

THE Welcome Visitor

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

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THE OHIO CONFERENCE.

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them is great reward."

(A FEAST OR A FAST. Which Shall It Be?

We are again nearing the season when the world around us will give heed to the demands of custom and indulge in the habit of excessive eating and drinking. This very thing is a subject of prophecy and constitutes one of the signs of our times.

The blessed Master, casting his eyes down the ages, saw just prior to his second coming a condition similar to the time of the flood. His words are: "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

What prevented the people from knowing that the flood was coming on the earth in the days of Noah?

It is written, "They were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came and took them all away." Matt. 24: 37-39. It was eating, drinking and marrying—and all this too in excess, as is indicated by his warning to his own followers who are living in the last days: "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be over-charged with surfeiting

(over eating), and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Luke 21: 34.

It is not wrong to eat, nor to drink, nor to marry when done in harmony with God's revealed will. For it is written, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 2 Cor. 10: 31. But what Satan did once, we are told he will do again. In the days of Noah he so led the people to indulge appetite and passion that God's warning message had no effect on the hearts of the people. So it will be again in the last days just before Christ comes the second time to reward his obedient children.

We are now living in the last days with the last of the signs before the eyes of all the people, and the next event will be the glorious appearing of Christ our Saviour. And what will again prevent the people from believing that he will come in this generation? I answer, the same unsanctified course that was followed by the faithless in the days of Noah.

While many will give themselves over to feasting, and pleasure seeking, forgetting God and rejecting his warning Message, what should be the attitude of God's true people at this time, in these days of peril and teeming wickedness? The answer from the Lord is this: "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand. . . . Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet." Joel 2: 1, 15, 16.

These words clearly indicate that the people who are looking for the end will pursue a course of conduct entirely opposite that of the unbelieving. And now, brethren and sisters, let us not forget our mission, our responsibility in whatever way we may find pleasure during the remaining days of 1903. May we all find a greater degree of pleasure in obeying the Lord and in walking in his ways.

H. H. BURKHOLDER.

CO-OPERATION WITH GOD.

What Delays the Lord's Coming?

THE upbuilding of the kingdom of God is retarded or urged forward, according to the unfaithfulness or fidelity of human agencies. Unfaithfulness to the cause of Christ makes manifest that love is lacking in the human agent. It was the love of Christ that constrained him to come and seek and save that which was lost; but the love of Christ does not seem to constrain those who profess his name; for a death-like slumber is upon the human agents, and the work is hindered by failure of the human to co-operate with the divine. Men may pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven," but they fail in acting upon this prayer in their lives. The living Christian is one who has not left his first love, and his candlestick is not removed out of its place. But those who do not maintain their consecration to God are blind, and cannot see afar off, and have forgotten that they were purged from their own sins. But though you may be weak, erring, frail, sinful, and imperfect, the Lord holds out to you the offer of partnership with himself, inviting you to come under divine instruction. Uniting with Christ, you may work the works of God. "Without me," said Christ, "ye can do nothing."

Isaiah says, "Thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward." This is the righteousness of Christ which goes before us, and the glory of the Lord is to be our rereward. Ye churches of the living God, study this promise and consider how your lack of faith, of spirituality, of divine power, is hindering the coming of the kingdom of God. Were every one of you living missionaries, the gospel would be speedily proclaimed in all countries, to all peoples, nations, and tongues. This is the work that must be done before Christ shall come in power and great glory. I call upon the church to pray earnestly that you may understand your responsibilities. Are you individually laborers together with God? If not, why not? When do you mean to do your God-appointed work?

Waiting, Watching, Working.

"Awake! thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." This is a time when every member of the church should be waiting, and watching, and working. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we should be alive unto God; and every man, woman and child who has a knowledge of the truth, should be able to discern the signs of the times. The weakness and inefficiency of the church must pass away. Creative power from above must impart life to the human agents whom God would use, that they may be able to co-operate with divine intelligences. The church to whom God has imparted his endowment of heavenly truth must not remain dead in trespasses and sins.

As Christ's witnesses, our commission is clear, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." We are to be waiting, watching, working; it is most inconsistent for the church to whom has been opened the treasures of truth, to be dull, worldly, and indifferent. Casting away all unbelief, we should by faith put every capability and every power into exercise.

There is a great work to do, and the Spirit of the living God must enter into the living messenger, that the truth may go with power. The people of God must be aroused from their moral deadness; they must be quickened with power from above. The Lord has promised: "I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications; and they shall look upon him whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him as one mourneth for his only son."

The Lord God of heaven would have the entire church devising ways and means whereby high and low, rich and poor, may hear the message of truth. The Lord Jesus, the mighty Saviour, has died for these souls. He can arouse them from their indifference, he can awaken their sympathies, he can soften their hearts, he can reveal to their souls the beauty and power of the truth. The master worker is God, and not finite man; and yet he calls upon men to be the agents through whom he can impart light to those in darkness. God has jewels in all the churches, and it is not for us to make sweeping denunciation of the professed religious world, but in humility and love to present to all the truth as it is in Jesus. Let men see piety and devotion, let them behold Christlikeness of character, and they will be drawn to the truth. He who loves God supremely, and his neigh-

bor as himself, will be a light in the world. Those who have a knowledge of the truth, are to communicate the same. They are to lift up Jesus, the world's Redeemer; they are to hold forth the word of life.

We are in nowise to be deterred from fulfilling our commission by the listlessness, the dullness, the lack of spiritual perception in those upon whom the word of God is brought to bear. We are to preach the word of light to those whom we may judge to be hopeless subjects as though they were in their graves. Though they may seem to be unwilling to hear or receive the light of truth, without questioning or wavering we are to do our part.

MRS. E. G. WHITE.

\$50,000 for Missions.

WITH THE WORKERS.

Akron.

WELCOME VISITOR: After being detained at home for some weeks on account of the illness of my mother, I returned to this city October 29. I found the church prospering, being of good courage and doing some aggressive work. More than fifty copies of the *Family Bible Teacher* are taken; and those who have done systematic work with them, are having good experiences.

The Missionary Convention of November 21 and 22 was enjoyed by all and many have taken fresh courage and are going out with the special *Signs*, tracts, and "Object Lessons." We have a supply of the latter on our shelves.

We have organized a Young People's Society with a membership of sixteen, which meets every Sabbath afternoon. We also hold Sunday evening meetings and hope by this means to reach many interested ones.

The Sabbath-school work is prospering: our Home Department now has a membership of about twenty. One branch school which we found languishing has been revived, and we trust one will soon be organized at Medina, where some of our members reside. The scattered condition of our church gives opportunity to reach many with this Message, if all have a mind to work.

Our church school is prospering.

We are anticipating precious meetings during the coming week of prayer. Personally I am of good courage in the Lord and praise him for all his blessings. My address is 799 Yale St., Akron, O. ELLA M. TALMAGE.

Wilmington.

THE "glory of God" is rising upon his remnant people at this place. His presence has been manifested in all our meetings. A degree of interest has been manifested by nearly all in "Christ's Object Lessons" work, also in the special number of the *Signs*. Yet I am fully convinced that the set time has come when the glory (character) of God shall be seen in those who give up all, and are willing to let God have his way in their lives. Then shall we truly become a missionary people, God's helping hand, to dispense blessings to a world sitting in midnight darkness.

I have had some grand experiences with the people in their homes while selling that precious book, "Christ's Object Lessons"; also in holding Bible studies at night at Brother Burt Bloom's home, and with the neighbors. Two so far have declared that as for them, they expect to keep God's commandments and obey the truth from this time forward. We have hopes also of others.

May the Lord stir us up to work while the day lasts: for very soon the night will come when no man can work. We expect to close the "Christ's Object Lessons" campaign in triumph at the Christmas delivery. Yours in the work. FRED M. FAIRCHILD. *

GOOD NEWS.

SABBATH-SCHOOL workers everywhere will be glad to know that, in harmony with the recommendation passed at the last General Conference, the publication of the *Sabbath-School Worker* will be resumed, beginning with January, 1904. This first number will be of real value to all Sabbath-school teachers and officers, and to parents who hold family schools. Besides notes on the lessons, there will be, beginning in this number, a series of illustrated articles on Blackboard Drawing for the Sabbath-school, written by a practical artist; an excellent letter from a sister who has been conducting a family Sabbath-school with her children during the last year, describing the way the lesson is studied, the enthusiasm manifested, and the influence the school is having in the family; and other features of special interest.

The *Worker* is published by the Review & Herald Publishing Association, at the extremely low price of twenty-five cents a year, in clubs of two or more. Single subscriptions, thirty-five cents. Orders may be sent through State Tract Societies, or directly to the office of publication, 222 North Capitol St., Washington, D. C.

MRS. L. FLORA PLUMMER.

EDUCATIONAL.

CHILDREN'S MORNING PRAYER.

WE now bow our heads,
Dear Father in heaven,
And thank thee again
For the past blessings given.
Grant grace for each trial
And struggle to-day,
May thy good angel's guard us
While at work, or at play.
To our friends keep us true,
To our enemies kind,
And in all that we do,
May we have the Lord's mind.
Do hasten the time,
When our Saviour shall come,
And with him we shall enter
Our glorious home,
Be thou ever near us.
We pray once again,
And thine be the glory
Forever. Amen.

MRS. MYRTA BALLENGER.

CHURCH AND SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

DEAR WELCOME VISITOR: It has been sometime since you have received a report from the Church and Sabbath-school work; but the work has been going steadily on, and we believe that some good is being done. A few weeks ago I visited the little company at Excello, where Brother James Smith and Brother Redfield held tent meetings last summer, and I found an earnest little company there, and each individual seemed to be enjoying the truth that God had so recently sent to them. A Sabbath-school was organized, and each member rejoiced that they had the privilege of being co-workers with God. There seems to be a real interest in that part of the State, and Brother and Sister Redfield are laboring faithfully to bear aloft the beacon light of the gospel, and we believe that God will bless their efforts with more fruit.

We are glad also to report that the young people at Akron have banded themselves together to be workers for the Master. When we look at the work that other young people's societies have done, and then see these young souls filled with the same desire to assist in the last closing work of this generation, it fills our hearts with rejoicing; and we know that if they keep their lives on the altar, consecrated to the Saviour, seeking constantly to improve their opportunities, they will find a constantly widening field opening up before them, and who knows the good they may do. God tells us that the burden of this work is going to be laid upon the young men and women, and that being true, we as young people must gain the ability to carry the burden of it by doing faithfully the little duties that come to us day by day. The larger privileges will come in their own due

time and will come to those who have been the most faithful in the little affairs of life.

The church schools are progressing nicely. During the last week the little folks have been searching their brains to bring up what they have learned during the last three months, and when their examination papers come in, we expect to find that progress has been made. Of course the degree of progress made will show how much energy they have put forth; and we are sure that during the next three months they will make greater efforts to qualify themselves to be real, true missionaries for Jesus. May God bless their efforts, and keep them ever in the love of the truth, which is a love to study all the works of God, his Word taking the lead.

Wherever we go we find people seeking to learn more and more of the character of God, and we hope that the week of prayer upon which we are just entering will be a means of strengthening the character of each one of us.

CHAS. E. WELCH, *Ed. Sec.*

PRAYER.

PRAYER, in its most general sense, may be defined to be a petition for a desired object. The one praying must, in a measure, be dependent upon the other, and have wants which, of himself, he is unable to supply. The one to whom prayer is addressed must have the power to supply these wants, otherwise the prayer would be altogether unavailing.

Ability to perform a certain act does not imply a necessity for its performance, the mere fact, then, that man possesses the power to pray does not make prayer a necessity. Within the human soul are wants and desires, for the supply and gratification of which man must, both on account of their magnitude and his own weakness, apply to a being who is infinitely superior to himself.

Such a being is God, and there is none like him, for he has declared, "I, even I am the Lord; and besides me there is no Saviour." Hence we infer that to him only can prayer in its highest sense be addressed. He alone is the source and fountain-head of all good. In him all fullness dwells. We must be willing to acknowledge our indebtedness to him for every good and perfect gift.

Another great advantage flowing to us through the exercise of true spiritual prayer, is the fact that it brings us into the immediate presence of the Most High. It is adapted to all alike; all alike may share in this blessed privilege. More especially is it

adapted to the young, whose pathway is beset with many temptations, it arises as sweet incense to his holy habitation. God has taught us in his Holy Word that "without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

When Jesus left the house of Jairus, where, in answer to prayer, he had brought to life the maiden who was dead, the blind men followed him, praying to have their sight restored. Jesus said to them, "Believe ye that I am able to do this?" They answered, "Yes, Lord." Touching their eyes, he said, "According to your faith be it unto you."

The Bible contains many other instances of a similar character, all illustrating very beautifully the efficiency and power of prayer. Listen to the truth of God as spoken by the world's great Redeemer: "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows." What an evidence of the tenderness of God toward man does this language afford! But what can more fully convince us, not only that the great Jehovah is not unmindful of man, but on the contrary, that he is most intensely interested in his highest welfare, than the precious gift of his beloved Son? "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

MRS. E. B. HAUGHEY.

HOW HE BECAME A PERSONAL WORKER.

JAMES R. SMITH tells an interesting incident of how he became a personal worker in these words:—

"I noticed that Jim Carruthers always talked with some man at the close of the meeting. He would sit down with his Bible, and seem to turn over the pages and put his finger down as though pointing out something special.

"My curiosity was aroused, and one Sunday I got near enough to see. I saw the heading 'Isaiah,' and the finger was at the eighteenth verse of the first chapter. I went away, got a Bible and learned that verse.

"During the week I asked Carruthers, 'What were you doing, Jim?'

"Personal work,' said he.

"I watched again the next Sunday, and finally saw his finger pointing to John 6:37, underlined. I learned this verse.

"The next Sunday after the meeting I saw a man waiting, and I asked him if he was a Christian.

"No," he said.

"I showed him Isa. 1:18. He looked at me rather strangely, and asked:—

"Well, what of that?"

"I did not know what to do, but the thought came.

"Give him your other text."

"I can't explain it, the marvelous power of God's Word! He said:—

"I never saw that in there. Will you pray for me?"

"That was the first soul I was privileged to lead to Christ, ignorant and untrained though I was."—*Ram's Horn*.

WHAT WE BELIEVE AND WHY.

AN active worker among our young people said not long ago, "Our young people do not know what we believe nor why." This referred to the principles of Bible truth which Seventh-day Adventists believe and teach, and was spoken of their children.

If this is true, and it undoubtedly is, then it is high time that some vigorous effort be made to encourage these young people to study these important truths. Most helpful to this end, are the articles by Elder G. B. Thompson now appearing in the *Youth's Instructor*.

The subjects of the Second Coming of Christ, the Millennium, the Home of the Saved, the Kingdom, the Judgment, the Prophecies, the Sabbath, the End of the Wicked—in fact all the distinctive points of Bible truth will be taken up.

Parents who wish their children to grow up in the truth instead of out of it, should see that they are thoroughly instructed in the Bible, and this series, together with many other articles of great interest to the young now being printed in the *Instructor*, will help to solve the question of how the winter evenings can be profitably and pleasantly occupied. These studies, too, may result in establishing your children in the truth.

Seventy-five cents sent now to the *Youth's Instructor*, 222 North Capitol St., Washington, D. C., will secure to new subscribers the paper for 1904, and in addition the publishers will send free the last seven issues of 1903 which contain articles of a series for boys entitled "Around the Work-Table."

THE things of this world are soon to pass away. This is not discerned by those who have not been divinely enlightened, who have not kept pace with the work of God. Consecrated men and women must go forth to sound the warning in the highways and byways.

The Welcome Visitor

ISSUED WEEKLY BY THE

Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Price, 25 Cents a Year in Advance.

N. W. LAWRENCE Editor.

Sabbath begins Dec. 18 at 4:34 P. M.

THE church at Springfield has begun the erection of a house of worship.

THE new book, "Thought," mentioned in the VISITOR of November 25, will not be published till further notice.

IN the mention last week of the wedding at Newark, the addition of one letter to the abbreviation, Mr., made us say "Mrs. Miller's mother from Kansas," when we should have said, Mr. Miller's mother from Kansas. However, both readings are true now, and we stand justified also.

THE week of prayer is now well started, and ere this reaches all our readers will be nearly past. We are glad to report a very earnest spirit with the Mount Vernon church, and marked evidences of God's willingness to visit his people are already seen. The Sabbath preceding the week of prayer proved a blessed day here because of the deep movings of God's Spirit upon the entire congregation. We look for the salvation of our God upon his people.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SINGERS.

I DESIRE to correspond with a good soprano and bass, man and wife preferred, who can give their whole time to aggressive missionary work, trusting the Lord for their support. For further particulars, address Henry De Fluiter, 31 Lockyear St., Cleveland, Ohio.

CANVASSERS' REPORTS.

(For week ending Dec. 4, 1903.)

Alice Edwards, Findlay.—Great Controversy: value of orders, \$21.25; helps, \$10.70; total, \$31.95.

Mrs. E. Y. Smith, Mount Vernon.—Ladies' Guide: value of orders, \$9; helps, \$2.90; total, \$11.90.

Mrs. George W. Spies, Lima.—Coming King: value of orders, \$4; helps, \$5; total, \$9.

F. E. Wagner, Mansfield.—Miscellaneous: deliveries, \$35.75.

NOTICE.

I WOULD like to secure one or more copies of the tract entitled "Canright versus Canright." As this tract is now out of print, anyone reading this who has one of these tracts to spare, will confer a special favor by forwarding the same to the undersigned at once. Yours in the Message,

W. H. GRANGER,

3222 Warsaw Ave.,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

ONE MORE APPEAL.

A SPLENDID work has been done and is being done with the Capital and Labor number of the *Signs of the Times*. The Pacific Press reports that orders for nearly 400,000 copies have already been received (November 30), and that they are still coming in at the rate of about 25,000 per day.

But we now wish to make an appeal in behalf of the regular issues. The *Signs* has been designated as our "Pioneer Missionary Paper," and it is stated that "our papers are doing a greater work than the living preacher can do." This being the case, an earnest effort should be made to secure subscribers for the regular issues. The "follow-up plan" which has been used so successfully in other lines of business, should be adopted in our work. The Capital and Labor number is a splendid "entering wedge." Now this should be followed up by a thorough, systematic canvass for regular subscribers.

We are glad to know that a wave of enthusiasm is sweeping over our people in the matter of circulating our literature. Never before has there been such an awakening. We believe this is due largely to the splendid Missionary Conventions recently held. Now let us keep the ball rolling. Not only should thorough work be done with our periodicals, but our tracts, pamphlets, and trade books, should have due attention. Now, just now, is the time to work. It will soon be too late.

Write at once to the Ohio Tract Society for further information.

OBITUARY.

BURFORD.—Charles Edwin Burford died at Veto, Ohio, Nov. 25, 1903, aged 80 years, 4 months and 11 days. In 1897 he found the truth of the Third Angel's Message while taking treatment at the Battle Creek Sanitarium, and ever since has been a joyful worker in the Master's vineyard. The funeral services were conducted at the Presbyterian church by its pastor, using Psalm 90 as a text—dwelling especially on verses one and two, speaking comfortingly of the unchangeable ways of God. The writer was present and noted the deep grief of the bereaved parents and three sisters, also the respect paid by the many friends.

RACHEL HESS.