

THE MINNESOTA WORKER.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."

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BIBLE STUDY.

To be much benefited from the study of the subject of the Spirit of God some *time* must be devoted to a careful examination of the texts. The arrangement of the texts is merely suggestive. Many other texts can be profitably studied in connection with them.

Those who conduct the study should give prayerful consideration to the preparation of the lesson. No definite number of topics is recommended for a lesson. Sometimes a whole hour may be very profitably spent in the consideration of a single topic. We trust all our brethren will be much benefitted and blessed while studying this precious subject.

TOPIC 7.—Spirit gives power to obey the word of God. 1 Pet. 1:22; Eze. 36:26, 27; 1 John 3:23, 24.

TOPIC 8.—Spirit, in connection with the word, an agency in the new birth and regeneration. John 3:3, 5, 6; Titus 3:5; Jas. 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:23; 1 Sam. 10:6.

TOPIC 9.—Spirit gives wisdom and discretion. Gen. 41:33, 38; Ex. 35:30—36; Isa. 11:2; Acts 6:3, 5; 1 Cor. 12:7—12

TOPIC 10.—Spirit resisted leaves the person and the heart is hardened. 1 Sam. 16:14; Isa. 30:1, chapter 63:10; Zach. 7:12; Eph. 4:30 Heb. 4:6.

TOPIC 11.—Spirit is an agency by which God sends messages to his servants through his servants. 2 Chron. 15:1, 2; chapter 24:20; Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:16—18; chapter 11:28; chapter 21:4, 11.

TOPIC 12.—Spirit a pledge that the promises of God shall not fail. Isa. 34:16; Mat. 28:19, 20; 2 Cor. 5:4, 5; chapter 2:13, 20—22; Eph. 1:13; chapter 4:30. N. W. ALLEE.

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE.

This Institute conducted by Mrs A. E. Ellis at Minneapolis during the week beginning Jan. 7th for the benefit of missionary workers was a success from start to finish. The instruction given was so plain and yet so comprehensive that all who attended with a desire to learn could not fail to receive much help in learning better how to work for God and perishing souls.

The subject of missionary correspondence was taken up; each individual was requested to

give a practical illustration of what a missionary letter ought to be by writing one each evening and was read for correction.

It was shown that God's love in the heart for lost souls is the first essential in doing any kind of missionary work. Our first effort should be to establish confidence in the mind and heart of those for whom we labor. To awaken an interest should be our next aim; but it is not necessary, at first, in awakening an interest to say anything about the Sabbath or any other doctrinal point peculiar to our faith.

There are precious truths in the Bible that are dear to every christian's heart, and we can meet them on this common ground, thus preventing and removing a great deal of prejudice. How slow we have been to learn the lesson Paul designed to teach when he said, "For though I be free from all men, yet I have made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more."

He became as weak as the weakest that he might save some; that is, he could and did sympathize with those who were downcast, disheartened, and discouraged. He was simply living out the principles the Savior had taught him, by meeting men just where he found them, and thus lift them up, pointing them to a higher and a better life.

It is much easier to lift a load when close to it, so instead of reaching down to help the fallen and the weak, let us get down by their side and lift them up in the name and strength of Jesus. We have felt so rich and increased in goods—so strong and mighty in argument on our side of the question, so sure we were all right and everyone who differed from us was all wrong—that our missionary efforts many times have created prejudice and retarded the work.

We should always cultivate a spirit of christian courtesy and love for those who do not agree with us. We can never win them by sharp cutting argument. We need more of the spirit of Christ, and less of the spirit of self which so often places us above and beyond our fellow men, and thus separates us from them. These and many other important lessons were taught, and I hope so well learned that eternity alone will reveal some starry crowns as a result.

L. B. LOSEY.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL

Little Lambs.

"Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God." "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm and carry them in his bosom."

The same kind shepherd tells his followers to—"Feed my lambs." Our minds naturally turn to children of christian parents when we think of the lambs, but what are the little ones outside the fold?

Does not the Savior's great heart of love and pity yearn for the little ones growing up in sin around us? Yes, we know he loves them with an everlasting love, and these hearts are the best soil for seeds of truth. We cannot estimate the result of a wave of blessing started in a child's life.

These thoughts inspire us to work for the children of this place, and we write hoping to encourage some one else. Each Tuesday afternoon, directly after school closes, the children come to the Hall. For several weeks good skating and sliding have detracted from the attendance, but the number averages twenty.

They eagerly look forward to the day. As we studied the Savior's life the children were inspired to work for that loving friend.

One little boy, son of a bar tender, related his experience in being patient. Many times in trying to catch their horse he felt like swearing, but remembered the Savior and refrained from it.

A little girl of nine has commenced reading her Bible by course; has read three books.

This child's parents do not attend any church, and as little Mattie recites her Bible verses at home she is wielding a powerful influence. The children all love to learn Bible verses and in their homes remember and try to live out the little song;—

"Little lights God has given
To this dark world of sin,—
Deeds of love, thoughts of heaven,
Pleasant words, smiles that win."

Mrs. C. H. PARKER.

Birth-Day Offerings.

Home should be made the happiest place in the world. It is there that we live out all the religion we have. "Home religion" is all the kind of religion that is worth anything. There are many people who when they enter their home lay aside the pleasant smiles and polite ways that make them so attractive to strangers. They have no time to spend in making happy those who are nearest and dearest to them. They cannot give any time or thought to preparing pleasant evenings at home. No account is made of holidays or birth days which would so delight the children. While claiming to live christian lives they feel that they must give all their time to "working in the cause" and so have no time to spend in making home happy.

Among the sins mentioned as characteristic of the last days are,—"having a form of godliness" without the power, and "without natural affection." Is there not danger of our failing to show affection in our homes to those who have the first claim on us and thus making our religion degenerate into a mere form? Religion is

love, and a religious home is one in which love reigns, not merely one in which the forms of religion are practiced. But can it be said that love reigns if never a word of love is spoken between members of the family from one week's end to another? Can parents expect their children to grow up with a love for others and a desire to work for others and deny self if they do not see the example?

Birth-days and holidays are happy occasions for children if the parents will only take a little pains to provide some simple pleasure for them on such days. They may be made seasons of much profit as well, if spent in the right way. We need not follow the customs and practices of the world at such times, neither need we disregard such days entirely. They should be made seasons of thanksgiving to God for his blessings which surround us, and may be spent in a way that will honor him.

In the first page article in the Review of Nov. 13, 1894, we read these words from the pen of Sister White:—

"Children and youth should be educated to make God first in their thoughts, and thus a revenue of gifts and offerings, like little rivulets, would flow into the treasury of the Lord. But parents have failed to educate their children to act in an unselfish way and have co-operated with the enemy in educating them according to a false standard.

"Parents have not taught their children the precepts of the law as God has commanded them. They have educated them in selfish habits. They have taught them to regard their birth-days and holidays as occasions when they expect to receive gifts, and to follow the customs and habits of the world. These occasions, which should serve to increase the knowledge of God and to awaken thankfulness of heart for his mercy and love in preserving their lives for another year, are turned into occasions for self-pleasing, for the gratification and glorification of the children. They have been kept by the power of God through every moment of their lives and yet parents do not teach their children to think of this, and to express thanksgiving for his mercy toward them. If children and youth had been properly instructed in this age of the world, what honor, what praise and thanksgiving, would flow from their lips to God. What a revenue of small gifts would be brought from the hands of the little ones to be put into his treasury as thank-offerings. God would be remembered instead of forgotten.

"Not only on birth-days should parents and children remember the mercies of the Lord in a special way, but Christmas and New Year's should also be seasons when every household should remember their Creator and Redeemer. Instead of bestowing gifts and offerings in such abundance on human objects, reverence, honor, and gratitude should be rendered to God, and gifts and offerings should be caused to flow in the divine channel. Would not the Lord be pleased with such a remembrance of Him? O how God has been forgotten on these occasions. At the very time when his loving kindness should be remembered, his mercy has been ignored.

"When you have a holiday, make it a pleasant day for your children, and also make it a pleasant day for the poor and afflicted. Do not let the day pass without bringing thanksgiving and thank-offerings to Jesus. * * * Set your children's thoughts running in a new unselfish channel, by inciting them to present offerings to God for the gift of his only begotten Son. Let a box be made to receive the gifts of the children. The intelligences of heaven are waiting to co-operate with human agents in every work of benevolence, that there may be means in the treasury of the Lord, and 'meat in mine house,' saith the Lord."

Would it not be a good plan for all to give as their special birth-day offering, as many pennies as they are years old on their birth-day? This may seem like a small sum to many, but perhaps it is more than they have given in the past, and if the children could earn it themselves (and parents should help them to do this) it would be quite a good deal for them. If any should wish to give more of course they could do so. Will not

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each of our S. S. Superintendents suggest this plan to his school and encourage the members to adopt it? The children will be glad to follow it and we trust the older ones also. If it is mentioned to the school occasionally the custom will soon become established. It might be a good plan to keep these birth-day offerings separate from the other offerings and see how much they would amount to in a quarter. Some have been afraid this plan might reduce the regular offering in the S. S., but would it not rather have the opposite effect? Prov. 11: 24, 25. We would like to see the plan tried. A. L. L.

PROGRESS OF THE WORK.

Among the Churches.

Since the institute at Mankato I have visited the company at Red Wing and the churches at Lake City, Pleasant Grove and Austin. Precious seasons were enjoyed at each of these places.

The company at Red Wing have been weakened by removals, but those who remain are growing in grace and knowledge. The company is composed, mostly of sisters, and in some cases they have opposing relatives, making it difficult in some things to do as they would like. Not being able to obtain a Hall they have held their meetings in a private house.

Considerable time was spent at Pleasant Grove. This is said to be the oldest church in the Conference and they have passed through many and varied experiences. The brethren related many interesting incidents in connection with the early history of the work in this section, I was especially interested in some of the "sayings" of Father Pierce (one of the pioneer workers) whose home was with this church.

For some time past the church has been passing through trial. Satan was permitted to take advantage and he was not slow to use it. As the message for this time was presented, and the love of God placed before them, there was a turning to the Lord. Confessions were made and reconciliations effected.

Brethren Hopkins and Edwards who have served the church sixteen years as elder and deacon expressed a desire to be released from these duties. New officers were accordingly elected and ordained. A club of 13 "Signs" and 12 "Sentinels" were subscribed for.

We left them feeling that the Lord was smiling on his people.

Part of the week of prayer was spent at Medford. The meetings were well attended and were felt to be a blessing. The meetings at Austin were well attended and the Lord was present to help in the administration of his Word. As we dwelt upon the privileges of the people of God the brethren took fresh courage. One lady kept her first sabbath with us during the meetings. I feel it to be a great privilege to be a worker together with God and my courage is good. C. W. FLAIZ.

North Dakota.

Since my last report I have been working in different places as the way opened. New settlements have been formed here by people who have moved here from So. Dakota and other places. The poverty of these people

is very great. I am sure most of the readers have no idea how they live, and would not feel content to live that way. The winter so far has been very favorable for them, not being very cold and stormy. They have no feed for their cattle and horses. Some horses have already died from want of proper food. I hope these things will help them to realize more and more what life is for, that they may take hold of the Gospel and be saved. Some are standing in the valley of decision. Others are kept back by the tracts of D. M. Canwright, which have been translated into the German language by the German Baptists, and scattered very thickly among the Germans here. As they cannot do anything against the truth but for the truth, I am looking for victories, although some things look dark at present.

The week of prayer has been one of much blessing to the church here. It will either bring us nearer to Christ, or harden us against the pleading of his Spirit. The Lord also reclaimed two backsliders, the man is some seventy years old.

I am now busy distributing some clothes among the needy, which were sent me from the Minneapolis Soc., for which I am very thankful. I wish some of our people could see what I see, and I am sure they would do more for the needy, than they have done so far. I visited one family of five children, where the children are sent to bed when the mother washes the clothes, and they are only such as we would wear in hot summer weather, only inferior in quality. Another family I saw, where the baby had only a calico "slip" to keep her warm in midwinter. To those who have helped here, the Lord will say some day, "I was naked and ye clothed me."

May the good Lord help us all to give assistance to those who need our help, not only in temporal, but spiritual things, that it may be said unto us, "Well done!" I am of good courage in the Lord, and ask you to pray for me. C. J. KUNKEL.

Since my last report I visited the Hampton church. Was there during the week of prayer. This was a precious season for us all. Eleven preaching services and twelve other meetings were held—parents meetings meetings pertaining to the church and work. A few that would not walk with the church were disfellowshipped. The church officers were elected; Elder L. H. Ellis being chosen elder.

I was at Livana and held nine preaching services, visiting some families. A school teacher and his wife were deeply interested, I labored for them and hope they will have grace to walk in the light. I next visited Danville, one family is keeping the sabbath at this place. They were formerly Dunkards and still hold to true immersion. I labored to help them and believe they will unite with us.

I held three preaching services at this place. At brother Rittehouse' place near Sterling I spent a few days and held six meetings with the blessing of the Lord. I next met with the church at Sanborn, holding several meetings. Church officers were elected and also a librarian. Death has taken one of their number—Lillian Hazeltine who was the clerk. This little society has been blessed in its missionary work, a few have

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taken a stand for the truth and others are interested. It should be so in every place. If we consecrate ourselves to God, live consistent lives, and labor in a consistent way we shall see fruits from our labor, for our work for the Lord is not in vain. In all this work I have had the help of the Lord, and go forward trusting in Him.

ANDREW MEAD.

THE MISSIONARY WORK.

Report of Labor of Minnesota Tract Society, for Quarter Ending Dec. 31, 1894.

No. of societies reporting.....	56
Letters written.....	1050
Letters received.....	525
Bible readings held.....	427
Subscriptions for periodicals.....	162
Periodicals distributed.....	14127
Pages books and tracts distributed.....	118002
No. of new societies organized.....	4

We are truly thankful for the promptness with which the reports for the last quarter were sent in, and also for the excellent letters which accompanied them.

These letters are full of encouragement, and breathe a spirit of devotion to the work, which is surely inspired of God. There is a steadily growing interest in the weekly meetings, and several societies where such meetings have not been held in the past, have lately entered into this part of the work with good results.

While not as much reading matter has been distributed as at some other times, there seems to be a steadily deepening conviction that the work must be more carefully and prayerfully done.

There is evidently a realizing sense that heart work is what is needed, and some precious experiences are being gained by those who have accepted as their motto, "Not how much, but how well."

We note with deepest thankfulness this evidence that the Lord has blessed the efforts which have been made in our conference to bring the work up to a higher standard.

May the Lord inspire every heart with courage that never falters, and with faith which looks beyond all trial and perplexity and endures "as seeing Him who is invisible."

A. E. E.

A Letter.

TO MY DEAR FELLOW LIBRARIANS:—

I have been thinking for some time of sending you a letter through the WORKER. I noticed a report from a brother in a late number of the WORKER stating that the Dec number of the "Home Missionary" gave a showing of only five and four tenths cents per member for the quarter ending Sept. 30, 1894, for First Day Offerings. Now what I wanted to tell you is this: I have heard several of our brethren say that the librarians are in a measure at fault in this matter, and if they would bring up the matter of First Day Offerings in the missionary meetings oftener, and show the brethren and sisters what a great work we have to

do yet in giving the message. "To every nation and kindred and tongue and people," that there would be ten times the amount given that there is at the present time. Now, dear librarians, we know of course, whether this is so or not, but let us never let any one have occasion to talk in this way. Let us learn a lesson from the importunate widow. Just press this work till every man, woman and child belonging to the churches in Minn. will "rise and give" as much as is needed to extend the work of the message.

Of course you don't have any preachers in your society, or they would attend to this matter better. But if you should happen to have one who acts as chairman in your missionary meetings (and takes up most of the time) ask him very modestly, once in a while if you can have five or ten minutes, as you have a very important matter to bring before the society.

I have been looking over the reports of First Day Offerings of late, and it is truly surprising to see the small amount that has been given. There is no privilege that I esteem more highly than this, to know that in this way I can be a co worker with God in the salvation of souls.

Dear librarians, let us take a broad view of this work and present it as such in our weekly meetings. May the dear Lord strengthen and help us in this great work.

MRS. MARIA MEAD, Librarian.

The Canvassers.

The Lord continues to bless those at work in this branch of the work.

H. E. Nash canvassing in St. Cloud, took 77 orders for Glorious Appearing and delivered 52 of them in 8½ days. He is of good courage. A. M. Tatton is canvassing now in Fargo.

S. H. Wang is attending school in Minneapolis in the forenoon and canvassing afternoons for our small works. Last week in four afternoons he took 20 orders for Glorious Appearing, and 1 for Bible Readings. He enjoys the work very much.

The evening of Jan. 26, some fifteen canvassers who are attending school at Minneapolis, met and had an experience meeting. The Lord came preciously near and blessed by His spirit, and it was truly encouraging to hear in how many different ways the Lord has blessed the canvassers the past season. All present were much encouraged and felt to press forward in the work. I believe there are many now doing but little to spread the glorious truth for these times, who if they could only realize the blessing in store, would consecrate themselves to God and join the army of canvassers. God's cause is onward, brethren, victory is just ahead.

I arrived at Battle Creek Jan. 30, and have just seen Bro. F. L. Mead. The canvassers' convention commences to-morrow. I expect it will be a profitable time.

C. M. EVEREST.

"Whatever you are called to do by the grace of God, you may be enabled to do by the power of God."