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## Workers' Bulletin.

ISSUED WEEKLY BY THE  
MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT  
OF THE IOWA CONFERENCE,  
DES MOINES, IOWA.

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### "MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE."

ONE of the most hopeful features of our work at this stage, is the fact that the Lord is telling his people plainly just what he would have them do. The way was dark before ancient Israel, when the Lord answered not, "neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets" (1 Sam. 28:6), when "there was no open vision." Chap. 3:1. "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Prov. 29:18. That a reform in the keeping of the commandments of God should be attended by the gift of prophecy, is entirely consistent with the word of God. But the dragon is wroth on that very account, and will inspire every one susceptible to his influence to despise this gift of the Spirit.

We are in the greatest danger of saying in our hearts "The call is human and not divine," and of excusing ourselves from duty. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked." Gal. 6:7. "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." Heb. 4:1.

We have heard a call to arise and roll back the reproach from our schools, and many have responded by undertaking to sell a goodly number of books. We have made a good beginning,—over six thousand,—but are we

going to draw back now? Do any of us feel to say, "It was an error;" I promised too much? Really, brethren, have we? In view of the magnitude of the work, is not our apportionment but a reasonable service? You may be tempted to think that we undertook too much, and to say, It will never be accomplished. But are such feelings safe to follow? Ought you or I to voice such ideas? You have heard of the man who gladly sold all, that he might buy the field. Did he give too much? Can I secure it for less? Or is that still the price?—"It will take all to buy the field." Brethren, if you and I refuse the work Heaven purposes doing by us, the Master Workman can take a willing "three hundred" and grandly accomplish the work, but we might be classed with unfortunate Meroz.

Our annual offerings have been coming in until now the amount exceeds that given last year. For this we praise the Lord, who gives his people a willing mind. I will repeat in substance what I have heard from more than one of God's standard bearers: "My offering was so small in response to the earnest appeals, but I am not through. I shall continue until I know my duty is done."

Gen. Grant once wrote, "I propose to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer." Our cause is certainly as worthy as the one for which that brave man fought. And shall we not stay by the call to sell our good books and papers, and to give, till relief comes? "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." Jno. 10:27.

E. E. GARDNER.

"God says 'Come' to the sinner, and 'Go' to the Christian. Alas, how many Christians are as slow about going as sinners are about coming!"

### AN IOWA GIRL WRITING FROM THE SOUTH.

WE are permitted to publish in part a letter written by Miss Mary A. Mitchell, from Oakwood, South Carolina, to her home church at Nevada. Her friends will be glad to hear from her, and what she has to say concerning the work there will be of general interest as well.

"I am now in the midst of the whispering pines and the sand hills of South Carolina, where corn, cotton, sweet potatoes, and rice are the main products of the farm. Farming is not very good here, yet I believe it could be made successful if the people understood how to cultivate the soil. My little school opened Nov. 5, with seven scholars, and the membership has increased to twelve now. The children are very eager to learn, and they study hard. You would laugh to see my little schoolhouse. It is only a negro hut 18 ft. x 20 ft., heated by a brick fire place, and ventilated by big cracks in the floor and about the door and windows. The walls are unplastered, and consist only of rough weather boarding. Painted houses are a rarity here. The people are very plain and simple in their manner of living.

"I am connected with a little industrial farm, or rather that is what it is struggling to become. It is a school for white children, and Bro. B. F. Goudy is at the head of this little missionary enterprise. They are building a new schoolhouse now, 20 ft. x 40 ft., to be ready for use by Jan. 9. Bro. Goudy will teach the higher branches, and I will have the intermediate and primary divisions. The public schools are so poor, and the terms of such short duration, that the people would rather send their children to us. My scholars are all outside children.

The people here are really hungering for the truth. They want us to start a Sunday-school, and also want Bro. Goudy to preach for them. Our industrial school can surely be made a success if we can obtain the means sufficient to get the farm work started. We have a farm of one hundred acres, thirty of which are still uncleared.

"Now, dear brethren and sisters, there is a chance for you to do some missionary work for the southern field. Could you not make a donation of a few dollars to help us right here? We desire to get the farm work well started this year. As soon as possible, we want to furnish work for students, so that they can earn their way through school, or in part at least. Corn is eighty cents a bushel, and it will require about one hundred and fifty bushel to feed our two horses until corn grows again. The Lord has promised special blessings to all who will help in this neglected southern field. Here is a chance for *you* to help and receive a blessing. Remember that God giveth the increase, even in your rich farming district in the North and West. He "giveth thee power to get wealth." Give all you can, if it is only a penny. The next time you will have more to give... I am well and happy, and dearly love my work."

## FIELD REPORTS.

### NORTH-WESTERN IOWA.

SINCE my last report I have been laboring with the churches and isolated Sabbath-keepers in the interest of the book work. By the help of God I have tried to set before all the importance of the great and noble work that is now to be done by us as a people. I am sure that the blessing of God will come to all that take hold of it in faith. I have not a word of discouragement to offer to any in regard to what has been done in the sale of "Christ's Object Lessons," but on the other hand words of comfort and cheer to all.

As soon as this work was properly set before our people, some were ready at once to take hold, and they have done well. One sister took twenty-nine orders in fifteen hours. Some, although loving the truth, at once said that they could not sell books, for they had tried it and failed. I am glad that I can report that some of these persons have proved to their own satisfaction that they were deceived in regard to their ability to sell books. The expe-

rience of one brother will apply to many others. After hearing the matter presented, he went home feeling sure that he could not sell books; but a few days after he was impressed by the Spirit of God that he ought to go out and try it, and in a few days he sold nineteen books to his neighbors. Others are having the same good experience. Truly the Lord has gone out before his people and prepared the way for all. When I met these persons the second time, I was greatly encouraged by hearing them tell of their good experiences. Their testimonies were full of hope and courage, and their very countenances showed that God had been blessing them. No one should be discouraged because he can not do as much as some others. More is required of some than of others, but let all do something. This is a new work for many of our people; but God is willing and able to help all whom he has called, and he has invited *all* to engage in this work. Some have done nicely in making offerings to sustain the cause of truth in foreign fields; others are slow in this good work, and they are suffering a great loss on that account. Let us all have a part in the closing work. Soon the Lord will come and reward the faithful. J. S. HART.

### AMONG THE CHURCHES.

IN company with Eld. H. Nicola, I have recently met with the friends of the cause at Burlington, Middletown, New London, and Lisbon. The church at Burlington is somewhat weakened by removals and other causes; but there are faithful ones there who are standing nobly at their posts of duty. At Middletown we visited two families who are keeping up their Sabbath-school, and seem to be of good courage in the Lord.

At New London we visited all the families of Sabbath-keepers in, and near, the city. On account of some discouragements, their Sabbath-school had been suspended. Arrangements were made to begin holding Sabbath-school and meetings soon. May the Lord bless this company of believers, and may they hold up the light of truth constantly, and thus meet the mind of the Lord as expressed in the following texts: Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:15. These texts are alike applicable to all our believing people everywhere, during all time.

We met with the church at Lisbon, as per appointment in the BULLETIN, Jan. 18-20. The ordinances were cele-

brated, and four good people were received into the church. We were glad to become better acquainted with the work at this place. This is the home of Eld. J. T. Mitchell. The four new members spoken of began the observance of the Sabbath under the labors of Bro. C. E. Hahn and son Earl when they were engaged in tent labor in the vicinity of Cedar Rapids. They now reside about two miles from Lisbon.

Eld. Nicola's help was much appreciated at all these places. We find the people all willing to help, and some at work, in the sale of "Christ's Object Lessons" for the relief of our schools.

C. A. WASHBURN.

Jan. 25.

### BENTON.

IN company with Bro. C. W. Neal, I visited the church at Benton, Jan. 11-13. We were glad to find some faithful souls there. Many of the members of that company have gone to Oklahoma; some of them, however, have returned. Three public meetings were held, with a good interest. I was glad to see present so many who attended the tent meetings held there six years ago. They showed an interest in the truth. An earnest request for meetings was made by those not of our faith. As we presented the special work for this time, the brethren and sisters manifested a deep interest, and will do all they can to sell the "oil" to their neighbors. We sold a few books to outsiders while there. Bro. Neal expects to hold quarterly meeting services there soon, and I hope to return and help them sell books. I am now on my way to spend a few days at Weldon, expecting to go to Davis City also. I am so glad to have a part in the Lord's work. F. L. MOODY.

### FROM ONE ISOLATED FAMILY.

WE quote from a letter recently received from Bro. and Sister L. W. Baylies, of Neola:—

"Although we as a family are isolated, and denied the pleasure and blessing of church fellowship, the Lord is with us to assist us in advancing with the message and in gaining new victories each day. Our family school of seven (we are all studying) is advancing more rapidly than we had anticipated. We all rejoice in the blessing of the Lord upon our efforts to obey his instruction to come out of the public schools. The enemy is even now coming in 'like a flood,' and how can the

Lord raise up a standard against him unless his instructions are followed out in every particular? Before the message can go forth with power, the Lord's people must give earnest heed to the 'still, small voice' so earnestly pleading to day. May we be led to realize that the day is far spent and that only an hour, as it were, remains in which to 'obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action,' that we may 'reflect the image of Jesus fully,' be able to stand in the evil day, and sing the song of victory. Although we have been very busy, we have sold fifteen copies of 'Christ's Object Lessons.' We expect to do more work in that line."

#### ATALISSA.

ELD. J. W. ADAMS met with the church at Atalissa Friday evening and Sabbath, Jan. 11, 12. On Sabbath the ordinances were celebrated; and the Spirit of the Lord seemed very near, making hearts tender and drawing all nearer the central theme,—Christ. All present took part in the services. Some were hindered by sickness from attending. Officers for the church were elected for the coming year, and the deacon was ordained at the evening meeting. Our company is very small, and we desire an interest in the prayers of God's people, that we may still hold up the banner of truth.

ANNA McDONALD.

#### WAVERLY.

PERHAPS the experience of some of our members in canvassing for "Christ's Object Lessons" will be of interest to others. One sister canvassed one-half day and did not receive an order but she has not lost courage. Another sister sold one copy to a deaf and dumb man, who thinks it is a splendid book. She sold another one to a Baptist Sunday-school teacher, who said it was just the book she wanted in her class work. Although this is a hard place in which to sell S. D. Adventist books, we expect, by the help of the Lord, to sell all we ordered.

W. H. SPRAGG.

"WHEN men are led to realize that their human calculations come far short, and are convinced that their wisdom is but foolishness, then it is that they turn to the Lord to seek him with all the heart that they may find him."—*Christian Education*.

## THE BOOK WORK.

### TALK IT UP.

WHAT we say about any subject carries an influence either for or against it. It influences ourselves as well as those who hear our words. Our acts also are powerful in influence. The greatest power for good or evil comes from the one whose acts are in harmony with his words. If we are in harmony with any project or any plan of work, we speak a word in its favor whenever there is an opportunity. On the other hand if we are not in sympathy with it, we show this, too, very plainly, by a word, a look, a shake of the head, or a shrug of the shoulders. We can talk up any subject or talk it down very easily, and not say a great deal either.

Now the Lord has said: "If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the people." And again: "The canvassing work should never languish." If we all realized the importance of this work, and had been doing our duty, the work would not be languishing. But it has languished and is languishing. In conferences where there used to be from twenty-five to one hundred canvassers, there are now only two or three, or at most a dozen or so, at work. What is the matter? O, somebody has been talking to our canvassers. Did they say to them: "God bless you, my brother. You are engaged in a most important work; stick to it. I will help you in every way I can to make the work a success, and only eternity will reveal the good which has been accomplished"? Or did they say: "What a pity you are not in the ministry. Why, a man of your talent ought to be preaching," or, "You ought to be fitting yourself for a medical missionary nurse or a physician"?

How is it, my brother, my sister? What has been your attitude toward this branch of God's work? Have you talked it up? The testimony says: "We must encourage this work." Talk faith, talk courage, talk success, and then by your prayers and efforts help those engaged in the work to succeed. Do it now. "The enemy is watching every motion of the believers, seeking an opportunity to impress his attributes on the work done for the Lord." In the strength of Israel's God let us defeat the enemy. Finally, brethren, wherever you go, be you pastors or laymen, keep this work in mind, and by word and act talk it up.—S. N. Curtis, in *Keystone Gleaner*.

## THE SABBATH-SCHOOL.

CONDUCTED BY MRS. JESSIE L. ADAMS.

### SABBATH-SCHOOL WORKERS IN THE FIELD.

THE President of the Sabbath-school Association and the writer recently visited a few of the schools in the south-western part of the State. We met at Harlan, then visited Jacksonville, Audubon, Elk Horn, Exira, and Atlantic. We held six meetings, and were present at two conventions,—one at Exira, the other at Atlantic. At all these places there was apparently a deep interest taken in the Sabbath-school work; and as the underlying principles of this work were placed before the people, there was a true earnestness manifested that was indeed encouraging. The attendance was good at all the meetings, and especially so at Exira.

The program sent out by the State Association was followed as nearly as possible at both conventions. A few who had prepared papers were not able to be present, so Sister Adams occupied the time in speaking on these topics. At Exira she also conducted a short children's meeting at the close of the convention. The children entered heartily into the exercise and seemed to understand the lesson taught. The older brethren and sisters paid the best of attention also. Many excellent things were presented at Atlantic. The papers were good, and the part of the program assigned to the children was well carried out. As I review this visit to the different schools, I am encouraged to believe that better work will be done than ever before. Sister Adams often referred to "Selections from Testimonies on Sabbath-school Work." This, with her experience in the work, made these meetings very profitable. I trust that it may be possible for her to visit these schools again. May each member realize that God expects earnest work from each of his children, just now. E. G. OLSEN.

"SOME parents and teachers encourage their children to give 'birthday offerings' to some worthy object in which they feel an interest. This is better than to teach them to expect presents for themselves and in this way cultivate selfishness. A class or school might unite in giving to the same object."

