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Church Officers' General Instruction Department

Bible Study

The Seal of God

[NOTE TO CHURCH ELDERS.—The following Bible study may be helpful to you in preparing for some Sabbath in the month when you have to conduct the meeting. Having the quotations written out beforehand to give to different members to read when called upon, will add interest to the service.—Ed.]

Esther 8: 8. A seal attached to a document makes it legal. A legal seal gives the name of the person issuing the seal, also his title and territory. In this text Ahasuerus was the name; king, the title; and Persia, the territory over which he ruled.

Rom. 4: 11. The words "sign" and "seal" are synonymous.

Isa. 8: 16. The seal of earthly rulers is attached to their laws to make them binding upon their subjects. The seal of God is attached to his law to make it binding upon all his subjects. (See "Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 307.)

Matt. 5: 17, 18; Rom. 7: 7; James 2: 8-12; Ex. 24: 12; Deut. 4: 9-13. God's law is the ten commandments.

Ex. 20: 8-11. Read carefully each commandment, and find where God has attached his seal,—his name, title, and territory.

Ex. 20: 11. In the last part of the fourth commandment, we find all the specifications of the seal. Lord, his name; Creator, his title; his territory, the heavens and earth. All within that territory are amenable to his law.

Ex. 31: 13. The Sabbath is a sign, or seal, of God's authority. (See "The Great Controversy," p. 605.)

Gen. 2: 2, 3. There were three steps in making the Sabbath:

1. God rested on the seventh day; that made it God's day.
2. He blessed the seventh day after he had rested; that made all succeeding seventh days God's blessed rest days.

3. He sanctified it, or set it apart for a holy use, and it became God's blessed, holy, rest day. (See "The Desire of Ages," p. 281.)

Joshua 5: 15. It is God's presence that makes anything holy.

Isa. 58: 13. God calls the Sabbath his holy day. His presence is in the day.

Eze. 20: 20. The Sabbath is the sign, or seal, of God. The one that hallows it acknowledges that he is a subject of God's kingdom, and knows that the Lord is his God. (See "Testimonies for the Church," Vol. IX, p. 18.)

Eze. 20: 12. Just as the seventh day was set apart for a holy use, so the keeping of the Sabbath becomes a sign of sanctification between God and the person who keeps it. In

the act of keeping the Sabbath he acknowledges that he is set apart for holy work. God is first in all his work and business. (See "Education," p. 250.)

Ex. 20: 8. The Sabbath is holy; God wishes us to regard it as holy time.

Ex. 31: 13. The one who in the fear of God will keep the Sabbath holy, becomes holy.

Ex. 31: 17. The rest, refreshing, and blessing were placed in the seventh day, not in any other day.

Num. 23: 19, 20. The blessing cannot be transferred by man to any other day. God's blessing cannot be reversed by man.

1 Chron. 17: 27. God's blessing continues forever.

Isa. 66: 22, 23. The Sabbath will be God's blessed, holy, rest day throughout eternity. S. N. HASKELL.

Examination of Candidates for Baptism and Church Membership

BAPTISM and uniting with the church are great and important steps in the Christian life. They are compared to the beginning of a new life by birth. John 3: 3.

In the great commission are given the fundamentals of church membership. In examining candidates we should ever keep in mind these great basic truths of the gospel as set forth in this commission Christ gave to his ambassadors to be followed strictly in the development of a perfect church. Christ, having acknowledged that all power came from God to him, said to his disciples:

"Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28: 19, 20, R. V.

Christ commanded his disciples to do nothing but what he lived, and therefore his life was a perfect example, not simply for the early church, but for all believers, even to the end of the world.

Christ lived the word; he taught as an example; and he is declared to be "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13: 8), and we are bidden to "follow his steps." (1 Peter 2: 21). Therefore, to teach whatsoever Christ has commanded is to set the goal of Christian perfection for his disciples.

The great commission sets forth fundamental principles. We are to "go," to the world; we are to "teach," and believers are to "observe" whatsoever Christ has commanded, and baptism is included. We are to be baptized "into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." Through believing and obeying the commandments of Christ, we are adopted into the royal family of heaven, and become the sons of God. John 1: 12.

A most beautiful setting of Christ's commission is found in "The Desire of Ages," page 826. It says:

"In the commission to his disciples, Christ not only outlined their work, but gave them their message. Teach the people, he said, 'to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.' The disciples were to teach what Christ had taught. That which he had spoken, not only in person, but through all the prophets and teachers of the Old Testament, is here included. Human teaching is shut out. There is no place for tradition, for man's theories and conclusions, or for church legislation. No laws ordained by ecclesiastical authority are included in the commission. None of these are Christ's servants to teach. 'The law and the prophets,' with the record of his own words and deeds, are the treasure committed to the disciples to be given to the world. Christ's name is the watchword, their badge of distinction, their bond of union, the authority for their course of action, and the source of their success. Nothing that does not bear his superscription is to be recognized in his kingdom."

According to the gospel commission, then, the minister, in examining candidates for baptism and for church fellowship, is limited and prohibited from using tests or requirements not found in the Bible. The writer has sometimes heard questions asked candidates that he considers out of place. In no question should we place an obligation or exact a promise for which we cannot find in the Bible a "Thus saith the Lord." Therefore, according to Christ's instruction, we should proceed something after this manner in the examining of persons to be baptized and received into the church:

1. Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and his word as your teacher in all things pertaining to your moral obligations to God and to your fellow beings?

2. Have you the evidence that Christ has accepted you and forgiven your sins?

3. Do you take the Bible, including both the Old and the New Testaments, to be the supreme guide in your Christian life? (This, of course, would not exclude reading or instruction from outside sources that might be of worth.)

4. Do you recognize in your baptismal vow that you are taking upon yourself the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and that these omnipotent powers are pledged to you, as a child of God, to give you faith and power to live the Christian life?

5. Do you take the Bible, above all other books and above all other teaching and counsel of men, to be the standard of your daily living in the development of a perfect Christian life, and do you hereby promise to make the Bible your daily study and companion?

6. Do you recognize your baptismal vow as a fitting memorial of the death of the old man of sin and of a resurrection to a new life in Christ Jesus, and further, that the baptismal sacrament also shows your faith in a resurrection from the dead to a life that shall know no end? Rom. 6: 3-6.

7. In accepting membership in the body of Christ, his church, do you recognize your obligation to become a co-worker with Jesus Christ in the work of saving others; and that you are to follow in the steps of your Master in self-denial and sacrifice, for the good of those about you?

8. Do you recognize that the Scriptures place obligation upon every person to render to God an amount equal to at least one tenth of his income, for the support of the gospel; that this is a personal recognition that Jesus Christ has "bought us" and all that we possess, and that we are simply his "stewards" and not our own, and that in rendering to him a portion of our substance we are recognizing Christ as the one that has purchased us with his own blood? 1 Cor. 7: 23; Lev. 27: 30.

9. Do you recognize that the Scriptures teach that we are to preserve the body given us by the Lord in the most perfect condition for service, and therefore, that we are to eat and drink and dress, and conduct our daily lives in a manner that will be becoming to a perfect follower of Christ? 1 Cor. 6: 19, 20. This leads us to eat "for strength and not for drunkenness." Eccl. 10: 17. It leads us, as Christians, to dress in modest apparel and not for show and the gratification of human pride. 1 Tim. 2: 9.

10. Do you understand that in prayer we are invited to come into the presence of our Creator, the great "I AM," and there "shut the door," and hold sweet communion with God? In this blessed privilege and duty is found the secret of power and success in the Christian life. Matt. 6: 6.

11. So far as you have studied the Scriptures, are you in harmony with the teaching of Seventh-day Adventists as a denomination, and do you desire to connect with this Christian body of believers, and to pledge your moral and financial assistance in extending the gospel at home and abroad as far as God shall give you the ability?

R. A. UNDERWOOD.

THE solemn, sacred truth for this time is to unify the people of God. The desire for pre-eminence must die. One subject of emulation must swallow up all others,—who will most nearly resemble Christ in character?—*"Testimonies for the Church,"* Vol. VI, p. 42.

Questions on Tithing

IN the November (1919) GAZETTE this question appeared answered by Elder G. B. Thompson:

Question: "Is the tithe reckoned on the net increase or on the gross income? For example, in tithing the rent of a piece of property, should taxes, insurance, and mortgage interest, if any, be taken out before reckoning the tithe?"

Answer.—Yes. We understand the tithe is to be reckoned on the net increase. For instance, if we owned a piece of property from which we received a rental, it would be proper to deduct the amount paid in taxes, insurance, and other similar expenses, and then tithe the remainder."

These further questions are now asked by a brother in California:

1. "Should this insurance, etc., be taken out if the money invested has never been tithed?"

2. "Should expenses, as board, clothing, etc., be deducted before the tithe?"

To the first question, we would answer that the money invested in the property upon which rental was being received should have been tithed before being invested, and that if it was not, then the investor has that amount of the Lord's money hidden away among his own stuff. We should think the duty of such a one would be to pay into the treasury the amount due the Lord as "back tithe." Until this back tithe is paid (such investments often being made before the believers accept the truth), the rule would hold of deducting insurance, taxes, etc., before tithing rental income. Yet the obligation for tithing the original investment would remain until discharged, either by being paid prior to time property is sold, or at time of sale.

To the second question we would say, No. A man should tithe his whole net increase, the same as a man who receives a regular salary tithes it entire, supporting himself and his family out of the remaining nine tenths.

T. E. B.

John Wesley's Quarrel

JOHN WESLEY once had a disagreement with Joseph Bradford, his traveling companion of many years, and they agreed to part. They retired for the night, each firm in his determination, and each doubtless deploring in his heart the separation soon to follow between two friends who had been so devoted and mutually helpful. In the morning Wesley asked Bradford if he had considered during the night their agreement to part.

"Yes, sir," said Bradford.

"And must we part?" inquired Wesley.

"Please yourself, sir," said Bradford, grimly.

"But will you not ask my pardon?" demanded Wesley.

"No, sir."

"You won't?"

"No, sir."

"In that case," said Wesley, gently, "I must ask yours."

It was not the ending Bradford had expected. A moment he hesitated, and then, breaking into tears, he followed Wesley's example, and forgave and was forgiven.

Life is too short and friends are too precious to justify one in cherishing anger or resentment. Even if the wrong appears to us to be wholly on the other side, something may be conceded for love's sake.

Worship of God is so joined to love toward men that the forgiving man is sure to be the forgiven man.—*Selected.*

"EVERY church should be a light in the world. If there is in your church a deadness, a stagnation, come together, as the disciples did before the day of Pentecost, and plead with God until you receive the light of life. Then let the light shine to all around you. Do not go on from week to week, from year to year, without knowing whether or not you are in the love of God. When Jesus went away, he promised to send the Holy Spirit, and we have a right to claim that promise. God wants us to work in the power of the Spirit. He wants us to be guided and controlled by the living, abiding principles that will keep us in the truth."—*Mrs. E. G. White, in Review, April 26, 1906.*

Home Missionary Department

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH FOR SERVICE

Suggestive Program for Fourth Sabbath Home Missionary Service

(To be held March 27)

OPENING SONG: "Ready to Do His Will," Christ in Song, No. 600.

Scripture Reading: John 15: 1-15.

Prayer.

Song: "Working, O Christ, with Thee," Christ in Song, No. 477.

Study: The Church Militant. (An exercise in which several may take part.)

Reading: The Organization of the Church for Service.

Plans, reports, and offering for local missionary work.

Closing Song: "Sleeping on Guard," Christ in Song, No. 592.

Benediction.

Note to the Leaders

During the opening months of the present year, an earnest effort is being put forth to develop a simple plan of missionary organization in every church. This is vitally essential to the future success of this Home Missionary movement. The purpose of this study is to acquaint the members of our churches with the simple plan of church missionary organization, given to this people by divine inspiration. It is hoped that every church will be carefully organized by the last of March. If your church has not been organized for Home Missionary work prior to this time, arrange for a meeting of the Missionary Committee as soon as possible, preferably before the Fourth Sabbath service, and work out the plan of organization for your church. Do not fail to send a duplicate copy of your plan to the Home Missionary secretary of your conference.

The Church Militant

(Instruction from the spirit of prophecy)

1. WHAT is the Lord's plan concerning every member?

"In every city there should be a corps of organized, well-disciplined workers; not merely one or two, but scores should be set to work."—*General Conference Bulletin, 1893, p. 37.*

2. How comprehensive is the work of the church?

"The Lord has a place for every one in his great plan." "There is earnest work for every pair of hands to do." "Even the children should be taught to do some little errand of love and mercy for those less fortunate than themselves."—*"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. IX, p. 37.*

3. To what may the church of Christ be fittingly compared?

"The church of Christ may be fitly compared to an army."—*Id., Vol. V, p. 394.*

"The church is to conduct an aggressive warfare, to make conquests for Christ, to rescue souls from the power of the enemy. God and holy angels are engaged in this warfare. Let us please him who has called us to be soldiers."—*Id., p. 395.*

4. How does the life of the Christian compare with the life of a soldier?

"The life of every soldier is one of toil, hardship, and danger."—*Id., p. 394.*

So in the Christian life, there are "on every hand vigilant foes, led on by the prince of the powers of darkness, who never slumbers and never deserts his post. Whenever a Christian is off his guard, this powerful adversary makes a sudden and violent attack. Unless the members of the church are active and vigilant, they will be overcome by his devices."—*Ibid.*

5. What is said of the personnel of the Lord's army?

"All who enter the army are not to be generals, captains, sergeants, or even corporals. All have not the care and responsibility of leaders. There is hard work of other kinds to be done. Some must dig trenches and build fortifications; some are to stand as sentinels, some to carry messages. While there are but few officers, it requires many soldiers to form the rank and file of the army; yet its success depends upon the fidelity of every soldier."—*Id., pp. 394, 395.*

6. What may result from failure of one individual to do his part?

"One man's cowardice or treachery may bring disaster upon the entire army."—*Id., p. 395.*

7. What admonition is given those who maintain an indifferent attitude in the day of battle?

"Those who stand back indifferently in the day of battle, as though they had no interest and felt no responsibility as to the issue of the contest, might better change their course or leave the ranks at once."—*Id., p. 394.*

8. What is a necessary qualification for success in God's cause?

"The God of heaven is a God of order, and he requires all his followers to have rules and regulations, and to preserve order. All should have a perfect understanding of God's work."—*Id., p. 274.*

9. What is God's purpose in dealing with individuals throughout the world?

"God is leading out a people to stand in perfect unity upon the platform of eternal truth."—*Id., Vol. IV, p. 17.*

The Organization of the Church for Service

IN the closing work of God on this earth, we are coming to recognize the important place which is to be occupied by the local church. Very frequently our attention is called to the following statement penned by the servant of God:

"The work of God in 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."—*"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. IX, p. 117.*

This being true, we recognize at once that some essential steps are necessary in order to make the church an efficient unit in its work of soul-saving. Some great movement may be set in operation to awaken the church to a realizing sense of its obligation, but without the successive steps of organizing and educating the church members, the desired results will not be accomplished.

An experience in the history of the children of Israel affords a wonderful lesson for us. Through divine guidance Moses had been successful in leading that great nation of God's people out of Egyptian bondage toward the Promised Land. As the journey progressed, the burden and responsibility of leadership rested heavily upon Moses, and at this time counsel was given him as follows:

"It came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. . . . And Moses' father-in-law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God. . . . Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: and let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee." Ex. 18: 13-22.

This familiar experience of Biblical history brings vividly before us the results of leadership without any well-defined plan of organization. Moses had been used of God in the accomplishment of the work of freeing Israel from the cruel oppression of an Egyptian king; he had led them through the Red Sea, and had directed their march into the wilderness; and in both instances they had witnessed a marvelous intervention of Providence, in parting the waters of the sea and in providing the manna for daily food. There was still another step for him to take in the attainment of perfection as a leader of this great army. An efficient, simple plan of organization must be adopted, in order to lessen the burden resting upon him, and to make successful the journey to the Promised Land. The assurance was given him—

"If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace." Ex. 18: 23.

An Organized Missionary Movement Needed Today

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." 1 Cor. 10: 11.

We are living in the closing hours of human probation. God's people have made a final separation from the world with its sin and allurements, and are journeying to the heavenly Canaan. The church of God has launched the greatest offensive in its entire history. Both at home and in the regions beyond, unprecedented progress is being made in sounding the message of the third angel. As in the days of ancient Israel, we have reached the time in the history of the church when a simple, effective plan of organization must be set in operation to enable the church, to accomplish greater results in its missionary activities.

"Time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work."—*Testimonies for the Church,* Vol. IX, p. 27.

This solemn statement from the servant of God impresses upon our minds the importance and necessity of developing in every church a simple organization which will make it possible for every church member to act some part in its soul-winning movement. It is no small task that God has intrusted to his people in these closing hours, and while we are hastening on apace to the harvest time, every one must have some part in the work of sowing the seed. God's people must press together in a solid, organized body, and carry his work to a glorious completion.

As a denomination, we are perfectly familiar with the simple yet effective plan of organization that has been provided for the local church at study—the Sabbath school. The formation of our church membership into small classes for the study of the word of God has been one of the strong contributing factors to the success of our Sabbath school work. From week to week we are impressed by the orderly movement of the members of the church, as they find their respective places for the study of the Sabbath school lessons. This is the church at study. In like manner, every church member should have a definite place in an organized plan for the church at work.

The servant of God has given very definite instruction regarding the formation of classes, or companies, in every church for Home Missionary activity:

"In our churches let companies be formed for service. Let different ones unite in labor as fishers of men. . . . The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members, but for unbelievers. If in one place there are only two or three who know the truth, let them form themselves into a band of workers."—*Id.*, Vol. VII, pp. 21, 22.

From this instruction we learn that the formation of small bands, or companies, for Christian service is essential to the success of the church at work, just as the formation of small classes is essential to the success of the church at study.

The Church Missionary Organization

In developing a simple plan of missionary organization in any church, there are four successive steps involved:

1. The formation of a Church Missionary Committee.
2. The districting of all the territory within a reasonable radius surrounding the church and its members.
3. The organization of prayer and missionary bands.
4. The formation of topical bands, or classes.

Let us consider just what these four steps involve:

The Church Missionary Committee: In every church, large or small, a Missionary Committee should be formed, to superintend the general missionary plans and programs of the church. This committee should consist of the elder or the missionary leader; the assistant leader, who in most cases is the leader of the Missionary Volunteer Society in the church; the church missionary secretary; the assistant missionary secretary or secretary of the young people's society; the Sabbath school superintendent; and the leaders of missionary bands, or classes, organized in the church. Where churches are small, and some of the above-mentioned officers do not exist, the committee will consist only of those who are carrying responsibilities as designated.

Districting the Territory of the Church: All the territory within the sphere of the church's influence should be regarded as the home mission field of the church. A suitable

map should be secured, if possible, and the entire territory be divided into districts of convenient size, by the Missionary Committee. These districts will naturally vary in size according to the location,—city and country churches, thickly and sparsely settled territory. However, the district plan will be found practicable in nearly every locality.

Prayer and Missionary Bands: The formation of prayer and missionary bands naturally follows the districting of territory. These bands should be formed, as far as possible, by placing all church members in any given district under an appointed leader. In some instances, it may be necessary to form more than one band in some districts, and at times there may be no believers living in certain districts in the territory of the church. In either case, the Missionary Committee of the church can make adjustments which will be most beneficial.

One great objective in the formation of prayer and missionary bands is to bring God's people into a closer fellowship with one another.

"The stars of heaven are all under law, each influencing the other to do the will of God, yielding their common obedience to the law that controls their action. And, in order that the Lord's work may advance healthfully and solidly, his people must draw together."—*Testimonies for the Church,* Vol. IX, p. 258.

May it not be possible that in the hours of trial and persecution just before us, a simple band formation of this kind will prove a wonderful stay to the people of God? May the Lord help his people to band themselves together "to work not only for the church members, but for unbelievers."

Topical Bands, or Classes: A final step in a perfect organization for a working church is the formation of bands, or classes, for special study of certain features of Home Missionary work. Such bands as the following may be formed as the work of the church develops and grows:

1. Literature Band.
2. Bible Workers' Band.
3. Missionary Correspondence Band.
4. Medical Missionary Band.
5. Christian Help Band.
6. Home-Foreign Band.

These special classes draw their membership from all the districts in a church territory, and should consist of those church members who are desirous of becoming more efficient in any phase of Home Missionary work. These classes should always be conducted by efficient leaders, who can teach and train the members to be real soul-winners.

This briefly outlines some of the principles involved in the formation of a simple, concrete organization for a working church. Is it not possible that every church may be an organized unit in hastening the work of sounding the loud cry? The work of God is soon to close. Soon, very soon, the Spirit of God will be poured upon his waiting people, and the earth will be lightened with his glory. God will today work mightily through an organized movement, just as he did in the days of ancient Israel when the crisis came to them. May the Lord help his people to prepare in these passing days of opportunity for the crisis which is soon to fall upon the world, in order to better fit them for personal soul-winning service, and the reception of the latter rain.

H. K. CHRISTMAN.

ANGELS work harmoniously. Perfect order characterizes all their movements. The more closely we imitate the harmony and order of the angelic host, the more successful will be the efforts of these heavenly agents in our behalf. If we see no necessity for harmonious action, and are disorderly, undisciplined, and disorganized in our course of action, angels, who are thoroughly organized and move in perfect order, cannot work for us successfully. They turn away in grief, for they are not authorized to bless confusion, distraction, and disorganization. All who desire the co-operation of the heavenly messengers, must work in unison with them. Those who have the unction from on high, will in all their efforts encourage order, discipline, and union of action, and then the angels of God can cooperate with them.—*Testimonies*, Vol. I, p. 649.

SUGGESTIONS FOR MISSIONARY MEETINGS

First Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Reading of Minutes; Season of Prayer, remembering special cases.

Seed Thought: Unity, John 17.

Reading: The Unity of the Church.

Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

Give special consideration to the development and purpose of the various working bands mentioned in the article, "The Organization of the Church for Service," on page 3. It is hoped that the consideration of this band organization on the fourth Sabbath of the month will result in the formation in every church of a well-established and workable plan.

Unity

THE burden of our Saviour's prayer, as recorded in John 17, was that all who separated themselves from the world and became sanctified through the truth, might "be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us." Verse 21. And the reason for this request is, "That the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." Verse 23.

Through the spirit of prophecy we receive the further admonition:

"Strive earnestly for unity. Pray for it, work for it. It will bring spiritual health, elevation of thought, nobility of character, heavenly-mindedness, enabling you to overcome selfishness and evil-surmisings, and to be more than conquerors through him that loved you, and gave himself for you."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. IX, p. 188.

"God's people are to be so earnest and faithful in their work for him that all selfishness will be separated from their lives. His workers will then see eye to eye, and the arm of the Lord, the power of which was seen in the life of Christ, will be revealed."—*Id.*, p. 33.

The Unity of the Church

THE church is an organized body, officered and equipped for harmonious and concerted service, every member maintaining his individuality and responsibility before God. This relationship to God binds the members together in sacred fellowship with one another.

There are many Scriptures in which the church is called a house or building, and individual members are termed "lively stones." In the Ephesian letter Paul speaks of the Lord's house on this wise:

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth into a holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit." Eph. 2: 19-22.

In order for the Lord's church to move in harmony, and to grow into that unity and love acceptable with him, its members should be "fitly framed together," and this is a process which should be in constant operation in our churches. Much wisdom is needed by the missionary leader and his committee to see that each member of the church finds his proper place in Christian service, and that as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, each performs cheerfully the duties connected with such responsibility.

In referring to the organization of the church for service as a soul-saving agency, Elder E. R. Palmer recently made the following statement:

"I believe that every church member, as he comes into the church, should be assisted to some definite sphere of Christian service, suited to his talent, taste, and conviction, and that he should be in constant training for service in larger fields. When a young person enters our publishing houses or sanitariums as an employee, he is usually shifted about among the various departments in the institution until the proper place is found where his natural ability can be used to best advantage. I believe that a church should be just as thoroughly organized as a factory, or a publishing

house, or any other institution, in so far as getting its members to engage in work is concerned."

An advance step in the matter of organization of the church for missionary service is now being taken—a step which, we believe, is well pleasing to the Lord, and which will result in unity and strength throughout our ranks.

HOME MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT.

Second Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Prayer; Minutes.

Seed Thought: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." Luke 16: 10.

Reading: Faithfulness in Humble Places.

Reading: The Forward Movement.

Experiences.

Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

To many the sphere of usefulness may seem to be limited, but it is faithfulness in the performance of duty which counts; then when larger opportunities and responsibilities come, they will not be unheeded. Encourage every member to do his work as unto the Lord, and not unto men, knowing that of the Lord each will "receive his own reward according to his own labor." 1 Cor. 3: 8. Give special attention to the members who need to be set to work in broader lines of usefulness, and present before them the opportunity for service.

Faithfulness in Humble Places

THAT is a very tender story concerning faithfulness in humble places which Jean Inglelow has related for us: It was in one of the Orkney Islands, to the north of Scotland. On the coast of this island there stood out a rock, called the Lonely Rock, very dangerous to navigators. One night, long ago, there sat in a fisherman's hut, near Lonely Rock, a young girl, toiling at her spinning wheel, looking out upon the dark and driving clouds, and listening anxiously to the wind and sea. At last the morning came, and one boat, that should have been riding on the waves, was missing. It was her father's boat, and half a mile from the cottage her father's body was found, washed up on the shore. He had been wrecked against this Lonely Rock.

That was more than fifty years ago. "The girl watched her father's dead body, according to the custom of her people, till it was laid in the grave; then she lay down on her bed and slept. When the night came, she arose and set a candle in her casement, as a beacon to the fishermen, and a guide. All night long she sat by the candle, trimmed it when it flickered down, and spun. So many hanks of yarn as she had spun before for her daily bread she spun still, and one hank over for her nightly candle. And from that time to the time of the telling of this story (for fifty years, through youth, maturity, into old age), she has turned night into day. And in the snowstorms of winter, in the serene calms of summer, through driving mists, deceptive moonlight, and solemn darkness, that northern harbor has never once been without the light of that small candle. However far the fisherman might be standing out to sea, he had only to bear down straight for that lighted window, and he was sure of a safe entrance into the harbor."

And so for all these fifty years that tiny light, flaming thus out of devotion and self-sacrifice, has helped and cheered and saved. Surely this was finding chance for service in a humble place; surely this was loneliness glorified by faithfulness; surely the smile of the Lord Jesus must have followed along the beams of that poor candle, gleaming from that humble window, as they went wandering forth to bless and guide the fishermen tossing in their little boats upon the sea. Dear reader, let us determine to be as great in our faithfulness. Our lights may be small, but let us see to it that they are shining brightly for Him just where we are.

ERNEST LLOYD.

FROM every church, prayers should ascend to God for an increase of devotion and liberality.—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. IX, p. 55.

The Forward Movement

We talk about a "forward movement" in the church; such a movement, needed at so many places, is needed in no other place quite so much as this—a forward movement of the scores of church members who are not moving so as to notice it. That is to say, what is needed is to coin workers out of the too largely unused, unpolished, and unrefined bullion of our membership.

A certain woman stated that she did not see how she could leave the church in a neighboring city, when moving to a new location, because she was regarded there as an indispensable worker. Rejoicing at the prospect of an additional worker to his force, the pastor asked her what was her particular sphere of usefulness. To this she innocently replied, "Why, for eighteen years, whenever we had a church supper, I always made the mayonnaise dressing." He determined to give her a larger field of activity in church work, and found her ready to accept more responsible and more productive positions.

It is a demonstrable fact that if a layman is given a definite piece of evangelistic work to do, he will do it. No matter what the field of labor, whether in the Sabbath school, in the young people's society, or in other organizations of the church, the co-operation of the church members in the personal method is pre-eminently necessary.—*Selected.*

Third Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Prayer; Minutes.
Reports of Work Done During the Week.
Reading: Living the Fragrant Life.
Talk by the Leader: A Place and a Work for All.
Plans for Work.
Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

Emphasize the fact that in Christian service there is need for every talent, and that God expects every gift to be employed for the advancement of his kingdom. The talents of voice, time, and influence, are far-reaching in effect, either for good or for bad.

Living the Fragrant Life

MISSIONARY SERVICE is a wide word, and covers the whole life. It cannot be finished on the Sabbath, nor confined to certain evenings or meetings or special duties of any kind. "Where I am, there shall also my servant be," said Jesus,—everywhere, anywhere. We have been beautifully admonished to carry his Spirit with us "as Jacob carried the odor of the vineyards in his garments when he came into his father's presence."

There is an old legend of a godly man whose wonderful deeds astonished the angels, and they came to learn the secret of his piety. Everywhere the man went, he diffused virtue as the flower gives out perfume, without being aware of it. The angels asked that this man might be given the gift of miracles, and God consented. They asked the man if he would like, by the touch of his hand, to heal the sick.

"No," he replied, "I would rather God would do that."

"Then would you like to convert guilty souls, and bring them back to the right path?"

"No, it is the Spirit's mission to convert. I only pray."

"Would you like to be a model of patience, and draw men by your piety?"

"No," said the saint, "if men were attracted to me, they might be estranged from God."

"What do you desire?" said the angels.

"That God would give me his grace, that I might do a great deal of good without knowing it."

The angels were perplexed. Finally they resolved that whenever the shadow of the man should fall where he could not see it, the shadow should cure disease and comfort sorrow. So it came to pass, as the saint passed along, the hearts of men were cheered wherever he walked.

Thus may we today pass along our humble ways "diffusing the fragrance of the knowledge of Him in every place." 2 Cor. 2: 14, literal translation. Let us only make room in our hearts for the flowers of patience, gentleness, forgiveness, fairness, and love. See how fragrant the very words are! They are like a breath from heaven. They are the gifts of the Spirit. Jesus died that we might have them, and so be like himself. Our lives must be samples of his life, and they can be and will be when we let his life into our hearts to take the place of the old life of self and sin.

ERNEST LLOYD.

A Place and a Work for All

We are to praise God by tangible service, by doing all in our power to advance the glory of his name. . . . Service to God includes personal ministry. By personal effort we are to co-operate with him for the saving of the world. Christ's commission, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature," is spoken to every one of his followers. All who are ordained unto the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow men. Their hearts will throb in unison with the heart of Christ. The same longing for souls that he has felt will be manifest in them. Not all can fill the same place in the work, but there is a place and a work for all.

In ancient times, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses with his meekness and wisdom, and Joshua with his varied capabilities, were all enlisted in God's service. The music of Miriam, the courage and piety of Deborah, the filial affection of Ruth, the obedience and faithfulness of Samuel, the stern fidelity of Elijah, the softening, subduing influence of Elisha,—all were needed. So now all upon whom God's blessing has been bestowed are to respond by actual service; every gift is to be employed for the advancement of his kingdom and the glory of his name.—*Christ's Object Lessons,* p. 301.

Fourth Week

Opening Exercises: Song; Prayer; Reports.
Seed Thought: The Honor and Purpose of the Chosen.
John 15: 16.
Reading: Christian Royalty.
Special season of prayer for a greater burden for souls.
Closing Song.

Note to the Leaders

As this service follows the Fourth Sabbath Home Missionary meeting, at which time it is expected that every church member will be definitely assigned to the working band to which he is best fitted, all should be encouraged to begin work at once, and to be faithful in reporting results. The average reporting membership of the church constituency is very low indeed. It is a well-recognized fact that more is being done by the church members than is reported; but we need to make special effort to establish an accurate and regular system of reporting, which, like the life-current of the human body, will bring health and stimulus throughout the body of the church.

Christian Royalty

THE evangelistic church wears the crown of honorable succession. This succession is not one of necessity. It does not involve ordination of its clergy nor an unbroken history from the apostolate. Where is the successor of Paul if not the church or Christian worker that goes from city to city and nation to nation as tireless missionary itinerant? Since Peter's eager voice is hushed, who may claim his succession but he who preaches the gospel with Pentecostal fervor and stands like basaltic rock against the powers of darkness? Who have been the holders of the regal scepter of the Christ through the Christian centuries? Who but such noble spirits as Luther and Huss, and Ridley and Latimer? Who but Moffat and Livingstone and Morrison? Who are now the true Christian apostles but the men and the women who in all lands and in all ways are bringing in Christ's kingdom?

The successors in this Christian royalty may not sit upon thrones, they may not wear the crown of gold, they may not

wield the scepter of empire. They will be found in the busy highways and the lonely bypaths of life. They may be covered with the sweat and grime of honest toil. They may climb the rickety stairs of some dark garret where want stares out from the blanched faces of dwarfed children and where manhood and womanhood have been deflowered by the crushing hand of industrial oppression. They may walk the darksome ways of the alley or back street at midnight seeking for the wanderer and the lost. They may stand before starving, dying multitudes breaking unto them the bread of life. They may pierce the jungle or brave the arctic rigor for the love of those never seen or known. They may cross the seas and traverse the continents and climb the mountains and track the deserts for the sake of Christ and those for whom he died. The real successor of priest or preacher, of monk or missionary, of reformer or religious leader, of saint or Saviour is the Christian church or Christian worker that goes to the uttermost length of service in the effort to bring people to Christ.—*L. M. Edwards, in "Every Church Its Own Evangelist."*

No Time

(Rev. 10:6:22:10, 11)

"I HAVE no time,—I have no time!"
How oft the phrase is heard!
No time for prayer, for mission work,
No time to read God's Word.

"No time!" 'Tis true, the time is short
Till time no more shall be,—
Until probation's days shall end,
And Christ in clouds we see.

The time in which we're living now
Is solemn, is sublime;
Soon now earth's history shall close;
No longer shall be time.

Soon, soon indeed shall be "no time"
To cleanse one's life from spot,
"No time" for study; but till then,
Dear soul, oh, say it not!

Say, rather, that thou hast no time
For seeking thine own will;
No time to cherish grudge or doubt,
No time for speaking ill.

So soon the end, there is no time
For laying riches by;
For sake of transient joys to lose
A bank account on high.

And yet, for faithful ministry,
For God's Word, love, and prayer,
Time lingers yet; oh, use it well,
And for thy God prepare!

Amid earth's scenes of sin and woe
The end of time 'twill be,—
The dawn of peace and changeless joy
For all eternity.

—*Pearl Waggoner Howard.*

Power

THERE is only one source of power. We can never store up power. We can be channels through which power operates. Keeping close to Jesus is the secret of power in our lives and in soul-winning. Take time to rest in the shadow of his love—plenty of time, *every day*, with him alone; praying, studying his will and word, listening, resting, wrestling. This is the way to power, and it is the royal way to success.

The following rules tend to promote successful and powerful Christian life:

1. Unreserved surrender of plans, friends, will, sin, self, to Jesus—moment by moment, step by step.
2. A conscious staying with him, breathing in his life, revelling in his love, resting in his favor and wisdom.
3. Daily digging into *his plan for you, for today.*
4. Cultivate vim, energy, push, stick-to-it-iveness, and an earnestness that will not let go of the omnipotent power at the disposal of the child of God.—*Selected.*

The Vital Need of the Church

THE church of Christ needs better methods, but more than that, it needs better men. It needs more members, but even more keenly it needs more workers. It needs clearer plans, but with a far more tragic need, it needs intenser passion for souls. And if soul passion is an essential to successful ministry, it is of the utmost importance to the church to know that soul passion is just what the phrase expresses—it is a suffering of soul for the unsaved, a sorrow for the tragedy of the lost, a real travail of spirit for the sinner. For this let earnest prayer be offered, and with the increased burden will come increased activity for souls.—*Selected.*

Foreign-Language Magazines

"Epidemics—How to Meet Them" Numbers Will Soon Be Ready

JANUARY and first-quarter issues of fourteen foreign-language magazines will be devoted to a discussion of "Epidemics—How to Meet Them." The contents will, to some extent, be translations of portions of the English work which is enjoying such a splendid sale.

Following is a list of the languages and titles:

Danish-Norwegian: *Evangeliets Sendebud*, January Magazine Number, 1920.
Swedish: *Tidens Tecken*, January, 1920.
German: *Die Zeichen der Zeit*, First Quarter, 1920.
Bohemian: *Znameni Casu*, First Quarter, 1920.
Finnish: *Totuuden Valo*, Special No. 3, 1920.
French: *Les Signes des Temps*, First Quarter, 1920.
Hungarian: *Az Idök Jelei*, First Quarter, 1920.
Italian: *I Segni dei Tempi*, First Quarter, 1920.
Polish: *Znaki Czasu*, Special No. 6, 1920.
Rumanian: *Semnele Timpului*, Special No. 4, 1920.
Russian: *Znamenie Wremeni*, January, 1920.
Serbian: *Snazi Wremeni*, Special No. 1, 1920.
Slovakian: *Znamenia Casov*, Special No. 2, 1920.
Yiddish: *The Messenger*, First Quarter, 1920.

These special magazines should have a wide circulation. They contain the health message, and will be appropriately illustrated. The front cover will be a photographic reproduction of nature at rest; the text will be made interesting by a liberal use of illustrations showing approved methods of giving treatments.

Retail prices will be 15 cents a copy on all except the Danish-Norwegian and Russian, which will sell for 10 cents. In quantities of five or more, the bulk rate of 8 cents a copy is granted. On the Danish-Norwegian and Russian, the bulk rate on five or more copies is 5 cents a copy. Please note that five or more of each number must be ordered to one address in order to take the bulk rate.

Advance orders are solicited for these "health specials" in each language. They will, in many instances, prove to be an entering wedge for other truths of the message. Will not all our people interest themselves in the "strangers within our gates," and bring to them this important message? All orders should be sent to your tract society.

PACIFIC PRESS PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION.

Brookfield, Ill.

AN evangelist was once asked for suggestions as to the best methods of promoting a revival. He said, "Go home, get into your closet, and stay there until you are revived." This blunt instruction contains the secret of conducting a successful revival either personally or as a church. If all the members of the church do this, the church will be revived.

Are you cold and lifeless, praying a little from a sense of duty rather than from a longing of the soul for closer communion with God; praying short, formal prayers; feeling you hardly have time to pray when there is so much to do? To your closet, O man! and the God who seeth in secret will reward you openly. Victory obtained in the closet will be seen in the life.—*G. B. Thompson, in "Soul-Winning," pp. 115, 116.*

Missionary Volunteer Department

Devotional Meeting for March 6

Subject: Baptism.

Helpful Thought: "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Rom. 6:4.

Senior

1. Opening Exercises.
2. Scripture Lesson: Read responsively Romans 6: 1-18; Colossians 3: 1-17.
3. Testimony Study on Baptism.
4. Talk: The Baptism of Jesus.
5. Symposium: Baptism.
6. Talk: Why He Didn't Sleep.
7. Story: True to Her Baptismal Vows.
8. Special Song: "Baptize Us Anew," Christ in Song, No. 134.
9. Consecration Service.
10. Close by repeating Psalms 19: 14 in concert.

Junior

1. Opening Exercises.
2. Scripture Lesson: Read responsively Matthew 3: 13-17; Acts 8: 26-38.
3. Superintendent's Talk: Baptism.
4. Reading: True to Her Baptismal Vows.
5. Special Music.
6. Recitation: Open the Door of Your Heart.
7. Blackboard Talk: Choose Jesus.
8. Consecration Service.
9. Close by repeating Psalms 19: 14 in concert.

Note to the Leaders

This is the first study in a short series on the duties of the followers of Jesus. We hope your society will make the most of it. Emphasize these four points: 1. The importance of baptism. This beautiful ceremony is a sort of legal transaction with heaven, and an open declaration to the world that we have chosen to be members of the heavenly family. Some one has likened baptism to the adoption papers necessary to make a child a member of the family that desires to adopt him. 2. We must receive the Holy Spirit when baptized. If we do not receive him, our "adoption" is not legal. Without the Holy Spirit, our baptism will be like adoption papers without the legal seal—only an empty form. But when the "adoption" is sealed by the reception of the Holy Spirit, the person's name is written in heaven and the Father announces: "This is my beloved child, in whom I am well pleased." 3. The importance of being true to our baptismal vows. There comes to my mind an experience that may illustrate this: A barbecue was being given in a Western town, by the cattlemen. Near where I stayed, roomed a young Roman Catholic woman who was in the mountains in search of health. The general public was invited; so this young woman and I included in our afternoon walk a visit to the barbecue. We were invited to dine, but declined. As we were passing down the "bread line" my Catholic friend looked longingly at the large, juicy slices of venison on the well-filled plates. She had never tasted venison, and wanted to so much. Finally she said: "My, I wish I could have a taste of that venison!" "If you want me to, I'll stand here and wait while you sample it," I suggested, stupidly forgetting her vow as a member of the Roman Catholic Church. Did she forget it? No, indeed. "Oh, no," she said, "Why, I couldn't do that. *This is Friday.*" I admired that girl, and often I have wished and prayed that all of us might be as true to our baptismal vows. 4. We cannot be true to our baptismal vows without submitting ourselves unreservedly to the control of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Exercises: Sing several good songs expressing allegiance to Christ, etc. The following are good: Christ in Song, Nos. 6, 9, 19, 23, 26, 496. Have several short prayers.

Special Senior Note

Testimony Study on Baptism.—Ask some one to prepare about six questions on the subject of baptism. Then write out brief answers from the Testimonies. (See Vol. III, pp. 365, 366; Vol. IV, pp. 40-43; and Vol. VI, pp. 91-99.) Have the questions draw out some of the best lessons found in these passages.

Talk: The Baptism of Jesus.—Draw material for this talk from "The Desire of Ages," chapter 11.

Symposium: Baptism.—Assign sections of the article by this title in the *Instructor* for February 24 to different per-

sons. Include also as one part of the Symposium a talk based on the article "Buried." Put the cartoon on the board, and use it freely in these talks. Surely you should have a stirring consecration service today. Will not every Missionary Volunteer today renew his baptismal vows? Will not some young people who have not yet followed their Lord in baptism, resolve today to do so at their first opportunity?

Special Junior Note

Superintendent's Talk: The Meaning of Baptism.—Helps for this talk may be drawn from helps given for No. 5 of the Senior program.

Special Music.—Have a duet or quartet by Juniors, if you can, using an appropriate song which they can learn or with which they are already familiar.

Blackboard Talk: Choose Jesus.—Ask one of the older Juniors to put the diagram "Choose Jesus" on the board, and let him study it and then comment on each statement, showing what it means to choose Jesus day by day. See Senior note on consecration service.

Why He Didn't Sleep

ONE night, just before the late Captain Bickel was retiring to rest, he met at the deckhouse door a ruffian who had been wonderfully converted on one of these voyages. Mr. Bickel was very tired, but he had a little talk with the man. He asked him if he would take a Bible to a certain man on the morrow.

He shook his head. "No, no, captain; he does not need that."

"But why not?"

"It won't do him any good."

"But why?"

"Because it is too soon. That is your Bible, and, thank God, it is now mine; but it is not his Bible."

"What do you mean by that?"

"Why, simply that he has another Bible; *you* are his Bible; he is watching you. As you fail, Christ fails. As you live Christ, so Christ is revealed to him."

Writing of this incident, Captain Bickel said: "Friends, I did not sleep that night. I had been called a thief, liar, foreign spy, traitor, devil, in public and private, and had not flinched; but to face this! 'As you live, so Christ lives—in that man's soul, in that house, in that village, in four hundred villages. As you fail to live Christ, Christ is crucified again.' What wonder that I slept not!"—"Men and Missions."

True to Her Baptismal Vows

A True Incident

VERY tiny and pale the little girl looked as she stood before those three grave and dignified gentlemen. She had been ushered into Dr. Gordon's study, where he was holding counsel with two of his deacons. And now, upon inquiry into the nature of her errand, a little shyly she requested to be allowed to become a member of his church.

"You are quite too young to join the church," said one of the deacons, "you had better run home and let us talk to your mother."

She showed no sign of running, however, as her wistful blue eyes traveled from one face to another of the three gentlemen sitting in their comfortable chairs; she only drew a step nearer to Dr. Gordon. He arose, and with the gentle courtesy that ever marks him, placed her in a small chair close beside himself.

"Now, my child, tell me your name, and where you live."

"Winnie Lewis, sir, and I live on Newton Street. I go to your Sunday school."

"You do; and who is your teacher?"

"Miss Colby. She is very good to me."

"And you want to join my church?"

The child's face glowed as she leaned eagerly toward him, clasping her hands; but all she said was, "Yes, sir."

"She cannot be more than six years old," said one of the deacons, disapprovingly.

Dr. Gordon said nothing, but quietly regarded the small, earnest face, now becoming a little downcast.

"I am nine years old; older than I look," she said.

"It is not usual for us to admit one so young to membership," he said, thoughtfully, "We never have done so, still—"

"It may be an undesirable precedent," remarked the other deacon.

The doctor did not seem to hear, as he asked, "You know what joining the church is, Winnie?"

"Yes, sir," and she answered a few questions that proved she understood the meaning of the step she wished to take. She had slipped off her chair, and now stood close to Dr. Gordon's knee.

"You said last Sunday, sir, that the lambs should be in the fold."

"I did," he answered with one of his lovely smiles. "It is surely not for us to keep them out. Go home now, my child. I will see your friends, and arrange to take you into membership very soon."

The cloud lifted from the child's face, and her expression as she passed through the door he opened for her, was one of entire peace.

The inquiries made of Winnie's Sunday school teacher proved satisfactory, and she was baptized the following week. After that, except for occasional information from Miss Colby that the child was doing well, Dr. Gordon heard no more of her for six months.

Then he was summoned to her funeral. It was one of June's hottest days, and as the doctor made his way along the narrow street on which Winnie had lived, he wished for a moment that he had asked his assistant to come instead of himself; but as he neared the house, the crowd filled him with wonder. Progress was hindered, and as he paused for a moment, his eyes fell on a crippled lad crying bitterly as he sat on a low doorstep.

"Did you know Winnie Lewis, my lad?" he asked.

"Know her? Niver a week passed but what she came twice or three times with a picture or a book, mayhaps an apple for me, and it's owing to her an' no clargy at all that I'll iver follow her blessed footsteps to heaven. She'd read to me from her own Bible whinever she came, an' now she's gone, there'll be none at all to help me, for mother's dead an' dad's drunk, an' sunshine's gone from Mike's sky intoirely with Winnie, sir."

A burst of sobs choked the boy. Dr. Gordon passed on, after promising him a visit very soon, and made his way through the crowd of tear-stained, sorrowful faces. He came to a stop again on a narrow passageway of the little house. A woman stood beside him drying her fast-falling tears, while a wee child hid his face in her skirts and wept.

"Was Winnie a relative of yours?" he asked.

"No, sir; but the blessed child was at our house constantly, and when Bob here was sick, she nursed and tended him, and her hymns quieted him when nothing else seemed to do it. It was just the same with all the neighbors. She took tracts to them all, and has prayed with them ever since she was converted. What she's been to us all no one but the Lord will ever know, and now she lies there."

Recognized at last, Dr. Gordon was led to the room where the child lay at rest, looking almost younger than when he had seen her in his study six months before. An old, bent woman was crying aloud before the casket.

"I never thought she'd go afore I did. She used regular to read an' sing to me every evening, an' it was her talk an' prayers that made a Christian of me. You could a'most go to heaven on one of her prayers."

"Mother, mother, come away," said a young man, putting his arm around her to lead her back. "You'll see her again."

"I know. I know. But I miss her sore now."

"It's the old lady as Mrs. Lewis lived with, sir," said a young lad standing next to Dr. Gordon, as one and another still pressed up toward the little casket, for a last look at the beloved face. "She was a Unitarian, but she could not hold out against Winnie's prayers and pleadings to love Jesus, and she's been trusting in him now for quite a while. A good thing it is, too."

"You are right, my lad," replied the doctor, "do you trust him, too?"

"Winnie taught me, sir," the boy made answer, and sudden tears filled his eyes.

A silence fell on those assembled, and, marvelling at such testimony, Dr. Gordon proceeded with the service, feeling as if there was little more he could say of one whose deeds thus spoke for her. Loving hands had laid flowers all around the child who had led them. One tiny lassie had placed a dandelion in the small waxen fingers, and now stood, abandoned to grief, beside the still form that bore the impress of absolute purity. The service over, again and again was the coffin lid waved back by some one longing for another look, and it seemed as if they could not let her go.

The next day a good-looking man came to Dr. Gordon's house, and was admitted into his study.

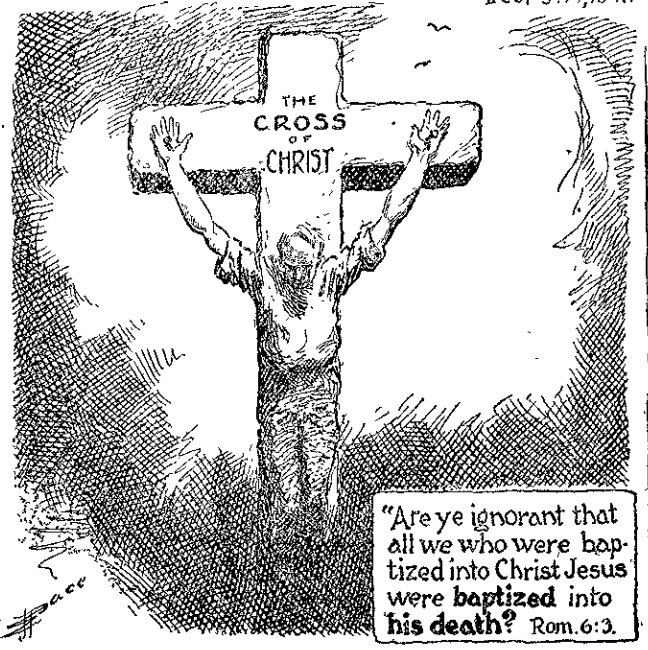
"I am Winnie's uncle, sir," he said, simply. "She never rested till she made me promise to join the church, and I've come."

"Will you tell me about it, my friend?" said Dr. Gordon.

"Well, you see, sir, it was this way. Winnie always had been uncommonly fond of me, and so was I of her,"—his voice broke a little,— "and I'd never joined the church; never felt, as I believed, quite right. Yet I knew her religion was true enough, and a half hour before she died, she had the whole family with her, and she took my hand between her little ones, and said, "'Uncle John, you will love Jesus and meet me in heaven, won't you?' What could I do? It broke me all up, and I've come to ask you, sir, what to do so's to keep my promise to Winnie, for she was an angel if there ever was one."

The man wept like a child, and for a minute Dr. Gordon did not speak. Within a month Winnie's uncle was baptized. In the evening after his baptism Dr. Gordon sat resting in his study, thinking of his little child member. "It is truly a wonderful record. Would we had more who would be as true to their baptismal vows as Winnie was."—*Our Boys and Girls.*

Where God sees every believer. Galatians 2:20
II Cor 5:14, 15 RV



Sunday School Times.

Buried

BURIED! In fancy I see a shudder pass over you, and I hear you exclaim, "What a gruesome subject!" But let us consider for a moment.

When sin entered the earth, a part of the curse which was pronounced was that death should ultimately come upon all matter, both vegetable and animal. Were this dead, decaying material allowed to remain exposed, it would cause sickness and pestilence and death. What must be done to

prevent this? It must be buried, and covered up; put absolutely beyond the danger of personal contact. It is only in following this course that there is safety to human life.

We find in many of the experiences of our physical life a parallel to the experiences of our spiritual life. So I am using this familiar illustration to turn your attention to a great spiritual truth.

The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, describes in no uncertain terms our spiritual condition before Jesus quickens us, makes us alive. He says we are "dead in trespasses and sins." Eph. 2: 1. The physical body is alive and able to perform the duties which devolve upon it, but the spiritual life is dead; it does not function, and it is a menace to our own and to others' well-being.

What is the remedy for this condition? In case of physical disease and imminent death we turn to the physician for advice and help. Let us go to the Great Physician to find the remedy for dead spirituality. Peter said: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you for the remission of sins." Acts 2: 38. From this we see that the first step is repentance, "godly sorrow" for the sins which have entered our lives. When Jesus appeared unto the eleven after his resurrection, he said: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mark 16: 16. What must he believe? That Jesus gave his precious life to save him from spiritual death and that Jesus has power to take the life that is all polluted with sin and recreate it, make it over, and cause it to bring forth the "peaceable fruit of righteousness." Heb. 12: 11.

Then there is another step to be taken. Jesus not only says "Repent," "Believe," but also, "Be ye baptized." When we come to a realization of the fact that we are "dead in trespasses and sins," and we repent and desire to live a new life in Christ Jesus, we must bury the old dead life. In no other way can we be assured of healthy growth in the new life, the Christian life. So in obedience to the Saviour's injunction we are "buried with him by baptism into death" that we may arise to "walk in newness of life." Rom. 6: 4. The act of baptism cannot of itself do the work, but it is an outward manifestation of the cleansing, recreating power of Christ within.

And so, dear young friends, you who love to feel the warm, health-giving blood coursing through your veins, and to see the bloom of perfect physical health upon your cheeks, come to Jesus, believing that he died to save you from sin and spiritual death; accept the salvation he has so freely offered; go down with him into the watery grave; and, leaving there the life which you once loved but have learned to hate, come forth again rejoicing in the possession of a new, clean spiritual life, realizing that you have taken the vows of God upon you, and with a firm determination to follow your Master wherever he may lead.

CLEMEN HAMER.

Open the Door of Your Heart

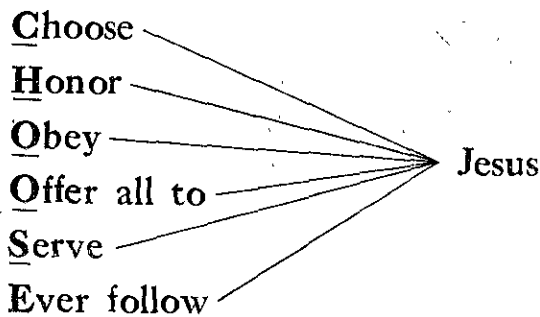
Open the door of your heart, my lad,
To the angels of love and truth;
When the world is full of unnumbered joys,
In the beautiful dawn of youth.
Casting aside all things that mar,
Saying to wrong, "Depart!"
To the voices of hope that are calling you
Open the door of your heart.

Open the door of your heart, my lass,
To the things that shall abide;
To the holy thoughts that lift your soul
Like the stars at eventide.
All of the fadeless flowers that bloom
In the realms of song and art
Are yours, if you'll only give them room.
Open the door of your heart.

Open the door of your heart, my friend,
Heedless of class or creed;
When you hear the cry of a brother's voice,
The sob of a child in need.
To the shining heaven that o'er you bends
You need no map or chart,
But only the love the Master gave.
Open the door of your heart.

—Edward Everett Hale.

Choose Jesus



Devotional Meetings for March 13

Senior

Subject: A Man Who Made the Supreme Decision.

Slogan: This one thing I do.— Paul.

1. Stirring Song Service.
2. Scripture Roll Call.
3. Prayer, closing by repeating the Lord's Prayer in concert.
4. Symposium: Paul.
5. Talk: The Reward Worth While.
6. Talk: "Choose You This Day."
7. Quartet: "Who Follows?" Christ in Song, No. 693.
8. Our Decision.
9. Close by repeating Philippians 3: 13, 14 in concert.

Junior

Subject: Being Something Worth While.

Motto: Others.

1. Enthusiastic Song Service.
2. Scripture Roll Call.
3. Prayer.
4. Talk: A Man Who Was Something Worth While.
5. Talk: Good and Best.
6. Special Song: Christ in Song, No. 566.
7. Talk: Be Something Worth While.
8. Recitation: Things that Count. See *Instructor* for March 2.
9. Talk by Superintendent: "Choose You This Day."
10. Social Meeting.
11. Close by repeating Junior Pledge in concert.

Note to Leaders

Aim for Today.— If somehow there will arise before your heart the picture that hangs in my own tonight, I shall be happy, for then your society will have the stirring meeting that this program affords. First, let us hope that every one taking part on the program, if he has not previously made the supreme decision, will make it when preparing his part. Aside from the subject and slogan, can you not put these words on the board?

WANTED!

Young people who will make the supreme decision

Every successful life is governed by an overruling purpose. Every person who would succeed must make a great decision. The value of his life depends upon his decision. "People insist on living merely to live," said a German writer not long ago, and to that low aim he attributed much of the suffering that exists today in his native land. And do you know that much of the suffering and sorrow in the world can be traced to low, self-centered aims? Even some professed Christians, who have outwardly made the supreme decision, go on living self-centered lives. This is such a pity, for our own greatest need, the world's greatest need, and our Master's greatest desire is that we should make the supreme decision, and then be true to it.

Help your young people today to see that the supreme decision is best. That is the best watch which best serves the purpose for which it was made, and that is the best life which meets fully the Master's plan for it. "I'd give everything I possess if I had the assurance you have of salvation, Jim," said a millionaire railroad president, stooping over the Christian engineer who, while dying under a wrecked engine, was calmly and confidently committing his spirit to the Master whom he had served so faithfully. "That is just what it costs, Mr. —," replied the dying man. How many are willing today to pay the price of the supreme decision? The Supreme decision will be worth infinitely more to us than what we give up. Let us renew our determination today to be true to that decision.

Song Service.—Select songs on this subject from Christ in Song. If you have a songbook containing the song "The Wayside Cross," have it sung by a male quartet, if possible. "Only Two Ways," No. 11 in Christ in Song, is a good male duet or quartet for today. Try to have one special song to help carry the message to the hearts of the young people.

Scripture Roll Call.—Ask every one to come prepared to respond to the Roll Call with a memory gem from Paul. He wrote so many of the Bible books that this will not be difficult. Perhaps you had better assign different books to different groups of members.

Secretary's Report.—Do not omit this even if it is not given in the program, and be sure to include with the report the report of missionary work. Just after the report is read, give the band leaders opportunity to make announcements concerning their band work, if necessary. Let every Missionary Volunteer remember that he has enlisted till the work is finished.

Special Senior Note

Symposium: Paul.—Assign different phases of Paul's life to different young people. Here are several good topics: "Paul's Early Life;" "His Conversion;" "His Missionary Tours;" "The Books He Wrote;" "Paul, the Prisoner;" "Paul, an Example for Us;" "The Value of the Supreme Decision as Revealed in the Life of Paul." Have three-minute talks on all or on some of these topics. Urge thorough preparation. For helps see the article "A Man Who Made the Supreme Decision" in the *Instructor* for March 2, and "The Acts of the Apostles." For helps on the talk, "The Reward Worth While," see article in the *Instructor* for May 22, 1917, and "Testimonies for the Church," Vol. VI, pp. 311, 312. For the talk "Choose You This Day" study the article on this subject, and also the article on "Be Something Worth While."

Our Decision.—Make this a real consecration service. Announce the subject of the meeting the week before and ask all who will to bring to the meeting today a written statement as to what decision is governing his daily actions. The decisions we make in the little things day by day are all chinks in the wall through which others can see whom we are serving—God or self. Collect the slips and introduce the consecration service by reading them without giving the names. It will do the young people good to write out their decisions. Use also the questions supplied here for the blackboard in your consecration service. Ask the young people to discuss any they desire, but try to cover all the questions. Try to get all to discuss the last one briefly.

Special Junior Note

Talk: "A Man Who Did Something Worth While."—Assign this to an older Junior. Use same helps as given for No. 4 in the Senior program. Follow the superintendent's talk with a testimony meeting. Helps for the superintendent's talk may be obtained from the Senior program.

Only what we have wrought into our character
can we take away with us

Our Decision

[Put these questions on the board to be discussed briefly in the consecration service.]

- WHAT is a life purpose?
- What was Paul's supreme decision?
- What did Christ say was the purpose of his life?
- What is the result if we do not form a life decision?
- What will help us to make a worth-while decision?
- How may we enlist the aid of Heaven in making decisions worth while?
- My decision for 1920.

"Choose You This Day"

EVERY day to each one of us there come times when it is necessary for us to make decisions,—to choose one of two things. Sometimes it makes but little difference which one we choose, though it is usually the case that one way is better than the other; but sometimes the question which comes up for decision is of such consequence that the choice we make will affect our whole future life.

We have all had more or less experience in traveling by road through the country. You know how your enjoyment of the trip is increased when you have a fine road over which to travel. But perhaps this only lasts for a short time, and you find yourself at a forking of the road. Which way will you take? How you wish it could be that beautiful, smooth, well-traveled road which leads to the right! But on looking at the guidepost, you find that it is the poorer

road, the one full of difficulties, that you must take. Do you hesitate? No, for you have a destination in view, and you take the road leading to it.

So in the journey of life, there come times to all of us when we reach a parting of the ways, times when we must decide which road we will follow. They both start from the same point, and one road may be broad and well traveled while the other seems narrow and full of obstacles. Too often we are tempted to decide in favor of the smooth, easy road. But O dear young people, let us not forget to look at the Guidepost and let it help us in our decision.

Let us consider for a moment some of the great leaders of God's people at the time when they came to the parting of the ways; and let us see what their supreme decision was.

There came a time in the experience of Israel when we find Joshua pleading with them to forsake the gods which their fathers served in Egypt. He brought them up to the parting of the ways, and realizing that the time for decision had come, he said: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve;" and then immediately he gave them his supreme decision: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." *Joshua 24: 15.*

I see another picture,—that of an aged servant of God trudging up the mountain side. With him are his beloved son and his two servants. It is Abraham going in obedience to the Lord's command to offer his only son, Isaac, as a sacrifice. Think you that was the easy road for a loving father to travel? Ah, no; but Abraham had made the supreme decision.

And now I see a stalwart young man, a captive in Babylon. He was brought into a place where he must decide whether he would remain true to principle or not. Which road did he take? He, too, made the supreme decision: "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank." *Dan. 1: 8.*

Still another picture I wish you to see is that of a great assembly of religious leaders, which was held in the city of Worms, Germany. The emperor himself is presiding, and before them is one lone man who is called to account for the position he has taken toward that which he considered to be error. But Martin Luther, as he stood at the fork of the road, made his supreme decision; and there, surrounded by angry men who were eager to take his life, with a courage born of the consciousness that his position was right, he said: "Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen."

Again I see a beautiful young woman. Born and reared in the lap of luxury and culture, all her early life she has traveled along the broad, smooth road of ease and pleasure. But she, too, has come to the forking of the roads. If she takes the one, her life bids fair to flow on smoothly, pleasantly, and yet selfishly, to the end. But down the other road she hears the din of battle; she sees her fellow countrymen, mutilated and dying; and she hears their cries for physical aid and spiritual healing. Which road does she take? She looks at the Guidepost, and seeing the road which leads to duty toward God and her fellow men, she follows it, beset though it may be with danger, privation, self-sacrifice. Florence Nightingale, the heroine of the Crimean War, the wounded soldier's friend, made her supreme decision; she gave her life in service for others.

Do you think, dear young people, that noble men and women such as these followed the easy road, the path of least resistance? Ah, no; when they came to the parting of the ways, they read the guidepost, and took the road of self-denial.

"They climbed the steep ascent of heaven
Through peril, toil, and pain;
O God, to us may grace be given
To follow in their train!"

There is one more scene which I wish you to see. The great God is seated on his heavenly throne, and by his side is his beloved Son. The great question they are considering is the redemption of a lost world. Did they choose the easy road? No! They, too, made the supreme decision, that

great decision which means everything to you and me—
"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

And now the Lord lovingly calls to you: "My son [my daughter], give me thine heart." O won't you respond to the invitation of the One who died for you? Then with a heart and life absolutely yielded to the Master, when you come to the parting of the ways, when your hour of supreme decision comes, as it will come, you will look at the guide-post, and, seeing the way which leads home, you will be able to say with Joshua of old: "As for me . . . I will serve the Lord."

CLEMEN HAMER.

Good and Best

"Miss DINTON, you said it was every person's duty to make something worth while of his life. I'm just discouraged. It seems as if every one else has some talent and some reason for amounting to something, while I haven't a gift in the world."

"What gifts necessary to make life a success do you think you lack, Corlis?"

Warmed by the kindly eyes of his teacher, he said, "Why, all of them! I can't think of a single gift that I do have unless it's the breath of life, and even old Shep has that. It seems as if I must have been overlooked when the talents were passed around."

"Are you well and strong?"

"Yes."

"And you are bright enough to study and earn your grades."

"So far."

"Then, let us see: you have life, which is in itself a wonderful gift, full of possibilities; you have health, a treasure multitudes are spending fortunes to gain; and you have a good mind,—three great gifts!"

"But, Miss Dinton, I have them only in the simple form, while I know many who have them in the comparative degree, and some away up in the superlative."

"As a matter of fact, there has been but one superlative life, if you are comparing persons. There are, of course, varying degrees of ability among individuals, but God does not hold you accountable for that. He doesn't ask you to be better or brighter than some one else. He only requires you to make your life superlative with the gifts he has given you. By earnest effort make your good better, and your better best."

"You needn't worry about the other man, or how you stand in comparison with him, but how you stand in comparison with *your best*. Think what a shame it would be, Corlis, not to be a great man because you didn't think you could be, and didn't try; or because some one else had the ability to seem greater! Not all our best men are more gifted than common people. They simply determined to be something worth while, and stayed determined."

"But, Miss Dinton, I don't know what I *am* supposed to be. You said this afternoon that there is a special place or work for every one, and if he doesn't find his place, he cannot be a real success. How does a person find his place?"

"By doing every duty as it comes to him. You attend to the duty, and God attends to the place. Go look up in your Bible the men who made their lives worth while, and find out, if you can, how they found their place."

"I will, Miss Dinton, and I thank you for helping me. I shall try hard to make my life count."

"Remember always, 'Good, better, best.'"

IDONA HILL.

Be Something Worth While

WHAT do you want to be? Are you determined to be something worth while? We grow as we think. If we let our minds dwell on evil, wrong stories, quarrels, envy, pleasure, and such things, we grow in the direction of these things. If we think on divine things, we grow in their direction. We should have noble ambitions. We should

seek to have an influence that will tell for good. The way to have this is to be filled with the mind that was in Christ Jesus.

When Jesus was only twelve years old, he said, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" And we learn from the Bible that he "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." We know that he grew by prayer; and prayer is necessary that we may know God's plan for us. Jesus grew by study; and to each of us is given the exhortation, "Study to show thyself approved unto God." Jesus grew by listening, as in the temple. And I am sure he grew in favor with man by being kind and helpful and sympathetic. He was loved because of his beautiful spirit. Let us try to grow into that spirit.

None are too young to be something worth while. Think of the little Jewish maiden who was carried captive into Syria! It was not a great thing that she did, but it had a great result. She might have kept still, away off down there alone in Syria; but she didn't. She testified for her Lord, and as a result, Naaman was cured of his leprosy, and his heart was turned to worship the true God.

A little boy once went to his pastor and asked if there wasn't something that boys could do for the Lord. The pastor thought a few minutes, and then said: "Is your schoolmate a Christian?"

"No, sir; I think not."

"Then go to work as the Lord shall show you, and secure his conversion. Then take another and another. I cannot tell you exactly what to do; but if you pray, the Saviour will show you how to win them."

Months after this the little boy became very ill. The doctors had given him up to die. His father went to some afternoon meetings, and when he came home, little Willie roused up and asked: "Was Neddie Smith at the meeting?"

"Yes, dear."

"Did he give his heart to the Lord?"

"No, I think not."

"Oh, dear, said the little boy, "I thought he would!"

For three days Willie asked the same question when his father came in from the meetings, only to be disappointed until on the third day. Then his father said:

"Yes; Neddie gave his heart to the Saviour today."

"I am so glad," was the answer.

After his death they opened a little box of his and found a list of forty names. The first one was his schoolmate at the time he went to the pastor and asked for something to do for the Lord, and the last name was that of Neddie Smith. And every boy on the list was converted. He had taken them one by one, in faith and prayer, giving them books to read, showing them texts of Scripture, praying with and for them. Surely the Lord had helped this little boy to make his life worth while.

The worth-while life is something the world needs. Your being here is no accident. God made you, and sent you into the world for a purpose. There is a place he wants you to fill. There is a work he wants you to do. Perhaps you wonder what it is, but if you simply do well the little duty of each day as it comes, you will be carrying out God's thought and plan for your life, and at the end will find that you have finished the work which God gave you to do.

What young people are sent into the world to do now, in their youth, is to study, to work, to be faithful in lowly duty. Be dependable, true, and honest. Doing the duties well that come to hand now will train you for doing greater things which the future may give you to do.

"The things near by, not things afar,
Not what we seem, but what we are—
These are the things that make or break,
That give the heart its joy or ache."

First, we should be something worth while in our homes. What do you count for in your home? How much do you do to make your home a happy place? Perhaps you haven't thought that you had any responsibility for this; but you have. The way you perform home duties will show what kind of character you are building. Every time you try to do your little home duties perfectly, you are doing also

another work of greater importance on your own character. The carpenter is a better man for having wrought a good piece of carpentering. The housekeeper is a better woman for having made her home beautiful. Doing the most common tasks well makes life nobler and more worth while.

And your school life and studies will also show what you are determined to be. Probably some of you do not like to work or study hard. It is more interesting, you think, to play. But those who neglect their lessons, or miss them, are dropping stitches which some day will hinder them greatly. Napoleon when once visiting his old school said to the pupils: "Boys, remember that every hour wasted at school means a chance of misfortune in future life." Thousands of men and women have failed to be something worth while because they neglected their lessons in school. I am reminded of the little boy who came home from school one day crying bitterly because he had failed. His sister in trying to comfort him, said, "Never mind, it isn't a disgrace to fail when you have tried." "Yes," replied the little boy, "I know, but I might have studied harder." So do your best. Slovenly work in school or in your home is also slovenly work in your character.

Be something your friends need. Be a friend who is a true Christian. There is nothing more beautiful than true friendship, and nothing more deceitful and ugly than false friendship. There are many who are not careful in speaking of their friends in their absence, who join too readily in criticism of them. There is no truer test of friendship than the way one speaks of another behind the other's back. Don't be a "fair-weather friend." A fair-weather friend is one who is a friend when things go well but not when trouble comes. A true friend never deserts one in a time of need.

"I wish I had as many friends as Mary has," sighed a girl one day. Her aunt said quietly, "If you took the trouble you could have just as many friends as she has. Watch her for a while, and you will see what I mean." So the girl did as her aunt suggested, and found that the reason Mary was so loved was because of her own true friendship for others, which she went out of her way to show. She never forgot little courtesies and kindnesses,—she took the pains to be a real friend to others. Too many friendships are found wanting when there is need for deed as well as word.

The worth-while life is a life "fruitful in every good work." It is not easy to be good and to grow into something worth while. We must remember that in Christ alone can any one find himself and reach the things that are true and right and lovely—the worth-while things. Determine to follow him. Train yourself never to be satisfied with anything but the very best you can do. And you should begin now,—today. It is a serious mistake for young people to delay. The best time to begin to be something worth while is in childhood—when it is easy to learn. Make this your resolve:

"I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there are those who suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
I would be friend to all, the foe, the friendless;
I would be giving, and forget the gift;
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up and laugh, and love, and lift."

IRENE CURTISS.

Devotional Meetings for March 20

Senior

Subject: Organized Missionary Effort.

Motto: Laborers together with God. 1 Cor. 3:9.

1. Opening Exercises.
2. Responsive Scripture Reading: Romans 12: 1-21.
3. Testimony Study: Urgent Calls to Service.
4. Round Table: What Young People Can Do.
5. Talk: Teamwork in Christian Service. See *Instructor* for March 16.
6. Talk: To Finish Up. See *Instructor* for March 9.
7. Our Response.
8. Close with a season of prayer.

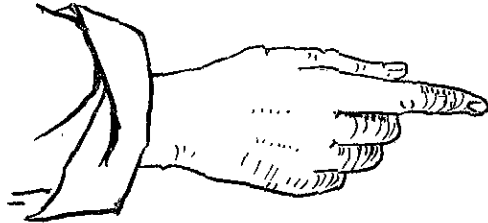
Junior

Subject: The Junior and His Bible.

Motto: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin." Ps. 119:11.

1. Bible Song Service.
2. Prayer.
3. Bible Roll Call.
4. Symposium: What the Bible Is Doing for Others. See *Instructor* for March 9.
5. Blackboard Talk: The Best Lamp.
6. Reading: The Best Letter.
7. Superintendent's Talk: Bible Study and Service.
8. Bible Question Box.
9. Close by repeating the Junior Pledge in concert.

WATCH YOUR OPPORTUNITY



SEIZE YOUR OPPORTUNITY



Senior Notes

"Saved to Serve."—That is the keynote of the meeting today. We are here on business for our King. Do we deserve the honor? Are we worth-while messengers? Finney once said that Christians are here to rescue others from the fire; if they are not doing that, they had better be dead. This is strong language, but none too strong. Can you not put these three sentences on the board?

S. O. S.

S -aved to serve.
O -ur last chance.
S -ouls are perishing.

That is the S. O. S. call that comes to the Missionary Volunteers in your society today. It comes from the regions beyond. It comes from the community around you. Every person who is without a personal Saviour is an S. O. S. call to you. Every one who is discouraged or in any way needs help is an S. O. S. call to you. And some day very soon the Saviour will say to each of you: "Inasmuch."

"Missionary Volunteers and Their Work," chapter 13, gives helps for "Urgent Calls to Service" and "What Young People Can Do," but other urgent calls may be drawn from the Testimonies. For talks Nos. 5 and 6 on the program, use the drawing of the two hands. Put it on the board. In both talks, emphasize the need of watching for opportunities in our daily routine and of seizing them—and to keep on seizing them until our work is finished.

Our Response: This should be a consecration service to faithful daily service for the Master. Ask the band leaders

to include in their testimonies a brief report of the work done by their respective bands and of their plans for the coming month.

Use every opportunity you have to be kind.

Junior Notes

The meeting today considers a phase of the Junior Pledge, and it should stimulate Bible study among the Juniors. Can you not have the Subject and the Motto placed on the board? First have an enthusiastic song service. (See the section, "God's Word" in topical index of Christ in Song, p. iv.) This is an excellent list from which to choose. For the Bible Roll Call ask all who are taking the Junior Bible Year to tell how they find time for it, or what story they have enjoyed most. Ask those who are not taking the Junior Bible Year to respond with a Bible verse about God's word or God's law. Psalms 119 is full of them. Assign sections of the Symposium on "What the Bible Is Doing for Others" to different members. Perhaps you can add other experiences to this list. Let the Blackboard Talk be given by one of the older Juniors, who should draw a picture of a lamp on the board to illustrate his talk. No helps are provided for the superintendent's talk on "Bible Study and Service," but both programs may be drawn on for help. In this talk show the relation of Bible study to service. Surely the Juniors will welcome the Bible Question Box. Use the questions appearing in the *Instructor* for March 9 under this title. Make this a real social meeting. While the children are answering the questions, encourage them to tell how thankful they are for the precious Book of books.

The Best Lamp

MINERS carry lamps on their caps when they go down into the mine. When night comes, we too need lamps. How little we can do in the dark! How helpless we are when the light goes out! One winter morning not long ago, a tree fell on the electric wires, and the lights went out. Many homes were in total darkness, and several persons were late to work because they had no light.

But there is one light that never goes out. That is the light of which David says: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet." It never fails, and how thankful we should be that it doesn't! Some people do not know about this light, and we should help to carry it to them. Some have not learned to treasure it, and go stumbling along in the darkness without it. We should help them to see its value.

Everybody should have this lamp, and everybody may have it, if those who already do have it will help others to get it. We need it to shine upon our pathway so we can see where to step. It will show us what to do day by day. It can chase away the dark clouds of sorrow and discouragement. O, we need it,— need it all the time, all the way!

How can we use this lamp? By studying the Bible and obeying it. The harder we try to obey the Bible, the brighter this lamp will shine upon our pathway. Failing to study the Bible is like turning a lamp down until it gives no light. Failing to obey the Bible would be like letting the lamp chimney get badly smoked. Either lamp would give a miserable light for guiding us over a dangerous road. By such dim light we might never notice some of the most treacherous pitfalls. But every Junior may keep the lamp shining brightly on this pathway if he will [the Bible Year will help you]; and the Juniors can help make it shine on the pathway of others [missionary work, prayer, offerings].

The Best Letter

"O JIMSIE, here's a letter for you from Uncle James!" his little sister called, as she waved a letter from the step. Jim retraced his steps and took it. "Haven't time to read it, anyway," he said.

"Oh, please, Jim! Maybe he's coming to see us."

Jim read aloud:

"DEAR YOUNG JAMES: You must have forgotten to answer my letter, or possibly you did not receive it. Anyway, I am writing again.

"I hope you are not only enjoying your vacation, but making good use of it. Now, my boy—"

"Naw, he ain't comin', or he'd uv said so before now." The letter was stuffed into his pocket, and Jim started for the ball diamond by way of his cousin George's home.

"Get your mitt and move along, George; the boys are all there."

"Sorry, Jim, but can't go. This wood has to be split for mother, and then I have some to split for Mrs. James. This

is the afternoon for filling the paper racks up town, and I have some tract visits coming due this afternoon."

"Say, George, you used to be a good old scout. What's come over you? You're never in for a good time any more."

"Well, Jim, I've heard that my Best Friend is coming to see me. I received a letter from him saying he was being delayed, but that he would bring me a nice present when he did come. I don't know what day he is coming, but I want to be ready. You can't blame me for that, can you?"

"Why, no! What's up? Anybody I know?"

"You and he used to be good friends, though I haven't heard you speak of him lately."

"I don't know who in the world it could be."

"You may read the letter I got from him if you want to," said George, as he put his hand into his pocket.

"Haven't much time, old boy. Can't you tell me? Oh, that! Huh!" as George held out his Bible. "Nope, nothin' doing. I wish you weren't such a stick, though, and would come with me. S'long!"

"Poor chap! I wish I could help him to see things differently," said George as he watched his cousin's energetic departure. "He is losing out more all the time."

Both boys had accepted Jesus, and made a good start in Christian service, but Jim's love of pleasure seemed to be choking out the highest love. But George's words, though spoken sincerely, had a double meaning which Jim did not fathom until a week later.

Returning from a fishing trip with several boys, he was met by Dorothy flying down the walk to meet him.

"O Jim, Uncle James did come; an' he's gone; an' he's goin' to catch some little bears; an' he wanted to take you, but he couldn't; an' he was goin' to take George, an' he did!"

"Sorry, sonny," his mother began as she tried to answer his eager questions. "Yes, your uncle was on his way to the Rocky Mountains for the summer. He had written both of you boys, asking you to be at home when he came this week as he had a happy surprise for you. Also you were not to mention the matter to each other, as neither of you were to know that the other was going."

"Isn't that uncle for you! I might have known." He pulled out of his pocket the letter, worn and soiled, and read the words that would have taken him to the Rocky Mountains, had they been read in time.

"Here is a note your uncle left for you, Jimsie. Maybe it will comfort a little."

Swallowing a big lump, he read:

"DEAR JAMES: I'm sorry that your neglect to read my letter has cost you so dearly. I only hope that you will not neglect the Best Letter until you lose, not merely a summer's trip in the Rocky Mountains, but eternal life among the beautiful hills of God."

IDA HILL.

Devotional Meetings for March 27

Senior and Junior

Subject: Missions Survey.

Slogan: Our all for the finishing of the work.

Plan for the Meeting.—This is your foreign mission rally day. There will be one such meeting every quarter—at least the first three quarters—as you probably have learned from previous announcements. If you have not already a Committee on Missions Survey appoint one at once to work up this program, and to get busy gathering material for a good rally next quarter. In these Missions Surveys gather news items from all fields, but *specialize on the field to which your society offerings go this year.* If there is a Junior as well as a Senior society in your church, why not have a joint rally today? Have a map of the world in the room where you meet.

Aim for Today.—What is it? Read the slogan. As we lift our eyes upon the world-wide field today, there comes to every heart a call to submerge all in the Master's service for the finishing of the work. So in developing your program, bear these three leading thoughts in mind: 1. The greatness of the work with which we are connected. Many of us are blind to its greatness and do not appreciate what a wonderful privilege it is to have even a small part in this work. 2. The progress of this work. It is going forward by leaps and bounds. Did you know that in Europe during the terrible World War there was a net gain of more than

10,000 in our membership? 3. We must keep in touch with this work in order to appreciate it. How shall we keep in touch? Through reading the *Review and Herald* and other papers. And then, we should punctuate our reading with earnest prayers and generous gifts, lest we lose the vision of the world's great need. Make the appeal urgent today, for our time to serve is short, and truly—

"The work that centuries might have done
Must crowd the hour of setting sun."

Program for today.—Each society provides its own program. It should be prepared by your Missions Survey Committee under the auspices of the executive committee. This paper gives a few helps that will fit into your program nicely. "Hanging a Sign" can be given very effectively in the manner suggested. It is one of the finest foreign mission dialogues we have found. Be sure to have it well prepared. The poem "For the Service of the King" in the *Instructor* for March 16 is a strong appeal, if given well. See that it is. It would be well also to have a Mission Song Service of about ten minutes, and a Mission Roll Call. You will find a few news items on page 16 to put with those you probably have already collected. For mission songs, see the sections, "Missions" on page viii, and "Call to Activity," page vii, in topical index in front of Christ in Song. These are excellent lists. We hope your committee will make room on the program for a good consecration service.

These suggestions are sent forth with the prayer that the Missions Survey today may bring into your society a real revival in the interest of missions, and that every young person present may respond with his all for the finishing of the work.

The divided heart gives its "bit."
But the consecrated heart gives its best.

Hanging a Sign

[This is a presentation of medical missions to be given by seven Juniors and one Senior Missionary Volunteer. After the Senior Missionary Volunteer has spoken, one by one the Juniors representing the different countries should come up and make their pleas.]

AMERICAN GIRL [a Senior Missionary Volunteer with a diploma in one hand; in the other hand, the sign, "Eleanor Brent Smith, M. D."]: "At last! Oh, the thrill of actually holding in my own two hands this precious diploma and my sign all ready to hang up to lure patients! Now where shall I hang my sign? It would be great to go back to my own, my native town, and demonstrate to the unbelievers that I have actually finished the course, and that I have a perfectly good license, authorizing me to the practice of medicine and surgery. They did not think I would stick to my studies until I finished, and I should just like to hang this sign in that old town to show them. But there are, let me see, [counts] one, two, three, four, five, six—six doctors there now, and there are only three thousand people. It would be an uphill business to build up a practice. Perhaps it would be better for me to stay right here near the medical college. But think of all the famous doctors and surgeons here! I'm afraid no patients would ever come to poor little me. I thought my troubles would all be over when I passed the various and sundry tests and examinations; but here's a new problem: Given a diploma and a degree, and a sign all ready to hang up, where shall I hang it? Who bids for my sign?"

CHINESE GIRL: "Oh, let me put in a bid for China! Hang it in my land. China has two hundred million women, and only about one hundred women doctors. Why should you wait for patients in America while China has patients waiting for you? China is making wonderful progress, but still there is such great need. Still our doctors and priests are bound by superstition. Still we have little straw men made to place beside those who are sick, in order that the sickness may be lured or enticed into the man of straw by the money which we tie to it, and then the straw man be burned or thrown away. China needs with a need greater than you can know, this sign of yours. There you can begin at once to minister to those who need you and are waiting for you! There you can help us to train our own doctors and nurses. I beg you to hang your sign in China."

JAPANESE GIRL: "I bid for your sign for Japan. We have many doctors and many hospitals, but oh, so few Christian doctors! We need,—oh, Japan needs so much the message of the Great Physician, whose name has never yet been named to millions of our people."

GIRL REPRESENTING MISSIONARY FROM AFRICA: "I come as a Christian missionary to beg you to hang your sign in Africa. A whole continent of opportunity is opened to you. I can show you a block of country nearly a thousand miles square without a doctor of any kind, and only one trained nurse. Recently a young doctor who came to a mission hos-

pital in Africa performed his first major operation within fifteen minutes after his boat landed. He did not have time to hang a sign. The suffering people had heard that another white doctor was coming, and they were lined up to receive him when he landed.

"I can show you the bleached bones of thousands who have been taken out on the veldt to die alone and uncared for because they were declared to be bewitched. Just recently when the mother of a chief died, two little slave children were compelled to walk around the corpse all night to keep the evil spirits from breaking loose into the town. Then at daybreak the next morning the two children were buried alive in the same grave with the dead woman.

"How the poor people of Africa suffer! How the women suffer! How the little children suffer! Fifty million women in Africa and only fifteen women doctors! In the name of the Christ who died for these degraded savages, I beg you to hang your sign in Africa."

KOREAN GIRL: "Korea bids for your sign. You girls of America, oh, how little you know of a childhood terrorized by fear of evil spirits! All my life I have spent in terror of the spirits—spirits of the air, spirits of the water, spirits of the land! The bodies of our whole nation show even today the scars of superstition, pierced as they have been by sharp knives to let the evil spirits out. Smallpox is so common in my land that no man counts his children until after they have had smallpox. Our eyes have been blinded by steel needles. Our bodies have been burned with hot irons. Even today our native physicians are giving such prescriptions as powdered tiger claws, tincture of bear's gall, or decoction of crow's feet. You laugh at our superstitions, but you send us so few doctors to teach us truth. I beg you not to hang that sign in a place that needs it not, when Korea's need is so great."

MOHAMMEDAN: "I bid for that sign for Moslem women. In your hand you hold the key, the only key which can open the Mohammedan lock. The medical missionary can enter through doors locked and barred to every one else. Think of one hundred million women in Moslem lands with only twenty women doctors! Why should you enter an overcrowded way here, when you might be a pioneer in unbeaten paths to bring health and healing to the veiled women of Islam?"

GIRL FROM PHILIPPINES: "If you want your sign to hang neath your own Stars and Stripes, I bid for it for the Philippines. The United States have done much for us, but there is yet much to be done. Why should you not hang up your sign with the determination to help put tuberculosis and leprosy out of the Philippines, and out of the world?"

GIRL FROM INDIA: "I bid for your sign for India—for India with its millions of child wives and widows. We have only about one woman doctor to every million women in India, and our land is not as is your land, for in India no man is permitted to look upon the face of the women of the high caste. It will not be hard for you to build up your practice in India. I can take you to a hospital that has its gate closed because the only missionary doctor there has broken down and has had to go away for rest; and notwithstanding all her pleadings and entreaties to the girls of America, no one else has come out to take her place. A high-caste girl was carried many miles to that hospital. Through all the pain of the rough way she looked forward to the time when she would reach the hospital, and find the wonderful doctor of whom she had heard. When they came to the gate at the entrance, it was closed. The old gatekeeper had to send them back all the long, rough way because there was no doctor there. On the homeward way the girl died.

"So my people are suffering and dying with no one to help—little children and little mothers! Oh, such little mothers, when your children of America are happy at their play! If you could see one of the little widows I have seen, lying half starved in a damp hall, burning with fever, cursed by her father-in-law who forbade any one to minister to that wicked creature who, he said, had caused the death of her husband, his bright and gifted son. When he thought she was about to die, he had her carried out into the street on a mat so she would not pollute the house. For three days and nights she lay there without food or shelter in the pouring rain. The chilly air of the rainy season penetrated through her tiny, worn frame, and no one came to minister to her. The orthodox Hindu neighbors dared only to hope she would soon pass away, since her cries and moans disturbed their slumbers. Thus do our little girls suffer! I bid for your sign for India."

AMERICAN GIRL: "And now the face of my problem has changed! Given one sign to hang out, and such a multitude of calls! What shall I do? One of them is my call. No sleeping potion could give me rest if, with these calls ringing in my ears, I failed to answer. That land is henceforth my country which needs me most. [Facing the audience squarely.] But the other calls—I pass them on to you. Who will answer them? Who will go? Who will send?"

—Adapted from the *Missionary Review of the World*.

Mission Roll Call

Word has been received from Dr. and Mrs. J. N. Andrews that, after a journey of fifty-two days from Chungking, China, they have reached their new destination — Tatsienlu, the "Gateway of Tibet." They have begun their study of the Tibetan language, and in addition to opening a dispensary, they are planning to establish a small printing plant from which to send our message-filled literature, by the hands of Tibetan traders who are found in large numbers in Tatsienlu, into the Great Closed Land.

Brother F. A. Stahl who is in charge of the Lake Titicaca Indian Mission, Peru, South America, sends word that 256 Indians were baptized in five of the stations of the mission from June 1-16.

Pastor S. E. Jackson tells how the believers in the Philippines build their churches: "The last evening I was at Sison they planned for the erection of a new church. Their method of procedure was interesting. One contributed a post; another contributed so many bundles of *cogan* grass for the roof; another so many bamboos, and another so many *bolos*. This company is in the Pangasinian field, and it will be the first church to be raised up in that province."

From South Africa comes the encouraging word that the Belgian Kongo authorities have given permission for our work to enter their country. The brethren are now endeavoring to find a suitable location.

Pastor J. C. Raft, president of the Scandinavian Union, has recently visited Iceland, and reports that the work in that isolated field is steadily progressing. Although many obstacles have come in the way of the progress of the message since the beginning of the war, yet the prospects before the work there have never been brighter than now.

The Far Eastern Division of the General Conference reports a steady growth in their literature work. In 1918 their sales increased 70 per cent over 1917, and they expect large gains for 1919. Korea, in spite of unsettled conditions, is making record sales.

A wonderful awakening is taking place in Fiji. Hundreds of intelligent natives are studying the message, and between 1,500 and 1,600 have taken their stand for the truth. A genuine spirit of revival has taken hold of the people. Not only are they accepting the Sabbath truth, but they are forsaking their former evil habits.

Elder J. E. Fulton sends this story of real conversion:

"Ratu Moape was old, crippled, and addicted to the use, not only of unclean foods, but also of tobacco and native grog. He limped about supported by two canes. He heard the message, and had kindled in his heart a better and a brighter hope. For a time he clung to his idols, when suddenly he decided that he must make the radical change called for before he was baptized. He called for a friend and asked that *vagona* (grog) be prepared for the last time. This is drunk not only for its flavor and effect, but is often partaken of to bind a solemn bargain. In this sense Moape called for the bowl, and solemnly took leave of what had been an old friend—a sort of parting love feast with an old master. The old man, after drinking, hobbled on mile after mile, resting here and there, till at last he found Pastor Parker who baptized him. Months have passed, but old Moape remains faithful to his vows. What a change has been wrought! Though weak, frail, and crippled when the truth found him, he has found healing not only of soul but of body. He can now work well and walk well."

From India comes the word that two missionaries of the Disciple Church have become deeply interested in our message through reading our literature. In response to their request, one of our workers was sent to visit them and to give them instruction in the various points of truth which we hold. Bible studies were conducted both with the missionaries and with their native workers and leading members. As a result the missionaries and practically all their native workers have accepted the truth.

Brother A. M. Buzugherian, one of our Turkish workers, who was forced to flee from his country during the recent

war, and who arrived after many hardships and dangers in Cairo, Egypt, has written that he has been able to return and take up his old work in Adana. He found only about half the members left. He says that of all those who were sent from Adana, only he and his wife have returned.

Missionary Volunteer Programs for Advanced Schools

"EVERY student a Missionary Volunteer" should be the determined aim of every officer of the school society—for the sake of the students, for the good of the school, and for the advancement of the young people's movement in the field. Do not let your work dwindle. With new consecration and renewed energy, let the executive committee push the society work during the closing months of the school. Seek ways and means to keep the society work and meetings before the student body.

For Week Ending March 6

Open. Let the executive committee give careful study to the needs of the school, and prepare such a program as will bring definite results. There should be no aimless programs, or programs for mere entertainment.

For Week Ending March 13

Topic: The Man Who Made the Supreme Decision.

See the regular program. There could be no more important topic for students than this. Paul is perhaps the greatest world character since Christ. Aside from the material given, every one of our school libraries will doubtless contain books on the life and character of Paul.

For Week Ending March 20

Topic: Organized Missionary Effort.

See regular program. Always endeavor to adapt your programs to the needs of your audience. As indicated, this topic gives opportunity for the study of our new Missionary Volunteer Manual, "Missionary Volunteers and Their Work." It is highly important that every student should become familiar with this book.

For Week Ending March 27

Topic: Missions Survey.

It may be arranged for the Foreign Mission Band to conduct this program. If proper study is given to its preparation, it may be made intensely interesting to every one. We sometimes take it for granted that all our students are interested in foreign missions, but it is very evident that this is not the case. At least we know that some are not willing to make the personal sacrifices necessary to go to the mission field. Pray that God will help you to make this program a strong appeal to consecration that all students may understand the truth of Ion Keith-Falconer's statement:

"While vast continents are shrouded in almost utter darkness, and hundreds of millions suffer the horrors of heathenism or of Islam, the burden of proof lies upon you to show that the circumstances in which God has placed you were meant by him to keep you out of the foreign mission field."

Aside from the material found in the GAZETTE, students will have access to other sources of information.

M. E. K.

A Successful March

A

S-uccessful March calls for
U-ntiring, loving
C-onsecrated, well-directed
C-hristian service from
E-very Missionary Volunteer in your
S-ociety, from
S-un to sun,
F-rom day to day,
U-nder the guidance of our Great
L-eader. Then let all firmly resolve to make

M-arch

A truly successful month in Christian service.
R-emember to plan your work well,
C-arefully and prayerfully, for
H-e who fails to prepare is preparing to fail.

M. E.

THE INSTRUCTOR for March 2 contains a list of the society meeting programs. Be sure to preserve it for future use.