

The Church Officers' Gazette

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The Annual Church Election

THE closing weeks of each year bring to our local churches everywhere the time for the annual election of church officers. Recently the General Conference Committee has given attention to some revisions in the "Church Manual," since the present edition is completely out of print. Although the revision will not be available to the field until very near the close of the year, the section dealing with church elections has been carefully studied and the material for the new edition revised. We give herewith the present recommendations of the General Conference Committee regarding church elections:

"A careful study of the instruction given to the church regarding the character and the responsibilities of church officers, will make clear to everyone that electing church officers is an exceedingly important work. This work should be entered upon in a well-ordered and serious manner.

"*Nominating Committee.*—It is the rule that a nominating committee be appointed to give careful study to the needs of the church, and to make careful inquiry into the fitness of members to serve in the different offices. This committee should be appointed as early as possible in the closing quarter of the year, so that the church election may be held not later than the second Sabbath in December. The minister or pastor in charge of the church, or in the absence of a minister, the church elder, should bring the matter to the at-

tention of the church, with the understanding that the church itself shall determine how the nominating committee is to be chosen.



The Missionary

The Lord of love with him has gone;
The gleam is ever by his side;
He has that hand to lean upon,
And oh, the weary world is wide!

Wide as the gloom the dawnlight
leavens

Till far-up soaring skies shine out,
Where all the winds of all the
heavens

Blow east and west and north
about.

The night is dark; the way is steep;
Salt are the seas he has to swim;
Lions shall roar about his sleep;
Hunger and thirst shall visit him.

What dens of darkness shall he
thread!

What desert marches make! what
foes

About his way their snares shall
spread,

While mighty armies round him
close!

But with the Presence ever near,
As holy powers keep watch and
ward,

He goes without a pang of fear,
And heartened by the living Lord!

—Harriet Prescott Spofford.

"It is recommended that in harmony with the practice at our conference elections, there be provided in the larger churches a special and representative committee of from seven to fifteen members, who shall nominate the nominating committee. In churches of twenty-five members or less, a committee of from five to nine may be chosen. This special committee may be chosen in various ways, such as the following:

"1. By nominations from the floor. If this method is followed, it must be understood that no church member may nominate more than one. The effort of one individual or a small group to dictate to the entire membership of the church is *disapproved*. Everything that savors of a political nature should be avoided.

"2. By voting to authorize the church board to nominate this special committee to nominate the nominating committee.

"In either case, this special committee must be voted on by the church.

"In all cases, the report of this special committee must be voted on by the church. The nominating committee has not been elected and cannot function until this is done.

"The plan of nominating officers from the floor or by general ballot is *disapproved*."



"WORK as if you would live forever, live as though you would die today."



COLPORTEUR RALLY DAY

Suggestive Program for Sabbath Service, November 7, 1942

OPENING HYMN: "Sowing in the Morning" ("Church Hymnal," No. 621).

SCRIPTURE READING: John 15:1-8.

PRAYER.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

READING: "It May Be Now or Never," by W. H. Branson.

READING: "Waiting for the Light," by E. E. Franklin.

READING: "What God Expects of Us," by J. J. Strahle.

CLOSING HYMN: "He That Goeth Forth" ("Church Hymnal," No. 627).

Note to Leaders

WE are herewith sending you a suggestive program for the Literature Rally, Sabbath, November 7. This Sabbath has been set apart by General Conference action as a special day to call the attention of our people everywhere to the importance of the literature ministry and the large place it occupies in our world-wide work.

Our leading workers consider literature a mighty weapon to aid them in their soul-winning endeavors, and we believe that a new day is here, in which far more should be accomplished through the distribution of our truth-filled books and magazines than is now being done.

We earnestly appeal to all our leaders to assist in recruiting suitable men and women for this work. Your field missionary secretary will appreciate receiving the names of church members who, in your judgment, could be used by the Lord in the literature ministry.

GENERAL CONFERENCE PUB. DEPT.

It May Be Now or Never

BY W. H. BRANSON

WITH tense nerves and bated breath the world for years awaited the present crisis, and millions prayed that it might be averted. Other millions looked on in stoical indifference, trusting blind fate to hold back the cataclysm that all agreed would probably be the end of human civilization, should it come.

The crisis hour has come, and it may well prove to be the crisis of the ages. Apparently the four angels who have been commissioned to hold the four winds of earth are rapidly loosening their hold.

"The Lord of hosts declares, 'From race to race calamity extends;

A mighty storm is stirring from the earth's far ends.'"

Everywhere destruction is abroad in the world, and the winds have only begun to blow. If the hand of God does not further restrain the nations, they will surely be led on to utter ruin. The forces of hell have broken loose, and Satan's goal for the world is complete annihilation.

Whether the present war will lead directly on to Armageddon and to the coming of our blessed Lord, only God knows. This one thing, however, is clear to us all: the final perils of the last days are upon us, and beyond the smoke of battle we can almost discern the form of our coming Lord.

Those who expect to do any special work for God should not delay a day to undertake it. Are there loved ones unsaved? Now is your time to speak the loving word, urging them to turn to God while the door of mercy is still open. Respond today as you will wish you had responded

when the angel of mercy forever departs and it is too late. Is there any good work you have planned to do for God? Do it now.

Many of our strong laymen who are engaged in successful business pursuits would do well to consider the call of God for recruits for our colporteur evangelistic work. This work is comparable to that of the gospel ministry, and the need for workers in this field of labor is very urgent.

The sun is setting; the night is falling. If your good intentions are not carried out today, tomorrow may be too late. "Time hasteth greatly." We must not delay.

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Waiting for the Light

BY E. E. FRANKLIN

SINCE the inception of our work, literature has played a very important part in disseminating the message that we are convinced should be given to the world. It has been an effective agency in carrying the light of the gospel to the world and has been instrumental in winning many souls to Christ. Today hundreds and thousands of people are rejoicing in the truth because their attention and interest was first created by literature placed in their hands. Today, as never before, the people seem anxious for spiritual help and readily receive our literature with open hearts.

This interesting experience came to us a short time ago from a worker.

The Book That Went Through a Hurricane

At one home in which I gave my canvass a lady was visiting who seemed much interested in my book. She ordered "Bible Readings" to be delivered at her home on another street.

When I delivered the book, she was quite eager to see it, then excused herself while she went to another room. Soon she returned much excited, shouting, "I've got it, *I've got it!*" She ran to the door and called her husband, shouting, "Come quick, I've got it!"

I noticed some papers in her hand. I was curious to learn what the disease was, or if it was contagious. Then she told me this story:

Years ago, she owned a book which she prized highly. A hurricane destroyed their home and all their possessions. All their books were gone, the house was gone, everything was lost. She thought of that good book and went searching for it, but could find only a few scattered pages.

She kept the pages and determined sometime to find that same book. She tried every bookstore, but with no results; so she waited, hoping that sometime it would come to her as it had before. She waited.

She waited thirteen years. Then I came and she compared her pages with my book and said, "*I've got it!*" She embraced that book. She was thrilled! and so was I.

She told me she had prayed for that book to come to her, and now she wanted me to kneel with her and thank God. We both prayed; then I asked if I might have those old pages that went through the hurricane. She said, "Certainly, for I don't need them now, but first I want to write on them."

She wrote simply, "I have looked for this book from 1928 to 1942," and signed her name.

May I add that this woman lived not far from a Seventh-day Adventist church of over a hundred members, *waiting, waiting thirteen years*, for someone to come and sell her a book.

Another worker writes: "It was getting late one evening—about six-thirty—and we were very tired. We had been working since eight that morning. We saw a poor-looking place on a hillside that we thought we might as well pass by, believing we could not sell anything there. After we had gone a short distance, our consciences bothered us so much that we found ourselves retracing our steps. When we arrived at the place, a middle-aged woman met us at the door. Without our telling her who we were or what we were doing, she

exclaimed, 'At last you've come! I have waited for you all day. You are the girls with the comforting message of Jesus, aren't you?'

"As soon as she saw the book she grasped it as if she did not want to give it up. Then she told us her story.

"My husband died a short time ago. He was such a comfort and help to me. I have no one left now. It was more than I could stand, and I was at the point of ending it all when I had a dream that two girls would come to me selling a book with a message of comfort. And this is the book. I'm so glad you came!"

One of our colporteurs was working in a small place and came to a store where liquor was sold. He went in and explained his book to the owner. A man near the door overheard the conversation. The owner did not buy the book, but as the colporteur started to leave, the man near the door asked, "Do you think I can have the book?" He ordered a copy of the book and took it home to his family. His eldest daughter began to read it, and the next night when the father came home partially intoxicated, she begged him to read in the book. Each night as the man came in, the daughter would have him read more. As a result, this man is no longer a drunkard, and the whole family is in the truth.

Honest souls everywhere are waiting for God's messengers to bring them the light. Our literature contains a message of cheer and hope for them. Every church member can distribute more literature, and we believe there are many, too, who should enlist for full-time service in colporteur evangelistic work. May we all faithfully do our part.



What God Expects of Us

BY J. J. STRAHLE

BY our living and by our labor we must point out to those in darkness the way of truth and life, that their blood be not required at our hands. (Eze. 3:18.) We must now, if ever, link up close with Jesus and work as He worked.

God has people scattered abroad over the land, for "all we like sheep have gone astray." Isa. 53:6. These are to be gathered into the everlasting kingdom, "one by one." Isa. 27:12. What a privilege we have in giving this last message, as we go out with literature into the highways and hedges and compel the people to come in, that His house may be filled. (Luke 14:23.)

When we have the experience of Isaiah 6:6, then we will be consecrated representatives of a compelling message, with our souls burning with the love of God and our lips touched with a live coal "from off the altar." Let us never halt or weary till the work is finished.

Satan knows that there is a mighty influence for good attending the earnest efforts of our people; therefore he will do all he can to wear them away from doing God's work. Our weakest points of character will be assailed first. He will try to discourage us, and throw many allurements in our way—anything to alienate our efforts. Why not settle it once and for all? Decide in your own hearts that you will, by divine help, do the work God has called you to do. Be "determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." 1 Cor. 2:2.

The world is asleep, and as "watchmen we are to ring the bell to awaken the sleepers to their danger." Our books that contain the precious words of life should be distributed far and wide. God has fulfilled His part in supplying us with books and in preparing the hearts of the people to receive them. Each time I go out it is plainly apparent that the harvest is more fully matured than ever before. The people are more willing to purchase our literature. The words of Jeremiah, "in those days" (Jer. 50:4, 5), are doubly applicable at this time. Time after time do I meet people who had been impressed with

the fact that there is soon to be a great and final crisis. Many in the world are expecting the soon coming of Jesus. We know what this means. The harvest is surely ripe. (John 4:35.) God has fully prepared the hearts of the people, and now, just now, our duty is to plant the seed far and wide. The Lord is calling men and women who are willing. (Ps. 110:3.)

What a pity it would be for us to come up to the borderland of the heavenly Canaan, and then turn back into the wilderness of sin to perish. "Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive." Matt. 20:7.

We may expect many hardships, but we have the blessed assurance of receiving "whatsoever is right." If we are to share in the triumphs of the chosen people, we must earnestly, patiently labor to sound the clarion note of warning to every benighted soul. We must go forth in faith, always hiding behind the divine Pattern, and manifesting in our lives at every step the humble life of Jesus. Let us plead with the Source of all strength for wisdom and knowledge to guide and direct. Second Corinthians 9:8 gives us the assurance that God will help us to "abound to every good work."

Dear brethren, let us go forward in the might and power of the Lord to finish this important work. Let us quickly speed the message to perishing souls before they are forever lost. May the Lord roll such a burden for perishing souls upon every one till the warfare is ended, and the victory won.

God Works in Unexpected Ways

Good news has just come which tells about a wonderful experience of our brother, Pedro A. Gil, who is one of our faithful workers in South America. The enemy of all truth has tried to make the way very hard for this faithful colporteur, but he refuses to give up, always trusting in the mighty arm of God to deliver him from every difficulty. He recently arrived in the town of — with one of our good books.

Brother Gil had good success as he went from house to house; many were convinced that they needed such a book in their homes. But the priest learned what had been done, and de-

termined to scare everyone who had subscribed; so he visited every home and threatened the people with excommunication if they permitted the book they had honestly ordered to enter their homes. Whatever he did, or whatever he said, he succeeded in scaring the people, so that when Brother Gil returned to deliver his books, the people met him in a cold and indifferent manner, refusing absolutely to take the books. Every person sent him away, and unquestionably the enemy was behind the scene smiling to think he had succeeded so well.

Not a little discouraged, our brother returned to his hotel, wondering what it all meant. He prayed to God to find out what could be done to help those honest people who had been deceived by priestly influences. His simple prayer to the One who is able to overcome the greatest obstacles, and the One who often works in a strange way, was answered in a peculiar manner. The thought came to him to telegraph to those who had the ruling power of the nation, and so a telegram was sent to the minister of education. The telegram was as follows:

"I am a representative of the tract society at —, and in pursuit of my duties as such, I am here selling a moral book which the government admitted to the country through its customhouse. I am being hindered here by the priest, who has prohibited the people from receiving the books they have ordered from me. I appeal to you for advice."

The minister of education is a broad-minded man, and one who knows that liberty spells success to any nation. He immediately replied by sending words something like this:

"If the priest insists upon troubling you, take him before the tribunal."

When our courageous brother received that message, he returned to the same people who had ordered his book, and everyone who had refused before now paid for the book. And best of all, this incident has permitted our brother to sell many pages of truth in other towns where the priests had full control. It never pays to give up. Use that mighty key, prayer, which will open up the treasure house of heaven and help one to overcome the barriers set up by the enemy.

How Reading Impressed One Man

"I received the book safely, and have nearly finished reading it. I can assure you that I am more than pleased with the copy; it is one of the finest books of the day. I have read several good books in my time, but I have never read one to enlighten me as this one has done. The Bible, of course, is the greatest Book of the day, but there were many of the prophecies which I could not understand. However, through reading some of your good books I have had my eyes opened, and as a result I am more of a Christian than I ever was before.

"I will never be satisfied to call myself a true Christian until I am able to keep the right Sabbath. With the help of God, I am going to step out on my own very shortly and be a Sabbathkeeper and become a true child of God."

The Village Ruffian Turns Colporteur Protector

"Working in a village, a colporteur arrived at the home of the schoolmaster. This man was a great enemy of the Adventists. He immediately gathered together a mob. As they were roughly leading our colporteur outside the village with the intention of giving him a beating, a tall man arrived armed with a stick. He was known in the village as a rough fellow who liked such things. But when he joined the crowd, he heard that the colporteur was an Adventist. He stepped up to him and asked, "Are you an Adventist?" When the colporteur answered that he was, he took him by the arm, turned to the crowd and said: "If this young man is an Adventist, we are not going to hurt him. I was once in their meetings, and I heard these people pray. There is nobody who can pray like an Adventist."

This intervention was not to the liking of the crowd, and especially of the teacher, but nobody dared stand against that giant with his stick in his hand. The schoolmaster said, "Let us take him to the police." They directed their steps toward the police station, the tall fellow walking by the side of the colporteur. There the schoolmaster accused our brother of selling bad books. The officer of the law looked at the books and after reading a few pages he said, "These are the best books I have seen any-

where. It is just what our people need." He set aside a few books, asked for the price, and gave the money to the colporteur. All the schoolmaster could do was to turn and go away. Several of the people followed the example of the chief of police and bought books. After that, the colporteur was left free to continue his good work. This is one of the many instances in which the Lord intervened in a special way to turn the wrath of the enemy.

The Crowd Was Dumfounded

"In the south of Italy there seems to be evidence of a great awakening. Brother Valerio has had a marvelous experience. One day he arrived at the small town of Casala about ten o'clock in the morning. He had hardly started canvassing when the church bells began to ring. They continued to ring longer and louder than usual, and soon crowds were flocking to the church from all directions to see what new thing had happened. The priest mounted the pulpit and told the people that two Protestant colporteurs had arrived in town, and that if any of them bought their books, he would refuse to baptize their children, or marry or bury them. Two police officers who were stationed not far from there, after hearing what was going on, thought the best thing to do would be to get the colporteurs away from the town so that they

would not be able to sell the people any books. They soon found Brother Valerio. After being arrested, he was given a chance to explain his work, which he did in the midst of a large crowd. But an astonishing thing happened greatly to the surprise of the crowd who desired to see our brother taken by the collar and led away to prison while they mocked him.

"The police officer said to him, 'How much does your book cost?' The crowd was dumfounded. Everyone said to himself, 'The officer has, without doubt, forgotten what the priest said. His children will not be baptized if he buys that book.' But as they saw the officer take out his purse and pay for the book, a sudden change came over the crowd, with the result that not only the police officer, but several other people, encouraged by his example, also bought copies of the book. Thus the wrath and fury of man only exalted the name of God."

We are grateful for the army of literature evangelists, who are bearing the message of truth to others. In view of the crisis hour to which we have come, should there not be a hearty response on our part to join the soul-winning literature evangelists in accomplishing a mighty work for God in these challenging times? May we, by the grace of God, arise and say, "Here am I; send me."

delicious meal which I enjoyed with host and hostess and three Adventist boys in army uniforms.

The soldiers conversed freely. Obviously they were at home—made to feel so by this dear couple who welcomed them and promptly put them at ease. In my heart rose up a song of gratitude that my lot is cast with the advent people. Perhaps some loving mother in a home far away, made lonely by her only son's absence, may have wondered how her boy spent the Sabbath. In Little Rock, he spent it with people who cherish the same hope that buoys the hearts of parents and family and sweethearts and friends back home. He is greeted heartily at the church, given the best that is available in Adventist households, both at mealtime and at every other opportunity. Sabbath afternoons visiting service men and other young people gather again on church premises for a proper social period. At this time also they counsel with the church leaders. The holy day is filled with sacred inspiration and loving devotion, true brotherly love and thoughtful consideration. Adventist soldier boys have fellowship with their kindred in the faith.

Another picture, not so bright, was on the occasion of a visit to a church located in a different State. Here, following the service, I waited by the door to greet those who passed out. During this time, a young man in uniform stood alone at the bottom of the steps. He looked timidly in my direction; so I stepped down from the entry and shook his hand. A few questions brought out the information that he was making his second visit to this place of worship, but so far had not been received by the congregation other than by a formal greeting in a Sabbath school class and the usual "We are glad to have you." Further demonstration of that gladness seemed to be lacking. The young man made no complaint. My information came by piecing together fragments of conversation.

It is said concerning the tragic experience of our Lord that "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not."

Is it to be one of the tragedies of these military days that Seventh-day Adventist boys, torn from their homes and friends, separated from the church they love, stationed in some city far

Departmental Activities

Hospitality

BY R. G. STRICKLAND

AT Little Rock, Arkansas, our church members have given serious attention to the matter of hospitality for Seventh-day Adventist boys in the service of their country. During my recent visit there, a representative of the soldier group—numbering perhaps a score or more young men—came up onto the platform and delivered a most appropriate speech in which was voiced, for the uniformed lads, sincere appreciation for the cordial manner in which they had been received and for the personal interest taken in each one. Following

these brief remarks, the speaker presented that congregation with a practical and welcome gift—a fine electric clock.

My interest was aroused. What did this mean? It meant that every uniformed lad who put in his appearance at this church was cordially received and personally entertained. They were all made welcome in Adventist circles. A general spirit of good will permeated the very atmosphere.

Immediately after the meeting, a delightful lady of charming personality and motherly bearing, informed me that she and her husband were expecting the minister to dine at their house. It was a rare pleasure—that

from their native haunts, shall in vain seek out the place where Adventist believers congregate, hoping to find friends awaiting them?

What higher missionary service could occupy our thoughts and time than work for the young men who belong to us? Missionary leaders, it is well to counsel with your missionary committee and the Missionary Volunteer Society regarding this very important matter.

Greet strangers who come to you. Don't wait for them to make advances. You are at home. They are not. The responsibility is yours. They showed their desire by attending the service where you are.

Such splendid work is being done in this matter in so many places that the hearts of parents whose sons have been drafted, are cheered. Thank God for those who care for our visitors! May the spirit grow until it enters every Adventist congregation and extends a warm reception not only to those in their country's uniform, but to every visitor of whatever position in life.

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Widespread Interest in Bible Study

AMONG all peoples of the world there exists in these days of uncertainty and bewilderment a hunger for the word of God. For example, we read of a Sikh army officer in India who came to a missionary and asked to buy a Bible. The missionary replied that he had none to sell. The officer, probably thinking that selling Bibles was the missionary's chief source of income, raised his offered price. But the missionary explained that he had just one copy, that he was teaching a Bible school and simply could not carry on this work if he sold his copy of the Bible. Whereupon the officer said eagerly: "Tonight when you are not using it, I will send my man to borrow it. I will stay up all night to read it, and promise to return it to you by eight o'clock tomorrow morning." And the report states that the officer did spend all night reading the Bible.

In the *Religious Digest* of July, 1942, appear the following statements concerning the distribution of Bibles in these days:

"The Bible, unlike any other book, is not only the best seller this year,

but has been the best seller in the United States every year without exception since the year 1800. The American Bible Society reports that its own circulation of Bibles, Testaments, and Gospel portions, has for the last ten years been well over 7,000,000 copies a year. When there is added to this figure the annual distribution of the other great Bible Societies in England, Scotland, and the Netherlands, the annual figure amounts to over 20,000,000 copies every year. This does not include the extensive sale of Bibles and Testaments by commercial publishing houses and smaller Bible societies, which, it is estimated, brings the annual figure, year after year, to approximately 25,000,000 copies. . . . The Bible is a continuous best seller, not only in America and England and in other so-called Christian nations, but it is likewise one of the best known and most widely distributed books in China, India, Africa, the South Sea islands, and elsewhere in those areas that are now the scenes of battle."

Can we not clearly discern the guiding hand of Providence preparing the way for the closing work of the gospel, when "hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, p. 126.

In this time when Bibles are being circulated and read as never before, when the honest in heart are inquiring, "What does the word of God say concerning the future?" are all the members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church aware of their responsibility as custodians of the light of present truth, and is there that intensive desire to prepare and go forth to visit families and open before them the word of God, that is our privilege and duty?

"Let every soul who has received the divine illumination seek to impart it. Let the workers go from house to house, opening the Bible to the people, circulating the publications, telling others of the light that has blessed their own souls."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 353.

The Bible Training Class should be in continuous operation in every church. Through this channel the

first step into the actual giving of Bible studies is made clear and simple; and when a beginning has been made, it is found that truly "it is a joyous work to open the Scriptures to others." "Open the Scriptures to someone that is in darkness, and you will not complain of weariness and lack of interest in the cause of truth. Your heart will be awakened to an anxiety for souls, and joy in the evidences of the faith will fill your heart, and you will know that 'he that watereth shall be watered that himself.'"—*Christian Service*, p. 144.

G. D. M.

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The Influence of a Cottage Meeting

AN evangelist in a large city held cottage meetings once a week in the home of one of his countrymen. A very large house next door to this home was occupied by another man of the same nationality. He was a notorious character, very wicked in his life, who made liquor in the basement of his house. He was a lawbreaker. He sold the liquor to his friends, but kept the matter hidden from the government. He was quite incensed at having a "elureh" next door to his house.

The Lord graciously blessed the cottage meetings. Approximately thirty-five folk became interested in their soul's welfare and gathered there once a week to hear the evangelist unfold the story of the salvation of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Soon the home was too small to accommodate the number who came. It occurred to the evangelist that perhaps the bootlegger next door had a soft spot in his heart that might be touched. He called on him, but was met with hostility as though he were a government inspector or someone prying into the lawbreaker's business. The evangelist introduced himself and told him that he had a Bible study class next door which had outgrown the little house and asked if he might have permission to bring the class over to his house, which was much larger. Strangely enough the bootlegger's heart was touched by this request. After a few moments of meditation and hesitation, he acceded and granted the privilege.

The next week the class was much larger because of the place in which

it was held. The word of God touched the heart of the lawless host so that at the close of the meeting he expressed a desire to be saved. The evangelist opened the word of God and pointed him to the risen Christ, and the great transformation was wrought. The next morning this man and his wife went to the cellar, opened up the stopcocks on the barrels, and soon the entire stock of liquor was in the sewer. Christ had come in and the liquor had gone out—the result of the power of God attending the cottage meeting.—*The Evangelical Christian.*



Service in Behalf of the Blind

BY D. E. REBOK

President, Southern Junior College

It was on the Jericho road leading into Jerusalem that Jesus with His disciples, accompanied by "a great number of people," was traveling one day, when suddenly a shrill cry penetrated the air—"Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me!" Mark 10:47. The disciples turned to see who was calling, but Jesus was deeply absorbed in thought and appeared not to hear the call. He was nearing the great crisis hour of His life. His burdens seemed to be greater with each passing day and pressed more heavily upon His heart, for He was burdened with the needs of the whole world.

Again the earnest, pathetic voice was heard—"Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me!" The disciples discovered it was but the voice of a useless blind man, begging by the roadside. *Only a blind man!* And they attempted to silence him and forbid him to disturb the Master. We can almost hear the subdued but excited words of reproof from one of the disciples, who happened to be nearest to the poor, helpless, hopeless, darkened life—for the light goes out indeed from the life of one who must grope with outstretched hands and feel his way through life instead of seeing the way. "The Master is absorbed in deep and serious thought. Why should you disturb and delay Him. He has no time for you!" But the blind man would not be silenced. "He cried the more a great deal, . . . Have mercy on me!"

Then a gentle breeze wafted the cry to the ears of Jesus, and He stood

still, and no doubt asked, "Who called my name?" Then those who were near made reply, "Nobody, Master, only a blind beggar; a worthless fellow, known as Bartimaeus. Nobody at all that you need to bother about. We'll see to him." Such was the common attitude of people toward the blind in those days.

But to the astonishment of the disciples who had spoken roughly to the blind man, Jesus "commanded him to be called." Going to the blind man and taking him by the hand, one of the disciples lifted him to his feet, saying, "Be of good comfort, rise; He calleth thee." Then the disciple led the blind man into the presence of the only One in the world who could at once bring light to those darkened eyes, life to that darkened experience, and hope to that saddened heart. The deep rich eyes of the Master looked into those sightless eyes. The mind which had been buried in the greatest problem with which a mind ever wrestled, gave itself unreservedly to the problem of one forlorn human life. Here was need, and Jesus had time to care for that need. Can you imagine the joy which filled the heart of Bartimaeus as he returned to his home that day, and the rejoicing of his family as he told them of his repeated calls to the Master, then of the Master's sending for him and asking him, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" And how, when he had stated the desire of his heart, the Master had said, "Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole," and immediately sight was restored?

The Saviour "passed by no human being as worthless." "What a busy life He led! Day by day He might have been seen entering the humble abodes of want and sorrow, speaking hope to the downcast, and peace to the distressed. Gracious, tender-hearted, pitiful, He went about lifting up the bowed down and comforting the sorrowful. Wherever He went, He carried blessing."—*"Ministry of Healing,"* pp. 25, 24.

Friend, brother, sister, do you know that there are many just such needy people in your own community? There are thousands of blind persons in the United States and in all countries of the world. Has it ever occurred to you that *you* might be the *one* standing near by who could bring one of them to the Master for His

spiritual blessing? Oh, yes, there are many things, little in themselves, to be sure, but which mean so much to so many, and yet are remembered and done by so few.

"Now," you say to me, "be more specific. Just what kind of service can I render in behalf of the blind?"

Allow me merely to list some of the lines of service, leaving to individual initiative the filling in of the details and the supplying of the means:

1. Blind people enjoy walking in God's great outdoors, but they need someone's arm to guide their steps.

2. Blind people enjoy literature, but they need seeing eyes and a willing voice to read for them.

3. Blind people do read Braille type, but these books are bulky and expensive. Many people are providing \$10 a year, which supplies the Braille edition of the *Reader's Digest* to a blind person for a year.

4. Blind people enjoy good music, good speeches, good programs, such as may be held in your own church, but they must have someone to escort them to public places.

5. Blind people love friends, and frequent visits from those friends within the walls of their own homes are like little oases in a desert life.

6. Blind people enjoy an auto ride out into the country, especially when a good observer describes the scenery and places of interest passed by.

7. Blind people can learn to operate a typewriter and thus correspond with seeing friends, but few can afford to buy a machine.

8. Blind people learn to play musical instruments—piano, violin, organ, accordion, etc.—but few can afford to buy the instrument and pay for the lessons.

9. Blind people can keep abreast of world affairs by means of inexpensive radios, but few can buy these machines for themselves.

Allow your own mind to supply the rest. If you will but close your eyes and sit in total darkness for just one hour, you will begin to appreciate what it means to live a whole life in that darkness, and many of the needs which you will experience in that one lone hour will suggest to you many ways in which you can serve the blind in your community and thus bring a double blessing—one to yourself and one to your newly found friend. Try it, please!

Literature for the Blind

BY D. D. REES

*Editor-Manager, Christian Record
Benevolent Association*

THERE are in the United States approximately 135,000 blind people, many of whom are well educated, capable, and efficient. It is as unfair to judge the entire group of blind people by the blind man who sits at the street corner holding out his tin cup as it would be to judge the whole family of birds by the English sparrow we see in the gutter.

In a letter recently received by the editor of the *Christian Record*, our magazine for the blind, a blind lady of Illinois writes: "I have been a regular reader of the *Christian Record* for forty years and never tire of its valuable message of help and inspiration. No other magazine can take its place."

This reminds us that for more than forty years the *Christian Record* has been going monthly into the homes of the blind people of our land. In 1900 the first embossed journal was issued in Battle Creek, Michigan. Only a little edition of 75 copies was turned out by a young blind man, who used a common clothes wringer for a press. From that little beginning the work for the blind has grown until now the Christian Record Benevolent Association owns a commodious, serviceable plant, modern in every way, and equipped with up-to-date machinery and furnishings throughout. Our embossed magazines are going into the homes of thousands of blind people throughout the country. Embossed printing is not only very expensive but very bulky. At present the Association is sending out between three and four tons of embossed literature for the blind each month, and all of this goes entirely free of charge to this worthy class of people.

Our parent magazine is the *Christian Record*. This journal has a circulation at the present time of 5,320. That figure would not appear large for an ink-print journal, but it shows a remarkable circulation for a journal read only by blind people, especially when you remember that thousands of blind people (especially elderly blind people) have never learned to read embossed printing. The *Christian Record* has by far a larger circulation than is enjoyed by any other

journal of its class, and, judging from the flood of letters we are constantly receiving from the blind, we believe it is the most loved of all current literature published for the blind. It has brought the light of the third angel's message to thousands, and hundreds have accepted the message. It is no uncommon experience for us to open a letter and read, "Thanks to the *Christian Record*, I am rejoicing in the advent message." We have recent word from Ohio that a mother is keeping the Sabbath through the influence of her blind son, who is a reader of the *Christian Record*, and now the whole family of four are deeply interested in the truth.

A little over a year ago we printed in one of our Braille journals a convincing article on the Sabbath question, and followed it up the next month with another on the same subject. Soon after that we received a letter from a blind colored man who was studying for the ministry. He wrote that the first article half convinced him of the true Sabbath, and that the second one was all-convincing. Later he wrote, "My faith is constantly increasing concerning the Sabbath. I now feel with all my heart that the seventh day is the Sabbath." Later this young man interested certain of his young friends in the Sabbath, and called for ministerial help. The conference president sent a young colored intern. That effort resulted in the organization of a Sabbath school with something like fifteen members, with a good prospect of a church organization later.

We believe and know that there are hundreds of blind people who for years have been receiving the *Christian Record* and are convinced of the truth, but, because of their dependence upon those who perhaps are more or less prejudiced or uninformed, have not had opportunity to take their stand in a definite way. There are blind people in many localities. These people welcome visits from friends with sight. Here is a splendid opportunity for our church members to do some very valuable and much-needed home missionary work. Many of these people know the truth. They need only the counsel and instruction and inspiration of the living teacher. And there are many blind people who perhaps have never heard at all of the *Christian Record*

and the work the Christian Record Association is doing for the blind. It would be a splendid work for our brethren in the churches to seek out such people and send their names and addresses to the Christian Record Association.

The blind are alone in a dark night. To them there is no rising sun. They live in eternal darkness with no hope of the dawn. The budding rose, the gay crowds, the glistening automobiles, the soaring planes, the bow in the painted heavens, the fire of the setting sun, the storm cloud's silver lining, the glory of the starry heavens, and above all else, the faces of loved ones—all are hidden behind the hand of destiny. If a little cheer and comfort, a little faith and Christian hope can be brought to them, great good can be done.

A blind man recently wrote, "I venture to say that the *Christian Record* has done more good among the blind, and has been more soul filling, than any other magazine published." Another writes, "There has never been a copy of the *Christian Record* that I have not thoroughly enjoyed. It is a friend to the friendless, a comfort to the sad, and a consolation to us all. I look forward to its coming as one would look for a letter from a very dear friend. Its literature is wholesome and helpful, and all its reading is educational and enjoyable."

The second journal published by the Association is the *Sabbath School Monthly*, containing our Sabbath school lessons. Because Braille is very bulky, we issue the lessons monthly instead of quarterly. This journal has a circulation of 1,192.

A third magazine, the *Bible Expositor*, is also a monthly magazine and deals with but one subject each month, always on a salient phase of the third angel's message. We aim for the twelve issues each year to cover the principal points of our faith. This journal has a circulation of 1,418.

Our fourth journal is for blind children, and is called the *Children's Friend*. It is made up almost wholly of stories taken from *Our Little Friend*. It is wonderfully appreciated by little children and is the only journal of its kind in the United States. It has a circulation of 1,085.

In addition to our four journals we maintain a large, free, circulating li-

brary. The books are transcripts of our own denominational books and cover all points of our faith. These books are lent to the blind, and they go to all corners of the United States. The books, like all our journals, go free through the mail. All of our service to the blind is entirely free of charge. Not a single blind person pays a penny for his literature. Many of them could not, and if a charge were made they would be deprived of the cheer, the satisfaction,

and the knowledge of the gospel truth brought to them by our efforts.

Is it too much to hope that all the blind people in the vicinity of our churches will be sought out by our people so that all who are interested in good literature and Bible truths may be encouraged and strengthened? In case they are not already readers of our embossed literature, their names should be sent to the Christian Record Benevolent Association, College View Station, Lincoln, Nebraska.

tian help work, how to select men in the church who might do lay preaching work. We would study how to finance these various projects successfully.

I would also study with the missionary committee the conduct of the first Sabbath missionary service, so that we might capitalize on this hour in such a way that the church members might be inspired and instructed in what to do to prepare for soul-winning service. We would want to study how to use the material given to us in the CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE, or such other organs as may be used in other division fields. We would study together how to utilize the ten-minute missionary service in such a way as to secure the one hundred per cent reporting, at which we aim, and at the same time present suggestions or helpful counsel or material during these few minutes that will interest the whole church in this service.

Another thing that I would want to be very careful about studying with the missionary committee would be the various campaigns during the year. The Ingathering for missions campaign would need to be studied in advance of the opening date, at least one month, if not more. All plans would be laid, the church organized, the field properly divided, band leaders appointed, materials assigned and ready, before the day when the trumpet should be blown for the advance. The Big Week campaign likewise would be planned for in advance instead of our waiting to do all the work of organizing and arranging of territory on the Sabbath when the campaign begins. As in other campaigns, I would want to be organized so as to move forward on time.

Most certainly I would want to have a map of the territory for my church, and have it properly divided into districts and numbered. If at all possible I would like to have lieutenants in each one of these districts as my assistants in keeping in contact with the field. I would want a card-index file of all the members, the type of work each is doing, the campaigns assisted in. I would want a file containing smaller sections of the districts, so that when special campaigns were called for, we could quickly give each individual his ter-

Missionary Leadership

If I Were the Church Missionary Leader

If I were the church missionary leader, the first thing I would do would be to secure instructive material regarding the work connected with my office in the church. Then I would sit down and study carefully the plans and the program of devotion and service for the church. With a notebook at hand, I would make an outline of the first things to be done, then the second, and the third, etc., until I had a complete outline of the kind of work God expects His people to do.

Having done that, I would endeavor to analyze the church in regard to present and past activities and organization. In order to do this I must have access to the church missionary secretary's reports for the past year. With these at hand I would analyze the membership as far as possible, and the territory, and opportunities for service. I would ask myself the question, "How many of the types of service called for by the Lord can we operate in our church?" Then I would set down these items. I would want to follow the curriculum which the Lord has given through His messenger, as recorded on page 149 of "Ministry of Healing," as a guide.

With my outlines and findings tabulated as far as possible, I would then ask the pastor of the church, or the elder, if we might have a regular monthly missionary committee meeting. I would show him what I had worked out, and ask for his full cooperation. I would want his counsel also before presenting these items to

the committee. When I met with the committee, I would want to have a blackboard on which to write out the items for study, unless I might be so fortunate as to have access to a typewriter or duplicating machine and could have a sort of agenda prepared in advance. I would want to have a good season of prayer before we entered upon our study and discussion of the matter before us. I would want to have free discussion and counsel, so that every step might be clear before us as we planned for the work of the church. I would want to have uppermost in my thinking and work the fact that we are here to win souls for the kingdom of God, and that we all should have our part in the work.

I would want to help every other church officer to unite in this plan of soul winning, so that the officers of the church might take the lead, for in this kind of unity would be the success of the ventures in which we are to engage. And the people will follow consecrated and unified leadership in the church today.

I would study with the missionary committee the feasibility of organizing service groups in the church and how many we should have. We would give study to the distribution of literature on a scale which would be within the ability of the church to handle. We would want to study how every member might be enrolled and enlisted in some field of service. We would organize training classes in how to conduct Bible studies, how to help the poor, how to work for the unconverted, how to care for the sick, how to carry on various lines of Chris-

ritory. These smaller sections of the territory would correspond with the master map.

Naturally I would have the church missionary secretary working at my side in all these operations, and would hope that the Missionary Volunteer leader and secretary would also unite in carrying forward a complete program of soul-winning advance for the whole church. I would want to study the report of the missionary work done by the church and counsel with the secretary about it. I would want to be ready to help the secretary with the problems that come to him or her. I would hope that the pastor or the elder might study these reports with us, also, in order that we might have wide counsel in the work of the church.

Inasmuch as the conference has provided a home missionary secretary for the whole field, I would want to be in very close touch with him, reporting to him the plans and progress of the church, asking for counsel and help, studying carefully the suggestions and plans which he might send to the church. I would want him to come and help us plan and study whenever he might be able to do so, realizing that he has information and knowledge which I may not have. I would want him to assist us in rallies and campaigns when possible, and to help us find the best methods for soul winning.

In order that the church might be kept in the best possible working condition, I would want training classes in operation, so that every member would be given an opportunity to learn how to engage in successful soul-winning service. I, therefore, would have to keep myself informed regarding the newer methods in training and instruction.

My mind will need to be fed, and above all my soul will need spiritual food. I would therefore need to take some time every day for Bible study for my own soul. At the same time I would seek for time in which I might study carefully the "Testimonies for the Church" and other books given to us through the Spirit of prophecy. I would want to read as many other good books and helps as possible, so that my mind and heart might be energized for the best possible service.

I would need to pray earnestly for

divine guidance, asking the Lord to baptize me with His Holy Spirit and help me to be humble and believing at His feet.

All this would mean that I would have to husband my time, emitting all unnecessary items from my daily life. I would have to sacrifice hours of pleasure and association. I would have to work early and late. It might be possible that at times the load would seem to be too heavy. I would have to learn how to distribute responsibility to others. But as I carried on day by day, week by week, and month by month, staggering sometimes under criticisms which always come, no matter how well we do the task, I would try to keep my eyes fixed on the goal, that in the kingdom of God souls would rejoice because I had been faithful in that which He had given me to do.

All this is what I would do if I were a church missionary leader, and what every division, union, and local conference home missionary secretary expects of all church missionary leaders.

WESLEY AMUNDSEN.

Convincing Answers for Common Excuses

1. "I really have no time to do any missionary work."

Answer.—"Take heed to yourselves, lest haply your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day come on you suddenly as a snare." Luke 21:34 (English Revised Version, 1938).

"When the reproach of indolence and slothfulness shall have been wiped away from the church, the Spirit of the Lord will be graciously manifested. Divine power will be revealed. The church will see the providential working of the Lord of hosts."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. IX, p. 46.

"Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time."—*"Christ's Object Lessons,"* p. 342.

2. "I do not know what I can do."

Answer.—"God expects personal service from every one to whom He has entrusted a knowledge of the truth for this time. . . . There are many ways in which church members may give the message to those around

them. One of the most successful is by living helpful, unselfish, Christian lives."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. IX, p. 30.

"There is a wide field of service for women as well as for men. The efficient cook, the seamstress, the nurse—the help of all is needed. . . . There is earnest work for every pair of hands to do."—*Id.*, pp. 36, 37.

3. "I have no ability to work for others."

Answer.—"Many who excuse themselves from Christian effort plead their inability for the work. But did God make them so incapable? No, never. This inability has been produced by their own inactivity, and perpetuated by their deliberate choice."—*"Christ's Object Lessons,"* p. 365.

"It is not the capabilities you now possess, or ever will have, that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you. . . . Put your talents into the work, ask God for wisdom, and it will be given you."—*Id.*, p. 146.

4. "I think some minister should come to our neighborhood and preach."

Answer.—"All should feel that they are their brother's keeper; that they are in a great degree responsible for the souls of those around them. The brethren err when they leave this work all to the ministers. . . . They must not wait for the ministers, and neglect a plain duty which God has left for them to perform."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. I, pp. 363, 369.

5. "I have tried over and over again, but it is hopeless for me to work for my neighbors, as they will never accept this message."

Answer.—"We are to preach the word of light to those whom we may judge to be as hopeless subjects as though they were in their graves."—*"An Appeal,"* p. 23.

6. "I do not feel that God expects me to do missionary work."

Answer.—"None will be pronounced guiltless before God, unless they have worked earnestly and unselfishly for the salvation of souls."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. V, p. 395.

"The Lord has a place for everyone in His great plan. . . . Even while engaged in their daily employment, God's people can lead others to Christ."—*Id.*, Vol. IX, pp. 37-39.

—*"Eastern Tidings."*

A Quart of Courage, Please

WOULDN'T it be wonderful if there were a store where we could buy the necessities of life! The real, everyday, important necessities like courage, faith, humor, serenity, perseverance, and joy.

Wouldn't it be exciting to go up to a spotless, shining counter and say, "I'd like a quart of courage, please. I thought I had enough on hand, but I had to lend some of it, and my stock is running low. There is only a cupful left, and that will hardly last the night." Or, perhaps, our supply of perseverance is depleted and a job is not finished. We could hurry to the store and say to an understanding clerk, "Can you wait on me right away? I am in great need. How soon can you deliver two pounds of perseverance? I must have it today. Please give me the strongest mixture. My last lot was rather weak, especially near the end."

Possibly it is a sense of humor that we need most in handling certain situations, and ours is all gone. We suddenly realize what is wrong with us, why that heavy, plodding feeling overpowers our good impulses. We need the leavening of humor, the gaiety of laughter, the light touch that is tactful and adaptable. A telephone message to the store brings a prompt reply. "Yes, we have plenty of humor in stock. Will you have it mild, spiced, or sweetened?" Before long a lovely package arrives, done up in gay paper and shining cord, and as we open it and sprinkle the contents over the house, the day brightens, our heart lightens, the air is fresher and sweeter, and our spirit shakes the dust off its wings.

One day we may stroll through the store not quite sure what we want, and see a beautiful box lying on a counter. "That is our best brand of serenity," explains the pleasant salesperson. "It is most useful in troublesome times. A little of it rubbed on the forehead night and morning will remove worry wrinkles, blot out care corners, and restore shine to the eyes and harmony to the heart." We take the beautiful box home with us, and the world seems to glow with kindness and calm.

What a boon to us all if there were such a store! What an achievement

for a great modern age! What an adventure in high and intensive living! How magnificent a gesture for some noble soul to make, to start and stock a store filled abundantly with these necessities of life! Didn't someone say a long, long time ago that there was such a storehouse filled with joy, peace, love, and their attributes? It had a name, a queer name for a storehouse; yet no queerer than many of our modern inventions. It was called the "Storehouse of the Kingdom of Heaven." Where was it located? It was such a long time ago we have almost forgotten. Was it on the shore of a blue lake, a moun-

tain in a weary land, a garden at dawn? Ah, we remember; it was "within you." It must still be there, for someone said it was eternal and all its wonderful goods were imperishable. What an astounding rediscovery! We may get a quart of courage, a pound of perseverance, a box of serenity, at any time, any hour of day or night; for as quick and urgent as our need, so shall the supply be given; given without barter or trade, pledge or plea, for the never-failing supplies of the great Kingdom of Heaven Storehouse are free to those who ask and will receive.—*Lydia L. Roberts, in Watchman-Examiner.*

Weekly Church Missionary Services

November 7—Place of the Weekly Service in the Missionary Program

Key Thought for Leaders: "Let the missionary meeting be turned to account in teaching the people how to do missionary work." "If the missionary meeting were made an occasion for bringing in . . . reports, it would not be dull, tedious, and uninteresting."—"Christian Service," pp. 211, 212.

The missionary program of the church, like the Sabbath school program, includes every member of the church. Just as each is assigned a definite place in class for study of the word of God in preparation for Christian service, so each is to be assigned his place in the activities of the missionary program. "There is something for every one to do. Every soul that believes the truth is to stand in his lot and place, saying, 'Here am I; send me.'"—*Id.*, pp. 10, 11.

The missionary program has a twofold objective of far-reaching importance—first, to instruct members how to do missionary work, and second, to secure reports from the workers as to what they have done and are prepared to do during the ensuing week. For this very important twofold objective, the brief space of ten minutes is allotted in the church services each week. How short a period for such a wide scope of endeavor! But much can be accomplished in a short time when leaders give attention to planning their promotion so as to make every moment count. We see this demonstrated in the radio announcements. Often only two minutes are allotted to an announcer, and at best from three to five minutes; but the announcements are so formulated and so timed that their effectiveness is assured. The success of the weekly missionary service rests largely in the hands of the missionary leader and the secretary, and their problem is not one of scarcity of material for the meeting, but rather the discrimination to present important matters in condensed form and with such clearness and emphasis that every word counts.

As to giving instruction in different phases of missionary endeavor, this cannot, of course, be attempted in any adequate manner during the time of the ten-minute service, but instruction classes should be in operation at appointed times during the week or month, and reports from these classes, or important announcements concerning the classwork, should be made at this time. Announcements concerning current campaign programs, and the monthly missionary

features, should be included in the weekly missionary service. Perhaps the most definite feature is the collecting of missionary reports through the class hands. Once each month, verbal reports should also be rendered.

The ten-minute weekly missionary service may be considered as ten golden links binding the Sabbath school and the preaching service together. If each link is firm and strong, the missionary service becomes an inspiring and appreciable section of the devotional services of the Sabbath. But if even one link is weak or broken, delay, loss, confusion, and dissatisfaction result. Let us study for greater efficiency as *gospel radio announcers* in behalf of the advance of the missionary program of the church.

November 14—Cottage Meetings

Key Thought for Leaders: "The presentation of Christ in the family, by the fireside, and in small gatherings in private houses, is often more successful in winning souls to Jesus than are sermons delivered in the open air, to the moving throng, or even in halls or churches."—"Gospel Workers," p. 193.

There are many ways of preaching the gospel. The general idea of preaching is to expect people to come to church and be preached to. But another way is to take the gospel to the people. Churches, theaters, halls, and other public meeting places involve heavy expense for rent, light, and heat. Opportunities for organizing and conducting cottage meetings cost practically nothing, and offer the superior advantage over all other methods in that they enable the leader to draw near to the people. The cottage meeting bridges the gulf between the pulpit and the pew, which so often exists in the minds of the people, and is in accord with the Saviour's example in gathering about Him small groups of people to whom He opened the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. This was the method employed by the apostles of the early church, for we read that "daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." Hundreds of souls have been won through the cottage meeting, which has proved to be one of the most efficient means of missionary endeavor. Home Missionary Series Leaflet No. 6 contains many helpful suggestions on "Cottage Meetings or Fireside Evangelism."

Where the cottage meeting becomes a regular appointment, often new and unexpected people will be gathered in. The following incident illustrates how through the daily events of life the gos-

pel may be preached and souls won for Christ.

During the winter in which thousands of men were out of work and in despair, a hungry, discouraged man called at a humble cottage to ask for something to eat. A sweet-faced old lady invited him to come in, where he was made warm and welcome and served a meal which, for the first time in a week, satisfied his hunger. After the meal was over, the old lady asked the stranger to stay a while and rest. It was not difficult to accept such a kindly invitation, and thus was brought about a turning point in the man's life, as told in his own words, as follows:

"The old lady talked with me about my soul, and I began to wonder what was coming next. I had spent all my money in riotous living, and had never given a penny to the church. I hated Christians. But here was a Christian—a stranger and a widow—who had taken me in and fed me. Within a few minutes there was a knock at the door, and in came a group of people—about a dozen in all. They were evidently expected and were kindly received. I gathered from the conversation that they were neighbors, and I observed that the theme of conversation was the Bible studies they were interested in. Then came another tap on the door, and in stepped a couple of men with Bibles in their hands. They had come to hold a cottage meeting, as I learned later. I surely did not feel at home in such a crowd, but everyone seemed to think I had come to the meeting on purpose, and was very friendly. I saw no possibility of breaking away without seeming disrespectful to my kind benefactor; so I sat still, as far back in the corner as possible, and watched proceedings. After singing and prayer, they began to read the Bible. I did not take much notice of what they read until I heard the words, 'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.' After they had finished reading the Bible, they had a testimony meeting, and everybody had something to say. They asked me if I wished to speak, and I answered very decidedly 'No!' Then they asked me if I would like to have them pray for me. To this I said 'Yes,' but it must have been the Holy Spirit that spoke, for I had no intention of making such a request. Then, for the first time in my life, I knelt on my knees to pray; and the good people prayed for me. The kind widow lady prayed most earnestly. In such environment I was not long in finding God. I knocked, and the door of life was opened to me. Ever since that night, when I unexpectedly attended a cottage meeting, I have been praising God, and singing 'O happy day! that fixed my choice on Thee, my Saviour and my God.'"

November 21—Ministry in Behalf of the Blind

Key Thought for Leaders: "Angels are sent to minister to the children of God who are physically blind. Angels guard their steps and save them from a thousand dangers. . . . He [God] will not harken to the prayer of His people while . . . the blind and the sick are neglected among them."—"Testimonies," Vol. III, pp. 516, 518.

There is said to be approximately 135,000 blind persons in the United States. If all these thousands were grouped together in one city or locality, the realization of the need in their behalf would be much more apparent than is the case when we seldom see a blind person, or only occasionally pass the blind pauper who stands with pathetic appeal in the busy thoroughfares. But let us not forget the institutions filled with blind people, as well as the great number of individuals who so often sit "solitary in families," some of whom are loved and appreciated and well cared for, while others are shunned and neglected. When we consider that Heaven is so interested in the blind members of the human family as to send angels to minister to them and guard their steps, we

realize that we who possess eyesight and who love God and desire to serve Him, have a mission to fulfill in behalf of the physically blind.

In this connection, special attention is called to two articles appearing in this issue, on pages 7 and 8, one by Elder D. E. Rebok, which outlines a comprehensive program of helpful contact with the blind, and the other by D. D. Rees, editor of the magazine for the blind known as *The Christian Record*. The facts and suggestions presented in these articles open before us a wide field of personal service which should have immediate attention.

November 28—Missionary Experiences

Key Thought for Leaders: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 5:16.

In referring to John the Baptist, Jesus said, "He was a burning and a shining light." John 5:35. And that is what Christ would have His followers ever do,—be not simply receptacles for light, but keep the light burning and shining. The story is told of an accident in which a

man was killed at a level railroad crossing. Consequently the old signalman had to appear in court. After a severe cross-examination he was still unshaken. He testified that he had waved his lantern frantically, but all to no avail. The following day the superintendent of the road called the signalman into his office, and said, "You did wonderfully well yesterday, Tom. I was afraid at first you might waver." "No, sir," replied Tom, "but I was afraid that old lawyer was going to ask me whether my lantern was lit!" This was indeed tragic, but equally tragic is the fact that so many Christians are waving the lantern frantically at the crossroads of life, but there is no light in the lantern to give the warning, and lives are lost. We are God's signalmen, but the blood of souls will be upon our garments if we neglect to keep our lanterns ablaze with light.

"While Christ is dwelling in the heart, it is impossible to conceal the light of His presence, or for that light to grow dim. On the contrary, it will grow brighter and brighter as day by day the mists of selfishness and sin that envelop the soul are dispelled by the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness."—"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 134.

The Cooking Class

Fundamental Principles in Dietetics for the Homemaker

"There is religion in good cooking, and I question the religion of that class who are too ignorant and too careless to learn to cook."—"Testimonies," Vol. II, p. 537.

LESSON VI

MEAL PLANNING AND MENU MAKING*

BY MRS. A. G. GAYLORD

IN planning and serving the meal, there are three things of major importance to consider: first, the selection of foods that provide all the essentials in the right proportion, and that agree with one another; second, the proper methods of cooking to conserve food values, and render them easy of digestion; and third, the serving of foods in an attractive, pleasing form. In this last, there is a psychic factor which cannot be ignored, and it should be the aim of every homemaker to set an attractive table. Dainty china, clean linen, and some floral decoration, or other artistic note, have much value as a proper setting for the meal; and a pleased, relaxed state of mind, is one of the greatest aids to digestion.

In seeking to balance the food elements in a meal, we should keep in mind the classification as given in Lesson I and as illustrated by a chart furnished on request. By a study of these groups, one may learn how to substitute one food for another as best suits the taste of the individual.

It is not necessary to provide a large variety at one meal in order to supply the body needs, but vary the selection from day to day.

A quart of milk should be provided

daily for each child, and a pint for each adult.

Use some raw food at least once a day, as in this food the mineral and vitamin constituents are preserved unchanged.

Avoid having the meals one-sided. Serve the more watery foods, such as fruits and vegetables, with one of the heavier foods such as grains, legumes, or nuts, etc.

Breakfast

Fresh fruit should form a part of every breakfast if possible. Cooked fruits may be used as desired, but they do not take the place of fresh fruit. Whole-wheat bread or breakfast gems may take the place of a cereal for a change. They may be eaten with honey or marmalade and butter. An egg, a glass of milk, or a few nuts may supply the needed protein.

Dinner

A soup, a raw vegetable salad, one or both, may well form a part of every dinner. If these are served with a good protein dish, one cooked vegetable may be quite sufficient, although a second may be added if desired. If there is no specially prepared salad, something raw should be served, if only celery or lettuce.

Potatoes need not always be included. It may be well on alternate days to serve one or two other vegetables and omit potato. If squash or carrots are served, the second vegetable would better be spinach, string beans, green peas, etc., rather than potato.

* This ends the series of Cooking Class Lessons. Special recipes, sample menus, chart for balanced diet, and a section on "Simple Desserts" will be furnished in mimeograph form without cost, to all who send their request to the General Conference Home Missionary Department, Takoma Park, D. C.



Young People's Department of Missionary Volunteers



OFFICERS' NOTES

November

The Week of Prayer

WE are approaching another Week of Prayer, with the world at war. Thousands of our fellow Missionary Volunteers are denied the happy privilege of meeting with those of like precious faith in study, prayer, and consecration. Should we not put forth every effort to encourage all those young people who still have this privilege? Young people of our societies and churches, make the most of this annual Week of Prayer, December 5-12. How much depends upon society leaders! What can you do to make this week profitable to all?

1. Lay definite plans early in co-operation with the pastor and elders of the church, with the prime purpose of reaching every young person.
2. Call a meeting of your Missionary Volunteer executive committee to survey the situation, lay plans, study, and pray.
3. Organize Prayer and Personal Workers' Bands to meet daily.
4. Plan the meetings in such a way that each young person is given an opportunity to take his stand for Christ.
5. Work with the pastor and elders in conducting baptismal classes for those who surrender.
6. Lead your Christian youth into a personal soul-winning crusade.
7. Endeavor to carry the spirit of the week throughout the year by urging all to enter upon a permanent devotional program, observing the Morning Watch, the Bible Year, etc.

D. A. OCHS.

Summary of Attainments

WE are nearing the time when it is well to review the plans and projects of this thirty-fifth anniversary year of the young people's department in the light of accomplishments. What attainments have been made by your society members? By your society as a whole? There is still time to complete personal and society projects such as finishing the Bible Year, the M. V. Reading Courses, the work of the various service and Progressive Class bands, and to plan definitely for the holiday season.

Sometime in December summarize the year's work of the society and present your findings to the executive committee and also to the society in meeting. Keep a report for the society records. Send a complete copy of this report to the conference M. V. secretary, and give a copy to the chairman of the local church board so that he may present it to the board and to the church. You may be surprised what an inspiration and incentive to greater work this will be. It is well worth trying! M. W. M.

Service Bands in November

AT this season of the year, when there is much distress in the world, the service bands of the young people's society will be active in helping to relieve suffering, hunger, and need of all kinds. Plans should be laid in co-operation with those church officers who are also working along this line. Hours of Christian help work, food and clothing given, treatments given, etc., should be reported for the inspiration of others. M. W. M.

A Thanksgiving Hike

AFTER Thanksgiving is over, and your society members have experienced the satisfaction of helping others in the community, why not have a Thanksgiving hike? Sunday would be a good day for this, since you may close with a campfire. Or on Friday, when most schools are closed, the group could start in the morning, taking their midday lunch, and returning home early in the afternoon.

In order to "travel light" each hiker may carry the sandwiches and fruit he wishes. Plans may be laid for a hot drink for all. Arrange well in advance for the use of a camp or cabin, or, if this is not possible, a place in the woods or in a park where you may have the privilege of building a campfire. Keep the destination a secret, and plan a marked trail for the group to follow. If there is snow, certain signs may be made in the snow, supplemented by other trail signs. Several good methods are explained in the "Master Comrade Manual," pages 24 to 28. Any one of those or a combination of them will not fail to prove interesting—and may help some of your members to complete this requirement for Master comradeship.

When the hikers arrive at the des-

tinuation and place their food in safe quarters, they will be free to participate in outdoor games provided by your committee. After a brief rest and supper, the campfire and inspiring stories will be a grand climax to these hours of fellowship.

M. W. M.

Gratefulness inspired a plan of—

Writing Thanksgiving Letters

THE above words heading an article in the *Christian Advocate* arrested our attention. William L. Stidger here tells of a group of friends in after-dinner conversation, who were jolted out of the negative trend of thought expressed by one minister of their number and started thinking about what they really had to be thankful for. One said:

"Well, I, for one, am grateful to Mrs. Wendt, an old schoolteacher who, thirty years ago, in a little West Virginia town, went out of her way to introduce me to Tennyson." Then he launched into a colorful description of the high-school teacher who had taken her work seriously.

"And does this Mrs. Wendt know that she made that contribution to your life?" someone asked.

"I'm afraid that she doesn't. I have been careless and have never, in all these years, told her either face-to-face or by letter."

"Then why don't you write her? It would make her happy if she is still living, and it might make you happier, too. The thing that most of us ought to do is to learn to develop the attitude of gratitude."

Mr. Stidger writes, "Now, all this is very poignant to me, because Mrs. Wendt was my teacher, and I was the fellow who hadn't written. That friend's challenge made me see that I had accepted something very precious and hadn't bothered to say thanks. That very evening I tried to atone. On the chance that Mrs. Wendt might still be living, I sat down and wrote her what I called a Thanksgiving letter."

The Post Office Department finally found Mrs. Wendt, and she replied immediately. She spoke of her responsive student, and concluded: "In spite of the fact that I got much of my reward at that time, I want you to know what your note meant to me. . . . I taught school for fifty years and in all that time, yours is the

first note of appreciation I ever received. It cheered my lonely old heart as nothing has cheered me in many years."

Mr. Stidger read that note to a dozen friends. Several of them decided to imitate his idea. After that first successful and satisfying Thanksgiving letter, he made a list of people who had contributed something definite and lasting to his life and planned to write at least one Thanksgiving letter every day in November. The list numbered over a hundred. He wrote to fifty that month. All but two brought answers immediately, and those two were returned by relatives with the information that the addressees were dead, but even those letters expressed thanks for the bit of thoughtfulness. For ten years this man has kept up this fascinating game of writing Thanksgiving-month letters. He finds he has been helped as much or more than the people to whom he has expressed his gratitude for some encouragement.

"A Thanksgiving letter isn't much. Only a few lines are necessary, and a three-cent stamp to mail it. But the rewards are so great that eternity alone can estimate them."

M. W. M.

Benediction

OUR prayers accept, our sins forgive,
Our youthful zeal renew;
Shape for us holier lives to live,
And nobler work to do.

—*Oliver Wendell Holmes.*

It Is Not Always Easy—

To apologize,
To begin over,
To save money,
To be unselfish,
To take advice,
To admit error,
To face a sneer,
To be charitable,
To be considerate,
To keep on trying,
To endure success,
To avoid mistakes,
To forgive and forget,
To think and then act,
To keep out of the rut,
To make the best of little,
To subdue an unruly temper,
To recognize the silver lining;
BUT IT ALWAYS PAYS!

—*Selected.*

Trios

THREE things to love: Courage, gentleness, affection.
Three things to admire: Intellect, dignity, and gracefulness.
Three things to hate: Cruelty, arrogance, and ingratitude.
Three things to delight in: Beauty, frankness, and freedom.
Three things to like: Cordiality, good humor, and cheerfulness.
Three things to avoid: Idleness, loquacity, and flippant jesting.
Three things to cultivate: Good books, good friends, and good manners.
Three things to contend for: Honor, home, and friends.
Three things to govern: Temper, tongue, and conduct.—*Selected.*



Senior Meetings

November 7

God's Spiritual Gifts to the Church

BY S. A. WELLMAN

Opening and Devotional Exercises

SONG: "The Captain's Call," No. 66 in "M. V. Songs."

INVOCATION.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

PROMOTION OF SOCIETY FEATURES.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN SERVICE.

SONG: "I Would Be True," No. 58.

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Cor. 12:1-14, 27-31.

PRAYER, including prayer in unison.

M. V. PLEDGE, in unison.

DEVOTIONAL CHORUS: "For the Beauty of Jesus," No. 29.

Study Topics

Chosen Vessels.

God's Spiritual Gifts to the Church.

Conclusion

SONG: "Have Thine Own Way, Lord," No. 39.

BENEDICTION.

Chosen Vessels

WITH the experience of conversion, when the old man of sin dies and the lusts of the flesh and the pride of life are abandoned, there comes into the life of new believers new hopes, new aspirations, new desires, new determination that by the grace of God we will be what God desires us to be.

The experience of the apostle Paul is an outstanding example of the definiteness with which God sees the possibilities in every man, and having endowed him, calls him to serve and to suffer, and bestows upon him such gifts as he can best use in carrying out God's purpose. Paul was converted on the road to Damascus. His call was for a direct face-about, in so far as the aims and purposes of his life were concerned. There was much yet for Paul to learn, much that he had to unlearn. Yet God took him from that day on the desert road when he had heard the call of Jesus and had exclaimed, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" and began to pattern Paul's life to meet the plans that God had for him.

To Ananias, sent of God to make His plans clear to Paul, it was revealed that Paul was "a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: for I will show him how great things he must suffer for My name's sake." Acts 9:15, 16. No less definite is the call that comes to every converted soul. God rescues men from a worldly life, from sin, from transgression. He changes their desires and ambitions with a very clear intent and purpose. From henceforth He would have them know His will, and do it. He would dwell in their hearts, and through them reach out to others.

God expects the converted individual not only to accept Christ as his Saviour and Elder Brother, but to enter into Christ's ministry of love in behalf of the lost. He expects him to be a clean channel through which He can work. He takes the changed, converted soul, and endowing it with the needed powers, expects it to become the instrument of His grace.

God sends no man forth in his own human strength. From the hour of conversion God begins to place in men's lives not only new desires, but powers with which to implement those desires, making it possible for every Christian, each in the way the Lord has chosen for him, to serve the Lord with success. Yielding the heart wholly to God enables Him to take the human element, weak though it may be, and, curbing here, strengthening there, develop it into the more perfect instrument of service which He knows it may become. It was thus that He called and developed and empowered the fishermen of Galilee and others of the apostles.

His gifts do not come in all their fullness in an instant. He expects us to grow in grace. Perfection of life and service is often the work of years. Paul's life was one of learning the way of God more perfectly. Writing to the Philippians, he said, "I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those

things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:13, 14. It is in singleness of purpose that we truly yield to God. It is this one thing I do. Wholly His, ready to be used of Him—this is the preparation for the outpouring of His blessings and the bestowal of His gifts upon us. He stands ready to give when, converted and empty of self, we are ready to receive. What a wealth of power is ours for deeply spiritual living when the heart is fully surrendered, no known sin standing between us and God's bounties.

God's Spiritual Gifts to the Church

THE first manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit are seen in the daily life of the individual. Not one of these gifts is inherent in the one who lives for the world. Yet in Christ the fruits of the Spirit, each a gift from God, are "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." Gal. 5:22, 23. No man can inherit the kingdom of heaven without them. No man can fulfill the requirements of the fuller call to service and receive the greater gifts that are required for that service, until first he has had bestowed upon him these basic gifts of the Spirit. The surrender of the heart to God, the entrance of Christ within, opens the way for the fuller and more complete manifestation of the fruits of the Spirit and of the gifts of the Spirit.

The apostle Paul, in writing to the Corinthian church, says concerning the outworking of spiritual gifts within the church, "but covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way." 1 Cor. 12:31. He immediately emphasizes in chapter thirteen the first of the fruits of the Spirit—love, and its outworking in the lives of the followers of Christ. Does not this emphasize the fact that God's spiritual gifts are all founded on the basic gift of love? Does it not prove that without the gift of love no man can use the gifts of the heavenly Father wisely and unselfishly? But with God's love in our hearts, His deep affection for even those who are our enemies dominating our souls, we are ready for those further gifts which will exalt Him as He manifests His power through us.

It is with this living experience in Christ that it becomes possible for God to give to "some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edi-

fyng of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Eph. 4:11-13.

In writing to the Corinthians in chapter twelve of the first epistle, Paul speaks of these spiritual gifts in slightly different phraseology, saying, "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all." There is one outstanding lesson everyone should learn from these three verses—the variations in manifestation, in administration, in operation, all come from the working of the same Spirit. Fortunately, God uses men according to their fitness for the task to which He calls them. By the gifts of His Spirit He works through them, whether in administration, evangelism, pastorate, teaching, or other of the diverse manifestations of His power. Not all of the apostles were alike in their labors for Christ; prophets have not always been used of God in the exact pattern of their predecessors; evangelists have been Pauls, Barnabases, Timothy, Lukes, Peters, each with his personal characteristics, each led of God through the ministry of the Spirit, and each in His own way diligently meeting the mind of the Master in all things.

Paul in the Corinthian letter lists the gifts of the Spirit differently than in his statement to the Ephesians. In the twelfth chapter of First Corinthians he lists these as "the word of wisdom," "the word of knowledge," "faith," "the gifts of healing," "the working of miracles," "prophecy," "discerning of spirits," "tongues," "interpretation," and concludes, "all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will." Verses 8-11.

Yet the statement made in verse seven is applicable to every gift under all conditions of service. God never bestows His gifts except with the intent that the receiver should profit thereby and that his ministry of the gift should be profitable to others, preparing them to live for Christ. God willingly bestows His largess upon those whose lives are devoted to His service, but with the bestowal He expects every talent thus bestowed to be multiplied in the life of the individual, that His kingdom may be extended.

We are instructed in the words of God's messenger, "All men do not receive the same gifts, but to every servant of the Master some gift of the Spirit is promised. . . . The gifts are already ours in Christ, but their actual possession depends upon our reception of the Spirit of God."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 327.

On the same page we read, "Not more surely is the place prepared for

us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God."

God in love gave His Son to save us from sin. As we accept Christ as our Saviour and our Elder Brother, there is born in our hearts the same spirit of love that Christ had for the lost. To enable us to win men for Him, to be able to move their hearts that they shall give them to the Master, He, through His Holy Spirit, bestows power, the gifts of His Spirit. These gifts are ours only on condition of a surrendered heart and life—a life of service in the building up of God's kingdom. To all who thus give themselves to Christ, the abundance of the heavenly gifts are bestowed: to some, wisdom; to some, knowledge; to others, faith, the working of miracles, the gift of prophecy, talents of evangelism, teaching, shepherding the flock of God, and kindred powers.

How soon might the work of God on earth be completed—and this in spite of war, bloodshed, hatred, and bitter conflicts between men and nations, curtailment of travel, and kindred obstructions to the kingdom of God—if today the youth of the church could receive an outpouring of God's Spirit, accompanied by those endowments which He has promised shall be bestowed upon all those who truly believe!

Let us then pray for consecrated lives, wholly devoted to the blessed Master; for those fruits of the Spirit that are based upon the love of Christ; and for those gifts of the Spirit that He in His wisdom knows will best fit us for representing Him among men. Let us lay hold on the arm of the Infinite, and not cease nor grow weary until He has made us vessels through whom He can work His works for the salvation of an undone and lost world.



OUR mission to the world is not to serve or please ourselves; we are to glorify God by co-operating with Him to save sinners. We are to ask blessings from God that we may communicate to others. The capacity for receiving is preserved only by imparting. We cannot continue to receive heavenly treasure without communicating to those around us.—*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 142, 143.



EVERY effort made for Christ will react in blessing upon ourselves. If we use our means for His glory, He will give us more. As we seek to win others to Christ, bearing the burden of souls in our prayers, our own hearts will throb with the quickening influence of God's grace; our own affections will glow with more divine fervor; our whole Christian life will be more of a reality, more earnest, more prayerful.—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 354.

November 14

God's Temporal Gifts

BY HARRY E. BEDDOE

Opening and Devotional Exercises

SONG: "Saviour, Thy Dying Love," No. 614 in "Christ in Song," or 283 in "Church Hymnal."

INVOCATION.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

PROMOTION OF SOCIETY FEATURES.

SONG: "Count Your Mercies," No. 524 in "Christ in Song."

PRAYER, including Lord's Prayer in unison.

Study Topics

1. God's Temporal Gifts: Introduction to subject, Appreciation of Gifts, Their Proper Use, and Stewardship.
2. The Gifts of Time and Health.
3. The Gifts of Possessions and Beauty.
4. The Gifts of Wisdom and Ability.

Conclusion

SONG: "In the Service of the King," No. 82 in "M. V. Songs."

BENEDICTION.

Note to Leaders

In anticipation of the meeting, the leader or the one selected to present the first topic may ask from three to twelve young people to come prepared to name three blessings which they consider outstanding. The presentation of topics two to four may be given by three or six individuals, as desired.

God's Temporal Gifts

INTRODUCTION

OUR minds turn naturally to God as the giver of spiritual gifts, but do we often think of Him as the giver of everyday things? The ordinary comforts of life are received through God's goodness and mercy. Secular blessings, both tangible and intangible, are Heaven's gifts, both to the worthy and to the unworthy.

Let us consider some of the temporal gifts which the Lord so abundantly bestows upon us, and in doing so let us ask ourselves these questions:

1. Do I fully appreciate God's gifts?
2. Do I properly use these gifts for highest personal enjoyment?
3. Do I recognize my responsibilities as a steward for God?

APPRECIATION OF GIFTS

We take for granted many of our blessings, and some of them we do not appreciate as we should until they are taken away. Only a few months ago not many of us realized that the supply of rubber that was aiding us

to spin over beautiful concrete highways would soon be cut off. For many years we had had such unlimited quantities of this commodity that we scarcely stopped to consider its blessing to mankind. Only now in retrospect are thousands beginning to appreciate this one blessing—now that the supply has sharply declined and drastic steps must be taken to safeguard the remaining stocks.

"Count your many blessings" is a song that we like to sing; then so quickly we forget to do what the words enjoin. Try putting yourself in the frame of mind to recount God's myriad blessings. Don't try to call all of them to mind at once. That is too general. Christians daily thank God for His blessings in a general way. But try thinking of certain specific benedictions of Heaven.

Merely thinking of your blessings in an appreciative way will put you in a positive frame of mind. You have seen individuals that dwell so much on their troubles and the world's difficulties that their thinking is in the negative. For them, everything is going wrong, and they can see only the dark side. We call them pessimists. We shun their demoralizing influence. People who are soured on life are not good company.

So let us put ourselves in the class of optimists by counting our blessings and by taking time frequently for meditative appreciation. Someone may object, "We don't want to become smug, thinking about all the nice things we have and of our pleasant surroundings." No, we don't. But to be smug means to be highly self-satisfied. If we are thinking of our privileges and belongings as the gifts of our heavenly Father, we are not being satisfied with ourselves but with God and His blessings to us. In fact, one who does not appreciate His blessings is more in danger of becoming smug than one who does. The latter gives thanks to God, the Giver of every good gift, while the former takes His blessings as a matter of course and will naturally become somewhat self-centered.

[At this point call for the young people to recount briefly as arranged their outstanding practical or temporal blessings.]

PROPER USE OF GIFTS

Various governments and government agencies offer valuable services and publications to citizens without charge. It is surprising how comparatively few take advantage of these facilities. It is much the same with Heaven's resources. Bounteous blessings may be ours if we tune our lives to the source of all blessings. These resources are unlimited, but few take advantage of God's offers.

"Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence."—"Steps to Christ," p. 99.

We should follow the principles of

healthful, Christian living that will enable us to enjoy without stint the bounties that our heavenly Father has in store for us, using these gifts as wise stewards. Intemperance in the use of our gifts, or their perversion to evil ends, will rob us now or later of their highest enjoyment.

STEWARDSHIP

There is no lasting happiness in living for one's self. True happiness comes to us as we spread gladness to others. As one has said:

"All the world are brothers;

None goes his way alone.

All we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own."

Conversely, it has been stated: "Doing nothing for others is the undoing of one's self."

Let us give careful thought to each sentence of this striking paragraph from "Christ's Object Lessons," pp. 49, 50: "If we love Jesus, we shall love to live for Him, to present our thank offerings to Him, to labor for Him. The very labor will be light. For His sake we shall covet pain and toil and sacrifice. We shall sympathize with His longing for the salvation of men. We shall feel the same tender craving for souls that He has felt. This is the religion of Christ. Anything short of it is a deception."

That paragraph is a sermon! God entrusts us with means and talents. We will find great and lasting happiness by devoting a goodly portion of these gifts to His service.

The Gifts of Time and Health

TIME

No one can complain that another has more time than he. This is one gift that is distributed to all alike. True, some folk live to be older than others, but as we go along through life, each day has the same twenty-four hours for all of us. It is the way we use our time that counts.

The psalmist prayed: "Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Ps. 90:12. In present-day language he might have implored the Lord to "teach us to budget our time, so that we may gain useful knowledge." It is a fine art, this matter of using our time to best advantage. It is amazing how much time may be gleaned from the daily program for the improvement of talents if a person sets his mind earnestly to the task. No matter how busy one may be, he should always see that some of his time is set aside for self-improvement.

The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time for "every purpose under the heaven." In general we might say there is a time to work, to play, to study, to worship, to rest, and a time to give in service for others. The only way to save time is to use it. God's gift of time should not be profligately wasted. Every moment should be used to advantage, but to use too much time in work and study would be just as wasteful as

using too little. The idea of budgeting or balancing the use of one's time is what the psalmist David and the preacher of the Ecclesiastes have emphasized. Just as it would be foolish to spend all of one's time in work, study, and reading, it would likewise be folly to fritter away the hours in seeking amusement, relaxation, and entertainment which, with balanced rationing of time, might be good recreation.

How often you have noticed that no matter how busy some people may be they seem always able to do something more. When you want a talk given in the young people's society meeting, for instance, you can count on them. Perhaps you feel that it is because they have "steam up" or are "wound up," so that they can coast along on the momentum they have developed. Maybe so, to a certain extent; but that would mean that they are going on their nerve, which would not sustain them for long in a busy program. I am inclined to think that it is because they have learned to budget their time; they have learned how to put life and zest into waking moments and how to relax during periods of meditation, rest, and sleep.

HEALTH

Health—what a gift! What happiness it brings! On the other hand, what despair and anguish come through the lack of this gift of heaven, both to the sufferer and the sympathizers!

I have seen small boys roll up their sleeves to display proudly their biceps muscles. I have seen young men swim with powerful strokes, run, jump, and in other ways show their prowess. They are rightfully appreciative of their strength. It seems, though, that often a person does not fully appreciate his good health until he has been deprived of it for a time.

A certain young man just at the beginning of manhood—the very year in fact that he became "of age"—was stricken with illness. Rheumatism resulted from an infection, and for several months all motion of hands, arms, and lower limbs was very difficult and extremely painful. However, he continued to devote himself to the work of God, and after a few months his health was fully restored, and he was able to pass the rigid medical examinations required by the Mission Board. When he, with his young wife, went to the mission field, some folk gave him a year to last in the humid, tropical climate. With the Lord's blessing he worked along with improving health for many years in mission lands and is still active in the work to which he devoted his life. That young man thanks God daily for health and strength. He feels that having once been deprived of the blessing of good health has helped him to appreciate better his present freedom of motion and feeling of well-being.

The apostle John in writing to Gaius said: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health." 3 John 2. Health is recognized as life's greatest blessing. As young people we should carefully guard our health as the richest of gifts, neither eating nor drinking anything that might bring harm to our body temples.

Health is a matter of degree. It is surprising to what extent good health is dependent upon the right sort of mental hygiene. In the writings from the Spirit of prophecy we read that nine tenths of the world's ills come through the wrong frame of mind. Sickness of the mind prevails everywhere. The Scriptures tell us that "a merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

To enjoy the blessing of health we should develop the positive frame of mind which has already been mentioned. Look for the good in people, emphasize their good qualities, and make allowances for their failures and mistakes. A person with a critical turn of mind, looking for the unlovely in his fellow creatures and allowing malice and hatred to creep into his thinking, is on the downward road, not only mentally, but physically as well. Wrong mental attitudes will definitely undermine the health.

The Gifts of Possessions and Beauty

POSSESSIONS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

CONSIDERING our shortcomings, we are blessed with far more than we deserve of this world's goods. All wealth belongs to God. "The world is Mine," He tells us in Psalms 50, "and the fullness thereof." "The cattle upon a thousand hills," the great forests, and other wealth that grows, the precious metals and oil "under the earth"—all belong to our Father. This wealth, together with certain comforts of life, is entrusted to our stewardship in varying quantities.

Some may feel that all should share God's temporal blessings alike. Our heavenly Father, however, has not so ordained. Some have more of earth's treasure, some less. "The poor shall never cease out of the land." Deut. 15:11.

"It was not the purpose of God that poverty should ever leave the world. The ranks of society were never to be equalized; for the diversity of condition which characterizes our race is one of the means by which God has designed to prove and develop character. Many have urged with great enthusiasm that all men should have an equal share in the temporal blessings of God; but this was not the purpose of the Creator."—"Testimonies," Vol. IV, p. 552.

Is this not a blow to the ideas of communism and socialism which some advocate?

Sometimes, as tithers, we are in-

clined to think of only ten per cent of our income as belonging to God. That is a wrong impression. All we have is God's. He reserves only ten per cent of our income, however, for the support of the ministry and entrusts us with ninety per cent to be used according to our own judgment.

Right at the close of one of Paul's great sermons, he speaks quite openly "concerning the collection." Giving is an act of worship that brings blessing both to the giver and to the work of God for which the gift is intended. In the Bible there are at least 1,565 references to this subject of stewardship. Yes, thirteen of Jesus' twenty-nine parables deal with our relation to property.

God gave His Son for our salvation. Jesus gave His life for us. Oh, that we might catch the spirit of the cross and give of the means entrusted to us! (Refer again to pages 49, 50 in "Christ's Object Lessons.") In contemplation of this wondrous gift Isaac Watts was led to exclaim:

"Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my life, my soul, my all."

A PART OF THE CONCERN

A ragged little newsboy stood on the corner of a street in a large city of the East, calling out at the top of his voice, "Evening News! Extra! All about the big fire!" A gentleman of culture and refinement was passing that way, and was attracted by the earnestness manifested on the part of this young salesman. "I'll take the News," the man said as he reached into his pocket for the change. Handing him a dime, he said, "Never mind the change." "Thank you, sir," said the lad, and went on calling out, "News! All about the big fire!"

A few days passed, and again the man heard the clear tones of the lad's voice, "Evening News!" as he passed the place where the boy usually held forth with his supply of evening papers. Again the gentleman stopped and bought a paper. "Pretty cold for you to be standing on this corner, sonny."

"Aw, no, I don't mind this," came the reply.

As the man looked down into the earnest eyes, he felt impressed to invite him to his Sabbath school class on the following Sabbath. The boy accepted the invitation, and was there before the janitor had unlocked the church door. When the janitor appeared, it was a strange sight that greeted him as he beheld the boy with soiled face and hands, uncombed hair, and tattered clothing. "Something I can do for you, sonny?" queried the janitor.

"Naw, I've come to the meetin'. A man who buys papers from me asked me to come."

"Well, then, come in and wait—it won't be long now until the folks will be coming," said the man.

This was a new environment, for the newsboy. He soon found himself in a class of boys his own age who looked at him wonderingly, yet kindly, and with the man who bought papers from him seated in their midst talking so kindly and telling a wonderful story of Jesus and His love. Soon the collection plate was passed, each boy casting in his lot. He, too, caught the spirit of liberality, and down deep into his trousers pocket he reached for a penny, and placed it on the plate with a look of satisfaction at having done his part.

The days from then until the next Sabbath were passed in somewhat of a dreary mood, as he turned over and over in his mind the simple Bible story of how Jesus came all the way from heaven to earth to save sinners, and when here He gave instructions to His followers to carry the glad tidings of salvation to all the world, as told by the wonderful man who had given him a dime one day for a paper and would not accept the change; and of how when the plate was passed he had put an offering on it. He could see that penny, the only penny among the many shiny silver coins, but he had done his part, and he was happy.

When the next Sabbath arrived, he quickly disposed of his supply of papers and hurried back to the *News* headquarters, and there in a back room he found a place where he might wash his hands and face and make himself presentable among the boys who were clean and well dressed. While in the act of applying a splash of water, just enough to smear his face, and using the sleeve of his waist for a towel, a group of newsboys gathered, viewing the strange maneuvers of their fellow salesman.

"Whatcha doin', Jim?" asked one.

"Where ye goin'?" asked another.

"Don't bother me," was the answer, "I'm goin' down to that 'er Sabbath school this mornin'; I put a penny in the plate last Sabbath, and I'm a part of the concern."

It was with a certain pride that the lad walked off, leaving his comrades behind, because of his interest in a "concern" that he was confident would bring returns, and of which he felt himself a part.

Every penny, nickel, dime, or dollar invested in the cause of Christ links us to the great "Concern" of heaven. Should not our interests be there? Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

One writer has advocated that you "push your treasure out ahead of you toward God, and see how your heart will follow your treasure toward Him." "Freely ye have received, freely give." Matt. 10:8.

BEAUTY

We are considering God's temporal gifts, but here is one—the gift of beauty—that borders strongly upon the spiritual. Have you not heard the rendition of some beautiful musical selection that has stirred the

very timber of your soul and awakened in you the desire to live a better life? Have you not gazed in awe and wonder at some work of art that inspired your deepest admiration and aroused your noblest feelings? These, too, are God's gifts to His children.

It may be the beauty of person and character—temporal gifts, both—that have had or will have a profound effect for good upon us spiritually. It is natural for us to admire physical beauty in an individual, but even this beauty is spoiled for us if underneath we cannot discern an inner loveliness and nobility of character. Serious-minded young people are learning to look for more than mere superficial beauty. They have found that so often it is a person whom they have not noticed particularly for his comeliness who eventually holds their deepest admiration because of a forceful personality and a depth of character.

And before we pass on let us not overlook the beauty in the great out-of-doors. I cannot refrain from speaking of it myself, for this year, with my family, I enjoyed my first spring in fifteen years. We had been these many years in a land where the seasons do not change. What a beautiful portrayal of God's love has been ours to enjoy! Just one week after winter's last blanket of snow had melted away, buds and blossoms started to appear on shrubs and trees. Then the green blades of grass came shooting up. A few days more and there was a whole riot of blossoms and fresh new green. Birds were singing, bees were humming near the flowers; squirrels were frisking in the trees or begging for nut meats at our door; the weather was delightfully cool, and the sun shone warmly. All nature was praising the Author of beauty.

A little later the homes across the street from ours were almost hidden from view by the heavy foliage on the trees. During all this remarkable transition from winter to spring, I followed the changes with somewhat of the wonderment and awe of one who has never before witnessed the awakening of nature. I was led again and again to praise the Creator of this loveliness.

Can we not learn anew to appreciate the beauty of nature and to tune our hearts to the good that the Lord has in store for us, shunning the unlovely in life?

The Gifts of Wisdom and Ability

WISDOM AND ABILITY.

THE highest temporal gift is that of wisdom. Solomon very discerningly chose this gift above all others. He asked of God an understanding heart, power of discernment, wisdom, and knowledge. The heavenly Father was pleased that Solomon asked wisdom rather than honor and riches; so He gave him all. Even though our other temporal gifts may be somewhat lim-

ited, we will be far happier with an understanding heart than we would with other gifts, but lacking wisdom.

James in his epistle declared: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, . . . and it shall be given him." James 1:5. Wisdom includes not only the ability to think clearly, but also the ability to do things skillfully.

Under this subject of wisdom are included the many and varied vocational gifts, spoken of in the Scriptures as talents. We think of them as aptitudes. The Bible naturally emphasizes the spiritual gifts of preaching, teaching, and healing referred to in last week's topic. Let us now consider the secular gifts.

VOCATIONAL GIFTS

These are important, because, whether one is following a spiritual or secular vocation, he should have one or more vocations or hobbies. Happiness comes through having a variety of abilities and interests. "To live abundantly," said William Lyon Phelps, "means to increase the range and intensity of our relations. Every time we acquire a new interest—even more, a new accomplishment—we increase our power of life. No one who is deeply interested in a large variety of subjects can remain unhappy."

Of prime importance to young people is their choice of vocation. Parents nowadays very wisely allow their children to choose their own occupations. They may make suggestions to guide, but the choice is made by the young person—the one directly involved. The line one follows should be one which he thoroughly enjoys, so that his lifework is just like play to a child.

You may be attending a school or college that provides, either by text or practice, an insight into the various vocations. Perhaps vocational aptitude tests are given to aid you. Otherwise, you can get around and find out about other people's jobs for yourself by observing them at work and talking with them. You will also find books in your public library that will help to give you a further insight into the work of the world.

It is a serious matter—this choosing of your lifework. In a general way, you will recognize some of your aptitudes, but there may be latent talents that you should develop. Diligent study and application to the lesser jobs of life will aid us in recognizing these hidden gifts. And here is where we may well apply that oft-repeated text, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." "Whatever"—no matter what the job, so long as it is honorable, pitch into it and give it your best effort. By the very doing you will have a fair test of your liking for the work, and discover talents formerly dormant.

Matthew 25:29 might reasonably be paraphrased to read: "For unto everyone that improves his talents shall

be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him that *improves not his opportunities* shall be taken away even that which he hath."

In following one's vocational career, general education, technical training, experience, and proved ability are the prerequisites to higher service. Yes, opportunities will come. Our prime concern should be that when opportunities come we will be prepared to take advantage of them.

USING VOCATIONAL GIFTS IN GOD'S SERVICE

There are no higher callings than these of teaching, preaching, and healing—spiritual gifts. The work of God, however, requires many secular gifts, both for individuals rendering full-time secular service and as valuable adjuncts for those in ministerial work.

In one of our churches in Los Angeles, California, I told the story of a young man in South America who recently accepted the Sabbath truth as the result of reading copies of the *Signs of the Times* printed forty-six years before. At the close of the service a number of people gathered near the rostrum to speak to me. I noticed a tall elderly gentleman eagerly pushing through the group. In respect for his white hair, I reached over a number of people to grasp his hand. As he pressed near, he said, "I am Brother Rue. I am eighty-two years old. I had a part in printing those papers that carried the message to the young man in British Guiana."

Then he explained that in 1892 when the papers were printed at the old Pacific Press in Oakland, California, he had been foreman of the typeroom. The dear old brother beamed with joy and satisfaction as he told of having a part in the winning of a soul many thousands of miles away.

There are many lines of secular activity in connection with our denominational offices and institutions. There are frequent openings for capable, consecrated young people, but the Lord's work requires the best that we have. Let us improve the gifts which God has entrusted to our care.



THE elder Baron Rothschild had on the wall of his bank the following maxims:

Shun liquor.
Dare to go forward.
Never be discouraged.
Be polite to everybody.
Never tell business lies.
Employ your time well.
Be prompt in everything.
Pay your debts promptly.
Bear all troubles patiently.
Do not reckon on chance.
Make no useless acquaintances.
Be brave in the struggle of life.
Maintain your integrity as a sacred thing.
Never appear something more than you are.

—Selected.

November 21

The Cost of Discipleship

BY R. J. ROY

Opening and Devotional Exercises

SONG.
INVOCATION.
SECRETARY'S REPORT.
INDIVIDUAL REPORTS.
OFFERTORY.
ANNOUNCEMENTS.
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.
PROMOTION OF SOCIETY FEATURES.
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN SERVICE.
SONG: "Living for Jesus," No. 32 in "M. V. Songs."
PRAYER, concluding with the Lord's Prayer in unison.
M. V. PLEDGE, in unison.
SPECIAL SONG.

Study Topics

TALK: "All Good Things Cost Dearly."
SYMPOSIUM: "Sacrifice."
EXPERIENCE: "How Much Must We Sacrifice for Jesus?"
POEM: "Count Not the Cost."
CONSECRATION.

Conclusion

SONG: "I Will Follow Thee," No. 44.
BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

Secretary's Report.—A couple of weeks previous to this, the secretary may obtain from members of the society, or some older persons in the church whom all admire, experiences in sacrifice and include them in the report today.

Offertory.—It would be well today to give a report of what the local society has been able to do with their part of the offerings, what remains to be accomplished before the end of the year, and what is being done in the mission field.

Promotion Period.—In each society meeting at least five to ten minutes should be spent in checking up on the various activities of the society, such as the progress in the Reading Courses, the Progressive Classes, the missionary work, etc., and making definite plans with the members to press on in every needed activity.

Special Song.—Subject—surrender. The song may come from an adjoining room, while all in the meeting are silently praying.

Symposium: "Sacrifice."—The leader of this topic should assign the ten parts to ten people early enough so that each may read the quotations mentioned and be prepared to give the *key thoughts* in the meeting.

Consecration.—At the close of the meeting, make a call for the young people to surrender to God or reconsecrate their lives to Him. Since the annual Week of Prayer will follow in a few weeks, this is an opportunity to learn who need help and to begin working to win them at that time.

All Good Things Cost Dearly

A DOLLAR watch costs only one dollar. That's all it's worth. If it were worth more, it would cost more. A seven-jewel, gold-filled Elgin watch may cost from \$25 to \$50. It will cost more than the dollar watch because it is worth more. It is more accurate and more desirable, much more so.

Then there are watches that cost several hundred dollars. I saw one once that cost \$600. It was a Longine, gold case, with many beautiful jewels. Six hundred dollars! What a price! But what a watch! Beautiful, so beautiful it made one gasp to look at it. Would you pay more for it than for the seven-jewel? Of course you would. Yes, but who would pay that much for a watch? Well, whoever got it would, for that is what it is worth. The more it is worth, the more it costs.

There are some things that are worth so much that it would take all I have, and all you have, and still we would not be able to buy them. Good things, costly things, can be obtained only by paying the price. Sometimes, if we are to have a thing, it has to come as a gift, for what we have to pay is altogether too little to equal the value of what we receive. Whenever a person gets some article that is worth many times more than he can possibly pay, he feels extremely fortunate. The more valuable the article is, the more eager we are to possess it.

What is the greatest treasure in the world? What possession is the most beautiful, the most satisfying, the most enduring in all the world? It is just this—to be the son or daughter of God. There can be nothing greater, for all other gifts are included in this. God Himself could think of nothing more.

But if it is everything that God has, what chances does poor man have to obtain such a treasure? What does he have with which to buy it? Can he do that? Yes, it is possible, but nothing else could require so much of a person, for it takes not only all his possessions, but also all his life.

Can it be worth such a cost? How could such a treasure be evaluated? Is it worth even our lives? Yes, it is worth the price asked, and far

more. Think of it. God exchanges all He has, even the life of His only-begotten Son, for what even the poorest of us give Him. Such a comparison is staggering. Our puny selves exchanged for the boundless infinity of God's possessions! Our life, small, shriveled, selfish, sinful, shameful, exchanged for the lovely, joyous eternity of God's life! Yes, that just shows the worth of being His son, His daughter. To hesitate to grasp such an opportunity would be man's greatest folly. God delights in giving. That is the only possible explanation for such a gift. And He wants you and me to be like Him.

Someone says, "What good will such a treasure do me, if it will cost me my life? After I am dead, how will I benefit by it?" That is the best part of it, for, in place of our sin-stained, diseased life, we receive another life, just as soon as we give God ours. Eternal life may be ours. How can man be a son or daughter of God, unless he is born in the family of God? God, the Eternal, the Almighty, becomes our Father. As we give Him our all, we begin a new life, as a newborn child, with a different home, a different name, a different nature, a different father, a different inheritance, all is different. Such a privilege, such a possession, such a treasure, is so infinite in value that our greatest sacrifice seems too trivial even to mention. It is as nothing, and as less than nothing.

Sacrifice

1. SACRIFICE is a condition of acceptance with God. DA 280, 300.
2. Sacrifice is the only way to preserve life. COL 86, 87.
3. Love cannot be revealed without sacrifice. COL 49.
4. Sacrifice is the lot of the Christian, but is nothing as compared to what Jesus did for us. 3T 481.
5. Every soul is to be tested by sacrifice. DA 273.
6. Sacrifices lead to peace and happiness. 4T 558.
7. All who follow Christ will wear the crown of sacrifice. DA 223, 224.
8. It will cost the sacrifice of everything—self, property, and all—to enter glory.
9. Shaking has commenced, and will shake out all who will not sacrifice. EW 50, 51.
10. Sacrifices for Christ enrich the giver and increase the enjoyment of heaven. 4T 219-221.

How Much Must We Sacrifice for Jesus?

[The following experience illustrates how much it takes to be a disciple of Jesus. It is the personal experience of the writer. If told in the first person it will be much more effective.]

THIRTEEN years of my life had passed. I had been baptized just a few months before, and had given my heart to God. That was at camp meeting. I still remember how dear Elder Luther Warren had been directed to me, for he was in charge of the baptismal class there. How wonderfully and tenderly he placed the call of Jesus before me! Although I was but a child, I still remember how my heart was stirred, and how I earnestly longed to know that I was a child of God as I listened to what He had done for me.

After camp meeting the summer months came, with bustle and activity. Then came school days. Although I did not forget my determination to be a Christian, yet I gave less and less thought to such things and grew quite careless. Then came the fall of the year, and with it came illness for me.

My parents at first did not realize the nature of my illness, but after a few days, saw that they ought to get help. First a nurse was called. After caring for me for a while, they saw no improvement; so a doctor was called. By that time I was really sick. I had lain in my upstairs room a long time. I could trace every pattern and defect in the wallpaper all around the room. Still with me is the picture of that room with the north window, through which the fresh breeze came that was my only relief from the burning fever.

As soon as the doctor examined me, his diagnosis was that I had a well-developed case of diphtheria. He quarantined the place. Since father had to go to work, it was necessary for him to be disinfected, and, after leaving the place, to stay away while we were in quarantine. That seemed very hard to me—not to be able to see my father at all.

The first doctor did all he could, but soon felt he was making no progress. Then he called another, a specialist in children's diseases. Diphtheria antitoxin was tried, although they expressed the fear that it would do no good, for the case was too advanced.

A few more days went by; then a third doctor was called in. Things were beginning to look very serious by this time. All three doctors came into the room, looked and listened and felt, shook their heads, talked in low tones, and went out of the room. I was not told how things were. All I knew was that I could hardly breathe because of the congestion in my throat, and it was so sore that it was altogether impossible to swallow, and the fever made me hot—very hot.

After they all left the room, I heard them talk in low undertones in

the hall to my mother and the nurse. Then all of them went downstairs, and the house was very quiet for some time. Finally mother and the nurse came up and told me that father was out in the yard and wanted to talk to me. They moved my bed over by the window, rolled me on my side, so that I could look out, and there was father standing on the sidewalk, looking up at me. He talked a little while, asked me how I was feeling, tried to encourage me, and then started to leave. He waved good-by, and, as he turned, his voice broke as he said something that seemed to make me feel he never expected to see me again. He could not talk any more, and walked away, trying to smile desperately as he got farther away and waved again at me. Mother and the nurse came in, moved my bed back in the corner, and left me.

Although I had been only semiconscious for some time—the pain and fever had been so intense—I was suddenly shocked into the consciousness of the fact that I was about to die. No one told me, but I knew it. Three doctors and father waving me good-by as he had, told it all too plainly. Mother and the nurse were downstairs. There was a deathly stillness over the entire house. I was thinking hard, rapidly—what should I do? I remembered my baptismal vows, and how my heart had been stirred with hope and faith in God. I remembered some of my mistakes and carelessness since then. I remembered some of my memory verses, and how God even brought the dead back to life.

Then, suddenly, there came to my mind one of the memory verses I had learned, that began with something about going into the closet when one prays, and the Father which sees in secret will reward openly. There was a closet in the corner of the room; so why not do just that, go into the closet, shut the door, and pray to God that He might heal me. No sooner had the thought come, than the decision was made to do it. Slipping over to the edge of the bed, I turned over to get on my feet. Instead of standing up, my legs doubled up under me, and I fell to the floor. I was too weak to walk.

As my body hit the floor, it made considerable noise, and immediately mother and the nurse rushed upstairs to see what had happened. They picked me up quickly and got me back in bed, as mother solicitously asked me what made me fall out of bed. I refused to tell her, for the verse said that one should pray in secret. But she would not be turned aside, and almost threatened me if I would not tell her. At last I said I would tell her, but I did not want the nurse to know. She told the nurse to leave, and then I told her I wanted to go to the closet to pray. She was greatly relieved to know there was nothing seriously wrong, and told me it was not necessary for me to go to the closet in the corner to pray, that I

could just pray on my bed, lying down, and God would hear me. But I insisted I wanted to be alone, and was afraid someone would come in and interrupt me. So she arranged that the nurse should not come into my room for some time, that she would not come in either, and I would be all alone in my room. That satisfied me greatly.

I was alone, and I began to talk to God. No doubt there were other earnest prayers ascending at the same time. The thoughts of that prayer are just as vivid to me now as they were then, for I have recalled them many times when I needed special help from God. They were a solemn pledge to God, and they brought me the most priceless gift anyone could ever receive, the gift of life from God.

My prayer was about as follows: "Father in heaven, I am about to die, but you can make me live if you want to. You gave me life in the first place, and you can give it to me again if you want to. There can be only one reason why you might not want me to live, and that is because I might dishonor you by my life. I might not always be a Christian, and I might be lost. Dear Father, I want to live, but I want most of all to be saved. If you see that I will not do right, then I want you to forgive all my sins right now, and let me die. I know when I ask you to forgive my sins, that you will do so, and if I die, I will be saved. But Father, can you not keep me from being lost if you should give me life again? I give you my life, for I know I cannot live much longer if you do not heal me, but above all else I want to be saved. I would not ask for life, I would not want to live, if I knew it would mean I would be lost. I would rather die now and be saved. But if you can save me if I live, then dear Father, give me life again. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen."

Thirty years have been granted me since then. At times the struggle with sin has been intense. It has seemed that there was not strength to arise after falling. Yes, sin has been the victor more than once. But it could not win. I do not dare ever to yield myself into the hands of Satan, and give up the Christian warfare, for I have promised God that I would rather die than give myself to sin. And there can be no greater comfort for anyone. Jesus has promised me by giving me life again that He will see me through.

Would you like to have such a promise from Jesus? You may have it, too. Give yourself up wholly to Him. Burn all the bridges behind you. Take anything and everything He gives you: happiness, sorrow, comfort, wretchedness, friendship, loneliness, prosperity, or poverty; let Him lead you, and praise Him for everything He brings. Jesus pledges you, by His own blood, that He will see you through. Will you not give Him

your all today? Strip yourself of every earthly possession, stand before the very presence of God, and tell Him He can have your whole life. Then you will know the boundless joy that you are the son or daughter of God. What greater privilege could there be?

Count Not the Cost

COUNT not the cost, if thou wouldst gain the goal.
The world is nought when measured with thy soul.
If thou wouldst win the fight,
Then set thyself aright,
And reckon nought as loss,
But bravely bear thy cross.
Keep thou thine eye, not on the crown you'll wear,
But on thy Lord, whose burdens now you share.

Ask not to lay thy burden down nor quit the fray;
The battle must be won while waits the day.

Take up the fight anew;
No need to thee is due
Till thou hast done thy best!
Till then, what need of rest?
Thy blade, unworn, is long—far from its bill.
Spend all thy strength! What if thy blood is split?

The prize awaits the ending of the race;
Till then no service shun, nor homeward face.

Thy peace? Of self there's none!
Thy hope? In Christ to come!
Thy joy? To hear, "Well done!"
Thy song? "The victory won!"
Then gird thy loins, and face thy Master's foe.
The cause is His. With Him, who fears to go?

—J. H. Evans.

The Only Real Sacrifice

A MISSIONARY was once asked what was the greatest sacrifice he had to make in going to the foreign field. He hung his head thoughtfully, then, looking up, replied, "God forbid that I should call anything I have done a sacrifice, when I see the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross." Christ was forsaken of the Father, but the missionary in far-off lands has the assurance, "Lo, I am with you alway."



"We are never called upon to make a real sacrifice for God. Many things He asks us to yield to Him, but in doing this we are but giving up that which hinders us in the heavenward way. Even when called upon to surrender those things which in themselves are good, we may be sure that God is thus working out for us some higher good."—*Ministry of Healing*, pp. 473, 474.

"God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 225.



CHRISTIANITY is the highest perfection of humanity.—*Samuel Johnson*.

November 28

Study to Show Thyself Approved

BY MARION G. SEITZ

Opening and Devotional Exercises

SONG.
INVOCATION.
SECRETARY'S REPORT.
INDIVIDUAL REPORTS.
OFFERTORY.
ANNOUNCEMENTS.
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.
PROMOTION OF SOCIETY FEATURES.
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN SERVICE.
SONG: "Holy Sabbath Day," No. 160 in "Gospel in Song."
RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING.
PRAYER.
M. V. PLEDGE, in unison.
DEVOTIONAL CHORUS.

Study Topics

Introductory Talk by Leader.
TALK AND DISCUSSION: "Something to Think About."
DUET: "The Bible Satisfies," No. 73.
SYMPOSIUM: "Examples of Men Who Studied to Be Approved."
TALK AND DISCUSSION: "Study Questions—How, When, What, Why?"

Conclusion

SONG: "What Says the Bible?" No. 196.
BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders

Suggested songs for song service: Nos. 46, 101, 106 in "Gospel in Song."

The winter months are just before the youth, and this meeting should afford an excellent opportunity of presenting the value of study during the long winter evenings. Throughout the meeting stress the importance of studying the word of God. That must be foremost in the lives of our youth. For this reason the writer has chosen songs dealing with the Scriptures and the study of them. Nothing satisfies like the study of the Bible, and this is also the theme of the special music. The new Reading Courses will be offered to the youth about this time, and these can be presented as well as the incentive of studying and becoming Master Comrades in the spring. Many a youth has earned school credits through the correspondence school, and this, too, should not be slighted.

Introductory Talk

THE topic for consideration this week is, "Study to Show Thyself Approved." This we all recognize as a quotation from the Scriptures. Timothy was enjoined by the apostle Paul to study.

Paul was an apt student, having been well trained at the feet of the foremost teachers of his time. He was a scholar and had deeply studied

into the rolls of the prophets. He had been approved by the men of that day—so much so that he was a member of the Sanhedrin council. The book "Acts of the Apostles" (p. 112) gives us a glimpse of how he was held in esteem by these men of learning. "He was regarded by the rabbis as a young man of great promise, and high hopes were cherished concerning him as an able and zealous defender of the ancient faith. His elevation to membership in the Sanhedrin council placed him in a position of power." Again we read on page 98 of the same book, "Learned Jews from the surrounding countries were summoned for the purpose of refuting the arguments of the prisoner [Stephen]. Saul of Tarsus was present, and took a leading part against Stephen. He brought the weight of eloquence and the logic of the rabbis to bear upon the case, to convince the people that Stephen was preaching delusive and dangerous doctrines."

Paul had studied and become familiar with past events and in this case used his knowledge to witness against God's messenger. We know his actions at this time did not gain the approval of heaven, but after his conversion he was a changed man. When he left Damascus, and went into Arabia, he found a safe retreat. "Here, in the solitude of the desert, Paul had ample opportunity for quiet study and meditation. . . . He emptied his soul of the prejudices and tradition that had hitherto shaped his life, and received instruction from the Source of truth. Jesus communed with him, and established him in the faith, bestowing upon him a rich measure of wisdom and grace."—*Id.*, pp. 125, 126.

After this experience Paul was well qualified to direct Timothy in the study of the Scriptures, and to become approved of God. Before his conversion, Paul had the approval of learned men, but after that, the approval of the God of true wisdom and learning. Likewise we, the advent youth of today, should so study that we can be approved of Heaven.

SEED THOUGHT: "When the mind of man is brought into communion with the mind of God, the finite with the Infinite, the effect on body, and mind, and soul, is beyond estimate. In such communion is found the highest education. It is God's own method of development. 'Acquaint now thyself with Him,' is His message to mankind."—*Id.*, p. 126.

Something to Think About

LET us look at the key words of our topic for this meeting and see what the dictionary has to say concerning the meaning of the words, "study," "thyself," and "approved."

Study: Effort to learn by reading and thinking; act or process of acquiring by one's own efforts knowl-

edge of a subject; to concentrate upon; to read and examine, so as to learn and understand. This then leads us to believe that we study individually and acquire knowledge for our personal use. We must know it first if we expect to give it to others. The thought that Mary, the mother of Jesus, pondered things in her heart has always appealed to me. She thought them over and over; through and through. She meditated upon them, in other words. What we read we think about, and thus it is imperative that we study and think only the best.

Thyself: You, thou, one person, and that person is the one with whom you daily live. This word calls to our mind the thoughts of the sage in ancient days who said "Know thyself." It was Edgar Guest who penned such words of advice as these:

"I have to live with myself, and so I want to be fit for myself to know."

We should so order our lives that we can be satisfied with ourselves at the end of each day. Another writer aptly puts it in these words, "So live that you can shake hands with yourself at night." By study, meditation, and pondering the better things of life we can store within us that which is good, true, and useful.

Approved means to be thought well of, be pleased with, give consent to. The approval of heaven will be given to any young man or woman who studies to know himself, who desires to read only that which will make him a useful servant of God as he journeys through life. Call for a frank discussion of thought gems previously given out to members present.

THOUGHT GEMS

Resolve to do a little reading every day, if it is but a single sentence. If you gain fifteen minutes a day, it will make itself felt at the end of the year.—*Horace Mann.*

Study hard—knowledge enables everyone to work more intelligently and effectively.

It doesn't cost anything to think—but it may cost a lot if you don't.

I will study and get ready, and someday my chance will come.—*Abraham Lincoln.*

The better part of man's education is that which he gives himself.—*James Russell Lowell.*

As the soil, however rich it may be, cannot be productive without culture, so the mind without cultivation, can never produce good fruit.—*Seneca.*

Every man must educate himself. His books and his teachers are helps; the work is his.—*Webster.*

Thou mayest as well expect to grow stronger by always eating, as wiser by always reading. It is thought and digestion which makes books serviceable and gives health and vigor to the mind.—*Thomas Fuller.*

Examples of Men Who Studied to Be Approved

I

DAVID LIVINGSTONE'S parents were poor, and he was only ten years old when he began to work in a factory in order that the family might have bread. After serving for some years as a piecer, he became a spinner. But his mind was already reaching out in the direction of an education. Part of his first week's wages went to pay for an elementary textbook in Latin, which he studied by himself as well as in a school where classes were conducted from eight to ten o'clock in the evening.

"The dictionary part of my labors," he tells us, "was followed up till twelve o'clock, or later, if my mother did not interfere by jumping up and snatching the books out of my hands. I had to be back in the factory by six in the morning, and continue my work with intervals for breakfast and dinner, till eight o'clock at night. I read in this way many of the classical authors, and knew Virgil and Horace better at sixteen than I do now."

There was really very little time for study; yet young Livingstone managed not only to get a good mastery of Latin, but also to read a great many useful books. His biographer tells us that he "devoured all the books that came into his hands, but novels."

"His plan was to place the book on a portion of the spinning jenny, so that he could snatch sentence after sentence as he passed at his work. The labor of attending to the wheels was great, for the improvements in spinning machinery that have made it self-acting had not then been introduced. The utmost interval that Livingstone could have for reading at one time was less than a minute."

It might be thought that acquiring knowledge in this slow and painful way would cause Livingstone to look back on these years of struggle with feelings of pain and regret, but on the contrary, he regarded these years of monotonous toil as a part, and an important part, of his education.

Years afterward in the mission field the passion for mental growth and enlargement was still active in the life of the great missionary-explorer, as witness these words of his: "The want of time for self-improvement was the only source of regret that I experienced during my African career."—*From the book, "The Carpenter of Nazareth," by M. E. Olsen, Abbreviated.*

This then is the story of a man who studied to show himself approved.

II

Under similar circumstances ABRAHAM LINCOLN passed his youth and early manhood. His parents were very poor, and from the age of four-

teen he did the work of a full-grown man. Twelve months at the district school was the sum total of his formal schooling. Yet Lincoln became in time a well-educated man, able to fill with honor the highest political position in his country. How did he do it? We know the answer in his case: It was by studying after work hours. When he returned from the day's work, it was his habit to go to the cupboard and get a generous piece of corn bread, which sufficed for his frugal supper. Then he would take his textbook in the other hand, and, stretching himself along the fireplace, devote the whole evening to study.

Sometimes he was able to be alone, and then he toiled to improve his English. "I can remember going to my little bedroom, after hearing the neighbors talk of an evening with my father, and spending no small part of the night walking up and down, and trying to make out the exact meaning of some of their, to me, dark sayings. I could not sleep, when I got on such a hunt after an idea, until I had caught it; and when I thought I had got it, I was not satisfied until I had repeated it over and over, until I had put it in language plain enough, as I thought, for any boy I know to comprehend."

When Lincoln had grown to be a man, he continued the habit of devoting the evenings to reading and study, giving special attention to the mastery of grammar and the reading of standard classics, by which he was able to avoid the vulgarisms and the provincial expressions that were in general use in his home town, and to speak and write pure English, drawn from such books as the Bible and "Pilgrim's Progress."

Lincoln had a tender heart and quick sympathy with suffering; his intellectual powers were naturally strong, and he was honest and veracious. His mind did not work as rapidly as those of some other men; but it had staying power. It could brood over a problem for months and years till a solution had been reached.

But these natural endowments were no greater than those of some other men of whom the world has heard nothing. The difference lies in the fact that Lincoln made a serious business of improving his talents. While others gave their leisure hours to smoking or billiards or card playing, or just lounging about, Lincoln was studying and getting himself ready; so when the critical time came, he was able to step into the breach and do a piece of real work which for satisfying completeness is not easily matched.—*Ibid.*

This then is the story of a man who studied to show himself approved.

III

The case of ELIHU BURRITT, sometimes called, "The learned blacksmith," is an interesting one. He wrought at his anvil during the usual

working hours, and studied mornings and evenings with such diligence that in the course of a few years he became proficient in a large number of languages.

The antiquarian library in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he was living at the time, was open to the public only at certain hours of the day, and these were hours which found Burritt at the anvil. His biographer tells us that he accordingly continued his studies unassisted, as he was able. "Every moment which he could steal out of the four-and-twenty hours was devoted to study; he rose early in the winter mornings, and while the mistress of the house was preparing breakfast by lamplight, he would stand by the mantelpiece with his Hebrew Bible on the shelf and his lexicon in his hand, thus studying while he ate; the same method was pursued at other meals; mental and bodily food being taken in together."

At times he suffered from headaches, and then he lessened his study hours, and spent more time at the forge. Here is a specimen week taken from his diary:

"Monday, June 18, headache; forty pages Cuvier's 'Theory of the Earth,' sixty-four pages French, eleven hours forging.

"Tuesday, sixty-five lines of Hebrew, thirty pages of French, ten pages Cuvier's 'Theory,' eight lines Syriac, ten ditto Danish, ten ditto Bohemian, nine ditto Polish, fifteen names of stars, ten hours forging.

"Wednesday, twenty-five lines Hebrew, fifty pages of astronomy, eleven hours of forging.

"Thursday, fifty-five lines Hebrew, eight ditto Syriac, eleven hours forging.

"Friday, unwell; twelve hours forging.

"Saturday, unwell; fifty pages natural philosophy, ten hours forging.

"Sunday, lesson for Bible class."

Burritt's remarkable success as a student was brought to the attention of the governor, Edward Everett, who invited the young man to call on him, and gave him every encouragement.

In these days when men work eight instead of ten hours, and good books are cheap, and every town has its public library, the opportunity for workmen to make rapid progress intellectually by the intelligent use of their evening hours is far greater than when Burritt so happily combined study and labor. All that is needed is the desire to grow and make intellectual advancement.—*Ibid.*

This then is the story of a man who studied to show himself approved.

KINDLY affections, generous impulses, and a quick apprehension of spiritual things, are precious talents, and lay their possessor under a weighty responsibility. All are to be used in God's service.—"Christ's Object, Lessons," p. 352.

Study Questions—How, When, What, Why?

HOW TO STUDY

APPLY yourself to the book or lesson in hand.

Forget what is going on around you.

Think about what you are reading. In other words, concentrate on that which is in hand.

Reread, to fix the thought firmly in your mind.

Look up in the dictionary the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Learn the meaning of these words. Use these newly acquired words in your daily speech and writing.

Reread again, as the thoughts studied take on new meaning.

Give what you have learned to others.

WHEN TO STUDY

Any time there is a moment to spare.

Slight not the regular daily duties, but snatch precious moments which might otherwise be lost.

Edge your study into little cracks of time between appointments—on the subway, bus, streetcar, or train.

Devote some time each night to reading and study.

WHAT TO STUDY

The Bible—the Book of books.

Reading Courses offered by the Young People's Department of Missionary Volunteers.

Study and Service League Requirements.

Master Comrade and Progressive Class work.

Correspondence work with the Home Study Institute.

A worth-while hobby, such as stamps, birds, trees, flowers, stars, etc.

WHY STUDY

To know yourself.

To improve your talents and time.

To be approved unto God.

To know the Scriptures and God's will for man today.

To give to others what you have made your own.



Confidence

I KNOW not why
I walk these paths,
Nor why this tongue
Springs eager to my lips;
Nor why the mountains loom
And bloom the rose,
Nor why the shadow of a man
Flings the world into eclipse!

If I know not,
What matters it?
My path is lighted
With a truth;
My burden lightened
By a faith;
My heart uplifted
By a God!

—Marie-Louise Ralph.



Junior Meetings

November 7

God's Spiritual Gifts to the Church

BY S. A. WELLMAN

SONG: "I'll Be a Voice," No. 40 in "M. V. Songs."

PRAYER.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERTORY.

REPORTS.

READINGS "Gifts of the Holy Spirit," pp. 327, 328, in "Christ's Object Lessons."

CHORUS: "My Prayer," No. 28.

TALK: "God's Spiritual Gifts."

TALK: "The Gifts of God for Service."

TESTIMONY SERVICE.

SONG: "Father, Lead Me Day by Day," No. 21.

BENEDICTION.

God's Spiritual Gifts

EVERY evidence of being or doing good is evidence of our having received of God's gifts. It is a gift from God to love, for in the human heart love manifests itself in love only to those who love us. But Jesus says, "If ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?" Instead, Jesus says that His followers will love their enemies, bless them that curse them, do good to them that hate them, and pray for them which despitefully use them. (Read Matt. 5:44.) Yes, love is one of God's spiritual gifts that shows itself in our attitude toward our neighbors and toward our enemies.

Joy likewise is one of God's gifts. It enables the Christian to see through the gloom that surrounds him, to find happiness in adversity, to carry a smile on his face when his body is wracked with pain, to look beyond present sufferings to the better day, and for these reasons to manifest joy in every life effort, no matter what the cost. This is why some maimed, and halt, and blind find it possible to meet the world with cheerfulness instead of gloom, and the incurable find happiness to cheer their weary days. God in His mercy gives them joy and a hopeful outlook.

Peace, an outgrowth of inward happiness, comes as a gift from God. Some individuals are never at peace. Restless, dissatisfied, faultfinding, whining at what they consider the inequalities of life, they are always looking for something they do not pos-

sess, but never finding it. The apostle Paul said, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." We should remember that at the very beginning of Paul's life as a Christian, God told Ananias, who went to restore Paul's sight after he was blinded on the road to Damascus, "I will show him [Paul] how great things he must suffer for My name's sake." Acts 9:16. Paul was able to face this troubled life, knowing that he would suffer, because the peace of God was in his heart. God stands ready to give that peace to all who fully give themselves to Him.

Likewise *long-suffering* is a gift from God. No one has this gift by nature. We are normally inclined to resent injury with devilish intentions to "get even." Yet God can and does change all this when we come to know Christ.

"A poor stonemason in China was robbed by a highwayman and struck on the knee. His knee became infected. After months it healed, but his leg was then doubled up and so stiff that he could not use it. While he was in a Christian hospital where the use of his leg was gradually restored, his neighbors looted his fields and robbed his father. He was yearning to get well and take revenge on his assailant, and now he was even more impatient to get well, that he might take it out on his neighbors. But gradually a change came over him, and when he went away, healed and strong, and I was telling him to forgive them as Christ had forgiven him, he said: 'Don't you worry. As soon as ever I understood what Christ had done for me, all the bitterness and enmity went out of my heart, and now I don't want to hurt them any more.' He took home Gospels and tracts, and came back to tell me how happy he was: all his affairs were prospering, and his family and neighbors had become interested in the truth. He was a big, strong fellow who would have been plunged into a lifelong feud, but for the Saviour; and he is now heaping coals of fire on the heads of his enemies by evangelizing them."—*The Sunday School Times*.

God's gifts for fruitful Christian living, none of which are by nature in our hearts, include also *gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance*. We need to pray God that He will endow us with these gifts for fruit bearing, for they are the forerunners of greater gifts which He promises to bestow upon His children for the perfecting of the church, so that it can do the work He gave it when He said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations."

The Gifts of God for Service

WHEN the members of the church have received the gifts of God that bear fruitage in their own lives, God is the more willing to pour upon them the gifts of the Spirit for service. These gifts are listed in Ephesians 4:11 as follows:

"And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." Each of these gifts comes through the selfsame Spirit, each is very definitely related to the others in that they all have been given for the same purposes—the perfecting of the saints, the work of ministering or serving the church, for edifying or instructing the body of Christ (the church), until the entire church shall come to the unity of the faith, to full knowledge of the Son of God, to perfection, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (See also Matt. 5:48.)

The manifestation of these gifts by the early Christian church came only when the church was ready for them, when they were of one accord, praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Their lives had been submitted wholly to God. They had laid aside their selfish desires, all of them desiring but one thing, the triumph of the cause of Christ. Selfishness was abandoned. No man or woman sought personal advantage.

When they were met together, with one mind, then, according to the Saviour's promise, the Holy Ghost came upon them, and some spake with tongues, some interpreted the prophecies, some prophesied, to some were given gifts of healing, some who had been humble fishermen became outstanding evangelists, others pastors, others teachers. Through them the church was built up. Tens of thousands were won to Christ, many of whom sealed their faith and loyalty with their blood.

We are promised that similar gifts will be manifested, only in greater measure, in the remnant church. We see occasional glimpses of this outpouring of God's Spirit, of the bestowal of these gifts, as in the villages of Africa when the simple faith of a villager through prayer brings relief to a sufferer, or when the faith of a child in the native pastor's prayers brings healing when at the

point of death. We see God using in a mighty way men who a few years back were in heathen darkness, but who today stand fearlessly revealing the truths of God to those who are in darkness, oftentimes at the peril of their lives.

In Africa, a few years back, I often marveled when I caught a glimpse of the training in heathen tribal practices of all the boys of the tribe, and had lads who years previously had passed through these degrading ceremonies, stand by my side to translate the word of life with freedom and with power to those who still lived in the shadowland of sin.

God has given us a tremendous task to perform before Christ returns. He would have us, young and old, give our lives to Him so fully that He can bestow upon us the powers He has promised for the quick finishing of the giving of the gospel to the world, before Jesus comes.

We may not know just how He can use us, but He stands ready to bestow when we, fully surrendered, are ready to receive His gifts and be used of Him for the quick finishing of the work. When those powers are bestowed some will become apostles to the heathen as did Paul, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, and some teachers. To some will be given the power to heal through prayer, and some will speak with tongues in carrying God's message in strange lands. Faith will grow and be manifested. Wisdom and understanding will be bestowed upon many to enable them to meet and to solve the complex problems of these days of conflict and trouble such as never before have beset the peoples of the world.

But let us remember that while God stands ready thus to endow His people, we must renounce sin, give ourselves wholly to Him, for then and then only can He use us as channels of wisdom and power and blessing for the completion of the work. May we all give our lives wholly to Him that He may use us now and receive us in the home-coming day into His kingdom.

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In the sublimest flights of the soul, rectitude is never surmounted, love is never outgrown.—*Emerson*.

November 14

God's Temporal Gifts

BY HARRY F. REDDOE

SONG: "The Captain's Call," No. 66 in "M. V. Songs."

PRAYER.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERTORY.

REPORT.

SONG: "Day by Day," No. 72.

TOPIC: "The Giving of Gifts."

POEM: "All Things Bright and Beautiful."

TOPIC: "What God Gives Us."

TOPIC: "What We May Give to God."

POEM: "A Child's Prayer."

SONG: "In the Service of the King," No. 82.

BENEDICTION or verse repeated in unison.

Notes to Superintendents

Reference is made to several portions of the Senior material for this date. It would be well for the one in charge and the more mature participants in the Junior M. V. Society meeting to read carefully the entire Senior program as they prepare for the presentation of their topics.

To give more Juniors a part, plan to have about six of them come to the meeting each prepared to name two blessings which he appreciates most.

All Things Bright and Beautiful

ALL things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings—
He made their glowing colors;
He made their tiny wings.

The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate—
God made them, high or lowly,
And ordered their estate.

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky;

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden—
He made them every one;

The tall trees in the greenwood,
The meadows where we play,
The rushes by the water
We gather every day:

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

—*Cecilia Alexander*.

The Giving of Gifts

ISN'T it fun to buy gifts for our friends? We try to pick out the best things, and many times we buy for others articles that we ourselves have not been able to possess—things we've often wanted and have felt we could not afford. But when we are purchasing for somebody else, we

feel that that which we select must be of the best.

Then we make the presentation. We find much joy in giving. It gives us such a warm glow in our hearts to see our gifts appreciated that it is easy to believe what the Bible says about it's being "more blessed to give than to receive."

Just as we like to do things for our friends and loved ones, and just as our parents like to give us gifts, so our heavenly Father wants to give us gifts. Of course, we do not always get everything we want and ask for, because our wise Father knows it would not be best. Yet we are told that "no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly." Ps. 84:11.

(Here call on those who have been assigned to name the blessings they appreciate most.)

What God Gives Us

TIME

God gives us time and it is our duty to improve it. We should plan to use it wisely and well. In Ecclesiastes 3 we read that there is a time for everything. There is a time to study, a time to play, a time to work, a time to rest and sleep, and there is a time to worship as well as a time to serve others. Just as it would be foolish to spend all our time sleeping or playing, so it would be folly to devote our full time to work or study. If we have difficulty getting all the things done that we know we should do, it will help if we work out a schedule and then live up to it. Parents and teachers can help us in working out a well-balanced program.

HEALTH

God gives us health. To appreciate ours, we have but to think of some boy or girl who has been deprived of even one of the blessings of health and strength. A few days ago I saw a young man enter a restaurant, being led by a "seeing-eye" dog. It caused me to thank God in my heart for the blessing of sight. You will think of the countless blessings of good health.

WISDOM

The wise man Solomon was very highly blessed of God because he asked for wisdom. That is something we all want, but we must want it enough to work for it. Wisdom includes not only the ability to think clearly, but also the ability to do things skillfully and to know when to do them. There is important work to be done in the world. The way for you to know what work you should take up as you grow older is to follow the text, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." Eccl. 9:10. By applying ourselves with diligence to our tasks we discover our talents. These may be used in God's service. (See Senior topic, "The Gifts of Wisdom and Ability,"

especially the last section, "Using Vocational Gifts in God's Service," p. 19.)

MATERIAL GIFTS

We belong to God. Everything we have is God's. "The world is Mine," He tells us in Psalms 50, "and the fullness thereof." But God in His great goodness entrusts us with very many things. Whatever we possess—a comfortable home, a new bicycle, a doll, a sled, a pair of skates, a wagon, or a doll carriage—is ours because of God's mercies. We think of these things as provided by our parents, but if we think further we realize that it is God—our heavenly Father—who makes possible these lovely gifts. He gives us all that we have. Should we not be happy to return to Him a portion of His own?

What We May Give to God

God reserves a tenth of our income as His. We cannot give that because it is His already. We may give from the remaining nine tenths of our income. (See the experience, "A Part of the Concern," p. 17.)

We may also give of our time, energies, and talents to forward the work of God and to make life more pleasant for our fellow men.

(Read paragraph from "Christ's Object Lessons," pp. 49, 50, quoted under topic of "Stewardship," p. 16.)

A Child's Prayer

God make my life a little light,
Within the world to glow—
A tiny flame that burneth bright,
Wherever I may go.

God make my life a little flower,
That bringeth joy to all,
Content to bloom in native bower,
Although its place be small.

God make my life a little song,
That comforteth the sad,
That helpeth others to be strong,
And makes the singer glad.

—M. Betham Edwards.



November 21

The Cost of Discipleship

BY R. J. ROY

SONG: "Living for Jesus," No. 32 in "M. V. Songs."

SCRIPTURE.

PRAYERS, concluding with Lord's Prayer in unison.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

REPORTS OF MISSIONARY WORK.

OFFERTORY.

SECRETARY'S REPORT. (See Note to Leaders in Senior topic, p. 19.)

SPECIAL SONG. (See Note to Leaders, p. 19.)

STORY: "An African Heroine."

STORY: "How Much Must We Sacrifice for Jesus?" p. 20.

POEM: "Willing Sacrifice."

CONSECRATION OF JUNIORS.

SONG: "I Will Follow Thee," No. 44.

BENEDICTION.

An African Heroine

SHE was only a little African girl ten years old, but her life had been a very sad one, for she was a slave girl. Her father had sold her to pay a wicked young man, who bought her to be his wife. He treated her cruelly, and, finding that she was too young for the hard work in the fields, he brought her to one of the mission schools.

"I have heard that you train boys and girls to be good workers," he said to the teacher in charge. "This is my wife, and I want you to train her so that she can do good work in my fields."

Poor little Ninga. She was shy and frightened. But her fears soon vanished in the atmosphere of love at the school. She learned to laugh, and no voice was sweeter than hers in song and hymn. She was bright and quick in her classes.

Her husband visited her sometimes, and after one of these visits the teacher, Miss Emily, found her sobbing bitterly.

"What is the matter, Ninga?"

"He says he is coming soon to take me away. Don't let him take me, teacher. He will beat me again, and I want to stay in the school with you."

Miss Emily had been talking with the government officials, and knew that she could save the child by paying her father's debt. So she answered: "Don't cry, Ninga. I will try to keep you at the school."

So she paid the money to the husband from her own small salary, and Ninga was free. Oh, how happy the poor child was! "Dear teacher, how I love you!" she cried. "I wish I could be your slave forever."

As the days went by, Ninga heard often the story of the wonderful love of Jesus. One day she lingered in the schoolroom till all the others had gone out, and then said timidly: "I love Jesus, and I am going to be His child always. I did not know till I came here that it was wrong to lie and steal and say bad words; but I have given them all up. I pray to our Father every night."

A few weeks after this Ninga came running in one day, much excited. "Oh!" she cried, "there is a little slave girl down in the village, and her master treats her dreadfully. She is nearly starved, and he beats her every day because she can't do the heavy work in the fields. Please take her into the school, or she will die."

"I should like to take her, Ninga," answered Miss Emily sorrowfully, "but I have not the money. I might spare enough to pay the debt, but there is only enough mission money to feed and clothe the children who are here now."

Ninga turned sadly away; but the next day she came back, crying: "Oh, Miss Emily, please, please take that poor little girl in. He has beaten her again."

"How can I take her, Ninga, when I have no food for her to eat or clothes for her to wear?"

"I will give her half of mine," said Ninga eagerly, "and she can sleep with me in my bed."

"Will you give her one of your dresses?" asked the teacher.

Now, Ninga's sole earthly possessions consisted of three little cotton dresses. One, a red calico, sent by a kind friend in America, was her special delight and carefully kept for best.

"Yes, I'll give her a dress, and half of my food every day."

Each child at the mission received a daily allowance of food which he was taught to prepare and cook for himself.

"Very well, Ninga," said Miss Emily. "I will go to the village and see what I can do."

Again she paid the ransom out of her own purse, and returned with the little stranger. Ninga, who had been watching by the gate, gave a shout of joy. "May I give her a bath, teacher?" she asked, and, receiving permission, obtained a cake of soap and started with her charge for the river. When the little girls returned, Miss Emily's eyes filled with tears as she saw that the stranger was wearing the little red dress, Ninga's most precious treasure.—*Selected.*

Willing Sacrifice

For Mary, 'twas rich alabaster,
Presented with fast-falling tears.
As she poured out with lavish devotion
The small, precious savings of years.
What matter, if long-cherished purpose
For personal pleasure must go?
Her heart was responsive and eager,
And with love for the Master aglow.

To John it was patient, sad waiting,
Apart from his Master and Friend,
Restrained in the prison's grim darkness,
And after—the ghastly, cruel end.
What matter to John if he languish
Alone—in the dark—out of sight?
He had heralded Christ, the world's Saviour,
And he died a great victor that night!

With Paul, it meant scourging and shipwreck,
Imprisonment, hunger, and cold;
Crusading with courage undaunted,
That the Gentiles might enter the fold;
What matter to Paul about hardship?
The frown of the world mattered not.
He had heard the sweet voice of the Master,
And he gloried in service for God.

And Moses relinquished a kingdom
With all that the world accounts gain,
'Twas rejection of honor and riches,
With affliction, and heartache, and pain.
What hold had the greatness of Egypt?
What charm had the power of the sword?
He had taken commands from Jehovah
He had met, and communed with, the Lord.

The passing of time changes nothing
In God's perfect plan for the race.
Salvation's a gift, but the giving
Is shared through His infinite grace.
The Wealth of all heaven was given
In sacrifice, full and complete.
And God, in omnipotent wisdom
Renders man's willing sacrifice sweet.

With Mary 'twas rich alabaster;
 To John it was life he must yield;
 With Paul it was sore persecution
 By which his devotion was sealed.
 Today comes the call no less clearly;
 There's challenge anew, for His sake.
 Can we possibly waver, or question,
 In the sacrifice we're asked to make?
 —Author Unknown.



November 28

Study to Show Thyself Approved

BY MARION G. SEFFZ

SONG: No. 59 in "M. V. Songs."

PRAYER.

REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY LEADER.

BIBLE QUIZ.

MUSIC: No. 196 in "Gospel in Song."

SYMPOSIUM: "Examples of Men Who Studied to Be Approved." (See Senior topic, p. 23.)

READING: "A Message to Juniors."

POEM: "If Knowledge Grew."

TALK AND DISCUSSION: "Study Questions—How, When, What, Why?" (See p. 23.)

CLOSING SONG: No. 64 in "M. V. Songs."

PRAYER Closed by repeating in unison Psalms 19:14.

Notes to Superintendents

In the remarks by the leader, the one in charge can explain the topic for the day, stressing the fact that now is the best time for Juniors to study and become approved unto God. In later years it is far easier to remember what we read and studied when we were young than when older grown.

The Bible Quiz will bring before the Juniors a few texts of Scripture relative to wisdom, knowledge, and the study of God's word.

Reading: "A Message to Juniors."—Junior superintendents have a golden opportunity today of stressing the value of good reading and the wise use to be made of books. Juniors may wish that knowledge came as suggested in the poem, "If Knowledge Grew," but it is only by diligent searching and hard study that knowledge will be increased.

What we meditate upon, or think about, becomes a part of us. The closing prayer may express the plea that every Junior will meditate on the right, the pure, and the true only.

Bible Quiz

(To be conducted by an older Junior)

To be given to six Juniors before meeting time. Each Junior to read or repeat from memory a verse and ask those present to tell who said it, and if possible tell something about the person in the verse or the man who wrote it.

FIRST JUNIOR: "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me." John 5:39.

ANSWER: Jesus said these words as He reproved the Jews, who thought they knew the writings of the prophets, and yet were missing the true knowledge of Jesus Himself.

SECOND JUNIOR: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Tim. 2:15.

ANSWER: Paul wrote these words to Timothy, a young man who followed the teachings of the word of God.

THIRD JUNIOR: "I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness." Eccl. 7:25.

ANSWER: The wisest man who ever lived, Solomon, gave these words.

FOURTH JUNIOR: "From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Tim. 3:15.

ANSWER: Paul is speaking again to Timothy, who had been well trained in his youth by his mother and grandmother.

FIFTH JUNIOR: "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning." Prov. 9:9.

ANSWER: Solomon in his proverbs shows that wise men will want to be instructed and learn what is good and right.

SIXTH JUNIOR: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so." Acts 17:11.

ANSWER: Paul is here speaking of the Bereans.

If Knowledge Grew

How nice 'twould be if knowledge grew
 On bushes as the berries do;
 Then we could plant our spelling seed
 And gather all the words we need.
 And sums from off our slates we'd wipe
 And wait for figures to be ripe.
 And go into the fields and pick
 Whole bunches of arithmetic.
 Or if we wished to learn Chinese
 We'd just go out and shake the trees.
 And grammar then in all the towns
 Would grow with proper verbs and nouns
 And in the garden there would be
 Whole bunches of geography.
 And all the passers-by would stop
 And marvel at the knowledge crop.
 And I my pen would cease to push
 And pluck my verses from a bush.

—Selected.



THEY are slaves who fear to speak
 For the fallen and the weak;
 They are slaves who will not choose
 Hatred, scoffing, and abuse,
 Rather than in silence shrink
 From the truth they needs must think;
 They are slaves who dare not be
 In the right with two or three.

—James Russell Lowell.



SOMEONE has said that "laughter is a smile set to music."

A Message to Juniors

(To be read by a Junior)

Good morning, Juniors. You have been in school nearly three months, and in that time have learned many things. Each day you have been studying Bible, arithmetic, grammar, spelling, and other subjects. Those lessons well learned will help you when you are older and must face the world after you graduate from academy or college. As you open your lesson books morning by morning, try to get the most out of every assignment the teachers give. Resolve to leave the schoolroom at the close of the day, knowing more than when you went in in the morning.

It is well for you to form right habits now, for they will stay with you through life. One good habit to acquire is that of treating your books with care. Books are friends and should be handled in such a manner that they will be of use for many years. Like old friends they will grow more precious with added use. Here is a poem, on this very thing:

"You are old, little book," the small boy said,
 "Yet your pages are still clean and white
 Your covers are stiff, and your corners straight.
 Do you think at your age it is right?"

"In my youth," said the book, "I came into the hands
 Of children who handled with care,
 They opened me gently, their fingers were clean;
 My margins they kept clean and fair.

"They never used pencils as bookmarks,
 nor tried
 To pull me apart in their strife.
 With such kindly treatment my strength and my looks
 Will last me the rest of my life."

—Author Unknown.

A boy or girl who carelessly does his schoolwork, who keeps his books torn and dirty, and who fails to do his best every day in his studies will lose much in establishing right habits. In later years he will regret this and wish he had applied himself in the right way when he was young.

Let us resolve to study to show ourselves approved unto God, workmen not ashamed of the way we perform our tasks and learn our lessons. Let us today think Paul is speaking to us as he did to Timothy of old, when he urged him to study that he might win the approval of heaven. Careful searching of the Bible and good books will make us Juniors upon whom the Lord will look with favor because we have endeavored to gain true wisdom and knowledge in our youth. May we fully attain to the heights which Jesus has shown to us in His Book, the source book for all knowledge and understanding of right things.



"THE soft words we speak soften our own hearts."



Department of Education



Featuring Home and Parent Education in the
Home and School Association and the Christian Home Council

Notes to Leaders

For sunlit hours and visions clear,
For all remembered faces dear,
For comrades of a single day
Who sent us stronger on our way,
For friends who shared the year's long
road
And bore with us the common load,
For hours that levied heavy tolls,
But brought us nearer to our goals,
For insights won through toil and
tears—
We thank the Keeper of our years.
—Clyde McGee.

November—and another Thanksgiving Day! Are you really thankful on this day? Yes, in spite of the sorrow and turmoil in this old world of ours, we still have much for which to be thankful. But for our present purpose, let us be thankful for our boys and girls, and for what we may, under God, do for them.

This month we are to study Christian recreation. Did you read the editorial in the *Review and Herald* of July 9? If not, I ask that you look up that paper again and read what Elder Wilcox had to say. I quote these few sentences therefrom:

"There is a more excellent way than the world presents in which we may find pleasure in social gatherings, gatherings of such a character in the home, in the outdoors, that the blessing of God could fittingly be asked upon them, gatherings which bring no leanness of soul afterward, no distaste for prayer or for the reading of the word of God. . . . Our vacations, our recreations, our pastimes, should be of such a character that we can give thanks to God for them, that we can feel that we have received a spiritual quickening as well as a physical uplift."

Much instruction has been given us through the Spirit of prophecy, but have we studied it as carefully as we should? This is our opportunity. The study outlined under "Recreation" could well be used in lieu of a Scripture reading, or a more extended study may be arranged from the selections noted in the "Box." Then, with these principles in mind, will you not lay some definite plans for the coming holiday season? Consider the needs of your own home, your church, the community—and plan accordingly.

Are there any of our soldier boys in your town? Have you done all that you can to help them spend their leisure time profitably? Do for them what you would want done for your soldier sons, wherever they may be.

MRS. FLORENCE K. REBOK.

Fun Without Prizes

When All Play for Fun Everybody Wins

BY MABEL BROWN

"MINE's the best—do I get a prize?"

"Mine's better'n yours—I gotta have the prize."

"Who won? Who won? Tell us quick, who won? Isn't mine better'n his, and hadn't I ought to get the prize?"

"But there aren't any prizes," I said, as soon as I was able to quiet my little guests' excitement sufficiently to say anything. "There aren't any prizes—we just drew the pictures for fun."

I'm sorry for children who can't play without a prize, for then, at least half of them don't get any pleasure out of playing. If two children are playing for a prize and one gets it, then one child is disappointed because he didn't get what he was playing for; but if two children are playing for fun and both get it, then both children are happy.

And if there are more than two competing, then there is just that much more of disappointment when they're playing for prizes, and just that much more of happiness when they're playing for fun.

I'm sorry for those children, and I am yet more sorry because I realize that this is not a trait which can be easily outgrown. I've seen too many older people who can't enjoy a game without a prize, and who sulk and pout like naughty children whenever they lose—and *somebody* has to lose!

Every player likes to win, of course, but it is pitiable to have one's heart so set on winning that one can't enjoy the game; and it is yet more pitiable to feel that there's no pleasure in winning unless one also gets a tangible prize. The child who must have a prize whenever he wins will (if he is not taught better) grow into the man who won't stay in the office overtime unless he is paid for it, or the woman who makes her husband's favorite dessert only when she is trying to get money for a new hat. But the child who can enjoy the fun of playing and the glory of winning is in a fair way to grow into an adult with ability to enjoy the satisfaction of good work well done at the office, or a good pudding well made and a good husband well pleased at home.

One way to solve the difficulty is to make it a rule never to give prizes. This encourages playing for the fun of winning, and develops many worthwhile traits of character, including good sportsmanship, and the habit of enjoying the game for the game's sake and not for what one can get out of it. And he who enjoys a game in this way when he is little will be much more likely to enjoy life for the sake of living as he gets older.

Yes, you know the educational value of competitive games, but I'd like to put in a word or two about the value of games which are not competitive, and in which nobody wins, or rather *everybody* wins, for all share equally in the reward—a good time.

I'd like to encourage these games; not exclusively, of course, but I'd like to see them played more often. They teach an art which is sorely needed by children and adults alike in these busy days—the art of forgetting one's work and throwing oneself into relaxation and enjoyment, to rest one's mind for better work next day. Play as an end in itself is, of course, unworthy of a Christian, but play as a means of complete relaxation to improve one's usefulness is a worthy effort at self-improvement. So let's encourage wholesome, wholehearted, fun-provoking play.

There are books of games in your public library in which you can find suggestions, and when you once get started, then you and your children can invent new ones. The idea is to play for fun and not for a prize.

Try it, and don't be discouraged if the results are not immediately apparent. It takes time to break up any bad habit, and playing just to get a prize is a habit especially hard to break.—*Condensed from The Baby's Mother, No. 3, 1942.*

The Simple Prayer

Lord,
Not only for the greater things,
Like life and light and love,
Or home, warmth, the joy of giving.
But for the smaller things as well—
The golden shocks of corn
Fast turning brown;
The silver-crustled pumpkins lying
Half hid among the stubble;
The lovely blue of shadows;
When the world is wrapped in gray;
The song of wind among the firs;
The simple comfort of evening fires,
Glowing red amid the dusk,
And low-pitched laughter, childlike
trust—
For these we thank Thee, Lord.

—Rebbic Wilson.

Adolescents: Pointers for Adults

ONE fact to consider is that often the social life of the adolescent members of a group or community is patterned on that of the elders of the same set. It may differ in form but not in fundamental. So when we criticize the youngster let us first look carefully at his pattern. As the baby imitates words, so the adolescent imitates ideas and ideals. He longs to seem grown-up and sophisticated, and must look to older people. This is the greatest weapon of adults if used wisely.

"Puppy love," another source of worry to parents, is but one more normal phase of adolescence. If the child has had sex intelligently explained, and the incidents of his youthful love affairs are treated with understanding and not made either ugly or ridiculous by those in authority, the average youngster will sail through the tragic and blissful period of adolescent love and emerge ready to enter a more mature emotional relationship. If, however, these puppy loves are regardlessly ridiculed, trampled underfoot, and made the object of joking, then a sensitive child's development may be seriously warped.

There are in the lives of adolescents and their parents countless daily situations, impossible to anticipate individually or to meet by specific rule. Some general attitudes toward the adolescent and the hazards which beset his path are helpful:

Become thoroughly acquainted with the physiological changes and their psychological effect on the child.

Prepare the child gently and thoroughly for this stage of development, so that the outstanding physical symptoms do not cause too much apprehension and embarrassment when they appear. This is sometimes enough of a shock to the nervous system to do permanent damage.

Avoid overt and unnecessary criticism, and particularly public rebuke. The adolescent is sensitive to an extreme degree and will feel only resentment at any situation which makes him appear foolish or childish. If the problem is serious enough to need adult advice, give it, if possible, in such a way that the boy or girl believes it is his own idea.

Study the particular child in question. Each adolescent is an individual, not governed by set rules.

Try to look at the question from the adolescent's point of view. Things that seem small and insignificant to an adult may be of infinite importance in

the devious make-up of the adolescent mind. Often if the parent realized this, bitter resentment and heartaches in the child would be averted, and the parent's real authority in more serious problems would be greatly increased.

Remember the adolescent tendency to want to appear grown-up, and that those actions symbolic to the child of maturity must necessarily be borrowed from older people. Do not be too quick to criticize the child. Try to trace the pattern of his behavior and see from whence it came, and deal with it accordingly.

Refrain from arousing feelings of resentment in the child and from making him feel ridiculous in the eyes of himself or others by recalling incidents of his childhood. Though he may laugh at them in later years, they make him feel ashamed or inferior during this trying period. Remember, life in the teens is indeed very scrissous.

Expect a wide range of emotional reactions, varying from complete infantilism to mature judgment. Remember adolescence is a transitional stage retaining many childish qualities even while developing adult reactions.

Be sure to take into consideration the training you as a parent have given the child in his early years, and don't expect the adolescent to become adult overnight merely because he has somewhat matured physically. Since the fundamental reactions of the adolescent to the particular problem are probably the result of his earlier environment and conditioning, the way he works out his problem and the solution he reaches depend on what emotional adjustments he has been making since childhood.—*Child Study, November, 1932.*

Recreation

Questions Answered by the Spirit of Prophecy

(Most of the following answers consist of only the beginning and ending of the quotations cited.)

1. *What is recreation? amusement?*
"There is a distinction between recreation and amusement. . . . Amusement . . . proves a hindrance to life's true success."—*"Education,"* p. 207.

2. *Do we need recreation and amusement?*
"I was shown that Sabbathkeepers as a people labor too hard. . . . something perfectly harmless should be substituted in their place."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. I, p. 54.

"While we shun the false and artificial, . . . we must supply sources of pleasure that are pure and noble and elevating."—*"Fundamentals of Christian Education,"* p. 320.

"The school is to supplement the home training, and both at home and at school, simplicity of dress, diet, and amusement must be maintained."—*Id.* p. 288.

3. *Was this need recognized in the lives of the children of Israel?*

"The journey made three times a year . . . the Levite, and the poor."—*"Ministry of Healing,"* p. 281.

4. *What may be our guide in proper recreation and amusement?*

"Are your recreations such as to impart moral and spiritual vigor? . . . you would be filled with shame and terror."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. V, p. 218.

"But I believe that while we are seeking to refresh our spirits and invigorate our bodies, we are required of God to use all our powers at all times to the best purpose."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. II, p. 586.

"We cannot innocently indulge in any amusement which will unfit us for the more faithful discharge of ordinary life duties."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. II, p. 587.

"Those who are engaged in study should have relaxation. . . . shall I cease to have His glory before me?"—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. IV, p. 652.

"They may inquire, Shall we have no amusement or recreation? . . . not safe, but dangerous."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. III, p. 222, 223.

"Christians have many sources of happiness at their command. . . . they are perfectly safe."—*"Fundamentals of Christian Education,"* p. 81.

5. *What is the teacher's part?*

"The watchful teacher will find many opportunities . . . parents will lighten the teacher's burden and brighten his path."—*"Education,"* p. 213.

"Attention to recreation and physical culture . . . is worth more than unnumbered barriers of law and discipline."—*Id.*

6. *What is the parent's part?*

"Let parents devote the evenings to their families. . . . If the home life is what it should be, the habits formed there will be a strong defense against the assaults of temptation when the young shall leave the shelter of home for the world."—*"Fundamentals of Christian Education,"* pp. 154, 155.

7. *What facts should parents consider very thoughtfully?*

"Many parents seek to promote the happiness of their children by gratifying their love of amusement. . . . make it almost impossible for them ever to become steadfast Christians."—*"Christ's Object Lessons,"* p. 51.

"The pursuit of pleasure and amusement centers in the cities. . . . their spiritual life is darkened."—*Id.* pp. 54, 55.

Recreation and the Social Program

This month we are to study Christian Recreation

In addition to the Spirit of Prophecy study outlined under "Recreation," individuals may well read the following:

"*Education,*" pp. 207-213: "Recreation."

"*Testimonies,*" Vol. I, pp. 514-520: "Recreation for Christians."

"*Testimonies,*" Vol. II, pp. 585-594: "Christian Recreation."

"*Testimonies,*" Vol. IV, pp. 648-653: "Proper Education."

"*Who Is the Greatest?*" by Arthur W. Spalding. Young People's Workers' Aide, No. 24.

Related material is given also in certain lessons of our new Parent and Home Education courses, as noted:

Course No. I, Home Education:

Lesson 2—Love Is the Great Science.

Course No. II, Education of the Little Child:

Lesson 5—The Family of God; Orion.

Lesson 6—Children of God.

Course No. III, Home Education of the School Child:

Lesson 11—The Social Program.

Course No. IV, Social Education of the Adolescent:

Lesson 4—Social Trends.

Lesson 11—Social Relations.

Home and School Association leaders who desire detailed program suggestions may write to their conference educational superintendents.

When You Have Fun

It ought to be easy to have fun. But strange as it may seem, millions of young people find it hard to have fun.

Many cities and towns make it hard for young people to have fun. "No Trespassing" signs are placed on vacant lots so that there can be no ball games, and "No Swimming" signs prohibit a cooling dip when the water is so inviting on a hot summer day. Motor traffic makes death traps of most streets. Houses are crowded and yards are small. Schoolhouses are barred after school is out. Churches are locked from Sunday to Sunday. How can a fellow or a girl have fun, anyhow?

Look around in any neighborhood. After school and working hours in afternoons and evenings, and on week ends, outside of homes, how many decent places are there for young people to have fun in a way which safeguards health and promotes good character?

The Church's Part

Young people ought to play, will play, and must play. If there are not enough right places for them to play, then they will play elsewhere, and elsewhere often spells danger. In the face of the crying need for wholesome fun and recreation in modern life, the church cannot shut its eyes or its doors. The church must recognize that a need exists, and plan to do something about it.

Every church should have a person who specializes in recreational ideas and plans and is ready to give leadership to young people in this field. Every church should have a small but efficient library of books and other printed materials on games, hobbies, handicrafts, and the like. Every church should provide a recreation room where young people can congregate several times a week for games, musicals, hobby clubs, and social fellowship. Such a recreation room should have adult sponsorship, preferably trained sponsorship, so young people are not left entirely to their own devices, but enjoy the privilege of trained leadership. Every church should think of recreation as an integral part of its Christian program, and regard it as necessary to the normal and balanced life of youth. Recreation is not just a sop or bait to attract young people for a while until they join the church.

In addition to the recreation, which the church directly plans and supervises, the church should help parents to develop suitable recreational plans in their homes for children and young people; and, what is probably hardest of all, the church should develop ideals, standards, and motivation by which Christian young people will choose the right kind of recreation at all times.—*Condensed from Sunday School Digest.*

Week Ends to Fit the Family

BY MRS. ROBERT E. SIMON

MOST of us are inconsistent. We realize that in America, in this generation, we clutter our lives. Our friends from other parts of the world sometimes tell us that we cannot "really live" here. We ourselves complain that the school curriculum is too crowded and that our children have not enough time to be out-of-doors, to think and dream, to spend time following their own artistic, literary, or mechanical interests. And yet we do not make use of our opportunity to help them plan week ends that are truly re-creative, relaxing, inspiring, a fitting preparation for the following week of work.

We parents help plan children's meals, sleep, and exercise; why not their recreation? It is just as necessary to help them weigh values, to budget their time, not to spend it haphazardly, following the line of least resistance, accepting every attractive invitation.

William James said that we should express in some way every good thing that we hear or see. When we take in too much this becomes impossible. We all know that we learn most by doing. The victrola and the radio, as well as the increased habit of going to the moving picture and theater, have influenced many parents and children to spend less time on creative music, writing, painting, and handicraft. Almost everyone has an urge to create something, but must work against a natural laziness, the habit of sitting back, listening, and seeing the work of others. A child who does little on the creative side easily forms the habit of absorption, and creative effort becomes more difficult. He is satisfied with passing his time pleasantly, living in the outside world without becoming an active participant in it.

"Externalism," John Dewey said, "is the chief American sin against the search of true inward happiness."

One solution for some of us, when obligations do not keep us in the city, is to find a place near by where the family can get away even from the telephone, where we can enjoy walking, talking, sports, nature study, gardening, and reading. Family picnics, as well as long hikes, are satisfying. Children do not usually enjoy motoring except to get somewhere where they can do something.

Children enjoy visiting museums and seeing their own city, provided they go with congenial company and see things in which their interest has already been awakened. Too few really know how to use the museum. So, too, how few visit the botanical gardens even when notices are given of the display of special flowers.

Because so much is offered, no parent, singlehanded, is capable of passing informed judgment on the amusements available. It is only by the

united efforts of parents, fathers and mothers influencing their own children, that sound standards can be upheld. Of course developing children's tastes is a process of education, not of prohibition or coercion.

As with everything else in the education of children, example is one of the most important factors. Children can be influenced indirectly to enjoy being themselves, and to develop qualities of discrimination and individuality. They will learn to spend week ends which allow time for study and reading, for creative work, for spiritual inspiration, for meeting at home with friends, for seeing something worth while outside the home, and for much sleep and fresh air. Surround children with only the best, give them complete information, and then more or less as they grow older leave them to choose for themselves.

As to the question whether week ends are assets or liabilities, my answer is emphatically on the credit side—if they are used for real recreation and inspiration; sufficiently planned so that they will not be overcrowded, but free from the pressure of the week; made an opportunity for self-expression; and arranged to include the best opportunities outside and within the city.—*Condensed from Child Study, December, 1929.*

How Do You Welcome Your Church School Teacher?

ONE friendly town appointed a committee of hostesses with a chairman to make each new teacher feel welcome and at home.

Even before the new teacher reached town, a note of welcome went forward from the chairman, who gave her the name of her particular hostess. It was among the duties of each hostess to meet the incoming train or bus, help the teacher to locate living quarters, and then to take her home to dinner. Thus the strange teacher felt that she had a friend.

During the second week following the opening of school, the entire hostess group gave a simple party for the new teachers. This was the only occasion when all the hostesses and new teachers were together, but each hostess carried the burden for her own protégée throughout the year. Sometimes she would entertain her at her own home, where her own children's teacher was also invited to be present, as well as other invited guests.

After serving in one place for two years, it was not felt necessary that a teacher continue to have a hostess; but she was remembered at Christmas with a holiday greeting card.

What have you done for the teacher in your midst? Does she know that she is among sympathetic friends, or is she just plain lonely at times? Be honest now. Have you done your best to share your hospitality with the stranger who may be teaching in your midst?

F. K. R.

Planning Ahead for Leisure Time

BY ETHEL H. BLISS

Ideals of leisure can be put into action only through practical things to do.

How many parents look ahead and are ready, enthusiastically and intelligently, to meet the demands of the after-school and week-end hours of their children? Is it not true that some parents plan their children's leisure so as to fit into an adult social scheme? Others plan it so as to satisfy their own ambitions from an intellectual standpoint, and provide tutors and lectures, music lessons, etc., which fill up almost every waking hour, so that even little children are beginning to say, "We don't have any time after school." Still other parents plan cultural programs for their children, without due regard to whether the children are old enough for and oriented to such a program. Such forced participation may easily kill any future interest. Some parents are ready to spend money to have someone else take care of leisure hours, when a family project might be the means of averting a serious family crisis later. Briefly stated, how many parents are there who actually feel that to plan for the best use of the leisure hours for their children is as important a job for them, as parents, as the choosing of a school or any other factor in family life?

Time to Do and to Think

There are two important things to be considered in planning leisure. One is a certain amount of time for a child to do the things that interest him deeply and for which he can plan himself, or to do spontaneously what seems good to him. The other is that some time should go to stimulating and deepening spiritual values. There is no more justification for parents who deprive their children of such experiences than there is for those who force upon them their own particular beliefs or disbeliefs.

There are many delightful ways of planning leisure, a few of which might be suggestive. Would it not be worth while for the family as a whole, early in the season, to talk over some of the interesting things they would like to do during the year? There is scarcely a city or town but has its accompanying places of interest near by, scarcely a town but has its quota of exhibits, fairs, and flower, poultry, horse, automobile, or airplane shows. Some of the family are interested in one, some in another. If there are financial limits to the budget for recreation, the decision should come with due consideration of children as well as parents. Lecture and story hours at the museum, and musical programs for children, are available in many places. All of these ought to be laid before the family and a choice made

to suit all ages and individual tastes. If wisely done, this would be a real opportunity for parents to do much to develop better standards and broader leading-on interests.

Planning for birthday parties and other holidays lends itself to real creative effort on the part of one or another member of the family, and is a real factor in deepening family relationships. The purchase of books and magazines should certainly be done with the interests of each member of the family in mind. Occasional opportunities should be given to make the kitchen a laboratory for those children who would particularly enjoy such activities.

Encouragement of hobbies and special interests often occupies many hours during the year, and may help to solve many an individual family problem. Children need, if possible, a room to themselves in which they can really try out ideas, carry out experiments and special hobbies of their own. They also need a great deal of intelligent leaving alone. Finally, they need understanding, intelligent parents, who help them progressively to make better and wiser use of those hours that are not definitely planned for them by home and school.—*Condensed from Child Study, December, 1929.*

Her Children's Friends

BY ALICE A. KEEN

"EXCUSE me a minute, please," said Mrs. Lee. "I hear the children coming in from school."

From my seat in the living room of the old-fashioned house, I could look through to the kitchen where she was dividing fruit and cookies among her two children and the friends they had brought home with them. "Did your mother say you might share our lunch today, Andy?" she asked one small boy. He smiled and nodded. Then pretty soon I saw all the children going out to play.

"Your place seems to be a playground for other people's children," I remarked when Mrs. Lee came back to me.

"Well," she said with utmost good nature, "I like to have my own children close at hand. Their friends like to come here because the yard is a good comfortable place for their games, and on rainy days I let them come inside."

"How do you ever stand it?" I marvelled. "From their appearance I should think they'd upset things seriously."

Mrs. Lee laughed, "I suppose they would if I would let them, but they like to come here well enough to mind the rules of the house. Oh, yes, I do have certain rules! They're printed on a card that hangs on the kitchen wall."

"This is such a mixed neighborhood," I said doubtfully. "How do

you ever sort the children out? There must be many undesirables."

"I don't sort them out," Mrs. Lee replied earnestly. "As long as they obey the rules, which are very simple and as plain as day, they may enjoy our home. I do insist, though, on respectable language and fairly good manners."

"But aren't you afraid your children will pick up faults in grammar and a bad manner or two?" I argued.

"My children have been taught the difference between the good and bad of language and manners, and they've developed character enough by this time, I hope, to adopt what is really worth while."

"Well," I said, "I'll have to admit that your system works. You have fine children, and your home must seem a place of happiness to their friends; you make them so welcome."

"Yes," said Mrs. Lee, her voice deep with feeling, "I do make them welcome; for, oh, I remember so well an experience that came to me in childhood. There was one very hard year when I was a little girl. My father had lost his health and then had lost his teaching position, and we were very, very poor. We moved to an old house near the railroad track in what was considered a very undesirable part of the town. It was the best we could afford."

"I had made a friend at school—Barbara Curtis. She was delightful. I never would have known she was a child of wealth if I had not gone home with her one day. Her mother looked me over, asked where I lived, and then told me to go away. She did not want me coming to her house."

"Barbara was terribly ashamed of her mother, but she handled the affair like a little thoroughbred. She explained who my father was and spoke of his illness. Her mother then apologized and allowed our friendship to continue, but I have never forgotten the bitter pain that my child heart suffered that day."

"Yes," I thought to myself, "but out of that painful experience came understanding and wisdom that have brought much happiness to many children."—*From The Baby's Mother, No. 3, 1942.*

"We shall be glad, really glad, for everything that has come to us, no matter if it is sorrow or pain, when we find that our experience fits someone else's need—that someone else can build on our lives."

Feed the Birds. You will never know how many beautiful birds winter in the vicinity of your home until you form the habit of supplying them with daily meals of assorted grains. Swivel a shallow light wooden box on the top of a post, and on two sides nail windbreakers, coming together at one corner so that the air currents will turn the open side away from the wind. Keep the floor of the box covered with a thin layer of grain into which has been mixed a small amount of grit. Particularly on the first clear day following a snowstorm will the feathered colony gather to enjoy your generous repast.—*J. R., New Jersey; in Parent's Magazine, March, 1942.*

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New Launches for the Amazon

FOR several months two new launches of the type of our "Luzeiro" have been under construction here in Belém, at the mouth of the Amazon River. One of these is for the Upper Amazon Mission of Peru, which has its headquarters in Iquitos, and the other for the Lower Amazon Mission. The launch, "Luzeiro," will now stay in the Central Amazon Mission, with headquarters at Manaus. The two new launches are exactly alike, having been constructed at the very same time. Very soon now these will be ready for service. As I said, these are of the type of the "Luzeiro," but are even better, more comfortable, and better furnished inside. We were able to watch the construction from the first until they were launched on the water.

Recently we had the privilege of being visited with great ceremony, by government authorities. Two days before we had interviewed the governor of that state, who had given us two contos (about \$100) for Ingathering. We had improved this opportunity by inviting him to visit the launches under construction, so that he could see with his own eyes the work that the Adventists are doing in all the world, and especially on the Amazon. On the same day many other authorities accompanied the governor, who was really the repre-

sentative of President Vargas. L. B. Halliwell, president of the North Brazil Union, and R. A. Hayden, director of the Upper Amazon Mission of Peru (who had arrived to take over the new launch for that mission), acted as guides, and I had my camera in hand, ready to take some snapshots. The governor went up the gangplank and examined every part of the interior and exterior, being curious about everything, and asking many questions about our work. More than a hundred persons—newspapermen, the mayor of the city of Belém, high authorities in the various public departments, consuls of various countries, businessmen, etc., were there and saw with their own eyes the miracle that the Adventists, that small people scattered about the world, are effecting here on the Amazon.

Soon after, Pastor Hayden, of the Upper Amazon Mission, left for Iquitos with his launch, which he has named the "Auxiliadora," or The Helper. We had some difficulty in procuring the necessary documents, but finally the launch was ready to start, with a dual nationality—Brazilian-Peruvian. We hired a river pilot, without whom the marine authorities would not let the launch leave Belém. The voyage up the river, from Belém to Iquitos, will take about twenty days, for a distance of 2,400 nautical miles, comprising a distance almost across the continent of South America. It is calculated that the voyage will require two and a half tons of fuel.

These are a few interesting facts which show that our work is now linked together from one extreme of the Amazon to the other. Soon the "Luzeiro II" will be launched to navigate among the islands and along the shores of that great river, touching places that have never been reached by outside help, either in the way of medical care or in the giving of the gospel.

J. P. LOBO.

Leaving New Guinea

Our feelings on leaving our mission field in central New Guinea can be well summed up in Pastor Eric Hare's account of the departure of himself and his fellow workers from Burma, when they had to leave behind them practically everything they possessed. Yet harder by far was the

leaving of their work. Except for a few pounds' weight of special objects and a little clothing, the whole of our personal belongings, furniture, books, and so on, had to be abandoned. But to leave our missions and our homes was a heart-rending experience.

The message is now strongly entrenched in the eastern section of the "Papuan Wonderland," which title may be used to describe all central New Guinea. That wonderland is noted for the great mountain ranges by which it is bounded, and for the grand divides by which it is intersected. Its splendid valleys and its climate are both of the first order. Its many and varied tribes present a startling appeal to those who are called to carry the gospel into these regions. In one way and another we are all called to do this. We feel confident that our native workers who are now carrying the burden alone in that needy land will acquit themselves well. They have a strong faith.

We agreed that if the invaders occupied central New Guinea (and anything could happen at any time, depending on the turn of events), we would be imprisoned. We felt that if this should happen in the midst of our own teachers and people, though they would no doubt remain loyal, it would be a very discouraging experience for them, and that it would be better if they stood alone in preference to having such an experience.

With native leaders and assistants we went over matters concerning the present and the future. They were being called upon to do something they had never done before. We prayed that God would richly bless them as they stood alone as His message bearers in central New Guinea.

Finalizing his affairs, Brother Brenman came in from the Omapura Training School on April 16. The following day he and I, with a line of teachers and local natives, set out from Ramu on the trail which led two hundred miles west. Oh, what a sad day that was! The dear little home with its contents, and the other mission buildings, all seemed to take on a special significance. We said good-by to the native workers and their families remaining at the mission. They were brave. Those who went with us returned to their stations after several weeks.

A. J. CAMPBELL.