

The Missionary Leader

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Home Missions Department

Church Missionary Programme

First Week

Blackboard Motto: "Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?" 1 Chron. 29:5.

OPENING EXERCISES and Reports.

Lesson: The Relation of the Church Members to the Finishing of the Work.

Questions.

Testimony Service.

LEADER'S NOTE.—"The Relation of the Church Members to the Finishing of the Work" should be presented by your most impressive reader. Ask for it an attentive hearing, stating beforehand that certain questions will be asked at the close. Before the testimony service, direct attention to the motto on the blackboard. It is hoped that every one in the meeting will respond. Ask them to make the subject of their testimonies not only consecration, but also the joy they have found in service for our Master.

The Relation of the Church Members to the Finishing of the Work

IT is a good thing to be able to look back on a finished work. Every Sabbath-keeper whose heart flows out to the Lord, longs for the great work to be finished that will complete God's plan for mankind, and yearns for the time of rest and peace and joy that shall then commence, entirely overshadowing the labour, strife, and misery that is now so apparent on every hand. God's plan has ever been to finish the work given His people. The triumphant testimony of Jesus Christ at the close of His life was, "I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do." This same statement we shall be called upon to make at the close of our life's battle.

The work of God to-day, which is to preach "the gospel of the kingdom in all the world for a witness," has been committed to a very small army, but with unity of purpose and full co-operation it shall be accomplished. In "Testimonies for the Church," Vol. VI, page 438, we find these words: "Were every one of you a living missionary, the message for this time would speedily be proclaimed in all countries, to every people and nation and tongue."

For upwards of seventy years the closing message has been delivered, but oh, by so few in comparison with the number of church members whose names appear on our church rolls. The great majority of Christ's professed followers have seemingly forgotten their duty, consequently the Lord's work is yet unfinished and His coming is hindered.



God has given His ministers the message of truth to proclaim. This the churches are to receive, and in every possible way to communicate, catching the first rays of light and diffusing them. Here is our great sin. We are years behind. The ministers have been seeking the hidden treasure, and have been opening up the casket and letting the jewels of truth shine forth; but the members of the church have not done a hundredth part of that which God requires of them.—"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. VI, page 425.

Is it possible that we have forgotten that Christ's commission to preach the gospel was not given to ministers alone, but rather to the whole church? Let us notice a few scriptures and quotations. In Isa. 43:10-12, Isa. 42:6, 7, Isa. 49:8-11, we find clear statements giving our individual responsibility. In the book, "Acts of the Apostles," by Sister White, page 9, we find these words:

The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God's plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvellous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to the principalities and powers in heavenly places, the final and full display of the love of God.

By these words we are forced to

conclude that God desires us as church members—"witnesses for Him," "labourers together with Him"—to avail ourselves of His privileges, to accept our responsibility, and finish the work.

The relationship sustained by church members to this great aim is very close and very real in God's sight. In Vol. IX, page 117, we read, "The work of God on this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church-membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."

Shall we not then consecrate ourselves to Him for service and missionary activity, sealing our consecration by immediately commencing work among our relatives, our friends, and our neighbours? Let us commence without delay, for "the work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity, she will have to do in a terrible crisis, under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld, must be given under the fiercest opposition from enemies of the faith. And at that time the superficial, conservative class, whose influence has steadily retarded the progress of the work, will renounce the faith, and take their stand with its avowed enemies, toward whom their sympathies have long been tending. These apostates will then manifest the most bitter enmity, doing all in their power to oppress and malign their former brethren, and to excite indignation against them. This day is just before us. The members of the church will individually be tested and proved. They will be placed in circumstances where they will be forced to bear witness for the truth. Many will be called to speak before councils and in courts of justice, perhaps separately and alone. The experience which would have helped them in this emergency they have neglected to obtain, and their souls are burdened with remorse for wasted opportunities and neglected privileges."—"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. V, page 463.

Questions

1. For what should every Sabbath-keeper yearn?
2. What statement should we be able to make at the close of our life?
3. If every believer were a missionary, what would be the result?
4. Is the work as far advanced as God intends it should be? ("We are years behind.")
5. Why? ("The lay members have not done a hundredth part of that which God requires of them.")
6. To whom has the great commission been given?
7. Why was the church organized, and what is its mission?
8. Until when will the work of God never be finished?
9. If we fail now, under what trying conditions must the work be completed?
10. Why is it necessary that we gain experience now in bearing witness for the truth?
11. Remembering that the final consummation of the ages is right upon us, how earnestly should we labour and pray? Rom. 12:11, 12.

Church Missionary Programme

Second Week

LEADER'S NOTE.—The record of Paul's life and labours presents a wonderful example and incentive to missionary labour. Ten different characteristics in his work are presented for our consideration in this meeting. As each point is considered it could be placed in condensed form on the board; thus, 1. Personal Worker; 2. Improved every opportunity; etc. Then these could be reviewed at the close. If we have not the success that we should like to see in our missionary work, perhaps it is because we are lacking in some of these essentials to success. Let us each ask ourselves wherein we can profit by this study of Paul's methods.

Missionary Principles of Paul

ON the monument to the first missionary to the Hawaiian Islands is inscribed: "When he came, there were no Christians in these islands; when he went away, there were no heathen." While this could not be said of Paul, we can say of a truth that when Paul began his career, the followers of Christ were only a few thousand, all of whom were of the Jewish race, and nearly all in the little country of Palestine; and when he died, there was scarcely a city in the Roman Empire that did not have a growing church. Of this mighty movement Paul was the great leader. What were his missionary principles?

1. He was an incessant personal worker. Acts 20:20; 28:30, 31.
2. He improved every opportunity to speak for Christ. Acts 26:29; 27:23-25.
3. He was a hard worker. Col. 1:28, 29; Acts 20:31.
4. He was not afraid of a hard situation. Most of his work was done in the great cities, with all their difficulties. Indeed, the gospel got such a hold in the cities that the heathen were called "pagans"—"country people." He made bold to work for those who belonged to the Praetorian Guard (Phil. 1:13) and to Caesar's household (Phil. 4:22).
5. He was tactful, and adapted his teachings to meet various conditions. 1 Cor. 3;

1, 2; 9:19-23; "Acts of the Apostles," pages 271, 272.

6. He held before his converts a standard of living no lower than his own. Whatever their previous condition, they were heirs of the same grace. All were to have the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1-6) and to put away every sin (Eph. 4:25-32). He desired to "present every man perfect in Christ." Col. 1:28.

7. He carried a great burden for his converts, even when far from them. He felt that his own life and success were wrapped up in theirs. Phil. 2:15, 16; 1 Thess. 3:8, 9; "Acts of the Apostles," pages 201, 206, 207.

8. The Lord called him to a world-wide work (Acts 22:21), and he kept in mind this large conception of his mission, ever pushing forward into new fields (2 Cor. 10:16; Rom. 15:20, 21, 28). "Many men lay out gigantic ambitions, and their life story is the sad account of the contraction of their schemes. The work of Paul grew and spread with the years."—"The Man Paul," *Speer*, page 293.

9. Yet he believed in doing thorough work. Rom. 15:19; Acts 20:25-27.

10. He trained other men for the work. Acts 16:1-3; 20:4; Eph. 6:21, 22; Titus 1:5; 2 Tim. 2:2.

"And if he, the greatest man since the Man Christ Jesus, were asked to describe himself, doubtless he would reply simply, 'A man in Christ.' 2 Cor. 12:2."—*Robert E. Speer*.

And may all our members follow the example of this great missionary, and share in the reward mentioned by him just before his death. 2 Tim. 4:7, 8.

M. E. KERN.

Church Missionary Programme

Third Week

OPENING EXERCISES.

Lesson: "God's Plan for Us."

Reports of Work.

Plans for Work.

NOTE.—We are told through the Spirit of Prophecy that just as surely as there is a place prepared for us in heaven, so surely has God a place prepared for us here on earth where we are to work for Him. Encourage each one to earnestly seek God until he learns where his place is, and then let him bend every energy to fill that place to the best of his God-given ability.

God's Plan for Us

1. WHY did Christ call His disciples? John 17:18. To give them a mission.
2. What commandment is given to us who are purchased by Christ? 1 Cor. 6:20.
3. By what do we glorify Him? 1 Tim. 6:18. By our good works.
4. Of what two classes, or kinds, are these good works?
 - a. For the bodies of men. Acts 9:36, 39.
 - b. To feed their souls with the counsel of God. Acts 20:27, 28.
5. What does God expect of every one who hears the message? Rev. 22:17. That they will pass it on to others.
6. What reward will be given to those who enter this service? Col. 3:24.

Church Missionary Programme

Fourth Week

THE programme for this meeting is left to the local officers to prepare.

Missionary Volunteer Department

Missionary Volunteer Programme

First Week

Blackboard Motto: "Love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous." 1 Peter 3:8.

OPENING EXERCISES.

Bible Study: "Christian Courtesy."

Talk: "Our Standard of Conduct as Missionary Volunteers."

Social Meeting: The Value of Courtesy. Church Etiquette.

Some Ways in Which a Boy May Be Courteous.

How a Little Act of Courtesy Helped.

LEADER'S NOTE.—The topic for the week is one whose importance can hardly be overestimated. One vital reason for our existence as a society is to give this truth to others; yet we are told that if those who believe this truth had "purified their minds by obeying it, had they felt the importance of knowledge and refinement of manners in Christ's work, where one soul has been saved there might have been twenty." How important it is that we not only possess for company wear, but keep bright by daily use, the golden keys of politeness which will open the doors to so many hearts! The Bible study may be divided among three young people, who will place the outline on the board as they read the verses. The quotations for the "Social Meeting" should be given out a week beforehand, to be told in the speaker's own words, or memorized. Have one of the boys prepare to state some ways in which boys may be courteous. For instance, by not laughing at the mistakes or failures of others, by not teasing anyone weaker than himself, by watching to be helpful; by cheerfulness, promptness, and respect, and in many other ways, he may reveal that he is a son of the King of kings. Speak with some of the older ones, asking them to give an incident in their own experience, or in the life of another, where a small act of courtesy drew them to another person, or was especially appreciated. In closing, have the Golden Rule repeated by the youngest member, and ask how many will promise to watch during the coming week for opportunities to carry out the Golden Rule.

Christian Courtesy

The Basis of Christian Courtesy

Love. 1 Cor. 13:4, 5.

Kindness. Prov. 31:26.

What Constitutes Christian Courtesy

Humility. Phil. 2:3.

Appreciation. Heb. 6:10.

Desire to Please Others. Rom. 15:2.

Solicitude for Others' Welfare. Heb. 12:13; Phil. 2:4.

Patience. 2 Tim. 2:24, 25.

Modesty. Titus 3:1, 2; 1 Thess. 4:11.

Meekness. 1 Cor. 4:12, 13.

Objects of Courtesy

Parents. Ex. 20:12; Prov. 30:17.

The Aged and Elders. Lev. 19:32; 1 Tim. 5:17.

Brethren and Sisters. 1 Tim. 5:1, 2.

Strangers. Heb. 13:2.

Servants. Philemon 13, 14.

NOTE.—The foundation principle of Christian culture, or courtesy, is love,—love for one's neighbour, "in honour preferring one another." Love cannot behave itself unseemly. It cannot crowd or jostle in the street. It cannot be loud; neither can it pass unnoticed and unremedied anything that is likely to injure another who may follow. It cannot fail to extend small courtesies, if opportunity offers, to the overburdened or unfortunate.

"Our Standard of Conduct as Missionary Volunteers"

EARTHLY courts rule the world of convention. Royal personages and diplomats are examples in the outward forms of etiquette. Any breach of accepted conventions on their part reflects upon their court as well as upon themselves. Missionary Volunteers are ambassadors of heaven's courts. At best they can be but poor representatives of the graciousness of those whom they represent; so one who senses his responsibility cannot be indifferent as to the character or influence of his service.

Acceptable service means gracious service. Nothing can take the place of a gracious, thoughtful manner. The work of Missionary Volunteers is to so represent the Saviour in their warnings and admonitions that sinners will be led to renounce their allegiance to Satan, and become citizens of the eternal kingdom. Carelessness or boorishness of manner on the part of the Volunteer is a poor persuader in Christian work.

The word "etiquette" is of French origin, meaning ticket or tag. It is the ticket, or passport, that admits one to good society. It is as difficult for one without becoming manners to gain entrance into the favour of well-bred people as for an Australian to gain entrance into some foreign countries without a passport. It is wise, then, to give attendance to those things which affect one's ability to render effective service.

A Spanish proverb says: "There are no pearls for Juan Terron," referring to the Spanish soldier who in a fit of despair loosed the string of a bag of pearls weighing six pounds, and scattered the stones far and wide. Though repentance followed close on his rashness, no pearls reward his eager search. So there are no pearls in life for the boor, or the selfish one, who by disregarding the wishes and feelings of others, and the established customs of good society, has deliberately cast aside the best of life.
—Youth's Instructor.

Thoughts for the Social Meeting

(These paragraphs are not to be read in the meeting. Study them at home, and give them in the meeting in your own words.)

THERE is always time for courtesy.

"If you would win some, be winsome."

Courtesy scatters frowns and makes smiles.

"Be courteous and you will never want for friends."

"There are no really good manners without Christian souls."

"Courtesy is the lubricant which makes the wheels of life run smoothly."

"Christ was courteous even to His persecutors; and His true followers will manifest the same spirit."

"Courtesy is power. Pleasantness and tact, refinement and courtesy, will do what argument alone will fail to accomplish."

"The courtesies of life are the garments of character. They clothe it appropriately, and gain recognition for the individual."

"True courtesy is kind. It exhibits itself in the disposition to contribute to the happiness of others, and in refraining from all that may annoy them."

"From a business point of view, courtesy is worth its weight in gold. Though sometimes spoken of as a little thing, the results that follow it are often very great."

"Home is the natural school of courtesy. The politeness which is not practised in the family circle is an artificial thing, no more a part of the character than an overcoat is part of the man who wears it."

"A thoroughgoing Christian draws his motives of action from his deep heart-love for his Master. Up through the roots of his affection for Christ springs an unselfish interest in his brethren. Love imparts to its possessor grace, propriety, and comeliness of deportment."

"The right culture and use of the power of speech has to do with every line of Christian work; it enters into the home life, and into all our intercourse with one another. We should accustom ourselves to speak in pleasant tones, to use pure and correct language, and words that are kind and courteous."

"Youth is the time to learn graciousness of manner; and he who neglects to give attention to the demands of good society in matters of courtesy, can never attain to that warm place in the hearts of his associates in either the business or the social world that he might have attained had he possessed agreeable manners; for not even marked business ability, native good will, nor unusual intellectual attainments are acceptable substitutes for chivalrous action. Each or all of these, to possess their full charm, must be ornamented by a pleasing manner."

Church Etiquette

"THAT which I like best in an audience," says a public speaker, "is attention. Without this the most scholarly and interesting discourse will be a failure. Restlessness, moving about, whispering, gazing around in a vacant, absent-minded way, looking around to see who is coming in, studying the fashions, are very unbecoming and annoying, especially in church."

Missionary Volunteer Programme Second Week

Opening Exercises.

Talk: "The Country of Brazil."

Paper: "Gospel Work in Brazil."

"Camp-Meetings in Brazil."

"Manuel, a Brazilian Colporteur."

"How Doors Are Opened."

LEADER'S NOTE.—Appoint some one to give a talk presenting the main features of this vast country: its location, size, population, chief language, principal religion, form of government, etc. These facts will be found in geography textbooks and encyclopedias. It is interesting to know that the United States of Brazil comprise a republic larger than the United States of North America, Alaska included. The whole continent of Australia could be placed inside of Brazil, and there would be 323,300 square miles left over between the edges. The paper on "Gospel Work" will present the information contained in "Outline of Mission Fields." From pages 160 to 175, frequent reference is made to Brazil. There we are told when and why Brazil was organized into a separate union conference. The 1917 Year Book gives the church membership as 2,300, a gain of almost 300 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1916. These members contributed \$5,000 tithes and over £600 offerings. The president of that union, and the writer of the report on camp-meetings, is a brother of Mrs. Morris Lukens, late of this field.

Manuel—A Brazilian Colporteur

THREE years ago, when I was canvassing in the suburbs of a certain city, I met Manuel for the first time. He was a shoemaker, and his appearance, as well as that of his wife, showed extreme poverty. Their furniture consisted of two small hand-made chairs; their bed was made of straw upon the floor; their table was a small box turned upside down, with four legs nailed to it. Their dishes and cooking utensils were very few, and consisted mostly of tin cans, etc. Their little two-months-old baby was nicely tucked in a small basket, and placed in one corner on the floor. It reminded me of little Moses hidden away in the basket in the bulrushes. I was much impressed by Manuel's desire for spiritual food. Many times afterwards I visited him, and little by little God's truth took hold of his heart.

One day he insisted that I, with my family, should return the following Sunday and take dinner with them. I accepted his invitation, but wondered what he would do with us. When we arrived, he quickly ran and borrowed a bench from a neighbour, as the two chairs did not suffice when company came. Dinner was soon ready, after much changing

from one tin dish to another. The little box table was too small; so the door was slipped off its hinges, and one end put on the box table, while the other rested on the window sill. This arrangement provided a very serviceable table.

Manuel was my first convert here in Brazil, also one of my first colporteurs. He, with two others in the state of Minas Geraes, began colporteur work eight months after I came to Brazil. Last year he sold more than £200 worth of books.

He has made a complete change in his life, giving up all bad habits, such as smoking and drinking. A merchant remarked one day that he could not understand what it was that could work such a change in a person as had come to Manuel. He is always well dressed now, has a neat house, well furnished with carpets, beds, chairs, etc. He works among the best class of people. He is one of the most faithful of the seventeen colporteurs we now have in the state of Minas.

R. M. CARTER.

Camp-Meetings in Brazil

THE preaching of the everlasting gospel in the large cities of Brazil has taken on a new impetus since we have begun holding tent meetings. As a sample of the way the third angel's message receives a hearing by this means, I quote the following from a letter written by Pastor R. Stissmann, who is at present labouring in Ponto Grossa, Parana:

"Since you left us the attendance at our tent-meetings has continually increased. At our opening meeting there were about two hundred present; last Thursday evening, November 2, the number in attendance was about five hundred, and many did not stay because they could not obtain seats.

"The city is stirred, and the sympathies of the people are with us. People come to the meetings from a great distance, and listen with the best of attention to the truths preached.

"The manager of the circus is complaining not a little that because of our meetings his circus is not well patronised. A short time ago, in spite of his having hired a brass band to play for the evening, we are informed that his audience consisted of three boys.

"The fame of our meetings has even been carried to the inmates of the county prison, and they have

invited us to come there and preach the present truth to them. We are certainly thankful that the Lord is accompanying the preaching of His truth with such remarkable power, and we trust the message may bring eternal life to many who come to hear."

This is a sample of how our tent work, aided by the stereopticon, draws the people in our Brazilian cities. We are certainly thankful that we have found a means of reaching the masses.

F. W. SPIES.

How Doors Are Opened

It will probably interest you to know how the work of the Lord is prospering in this great country. At first when we started our work in Brusque, we began holding meetings in the homes of the people in different localities. When some tried to club and stone us, and even threatened to kill us, the people closed their doors and told us not to come again.

This experience made us very sad indeed. We then began to treat the sick. The Lord blessed our efforts, and soon the rumour spread that we could heal. And now all are coming to us, even some of our bitter opponents. They are coming from near and far, bringing their sick. Others have us come to their home to treat their sick.

The Lord has healed many of them through the simple treatments which we have given them, and besides, doors have been opened before us. All prejudice seems to have been swept away, and we have gained the confidence of the people. They have great faith in the simple treatments, but still wonder how we can heal without using medicine.

One day a man who had been studying to be a priest asked another man, who under our care had recovered from an attack of typhoid, what we did to him so that he recovered. This man told him that if he wanted to know, he would have to ask us, as all he knew was that he got well.

In a few days we expect to go to another place, about five days' drive from here, to start a tent effort, which will be the first one in this part of Brazil. From there we plan to return to Brusque and follow up the interest. We hope that the Lord will give us a harvest of souls in the near future. Pray for the work in Brazil.

HENRY HAEFFT.
In "Review and Herald."

Missionary Volunteer Programme

Third Week

OPENING EXERCISES.

Talk: "Purpose of the Missionary Volunteer Society."

Map Talk: "Missionary Volunteers Around the World."

"Beginning of the Work."

Testimonies: "What the Missionary Volunteer Work Has Done for Me."

"How the Reading Course Books Have Helped Me."

Talk: "The Value of the Morning Watch."

LEADER'S NOTE.—The talk given by the leader, setting forth "The Purpose of the Missionary Volunteer Society," may be one of special help. It is well for us to stop and consider sometimes, Why are we here? By reviewing the advantages to be gained by the youth we can better realize whether our society is proving a training ground for them, whether it is strengthening and increasing the church membership, and furnishing labourers and means for the cause. Are our young people being saved from drifting into the world? Emphasize the aim, motto, and object of the society. The "map talk" should be made bright and inspiring. Show those taking part how to prepare to give talks, by using a slip of paper giving just one or two important words as a clue to each item in the article they wish to present. By a personal word beforehand, have as many as possible prepare to state in a few sentences how the Reading Course books have helped and impressed them. Another may give a short talk on the importance of keeping the Morning Watch.

Our Missionary Volunteers Around the World

How inspiring it is to know that the Missionary Volunteer Society is a world-wide movement! It has been defined as "the young people of the church at work." In every country youth filled with zeal and love for Christ are a mighty factor in the closing work of the gospel. United with us in the one aim to give the message in this generation, are young people of nearly every nationality.

Nearly 10,000 had enrolled as Missionary Volunteers in North America alone, up to June 30 of last year.

Before the outbreak of the world-war, there were 154 Missionary Volunteer Societies in Europe, with a membership of nearly 3,000. And not a few of these young people have stood firmly by the "faith of our fathers," in the face of persecutions and imprisonment. In Catholic Spain a boy of only fifteen years was cast out of his home because of his faith in Jesus. Coming to our mission at Barcelona, he received comfort for his homesick heart, and training as a Christian worker, and then went forth to scatter the printed page.

Besides working for their friends and neighbours, our young people in Europe send others where they cannot go. For over two years the youth of Scandinavia have supported a faithful young man in Lapland.

In South Africa efforts are being made to enlist all our young people as volunteers in God's army. Even on the mission stations Missionary Volunteer Societies are organized. At Solusi, seventy-five are studying for the Standard of Attainment, although the actual membership of the society is sixty-five.

In South America our young people are following the Morning Watch Calendar and the Reading Courses in the Portuguese, Spanish, and German languages, and our workers are hoping to prepare special literature for the youth of the Inca Indians, who dwell in the top of the Andes. A young Missionary Volunteer in Brazil who entered the canvassing work, wrote pleading for a minister to go to the community where he had been labouring, and where twelve persons had accepted the truth.

In the great Asiatic field the young men and women who have just emerged from heathen darkness, have the same desire that we have to tell others of Jesus' love. Twenty-eight Chinese Christian boys in Fuchau school organized a Missionary Volunteer Society, and set their aim to win at least one each from the 132 other boys in the school. And God wonderfully rewarded their efforts by giving them 54 precious souls instead of 28! At Shanghai the Missionary Volunteer Society is divided into evangelistic bands on Sabbath afternoon, and they go out to distribute literature and preach the message. In this way twenty-five or thirty talks are given, and hundreds receive the message in the printed page. In Japan, also, the work is onward. And in the Philippine Islands native young men are proclaiming the message with zeal. The society in Manila has over fifty members.

In south India we read of a little band of native Seventh-day Adventist young people who organized for evangelistic work in the villages nearby. At first the girls worked to earn money to buy literature for the boys to distribute; but, constrained by the love of Jesus, they themselves finally went out to do personal work.

In our own Australasian Union we have 3,105 missionary volunteers.

May God make them a power for good! With a population of 956,000,000 in our Asiatic Division Conference, most of them still in heathenism, what a field of missionary effort lies before our consecrated youth!

Joining with us in the memorizing of the Bible studies each quarter are many island natives and several aboriginals of Australia. Some of the young people at the Monamona Mission gain one hundred per cent on their Bible Study examination each quarter.

The thought of thousands of our young men and women, boys and girls, in all parts of the world, is expressed by Tan Sim Hong, a young man of Singapore, when he says: "I am thankful that I can take part in the work of the Missionary Volunteer Society, and do a little work for the Master."

Beginning of the Work

THE following interesting description is given of the first young people's society, which was held in 1879, in Southern Michigan. The writer is Brother Luther Warren:

The subject of forming a boys' society had been on my heart for some time. I felt there should be some organization in the church that would hold the young people together and make them a definite, tangible entity in the work, and a greater power for good. Some days after talking the matter over with another young man in the church, six or eight boys gathered in the upstairs room of our log cabin, for our first meeting. Here we discussed ways and means for the furtherance of the work, how we could best help ourselves and others to be ready for the coming of Jesus. We were all country boys, and belonged to a country church.

At the weekly meetings that followed, the missionary work done was reported; a temperance pledge was drawn up and signed, against the use of alcohol, all forms of tobacco, tea, coffee, and pork; and collections were taken to buy literature.

A short time later some one suggested that a number of the girls wished to join with us in our work, and after some discussion it was decided to invite them to unite with us in our meetings and work. After this our plans were somewhat enlarged. We held prayer and testimony meetings, missionary meetings, temperance meetings, with special programmes, and met in the open family room, where some adults usually attended.

Some of these early members were grandchildren of persons who had accepted present truth during the first year of tent effort held by Pastors Loughborough and Cornell in 1854. That was the dawning of the advent message. The evening hours are now drawing upon us. Time's sun is nearing the western horizon. The last rays are lighting up this sin-sick old world, soon to be wrapped in the shadows of night. Let it not be true of any of us at that time that the summer is past, the harvest is ended, and we are not saved.

Feeling that something should be done to help the young people of his church, a youth in another part of America commenced a society. He writes thus of the meetings held in 1891:

We held our meetings on Saturday nights. There were thirty members. Our programme consisted mainly of singing, Scripture study, and much prayer and testimony. I can remember distinctly how intensely disappointed we always felt if even one person failed to testify; but this seldom occurred. We had not the slightest disorder. . . . Many an hour I spent in prayer over that society, sometimes alone, and sometimes in company with one or more of the boys out in the woods. I am sure the meetings we held that year proved a real spiritual help and uplift to us all.

The pledge adopted by the volunteers in another state was this:

Recognizing the preciousness of God's gift to me, I volunteer for service for Him anywhere in the wide world that His Spirit may lead, and in any form of service that He may direct.

Is it to be wondered at that from those societies have come workers who have made a good record in many departments of the cause of God?

What the Missionary Volunteer Work Has Done for Me

ONE of our workers writes:

The first time I attended a Missionary Volunteer meeting I was not a church member. But as I saw young people happy in the service of Jesus, I was brought to a full decision for Him. There I first testified for my Master, and learned to love to speak His praise. There I gave my first talk in meeting. There I gave my first public Bible study. There I first bore responsibility in this work to which we are pledged. There I had my first experience in leadership. The Missionary Volunteer work has done much in training me for service.

A young man gives the following testimony:

The society has had a great influence upon my soul, and I have felt the touch of the Lord's kind words in my heart. It has made me think of the Lord more each day. It taught me how to pray in public; at first I could say only a few words to the Lord. It has meant much to me, and through its influence I have been drawn nearer to God and to my brethren and sisters."

"A few years ago, I had little ambition to make anything of myself," says another, "but on connecting with the Missionary Volunteer work I noticed that nearly all the other members had a definite object in view, and that was to do something in the Lord's work. This aroused me, and I am now in school preparing to teach a church school."

Missionary Volunteer Programme

Fourth Week

LEADER'S NOTE.—Last week we considered how young people are benefited by the Missionary Volunteer Society. No doubt it proved an incentive to your members to

gain all the practical help they can, and to become workers for Christ. This week's meeting may be devoted to learning how to give Bible readings. We learn best by doing. Have one of the young people give a Bible study from the quarter's texts, presenting it to the other members of the society just as he would to a family knowing nothing of the subject, and in a way to gain their interest. Let one, who has had experience in holding studies point out the best methods, telling the young people what to avoid and what to bear in mind, when giving a Bible reading. If it is thought best one or two others may be asked to give Bible readings on such points of truth as the coming of the Lord or the Sabbath. Previous Bible studies would be helpful in preparing the readings, or any other items may be added to the programme thought best by the officers. As there are five Sabbaths this month we suggest that for next week you have several young people give talks on topics already covered in the present Reading Course book.

Helping the Leader

IN a certain society the leader did not seem to have time to push all lines of the work. Nothing was being done. A young woman decided that the society must have some Reading Course certificates. She began to read, and induced others to join with her. Sometimes, when the interest would lag, she would invite the reading circle members to her home. Nearly a dozen were brought through and received certificates. Fire will catch from a coal, if it is a live coal.—*Selected.*

Sabbath-School Missionary Exercises

(September 1)

A Visit to Rendova, Solomon Islands

AT the time of writing (May 27) we are visiting the Rendova Mission, and expect to spend the Sabbath with these people. Yesterday we visited the chief on the opposite side of the island, and held one of the most interesting meetings we have yet attended out here. This is a new district, and one that has been sending urgent messages for some months past. The chief was very enthusiastic, and at the close of the meeting we selected a site for a church building. This old chief is for all the world like an Adventist, and entered into our plans with interest. Another denomination sent a message to him last week, and as usual tried to belittle our work, but this chief told them he knew their reports were not true, and that he wanted nothing to do with them.

Of late the name of "Seventh day" has been given to those who follow our teaching. All missions out here have taken the name of the one who opened them, and for some time our work was called, "Mr. Jones' Mission," but now we are beginning to be known as "Seventh day." The name was first given in derision, but in place of having the desired effect, our people have accepted it with enthusiasm, and yesterday the old chief said he told all that he is a man belonging to *Juope rane* (Seventh day).

After the meeting he came and asked if Pana, our most forward Marova boy, who was with us, could not stay a while and help them. This is the fifth request we have had for this boy from different districts, and as this request was made, it really touched my heart, and I had to turn aside while the tears rolled down my face. These people had not known or met this young man before our visit, but within the space of an hour the chief could discern a difference between him and others. The fact of wanting to learn from one who has accepted all our message and who lives up to it, demonstrates that these people desire the truth.

D. NICHOLSON.

(September 8)

Favourable Openings at Rendova, Solomon Islands

IN our missionary exercise last week Brother Nicholson told of a visit to Rendova and the favourable opening for work there. In the same report he gives the following additional information:

Truly a wonderful change is taking place in these people. One year ago the Marova people would scarcely speak to the natives of this district; but to-day they are walking about on shore, arm in arm, are singing our hymns, and are one in thought. This is our fifth visit to Rendova, and it seems that there is a company here about ready for fellowship with God's people.

About eighty people or more attended our Sabbath services at Rendova. We expected to have only a morning service, but at the close the chief came and requested that we have Sabbath-school in the afternoon, as we do at Marova.

Twelve months ago these people wore no clothes, except the native belt; but yesterday all were neatly dressed in loin cloths. A young man who is soon to take up his responsibilities as the leading chief, is coming back with us to Marova. He is well advanced, having been two years under government training, and exercises influence over several districts to the north. A new call has come to us on this trip asking us to visit them.

Many events have taken place which demonstrate God's care for this work. Its influence is reaching people whom we have neither visited nor written to.

(September 15)

The Malekulan Front, New Hebrides

WITH what eagerness people are daily reading the columns of the newspapers watching for every item telling of advancement along the several fronts of the allied armies.

Believing that God's people are just as eagerly following the reports of His soldiers in the forefront of the battle, we pass along a report from this line of attack upon one of the enemies' strongest entrenchments.

The world is already growing weary with less than three years of war, but for over thirty years our faithful allies, the Presbyterian missionaries, have fought for the liberation of the people of Malekula, and to the best of human foresight the end of the struggle is still a long way off. A retired officer of that mission, who spent over twenty years in this field, in writing of his experiences said, "The work at all the stations on Malekula was hard and disappointing." The stations are still maintained, and while the enemy has been forced to retreat somewhat, he is still strongly entrenched in the greater part of Malekula with some strong fortifications on the coast.

When our good "general," Pastor Parker, made his first attempt to plant the banner on the island of Atchin, he was told by a leading government official that he had struck the hardest place in all the group. For three and a half years the engagement has lasted, and while changes have been made, we have not retreated one step, but are slowly though surely gaining ground. We are now the friends of all the people on the island, and are sought after for nearly all their material and bodily needs. One could easily spend all his time in repairing their boats, grinding their axes, knives, scissors, razors, etc., binding up their sores and dispensing medicine. About forty people attend the services each Sabbath, and six to eight young men are fairly regular in attending the day-school. These are beginning to read and write their own language.

Some four months ago a young man from the island of Ambrym deserted a recruiting ship, while weather-bound at the back of this island, and came to the mission for shelter. After satisfying ourselves that his reasons for deserting the vessel were just, we gave him a place in the young men's house and also some employment on the mission property. We have watched him with interest since that time and have found him an honourable young man with a good Christian experience. He has had some schooling and can read and write a little. For the first two or three weeks he conscientiously rested on Sunday, but is now intelligently keeping the Sabbath. He attends church and school faithfully and his influence and deportment have been a help to the other young men that attend school and work on the place. He has made inquiries about baptism by immersion, and we are studying this and other points of truth with him. Needless to say we are thankful for this our first recruit, and solicit your prayers on his behalf. His name is David, and we believe he has been providentially brought to us.

A. G. STEWART.

(September 22)

Aggressive Work in Eastern Polynesia

THE opening of our work in Eastern Polynesia dates as far back as 1886, or thirty-one years ago. Pitcairn was the scene of the first efforts which were put forth by Brother John I. Tay. He landed on the island October 18, 1886, and the record of early missionary efforts runs, "October 30, 1886, the church on Pitcairn Island unanimously kept the Seventh-day Sabbath of the Lord our God."

On November 25, 1890, Pastor E. H. Gates and his company landed from the schooner *Pitcairn*, and before the vessel left, eighty-two persons were baptized. The schooner sailed on and opened the work in the Society Group and the Cook Group.

In 1893 on the *Pitcairn* making a second cruise, Pastor B. J. Cady and wife were stationed at Raiatea, in the Society Islands, and Miss Hattie Andre on Pitcairn. In 1894 Dr. J. E. Caldwell was stationed at Rarotonga in the Cook Group.

For many years the work extended very little and but little progress was made. In 1913, however, an advance move was made by the opening of work on Aitutaki in the Cook Group. Sabbath, October 25, saw the organization of our first church on that island. Toward the close of 1913 work was opened on Mangaia in the same group, and in 1916, this island of Mauke first heard the preaching of the advent message. In 1915 work in the Society Group extended to the island of Moorea, where it has continued with success.

Experiences of the past two years have convinced us of the necessity and the wisdom of pushing out into new territory. Brother Lyndon, as superintendent of the Eastern Polynesian Mission, is now anxious that work should be done in the Austral Group and the Paumotu lying to the east of the Society Group, and plans are already formulated for Brother Adams, who has for many years been stationed on Pitcairn, to be located on Mangareva in the Paumotu Group. While the efforts in the old established mission fields seem to bring little results, as we enter new territory we find numbers ready to respond to the message.

We are giving all our Sabbath-schools next Sabbath the privilege of offering for the purpose of establishing a fund to be used in extending our work into the many islands of Eastern Polynesia which have not yet heard the third angel's message from the living preacher. We believe that there will be a very hearty response to this call.

[NOTE.—We would strongly urge upon Sabbath-school superintendents the importance of having a map showing the islands of Eastern Polynesia, used in connection with this study. Each spot mentioned in the reading should be pointed out on the map as the study proceeds.]

(September 29)

Our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

NOTE TO THE SUPERINTENDENT.—Last week we presented the needs of the work in Eastern Polynesia, to which we are giving our thirteenth Sabbath offering to-day. A few minutes should be devoted to questioning the school on the information presented last Sabbath, and impressing the need for a liberal offering.

Who Should Give Nothing to Missions

THOSE who believe that Jesus made a mistake when He said: "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations."

Those who do not believe that "the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

Those who wish that no missionary had come to our forefathers and would prefer to be heathen.

Those who do not care to have part in Christ's final victory.—*Selected.*

Foreign Mission Day

Helping by Prayer

LEADER'S NOTE.—It is impossible to enter into details in the limited space at our disposal, hence we suggest that before presenting this study careful consideration be given to the special circumstances and emergencies which led Paul to make the requests mentioned in sections one to five. This will add interest and emphasis to the study. The leader should have in mind some special instances such as the prayer of Hudson Taylor for one hundred missionaries when presenting section eight.

1. Paul in his second epistle to the Corinthians places before them the possibility and opportunity of their helping him in his work. 1 Cor. 1: 11.

2. Later he made request of the brethren at Ephesus that they would pray that he might have wisdom and boldness in proclaiming the gospel. Eph. 6: 18, 19.

3. About the same time he wrote to the Colossian church making a similar request. Col. 4: 3, 4.

4. Some years before he had written to the believers at Thessalonica urging them to pray for the mission company of which he had charge. 2 Thess. 3: 1.

5. When about to leave Corinth for Jerusalem to deliver the sum collected for the needy in Judea, he wrote to the brethren in Rome requesting their prayers for his protection. Rom. 15: 30, 31.

6. Paul had learned by experience, the power of prayer offered in Christ's name. Stephen's prayer had been an influence in his own conversion. Acts 7: 58-60. The prayers of Silas and himself had opened the prison at Philippi. Acts 16: 25, 26.

7. In the great crisis in the time of Esther prayer and fasting brought deliverance. Esther 4: 15-17; 5: 1-3.

8. The prayers of God's people have brought labourers into the harvest as they have followed our Saviour's instruction. Matt. 9: 36-38.

9. Our prayers to-day may be the means of sustaining our workers amid trials and hardships and may bring reinforcements to the waiting fields. Then let us help more by our prayers.

"Those who have access to God through Christ have important work before them. Now is the time to lay hold of the arm of strength. . . . Prayer moves the arm of Omnipotence. He who marshals the stars in order in the heavens, whose word controls the great deep,—the same infinite Creator will work in behalf of His people if they call upon Him in faith."—"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. V, pages 452, 453.

Wonderful Providences

FROM time to time encouraging reports reach us from workers in countries which are directly affected by the present war. These all go to show that what to the human mind seems impossible to accomplish is a simple thing to our God. He still ruleth in the kingdom of men and to-day, as ever, honours the simple faith of His children and overrules all things for the advancement of His message.

The following incidents will be of the deepest interest to all who believe that God is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

Recently a letter was received at our Mission Board office, Washington, D. C., U. S. A., from a Canadian soldier engaged in duties connected with a detention camp in Europe. Among those interned in this camp was a worker who had formerly laboured as a missionary in Europe. The soldier in writing of this worker speaks of him as "my friend," and proceeds as follows: "My friend, Mr. S., informed me that you might be kind enough to pass a message on to my parents. I have learned from Mr. S. the knowledge of the truth, and am now rejoicing in the light thus gained. I almost feel that I was sent to this camp for a purpose, and have now decided to devote my whole life entirely to God's work.

"The chief reason for my writing is to request you to communicate with my parents, who live in Bristol, Canada. It is now eleven years since I left home, in a temper; and I wish the good news to be passed on to them, if possible, that I have changed my life, through the influence of a Seventh-day Adventist minister. I am sure my dear mother will rejoice to hear of my conversion, although, I am sorry to say, neither she nor my father is converted. If Pastor Brooks is still living in Bristol, it would be splendid if he could convey this news to my parents. He was the minister of the Seventh-day Adventist church there when I was at home. I knew him personally, and am sure that he also will be glad to hear that I have decided for the Master. I am hoping that this will give the minister visiting my parents an opportunity to begin work with them once more, and get them to see how serious the times are in which we are living; and perhaps the truth which was strong enough to change my life

from one of sin and wickedness to one of peace and joy, in spite of the adverse circumstances in which I am now situated, will also enlighten their lives and prepare them for the soon return of our Saviour.

"I am truly sorry for the anxiety I have caused my dear ones, and wish to ask their forgiveness. I only trust that I may be spared to return home and tell them myself of the power of Him who can still work miracles.

"We are having very nice little classes here. Of course there are not many of us, as the average man of to-day, in spite of the terrible every-day occurrences, is not desirous of closer communion with God, and so our work is hard. But if this were not the case, we should have no victory to rejoice in, should we? Our little Sabbath-school is indeed a blessing, but I hope you will pray with us, that our number may be increased. We are but weak, sinful instruments in God's hands, and realize our utter inability to do anything whatever without His help.

"Mr. S. has been telling me of the fine work done by our young missionaries, and it has set my heart longing to join such an earnest and sincere corps, and also to attend one of our missionary schools, that I may be better prepared to work in God's cause."

Pastor W. A. Spicer, who recently returned to Washington after a visit of five months to the European Division, reported the following incidents in the evidence of God's wonderful protection of His people:

"One of our brethren was on the battle-field and very seriously wounded. The stretcher-bearers could not get near him for eight days. He lay there expecting to die. He had some food in his knapsack, but was too ill to move and so could not reach it. However, just as he was desperate a little hen came right by his side, nestled down and laid an egg. He ate this, and the next morning this same little hen came along, nestled by his side and laid another egg. This kept up for eight days, and then the red cross corps came along and took him away." Brother Spicer understands that the brother was making a satisfactory recovery.

This experience reminds us of the Scripture story of how the Lord fed the prophet Elijah by means of the ravens. God's message for these last days is to go in the spirit and

power of Elias, and evidently the Lord is ready and waiting to do His part when our faith will take hold of His arm of strength. It was against every law of nature for this hen to come day by day as she did and lay her egg in such close proximity to the wounded man. There is no question that this is an evidence of the power of God in providing for the needs of His children.

Another incident related is as follows: "Another brother who had formally been president of one of our conferences, was in service at the front. He was working as a telegraph operator. One morning while in his trench he found that a railway track near by had been damaged badly by exploding shells, and he knew that in a few minutes a train-load of soldiers would be passing by. Shells were exploding all around him and bullets were falling everywhere, but he rushed out and flagged the train, thus saving the lives of those on board. He was wounded in the hand while making the effort. His brave deed has received suitable recognition from his government."

Another incident is as follows: "Another brother was in his 'dugout,' the spot being under heavy fire. Amid the din he distinctly heard a voice saying, 'Get out of here.' He looked around and thought, 'I can't, it is certain death to go outside,' but the voice repeated persistently, 'Get out,' and finally he went outside. He had scarcely done so when the trench in which he had been stationed was demolished, and every man inside was killed immediately. He still lives."

Another case related was that of a young man who had known the truth and had had a desire to walk in obedience to it, but who had not the faith and courage to step out. He was living a clean life and was generally regarded by his companions as a good fellow in every way. One day his officer was fatally wounded, and calling to him said, "You are a good fellow, but I am not ready to die; can you help me?" The young man instantly felt that he himself was not prepared to die, so how could he help another? Feeling very much distressed, he stepped quietly aside and told the Lord that if He would forgive him, he would obey the truth, and he asked the Lord to help him in talking to the officer. He then returned to the dying man and told him the old, old story of salvation, and was the means of helping the officer

into the light. The latter, who was dying, said to him, "If ever you get into a hard place, I hope the Lord will send to you as good a friend to care for you as you have been to me." Sometime afterwards this young man was injured seriously and felt sure that his injuries would prove fatal. He was placed in the care of a red cross nurse, and he told her of this experience with his officer. The relation of the story and its attendant circumstances resulted in the discovery that the nurse who was caring for him was the sister of his late officer. With much joy she learned of the conversion of her brother prior to his death. In due time the news was sent by her to her parents who were thus led to investigate God's message for to-day. They have accepted it and are now walking in the fullness of present truth. Truly God's ways are not our ways. We should little think of a battle-field as the place where wayward hearts could be won to God, but so it proved; and not only so, but from there the influence extended to the distant home. "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." Eccl. 11:6.

"A SINGLE expression of appreciation and encouragement will at times turn a human life toward an upward path."

"RECEIVED into the heart, the leaven of truth will regulate the desires, purify the thoughts, and sweeten the disposition. It quickens the faculties of the mind and the energies of the soul. It enlarges the capacity for feeling, for loving. . . . The Word of God is to have a sanctifying effect on our association with every member of the human family."—"Christ's Object Lessons," page 101.

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