



THE

MISSIONARY LEADER



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Foreign Mission Day

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Bible Study

God's Power Limited by the Attitude of His People

CHRIST JESUS came into the world to save *sinners*, and *all* of them. 1 Tim. 1: 15; 2: 6.

But only to those who *received* Him gave He power to become the sons of God. John 1: 12. Compare Heb. 9: 28.

God's power to save was thus limited by the unwillingness of the Jews. John 5: 40.

When Christ sent out the twelve He endued them with His own power. Matt. 10: 1.

But they failed to exercise that power in full because of their lack of faith. Matt. 17: 14-21.

God's last message to the world will close in great power. Rev. 18: 1.

And He will cut short His work in righteousness. Rom. 9: 28.

But the gospel must be carried by *human* agents, and God is waiting and calling for volunteers. Isa. 6: 8.

Thus God's power is limited by the willingness of His people to enlist in His service.

When God's people become *willing* His power will be manifested to close the work. Ps. 110: 3.

God Working for Us

RECENTLY, an Indian came running to our office in Puno, South America. Upon being asked what he wanted, he replied: "We want a teacher for a mission school."

"But why did you run?" we asked.

"I have come seven days' journey, and as there are five or six more coming from the same region, I ran to get here first, as I knew you had only a few teachers, and I wanted to get here ahead of the rest to be sure of securing one," he replied.

In August, 1919, there were baptized sixty-six Quechua Indians on the Island of Amantani, in Lake Titicaca. These were the first converts among the Quechua tribe. Immediately persecution began against these, many being driven from their homes and their goods and cattle seized. Some were thrown into jail and fined on false charges. Others were driven from the island and threatened with death if they returned. A school-house, also used for Sabbath meetings, erected by the Indians was destroyed, and

they were forbidden to hold religious services of any kind. From time to time, they endeavoured to do so, but not without being molested. Occasionally some of them attended Sabbath service in Puno. Notwithstanding the persecution, they remained faithful and kept working to re-establish their school and meetings. They asked for a teacher, but this request could not be granted on account of the opposition. At least it was deemed unwise to send one while the opposition was so bitter. Thus the situation continued from month to month.

Recently an epidemic of typhoid visited the island. One of the victims was a brother, Mariano Mamani, one of the faithful persecuted believers. His relatives were refused permission to bury him in the public cemetery, yet somehow he was finally interred.

Persecution continued, and threats were made if the body were not removed. The mission brethren gave permission to transfer the body to our own cemetery near Plateria, but when efforts were made to remove the body, other threats were made in case it were taken from the island. Thus matters stood until a few days before the holy week in March, when several Indian believers went to Puno, stating that the Catholic Indians were planning a general attack against our members to drive them from the island and kill them if necessary. The attack was planned to begin on holy week upon the return of a certain Indian farmer manager, who was spending a few days at his home in Puno. Upon receiving this word with the outline of the enemy's plans, we took the matter to the prefecto, who immediately got busy and sent instruction to four inferior authorities, ordering them to desist in their plans against our members.

The farmer manager, upon whose return the attack was to be made, was arrested. Thus the plan was thwarted. Efforts were made for two days to secure the release of this man from jail, but to no avail. Thus the enemies were defeated in their evil plans. As a result, the land-owners on the island by whom the Indians are employed, have now agreed to give our Indian members liberty on the Sabbath and to ask our mission to establish mission schools among them. They even offer the necessary land, and promise co-operation with us to make the school a success. They say: "We want peace." Evidently they are convinced they can do nothing against the truth, and so desire peace at any price. Even the farmer manager has promised his co-operation in the future. To God we give the praise for this another victory in behalf of the truth.

E. F. PETERSON,

Union Mission Superintendent.

The Rapid Development of Indian Schools in South America

BROTHER E. H. Wilcox is superintendent of the Lake Titicaca Mission. The headquarters of this mission is at Puno. In a recent letter he adds the following to what Brother E. F. Peterson, the union mission superintendent, has reported.

"Our school work is growing at such a rapid rate that we can hardly keep up with it. To us here in the field we cannot but feel that because of our living in the closing scenes of this earth's history, God is preparing the way for a quick work to be done in this part of the field.

"Last year we conducted forty schools with an enrollment of over 2,000 students. One of these schools was taught by an old Indian chief. He taught in a new place where we had not had a school before. However, it was not long until he had 150 students enrolled. His school-house was a small hut about 10 x 12 feet, with a straw roof. Because of the house being so small he hung his maps and blackboard on the outside of the house, and the boys sat on long stone benches which they had made in the form of a square in the yard in front. Although there was ice on the water and frost in the air, these boys attended nearly every day. I sometimes wonder how many of our homeland boys would be willing to get an education under similar conditions.

"This year we have sixty-five teachers in our summer school for teachers and we expect to conduct at least fifty-five or sixty schools. We have urgent calls for more than thirty new ones. The Indian chief who came running into our *patio* [told of by Brother Peterson] lives at a distance of seven days from here. He said they were building six new school-houses over where he lived. He stated they would guarantee 200 students in each school. This is also in a new district that has not been worked. It shows, however, how this message is spreading and how God is opening the way for a quick work to be done.

"We ask an interest in your prayers that God will send men and means that we may be able to answer the many urgent Macedonian calls coming to us, saying, 'Come over and help us to know the true God. We want to leave off our bad habits. Please send us a teacher.'"

Practical Mercy Shown an Enemy

John H. Elvin, our medical evangelist at work at one of the high altitude mission stations in the Peruvian Andes, writes:

"A few days ago an Indian came to me tied on a burro's back. When released he pleaded on his knees for an operation. This man for two years had been suffering with tuberculosis of the spine, and for

more than one year had been unable to walk.

"Formerly this man was one of the worst enemies of our mission, having threatened to both kill the missionary and burn the mission buildings.

"In the open air my wife and I performed the operation, as no suitable room was available. Again the Lord added His rich blessing. Although only a short time since the operation, his spine is rapidly healing. Both he and family have accepted the truth. The wife and children are attending regularly each church service.

"Although we have been here at this mission only five weeks, the Lord has blessed our efforts by giving us over fifty new believers who are attending church regularly each Sabbath."

The Truth Changes the Life

Brother L. D. Minner, superintendent of Peru, that part not included in the mountain region of Lake Titicaca, headquarters at Lima, writes:

"The gospel is declared by Paul to be the power of God unto salvation to every one who believes." Rom. 1:16. Thousands of people have proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that the power offered in the gospel is able to save the soul. This means deliverance from sin in this present life.

"Recently while conversing with a believer in Jesus about the condition of his community, the brother said in a tone that showed profound gratitude: 'I thank the Lord for what the gospel has done for me.' Then he began telling some things it had done for him. His life habits had been completely changed. His ambitions were turned into a different channel. His energies and daily activities are now dedicated to the moral uplift and spiritual help of those about him. He is esteemed and respected by his countrymen as an honourable citizen worthy of the confidence of all. I have noticed in many different places in Peru that believers in the gospel are selected for public offices. They are not chosen because they are evangelists, but in spite of the fact. The Roman Catholic religion is the religion of the country and is not at all sympathetic or even tolerant to any other religion. However, the exemplary life and Christian character of those who profess the Protestant faith cannot be overlooked by the candid observer."

Missionary Volunteer Department

Missionary Volunteer Programme

First Week

How to Live the New Year

Topic: "Go Forward."

Reading: "Things to Forget."

Reading: "Things to Remember."

Reading: "Twelve Things to Bear in Mind during the New Year."

Poem: "My New Year Aim."

Go Forward

WE should not live any year merely as well as we lived the year before. There are people who really never advance in

anything. They do their common task-work this year as they did it last, certainly no better. They keep the same habits, faults and all. They become no more intelligent, no more refined. They seem never to have a new thought, to learn a new fact, to become more useful among men. They grow no more patient, gentle, or sweet. They take no larger place in the community, count for no more, are no more useful among their fellows. They read no new books, make no advance in knowledge. Their conversation consists of the same old commonplaces, they tell the same little jokes over and over. In their religious life they do not grow. They know God no better, have no more trust in time of trouble, love no more, live no more helpfully, never get to know their Bible any better. They quote only the same two or three verses which they learned in childhood. If you hear them often, you will get to know their prayers by heart. They live the same pitifully narrow religious life at fifty, at sixty, which they were living at twenty. They simply go round and round the mountain, never climbing up to any loftier height as they journey. They never get the wider outlook they would get by ascending as they plod. . . .

Paul teaches us the same lesson in a remarkable passage in one of his epistles. He gives us a glimpse of the ideal life, the perfect life in Christ. He says frankly that he himself has not yet attained this sublime height, has not reached the best. "Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect." But this unattained life he does not regard as unattainable,—he will come up to it sometime. "I press on." . . . He was in prison now, but prison walls were no barrier to his progress. He tells us, too, the method of his life. The two words which contain the secret of his noble career were "forgetting," "reaching."

J. R. MILLER, D.D.

Things to Forget

THERE were certain things that Paul forgot. Look at this a moment, for the Word contains for us a secret we must learn if we would make progress. "Forgetting the things which are behind." "Remembering" is a favourite Bible word. We are constantly exhorted to remember, and urgently counselled not to forget. It is perilous to forget—to forget God, to forget the divine commandments. We are not to forget our past sinful condition, lest we grow proud. We are not to forget God's goodness and mercy, lest our love shall grow cold. But there is a sense also in which our only hope is in forgetting. We never can get on to higher things if we insist on clinging to our past and carrying it with us. We can make progress only by forgetting. We can go forward only by leaving behind what is past.

For instance, we must forget our mistakes. There are many of them, too. We think of them in our serious moods, at the close of a year, when we are forced to review our past, or when some deep personal experience sets our life before us in retrospection. We sigh, "Oh, if I had not made that foolish decision, if I had not let that wrong companionship

into my life, if I had not gone into that wretched business which proved so unfortunate, if I had not blundered so in trying to manage my own affairs, if I had not taken the bad advice which has led me into such hopeless consequences, how much better my life would have been!"

Some people keep on compassing regretfully the mountains of their one year's mistakes through all the following year. They do little but fret over their errors all the months which they ought to make bright with better things, nobler achievements, loftier attainments. But what good comes of it? Worry undoes no folly, corrects no mistakes, brings back nothing you have lost. A year of fretting sets you no farther forward. The best use you can possibly make of last year's blunders is to forget them, and then from the experience get wisdom for this year. Remembering them, keeping them before you in painful regret, will only make you less strong for avoiding them hereafter. To err is human. We learn by making mistakes. Nobody ever does anything perfectly the first time he tries it. The artist spoils yards of canvas and reams of paper in mastering his art. It is the same in living. It takes most of a lifetime to learn how to do work passably well.

There is a way also by which our mistakes may be made to work good for us. We can do with them that they shall be made to yield good instead of evil. We know well that many of life's best things in character and attainment have come out of follies. We owe far more than we know to our blunders. . . .

We should forget our hurts. There are hurts in every life. Somebody did you harm last year. Somebody was unkind to you, and left a sting in your memory. Somebody said something untrue about you, talking malignly of you, misrepresented you. You say you cannot forget these hurts, these injuries, these wrongs. But you would better. Do not cherish them. Only worse harm to you will come from keeping them in your memory and thinking about them. Do not let them rankle in your heart. The Master forgot the wrongs and injuries done to Him, and you have not suffered the one-thousandth part of the things He suffered in this way. He loved on as if no wrong had been done to Him. . . . But hurts forgotten in love become new adornments in the life. A tiny grain of sand in a pearl oyster makes a wound; but instead of running to a festering sore, the wound becomes a pearl. So a wrong, patiently endured, mastered by love, adds new beauty to the life.

We should also forget our attainments, the things we have achieved, our successes. Nothing hampers and hinders a man more than thinking over the good or great things he has done in the past. . . . Each year must have its own adornments. However fine any past achievements of ours may have been, they should be forgotten and left behind. We are to go on to perfection, making every year better than the one before. Dissatisfaction with what we have done spurs us even to greater things in the future.

We should forget also the sins of the past. . . . Do we not believe in the forgiveness of our sins, when we have repented of them? God tells us that our sins and our iniquities He will remember

no more forever. We should forget them, too, accepting the divine mercy, and since they are so fully forgiven by our Father, our joy should be full. . . . Turn your penitence into consecration. Burn out the shame of your past evil in the fires of love and new devotion. . . . J.R.M.

Things to Remember

THE beginning of the new year is a most fitting time for renewed interest in Christian work. . . . Is any one of us satisfied with the measure of work we have done for Christ during the past year, for example? "To every man his work," is the rule of the kingdom. The work of the church is not meant to be done by any few rare souls merely. Some portion of it is to be done by each one, and that portion is not transferable. No one can do your work for you, for each one has enough of his own to fill his hands. No one can get any other to do his allotted task for him. All any one can do is his own little part. Are there any of us who have done nothing?

We need not press the question for the past, for what has not been done in its time cannot be done now. The hands that have been idle through a past year can do nothing in the new year to make up the lack. If you have left a blank where there ought to have been beautiful work done, there can be only a blank there forever. You cannot fill it now. Toil as you will any new year, you cannot make the year you left empty anything but empty. We cannot go back over our life and do omitted or neglected duties. Shall we not cease going round and round in the same little grooves, and set our faces toward God and heaven? . . .

We never should forget with what sympathy heaven looks down upon us continually. God is not a hard master. He knows how frail we are. He remembers that we are dust. Therefore He is patient with us. He judges us graciously. If we try to do our best, though we seem to fail, marring our work, He understands and praises what we have done. With such a Master we should never lose heart, never grow discouraged, never become depressed, never let gloom or bitterness into our heart, but should always keep brave, hopeful, sweet, forgetting the past, and stretching forward, knowing that no life that is true to its best can ever fail.

J. R. MILLER, D.D.

Twelve Things to Bear in Mind During the New Year

1. THE value of time.
2. The success of perseverance.
3. The pleasure of working.
4. The dignity of simplicity.
5. The worth of character.
6. The power of kindness.
7. The influence of example.
8. The obligation of duty.
9. The wisdom of economy.
10. The virtue of patience.
11. The improvement of talent.
12. The joy of originating.

My New Year Aim

NOT yet attained, but still my feet are pressing
Towards those heights which lie outstretched before;
That which the past has held of heavenly blessing
Will not suffice, I hunger still for more.
And now as dawns for me one more New Year,
So, grant, O Lord, 'twill bring me yet more near.

More near to Thee! Yea, Lord, and ever nearer,
Forgetting all the things now left behind;
My aim is higher ground, with vision clearer,
To see Thee close, though steep the path may wind.
Forgive, O Lord, the blindness of the past;
Be still my Guide, I pray, and hold me fast.

"One thing I do," my time cannot be squandered
In grieving over mistakes of years now gone;
Though in sidepaths my feet have often wandered,
Yet reach I forward still—Lord help me on!
And grant this year, in mercy given me,
May lead to untrod heights, close, close to Thee. —Selected.

**Missionary Volunteer Programme
Second Week**

The Book of Books

Opening Exercises.
Topic: "A Wonderful Book."
Reading: "The Birth of the Bible."
Reading: "The Blank Bible."
An Incident: "Led to the Word."

A Wonderful Book

THE Bible is the most wonderful book. Its author is God, and it contains a message for everybody in the world. Many years ago, before printing was invented, many scribes in many places made copies by hand. It was the first book to be printed from movable types. It is now the most popular book in the world. There are published each year ten million copies in nearly five hundred languages. There are more Bibles sold than of all the new storybooks put together. Many of the world's greatest pictures and books, and much of its music, have come from the Bible. Wherever the Bible has been read people have been saved from sin and made happier, and children's lives have been made brighter. May the Lord help our Missionary Volunteers to love the Bible and read it every day.

Would you not like to get a bird's-eye view of the Bible? It is really a library of sixty-six books in two great divisions, the Old Testament and the New Testament. How can you remember how many books each Testament has? "Old" has 3 letters; "Testament" has 9. The Old Testament has 39 books. "New" has 3 letters, "Testament" has 9, the New Testament has 3 x 9, or 27 books. It would be well to learn all these books in their order, if you have not already done so.—Selected.

The Birth of the Bible

THE world has stood, we suppose, about 6,000 years. For about 2,500 years there was no Bible such as we have today. How strange; the world without a Bible! But the Lord spoke to men; and His words were told by parents to their children, and children's children. Adam, who was once sinless and whose home was in the garden of Eden, lived on the earth over nine hundred years. "He carefully treasured what God had revealed to him, and repeated it to succeeding generations." He lived for over a half century after the birth of Lamech, the father of Noah. Lamech was his great-great-great-great-great-grandson. The story of Paradise, the entrance of sin, and the plan of salvation was told by Adam over and over to all who would listen. Lamech, who talked with Adam, lived nearly a century after Noah's sons were born. So the word of God was passed down from family to family, as a precious treasure.

After the destruction of the world by a flood, and when the people were becoming very wicked again, the Lord called Abraham out from among the heathen to be the head of a chosen nation. And to this nation he committed His word in written form.—Selected.

The Blank Bible

SUPPOSE some morning upon taking up your Bible as usual to read a chapter, you should find that every page was blank; that from cover to cover not one character appeared upon those white leaves; Suppose that you should find, when in consternation you set out to obtain another copy of this Book of books, that there were none to be had—that the word of God had vanished completely from the earth. How should you feel?

In one of his books, Henry Rogers records a dream which he entitles "The Blank Bible," and in which he tells how he thought that just such an experience had come to him. One morning, as he took from the shelf his Greek Testament, with the intention of studying it for a time, as was his custom, he found that it was filled with blank pages. Thinking that somehow he was mistaken in the book, he took down another Bible, and another; but each was in the same condition—the pages were a perfect blank.

While he was pondering upon this strange occurrence, his servant entered, and told him excitedly that some one had stolen her Bible, and left in its place a book exactly like it in outward appearance, but full of blank pages.

Later, as he went out upon the street, he was overtaken by a friend who had much the same story to tell. Some one had entered his house during the night, he said, and taken every copy of the Bible that he possessed, leaving in their place, books of exactly the same size and appearance, but containing only plain white paper.

On further investigation it was found that this condition of affairs prevailed universally, that even the Bible societies and large depositaries of books had on hand not one single copy of the Word of God—only blank books resembling it in appearance. It looked as if God had become angry with men for so long neglecting His Book, and that He had, in judg-

ment upon them, withdrawn it from the earth.

In his dream, Mr. Rogers saw that as soon as men lost the Bible, they began to place a value upon it which they had never attached to it before. People felt that they would be willing to pay any price, if only they could secure a single copy. Many who had never read or studied it, now loudly lamented the great loss that had come to them. One hardened old fellow said it "was hard to be deprived of religion in his old age!" And another who was far from careful of his practices in daily life, greatly feared that the morals of mankind would suffer, now that the Bible had been taken from them!

This was only a dream; yet there is a valuable lesson in it for us. How many fail to appreciate the inestimable worth of God's Holy Word, in these days when it is so easy of access! What if our Bibles were to become blank paper! Would we wish then that we had read them more carefully, that we had stored away in our minds and hearts the precious truths they contain? Would we wish then, with deepest regret, that we had given more time daily to a systematic, thorough study of that Book, which alone reveals to us the Creator of the universe, our heavenly Father, which alone contains hope for the sinner; the only book which tells us of Jesus Christ and His love for us; the only book which points the way to heaven and eternal life?

What would this world be without the blessed influence of the Bible? "What if all that it has wrought in man could be obliterated from human character and history! all ideas and ideals of chastity and charity, equity and ethics, mercy and magnanimity; all the motives of morality and piety, heroism and martyrdom, which it has supplied? Who could conceive the wreck and ruin that would reach into every heart and home, church and community? It would be found that millions of men, and whole peoples, who have remained unchristian and unbelieving had still owed the very fashion of their civilization to this Word of God, as the moon owes its light to the sun; and that, when the Bible was withdrawn, a darkness that might be felt covered the earth."

Let us make the Bible chief among the books we love, first and choicest among the books we read, and the means of bringing us day by day into closest fellowship with Him who is its author.

ELLA IDEN.

Led to the Word

WHILE attending a general meeting the following experience was related to me by a lady resident at the time in Boston. She said:

"I had grown up without any clear idea of religious teaching, my father having been a Jew and my mother a Catholic. I had known nothing of the Bible. At the time of which I speak my husband had been called away on business, and I was alone for the night in my home.

"Soon after midnight I awoke startled. Somehow a terrible fear was upon me. I could not explain it, but it was so real that I feared to stay in the house alone. A voice, calling me by name, said, 'Go to the boarding house and take a room.' I got up and dressed and went out into the city, and took a room about one

o'clock in the morning. As I was shown to my room I saw a book lying on the table in the room. It was one of the Bibles which the Gideon League distributes among hotels throughout the country. It was a new book to me.

"Thoroughly awake, I sat up the rest of the night and read the Bible. By early morning I wanted a Bible of my own. At first I thought I would ring for the boy and ask him to ask the manager if I could not buy that copy. Then I thought it would appear strange, and they would think I was not quite balanced, coming at one o'clock in the morning and then trying to buy a Bible from them early in the morning. So I went home. A friend called. I said, 'Have you a Bible?' 'Surely,' she said, 'I have two or three of them.' 'Let me have one,' I said. So finding myself in the possession of a Bible, I began to study it.

"Very shortly after that, Seventh-day Adventist publications came into my hands and soon I was rejoicing in the truth."

In telling this experience the narrator said she could never cease to thank God that He woke her up that night so strangely and sent her where she could come in touch with His Holy Word.

W. A. SPICER.

Missionary Volunteer Programme

Third Week

Spreading Good Cheer

Topic: "Good Cheer Is Contagious."

Incident: "Her Masterpiece."

Reading: "Winsome Christians"

Incident: "Blind Yet Spreading Good Cheer."

Good Cheer Is Contagious

ENEMIES of Christianity like to say that the religion of Jesus Christ makes people long-faced, solemn, morose, and gloomy. Some of these enemies have said it so much that some well-meaning Christians have almost come to believe it themselves. The charge is false. A pessimistic Christian is an anomaly.

The real Christlike man or woman, boy or girl is a happy and cheerful person. And, what is more important, he passes his radiant sunshine on to others.

His cheer is both contagious and infectious. Because it is the genuine article the Christian is always happy. The reason is, he has something that is very real to base his hopes upon. To him, world-conditions, troubles, and sorrow are not despairing. There is a bright future ahead, and of this he is absolutely certain.

David had the true ideal of the Christian when in Psalms 119:74, he said: "They that fear Thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in Thy word."

This is both an admonition and an assurance to Missionary Volunteers, and to all who aspire to Christianity. People—our friends, acquaintances—will be glad when they see us, because hope in the word of God will make us agreeable—in our facial expressions, in our actions, in our words and thoughts.

Let us aspire to be genuine Christians. Let us be the kind that will make all those

about us glad because we have hoped and trusted in the written Word, which is the Bible, and in the incarnate Word, which is Christ Jesus. UTHAI VINCENT WILCOX.

Her Masterpiece

"I ONCE knew a woman," writes Margaret E. Sangster, Junr., "who wrote stories. Her stories were eagerly sought after, for they were well written and charming, and yet she was not entirely satisfied with them.

"Some day," she used to tell us, 'I'll do some hing really fine.'

"You are always doing good work," we invariably answered; but she would laugh and say: 'It will be better—some day.'

"And then, one afternoon . . . she came in smilingly, happily, and cried out as she saw us, 'I've written my big story—my great big beautiful story. I'm tired and I'm sleepy, but I'm glad; for I've done the best thing that I ever hoped to do.'

"Was it this masterpiece of hers that others counted as such? Ah, no! After she died,—she died suddenly,—a close friend received a letter from a farmer woman out in the Middle West. It ran:

'I think you might like to know about a little experience I once had with a famous authoress. Maybe you knew her.'

"My son and my husband were both killed on the same day in a terrible accident, and I was just about crushed when the news came to me. My heart and my soul and my body seemed all one empty ache for them. And after the funeral, to take my mind away from the terrible thoughts, I sat down and wrote a letter. I wrote it to her. She was my favourite author. I wrote it because it was necessary to confide in some one, but I never expected an answer.

And yet she did answer! And her letter to me was the first thing that showed me that I could still go on living my life without my husband and my son. She enclosed a little poem in the letter.'

"We discovered the authoress was our friend who had died suddenly. She had done so many kind little deeds! And, a group of us together, we read the tiny little poem that she had sent to the grief-stricken farmer woman, the stranger woman whom she had never seen. It was brimming over with tenderness and sympathy and love—that little poem; so full of her spirit that we were very silent for a moment after we had finished reading it; and then some one said: 'It is her masterpiece.' And we all knew that it was."

Exactly! And why?—O she put sympathy into it, she put tenderness into it, and she filled it with love! This is what makes life worth while. It is when these beautiful qualities shine forth in our lives, manifested wheresoever, whensoever, and to whomsoever it may be, that we are doing our masterpiece work for our God. We may not count it such, but the Master, beholding will say, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

T. E. BOWEN.

Winsome Christians

A BRICK manufacturer, a very fleshy man, advertised for a boy. A boy appeared. His first question was:—

"How much wages do you pay?"

"Five dollars a week and board," was the manufacturer's reply.

"What kind of board?" said the sharp applicant for a position.

"Well," said the corpulent and good-natured manufacturer, "I eat it."

"Give me the job," said the boy, with a smiling glance at his prospective employer.

This is a humorous story, but it has a point that we can see with our eyes shut. The brick manufacturer was a good advertisement of the board that he gave his workmen.

- If you and I should ask some one to become a Christian, would he look at the gospel's results in our lives, and say, "I want to be."? In other words, do we look, speak, and act as if religion agreed with us and we agreed with religion? Are we a living recommendation of our spiritual food? Are we a good recommendation for the gospel? Would other people long to be fed with our food, to think our thoughts, to speak our words, to dream our dreams, to do our work?

A dear, sunshiney old man, with whom I was long acquainted, loved a phrase that we rarely hear nowadays, "winsome Christians." Just divide that word, winsome. Winsome Christians are magnets that are always charged, lights that are always burning. They radiate hope and faith and good cheer to all with whom they come in contact. Young people do not need more signboards to point out the way to heaven; what they need is to company with winsome young people who are headed that way and who always keep their eyes upon the goal.—G. W. TUTTLE

Blind, Yet Spreading Good Cheer

SOME persons take to gloom as a bat does to darkness. When one parts company with them, the inclination is to breathe deeply that the blood might be aroused from sluggishness. Why will persons possessed of their senses persist in despondency, churlishness, and grouchingness?

An incident occurred recently in one of the elevated trains in New York City in which a boy, deprived of eyesight, filled the car with sunshine and good cheer. The train had just left One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street when the passengers saw entering the car a little boy about six years old, half carried by an older boy, evidently his brother. Both were well dressed, but at first glance it was seen that the little fellow was blind. He had a pale, wan face, but was smiling. A quick look of sympathy passed over the face of the passengers, and an old gray-haired gentleman got up and gave his seat to the two. The "big brother," who was about eleven years old, tenderly lifted the little blind boy and placed him on his knee.

"How's that?" he asked.

"Nice," said the little chap. "Where's my monica?"

This puzzled some of the passengers, and several turned to see what the child meant. But the "big brother" knew, and immediately drew out a small mouth harmonica and placed it in the little fellow's hands. The little fellow took the instrument into his thin banhds, ran it across his lips, and began to play softly, "Nearer My God, to Thee." Tears came into the eyes of the old gentleman who had given up his seat, and as the little fellow played

on, running into "Rock of Ages" and "Abide with Me," there were many moist eyes in the car.

The train rushed along, the passengers listened, and the little boy played on tirelessly, never missing a note of "Home Sweet Home." Finally the "big brother" leaned down and told the little one to get ready to leave, as they were nearing their station. Then, as if he knew he had won a whole carload of friends, the blind boy quickly changed "The Swanee River" into "Auld Lang Syne," and with one accord the passengers burst into a round of applause, while the "big brother" carried the little one out of the car.

Angels who surround God's throne fill heaven with music. The Christian on earth is to make melody in his heart to God; and the life of a person whose heart is full of gladness, will not be one of gloom. "Be of good cheer!" is the cry of the Christ to His children, who are to lift their heads and look up when their eternal redemption draws so nigh that its glory fills the heart with praise and thanksgiving. The joy of the Lord is the strength of the believer. Satan flees in despair when from a full heart the hymn of praise is sounded out—whether it be in the field, at the bench, or in the public service of God. Defeat Satan by becoming a singing Christian. If you cannot sing with the lips, you can make a "joyful noise" unto the Lord. This sort of "noise" is melodious to God. ELISHA DODDS.

Missionary Volunteer Programme

Fourth Week

Success

Opening Exercises.

Topic: "The Secret of Success."

Reading: "Our Mistaken Views of Success."

Reading: "Success through Faith and Humility."

Dialogue: "Co-operation Means Success."

LEADER'S NOTE.—"Co-operation Means Success." This could be given as a reading or as a dialogue. If used as a dialogue it would be necessary to change the wording a little, and let younger members of the society represent the different parts of the train. They should have the part represented by each, printed in large letters on a scarf or placard, and each speak in his turn from the front where all stand in a row together, coming up just after the leader has announced the exercise and given the substance of the first paragraph. The driver and the guard do not appear until the close of the discussion, as will be noticed on reading this item through.

The Secret of Success

"OUR success does not depend on our talents or learning, but on our living connection with God." Vol. 5, p. 158.

"The worker should be prepared to put forth the highest mental and moral energies with which nature, cultivation and the grace of God have endowed him; but his success will be proportionate to the degree of consecration and self-sacrifice in which the work is done, rather

than to either natural or acquired endowments." Vol. 5, p. 583.

"Those whose affections are set on God will succeed. They will lose sight of self in Christ, and worldly attractions will have no power to allure them from their allegiance." Vol. 7, p. 90.

"In this work more than in any secular business, success is proportioned to the spirit of consecration and self-sacrifice with which the work is done." Vol. 7, p. 189.

Our Mistaken Views of Success

"WHEN the redeemed stand in the presence of God, they will see how short-sighted were their conclusions as to what heaven records as success. As they review their efforts to achieve success, they will see how foolish were their plans, how petty their supposed trials, how unreasonable their doubts. They will see how often they brought failure into their work by not taking God at His Word. And one truth will stand out in clear lines: that position does not prepare a man for entrance into the heavenly courts. They will see, too, that the honour given to man is due to God alone, that to Him belongs all the glory." Vol. 7, p. 28.

"O, how different are the standards by which God and men measure character. God sees many temptations resisted of which the world, and even near friends, never know,—temptations in the home, in the heart. He sees the soul's humility in view of its own weakness; in the sincere repentance over even a thought that is evil. He sees the whole-hearted devotion to His service. He has noted the hours of hard battle with self,—battle that won the victory. All this God and angels know. A book of remembrance is written before Him for them that fear the Lord and that think upon His name.

"Not in our learning, not in our position, not in our numbers of entrusted talents, not in the will of man, is to be found the secret of success. Feeling our inefficiency, we are to contemplate Christ, and through Him Who is the strength of all strength, the thought of all thought, the willing and obedient will gain victory after victory."—"Christ's Object Lessons," pp. 403, 404.

Success through Faith and Humility

"DANIEL and Joseph were youth of firm principle, whom God could use to carry out His purposes. Mark their history, and see how God wrought for them. Joseph met with a variety of experiences,—experiences that tested his courage and uprightness to the fullest extent. After being sold into Egypt, he was at first favoured, and intrusted with great responsibilities; but suddenly, without any fault on his part, he was unjustly accused and cast into prison. But he is not discouraged. He trusts in God; and the purpose of his heart, the purity of his motive, is made manifest. The eye of God is upon him, a divine hand leads him, and soon we see him come forth from prison to share the throne of Egypt.

"Joseph's checkered life was not an accident; it was ordered of Providence. But how was he enabled to make such a record of firmness of character, uprightness, and wisdom? It was the result of

careful training in his early years. He had consulted duty rather than inclination; and the purity and simple trust of the boy bore fruit in the deeds of the man. The most brilliant talents are of no value unless they are improved; industrious habits and force of character must be gained by cultivation. A high moral character and fine mental qualities are not the result of accident. God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them. The openings of Providence must be quickly discerned and eagerly seized upon." Vol. 5, p. 321.

"Meekness and lowliness of heart are the conditions for strength and victory. The crown of glory awaits those who bow at the foot of the cross. Blessed are these mourners; for they shall be comforted." Vol. 5, p. 475.

"Persevering diligence, working in faith, will always be crowned with success." Vol. 7, p. 206.

"The road to success is not a smooth way, over which we are borne in palace cars; but it is a rugged path, filled with obstacles which can be surmounted only by patient toil." Vol. 5, p. 552.

Co-operation Means Success

A TRAIN was one day waiting idly at the terminus and having nothing to do, its parts extended into a discussion as to which was the most important feature of the train. The argument began in this way:

1. *The engine* about half an hour before with many puffs and grunts of satisfaction had hauled the train over the hill and with safety had pulled it into the station at the end of its journey, and thus its day's work was ended. Lifting its head with a look of superiority it said to the tender and carriages, "It all depends on me." You would never have got here, but for me."

2. *The tender* at once replied, "I am not so sure about that. How would you have got along if I had not carried the coal and water for you. I am sure it all depends on me."

3. *The guard's van* was the next to speak. "You are both wrong for it all depends on me. You would not be allowed to pull the train along without the guard's signal, and I carry the guard."

4. *The carriages* then exclaimed together, "You three are very foolish. It all depends on us! Do you think people would run a train without carriages? It is because of us that an engine, tender, and van are needed. You could not carry the passengers, and that is what the train is for."

5. Just then there was a rumble on the tender and a large lump of coal which had worked its way onto the top of the rest called out, "Wait a bit. It is I upon whom it all depends. You carriages and others would not be able to move an inch without me. You know it is heat that gives the engine its power. The passengers would not go near the train if they knew that there was no coal on the tender. Don't you remember the miner's strike?"

6. "Not so fast, Mr. Coal, please," came a gurgling voice from the boiler. It was the water speaking. "Fancy Mr. Coal burning in the furnace if I were not here! It all depends on me sure enough. All you could do, Mr. Coal, would be to burn out the boiler tubes and ruin the engine if I were not in my place."

7. The next voice was a smooth and soft one which said, "I am only the oil and I

might easily be overlooked for no one sees much of me, but I remember just as we were pulling out of the central station one day, the train stopped suddenly for the oil can was dropped by the engine driver, and he stopped the train while he jumped down to pick the can up. Do you know what I heard him say? 'I can't leave you behind for we could not get along without our oil.' I was pleased at that for I did not think people thought much of me till then."

Just then the engine driver and guard came along. "What is all this discussion about?" they asked. "You all seem very much excited."

CHORUS (except oil) We want to know which is the most important part of the train. I say "It all depends on me."

Driver—It all depends on you all, and all together at that. I heard Miss Oil saying that I would not travel without her, but she didn't say, like the rest of you,—"It all depends on me." We could not get along without any of you. You all have your part to do and your place to fill. Isn't that right guard?"

Guard—That is quite right, driver. The parts of the train are like the members of the church. There is a part and a place for each to fill, and if all do not fulfil their parts we cannot get along so well, nor so quickly. It does not all depend on the minister, the elder, or the missionary leader or other church officers. They cannot get along without the help of all the members; and, too, we need a good supply of the oil of love shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. If our train can be fitted up in that way we shall make a safe journey and make up some of our lost time before we reach the terminus, Heaven.

Sabbath School Missionary Exercises

(January 7)

Three Little Girls of Fiji

SISTER Meyers writing from Fiji, gives us in her letter a little glimpse of her work for the girls of Fiji. She says:

"I often used to meet an old woman and a little girl in the streets of Suva. I felt deeply impressed with the latter and longed to place her in more favourable surroundings. When I attempted to do this obstacles loomed in front of me like mountains. By God's grace all were surmounted, and today Ramraji stands as a monument of truth and grace. It is refreshing to hear her testimony of a prayer-answering God.

"Her husband is in training for the Lord's work in India, but Ramraji bears the separation with true courage and Christian fortitude, and looks forward to the time when she can unite with her husband in the work they both love.

"For some years I have been working for another family and have often wondered what the result of loving ministry would be in that home. Recently a member of the family, who was a very little girl when I first knew her, has taken her stand for the truth and has been baptized.

"She is now the wife of Brother Dwarkha Singh, a fine young man, who is

very faithful to the message. On their wedding day they made a very touching consecration of themselves anew to the work as they sang together:

"Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee."

"We have had another happy experience in a home where we have visited and laboured long without seeing any results. A girl, who is a member of this home, at last responded to the message we teach, and is now the wife of one of our Indian evangelists, and is united with him in the work. Satan tried hard to hedge them in, and they had many obstacles to overcome; but the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him."

(January 14)

The Week of Prayer on Lord Howe Island

SISTER Ferris writing from Lord Howe Island, September 11, tells of the good week of prayer they have been having there. On the last Sabbath of that week the prayers and testimonies were especially earnest, and the Lord came very near His waiting people. The annual offering amounted to £10, which is very good considering that the seed business is going down and the rats are destroying almost everything.

Sister Ferris seemed much impressed with the children's meetings in the week of prayer. The following interesting description of these meetings is given in her own words:

"We had the children's meetings in the afternoon just after school hours, and we had a splendid time with them. They were the best children's week of prayer meetings that I have ever attended. The children were deeply interested in them and nearly all took part in prayer every day. Two dear little mites who had very bad colds and could not come one afternoon, had a little prayer meeting by themselves while the other children were meeting at the church.

"On the last Sabbath every child stood up and gave a little testimony. The two last were such little tots we did not expect them to say anything, but little Margie stood on her feet and said, 'I love Jesus, I do,' and sat down. Muriel, our little girl, stood up and said, 'I love Jesus, too.' So every one said something, but the older ones were very earnest.

"On the day that the lesson was on temptations, I spoke to them of all the different traps the great enemy, Satan, sets to trap boys and girls, and wrote a list on the blackboard. I drew different things on the board and asked them to guess what they were. A book with a yellow back representing a novel, they easily guessed. Also cigarettes, playing cards, the dancing hall, and other things with which they are only too familiar here.

"The idea of these being Satan's traps was a new thought to them. They understood all about traps as they are always inventing new traps to catch the numerous rats which infest their island.

"In the prayers that followed one young girl said, 'Lord Jesus make me strong not to go to the dances any more.'

She was very young, only eleven years old, but I knew by that prayer she meant never to go again. "We have been greatly encouraged by our children's meetings this year."

(January 21)

Her Husband Wanted to Sell Her

FROM Sister Bessie Dowell of China comes the following touching story of the sorrows of a Chinese girl:

"One of my girls whom I have had in school, Yao Lan Yin, went up to the interior to be married to a man to whom her parents promised her when she was but a child. She did not want to go, but there was no alternative, so she went. She was told that he was a well-educated man, but after marriage she found him to be uneducated, poor, and very unkind. She was not allowed to go to church, and was kept imprisoned in a room so that she could not see her mother who had accompanied her to the town. She was also deprived of many meals.

"The place where she was living was visited by a flood, and she was obliged to stay in a house where there was mud and water six inches deep. She was in a miserable condition and her husband wanted to sell her for 200 dollars Mexican. The foreign brethren here were investigating the matter to see whether all reports were true. In the meantime her brother-in-law went up to visit her, although it was at the risk of his life to do so. He wanted to buy her if he could. We did not hear from him and were quite anxious about him. He is our artist at the publishing house, and we cannot afford to lose him.

"A day or two ago we learned through his wife that she had heard from him that he was on his way home. We are now waiting for word from him about Yao Lan Yin. If the girl is to be sold we are very anxious to buy her. She is of a sweet disposition, and has been educated in our school, having finished the ninth grade which is very good for a Chinese girl. She would be a great help in the work. If her husband wishes to keep her, then we will, as a church, see that she gets food, and endeavour to have her husband treat her well. We have been trying to get them both to come down to our school, but so far we have been unsuccessful."

(January 28)

Faithful Unto Death

A FEW months ago we were all made very sad when we heard of the tragic occurrence at Pitcairn Island, which deprived our work there of a faithful leader, and our school of a loved teacher, by the death of Brother Walter Fisher Young.

It will be remembered that some years ago Brother and Sister Adams, now in Norfolk Island, were in charge of our work on Pitcairn Island, and they greatly appreciated the valuable services of this brother.

A letter has been received lately from Brother and Sister Adams written just after they had received news of the accident at Pitcairn, containing the following affectionate tribute to the memory of our late brother:

"We received by last boat the sad, sad news from Pitcairn, and naturally we feel

it keenly. Dear Walter stood by us so faithfully during the whole of our stay on Pitcairn. He was only a young man, but we found him so true and reliable, and he has carried the burden of the work there ever since we left.

"We do not know of any young man in our ranks who worked more faithfully and with such zeal as Walter did, and was always so unselfish. When any were in danger of drowning he was the first to run to the rescue, and there are a number on the island today who have been saved from a watery grave through his bravery.

"He only lived one hour after the terrible accident. His back was broken as well as his hip bone and his head had sustained severe injuries. Though suffering great agony he pleaded with the people for the last time to forsake their sinful ways. He also made arrangements for the coming Sabbath's services, then asking forgiveness if he had wronged any, he prayed that God would take him for his agony was more than he could bear.

"We are comforted by the thought that dear Walter will receive the crown of life promised to those who are faithful unto death."

Home Missions Department

Suggestive Programme for the Fourth Sabbath Home Missionary Service

(To be held on January 28)

Opening Song: Christ in Song, No. 58.

Scripture Reading: Matt. 20: 1-16.

Prayer.

Presentation of Theme: The Significance of the Layman's Missionary Movement.

Special Music.

Talk: The Situation Confronting Those Who Respond to the Eleventh-Hour Call

Closing Song: Christ in Song, No. 536.

The Significance of the Layman's Missionary Movement

"WERE every one of you [church members] a living missionary, the message for this time would speedily be proclaimed in all countries, to every people and nation and tongue. This is the work that must be done before Christ shall come in power and great glory."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. VI, p. 438.

This is but one of many statements which very clearly and definitely reveal that before the Lord's appearing there will be a mighty awakening on the part of the laymen—such a layman's missionary movement as the earth has never witnessed. Everything about us shows that we have entered the time when such a powerful movement is due.

The parable of the householder, as recorded in Matthew 20, is applicable at this very time. You will recall the sacred narrative—how the householder, early in the morning and at various times during the day, made an agreement with labourers to enter his vineyard. The urgency of the task to be performed was such that even at the eleventh hour of the day he engaged all available helpers, bidding them enter the vineyard, and promising them a just compensation.

In the early hours of the Christian era Christ bade His followers, "Go ye . . . and make disciples [Christians] of all nations" (Matt. 28: 19, margin), and each succeeding hour the call for labourers has been repeated. Many have responded and been diligently at work in the world-wide field. But as earth's day draws to a close, at the eleventh hour the Master searches for more helpers. Whenever He finds men or women, young or old, who are idling in earth's market places, or who, at least, are not busy in His vineyard, He asks, "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" The answer of those referred to in the parable is oft repeated in our day,—"Because no man hath hired us." Perhaps, in other words, they say, "We are not on the conference pay roll." "Our names do not appear in the Year Book of denominational workers." But to all such comes the authoritative command, "Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive."

The message of the eleventh hour is unquestionably to the laymen. It comes from the same source and is accompanied by the same assurance of reward, as the call to all labourers. The eleventh-hour call is now going forth, summoning the church to universal action. Immediately following this great movement, the evening comes, and the labourers receive their reward. We know the laymen will respond to the call, for the record shows that they are on the honour roll at the last, and receive their wages.

The laymen of every age have been used by God for the accomplishment of great things. It is well to review the history of the part acted by the laymen in the Exodus movement and in the apostolic movement, in order to adequately estimate what is involved in the work of the laymen in the advent movement.

The Exodus Movement

In the reply of Moses to Pharaoh, when the children of Israel were about to leave Egypt, we have the key to the success of that movement. Pharaoh said unto them:

"Go, serve the Lord your God: but who are they that shall go? And Moses said, We will go with our young and with our old, with our sons and with our daughters, with our flocks and with our herds will we go." Ex. 10: 8, 9.

The Exodus movement embraced every soul and all earthly possessions.

Notwithstanding this united and concerted movement on the part of Israel, Moses was slow to learn the important lesson of distribution of responsibility. It was not until that wise statesman of Midian, Jethro, visited the encampment in the wilderness and observed the heavy burdens resting upon Moses, his son-in-law, that the necessary precaution was heeded and Moses learned this important lesson. It was then that Moses called to his assistance the laymen of Israel, whose efforts were signally blessed of God. It was not long after this that upon one occasion the Spirit of God rested in marked measure upon the laymen, Eldad and Medad, and they prophesied in the camp.

Joshua, then a young man, Moses' chief captain, became alarmed at this demonstration by the laymen, and he hastened to Moses, exclaiming, "My lord Moses, forbid them." But Moses had no selfish ambition. He knew that the Lord was using these men, and he replied, "Would God that all the Lord's people were

prophets, and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!" Num. II: 27-29. There is nothing we might write or say to the church today that could transcend these words of Moses.

When Joshua was called to take the place of Moses, he was still slow to learn the lesson of sharing responsibilities with all the people. After the disastrous defeat at Ai, as the result of taking only a few men to do the work, the Lord said unto him, "Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee." Joshua 8: 1. From this time until Canaan had been nominally conquered, there is not the record of one battle lost or of one man lost in battle. The whole land was subdued in seven years.

These lessons from the lives and labours of the children of Israel are not simply a chapter in ancient history; these things are written "for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Rom. 15: 4. The children of Israel came out of Egypt a band of fugitives, but under the leadership and organization of Heaven, every one was given his part to act, and the fugitive band became a well-disciplined and well-regulated army.

The Apostolic Movement

The great Leader of the Exodus movement leads also in the apostolic movement. In the former, His presence was recognised by the covering cloud. The latter movement was originated in the days when "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1: 14. Jesus Christ dwelt among men, and at the conclusion of His earthly ministry He committed to human instrumentality the carrying forward of His divine mission.

Christ was the great commoner. "The common people heard Him gladly." Throughout His earthly life He solicited the co-operation of every consecrated soul. When the man out of whom He had cast a legion of devils wished to go with Him, He said, "Return to thine own house, and show how great things God hath done unto thee." The man then "went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him. And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received Him: for they were all waiting for Him." Luke 8: 39, 40. The Saviour once permitted a poor fallen woman, who had been permitted to be in His presence and to receive His instruction for only a few moments, to go back into her city and work for Him; and it is said that "many of the Samaritans of that city believed on Him for the saying of the woman." John 4: 39.

One of the first acts of the Saviour was to select twelve men and ordain them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. (See Luke 9: 1, 2.) He did not stop, however, with twelve men.

"After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before His face into every city and place, whither He Himself would come." Luke 10: 1.

The commission of the seventy was very similar to that of the twelve. He called twelve men and ordained them; then He called seventy unordained men, whose names are not given, and sent them out also. This latter class repre-

sents the layman's movement in Christ's day. It was the Lord's programme.

The story of this movement, as recorded in the book of Acts, begins at Jerusalem and ends at Rome. It begins with a Jewish sect numbering one hundred and twenty persons. It ends with the gospel's overreaching every barrier and extending to every nation. The believers represented Christ in their lives, and the Lord worked with them, "confirming the word with signs following." Mark 16: 20.

The apostolic movement succeeded because the laymen united their efforts with the apostles and leaders. When the seventy were commissioned to go forth, they had never been in a foreign land. They had practically no literature, and no money. Yet they did not begin to ask how they were to learn strange and difficult foreign languages, or where they were to get the literature or the money. They went first to the upper room, which was their temporary home, and repented of their unbelief and hardness of heart. They fasted and prayed and claimed the Lord's promises, and Pentecost brought them the fullness of divine power. Very soon these laymen of the early church were "scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria," and they went "everywhere preaching the word." These early heralds of the cross were unnamed and unordained men, yet the guidance of the apostolic movement largely passed to them, and they were continually in the forefront of the battle, pioneering in every mission field of that day.

The Advent Movement

The apostolic movement and the advent movement in many respects are similar. We are not the first people to whom God has committed the task of carrying His message to all the world in one generation. The apostolic church accomplished the same task. Their methods and programme, with the outpouring of the Spirit in the former rain, accomplished the work. We are admonished by the Spirit of Prophecy to study the book of Acts, for by so doing we may receive light on our methods of work.

The similarity of the work of the apostles and laymen of that day and the work of the church today is described in the following statement:

"Why has the history of the work of the disciples, as they laboured with holy zeal, animated and vitalized by the Holy Spirit, been recorded, if it is not that from this record the Lord's people today are to gain an inspiration to work earnestly for Him? What the Lord did for His people in that time, it is just as essential, and more so, that He do for His people today. All that the apostles did, every church member today is to do. And we are to work with as much more fervour, to be accompanied by the Holy Spirit in as much greater measure, as the increase of wickedness demands a more decided call to repentance. . . . From all believers light is to be reflected in clear, distinct rays. A work similar to that which the Lord did through His delegated messengers after the day of Pentecost He is waiting to do today. . . . Should not the power of God be even more mightily revealed today than in the time of the apostles?"—*"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. VII, p. 33.*

The apostolic movement started right. It started with a representative gathering of all the believers in Judea who could get together at that time. Notice the

personnel of this company. After mentioning the apostles each by name, it is stated:

"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brethren." Act 1: 14.

This is the last mention made of the mother of our Lord in the Scriptures. We bid farewell to her with this text; but we are glad that she was there with all the others, seeking for the baptism of the Spirit to carry on the blessed work begun by the Lord.

"When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all [men and women] with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." Acts 2: 1-4.

Notice that little word "all." It must never be omitted. They were all of one accord, and they were all in one place. The Spirit sat upon each of them; they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. We say again, the apostolic movement began right. It included the apostles and the laymen, the women, and, we assume, the children. The Spirit came upon them all, for God intended to use all the people in the church.

God's thought for us today is precisely the same. If we intend to work with Him and on the platform upon which He is working, we must step up on to His platform. We cannot expect Christ to step down to our restricted way of thinking and doing things. If we are fully to cooperate with Him, we must find God's own plan and programme, and adopt it. There is not even a hint in the New Testament that Christ ever expected the apostles to do all the work. The laymen's movement in apostolic times began with all the church in the upper room, and today God's plan embraces every individual.

The Need of the Church Today

The history of the early church is the history of what God would have His church today. There must be the dawning of a new day in our lives. There must be a new experience. Let each one ask himself this living question: On which side of Pentecost am I living? Chronologically we are all living on this side, but experimentally many of us may be living on the other side. What is the supreme motive of our lives? Is it to be like Him and to reflect His image fully? Have we realized any great change in our lives? We must have another Pentecost. This is the need and the hope of the church today.

Looking into the Face of a New Year

In the beginning of a new year, let us, as ministers and laymen, pause with eyes uplifted to heaven; let us sit quietly at the feet of our ascended Lord, that we may hear His loving commands; and being all of one accord, the Holy Spirit will fill all the house; and may it be said of us, as of them of old, that from this day on "they went everywhere preaching the word."

Let us pray. (Prayer by the leader.)
R. D. QUINN.