or simply a place to stay.

This consideration is the very first factor in creating good home influences. Neither our children nor our neighbors will be impressed by our home life unless parents love each other and unselfishly do all they can to make each other happy. How true are the words that parents are "the builders of the home."

"Let there be mutual love, mutual forbearance," writes the servant of God. "Then marriage, instead of being the end of love, will be as it were the very beginning of love."

"Let each give love rather than exact it. Cultivate that which is noblest in yourselves, and be quick to recognize the good qualities in each other. The consciousness of being appreciated is a wonderful stimulus and satisfaction. Sympathy and respect encourage the striving after excellence, and love itself increases as it stimulates to nobler aims. . . .

"The spirit that Christ manifests toward us is the spirit that husband and wife are to manifest toward each other."—*Ministry of Healing*, pp. 360, 361.

The children will find themselves easily led along in the development of character if it is seen that daddy and mother love each other. If the father does not attempt

Note to Pastors and Elders

The first Sabbath in February is designated in our church calendar as Christian Home Day. Its purpose is to call to the attention of the church the importance of building Christian homes through the education of parents and the right training of children for God and His cause.

The program here prepared calls attention to the various means by which home life can be made pure and true. The article "The Fruit of Home Influences" was not listed in the scheduled program, but if there is time to include its presentation, the message will be a blessing and inspiration to those who have the opportunity of hearing it.

We urge that every church observe this Christian Home Day, whether or not the program here provided is followed. Let us use every possible means to strengthen the challenging responsibility of the home.

—GENERAL CONFERENCE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

arbitrarily to control his wife's every move or vice versa; if the parents are "kind, patient and forbearing, considerate and courteous," they will make each other happy, and the children will be happy because daddy and mother get along so well.

All efforts to instruct the children must begin with parental harmony and true love and affection, husband for wife and wife for husband. When parents truly love each other, then, and not until then, they are prepared to help the children to understand God, who is love.

Children must learn to love parents before they learn to love God. In fact it is impossible to love God unless they love their parents; for if they love not their parents, whom they have seen, how can they love God whom they have never seen? We repeat again that this is the very foundation of all home influences—the love of the parents for each other.

This love then becomes the basis for all instruction and teaching in the home. As parents love each other, they love the children who have come into existence as the fruit of their love. Love flows over the parents' hearts into the children's. This love, being born of God, leads back to God. A regular time for family worship is set aside. The family altar is erected. Morning and evening the children come face to face with the God of love in the worship hour. They are taught to love God's Book, the

Bible, and the testimonies of His Spirit. They are taught to love God's people, the members of the church. They are taught to love a world of sinners who are going down to ruin all about them.

They learn that love will lead them to take care of their bodies, which are the temples of the Holy Ghost, for in this way they better represent the God of love to a lost world. They are taught that the human body should be properly clothed and that love is stronger than pride and selfishness. Therefore their dress should be of such a nature as to attract attention to God and to the principles of righteousness.

Thus love becomes the basis of all home instruction. Love is the great principle that rules the life. Love is more a matter of will than of feeling. Love is a principle of action that leads us to do right under all circumstances, regardless of the pressure of conditions or of our feelings at any given moment. Love is a way of life that summons the energies and the resources of the mind, the heart, and the body for service to God and man. This is the big factor that is needed in every home and in every life. It is the secret of happy home life and the way to victory.

Love is the great motive power that compels obedience to God and respect for man. If this love is the possession of parents, it will become the possession of children. It will be shown that love, not selfishness, will lead to happiness in the home, in the church, in the community, and in the world.

Love, wonderful love—what a blessing it becomes as it operates in parents' and children's lives! Said the servant of God: "His providence can unite hearts in bonds that are of heavenly origin. Love will not be a mere exchange of soft and flattering words. The loom of heaven weaves with warp and woof finer, yet more firm, than can be woven by the looms of earth. The result is not a tissue fabric, but a texture that will bear wear and test and trial. Heart will be bound to heart in the golden bonds of a love that is enduring. The following poem is found in *Ministry of Healing*, page 362:

"Better than gold is a peaceful home,
Where all the fireside charities come;
The shrine of love and the heaven of life,
Hallow'd by mother, or sister, or wife.
However humble the home may be,
Or tried with sorrows by heaven's decree,
The blessings that never were bought or sold,
And center there, are better than gold."

The Nature of Home Influences

We may learn much about home influences from the experience of an ancient king who failed his Lord in a moment of great opportunity. When the Babylonian ambassadors came to Hezekiah, they came as seekers for truth. They were eager to discover, if they could, something of the character of the miracle-working God who had healed the king of a fatal illness and turned the shadow of the sun backward on the dial ten degrees. They expected fully to hear from the lips of the restored monarch a recital of the virtues and praises of the heavenly king whose servant he was. This occasion afforded Hezekiah an opportunity to extol the living God. How easy it would have been for him to tell them of the great God, creator and upholder of all living things, through whose favor his own life had been spared when all other hope had fled. What momentous transformations of life might have taken place had these seekers after truth from the plains of Chaldea been led to acknowledge the sovereignty of the living God. See *Prophets and Kings*, p. 344.

But Hezekiah's response to these ambassadors of Merodach-baladan, king of Babylon, was of an entirely different kind. "Pride and vanity took possession of Hezekiah's heart, and in self-exaltation he laid open to covetous eyes the treasures with which God had enriched His people. The king showed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armor, and all that was found in his treasures; there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah showed them not."—*Id.*, pp. 344, 345.

The unwise king of Judah forgot that these men represented a powerful nation destined to rule the world. It was sheer folly for him to open to the view of these heathen such vast wealth. If he had only opened to these ambassadors from a heathen country the treasures of the gospel, they might have become emissaries, carrying back to Merodach-baladan the story of the riches of God's grace. Instead the ambassadors carried home to their king a glowing account of fabulous riches in the possession of a weak and a small people. As a consequence the armies of Babylon subjugated the kingdom of Judah and seized the royal treasures.

When the word of the king's folly reached the ears of Isaiah, the prophet, he was directed by the Lord in vision to appear in the presence of the king. "What said these men?" Isaiah inquired. "And from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah

said, They are come from a far country unto me, even from Babylon. Then said he, *What have they seen in thine house?* And Hezekiah answered, All that is in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not showed them." Isaiah 39:3, 4. (Italics ours.)

The words of judgment pronounced by the prophet upon the house of Judah are recorded in succeeding verses. These judgments might have been averted if the king had not forgotten to make his house a light set on a hill. Oh, that he had made the occasion of the visit of the ambassadors an opportunity to reveal to them the character of the great God! The king humbled himself, and as long as he lived, the wrath of God came not upon Judah; but when he passed off the stage of action, God's judgments fell. A mighty army captured Jerusalem and seized the treasures the ambassadors had seen.

There is an important lesson for us in all of this. The question comes home to every Adventist, What have they seen in thine house? Every day we have opportunities to let the influence of our Christian homes tell upon the world. What has the world seen in our homes? Shall we not ponder this question for a moment? And we raise a further question, What do our children see in our homes? What influences are there to affect their lives for good?

Let us begin with the house in which we live, and let our observations be practical. What does our house look like? Is it in a good state of repair? Are the premises clean? Or is the yard full of trash, the chimney bent over and ready to fall? Are the windows broken through? Is the fence filled with holes? Now it is true that it takes money to repair a house, and we can excuse people for being short of cash; but what excuse can we give for untidy premises? What example do we set for our children and for our neighbors in this regard? What have they seen in thine house? The house in which we live can speak volumes in favor of practical Christianity.

What have they seen in thine house? We knew a lady once who made a great profession of piety, and she was a pious woman. She had no family. She lived alone. No one had any arguments with her religion; but if you could have seen the apartment in which she lived, you would seriously question that she was a well-balanced Christian. It was dirty, unswept, disorderly, unrepresentative. How could she win souls to Christ when she lived in such a dingy atmosphere? The truth of the matter was that her "home" reflected her own sordid thoughts. She found no joy in her religion; so she lived in a joyless atmosphere. If she had found happiness in Christ, she would have tried to bring sunshine into her home.

What have they seen in thine house? Does the house in which you live exert an influence for good?

Is your home neat and attractive, with simple furnishings creating a homey atmosphere? Or is it extravagantly furnished and richly embellished, suggesting wealth and pride? Our homes may be attractive, and they should be; but certainly they should not be fitted like mansions. When we recall that our Saviour lived in a simple carpenter's home in Nazareth, and that during His earthly ministry the Son of man had not where to lay His head, we will not be lavish in the furnishings we choose for our homes.

And what do your guests see in your living room as they sit down to visit with you? Your friends (and your children, too) will certainly learn a great deal about your personal habits the moment they enter the living room. The bookcase in the corner should hold a supply of the best literature, but is it filled with novels and inane reading matter? And how about the coffee table? What kind of magazines do you have there? Do they exert an influence for Christ? Will your neighbors learn about your religion by picking them up and reading? Do they represent the best things of life—the things of God? "A house is no home," writes Margaret Fuller, "unless it contains food and fire for the mind as well as the body."

It's easy to be popular and do as others do, but what would Jesus do? Why not be different—not just to be different, but because Christians are to follow the great Exemplar in their habits of life, especially in the home?

"Whatever you read, though the page may allure,
Read nothing unless you're perfectly sure
Consternation would not be seen in your look
If Jesus said solemnly, 'Show Me that book.'"

Certainly we want our neighbors to find good books and magazines in our homes. The influence of our reading habits will go far to win them to God. What could be better than the Bible, the *Testimonies*, and the Conflict of the Ages series set up on a neat little table where all can see? And the *Review*, *Signs of the Times*, *Youth's Instructor*, *Little Friend*, *Our Times*, and other magazines should be available for our children to read, as well as for the visitors who might be calling in our homes. And of course there is room for literature of a secular nature, such as *National Geographic*, *Scientific American*, *Reader's Digest* (to mention only a few); but the most prominent place should be given to our spiritual books and papers.

What have they seen in thine house? A television set? Yes, perhaps, and a radio, (Please turn to page 29)

Department of Education

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

"What Have They Seen in Thine House?"

"God calls for far more tact, more wise generalship, than has yet been given Him by His human agencies. There is need of sharp, sanctified thinking, and keen work to counteract the ingenious plans of Satan. There is a call for a higher standard to be met, a holier, more determined, self-sacrificing effort to be put forth in the Lord's work. Our youth must be educated to meet a higher standard, to understand that they are now deciding their own eternal destiny." —*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 306.

"All That Is in Mine House"

Answering the question that is the theme of our program, Hezekiah said: "All that is in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not showed them." Isaiah 39:4. Hezekiah's thoughts were not upon the goodness of God to him, the blessings he had received, and the thankfulness that should have filled his heart. He showed his royal visitors his earthly treasures—his silver and gold and precious vessels.

Human nature has not greatly changed. When guests come to the home, today's hostess enjoys showing some newly acquired piece of furniture or an interesting or inspiring book just read. A Roman matron, the widow Cornelia, was visited by a wealthy guest who inquired about her jewels. Cornelia presented her two sons, saying proudly, "These are my jewels."

In what kind of setting do we place our "jewels"? What do guests see in our homes to produce the jewels we possess? Let us discuss a few of the attributes and influences of a true Seventh-day Adventist home that make for the production and preservation of precious jewels.

Does the overnight guest in your home feel that family worship is a regular daily appointment? Or was it held only in honor of the guest? The behavior, the looks and actions of the children will betray the truth. It is a fact that this vital duty has been brought to the attention of our people many times, but still "in too many households, prayer is neglected. Parents feel that they have no time for morning and evening worship. They cannot spare a few moments to

be spent in thanksgiving to God for His abundant mercies. . . . They have no time to offer prayer for divine help and guidance, and for the abiding presence of Jesus in the household."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 143. There could be no loss but only rich gain for those who will institute and maintain the family altar. The promises to the faithful are marvelous. "From these homes, morning and evening prayer ascends to God as sweet incense, and His mercies and blessings descend upon the suppliants like the morning dew."—*Ibid.* Great victories will be gained, and a protecting "hedge" is placed about the children. See *Testimonies*, Vol. 1, pp. 397, 398.

How can we deny these blessings to our children and our homes? If there is yet a home that does not provide these riches for its children, let a determined effort be made to hold family worship regularly. It can be done by careful planning and a bit of extra effort.

Does the visitor see the virtue of Christian courtesy being practiced in the home? Simple courtesy, kindness, and consideration are very essential in our relationships with children and young people. Patience and unfailing courtesy create a warmth of confidence and love necessary in child training. Only too often manifestations of impatience and inexcusable discourtesy are used in addressing and dealing with children. "God tests and proves us by, the common occurrences of life. It is the little things which reveal the chapters of the heart. It is the little attentions, the numerous small incidents and simple courtesies of life, that make up the sum of life's happiness; and it is the neglect of kindly, encouraging, affectionate words, and the little courtesies of life, which helps compose the sum of life's wretchedness."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 2, p. 133.

Parents are prone to be stern and severe when children have misbehaved. A little five-year-old came to his mother saying he had done something he wasn't supposed to do. Using her crisp, sharp voice of authority, the mother commanded him to tell her about it. Such procedure is bound to put a wall of separation between parents and child, and this little lad shook his head and said, "I can't tell you unless you are going to be polite to me." Then he added, "I'll tell you what you do, Mother; you play like I'm company, and you have to be

Notes to Leaders

We trust that your church will observe Christian Home Day. The topic presented is so important that we felt the Home and School Association program should continue the same theme. This would permit a brief review of the readings for the church service, so that the fine thoughts brought out in them could become firmly fixed in mind. The Home and School Association program follows on with other phases of home life in answering the question, "What have they seen in thine house?" Give the parents opportunity to ask questions and to discuss the various features presented. Direct the discussion as far as possible toward those items which would be of special interest or most needed by the members of your society.

There are many other home-life activities that could be presented in answering the above question, such as the games children play, nature interest rightly fostered, school attitudes, establishing habits of health, quarreling children, etc. Choose those topics which will be most profitable for the parents and homes in your community.

The chapter in *Education* entitled "Discipline" contains many helpful suggestions on the importance and teaching of obedience, one of the essentials in wise home training. Let some member review that chapter and present in simplified form the steps set forth by Mrs. White.

May some of the habits in our homes be changed as a result of this program, and may we all be inspired toward better generalship as we direct life in our homes.

—ARABELLA MOORE WILLIAMS.

polite to me. Even when it gets worse and worse, you have to be polite to me if I'm company."

What sweet companionship we often forfeit because of our own thoughtless actions toward our children! God has sent this message to His people: "A home where love dwells, and where it is expressed in looks, in words, and in acts, is a place where angels delight to manifest their presence."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 387.

Every parent desires to send forth his son prepared to meet the problems he will face in the world, away from the shelter of the home. The cultivation of courtesy no doubt pays the largest dividends in making him well liked, acceptable to his associates, and able to deal with them successfully. But how can the child be expected to say "Please," "Thank you," and "I beg your pardon" when as parents we never use these words of grace in dealing with him? Being

introduced to a great man becomes no harassing experience for the adult if, when a child, his father made a practice of introducing him to his friends so that the little lad's "How-do-you-do, Mr. Brown" is natural and easy. Mary Jane's mother noticed that her little daughter was self-conscious and confused when her friends complimented her on a pretty dress or bonnet. This changed when the mother taught her to say, "Thank you; I'm glad you like it." Mary Jane was acquiring social ease along with natural courtesy.

We are told that "Christianity will make a man a gentleman."—*Id.*, p. 489. What a challenging statement! The home reveals the personality of its members. The children reflect the character and training of their parents.

What kind of discipline is exercised in the home? Does the visitor hear the mother say, "Tommy, don't go upstairs!" but see Tommy slowly ascending? After mother's "Tommy, did you hear mother say not to go upstairs?" does Tommy continue his climb? Is mother's final, impressive command equally disregarded, and does the child go on up, get what he wants, and only then come down? It is a little thing; but what a lesson in disobedience and disregard for the voice of authority! Commands should never be given arbitrarily and without regard for the reasonable desires of the child; but when a command is given, it should be maintained—and obeyed.

To learn to obey is a necessary part of every life, and the sooner a child recognizes this, the better off he will be. If he does not learn it in childhood from his parents, who are interested in him, and who exercise discipline motivated by love and genuine concern, he will be forced to learn it later the hard, cruel way. Discipline need not be harsh and unkind, but it does need to be firm and consistent. The No must always mean No and nothing else and must not be reversed by crying, teasing, or coaxing. The child should not be restrained one day, ignored concerning the same matter another day, scolded the following day, permitted to do the thing later on, and still another day be severely punished for it. Such inconsistency confuses the child and presents no true pattern to follow.

"Never correct your child in anger."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 117. Always speak calmly to him. An angry parent is even more unreasonable than an angry child.

"Often we do more to provoke than to win. I have seen a mother snatch from the hand of her child something that was giving it special pleasure. The child did not know the reason of this, and naturally felt abused. . . . This mother acted unwisely. She did not reason from cause to effect.

Her harsh, injudicious action stirred the worst passions in the heart of her child."—*Ibid.*

How careful parents should be not to treat their child unjustly! Said Johnny, who was nursing a broken heart and a sore spot under the seat of his pants, "I thought dad would try to square himself after he licked me for something I didn't do; but he just said I probably needed it for something else."

"Think you that God takes no cognizance of the way such children are corrected? He knows, and He also knows what might be the blessed results if the work of correction were done in a way to win rather than to repress."—*Ibid.*

Is a spirit of companionship manifest in your house? There is nothing more satisfying to the parent than the companionship of his child. "Let fathers and mothers take time to teach their children, let them show that they value their help, desire their confidence, and enjoy their companionship, and the children will not be slow to respond. Not only will the parents' burden be lightened, and the children receive a practical training of inestimable worth, but there will be a strengthening of the home ties and a deepening of the very foundations of character."—*Education*, p. 285. In these words we have the key to companionship and its blessed results.

First we are told to "take time to teach" our children. A child's questioning about everything he sees and hears affords an opportunity for companionship that no parent can afford to miss. Children are just naturally filled with a deep curiosity about the world in which they find themselves. They want to know how things are made, and what makes them work. This provides parents with a golden opportunity for chatting with their children. One night just before going to bed, little four-year-old Jimmy asked his daddy, "What can I be when I grow up?"

Since such a question could not be wisely answered in a word, father and son discussed the answer for almost an hour. Another evening the little lad said, "Daddy, tell me all the things that architects do." At the close of that conference the boy asked, "Will you tell me tomorrow all the things the doctors do?" Thus was started a fellowship between father and son that was priceless to each. In their evening chats they visited faraway lands, steel mills, and cotton fields. They followed a grain of wheat from the time it was planted until it appeared as a slice of bread on the dinner table; they went into forests and learned how trees are eventually turned into tables and chairs. Naturally the discussions were kept simple, but Jimmy set the pace by his questions and answers. When he wanted to know how

automobiles were made, his daddy asked him to name the materials used in building the car; then they dissected the car to find all the different parts that made up the car, and even though the intricate process of making a car was defined in simple, broad terms, Jimmy was learning about different materials—cloth, glass, rubber, metal, etc. He was learning of different skills required to produce these materials, of the value of co-operation in production, of the source of livelihood in varied trades.

Sometimes daddy had to say he didn't know the answer to one of Jimmy's questions. But that just brought them so much closer to each other, for then they set out to find the answer together. Jimmy was interested in ants, and since daddy knew little about ants, they bought a book and read it together. Together they have learned about mining, airplanes, where foods come from, how gasoline is made, and countless other products with which Jimmy comes in contact in his daily life. Only the most urgent necessity keeps that dad late at the office; and when that is necessary, he phones home and asks Jimmy to excuse him, because one just can't break an important appointment without phoning. Jimmy's daddy is taking time to teach him important lessons of life, and at the same time he is building up a close bond of companionship.

Parents need to adventure more with their children. A mother was suddenly inspired with the idea of going with her ten-year-old son the next morning on his paper route. She wanted to see those same doorways where he so faithfully delivered his papers every morning. The following morning the thermometer showed a forbidding five degrees below zero; but nevertheless she bundled up and with her son braved the icy blast that met them when they gripped the storm door and forced it open. It was a tortuous route they followed in the swirling snow of the dark morning hours. They divided the route on the last few stops so that the customers could have their papers on time in spite of the storm. The day dawned frigid and sunless, but in that mother's heart was warmth and sunshine because of the rich adventure she had shared with her son.

Yes, it does take time to win the children's confidence, to strengthen the home ties. But what a blessed privilege to enjoy their sweet companionship! There exists no better way to deepen the very foundations of character, to prepare the children for the burdens of this life and the blessings of life eternal. "What have they seen in thine house?" May it be the spirit of putting your whole self to the task of saving your children. May the precious jewels of our sons and daughters, rightly trained, be the outstanding things seen in our homes!

The Nature of Home Influences

(Continued from page 26)

too. And there in the corner is a piano. There is evidence that the children are skillful with the violin. Perhaps they are walking in the footsteps of mother who is a skillful instrumentalist. There is a record player, too, with a cabinet full of records. What kind of testimony do all these things give for Christ? What sort of influence do they exert? Are they a means of enlarging the good influence of the home, or do they give a wrong impression? That all depends upon the use that is made of them.

Television has certainly become a mighty instrument for good—and for evil. Millions of Americans now own sets. Walk down the street on a summer's night. You will see in scores of homes the end of a television tube with its singular light shining like the luminous porthole of a ship. When your friends come to see you, what do they see on television, that is, if you have a set? And what do you permit your children to see? There are many Christians who will not tolerate a television set in the home. Others have sets and use them wisely. The temptation to view the questionable telecasts is very great. We shall find it difficult to control the television set unless we have perfect control of ourselves. What do your children and neighbors see in your house?

And the radio is not obsolete by any means. As long as television is largely confined to night programs, we may expect radio to play a large part in filling the gap as a medium of entertainment and communication. Here the problem is the same as with television. What shall we choose in the way of programs? Although the influence of radio is not so great as that of television—principally because it lacks eye appeal in addition to ear appeal—yet it does exert an influence that must be reckoned with in view of the fact that audible reception is a stimulant to imagination. What is your radio doing to help paint a bright picture of wholesome family life?

As far as the piano and other musical instruments are concerned, and the use of our voices in song, these ought always to speak on the positive side.

"Whatever you sing in the midst of your glee,
Sing nothing Christ's listening ear would displease.

Whatever you write in haste or in heed,
Write nothing you would not want Jesus to read.

"Whatever you do in work or in play,
Do nothing you'll think of in sorrow some day.

Wherever you go, never go where you'd fear
To have Jesus ask you, 'What doest thou here?'"

Then, of course, our guests stay for dinner. What do they see in the dining room? What do they find on our tables? What do we serve them? And how about the children who eat their meals with us three times a day? The table has as much influence as any other single factor in teaching a wholesome philosophy of life. Do we live to eat, or do we eat to live? Are our tables loaded with rich, unwholesome foods in poor combinations? What do they see in our dining rooms and kitchens—tea, coffee, luxurious desserts? All this is unnecessary. We should set our tables gracefully, with wholesome food in good dietary balance.

We should remember, too, that Adventists are distinguished by the fact that they are vegetarians. In no area of home life do we have better opportunity to show the benefits of a well-balanced dietary than when we have guests in our home for dinner. We have all heard our non-Adventist friends exclaim with delight after they have eaten a cleverly prepared meat substitute: "Why I thought it was chicken!" or "I thought it was fish!" or "I thought it was meat. I couldn't tell the difference." To be sure there are many cooks who are not able to disguise the nature of their entrees so skillfully as others; yet they may acquire this ability and become the wonder of their neighbors if they will diligently apply themselves to the art of good cookery.

Much of the disease and degeneracy of our age is caused by faulty habits of eating. Adventists have been set in the world as reformers to improve the health of the world by their own example and teaching in respect to a healthful dietary. This teaching begins by the example that we set in our homes. Our children, our friends, and our relatives will be influenced for good or evil by our own attitude toward the question of healthful living.

What have they seen in thine house? What sort of atmosphere has the family created? The spirit that pervades the house in which you live can literally be felt by all who enter your home. Is it a warm spirit or a cold spirit, friendly or distant? Is it helpful, or is it selfishly aloof? People will come to your house if they feel that you will help them, that you can relieve them of the load of care that they bear, if you know how to speak kind words, if you know how to be helpful, if you know how to be neighborly. And this is true not only of mother but of father as well, and of the children, too.

If Christ dwells in the heart by faith, and if Christ is living Lord and Saviour ruling each life, His Spirit will be felt by all who come under the influence of your lives. Have they felt a good influence in your house when they come to see you?

The Fruit of Home Influences

For lack of space we cannot reprint the whole story here, but we have given the opening and closing sentences of the portion to be read so there would be no difficulty in knowing what to include in the story.

"Benhadad, king of Syria, had defeated the armies of Israel in the battle which resulted in the death of Ahab. Since that time, the Syrians had maintained against Israel a constant border warfare; and in one of their raids, . . .

"The parents of that Hebrew maid, as they taught her of God, did not know the destiny that would be hers. But they were faithful to their trust; and in the home of the captain of the Syrian host, their child bore witness to the God whom she had learned to honor."—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 244-246.

There is something about us that makes people like or dislike us. Perhaps the clothes that we wear determine whether people are repelled or attracted by us. The question naturally follows, Is our dress becoming? Is it Christian, or does it set us apart as a follower of the world? Is it slovenly, or neat and attractive? Is it gaudy and racy, or is it conservative and consistent? How do we dress? This has much to do with our influence, you know. And the same is true of our children's dress.

All these factors are to be considered in evaluating the total influence exerted by our Christian homes. What have they seen in thine house? What do our children see there? It depends upon us. If Christ is enshrined as ruler and Lord of the home, we shall make right impressions upon our neighbors.

God intends that our homes should be lighthouses set on a hill. All the world should know that the people who live in your house and mine are different. It can be so if we will apply ourselves to an understanding of Christian standards and principles, and to the application of these principles to the practical witness of everyday home life.

Love Supreme

Across the years of providence,
Time's rushing stream,
Through history's endless evidence,
Love is supreme.

Among the things that make our days,
The home, the dream,
The searching out of tangled ways,
Love is supreme.

Of all the treasures that we know,
Jewels a-gleam—
Faith, hope, and love—it still is so:
Love is supreme.

—CLARENCE EDWIN FLYNN.

Every "Signs" Subscriber a Baptismal Prospect

(Continued from page 23)

manager during a passing year. Superlative expressions of various types prompt us to believe that *Signs* is proving true to its mission as an attention-arresting, soul-winning medium.

2. *An attractive and appealing follow-up message and urgent invitation to enroll in one of our Bible correspondence courses.* We are happy to announce that during the past year more than 4,000 *Signs* subscribers responded in the affirmative to this appeal. Plans designed to increase substantially this list of enrollees during the coming years are maturing. The conductors of our various Bible schools over the nation enthusiastically affirm that *Signs* enrollees prove to be the most prospective converts to the faith.

3. *A transcript of names and addresses of "Signs" subscribers provided for our ministers and evangelists for well-organized, effective personal visitation.* In a central-western city one of our aggressive, successful pastor-evangelists requested a transcript of all the *Signs* subscribers in his city. Immediately following his obtaining it from the publishing house, he sent a group of well-trained members, in companies of two each, to visit these homes. As a result of this visitation program almost 50 per cent of the homes where *Signs* had been a regular visitor were opened for Bible studies. As a notable example of its soul-winning effectiveness a lady soon accepted the faith. Her son immediately matriculated in one of our colleges and recently was graduated with a theology major.

4. *Preceding expiration date each subscriber receives an attractive, urgent renewal appeal.* During the past year approximately 5,000 *Signs* readers renewed their subscription as a direct result of this appeal. This represents about 2½ per cent of the total *Signs* subscriber list—an unusually high average when we recognize that more than 85 per cent of the subscriptions to *Signs* are sponsored by friends and relatives.

5. *United daily prayer within the walls of the "Signs" publishing house for the readers of "Signs."* Long years ago, in language quite prophetic, the assurance was given that "more than one thousand will soon be converted in one day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications."—*Review and Herald*, Nov. 10, 1885. We believe that we are on the eve of the glorious fulfillment of this beautiful prophecy and that *Signs* is destined to occupy a large place in the program of coming events.

—H. K. CHRISTMAN.

Our Foreign Missions

A Worthy Example

In the New Testament we read, "My strength is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9. And again, through His messenger in these latter days, God sends us this word: "Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness, and relies wholly on God."—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 174, 175.

Brother L. de Graven of the Paramaribo [Dutch Guiana, South America] Church was discharged from the leper asylum about three years ago. That terrible disease, leprosy, has left its marks upon him. His hands and feet are deformed, and his face is twisted. At a glance one would know that he had been a leper, and would avoid coming too close to him. Of course this good brother is aware of the caution of other people as they associate with him, but he does not take offense at their prejudice. Rather he is entirely reconciled to his condition and is apparently thankful that his condition is as good as it is. When once you know him, you admire him.

This good brother attended our colporteur institute and thereby received an inspiration to help spread the gospel by the sale of our truth-filled literature. He told me of his desire, but I tactfully put him off, because I felt that he could never sell books. Still the brother was not satisfied. He approached me again and repeated his request. This time I promised to take the matter into consideration.

But without waiting for my answer to his request, he called at our office and requested that he be allowed to take some small books to sell. To this I reluctantly acquiesced and gave him a few small books. After a day or two he returned with all the books, stating that bad weather had prevented his accomplishing anything. Of course I felt that he had failed, but had used the weather as an excuse. However to my surprise when the weather improved, Brother de Graven returned to get his books. Before he left the office this time, I knelt with him in prayer and entreated God, to go with him as he went out into the vineyard to labor.

The following morning Brother de Graven was back to buy some more books. Since then this brother has been making regular calls every morning at our Book and Bible House to purchase supplies for his work. He has developed into one of our most faithful colporteurs.

As I checked over the records, I discovered that in his first month of work—and he could work only sixteen hours a week—Brother de Graven had delivered more than one hundred gilders' [\$27] worth of our fine literature.

Truly "there is no limit to the usefulness of 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."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 159.

—D. S. J. VAN PUTTEN.

A Report From the Ivory Coast

The following is an experience of one of our native workers. I think it will serve to encourage others to do a good piece of work for the Lord. This worker was placed in the north at Bouake. Here he met with much opposition from the government and the natives. He was unable to speak their language and was obliged to suffer many inconveniences. After spending a little time in becoming acquainted with the field and the people, he went into a certain village to do some evangelistic work. He unfolded his picture roll and showed the people gathered there the judgment scene. They asked many questions concerning this Bible topic. Our brother answered all their demands. He explained fully that there was a great God in heaven who was able to deliver them from the temptations of Satan, the devil. They wanted to know more of this great God. Our brother in the course of his teaching brought in the importance of keeping the law of this great God.

He therefore explained the law of God, bringing in the Sabbath commandment. They began to tell him that they never did any work in their fields on the seventh day, Saturday. They explained further that their forefathers had kept this day as a holy day. They therefore felt that they should follow their parents. They were pleased to think that this was according to the will of God. They did not know this great God, because they had gods that they had made with their own hands. Our brother began to explain the importance of serving the great God of heaven, the God above all others. Immediately some went into their huts and brought out fetishes to be burned. Our brother sent up a prayer of thanksgiving to heaven and burned these idols.

—W. K. DENNIS.



Just for Today

By D. A. DELAFIELD

*Is the way so rough, O pilgrim—
Is the journey wild and steep?*

If so, here again for the procession of days in 1951 has been prepared 365 rations of spiritual sustenance for the Christian pilgrimage. The idea of spending a few minutes each morning on a page of daily guidance in spiritual contemplation has caught fire in thousands of Adventist homes. "Just for Today" is another golden link in the chain of Morning Watch commentaries that we began in 1945 and that are annually increasing in popular demand.

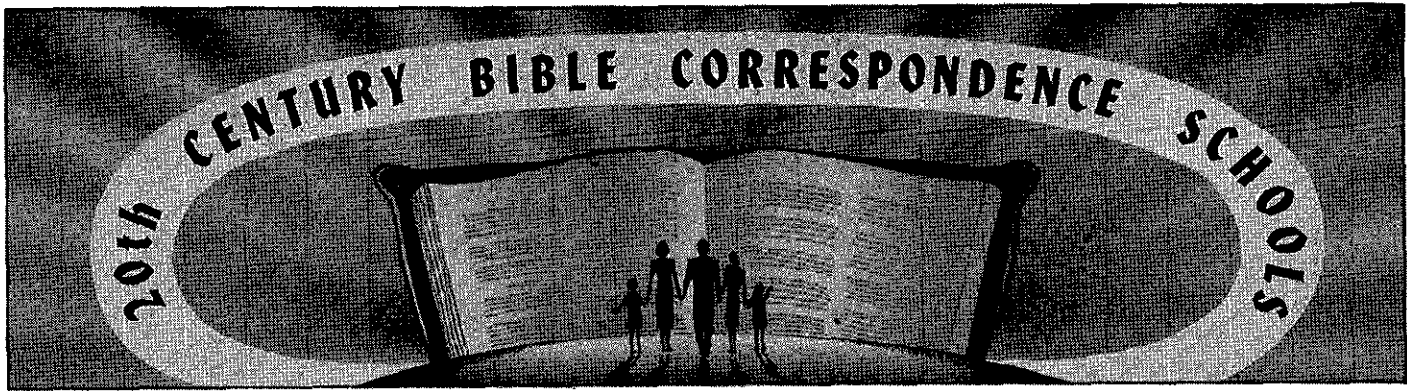
From hundreds of sources and out of a rich experience in the Christian ministry Elder D. A. Delafield has gathered a brilliant array of daily comment on texts that are vital to a glowing faith. Each month's texts were chosen as they related to a specific theme, such as "Enduring Love," "Purity and Godliness," "Struggle and Sacrifice," "Vision and Service," "Trial and Trust," "Courage and Valor," etc. It is a treasury of good things you will want to keep. It is a book of blessing you will want to give.

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500 Enrollments a Night

"Just last year I met a Chinese colonel in Chwan Chow. This man seemed to be very interested in Christianity. He came to attend all our meetings. We started at six in the morning and finished at ten in the evening. After my departure this colonel left for Hainan. He did not find the mission; so he started a branch Sabbath school of his own. We immediately sent him the needed materials to carry on and also wrote the director of the Hainan Mission regarding this man. At present this colonel is witnessing for the Master. He would now very much like to come to Hong Kong—as a haven from expected communism. But we have no way whatsoever of getting him here. We trust and pray that his life will be spared and that he can continue to witness for the Master. . . .

"At present we are conducting open-air meetings for nonchurchgoing Chinese. We average about one thousand people a night. Besides preaching to them, we have some of our members in the audience with pencils and pads ready to enroll the people into the Bible correspondence course. We average about 500 enrollments a meeting. We thank the Lord for this method of planting seeds for eternity."

—Taken from a letter to T. L. Oswald from A. R. Mazat, South China Island Union Mission.

Wichita Covered

Secretary LeRoy J. Leiske tells of Visitation coverage of the city of Wichita by ninety carloads of attendants at the weekend camp meeting.

"Each driver received a map of his territory. The city was divided into ninety sections. Along with the 60,000 Bible correspondence cards and Voice of Prophecy radio logs, cards of invitation to the Sunday

Special Days and Offerings

February 3

Christian Home Day

Topic: "What Have They Seen in Thine House?"

February 10

Second Sabbath Mission Offering

February 17-24

Signs of the Times Campaign

night service featuring the Voice of Prophecy group were distributed. In spite of the very hot weather the folks volunteered, and we were happy with the results. Half the attendants Sunday night were non-Adventists, and four hundred requests for literature were received at this service. The first delivery of mail at our office after the week end brought forty-two correspondence enrollees. Our people were thrilled with this first city-wide coverage. We contacted 250,000 people."

We Will Be Ready Next Time

President W. R. Beach of the Southern European Division told of a lovely island in the Baltic Sea where three hundred people live. A minister went there in the summer and held a few meetings, but was obliged to leave suddenly. He left Bible correspondence school lessons with the people. Returning in eight months, he was able to baptize eight. All the three hundred inhabitants came to see the baptism. Some said, "If we had hurried and finished our lessons, we, too, would be ready for baptism; but we will be ready next time."

—H. F. B.

Enrollments Roll In

From January to September, 1950, 10,763 Bible correspondence school enrollment coupons passed through the General Conference Home Missionary Department for routing to local schools. This is but a fraction of the total number enrolling for the Twentieth Century Bible Course, inasmuch as most enrollments go direct to the conference schools.

Most of the coupons received at the General Conference have been clipped from the *Ingathering* magazine and Singing Band leaflet, though approximately 2,500 have come from the special Field Adventure tracts distributed during the three National Field Adventure days.

Prison Camp Miracles

This letter came to our Bible school from a prison camp minister in Afrikaans:

Dear friends in Jesus:

I have seen many attempts made by different churches who wanted to work among the prisoners. I am proud to say that your Bible course is making the greatest success of them all.

I have seen great miracles in this camp already. People who were the greatest sinners have given their hearts to the Lord through your lessons. I am the minister of the camp here in Baviaanspoort. I did not believe that Saturday is the Sabbath and that we must keep all the commandments of the Lord. I have been seeking for the right church for a long time, and now I also want to become a Seventh-day Adventist. I know that you are preaching the right truth and that everything you say is in harmony with the Bible.

Any literature you can spare will be very welcome in this camp. May the Lord bless the noble work you are doing.

Every 20th Century B.C.S. Cards Everywhere! Enroll Someone Each Day!