

# The Youth's Instructor

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THE YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR is a non-fiction weekly. It is published for young adults who are capable of asking sincere questions, and who seek to know the counsels of Scripture. Its contents are chosen to serve readers who want to reach maturity—spiritually, socially, intellectually, and physically. Its staff holds that God is man's heavenly Father; that Jesus is man's Saviour; that genuine Christians will strive to love God supremely and their neighbors as themselves.

Its pages reflect an expanding objective from 1852 to 1966. First it was essentially a vehicle for providing youth Sabbath school lessons. Now it also provides many added services for a generation that should witness the literal return of Jesus and the restoration of a sinless world to the universe of God.

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## Conviction Lands Job

by JIM MURTON

WE HAD just been seated around a table at a well-known and fashionable eating place. Across the table from me sat three officials of the concern for which I work, along with the guest of honor—a top executive of one of the world's major chemical companies.

As usual, the waiters were pouring the drinks when one of the three officials—whom I knew to be a Seventh-day Adventist—declined as inconspicuously as possible. However, the guest of honor, seated at the left of the Seventh-day Adventist, noted the omission and commented, "You mean you don't drink? Well, good for you." His reply: "Nothing stronger than ginger ale for me!"

Before any more could be said by either, the president of the firm spoke up and told the international business figure: "We have a rare individual on our executive team—he's a Sabbathkeeper. When we were negotiating he told us frankly that he believed in our product, that he thought he would enjoy working with us, and that if formally offered the job he would take it. However, he added, 'I have some obligations to my conscience and my God that among other things involve the keeping of the Sabbath. Although I'd enjoy the professional opportunities the job offers, I cannot and will not compromise on my religious convictions—and to this extent the job must be secondary.'"

The president continued, "At that moment we knew he was the man we wanted, because if he had such beliefs, we knew that his service and loyalty would be above average. The man I speak of is on your right!"

What a tribute to Christian parents, teachers, and fellow church members who had planted, nourished, and cultivated a mode of living and thinking that exemplified the standards of a devoted Christian. I am sure the young executive went home that night with another reminder that the commandment-keeping Christian way is the best way to live, and to land a job.

## Little Things

by RODGER K. TENNEY

Little things  
Sometimes are not so small.  
A kiss can warm  
The heart and make the world  
A paradise.  
One smile can be a gift  
Of priceless worth.  
And just a word may work  
A magic spell.  
Little things? Perhaps,  
Unless we gauge  
Their size by their effect.  
Then we know  
The world could not exist  
Without their power.



# LEST I MYSELF SHOULD BE A CASTAWAY

by *LAWRENCE MILLER, D.M.D.*  
as told to *WILMA ROSS WESTPHAL*

JERRY HUNTINGTON settled down in his chapel seat for one more session of the Week of Prayer. As usual he had his books out so that he could peruse them surreptitiously during such services. I watched him from the corner of my eye on this particular spring morning, for something unusual was happening in the lives of the students here at this Christian college of the West. One after another arose and rededicated his life to God and the finishing of His work.

But, as on many other such occasions, Jerry sat through it all, apparently as unmoved as the proverbial Rock of Gibraltar. Although he was specializing in business, he was required, along with all other students, to take Bible and denominational subjects, and he seemed as thorough with these studies as he was with those in his chosen field, making straight A's in them all. He gave the impression that he believed the Bible truths with his mind but was unconverted at heart.

After finishing college he got into sales work, first with Fuller Brushes, then with the Chrysler Corporation, which was then a newcomer in the motor world. In both organizations he did far better than average.

In time his father died, and he received the large ranch that had belonged to his parents, with the provision that a definite income be allocated for the support of his mother during the remainder of her life.

It seemed that he never had had a real desire to marry, although during his college days he had turned more than one feminine head. He was now considered a better than average catch through his subsequent years in business.

Years passed before I saw Jerry again. Because of his mother's poor health he had moved from a rigorous prairie climate (where we both had once seen the temperature at 64 degrees below zero) to the milder climate of the Pacific Coast. By this time he had leased his ranch holdings and had bought a service station and garage in a college town. It was here that he met





and married a widow with a teen-age daughter. At the half-century mark a widow had finally led him to the altar!

Soon after his marriage I was introduced to his attractive wife, Eleanor, and the teen-age daughter, whom he jokingly introduced to me as the "papoose." During our visit we recounted college days and old friends with a great deal of pleasure. His wife smiled with interest over our reminiscences, and her slightly lifted brow at intervals gave evidence that there had been some things her husband had failed to tell her about his college days.

Our former college Bible teacher had retired and now lived only a few miles from Jerry's place of business. His visits to his erstwhile student were rather frequent and unmistakably friendly.

Eleanor and her daughter were not Seventh-day Adventists before the marriage, and it seemed only natural for them to continue as they had always been.

"Why do you keep Sunday when the Bible says that the seventh day of the week is the day of rest?" Jerry had asked his wife one day.

"I don't know," she answered. "I guess I'd never really thought of it."

The fact was, she had been completely unaware that the Christian day of worship had been changed from the seventh day of the week to the first day. She had had almost no knowledge of the Bible, being content to drift along with the majority in religious matters. But Jerry's unexpected question was a mental blockbuster to the keen intellect of his wife. From some of his old college textbooks and from *Bible Readings*, he proceeded to persuade her about the sanctity of the Sabbath.

He began with a study of the Sabbath, then followed with a series on the Sabbath of the New Testament and the change of the Sabbath. Every subject opened new vistas of surprise and interest to Eleanor. After reading so much concerning the change of the Sabbath, she said with a great deal of feeling, "I don't believe anyone has the right to change the Word of God!"

When she found that the Douay Version of the Bible also clearly showed the seventh day to be the Sabbath, she was almost dumfounded. The leaflet *Rome's Challenge* further convinced her that someone had taken unwarranted authority in religious matters. She was now beginning to find her happiest hours in the study of the Bible.

She soon began attending the Seventh-day Adventist church in which the retired Bible teacher was a local elder.

## Castles

by BEULAH FENDERSON SMITH

**They used the weather-beaten board  
And each one built a shack;  
Shabby, they are, and quite askew—  
But, oh, they take me back  
To a place in the sun  
Where dreams were spun,  
Where the petals fell like snow  
On a little crooked castle  
That I built, long ago.**

However, she needed nothing further in the way of Bible studies, for her husband had made things as clear as any minister could have done. Jerry appeared to be entirely sincere as he acquainted his wife with each new Bible truth. As a result, she was soon baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, although Jerry himself never made a profession.

Soon after she joined the church, she dropped her work in one of the offices in the State capitol, to keep her husband's books. He had been a super-salesman, was friendly, and a definite business getter. But now, with his wife in the office, a new dimension was added to his already flourishing business. She was friendly as well as personable, and affairs went along well for a time. Finally, however, Saturday became the heaviest and most important day of the week in his business.

One Sabbath morning he cheerfully confronted his wife with his problem.

"Dear, would you mind helping with the books in the office after you return from church today?" He felt certain that she would not hesitate to comply with his request, since he had told her while studying Bible truths with her that, although he believed them, he had not kept the Sabbath since his college days, and then only superficially.

She looked up at him from her side of the breakfast table in surprise. "Why, I couldn't possibly do that, dear! In fact, I've been thinking how wonderful it would be if you would join me in Sabbath observance and in church attendance."

He crumpled his napkin and rose from the table. "You know full well that our small family business has to be open every day of the week to prosper. After all, you don't have to be fanatical about this day-of-rest business. What possible harm can it do for you

to put in a few hours at the office this afternoon?"

"I learned from you, Jerry, that the seventh day is the true Bible Sabbath. When I knew no better, that was a different thing. But now that I've decided to keep the Sabbath, I want to keep it according to the commandments. I——"

He was pacing the floor now, and he turned on his wife with bitter words. "I haven't objected to your attending church, but I certainly didn't expect you to turn out to be a fanatic on the subject. You—you weren't like this when I first met you, nor when we married. I tell you I need you at the office, and if you refuse to cooperate, I'll—I'll——"

"You're right, Jerry," Eleanor cut in. "I wasn't like this when I first met you, nor when we were married. Thanks to you and to God, a whole new way of life was opened up to me. I—I can't understand your attitude, dear. I thought you were eager for me to be convinced of the Sabbath and the other Bible truths. You explained it all so wonderfully, and I really had begun to hope that you, too, would let God change your life. Won't you consider it seriously, Jerry dear?"

In response to the pleading note in her voice, her husband flung another volley of cutting words over his retreating shoulder and slammed the door with a resounding bang.

She cleared the table and put the few dishes into the sink while she pondered sadly and silently this new problem that had loomed so abruptly over her bright Christian horizon. As she prepared to attend Sabbath school and church with her daughter, she had formulated a plan. She would go and talk to Jerry's former Bible teacher, explaining her difficulty. He would surely have a satisfactory solution to the problem.

The following week the Bible teacher made it a point to pass by Jerry's place of business and have a friendly, casual visit with his former student. After visiting in his office for a while, he rose to leave.

"You have a fine business here, Jerry," he said looking around the office and garage. "You were always a good student, and I knew that you would succeed at whatever you decided to undertake in life. And, by the way, I'd like to congratulate you on your thoroughness in bringing your wife to see the Bible truths as you once studied them in college. She tells me that you

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## The Difference

**Sunset** Exactly two years ago this month the scene on the cover was photographed. "Sunset on the Amazon" was James V. Holder's caption for the picture, taken in Belém, Pará, Brazil. It became a Photo Mart acceptance.

**Photos** Just 90 days from the date of this issue brings the deadline for the ninth Photo Mart contest—November 30. If you haven't requested a brochure and entry forms there is still time.

**Michigan** "I was impressed by Ann Clayton's article 'Not With Gold' [June 28, 1966] because of the way it illuminates the real issues involved in this matter of wearing a wedding ring. I also clipped out and put into my file of teaching illustrations the article 'I Don't Because' [February 25, 1964]. The authors of these two articles, by sharing their conflicts and decisions concerning the wedding ring, have brought a blessing to all of us, and I want to express to them my appreciation for writing up these experiences.

**Michigan** "Incidentally, I have in my file of teaching illustrations scores of YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR articles. An article I have every student read in connection with senior Bible class is one from several years ago entitled 'We Went Too Far.' Another recent story that I thought was especially valuable for classroom use was the story of D. M. Canright, as told in 'The Story of Two Men.' It provides a striking illustration of the grief a person brings upon himself when he chooses to reject the messages of the Spirit of God.

**Michigan** "I do not know how many other Bible teachers use YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR articles as a source of classroom illustrations, but I have discovered within its pages material for every Bible class I teach." Name withheld, Andrews University.

**Obedience** "Let no one take up with the delusion so pleasant to the natural heart, that God will accept of sincerity, no matter what may be the faith, no matter how imperfect may be the life. God requires of his child perfect obedience."—ISM 374.

The contrast showed up so soon after we left Detroit that it was all the more noticeable. It would be charitable to believe that the passengers didn't know why we had been delayed nearly two hours, after traveling for perhaps only an hour.

The Crandalls had enjoyed their days at the fiftieth session of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Throughout the days and sometimes late into the nights, they had watched and listened as reports were given and business was conducted by a church with objectives that encompass the earth.

When meetings were not in progress it was a time for fellowship with friends and acquaintances. The Adventist family spans both time and distance. Among the by-products of value at all such meetings are opportunities to see again and talk with some with whom you have been associated in other times and places.

There is a comradeship that develops among God's people that is a foretaste of heaven. A common goal knits interest and effort together irrespective of race or nationality or place of service. Self-interest and self-pleasing diminish under the impact of the Great Commission entrusted to the church for the world. Call it concern for others.

Probably it was the memory of these great principles so recently demonstrated and refreshed in Detroit's Cobo Hall that accentuated some contrasts as our train waited out the delay.

According to the porter, the train had been "broken in two." Other motorists had halted at the crossing, but one driver had pulled around the waiting cars and crashed into the train. The force of the collision had severed the coupling between two coaches.

Because repairs could not be made near the scene of the accident, the damaged cars were removed from the rest of the train. This meant some passengers had to find seats in other coaches. One man went grumbling past the door of our compartment. Later he retraced his steps, and we heard him saying that he had paid for a seat, and he was going to insist to the conductor that one be found for him.

A bit later a woman went down the aisle, loudly proclaiming her insistence on getting something to eat, punctuating her determination with four-letter words.

We could overhear another woman in another compartment on our Pullman announcing her need of a sandwich, and soon. She told the porter that she was a diabetic and that unless he could produce something for her need she would find the conductor. I wondered why she hadn't carried some emergency food with her.

Maybe these people hadn't heard the full story about our delay. To some of us, small annoyances seemed petty in the knowledge that a five-year-old child had been crushed to death in the collision, and it had been necessary to cut her body from the place of impact.

WTC

## TO OUR Writers

- Experienced writers recognize the importance of keeping their readers in view as they develop their manuscripts. This is a guideline in all acceptable writing. Reading tastes vary in relation to the age of the reader. This is due to the particular activities and interests that characterize a given reading audience.
- The Sabbath school is divided into many divisions, each suited to specific age groups. Similarly, church magazines are crafted with primary appeal to specific ages. While there are always many exceptions, the writer reminds himself that his labor is most often rewarded when his topic, treatment, and illustrations are chosen with a distinct audience in mind.



# Repaid in Kind

by AARON LOCKLEY

A FEW minutes before the morning shift began, Larry Carlton was riding down the main street of the Jacksonville Naval Air Station when he saw a woman drop something on the sidewalk.

"That woman—" he said, half aloud. "It looks as though she dropped some money."

The other men in the station wagon, engaged in their intermittent conversation, appeared not to hear. He almost expected somebody to say, "Where?" especially Clyde Saunders, the driver, since he was prone to garrulity.

He talked about anything and everything, regaling the men every morning. For him nothing was sacred. Acting as a rein against all this loose talk was Ralph Weston, a caustic man whose comments were short and devastating. Only he could silence Clyde—temporarily.

The tenor of their conversation kept Larry silent most of the time. This morning, as usual, he contented himself with gazing out of the window. In so doing he saw the woman open her purse and drop something.

By the time they parked and he had alighted, he was inclined to forget the incident. People were always dropping inconsequential bits of paper. In this case it might have been a gum wrapper. Presumably the woman had just come out of the cafeteria, partially enclosed by the parking lot. Anyway, were his eyes so keen that he could differentiate between a gum wrapper and currency at thirty feet?

And even if it was money, he reasoned, it wouldn't be there long, be-

cause possibly there would pass along that way a score of other workers in the next few minutes.

What should he do? He had less than ten minutes to spare. And his job as a mechanic's helper in the new electronic building was in the opposite direction to where the woman had gone. Nevertheless he quickly decided to go and look anyway. He walked across the parking lot. As he approached the place where he had seen her, he saw two crumpled five-dollar bills. At the moment this was two hundred times more than he had in his pocket.

Picking up the money, he paused long enough to look around. Then he proceeded in the direction she had taken, but he did not see her.

He walked into the nearest building. She was not there. He was beginning to grow concerned. Because he had only one nickel in his pocket, he had to return her money soon. He didn't trust himself with it. Moreover, he had to find her while he could still remember what she looked like.

In 1957 there was the usual quota of about three thousand civilian employees on the station. It was easy, at least for him, to confuse one face with another. When he walked out of the building he had almost given up hope of finding her.

He met a stream of workers coming into the building. Most of the workers came in this way, including the men he rode with. In the crowd a face suddenly caught his attention. It was the woman. She fitted the vague description in his mind—stout, middle-aged, and slow of gait. Light summer dress.

Approaching her, Larry said, "I be-

lieve you lost this." He gave her the money.

She gasped. Surprise and gratitude brightened her face. "Thank you. Wait!" Her voice was insistent.

Momentarily he had the feeling that he had given the money to the wrong person. Then something happened to dispel this doubt. She quickly thrust a quarter into his hand. It was the gesture of a grateful and honest person. Before he could protest she hurried away in the crowd.

With a half-caught sigh he started back to his working area. He was approaching the parking lot when he saw Clyde, who had probably been detained by some of his boon companions. Or he might have gone to the cafeteria. The trend of his questions indicated that he had either overheard Larry's remark in the station wagon or had been close enough to observe him talking with the woman.

Clyde's questions were incessant. "How much was it?"

"Ten dollars."

"Why did you give it back?"

"It belonged to her."

"You mean you *looked her up* and gave it back to her?" Incredulity crossed his face. He frowned. Then smiling mischievously he walked on. That evening he told the rest of the men about the incident as they rode home.

With the exception of one man they all began to deride Larry.

"I wouldn't have given it back," one said.

"I wish it had been me," said Clyde.

"How much did she give you?" asked another.

Ralph said, "You should have kept it."

They were half joking—but only half. Larry took it all in without flinching. He had no regrets about his honesty. Fact of the matter was, he felt good about it. He would do it again. Neither was he sensitive to their ridicule.

He felt sorry for his critics, especially Ralph, who soon afterward sustained a financial loss. About two weeks later as they were arriving in the parking lot he announced the loss himself. The other men had little to say.

Could their silence mean they recognized retributive judgment? Larry did not moralize, because it was quite obvious that the amount of the loss was significant—it was ten dollars.

"I don't know where it could have gone," Ralph said.

His chagrin was profound. For all he knew, the person who found his money was a person such as he was.



# At the Sound of Singing

by CHNOANGAI PHEIRIM

ON COMPLETION of my high school work in the Assam Training School in 1957, I conducted an evangelistic effort in a village of the Mao-Maram area of the Naga Hills in Manipur, a state of North-east India. As a result of this effort, twelve were baptized, coming direct from animism. It was with sadness that I left these new believers, but it was necessary for me to do so in order to continue my education.

Near the end of my second year of study at Spicer Memorial College, when I was planning to enter the colporteur field again, Pastor B. J. Williams, director of our work in Assam and Manipur, requested me to return to the Mao-Maram area. I would spend my vacation strengthening the believers there and instructing those who had become interested as a result of the witnessing of those who had been baptized.

These prospects so thrilled me that it was with difficulty that I kept my mind on my studies. Constantly I planned what and how I would teach the people. Finally the last examinations were over, and I boarded the train for Manipur. I did not give thought to the hardships of the long, wearisome journey, for my mind was preoccupied with plans for evangelism. My heart was full of joy in anticipation of again meeting with those who had responded to my appeals in the previous effort.

Arriving at the Mao-Maram district and looking the situation over, I decided that the effort should be held in the village of Chowainu, where there was a nucleus of believers. Great joy filled my heart as I found that these believers not only were true and faithful themselves but by their witnessing had caused others to desire to know the truth. This village of 105 families was composed entirely of animists, or spirit worshipers (except those who had become Seventh-day Adventists).

The spirit worshipers have some knowledge of God, the Great Spirit, who is the Creator, but since He is good and does not harm anyone, they do not bother too much about Him. They think it is enough to invoke His blessing on their crops in the springtime and to thank Him for the bounty at harvesttime. They direct most of their religious activities toward the appeasement of the evil spirits, which they think lurk about in every stone and tree and hill, ready to destroy their crops or bring sickness or calamity upon them.

As there was no large building, we chose an open place in the center of the village to hold our meetings. Before beginning the meetings I spent some time during the day teaching choruses to the children. I did this not only in order to win their friendship and to get better acquainted with them but for another purpose, as well. Since the people did not possess watches or clocks, and I had no bell to ring, I had to devise some way to get them out to meetings. I decided that the best way would be to begin with a song service.

After learning the choruses the children were eager to show their parents and relatives what they could do, so when I called them together in the evening they sang lustily. Having been previously told that when the singing began they should come to the meeting, the people hurried to the place in order not to miss anything. I had worried because I had no bell to ring, but I learned that the singing is far more effective.

When a bell rings, each one thinks he will wait until the other one goes, for he is too shy to be first. Thus the people keep straggling in long after the service has begun. But when they hear singing they realize the meeting has already begun, and they come on the run.



C. Pheirim was thrilled to preach.



My experience has proved that singing is a very important, indeed integral, part of the evangelistic effort, particularly among non-Christians. It helps to bring the people together; it prepares their minds and hearts for the message to follow; it helps them to leave the service with joy in their hearts; and it gives them messages to keep in their minds during the day. The singing of the wonderful gospel songs speaks to the hearts of the heathen and makes them see the great contrast between the joyous Christian religion and the sad, fear-ridden religion of the spirit worshippers.

That first night the meeting place was packed with from four hundred to five hundred people. I was thrilled to see so many youth among them. After the song service I announced that I would now speak to them, but with one accord they cried, "Sing some more! Sing some more!" So after fifteen more minutes of singing, I asked them to bow their heads and remain quiet while I talked to the Great Spirit. This had a solemnizing effect on them and made them ready to listen to my presentation of the love of God.

After speaking for nearly an hour, I announced that the meeting would be closed, and I again prayed. But they made no move to leave. Instead they cried, "Preach some more! Preach some more!" Naturally I was pleased at such a response, and I talked to them for another twenty minutes. Then I dismissed the meeting, assuring them that the next evening we would meet again to sing and to listen to the message from the Great Spirit.

Night after night they came, and night after night they repeated those words, "Sing some more! Preach some more!" Each evening those most interested followed me to my room to ask questions concerning what they had heard. Often I studied with them until midnight or after, forgetting my own need for food and rest. Actually, I was so absorbed in giving out the bread of life that I did not feel hungry or tired.

Early each morning before the people left their homes for the fields, I took my Bible in hand and with my interpreter, visited as many homes as possible. They appreciated this interest and felt that I was their friend. In this way I became better acquainted with the people and began to learn their language. Although I also am a Naga, I had not known their language, for I come from another tribe. As I learned to speak their language they became more responsive to my words.

During the day I spent much time with the children, teaching them Christian songs and Bible stories. How they drank in the wonderful stories! They in turn proved to be good language teachers. Through the children I was able to win the hearts of the older ones.

Often in the meetings I asked for a show of hands of all who believed certain points of doctrine that were being presented. The response was so encouraging that after some weeks I felt it was time for more definite decisions to be made. One evening, after speaking on the importance of one's individual choice, I invited all who had made up their mind to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ to come to the front and stand with me. My joy knew no bounds when the young people one by one came forward. As they led the way others followed. When I gave those standing opportunity to speak, they courageously made it known to their friends and relatives present that they had chosen to become followers of the Lord Jesus at all costs.

What a scene was this! I am sure the human heart can experience no greater happiness than that which comes to the soul winner as he sees old men and women, young men and maidens, boys and girls, yielding themselves to the wooing of the Holy Spirit. As I raised my hand toward heaven and invoked God's blessing upon each one, I had the conviction that my future work was settled. I would be a preacher of righteousness as long as I lived.

Those who stood—forty in all—were organized into a baptismal class. How precious were the hours we spent together in the study of the Bible! How eagerly they drank in its wonderful truths, which were changing their lives completely!

As the time drew near for me to terminate my summer's work and return to college, Pastor Holliwell Dkhar, from the Assam Section headquarters, came to examine those in my baptismal class. Some, I felt, would be ready, while others would need more time to try out their new experience. I was happy when he found that fourteen were ready for baptism.

Watching those candidates—the fruits of my labor for the Lord—step down into the water, I shared in a small way that joy which will one day come to Jesus when "he shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied." I knew that from henceforth the pleasures of this world would hold no attraction for me, for I had tasted of that fullness of joy which comes only to those who bring souls to Christ. On the banks of that baptismal stream I re-dedicated my life to the Lord and, like Paul of old, determined that I would know nothing save Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

As I go about my daily college routine, I often imagine I hear those voices saying, "Sing some more! Preach some more!" Then the voice of Jesus seems to say, "Whom shall I send?" And my heart responds, "Here am I, send me."

## Reunion

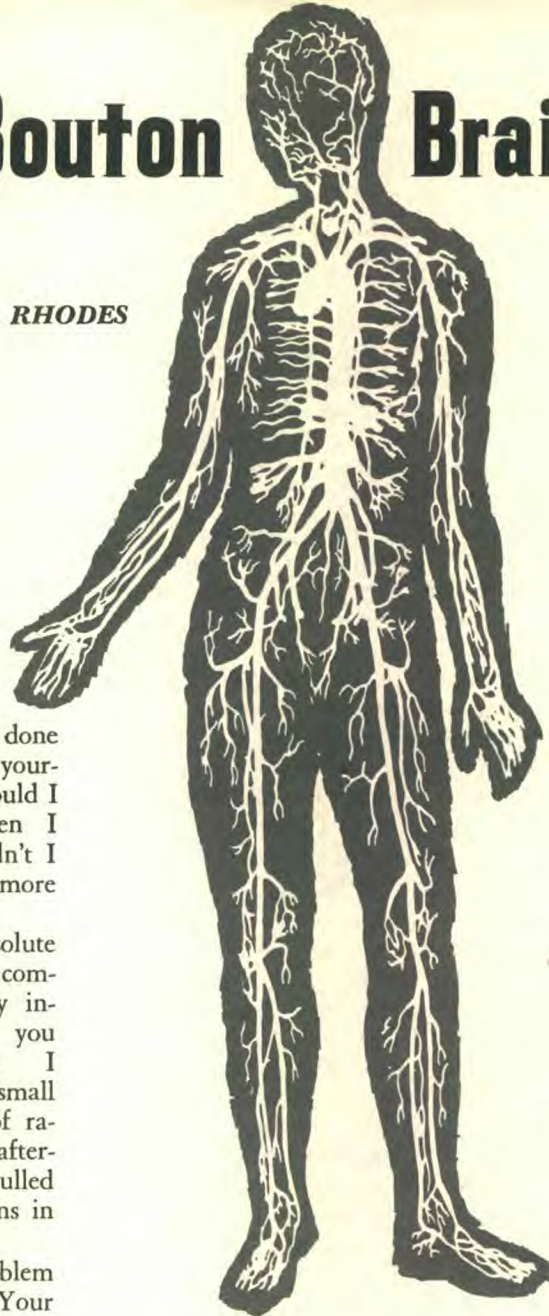
by JOYCE GRIFFITH

When I looked for God  
in the noisy streets downtown,  
in the rushing wind outdoors,  
He wasn't there—  
or, at least, I couldn't find Him.  
When I begged Him  
to help me meet my debts,  
to show me the way through a muddled life,  
He didn't answer—  
or, at least, I didn't hear Him.  
But when at last I stopped 'still  
in my whirling search  
and waited for God—  
in a moment of silence  
I found Him already there,  
waiting.



# Your Bouton Brain

by HARRY A. RHODES



**N**OW why would I have done such a thing?" you ask yourself in disgust. "Why would I eat such a heavy supper when I knew I had studying to do? Didn't I resolve just this morning to be more temperate?"

But at the dinner table your resolute purpose had taken on a different complexion. As good food enticingly invited "Take another serving," you weakly responded, "Perhaps I shouldn't, but surely one more small helping won't hurt." The cycle of rationalization had begun, and afterward, a burdened stomach and a dulled mind were your weary companions in a long evening of study.

Of course, the root of the problem lies in the pattern of thinking. Your mind hasn't really played a trick on you. It has simply formulated its final decisions on the basis of the information that you fed into it. Each time you listened to appetite's clamors, your resolution weakened until you finally yielded to its appeals.

Involved intimately in your process of thinking were your nerve cells, which are the structural units of the nervous system. Dendrites—short, rough, branching projections—can connect with axons—long, smooth processes—to form throughout your body a communications system responsible for attitudes, feelings, thoughts, and behavior.

The hookups in this intricate system are regulated by the controlling computer—your mind. When you reached for that last piece of pie, this action was the result of the complex connections in your nervous system. Like a computer, your mind processed the data

you had furnished it, made its final decision, and sent the appropriate orders to the nerves that activated your reaching for the "forbidden" delicacy.

The "inside story" of how your internal receivers, the dendrites, and your transmitters, the axons, work is indeed a revealing one. These intricate "radios" keep your whole system in constant integration with the external world, and a basic understanding of their dynamics is a step forward into a new dimension of self-understanding, important for meeting the everyday demands of life.

It is intriguing to think that each of us is pulsing with electric currents that energize the whole system. An intricate system of wiring serves as a communications network throughout the

body. Each neuron needs no outside power source. For each nerve cell carries a slight electrical charge that can be measured with an instrument called a galvanometer. This charge remains fairly constant until something disturbs its resting state. Then it responds by sending a pulse of electrical energy along its length.<sup>1</sup>

These bulletlike barrages of energy are called spikes. Whenever a spike is set up in the dendrites and passes along the axon, we say that the cell has fired. The maximum firing rate of any neuron is about 1,000 per second.<sup>2</sup>

When your mind makes any decision, it must make its interpretation on the basis of changes in the firing patterns of millions of neurons. In response to a stimulation there will be an increase, a decrease, or no change at all in the firing rates. Through experience the brain is able to recognize that certain firing pattern changes mean the presence of a certain stimulus and is able to respond in a meaningful way.<sup>3</sup>

Neurons play star roles every day in the mind's dramatic process of decision making. Some 15 billion neurons, most of them in the central nervous system acting in major or in minor parts, make the evaluations responsible for each unfoldment in our lives.<sup>4</sup>

Recently scientific sleuths have been delving into secrets of the internal workings of the nerve cells. Between the axon of one cell and the dendrite of the next is a tiny gap called the synapse, beyond which a spike must transmit its influence if it is to trigger the next neuron. Since the "message" is carried or lost at the synapse, it is called the "decision point."<sup>5</sup>



Now much more is known about this tiny point where the eternal question "To be or not to be?" is answered. Each axonic fiber is spotted with small bumps, or boutons, along its entire length. A single fiber may have up to 1,000 of these bumps. The boutons secrete special chemicals that pass across the synapse, influencing the cell body of the next neuron. The electrical energy itself probably does not "jump the gap" but triggers the secretion and release of a chemical that spreads across the gap and is responsible for creating a spike in the next neuron.<sup>6</sup>

To relate back to the incident of intemperance, though more than likely you did not realize it at the time, your nerves were solving some algebraic equations. As you were rationalizing, they were carefully following the formula that you were thinking. As they listened to your inward desires tempered ever so mildly with resolution, they "decided" that the electrical impulse should cross the "decision point." Thus the boutons along your axons released a chemical called acetylcholine, which acted in a positive or excitatory fashion upon the next neuron in line. But had you been emphatically expressing your resolution, another set of nerves would have inhibited the decision to be intemperate by the release of another appropriate chemical.<sup>8</sup>

The significance of the decision you had made lies not only in the influence that it had at the particular time but in the permanency of its effect. For when one neuron is continually fired by another, it is believed that additional boutons or some other type of growths of the axonic end fibers are produced. As more and more boutons are produced, it becomes easier for the connection between the axon and the dendrite to be completed.<sup>9</sup>

Thus through the impressions that our communications network of nerves daily records, we are building what we might call a "bouton brain." The influence of each of our experiences is physiologically a reality, for through the production of additional boutons, it can be stored up in the very fabric of our being.<sup>10</sup>

When we see patterns repeating themselves in our lives, we can remember that we are the product of thousands of yesterdays. This truth was graphically illustrated to a young student who had been called on the carpet by his principal. His offense was serious, and the administrator knew that wise counseling was vital. Soberly he faced the young man. "There will be a

tendency for this fault of yours to repeat itself," he cautioned. "You will find it trying to recur."

Picking up a piece of paper, he folded it in half, straightened it out and pressed it flat on the table so that the crease was barely visible. But as he lifted the paper, there was that fold again.

"That is like life," the counselor said. "What we have done tends to be written upon the character and, in times of stress and strain, to reassert itself. You have a personal problem here, my lad, and you will need to be continually on your guard."<sup>11</sup>

As we consider the principal's advice, how full of meaning it is for all of us! Sometimes we feel the exasperation that comes from being "wired" for an undesirable habit. And in a sense we are wired, for in the repetition of a certain act, nervous energy has been converted into boutons, which facilitate either desirable or undesirable hook-ups in our system of moral wiring. We may have said, "I won't count this time," but the nervous system counts each response unflinchingly.

Pondering the results that wrong thinking leaves upon the books of our minds, we realize something of the tangible traces that the thoughts of the past have left within the particles of our being. It should be a considered principle with us, then, to shun the propaganda that the masterful sales agent for sin continually places before us. When he hawks his wares, to tune our ears to his suave talk or focus our eyes upon his fruits of delight is fatal.

When Eve stood gazing upon the tree supplying knowledge of good and evil and made the most far-reaching decision of human history, her eyes were photographing the loveliness of the forbidden fruit; her sense of smell was detecting its delicious flavor; and her ears were tuned to catch the words that came from a beguiling serpent. Her faith in God faltered in that fearful hour, and she was woefully deceived by her subtle tempter.

To linger and listen always spells disaster. The only safeguard lies in keeping the thoughts on the wave length of heaven. Shining down through the ages in undimmed luster is the example of Joseph when he was subjected to a sudden and severe temptation. Since his life was formed upon the principle of tuning for the right voice, his first thoughts were of God. "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" he exclaimed.

While conversing with a friend, I

gained an insight into a valuable principle of resistance. When he heard the wily whisperings of the enemy in his ears, he would emphatically declare his brief ultimatum: "Undebatable." The fortitude of this reply would send impulses of moral energy to each nerve cell. Dissenting suggestions would be effectively silenced.

As we seek to build a bouton brain that will respond to noble impulses, it is well to remember that repulsing sin is not enough, for no heart-house remains vacant for long. Either it will be filled with an indwelling Christ or again become haunted by seven devils worse than the first.

And it is a basic principle of practical psychology that *there cannot be a change in our experience without there being a corresponding change in the way our nervous system operates.*<sup>12</sup> As we consider the concept of altering our misdirected patterns of thought, we can be assured that none of us are so enslaved but that a new vitality can energize our whole system.

Each victory that we gain, however small it may seem, will be a forward step in right thinking. As the proverb says, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Each firm resistance makes the next one easier. And every right thought will be a seed sown to eternal victory.

But as a series of victories is developed upon a point and is suddenly interrupted by a jolting failure that might cause discouragement and a drift back toward defeat, one must realize that in a moment of extremity the old boutons, still passively lurking in the system, may again be called into action. The failure merely calls for a renewed dedication to the proper chain of thinking.

Of course, in considering any real change of behavior, we must remember that of ourselves we cannot change emotions or impressions. But we can change their direction. A deep surrender to Christ will bring a complete change in our system of thought. If we let Him, He can give us the thrill of a daily conversion of purpose that will bring into our lives the infinite rewards of right thinking.

<sup>1</sup> Calvin, Allen D., *Psychology*, pp. 241, 242.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 243.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 241.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 244.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Chalmers, Elder E. M., *Youth Lecture, Spiritual Retreat*, Oct. 17, 1964.

<sup>8</sup> Calvin, *op. cit.*, p. 244.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 256.

<sup>10</sup> Chalmers, *loc. cit.*

<sup>11</sup> Dalrymple, Gwynne, *How Your Mind Works . . .*

*A Handbook of Mental Hygiene*, pp. 25, 26.

<sup>12</sup> Calvin, *op. cit.*, p. 256.



# The Rest of Your Life

by EDNA ATKIN PEPPER

I DON'T know the reason. Perhaps it was illness in the family or lack of funds or little brothers and sisters who needed her help. But a young girl, feeling her lack of educational opportunity, went to her minister with her problem. She listened intently to what he had to say.

"If you will attend every service a well-informed minister conducts during a seven-year period, you will have the equivalent of a college education. Sermons are worked out one, two, and three years in advance; ancient and modern history, current events, literature, and good English are used for your enlightenment. With this, in addition to what the public libraries, art galleries, museums, zoos, parks, book reviews, and public lectures give, you can go to school the rest of your life."

What a new world must have opened up to her hungry mind!

Have you a hungry mind—with no way to satisfy that hunger? Perhaps there are more ways than you have been aware of to accomplish this. A few minutes spent in considering some of the opportunities open to you should be time well spent.

Mark how the student in formal school makes use of his time. He attends classes, of course, where he takes notes, recites, meets other minds, attends assembly or chapel periods, has regular exercise, and in some schools, spends some time in performing useful labor. During the evening, or other planned study periods, he prepares the assignments for the following day.

In addition, there are field trips to museums, to various civic centers, to mines, industries, factories, and the sites of other activities, depending upon the course of instruction, as well as upon what is readily available. There are musical groups, societies, and clubs of many kinds. There are youth services, recitals, and concerts.

How does this compare with the opportunities possible to the home student? Books, of course, are to be had at your nearest public library. It is a good place to go for counsel to guide you in your pursuit of education, and many libraries have regularly scheduled, informative exhibits and films. Read the newspapers and a magazine or two dealing with your special interests. Illustrated current-events periodicals present the news in interesting fashion.

If you are too far from the nearest

library inquire about services you may receive. Here in the Glendale area in southern California, two bookmobiles will be in service this fall. The State library works through county and city libraries in various ways to supply reading material to those in need of this service. You may address inquiries to the public library in the city nearest you.

One of the most rewarding aspects of school life is that of the associations formed there, and your plan should include this phase of education. Perhaps you are shy and have trouble making friends. Even if you cannot utter a sound, you can smile. Find someone to accompany you on this great adventure if you can. Find some other frightened little mouse, and smile! Look pleasant! Say "Good morning," as though you found it good and meant it! You can do a great deal to *make* it good. Concerts, lectures, and recitals will be more enjoyable with a congenial companion.

Exercise and useful labor, of course, are not hard to come by. As for study periods, they may be planned for at the most convenient time of the day. The important thing about the study period is that it be regular. It takes real character to begin and continue a planned course of study in the home. It was not easy in Lincoln's day, but today the determined student has many more helps on the road to success. The attitude of people generally toward the student is much more helpful than a hundred years ago. They are eager to see the ambitious one get ahead today.

Charles M. Simmons, author and educator, in his little booklet, *How to Get a College Education Every Six Months*, says that all education comes from people in the final analysis. "Learn the art of listening! You don't listen. I don't listen. . . . We should be able to learn from the experiences of others—but do we?"—Pages 12, 13. "When we speak, we aren't learning. We are only learning if we listen to others."—Page 17.

"Everyone I meet is greater than I in some way. In that way, we should learn from him."—Page 21 [Emerson].

"Few of us realize the power and depth there is in the human mind. After all, we are part of a great divine plan, we are created in His image, and too many of us go all the way through life only barely scratching the surface, and wonder why we get so little. The reason we get so little—because we think so little—and probably most of all, because we listen so little!"—Page 25.

Johnny was ill and did not quite finish high school. Today he is employed by the Sears, Roebuck and Company and has advanced from clerk to head of the boys' clothing department, to head of five departments, and is now being prepared for the managership of a store in his own right. He is not yet thirty years old. He was called to Chicago not long ago and subjected to stiff, lengthy examinations that left him limp. But he passed.

Immaculate in his dress and grooming, he smiles easily and takes a real interest in the needs and problems of his customers. He is prompt, watchful, careful, ever learning from what goes on around him. He listens! He keeps his stock attractively arranged and his whole section neat and in order. His reports are made on time, neatly, carefully. He makes it his business to know more than he absolutely has to. He will go to school for the rest of his life!

To paraphrase some challenging statements: "If you want education, [the development of the spiritual, mental, and physical natures] you must make education the end and aim of your existence. You must think and plan and scheme for it all day and dream about it at night. You must be willing to give up many things you would like to have and to do. Make education the sole object of your life, and you will have it."

Become aware! Never stop learning. Don't hark back to earlier accomplishments. Listen. Observe. Read. Look ahead to future conquests. You cannot stand still; you must grow or deteriorate. The alert, youthful individual continues his education as long as he lives. You too can go to school the rest of your life.





# Tenderly He Watches

by AMANDA HUNTER


DORA COOPER had been out of school for two years when she came to our academy for her senior work. She studied diligently and worked faithfully. Studies went well except for Spanish II. It had been two years since she had taken Spanish I, and then her foundation seemed to have been rather meager. The registrar advised her to drop the course and complete academy without college entrance requirements.

She came to me, because I had been friendly to her, to discuss the matter before making a decision.

"The reason I returned to school was so that I could go on to college and become a teacher," she explained. "If I do not master and pass this language I will be delayed with my college work."

I thought a moment, then quietly asked, "Have you made this a special subject of prayer?" I knew that Dora was a sincere Christian.





"No, I really haven't," she acknowledged honestly. "I wondered whether it was right to bother God about such a small matter."

"This is a very important matter," I replied. "The outcome may determine whether you become a Christian teacher. Let me read you one verse from the first chapter of James: 'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.'"

"Do you think God would give me wisdom to do this Spanish?" she questioned.

"I believe that God gave this special promise for times like this," I replied. "Let us ask according to His will, claiming this promise each day at twelve noon. I will pray and you will pray. Let us thank God now for the victory He will give you."

Two sincere prayers ascended; then Dora went directly to the registrar's office and requested permission to keep on with the Spanish until the end of the first semester. The noonday prayers continued for weeks, and the time for the first semester test drew near. Once again Dora came.

"My daily work has been going well, but I am concerned about the examination next week."

"If you study diligently and do your part, God will not fail you," I assured her. "I will be praying for you all during that hour."

When the scores were given out the following week, Dora could hardly wait to see me. She not only had passed but had received the highest score on the semester test!

"We serve a great and wonderful God." The words were spoken softly.

For years now Dora has been a successful teacher of little children.

**T**HIS WAS the third year Jim Thorpe had attended our academy. He practically lived in the old conservatory, for music was his passionate love. The difficulty was that he

had not learned to enjoy and appreciate "long-haired" music. In his playing there was not just a mere suggestion of syncopation; he gave all of which he was capable, and he was capable of the ultimate. Even though he had ability, the music faculty were hesitant about asking him to accompany or play, and of this he was resentful. He felt that he had the right to play jazz in his own private practice room.

Much counseling and many prayers for Jim had not changed his heart completely. He still was not a church member. Now that he would be leaving academy in a few weeks, he was beginning to like classical music. His playing could be depended upon for religious services, and there were evidences of a Christian experience.

On Tuesday morning of spring Week of Prayer, I inquired of the principal whether there were students who were not baptized. He gave the names of two, and one of these was Jim.

After pausing to pray for guidance, I made my way to the music conservatory, where I was quite sure I would find Jim. He was playing a hymn softly as I entered his practice room, but he seemed to be under restless tension.

"I just came in for a little chat, to tell you how much we have appreciated the splendid improvement in your piano playing in recent months. We are glad that you will soon be graduating, but we hate to see you go."

"You know, I'm going to miss this place," he replied. "The happiest years of my life have been spent here." He had come from a broken home.

"It would be wonderful if you could know the joy and happiness that comes from following God all the way, before you leave us." I spoke earnestly. "Why don't you join the baptismal class today?"

"You are the first one who has ever asked me in all the time I've been here," was his frank response. "I had been hoping someone would before graduation."

The following Friday evening he was

among those baptized at the close of a consecration service. Today he remains true to his vows.

**F**LOSSIE CRANE came to our Academy in her junior year. She was a consistent Christian, who thought everything through and had reasons for each thing she did. Nothing in her life was insignificant. She was a songbird who had a deep appreciation for beauty. Her superior scholarship was a real inspiration to others.

However, she was almost entirely dependent upon her own resources. Even though she worked diligently and efficiently in the school business office, the balance on her account was beginning to be of real concern to her.

One spring day she sought me out and asked, "Do you believe this is the place God wants me?"

"It surely is," I replied quickly. "Why do you ask? Are you having problems?"

Because Flossie and I were close friends it was not long before the financial difficulties were under discussion.

"If we have faith to believe, all things are possible," I assured the girl. "The silver and the gold are His, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I do not know where the money is coming from, but our heavenly Father does. Shall we pray about it together?"

Our prayers ascended to the loving Father for help in this time of need. We both believed that God had heard, and that He would answer.

Two days later the Bible instructor, who was also the pastor, called Flossie into his office. "Could it possibly be that you need financial help? I felt impressed to ask. Two days ago a business friend of mine, who is not an Adventist, called me long distance, and wanted to know whether I knew of a worthy young woman who needed a couple hundred dollars just now to help her stay in school."

There were tears in Flossie's eyes as she replied, "Two days ago another teacher and I prayed in a special way for that exact amount, and had no idea



where the money would come from."

"We serve a gracious heavenly Father, who tenderly watches over His children and takes care of their needs." The minister spoke from experience.

**M**IND IF I come in?" Tom White opened the library door and inquired politely.

"Happy to have you," I replied. "I was endeavoring to get some new books processed, and I can accomplish so much more in the evening quietness."

"Then I am intruding," he hesitated.

"Not at all," I assured him. "I was just about through for tonight."

"There are a number of things I have been wondering about," he began. "This is my first experience in a parochial school, and my parents are not Adventists."

"How did you decide to come here?"

"I had a grandmother who was an Adventist, but it was really through the friendliness of Adventist neighbors that I came. You know this is my senior year and a very important time of life." He spoke frankly.

"Are you finding your Bible lessons difficult?"

"Yes, but I am learning many new things, some of which are a bit puzzling. May I ask you a question?" He was very serious. "What does it mean to be converted?"

I reached for a Bible and pulled a copy of *Steps to Christ* from a shelf. "Sit here by my desk and let us read a few verses and paragraphs together that will answer your question."

Thus began weekly Bible studies known only to the teacher and senior student. Several weeks later he stopped me in the hall to ask for an evening appointment. It was not the regular time for a Bible study. Tom was one of the politest boys in school, never demanding; so realizing a need, I quickly set a time.

While waiting for Tom I went to the library a bit early and prayed for divine help. Soon his knock was heard, the door opened, and he came in hesitantly.

"You know I have been praying regularly and reading a chapter in my Bible each day since you suggested it," he said.

"God will bless you as you seek to do His will."

"This morning I read Exodus 20 for my private devotions. Of course I have known about the Ten Commandments all my life, but this morning it was different. When I read about keeping the Sabbath holy, it seemed as though God was speaking directly to me. Then I

prayed and told Him I wanted to do just what He wanted me to. A wonderful feeling of happiness and peace came into my heart. Is this conversion?"

With moist eyes I replied, "Indeed it is, and our prayers are being answered for you, Tom. Be faithful with your prayers and Bible study. Now, maybe you would like to join the pastor's baptismal class?"

"I have even thought about doing that," he admitted. "Do keep praying for me."

"Thank you for coming tonight, Tom, and now let us thank God for your victory."

In a few weeks Tom was baptized, a little later he was chosen senior class president, and he continued to make real progress in the Christian way. Today he is working in the far north, still faithful to his God.

**H**ERE IS a girl that has everything," stated the college professor, who had been giving counsel to senior students about the results of the entrance examinations they had recently taken. He was talking with a group of the instructors. We noticed that the scores on the sheet he was holding were extremely high in practically every area.

"Gloria Parks has everything for success except the one thing needful," I spoke sadly.

"She is courteous, well-groomed, a superior student, an excellent musician, an efficient secretary," another instructor said.

At the following Friday evening faculty prayer circle, Gloria's name was presented before the throne of grace. All were asked to remember her in their private devotions.

On the eve of consecration, just before graduation, I approached her.

"I wish I could surrender, but I can't yet. I'm not willing to give up some things. But keep on praying for me," she said.

Gloria went to a Seventh-day Adventist college, but stayed only one quarter. She just didn't fit in. She attended a State college and found this also unsatisfactory after spending all her life in Seventh-day Adventist schools.

Almost a year later she sought out her former teacher, looking for guidance and help. The letters and the prayers never ceased for her, and finally she decided to return to a Seventh-day Adventist college the following fall. My highest hope for her was that she might cultivate an acquaintance with our

heavenly Father and learn to trust Him.

Near the end of the first quarter I received a message from Gloria that brought joy to my heart. Another student friend had found the way.

**P**HIL ALLEN had come to our academy because of the interest of kindhearted women of the local Dorcas Society. His father was an alcoholic and his mother a bartender. He had been a ward of the court for several years. He had never before attended a parochial school of any kind. Some considered Phil a problem, but there were others who knew that he was a possibility.

He was a diligent worker, but seemingly not a student at all. He conformed as far as religious obligations were concerned, but he had not found his way to God.

On Thursday evening of the spring Week of Prayer at the academy he sought me out.

"Have you seen any improvement in me during these months I've been here?"

"Indeed I have. Your changed attitude rejoices my heart. I realize the struggle has been an unusually hard one."

"I wish I could go all the way and accept Christ into my heart, but I can't, yet," Phil spoke very softly.

"Pray about it tonight, and I also will pray. Come to me again when I can be of any help."

That night I spent a longer time than usual on my knees, for the soul of a student was at stake.

Early the next morning, an hour before school, there was a knock on my door. Phil stood hesitantly on the porch. "I've come for the kind of help I think you can give me," he said at once.

Pausing only long enough to get a coat and Bible, I suggested that we go to a room in the church to talk where we would not be disturbed. Praying for divine guidance, I felt impressed to relate the story of the prodigal son. So few—so very few words were necessary before Phil was sobbing out his surrender to God. I knew that the few words spoken had not brought about that surrender, and gave credit where credit was due as we knelt in prayer together.

Phil is now a college graduate, and a teacher himself in one of our Southern States. He has a wife who is a nurse, and two fine little boys. He has made God first in his life ever since that early morning surrender.



# Celestial Savings and Loan

by MARY JANE GRAVES

MAMMA, how do you like this one?" Timmy's five-year-old voice demanded my attention.

I turned from the stack of trousers on the counter and looked at the sports coat he was modeling.

"Why, that's pretty, Tim. And it just fits. Did daddy help you find it?"

My husband had been looking at the smaller-sized garments while I hunted a pair of good pants for our older boy, Teddy.

"Daddy said to look at the tag," Timmy told me, both ignoring and answering my question at the same time.

Immediately I reached for that important bit of information. Outfitting two growing boys at the beginning of a season was an expensive proposition, especially with a budget that wasn't too flexible! And coats are the biggest items on the list. When I saw the price I gasped in amazement. It really was a nice coat—wool, nylon, and silk—so how could this price be right? But the tag plainly read, "Original price: \$12.98, sale price: \$1.98. Discontinued pattern."

I could hardly believe my eyes! A sports coat for such a tiny price is just unheard of. No time was lost in making that purchase! For two years Timmy wore that little coat, until it was outgrown, not worn out.

My husband had a similar experience while looking for a sports coat for himself. He was browsing through a rack of coats, rather discouraged by the price tags. Then one caught his attention, and he automatically checked the price tag.

Ten dollars, sale price. But what about the size? Exactly what he wore. Within minutes the coat was his, and now, four years later, he is still wearing it.

In both cases these coats were the only ones on the rack that were on sale! Do such things just happen? You can't convince us that they do. We sometimes think of these garments as special tithe blessings.

God's promises are plain. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that

there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."<sup>1</sup>

Now, it doesn't specify that this blessing will be money or tangible things. It may be. Or it may be spiritual blessings or happiness. I think of an experience that is a combination of the tangible and intangible.

Teddy and I were shopping, and he saw something that he thought he just must have, a pair of trousers in the latest popular color.

"But, Teddy, these pants cost too much to wear to school," I reasoned.

Still he looked longingly at the gold-colored cotton cord trousers on the counter. Common sense told me that for everyday wear sturdy jeans at about half the price were what a third-grader should have.

In spite of my misgivings, something prompted me to shuffle through the pile and take a closer look at one particular pair. Size 8. Right size. Half price. Were all these pants on sale? No sign indicated a lowered price. No, it was just this one pair. Result? A surprised mother, a quick purchase, and a happy boy.

According to Webster, to tithe is "to pay or give a tenth part of, especially for the support of the church." Abraham brought tithes to Melchizedek.<sup>2</sup> Jacob, after his vision of the ladder reaching from heaven to earth, vowed to return a tenth of all he gained to the Giver of all.<sup>3</sup>

Leviticus 27:30 reads, "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord."

Malachi tells us that those who withhold the tithe are actually robbing God. What a fearful accusation! "But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings."<sup>4</sup>

This brings us to the matter of our freewill offerings, which in Malachi 3:8 go hand in hand with the tithe. Our family follows the practice of tithing and systematic giving. From their earliest days our boys have paid tithe

on any money they receive, whether it be allowance, earnings, birthday, or Christmas money. It all receives the same treatment of having tithe set aside first.

My earliest lesson in systematic giving came from my sister Lila a short time before my husband and I were married. We were planning to continue our college education. Neither of our families was in a position to help us financially, whether we were married or single.

She spoke with the voice of experience when she said, "Always put your offering money aside when you are paid. If you just depend on giving whatever you happen to have in your pocket or purse on Sabbath morning you may often find yourself with nothing to give."

We followed that advice, even though our offerings were small ones. Two per cent of our pay was, at our request, automatically deducted by the school for church expense, but we preferred to turn in our tithe directly to the church ourselves.

This habit of setting aside our offerings has remained with us through the years. We continue to have a certain amount for Sabbath school and church offerings, Sabbath school expense, and church expense. Sometimes a specified monthly amount is needed for a building fund and, of course, special offering days often call for increased gifts.

Although our offerings have grown with our income, this still does not mean that we give huge amounts. As a denominational worker, Ted's earnings are moderate and seem too often to be exceeded by our outgo! But systematic giving can be practiced, no matter how little we have.

"In the balances of the sanctuary, the gifts of the poor, made from love to Christ, are not estimated according to the amount given, but according to the love which prompts the sacrifice. . . . God's providence has arranged the entire plan of systematic benevolence for the benefit of man."<sup>5</sup>

"For the benefit of man." We give, not because God has no other resources,



but because we need the blessing that comes from giving. Some time ago we found ourselves in the position of really needing something we could not afford. But God had the answer.

"Something has to be done. You're gone every weekend to speak in other churches, and we just can't keep hitching rides with people!" This is known in our home as "The Revolt of Mother."

After a year of uncertain transportation to church, as well as many weekdays with errands to run and no way to run them, we concluded that we must have a second car. We had moved to the city when the conference had invited my husband to be Missionary Volunteer secretary, and his frequent travels over the conference had brought on the present situation.

School was no problem, for it was within sight of our house. The church, however, and all stores, were several miles away. So were doctors and hospitals.

We knew that any car we got would have to be relatively inexpensive, for once again we were faced with that inflexible budget. An old crate wasn't very appealing to one so lacking in mechanical ability as I am, but that seemed to be the only possibility.

However, we scanned the advertisements and found one that sounded interesting. A fairly late model foreign car, by the owner, for what sounded like a reasonable price, even though more than we had planned to pay. Savings on gasoline would help make up the difference.

After we saw the car we changed our minds, for it showed evidence of much hard use and no tender, loving care to counteract it. The young man who had accompanied us was rebuilding the same make car as a hobby, so was quite an authority. He pointed out to us several things that would have escaped less observing eyes.

Another ad had featured an older model for \$495. We were almost afraid to look at it, for we had never heard of one at a price that low, and we wondered what condition it would be in. Still, the fact remained that a compact would save on gasoline, as well as being easy to maneuver in city traffic, so off we went to see it.

The owner was a cheerful, honest fellow, who told us both good and bad points about the little car. "I had it painted," he explained, "but the man who did it wasn't much of a painter!"

Maybe not, but the interior was in excellent condition, especially for a five-year-old car. The men tried it out, and

were well impressed with the way it ran. With a promise to let the owner know our decision within a day or so, we headed for home.

By the next day we were sure that this was the car we wanted, so Ted called to tell him. In the course of the conversation he said, "You know, there are several things that will need to be done to the car to get it in really good condition, so would you be willing to take \$450 cash?"

The answer came without a moment's hesitation. "Sure, that will be fine."

After supper that night we drove out to pick it up and complete the deal.

"It's a strange thing," Mr. Hart told Ted, "but after you called I must have had half a dozen calls on that car."

How grateful we were that he had

held to his word, even though he could have sold it for his asking price.

We drove that little car for about two years, then sold it for \$25 less than we had paid for it. I think we could have sold it for more than we gave for it, but our consciences would have hurt!

I like to think that in the Celestial Savings and Loan Association there is an account marked "Ted N. Graves Family," and that it offers unlimited credit and side benefits to us as regular bankers. When we return our tithes and offerings to God He figures interest due us according to the promises He has made. He then tells our angels, "Take this to them in either merchandise or cash, as they have need." Then the windows of heaven open and the blessings come to us until our house, too, is filled and overflowing.

## Wit Sharpeners

### The Son of the Nobleman Healed by Jesus

John 4

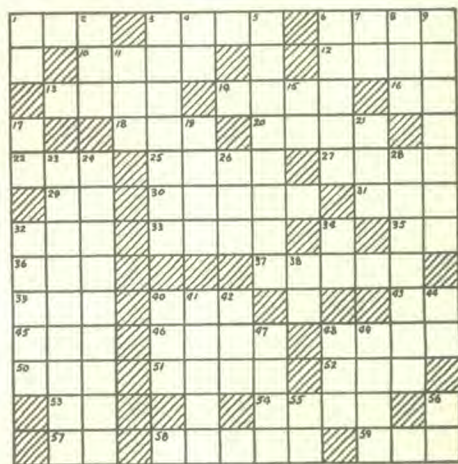
Across

- 1 Title by which the Nobleman addressed Jesus
- 3 Heavenly body
- 6 Belonging to her
- 10 "in which Jesus . . . unto him, Thy son liveth" :53
- 12 One of the Great Lakes
- 13 "Then inquired he of them the . . ." :52
- 14 Father of Adoniram 1 Kings 4:6
- 16 Average (abbr.)
- 18 Gun (slang)
- 20 Title of the eldest son of a noble Etruscan family
- 22 Frosty
- 25 "besought him that he would . . . down" :47
- 27 "And as he was now going . . ." :51
- 29 Agricultural Engineer (abbr.)
- 30 South American animal
- 31 "ye will . . . believe" :48
- 32 American Peace Society (abbr.)
- 33 Feminine name
- 35 New England State (abbr.)
- 36 "his servants . . . him" :51
- 37 Called
- 39 Before
- 40 Newspaper items
- 43 Ebenezer (abbr.)
- 45 New and unofficial remedies (abbr.)
- 46 Jacob's first wife Gen. 29:16
- 48 Twisted toward one side
- 50 Father
- 51 "the father knew that it was at the . . . hour" :53
- 52 Not otherwise specified (abbr.)
- 53 Underwriting account (abbr.)
- 54 Month in the Jewish year
- 57 Belonging to me
- 58 The . . . of the Nobleman was sick
- 59 The Nobleman feared the child would . . .

Our text is 1, 25, 27, 39, 57, 58 and 59 combined.

Down

- 1 "... Jesus came again into Cana" :46
- 2 Railway Station Office (abbr.)
- 3 "This is again the second . . . that Jesus did, when" :54
- 4 Alleged force
- 5 "there was a certain . . ." :46
- 6 "When he . . . that Jesus was come" :47
- 7 Ancestor of Jesus Luke 3:28
- 8 Narrow inlet
- 9 "at the . . . hour the fever left him" :52
- 11 Eighth month (abbr.)
- 15 District Attorney (abbr.)
- 17 Third note of the scale
- 19 "and . . . him, saying, Thy son liveth" :51
- 21 "Go thy way; thy . . . liveth" :50
- 23 "whose son was sick at . . ." :46
- 24 "they said unto him, . . . at the seventh hour" :52
- 26 "And the . . . believed" :50
- 28 "Except ye see signs and . . ." :48
- 32 "the hour when he began to . . ." :52
- 34 Part of the verb 'be'
- 38 and 41 down "for he was . . . the point of . . ." :47
- 40 Associate of the Linnaean Society (abbr.)
- 41 See 38 down
- 42 Masculine name
- 44 Near
- 47 "come down, and . . . his son" :47
- 48 Data
- 49 "believed the . . . that Jesus had spoken" :50
- 55 Doctor of Divinity (abbr.)
- 56 "and . . . went his way" :50



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Key on page 20

The Youth's Instructor, August 30, 1966



# The Story of My Conversion

by H. D. KHUMA



**W**HEN I chanced to meet Mgurkungi Sailo I could not foresee that the whole tenor of my life would be changed. I met her in Calcutta on June 1, 1955. She was on her way to Simla, a hill station in North India, to nurse Kanwar Rani Sumsher Singh, the English wife of the elder brother of the health minister of the Central Government of India.

She had come with her cousin, the wife of my friend Corporal Lalsiamliana, of the Indian Air Force, who with his family was returning from leave in the Lushai Hills.

At that time I was a sergeant of the Indian Air Force, assigned to Military Movement Control Detachment at the Howdrah railway station. My duty was to care for the rail movements of both

troops and military equipment through one of the busiest railway stations of the east.

Since my air force station was too far from my place of work, I was given special permission to live out of camp, in one of the side rooms of the Movement Control Detachment at the railway station. When off duty I was as free as any civilian could be. I spent my leisure in having a good time: seeing pictures, drinking, dancing, frequenting night clubs, living in sin.

When Corporal Lalsiamliana and his family arrived I was ready to go off duty.

"We know you are stationed here, and we are coming to bother you for accommodation for the night without giving you a warning as folks at home do. We hope you won't mind it," said the corporal in greeting.

"Not at all," I replied. "It will be a pleasure to have you stay with me." He then introduced me to the young woman and to the members of his own family whom I had never met before.

"I suppose you have had a pleasant journey so far, haven't you?"

"I'm afraid the ladies didn't enjoy the plane trip too well, as both of them got air sick rather badly."

"How did you know that I was here, Liana?"

"Fellow airmen told me of your being here. I thought it would be best for us to spend the night with you, since we know of no other place to go."

"It's good you have come. Please make yourselves at home. What would you like to have for supper? If you will tell me, I'll send the bearer to the bazaar right away."

"My wife spoke about prawn curry on the way, and I think she would not mind having some tonight."

"And what did you say the name of



this young woman is?" I questioned. "Why don't you ask her?"

I did.

"My name is Ngurkungi, but friends call me Kungi for short."

"What would you like me to call you?"

"Just call me Nguri."

"Is this the first time you have ever been to Calcutta, Nguri?"

"No, I have been here two or three times before while in transit to Nuzvid Nursing School."

"So you are a nurse? That's interesting. To what place are you going now?"

"The Seventh-day Adventist Mission to which I belong has called me from Lushai Hills, where I work as a mission school nurse, to work for Kanwar Rani Sumsher Singh in Simla. I am heading for that place."

When supper was served I discovered that Nguri not only did not eat prawn but also did not take pork or drink tea or coffee. I also observed later that she had the habit of reading the Bible twice daily, once before going to bed and then again first thing in the morning. I had never seen anybody do this before, and this praiseworthy habit helped me form a secret liking for her.

The next day she was to leave for Simla by an evening train. I invited her to lunch. As we sat in the Cathay, a Chinese restaurant on Chowringhee Street, I asked, "Nguri, how about having a glass of beer with me?"

"No, thanks. I have never tasted a drop of liquor in all my life."

"Do you mind if I take some?"

"I won't stay near you if you do. Please don't drink. It is not good for you."

I then placed an order for soft drinks, but at the same time instructed the waiter to get liquor for me, despite her plea. Of course my selfish act was most discourteous and ungentlemanly, and I have been sorry for it ever since.

We spoke about many things during lunch. I learned that she was the first Lushai girl to be baptized into the Adventist Church, and the first one to become a graduate nurse. I was convinced that she was a good Christian girl, the like of whom I had never met before.

"You are such a good Christian, Nguri, that I wish I had met you long before, for in you I am beginning to discover something that can help me remodel my life. What would you say if I were to ask you to marry me?"

"Excuse me, but I do not want to marry a man who has the habit of drinking as you do. I would rather al-

ways stay single than marry a man who drinks. I lost my father some years ago, and his death resulted from his being a drunkard. What I saw of him while in a drunken state has made me determined never to marry a man who drinks, however well stationed in life he is. Moreover, I will not accept any man's proposal unless I have studied him closely for at least one year."

Her answer made me like her all the more.

I had known many women, but never had I come across a girl like this one. I realized there was wisdom in what she had said, and I was genuinely interested in her.

She left for Simla that evening. While she was there we corresponded occasionally. When her assigned work was over she returned to Calcutta, and in compliance with my request she decided to do private-duty nursing in the city. As she had said earlier, she had the opportunity of studying me closely for well over a year. She enrolled me in the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence Course, which I studied in dead earnest and with unusual interest. The topic that aroused my interest most was the Sabbath.

Hitherto I had been of the opinion that it was the Seventh-day Adventists who had transgressed God's law by observing Saturday as a holy day instead of Sunday. For the first time I realized that observance of Sunday as the sacred day of the Lord was wrong. My conviction was strengthened by the many discussions I had with Pastor T. Prakasam, an evangelist who gave me Bible studies in my office.

Gradually my love for things of the world became less and less as truth influenced my heart more and more. Soon I was convinced of the futility of my sinful ways and knew that if I did not depart from sin my life was doomed to failure. Nevertheless it was some time before I could overcome my evil habits completely. This was especially true of drinking, mainly because of worldly friends who continued to come around. I therefore decided to boycott them. I even went to the extent of walking out of my apartment at the time they usually dropped in. This worked wonders for me, and I felt the Lord's guidance. After confessing all known sins and weeping bitterly over them, I started a new life with a clean slate.

Some time before my baptism I wrote to my parents about my new-found faith and the possibility of marrying the young woman who had brought me in touch with the Advent message. They

did not like the idea and pleaded with me against taking such a "foolish" step. However, after graduating from the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence Course, I was baptized into the Adventist Church on October 6, 1956, by Pastor D. S. Larsen at the Calcutta church.

Then on October 25, 1956, Nguri and I were married in the same church by Pastor Larsen. After our marriage we went home to visit our people in the Lushai Hills. We were happy that not only did they welcome us but they were also most eager to discuss with us our religion. It is our fervent hope that they too will one day embrace the Advent faith.

A few months after our marriage the air force authorities transferred me to Bombay, not because I had become an Adventist but because my term of three years' stay in a station had expired.

Sputnik Vanlalrinngahaka was born to us on September 16, 1957, in Bombay, and on December 14, 1959, he was followed by another son, David Vanlalrinchualloa.

About the time Sputnik was born I began to wonder how best I could make up for my past sins and show God how grateful I was for what He had done for me and my family. After much prayer and reasoning I was convinced that the best way to express my thanks was to offer myself a living sacrifice. I felt called to serve Him, not as a layman, but as a full-time worker.

Our transfer to Bombay brought us near Poona, where the only Seventh-day Adventist college in Southern Asia is situated. This strengthened my desire to study more about the Bible. Consequently I decided to leave the Indian Air Force for good in order to serve the Lord to the best of my ability for the rest of my life.

May 28, 1960, I received my requested discharge from the Indian Air Force. I had spent well over 17 of my 36 years in the service of my country. I went to Spicer Memorial College to prepare for the gospel ministry and serve the Master as an evangelist. My wife works as a nurse in a nearby military hospital, supporting the family, while I work part time as the college physical fitness instructor. Although our change-over does mean considerable hardship at times, I am exceedingly grateful to the Lord for calling me out of darkness into His marvelous light, and also for giving me a genuine peace of mind and happiness while my life is being reshaped and remolded after His own will in this God-ordained institution.



# Sabbath School Lessons

SEPTEMBER 3, 1966

Prepared for publication by the General  
Conference Sabbath School Department

## SENIOR

### X—Prophecy and the Church

MEMORY VERSE: "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

STUDY HELPS: *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 710-721; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 9-16; *The SDA Bible Commentary*; *SDA Bible Dictionary*.

STUDY AIM: To follow the prophetic delineation of God's purpose for His church.

#### Introduction

"That which God purposed to do for the world through Israel, the chosen nation, He will finally accomplish through His church on earth today. He has 'let out His vineyard unto other husbandmen,' even to His covenant-keeping people, who faithfully 'render Him the fruits in their seasons.' Never has the Lord been without true representatives on this earth who have made His interests their own. These witnesses for God are numbered among the spiritual Israel, and to them will be fulfilled all the covenant promises made by Jehovah to His ancient people."—*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 713, 714.

Many Old Testament prophecies were conditional upon Israel's obedience. They were not fulfilled, because the people were disobedient. Others meet their fulfillment in Christ or in spiritual Israel today.

#### The Church and the Messiah

1. What use did Jesus make of the Messianic prophecies concerning Himself? How did Philip the evangelist speak of them? Luke 24:44-48; Acts 8:34, 35.

NOTE.—"Reasoning from prophecy, Christ gave His disciples a correct idea of what He was to be in humanity. Their expectation of a Messiah who was to take His throne and kingly power in accordance with the desires of men had been misleading. It would interfere with a correct apprehension of His descent from the highest to the lowest position that could be occupied. Christ desired that the ideas of His disciples might be pure and true in every specification. They must understand as far as possible in regard to the cup of suffering that had been apportioned to Him. He showed them that the awful conflict which they could not yet comprehend was the fulfillment of the covenant made before the foundation of the world was laid. Christ must die, as every transgressor of the law must die if he continues in sin. All this was to be, but it was not to end in defeat, but in glorious, eternal victory. Jesus told them that every effort must be made to save the world from sin. His followers must live as He lived, and work as He worked, with intense, persevering effort."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 799.

2. What is said of the timeliness of Christ's coming to this earth? Mark 1:15. Compare Dan. 9:25; Gal. 4:4, 5.

NOTE.—"Century after century passed away; finally the voices of the prophets ceased. The hand of the oppressor was heavy upon Israel. As the Jews departed from God, faith grew dim, and hope well-nigh ceased to illuminate the future. The words of the prophets were uncomprehended by many; and those whose faith should have continued strong were ready to exclaim, 'The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth.' Ezekiel 12:22. But in heaven's council the hour for the coming of Christ had been determined; and 'when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son . . . to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.'"—*Prophets and Kings*, p. 700.

3. Through whom were fulfilled the prophecies of blessings made to Abraham? Gal. 3:14-17, 28. Compare Gen. 22:15-18.

NOTE.—"None but the Son of God could accomplish our redemption; for only He who was in the bosom of the Father could declare Him. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it manifest. Nothing less than the infinite sacrifice made by Christ in behalf of fallen man could express the Father's love to lost humanity."—*Steps to Christ*, p. 14.

4. What ancient promise yet remains to be fulfilled to the faithful of all ages? Heb. 11:10-16, 39. Compare Isa. 54:1.

#### The Church and Salvation

5. In His commission to His disciples, how widely did Christ say the gospel was to be preached? Mark 16:15, 16. Compare Rev. 14:6.

6. How is Joel's prophecy of deliverance to the faithful to find its final fulfillment in the church of the last days? Joel 2:32; Rom. 10:11-13.

NOTE.—"The spirit which built up the partition wall between Jew and Gentile is still active. Pride and prejudice have built strong walls of separation between different classes of men. Christ and His mission have been misrepresented, and multitudes feel that they are virtually shut away from the ministry of the gospel. But let them not feel that they are shut away from Christ. There are no barriers which man or Satan can erect but that faith can penetrate."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 403.

#### The Church and the Kingdom

7. To whom will the promised kingdom be given? Dan. 2:44; 7:14, 22, 27. Compare 2 Peter 3:13.

8. With what precious words did Jesus assure His disciples of their inheritance in the promised kingdom? Luke 12:31, 32; Matt. 5:3.

NOTE.—"Today in the religious world there are multitudes who, as they believe, are working for the establishment of the kingdom of Christ as an earthly and temporal dominion. They desire to make our Lord the ruler of the kingdoms of this world, the ruler in its courts and camps, its legislative halls, its palaces and market places. They expect Him to rule through legal enactments, enforced by human authority. . . .

"Not by the decisions of courts or councils or legislative assemblies, not by the patronage of worldly great men, is the kingdom of Christ established, but by the implanting of Christ's nature in humanity through the work of the Holy Spirit."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 509.

9. What prophecies will meet fulfillment in the gathering of the redeemed of all ages? Matt. 24:31; 25:31, 32.



NOTE.—"Amid the reeling of the earth, the flash of lightning, and the roar of thunder, the voice of the Son of God calls forth the sleeping saints. He looks upon the graves of the righteous, then, raising His hands to heaven, He cries: 'Awake, awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!' Throughout the length and breadth of the earth the dead shall hear that voice, and they that hear shall live. And the whole earth shall ring with the tread of the exceeding great army of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 644.

#### Preparing for the Kingdom

10. What place do God's commandments fill in preparing one for citizenship in the kingdom of heaven? Isa. 26:2; Matt. 19:17; Rev. 22:14.

NOTE.—"That do his commandments. . . . Of the early uncials (see vol. V, pp. 114-116) only the Sinaiticus and the Alexandrinus contain this section of Revelation, and both of these read 'that wash their robes.' Most of the minuscule manuscripts read 'that do his commandments.' The ancient versions are divided in their readings, as are the patristic quotations. . . .

"In actual fact both readings suit the context and are in harmony with John's teaching elsewhere. On the subject of keeping the commandments see Rev. 12:17; 14:12; cf. John 14:15, 21; 15:10; 1 John 2:3-6. On the subject of washing robes see Rev. 7:14, where a company of saints is described as having 'washed their robes,' and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'"—*The SDA Bible Commentary*, on Rev. 22:14.

11. To whom is granted the privilege of becoming sons of God? John 1:12. Compare Eph. 2:8.

NOTE.—"Christ took with Him to the heavenly courts His glorified humanity. To those who receive Him He gives power to become the sons of God, that at last God may receive them as His, to dwell with Him throughout eternity. If during this life they are loyal to God, they will at last 'see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.' Revelation 22:4. And what is the happiness of heaven but to see God? What greater joy could come to the sinner saved by the grace of Christ than to look upon the face of God, and know Him as Father?"—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 421.

12. What experience comes to God's people when they accept Christ as their Saviour? Heb. 10:10, 14; Titus 2:12-14; Rev. 14:1-5.

NOTE.—"God's people are to be distinguished as a people who serve Him fully, wholeheartedly, taking no honor to themselves, and remembering that by a most solemn covenant they have bound themselves to serve the Lord and Him only."—*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 17.

#### A Universal Kingdom

13. What prophecies concerning the Messianic mission of Israel are now to be fulfilled in the church? Isa. 49:12, 22, 23; 60:9-11; Matt. 24:14.

NOTE.—"Living examples of holiness and steadfast integrity have come down to inspire courage in those who are now called to stand as witnesses for God. They received grace and truth, not for themselves alone, but that, through them, the knowledge of God might enlighten the earth. Has God given light to His servants in this generation? Then they should let it shine forth to the world."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 459.

14. What means has God ordained to enable His church to fulfill His purpose today? Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:18-20.

NOTE.—"Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power—all will be unmasked."—*Ibid.*, p. 606.



## X—Voice and Speech as a Popularity Factor

**MEMORY GEM:** "Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12).

**ILLUMINATION OF THE TOPIC:** *Christ's Object Lessons*, chapter "Talents," section "Speech"; *Messages to Young People*, pp. 293, 294.

**TARGET:** To develop an appreciation of the right use of the voice and for wholesome speech, and to practice these in my life.

### Introduction

"The use you make of your voice—the quality of both the voice and the words—is one of the indications of your Christian cultural maturity. Through the voice as well as the words we communicate to others our thoughts, emotions, attitudes, convictions, hopes. There is no limit to the amount of good we can do through a wise and careful use of the power of speech, and there is no limit to the damage that can be done through words and tone of voice—even by refusing to speak sometimes."—T. H. JEMISON, *Facing Life*, p. 294.

### 1—Your Voice

1. When the priests and the Sadducees heard Peter speak, and noticed the boldness of Peter and John, to what conclusion did they come? Acts 4:8, 12, 13. Compare Matt. 26:73.

"The Saviour's voice was as music to the ears of those who had been accustomed to the monotonous, spiritless preaching of the scribes and Pharisees. He spoke slowly and impressively, emphasizing those words to which He wished His hearers to give special heed. Old and young, ignorant and learned, could catch the full meaning of His words."—*Counsels to Parents and Teachers*, p. 240.

2. What did Paul say regarding speaking in an unknown tongue that has equal force to speaking our own language in a mumbling, stammering way? 1 Cor. 14:6-9.

3. What value did Paul place on words that could be clearly understood? 1 Cor. 14:10, 19.

"The power of speech is a talent that should be diligently cultivated. Of all the gifts we have received from God, none is capable of being a greater blessing than this."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 335.

4. What relation does Sister White say exists between speech and character?

"Wherever there is purity of heart and nobleness of character, it will be revealed in purity and nobleness of action and of speech."—*Education*, p. 237.

### 2—Speech Habits to Avoid

5. What conversation pattern is suggested by David in Ps. 39:1-3? Compare Eccl. 5:2.

People soon tire of persons who talk, talk, talk, without saying anything. A little "bridle," (self control), and a little "silence" to give

time to listen and time to think, will usually produce something worth saying. As you read, deliberately make note of interesting events and unusual facts; in your daily life take note of your hobbies, your music, the books you have read; then to start a conversation, throw out one of these planned items. Sooner or later you will find one in which your friends are interested, then relax and listen and let them do the talking. Listening is a very important part of conversation. Learn to be a good, interested listener.

6. Of what habit does Solomon warn us? Eccl. 7:9; Prov. 27:4.

7. To what did Jesus compare anger? Matt. 5:21, 22. Compare Prov. 18:21.

"The largest share of life's annoyances, its heartaches, its irritations, is due to uncontrolled temper. In one moment, by hasty, passionate, careless words, may be wrought evil that a whole lifetime's repentance cannot undo. Oh, the hearts that are broken, the friends estranged, the lives wrecked, by the harsh, hasty words of those who might have brought help and healing! . . .

"In his own strength man cannot rule his spirit. But through Christ he may gain self-control. In His strength he may bring his thoughts and words into subjection to the will of God. The religion of Christ brings the emotions under the control of reason and disciplines the tongue. Under its influence the hasty temper is subdued, and the heart is filled with patience and gentleness.

"Hold firmly to the One who has all power in heaven and in earth. Though you so often fail to reveal patience and calmness, do not give up the struggle. Resolve again, this time more firmly, to be patient under every provocation."—*Messages to Young People*, pp. 135, 136.

8. In connection with swearing oaths and making vows, what instruction did Jesus give His disciples? Matt. 5:37; James 5:12.

The primary meaning of the word "swear" was to make an oath or a vow, and call upon God to witness the truth of it. However, as the years have gone by, men have used the name of God in connection with all kinds of loose, vulgar talk, until today swearing commonly includes blasphemy, profanity, and cursing. Shady stories and dirty jokes keep company with bad language. The Christian young person who wants to be really popular will avoid bad language of every kind and also avoid the companionship of people who use it.

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord

thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain."

"This commandment not only prohibits false oaths and common swearing, but it forbids us to use the name of God in a light or careless manner, without regard to its awful significance. By the thoughtless mention of God in common conversation, by appeals to Him in trivial matters, and by the frequent and thoughtless repetition of His name, we dishonor Him. . . . His holy name should be uttered with reverence and solemnity."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 306, 307.

9. What does the Bible say about gossiping or talebearing? Lev. 19:16; Prov. 26:20, 22.

"We think with horror of the cannibal who feasts on the still warm and trembling flesh of his victim; but are the results of even this practice more terrible than are the agony and ruin caused by misrepresenting motive, blackening reputation, dissecting character? Let the children, and the youth as well, learn what God says about these things: 'Death and life are in the power of the tongue.' Prov. 18:21."—*Education*, p. 235.

### 3—Speech Habits to Cultivate

10. What little act made the Samaritan leper who was cleansed stand out above his nine companions? Luke 17:15-19.

The percentage of people who express their thanks and appreciation for kindness shown and favors bestowed is about the same today—one in ten. But the results of those who do so are also still the same. This lovely habit makes them stand out among their fellows. Give thought to cultivating the spirit of thankfulness and to expressing it and see what it does to you.

11. What expression in Proverbs 15:23 could very properly include words of praise, compliments, and words expressing pleasure in the success that comes to others? See also Prov. 25:11.

"Cultivate the habit of speaking well of others. Dwell upon the good qualities of those with whom you associate, and see as little as possible of their errors and failings. When tempted to complain of what someone has said or done, praise something in that person's life or character."—*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 492.

While sincere praise is health to the soul, we are warned against flattery, which is insincere, excessive praise intended to gratify the recipient's vanity. "A flattering mouth worketh ruin." Prov. 26:28.

"We need to shun everything that would encourage pride and self-sufficiency; therefore we should beware of giving or receiving flattery or praise. It is Satan's work to flatter. He deals in flattery as well as in accusing and condemnation. Thus he seeks to work the ruin of the soul."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 161.

### 4—Our Need of Tact

12. What commandment, if practiced, would cultivate "tactfulness" in our speech? Mark 12:31.

If we could only place ourselves in the other person's situation, we would never be guilty of making hurtful, catty remarks.

"Some pride themselves on being outspoken, blunt, and rough, and they call this frankness; but it is not rightly named, it is selfishness of the deepest dye."—ELLEN G. WHITE, *My Life Today*, p. 196.

13. When rebuke was necessary, what tactful formula did Christ use in His letters to the seven churches? Rev. 2:2, 3, 4, 7.

First Christ praised their good points; then He mentioned their faults and failings; then He gave a promise to all who would overcome their failings.

14. Why is it important that we cultivate our voices and "keep diligently" this avenue from our hearts? Gal. 6:7; Matt. 12:37.

## Key Wit Sharpeners

"Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way." John 4:50.

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From page 4

were wonderful in making the most difficult subjects clear to her."

Jerry stiffened visibly. "Well, she certainly did a right-about-face, to say the least. I—I hardly expected her to become so devout with it, though."

"Her countenance fairly radiates happiness, Jerry, and she's so grateful to you for bringing her these precious Bible truths. You were sincere in convincing her of these things, weren't you?" The Bible teacher was standing now, and he placed a friendly hand on Jerry's shoulder. "You wouldn't want your wife to go against her new convictions, would you? Besides," he added softly, "you should return to the church yourself."

"I know you mean well, but I simply have to stay open every day of the week to make it." Jerry straightened his shoulders and turned back to his work.

The Bible teacher sighed and bade his former student good day. As he went his way, he pondered many things: the cares of this life, the deceitfulness of riches, man's insatiable thirst for earthly possessions! The years following World War II had ushered in an era of prosperity, and it was common knowledge that Jerry Huntington's extensive property holdings near this Western college were all leased and were currently bringing in the dividends of a well-ordered business life. "Well," he told himself as he thought of these things, "I'll continue to pray for Jerry, and offer him friendship. What more can I do?"

As the months passed, Eleanor spent much time in prayer. It seemed to her that her steadfastness and loyalty to the Sabbath and the truth she had learned to love, had become a wedge between her and her husband. Occasionally she pleaded with him to live the wonderful life he had brought to her, but all to no purpose.

Time passed. While visiting a church about 140 miles from my home one Sabbath, I saw Eleanor, and inquired about Jerry's opposition to her faith.

"Of course, you know that he studied the Bible with me until he persuaded me that my own church was in error," she said wistfully. "He made it all so clear—the Sabbath, the Sabbath of the New Testament, the change of the Sabbath, and everything. No minister could have done it any better!"

"Yes, I know," I broke in. "But

didn't he seem eager to study the Bible with you during that time?"

"Yes," she said, her eyes sparkling with the wonder of it. "Our happiest hours were the ones we spent together as he revealed to me so many of the things Seventh-day Adventists believe. You know," she added thoughtfully, "I knew very little then about the Bible!"

"Do you have any possible explanation for his opposition?" I asked.

She turned quickly, brushing away a tear. "Well, I'm not sure, but one Sabbath after church he wanted me to catch up on the books at the office, and I refused. I tried to appeal to him to close up and come to church with me, but he said, 'No, I have to remain open every day to keep going.'" She

"I wonder," she said tearfully, "whether at some point I failed in bringing Jerry some of the same joy that he brought to me back in those early years."

"I'm sure you did everything possible to make him happy," I told her, but my words sounded a note of empty consolation even as I uttered them.

She turned and looked away a little wistfully. "You knew him so well in his younger days. I—I just wonder whether by some means I might have been able to save our home, which is now broken!"

I shook my head doubtfully, but no words came.

"You know Jerry read his Bible through thirteen times," she added thoughtfully. "I tried so hard, but I guess I failed utterly."

"I wouldn't say that. You have your daughter with you, and that is impor-

## The Artist

by CORAMAE THOMAS

In burning sunset I have dipped my brush  
and painted swiftly till the light was gone.  
I rose in darkness then to catch the blush  
upon that mountaintop at early dawn.  
The purple of those hills eluded me.  
There is a shading there upon that bluff  
I could not reproduce. The surf that breaks  
upon those rocks had just enough  
deep movement underneath to quite escape  
my brush. And see, the roll of that wave's foam  
swells like a thing alive. It has a soul  
I could not capture here and carry home.  
But He whose masterpiece from stars was hung  
spread out His hands and spoke and it was done.

explained further, "You know we could retire well at any time if we should need to. Perhaps I hurt his pride." Here she fought the tears again.

"Let's keep praying about it, shall we?" I suggested in parting. She shook my hand, and as she passed out the door I saw her dabbing at her eyes.

Finally Jerry left the college town to resume operations on the prairies, adding new investments to his previous holdings. He didn't ask his wife to join him, and he soon urged that they separate.

Later I was visiting a church in a city where Eleanor happened to be residing. She was humble and prayerful.

tant. Christ Himself warned His followers that His Word would bring a sword, causing division in families and between loved ones. You can't blame yourself after all you've done." I extended my hand, and she smiled her appreciation as she turned to leave.

As I watched her retreating figure, her shoulders appeared a little straighter and her head was held slightly higher. Then I thought of Jerry, and of all the rest of us who are trying to save souls for the kingdom, and the words of Paul came to mind: "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."



Two

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► Twelve thousand people drift in and out of St. Peter's in Rome on a usual day, and 20,000 may come for the weekly papal audience.

National Geographic Society

► It has been estimated that in 1900 less than 10 per cent of physicians were medical school graduates, and only about 20 per cent had ever attended lectures in medical schools. Most American physicians of the nineteenth century were trained by the apprenticeship system.

Parke-Davis

► Only two years after its reactivation the University of Salzburg in Austria has 1,000 students registered in its colleges of theology, law, and philosophy. The university, which was one of the most influential in the German-speaking area during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, had been closed since 1810.

AIS

► Though California is only the third State in area, in terms of people it is the biggest, with 19,040,000 population. Two thirds of all Californians make their home in what is regarded as southern California. Traditional separation between northern and southern California has long been the Tehachapi Mountains some 60 miles north of the Los Angeles area.

National Geographic Society

► Using two powerful 250-watt transmitters, the Voice of South Africa broadcast service began in the spring of this year. Programs have been sent out to other African countries in French, Portuguese, Afrikaans, English, and Zulu. Every evening a 55-minute program is planned for Britain and Europe in English. With the addition of further transmitters, broadcasting time will be extended to include programs for Canada and the United States, and eventually the territories covered will include Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.

ISSA

► Insects are common delicacies in many countries. Grasshoppers are the all-time favorite insect delicacy, either raw, toasted, fried, boiled, curried, or powdered and baked into cakes. In South America bags of toasted leaf-cutting ants are sold like popcorn in movie theaters. Green weaver ants are mashed in water and sold as a drink in some countries, and in others they are mixed with curry and served as a condiment. Termites and caterpillars are popular in Africa, and silkworm pupae are a favorite snack in Japan and China. In Mexico the larva of a butterfly which bores into century plants is a delicacy.

UCAL

► Probably the first test track designed specifically to test and evaluate production vehicles was built by a Detroit auto maker in 1915. A half-mile planked track circled a steel-fabricated "hill" more than 40 feet high, which cars had to climb prior to leaving the factory. Cars were also required to plow through a sand pit and travel around the track at all speeds before being approved for shipment. Before the track was built, newly assembled vehicles were tested on nearby city streets.

Automotive Information

► Unlike juvenile delinquency in some other nations, this social problem has not reached disturbing portions in Spain. Charges against minors amounted to 12,693 during the year throughout the national area. Of these offenders, only 4,096 were placed in custody, the remainder being given some form of re-education, without being deprived of their liberty. Theft is the commonest offense. Juvenile criminal violence is practically unknown.

IDES

► Equipped with an apparatus called "moon blink," a United States network of volunteer observers is scanning the lunar surface. The device consists of rotating color disks that appear to blink whenever red spots appear on the moon. Some astronomers believe the spots are gas escaping from the moon's interior. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is interested in lunar gas as a possible source of power for moon bases.

National Geographic Society

► At a cost of \$400 million, the railroad between Liverpool, Manchester, and London has just been modernized and electrified. Trains running at up to 100 miles per hour now cover the distance between these cities in a little over two hours and a half. The line is claimed to be the busiest main line of its length in the world.

BBC



## Radarscope

► Published in 1663 in the now-extinct Algonquin language, the Eliot Indian Bible was the first Bible printed in this country and the first in the world used for missionary purposes.

ABS

► Norway had 1,108,900 wage earners at the end of March, 7,300 more than a year ago. Registered unemployment totaled 1.6 per cent of all wage earners and 1.2 per cent of the total labor force.

NIS

► The small British bird most appropriately called the swift is almost constantly on the wing, searching for its insect food. It has been estimated that in this pursuit it may cover as much as a thousand miles a day.

EAW

► Built almost 100 years ago by a locksmith in Wiechs, near Feilanbach, Bavaria, where it can still be seen, a huge clock has 14 faces. The faces not only show what time it is in various cities of the world, but also tick off the days, the months, the seasons, and the years. Fifty animated figures portray the ages of man, the signs of the zodiac, and Christ with the twelve apostles.

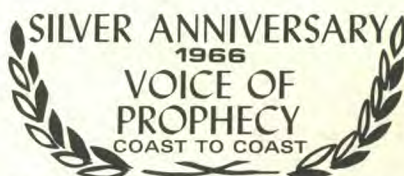
GIC

► Farmers are growing a new hybrid corn only five or six feet high, about half as tall as standard varieties. The short, sturdy stalk lends itself to mechanical picking. Some plants grow half a dozen or more ears per stalk, in contrast to the plump single ear of most hybrids. The small ears look somewhat stunted, but together they produce more kernels than one handsome ear.

National Geographic Society

► America's wildest and most inaccessible national park was created in September, 1964. Canyonlands in Utah has almost no roads, no resorts, only two primitive campsites, and two of America's swiftest and most scenic rivers, the Green and the Colorado. Although the Park Service has a patrol boat on the rivers during the summer, boaters are still not encouraged to tackle them alone. The best way to see the canyons is to join the annual cruise sponsored by the towns of Green River and Moab. Last year some 600 boats took the three-day trip.

Ford Times



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Voice of Prophecy Topics for September

September 4	The Dispensation of the Holy Spirit
September 11	The Gifts of the Spirit
September 18	Bible Study on the Holy Spirit, No. 1
September 25	Bible Study on the Holy Spirit, No. 2



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