

THE Welcome Visitor

"Surely I Come Quickly. Even So, Come, Lord Jesus."

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THE OHIO CONFERENCE.

REPORT OF STATE MEETING.

Held at Toledo, May 1-10.

OUR recent State meeting at Toledo was one of the best we ever attended. The purpose of the meeting met with the hearty approval of all the conference laborers. The manner also in which the meetings were conducted not only made them interesting, but helpful and beneficial to all who were in attendance.

Every department of conference work was thrown open for examination and study. Those present who are engaged in the various departments, organized themselves into committees to study methods and plans for more aggressive work. Thus the different branches of the message received their full share of attention first by those most interested.

Another committee was appointed, composed of the heads of the various departments, whose duty it was to receive all recommendations from the departmental committees and critically study and modify, if necessary, so that no branch of the work should be encouraged in methods which would be detrimental to other lines, and that no branch should be neglected in efforts to advance others. The aim in this was to unify both the work and workers. Recommendations passing this committee were afterwards brought before the whole body of workers for a full and free discussion.

It was clearly seen by all that but little room is left for controversy when the leaders of the different departments are united and working in harmony.

But best of all, from first to last, we all felt that the special presence and blessing of God was with us. The last Sabbath of the meeting will be remembered. The afternoon service lasted four hours, but no one thought it too long or had a desire to leave. The Spirit of God rested upon the congregation in a remarkable way. Many came forward for prayer, some for the first time, while others whose feet had slipped, renewed their covenant with God, and started anew for the kingdom.

We confidently believe that the State meeting marks the beginning of better days for the Ohio Conference.

H. H. BURKHOLDER.

THE CAMP-MEETING.

Attendance of Church Members.

It is important that the members of our churches should attend our camp-meetings. The enemies of truth are many; and because our numbers are few, we should present as strong a front as possible. Individually you need the benefits of the meeting, and God calls upon you to number one in the ranks of truth.

Some will say, "It is expensive to travel, and it would be better to save the money, and give it for the advancement of the work where it is so much needed." Do not reason in this way; God calls upon you to take your place among the rank and file of his people. Strengthen the meeting all you possibly can by being present with your families. Put forth extra exertion to attend the gathering of God's people.

Brethren and sisters, it would be far better for you to let your business suffer than to neglect the opportunity of hearing the message God has for you. Make no excuse that will keep you from gaining every spiritual advantage possible. You need every ray of light. You need to become qualified to give a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. You cannot afford to lose one such privilege.

Anciently the Lord instructed his people to assemble three times a year for his worship. To these holy convocations the children of Israel came, bringing to the house of God their tithes, their sin offerings, and their offerings of gratitude. They met to recount God's mercies, to make known his wonderful works, and to offer praise and thanksgiving to his name. And they were to unite in sacrificial service which pointed to Christ as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Thus they were to be preserved from the corrupting power of worldliness and idolatry. Faith and love and gratitude were to be kept alive in their hearts, and through their

association together in this sacred service, they were to be bound closer to God and to one another.

In the days of Christ these feasts were attended by vast multitudes of people from all lands; and had they been kept as God intended, in the spirit of true worship, the light of truth might through them have been given to all the nations of the world.

With those who lived at a distance from the tabernacle, more than a month of every year must have been occupied in attendance upon these holy convocations. The Lord saw that these gatherings were necessary for the spiritual life of his people. They needed to turn away from their worldly care, to commune with God, and to contemplate unseen realities.

If the children of Israel needed the benefit of these holy convocations in their time, how much more do we need them in these last days of peril and conflict! And if the people of the world then needed the light which God committed to his church, how much more do they need it now!

This is the time for every one to come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty. The forces of the enemy are strengthening, and as a people we are misrepresented. We desire the people to become acquainted with our doctrines and work. We want them to know what we are, and what we believe. We must find our way to their hearts. Let the army of the Lord be on the ground to represent the work and cause of God. Do not plead an excuse. The Lord has need of you. He does not do his work without the co-operation of the human agent. Go to the camp-meeting, even though you have to make a sacrifice to do so. Go with a will to work. And make every effort to induce your friends to go, not in your place, but to go with you, to stand on the Lord's side, and obey his commandments. Help those who are interested to attend, if necessary providing them with food and lodging. Angels who are commissioned to minister to those who are heirs of salvation will accompany you; God will do great things for his people. He will bless every effort to honor his cause and advance his work.

MRS. E. G. WHITE.

THE SABBATH-SCHOOL.

CINCINNATI SABBATH-SCHOOL.

ON Sabbath, April 11, our Sabbath-school held a convention under the superintendency of brother F. H. Henderson.

After the usual exercises for the day were over, and a few minutes intermission, a carefully prepared program was carried out with success.

The children's part came first, in charge of sister Nettie Cutter, who has been teaching them for some time. Every part was well rendered, showing a careful training, and an interest had been taken in their preparation.

One little girl, four years old, stood on the rostrum, and while her mama accompanied on the organ, sang, "Tis love that makes us happy." As we observed the distinctness of her pronunciation, and the naturalness with which it was sung, all must have been impressed with the application of Jesus' saying, "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise." At the close, the children were given opportunity to speak of their appreciation of the occasion, and several hearts responded.

After the children's exercises were concluded, the older ones presented their part. While topics had been assigned to several, none were excluded from participating. Ten minutes were allotted to the person leading out on a subject, followed by voluntary discussions, two minutes being allowed each speaker. The subjects were all practical, and those in which all were interested.

When this part of the program was ended, ten minutes were spent in expressing individual benefits received, and from the testimonies which followed, all were pleased with the convention, and felt they had a greater interest in Sabbath-school work than ever before.

May the Lord impress more schools with the importance of properly conducted conventions, that the church may see what is being done, and what should be done in the Sabbath-school, especially for the children.

M. HORTENSE HOWELL.

THE SABBATH-SCHOOL SECRETARY.

"It is the Lord's design that the Sabbath-school should be one of the most effectual instrumentalities in bringing souls to Christ." This can be accomplished only when those in charge of the school are consecrated to God. Nothing short of entire con-

secration and dependence upon Christ will make any soul-saving work a success.

One of the most important offices of the Sabbath-school is that of the secretary. "The secretary should keep a record of all such items as will be valuable for future reference, as well as interesting for present reading."

Those of us who have had the privilege of attending a Sabbath-school where there was a good secretary, know what an inspiration it is to listen to the full, live reports, clothed in modest yet tasty dress, and entirely innocent of that dread robe—formality.

Formal Reports.

The majority of us have heard minutes read Sabbath after Sabbath, which regularly began like this:—"Minutes of Sabbath-school held April 4, 1903.

"School was opened by singing. Prayer was offered by brother A. The minutes were read and approved.

"The general review was conducted by brother B.

"Another song was sung to change the order of the school. Teachers took charge of their classes, and lessons were recited in good order. School closed by singing."

In this manner the minutes for a whole quarter could be prepared by leaving a few blanks for the date and the names of the individuals who offered prayer and conducted the review.

When it is announced that the minutes will be read, the school settles down to listen to the tiresome story that is heard every Sabbath. But the minutes have a wider and greater work to do than to tell the membership of the school, how many attended, and the amount of donations given. "Nothing can be done without order and regulation, but these should not be arranged so as to shut out greater and more important duties."

Opportunities for Information.

The secretary should study how to make the minutes interesting and profitable, and yet contain all facts that should be given. Careful note should be taken of the most impressive and important lessons emphasized in the reviews of the different divisions, so that they may be given in the minutes. Those in one department are glad to get some of the lessons brought out in the others, and have refreshed in their minds the thoughts obtained in the review of their own division.

The secretary could also add greatly to the interest in the lesson by giving, at different times, the principal thoughts presented by each class. A law of memory is that a new lesson is more

deeply impressed by associating it with one already learned. Thoughts are often made plainer and more impressive by expressing them in different words than those used in the lesson.

"But," says one, "how is the secretary to obtain his information?"

He should visit the divisions during the review, and also the classes while the lesson is being recited. Good judgment must be exercised in doing this. Carefully avoid attracting the attention of the students from their teachers, and causing them to lose something that they should have obtained. It would be well for those who arrange the seats to remember the secretary, and prepare one for him to use during his visits.

Important Qualifications.

Because of the duties which devolve upon the secretary, he necessarily attracts some attention. He should dress with simplicity, and carefully guard his deportment, and the unassuming influence which surrounds him will be instrumental in elevating the minds of the school and drawing souls nearer to Christ.

In selecting the secretary, it is not advisable to choose the ones who are the best writers; or who have the best command of language, because they possess these qualities: they must have a love for the work and be willing, with the help of Christ, to do the best they can wherever duty calls them.

Many do not realize the importance of the secretary's work, and very often those who are chosen to fill this office are not instructed in regard to what is required of them. Many would have accomplished much more if they had fully understood their duty.

Another important duty of the secretary is the quarterly report to the State secretary. This should not be neglected: because it is not only a pleasure to the State secretary to receive a full report from every Sabbath-school, but it is an encouragement to other schools. And then it is more pleasing to God to have his work done in an orderly, systematic manner. To secure this, there must be perfect harmony and the most hearty co-operation of all connected with the work.

Reward for Faithfulness.

"No one can labor in the Sabbath-school work without reaping a bountiful harvest, not only in the end of the world, but in the present life." When we have the promise of such a rich reward, does it not inspire in our hearts a willingness to become active and intelligent Sabbath-school workers?—*Beulah M. Callicott, in Southern Watchman.*

SPECIAL.

AN INTERESTING SERIES OF MEETINGS.

THE Ohio State meeting convened May 1, in Toledo, Ohio, continuing until May 11, in the beautiful hall occupied by the Toledo church. There was a large attendance of the Ohio workers, all departments being represented. From the beginning it was the most happy and free meeting of the workers, with the freest interchange of thought on all questions brought before them, ever held in Ohio. By request, the president, Elder H. H. Burkholder, appointed committees to prepare and bring in recommendations concerning the needs of the several branches of the work. Toward the close of the meeting we were gladdened by the appearance of our Union Conference canvassing agent, brother Blosser. His presence and counsel added much to the interest of the meeting. The several committees brought in the following recommendations, which were fully considered, and by resolution referred to the Conference Committee for further consideration preparatory to our next annual meeting and conference.

Ministerial Work.

Whereas, There are a number of young men and women in the Ohio Conference and Mount Vernon Academy who are desirous of entering the conference work; and,—

Whereas, They have expressed themselves as willing to work in any line suggested by the Conference Committee, therefore,—

We recommend, (a) That as far as expedient, they be assigned to the various tent companies to devote their time to the canvassing work, with the understanding that, whenever it is consistent and advisable, those in charge of the company may ask them to assist in the work of the meeting; and that the Conference Committee, determine who shall go, and whether or no they shall receive conference remuneration, and the location of these workers shall be determined by the Conference Committee in consultation with the leaders of the respective companies.

(b) That in view of the urgency, and the aggressive nature of our work, that it is to go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people during this generation; and in view of the importance of the work in the cities,—

We recommend, (a) That the ministers in charge of the city work give especial attention to the training of all the available helpers in our churches along all lines that the message may reach the people in their locality, and that

men who are specially adapted for this work be chosen for city charges.

(b) That we are in harmony with the action of the General Conference looking to provision for workers, who, through sickness or age have become incapacitated for active labor.

(c) That the Conference business should be conducted on a cash basis and within the financial resources of the same.

Canvassing Work.

Believing the instruction in the "Spirit of Prophecy," that as much care should be exercised in the selection of canvassers as for the ministry,

We recommend, (a) That each district director and city pastor shall take the responsibility of recommending suitable persons for the canvassing work, that the State agent after investigating their cases, place the matter before the executive committee, and that their call to the work come from the president of the Conference.

(b) That in our judgment there should be held one or more canvassers' institutes of not less than ten days duration, the time and place to be determined by the State agent and the Conference Committee, and the expenses of canvassers attending the institute be allowed by the Tract Society, after they shall have sold a fixed amount of books, and that their traveling expenses to the field of labor be paid by the Conference.

In order that no worthy person may be debarred from entering the canvassing work,—

We recommend, That a reasonable amount of books be furnished the canvassers by the Ohio Tract Society department, the commission only to be used, and remittance in full for all books delivered be made at least once in thirty days.

Bible Work.

In consideration of the great work before us, and the shortness of the time in which to accomplish it, and since it will take the united effort of all our people to do this work, therefore,—

We recommend, That attention be given to a plan already formulated for the free distribution of printed Bible readings; and that the Ohio Conference Committee be requested to appoint at their discretion a committee to whom shall be submitted the readings already printed, and the manuscript for others that may be prepared, for their examination and approval.

Sabbath-school Work.

In consideration of the fact that there are a large number of our people who cannot be regular members of our Sabbath-schools,—

We recommend, That every Sabbath-school secretary in the State look out for such members, and assist in establishing the Home Department Sabbath-school with the same; that a superintendent of this department be elected as a regular officer of the Sabbath-school, where it is deemed advisable.

Medical Missionary Work.

Whereas, The Lord has spoken in no uncertain terms in regard to the medical missionary work; saying that it should be carried on hand in hand with the evangelical work, therefore,—

We recommend, That it be made a department of the Conference, to receive the sympathy and support of the same; that a medical missionary secretary be appointed under Conference direction, whose work it shall be to unify the medical work already being carried on in the State, and to assist and encourage the establishment of bath- and treatment-rooms in the various cities throughout the State; and that steps be taken as rapidly as the providence of God may indicate, for the establishment of a small sanitarium in connection with the Mount Vernon Academy, where not only efficient medical work can be conducted, but where the students can receive thorough training in the structure and care of their bodies.

Church-school Work.

We recommend, That the urgent need of our church-schools be duly considered, and that all Conference laborers do all in their power to keep the importance of this work continually before the churches. And,—

Whereas, An institute is soon to be called, composed of the leading educators of the denomination, to lay plans for a more uniform system for our church-schools, and to consider the subject of text books, therefore,—

We recommend, (a) That the Ohio Conference send one or more delegates to the institute, and that no definite plans be laid by the educational department of this Conference until after the return of these delegates from said institute; also that a local institute be held for the benefit of the Ohio teachers, and that our work be organized in harmony with the plans of the General Conference, and that all who are planning to enter the church-school work be invited to attend the local institute.

(b) And further, we recommend the circulation of the *Christian Advocate* among our people.

Young People's Work.

Considering the urgent need of work for the salvation of our young people

throughout the State, and as a large number of them meet at our annual camp-meeting, therefore,—

We recommend, (a) That special attention be given to them at the camp-meeting by the young workers in the Conference, that at least two meetings a day be held especially for their benefit, and that from time to time experienced persons be invited to give practical talks, and that as far as possible, when important matters in which the young people are interested are to be presented before the Conference, the same be presented at other hours than those of the regular time of meeting for the young people.

(b) That all our Conference laborers put forth earnest effort to encourage and help the young people of the State wherever they come in contact with them; that all our young people in Ohio be advised to organize, wherever they can, young people's meetings under the supervision of the pastor or elder, for the spiritual benefit of all, and to take up a systematic study of the message.

The evening services were occupied by the different elders, who each in turn brought from the word of God appropriate instruction, which was received with many hearty "Amens," and the presence of the Holy Spirit was witnessed to by falling tears from many eyes, and renewals of covenants with God and one another. The meeting held on Sabbath afternoon was especially marked by a Pentecostal outpouring of the Spirit of God, resulting in a large number going forward to seek the Lord, many of them for the first time. Many visitors from outside churches, and from the city were in attendance. Truly it was good to be there, and the workers departed to their several fields of labor full of courage and hope. Our beloved brother, Kenneth R. Haughey, was so far recovered from his injury as to be able to be with us again, for which we praise the Lord. It was remarked by an old pioneer in the work, that it seemed like old times to see this spirit of love and unity.

D. E. LINDSEY, *Sec.*

LOOK HERE!

BETWEEN now and the next annual camp-meeting, the WELCOME VISITOR will contain matter worth many times the cost of the paper to every Seventh-day Adventist in the State. No one can afford to be without it. Reader, will you help us place the VISITOR in the homes of our brethren where it is not now taken? Make inquiry of every family, and take their subscriptions when they so desire. Do it now.

H. H. B.

The Welcome Visitor

ISSUED BI-WEEKLY BY THE

Ohio Conference of Seventh-day
Adventists

Price, 25 Cents a Year in Advance.

N. W. LAWRENCE - Editor.

SUNSET CALENDAR.

(Local Time.)

Sabbath begins May 29 at 7:22 P. M.
Sabbath begins June 5 at 7:27 P. M.

DON'T fail to read all about the State meeting, and to study the resolutions.

OUR Sabbath-school workers will be glad to know that Miss Bessie Russell is again at her desk in the office.

WE are glad to announce that the VISITOR is to become a weekly paper again. Are all your brethren subscribers?

THE tents for the summer's campaign in the field are now being shipped to different parts of the State. Don't forget to pray for the success of the truth that is to be presented in them.

THE Friday evening students' prayer meeting was turned into a thanksgiving service, in which each testified to the special blessings he had experienced during the year. Truly, God is good, and his watchcare is over all.

ON account of the importance of the State meeting reports, space has been given them, and consequently other matter has been held over till the next issue. An excellent report of the Marion young people's work, and the usual articles for the health department are in hand.

THE Mount Vernon church was favored the two Sabbaths just past with the presence of Elder George A. Irwin, which was highly appreciated by both old friends and new. The first Sabbath, he gave a missionary talk on Australia, illustrating his remarks by the use of a large map of Australasia. While the work there has progressed well under the circumstances, there is great need of both laborers and means to do what seems necessary to have done. Quite a number of workers have been selected by the General Conference Committee, and a day has been set apart for a general collection throughout the United States for the work in Australia. Ohio will certainly be foremost in doing her part on that day. The surety and reality of the promised inheritance was presented last Sabbath to a large

and attentive congregation. Hearts were made glad as the evidences of the real possession of the real inheritance were faithfully recounted. The Lord blessed the word spoken, and all joined in glad praise at the conclusion of the service.

THE last session of the students' Sabbath-school was held in the grove at the rear of the Academy. The class work was carried on while sitting in groups upon the ground. The concluding exercises consisted of appropriate hymns, reading of the final report, and the reciting of memory verses of scripture, which had been specially helpful. The outdoor service was a pleasant variation, and the memory verses proved a fitting conclusion to the year's work.

THE past week at the Academy has been one round of "last" things. There were the last lessons, the last examinations, the last Friday evening prayer meeting, the last session of the students' Sabbath-school, the last Sabbath service together, the last students' union meeting, the last students' missionary meeting, the last wash day, the last chapel service, the last dinner together, the last rehearsals, the last public gathering—Commencement, the last night, the last prayers, the last breakfast, the last farewell, the last lingering look, and — the school year is forever gone, the record is made, the die is set, eternity alone can measure the results.

WE have space for but a brief notice of the Commencement, but will give full report in our next. A fine evening, beautiful decorations, an excellent program, and an appreciative audience did much to make the occasion a success in every way, and long to be remembered. The nine graduates are, Miss Helen Boggs, Miss Ruth Bramhall, Mr. Harold Cobban, Mr. Floyd Gibson, Miss Laura Hutchinson, Mr. Clarence Redfield, Mr. Carl Shepherd, Miss Grace Thornton, Mr. H. H. Votaw. The address on "Divinity of Labor" was given by Prof. W. T. Bland, who, many of our readers will remember, directed the work of the Academy during its first three years. It was an occasion much appreciated by both congregation and speaker. You will have opportunity to read the address in next issue of the VISITOR.

A CARD OF THANKS.

MRS. M. L. MAXSON wishes to express her great appreciation of the beautiful and useful gift from the faculty and students of the Academy at the close of her six years' connection with the school.