

THE CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE

Vol. 36

December, 1949

No. 12

Keep the Message on the Air!

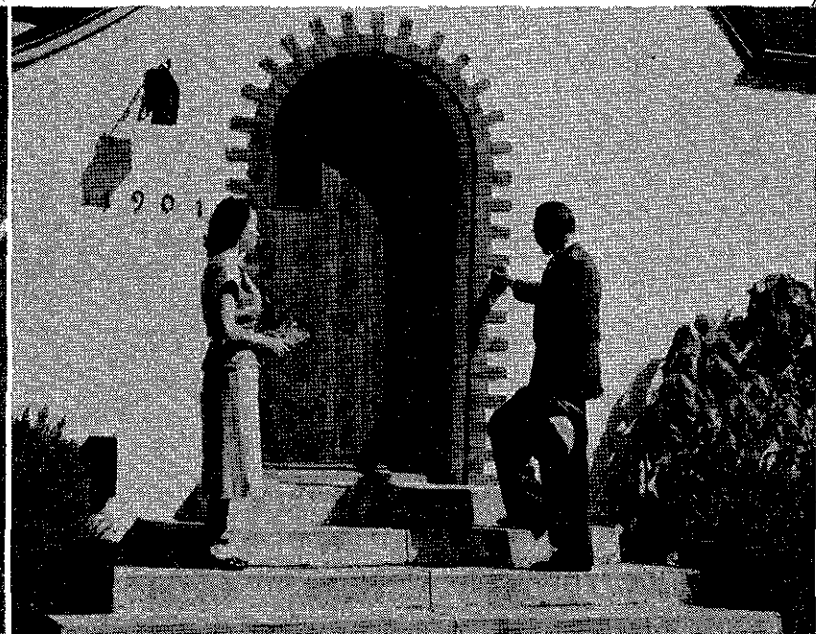
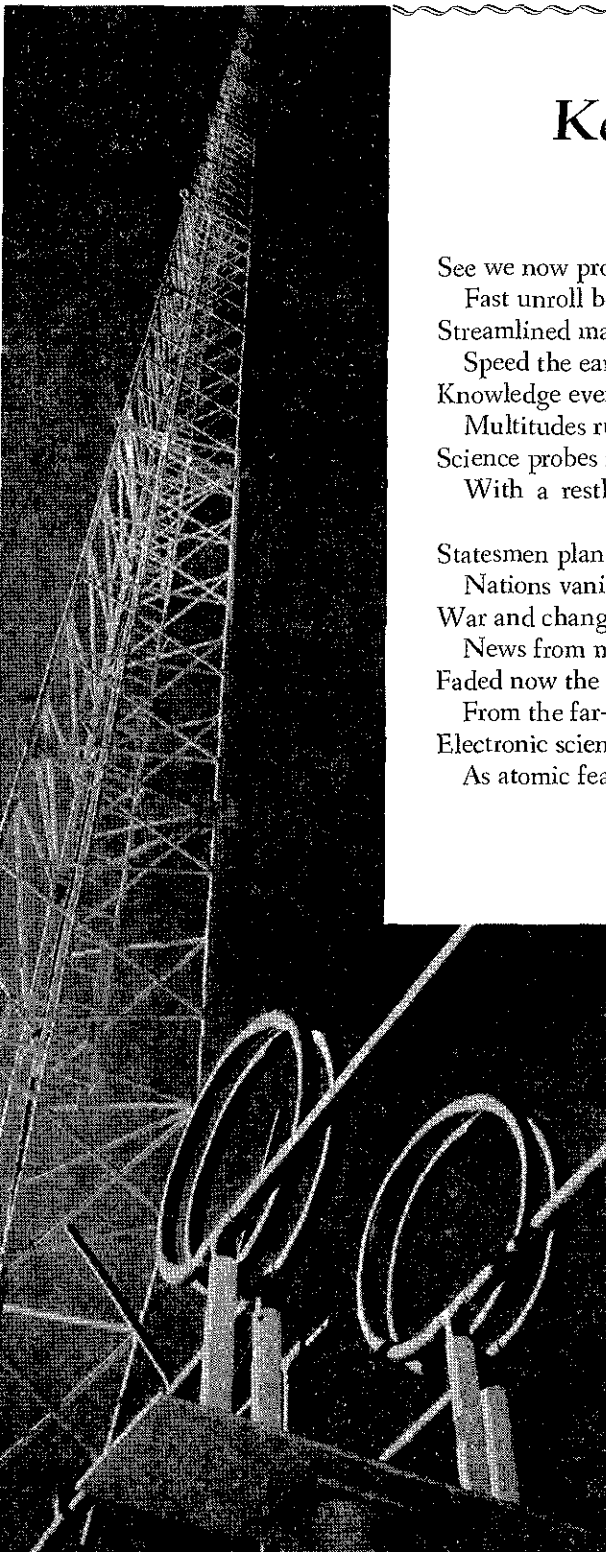
By H. M. S. Richards

See we now prophetic wonders
Fast unroll before our eyes.
Streamlined marvels skim the oceans,
Speed the earth, and race the skies.
Knowledge everywhere increases—
Multitudes run to and fro;
Science probes from sun to atom,
With a restless urge to KNOW.

Statesmen plan and plead and tremble—
Nations vanish in a day!
War and change and crime and rumor,
News from near and far away.
Faded now the dream of progress
From the far-gone days of peace—
Electronic science hastens
As atomic fears increase.

Men now whisper o'er the mountains,
Sing and laugh across the seas;
Speak like thunder to the millions
From the far Antipodes.
Microphones and tubes and fuses—
Radio's slim fingers touch
Into life and power and passion,
And the wise will use it much.

Use it much, because the business
Of our King requireth haste!
Onward with the speed of lightning
Not an hour have we to waste!
Tongues of flame on waves of ether
Send the gospel everywhere.
Cometh soon the joy and triumph—
KEEP THE MESSAGE ON THE AIR!



Editorial

Facing the World's Crisis

The present world situation is without precedent in the history of the human race. Men are groping about in a fog of uncertainty, stunned as they see the international situation deteriorating rapidly and nations everywhere planning for and expecting another world war. After two world cataclysms with the terrible memories of the tramp of marching men on their way to distant shores where millions laid down their lives for a cause that has utterly failed to bring the expected peace, still men plan greater armies, more deadly weapons, and more destructive bombs in their silent determination to win world power and dominion for their political cult or way of life.

As a result, there is hanging over the world today a pall of smoke, obscuring the light of hope, and arousing a fear in the hearts of men that the very structure of our civilization is tottering and doomed should war come again. Nobody among the statesmen knows what will be the outcome. The peoples of the world are gripped with an intense fear as they contemplate the unthinkable results of a world war with atom bombs and super flying fortresses that can carry death and untold destruction to every corner of the globe. There can be no neutrality or safe areas in the next world war.

If the present international situation cannot somehow be changed and the nations get together with a desire for, and a determination to obtain, a lasting peace, then there can be but one result: there will again be heard the call to arms; men will again march forth to engage in the most destructive war of all time; great cities will be laid in the dust by single bombs with such power to devastate as men have never dreamed of. Hiroshima will be but a shadow of the mass destructive power of bombs now held in reserve for the coming conflict.

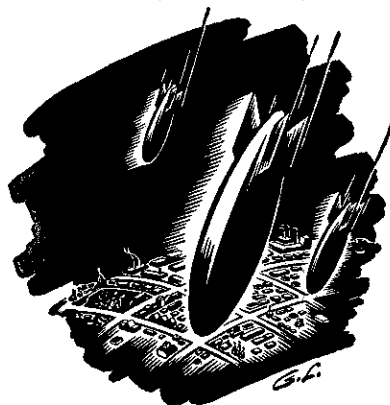
Can civilization survive another world war? Will our liberties be preserved or possibly lost in an all-out conflict between world-contending forces that are now drawing up their lines and sparring for power in every corner of the globe? Thinking men everywhere realize that the civilization and the freedom we have known cannot and will not survive another world cataclysm. It will not be alone a war between nations. It will be a world conflict between ideologies in which the proponents on the

one side expect and are planning for a world revolution into which every nation will be thrust by sinister forces within as soon as open hostilities break out. Even the democratic free nations of earth will thus be thrown into internal turmoil and economic chaos by these enemies within their borders which even now are allied with the opponents of freedom and democracy.

As we contemplate the present world situation, we ask, What can its meaning be to Seventh-day Adventists? Surely these days of uncertainty and universal fear carry a message pregnant with meaning to God's people as we see all around us the fast-filling signs of the times that declare with trumpet tones that the coming of the Lord is near.

We can rest assured that the Lord, from the distant past, has seen our time and given repeated warnings through the prophets of these days. Through these messages He is calling His people to "blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand." Joel 2:1.

These days and present world conditions have been described accurately in both the Bible and the Spirit of prophecy. We are not in darkness concerning these times. Neither should the spirit of fear possess us. But rather we should have a spirit of confidence and consecration, searching our hearts diligently that we may face the time of trouble ahead with pure hearts and clean hands. Putting our trust in the Lord we should move forward to accomplish this assigned task of warning the world that "the great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly," and only those who heed the counsel to "seek ye the Lord, . . . seek righteousness, seek meekness, . . . shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger." Zephaniah 1:14; 2:3.



Training of Local Church Leaders

GEORGE E. VANDEMAN

It will be a great source of satisfaction to our church officers and laymen to know that the Bible teachers and administrators in each of our junior and senior colleges are attempting in every practical way to develop well-trained and informed church officers in the young men and the young women who are privileged to attend these institutions. Every young person, as well as older believer, is called to Christian service. A few of these give evidence that the Lord is setting them aside to give their full time and talents to the gospel ministry, whether it be in preaching, teaching, colporteur work, the medical ministry, or in some other phase of the organized activity. This does not indicate, however, that there is not a large place for service in the church for the many men and women who are privileged to attend our schools. We believe that these institutions should be training centers to build the principles of true Christian experience and strong mental worth into the lives of prospective church officers.

Our increasing membership and ever-expanding work brings equally increasing demands upon the leadership of the local church. We believe that such responsibility demands study and preparation to meet the many complex problems that arise when a group of people fellowship together in a church organization. In the colleges then are pastoral training classes, Bible survey classes, and Bible doctrines classes in which the principles of church organization are instilled in the lives of our young people. Speech and English classes tend to develop a well-rounded public personality, the arts of public address, and the ability to lead men and women, as well as the many general background courses which give valuable support for whatever lifework a man may choose.

The *Church Manual* is carefully studied in advanced ministerial training classes, and problems of church procedure and church discipline are discussed so as to give the student a practical background in meeting these problems.

On the Sabbath day plans are laid to utilize the young people in practical church help. The Sabbath school and young people's society in the college organization are usually manned by the young people in school, but in addition to the home base Sabbath school, plans are laid for active participation in the church work of many near-by churches. I am thinking of one particular college where twenty-eight churches are served either weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly, as the local church desires. In this

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Church Officers' Round Table

Private Institutions Can Contribute to the Cause*

BY F. D. NICHOL

As I look at you folk this morning I am reminded of an incident in the life of Joseph Bates. During the great advent awakening, he and a companion were traveling on the eastern shore of Maryland. A man came rushing up all out of breath and accosted them with this question: "Are you the Millerite preachers?" When they answered, "Yes," he pantingly blurted out, "You look just like other people." He had expected to see some strange, weird-looking creatures, because so many wild stories had been told about these Millerites.

This is the first time I have ever had a look at the whole group of those who are leading out in self-supporting institutions, and I must say you look just like the rest of us.

I like to think that everyone who names the name of Seventh-day Adventist, and who loves his God in sincerity, can make a contribution to the cause of God. And the more definitely our endeavors are organized, whether as individuals or as groups, the more real that service can be. I remember something that I read one time about the Roman Catholic Church. It said that part of the sagacity and astuteness of the Roman Catholic Church, part of the reason for its power, expansion, and vitality, is found in the fact that it always has room somewhere within the broad circle of its organization for everybody, no matter how diverse the ideas, personalities, or conceptions of how to advance the cause of the Church. There are endless orders within the Catholic Church, some of them having very few members, and some of them having a great many members. Somehow it is large enough and supple enough to incorporate all of them and all of their diverse energies, provided always they give their allegiance to the head of the Church who lives in Rome.

Now we can think of this advent movement in a similar way. To the degree that it is able to find a place within the movement for all those who loyally seek, in one way or another, to advance the cause, to that extent the movement will be strong

and will grow and never lack for vitality.

I have often thought that one of the reasons why God made the universe very large is to give a lot of elbow room for great individualists. I have never believed that the Lord intended us all to be cut on one pattern. I think it would be bad, very bad. I am glad that the United States is large and that there is room here for all of us. There are only about 223,000 Adventists in these vast United States. God help us if we think we have compassed everything and that there is no more room for people to expand and to spread out on every side.

You are on your own. I think it is a fine thing to be so at times. I have been within the organization all my life, and, God willing, I hope to dedicate the remaining years of my life to working within that very definite circle. But I say there is a place for people to be on their own, in the proper sense of that word. And yet there is always that balance to be maintained between being on one's own and being independent. And the finding of that beautiful balance, it seems to me, is one of the prime reasons for the coming together of such a group as this. As I see it, the creation of an association is the crystallizing of a consciousness on the part of a group of individualists—I use the term in the healthy, right sense of the word—that there is something to be gained by co-ordinated endeavor, by a thinking together, a working together, a tying in of effort with what we generally describe as the organized work. If we can have a unity in diversity, then I think we

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The Challenge and the Answer

[In this column each month we will present valuable quotations or interesting facts that our pastors, church elders, and lay workers will find useful in their sermons or talks. Clip them out for your notebook.]

Why Gamble?

Why gamble in a cheap way when you can gamble in noble souls? Race-track stuff is childish and petty; the world waits for men who still will hazard their lives, day by day or in early death, for the sake of Christ. You have seen the colored squares on the counter of a game of chance in a county fair. The world is your counter. Your soul is the coin. What shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Now, on what color—Pilate or Jesus? You say that you have tried it and have learned that the Christian life does not pay off? It depends on what is meant by "pay off." You will have zest that no other venture can give you: that is rather better than some money-itch. The log of Columbus read, night after night: "And this day we sailed on." . . . "And this day we sailed on." . . . "And this day we sailed on." There was still no sight of land. But you live in America. The man who sails by faith in Christ will reach his celestial country. Or will he? You can prove it only in the venture. High religion is "betting your life" there's a Christlike God.—George Arthur Buttrick in *Current Religious Thought*, April, 1949.

Religious Publications Banned in Czechoslovakia

Bratislava, Czechoslovakia—Strict control over the publication of religious and theological works is being exercised by the communist-dominated government of Czechoslovakia. It is rumored here that soon only books related to the order of worship for church services will be allowed to be published. Even catechisms and Sunday-school materials will be forbidden.

A committee, one member of which must be from the security police, has been established to pass upon all works intended for publication by Church publishing houses. This committee is also re-examining books previously published, and those considered "undesirable" are being destroyed.

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*Talk at the annual meeting of the Association of Self-Supporting Institutions, Takoma Park, D. C.

Prayer Meeting Helps

[In this column, from month to month, we will present studies that will form suggestions for prayer-meeting talks.]

The Christian and His Bible

BY LOUISE C. KLEUSER

"The Bible is our rule of faith and doctrine. There is nothing more calculated to energize the mind and strengthen the intellect than the study of the Word of God. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts or give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's Word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose that are rarely seen in these times." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 249.

THE BIBLE IN THE DAILY LIFE. *Education*, pp. 124, 125; *Great Controversy*, pp. 593, 594.

1. Kept through His Word. Psalm 119: 9-11; *Education*, p. 190.
2. Plan of the ages revealed in Bible. Isaiah 46:9, 10.
3. Learning life of surrender from Bible. Romans 12:9-21; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 460.
4. Word must convert daily. Psalm 119: 30, 32; *Education*, p. 172.
5. Its promises our comfort. 2 Peter 1:4; 1 Peter 4:12-14; *Education*, p. 126.
6. How to study God's Word:
 - a. Study daily. Acts 17:11.
 - b. Prayer and Bible study. Psalm 119: 18; *Desire of Ages*, p. 390.
 - c. Search diligently. Isaiah 34:16; *Testimonies*, Vol. 8, p. 157.
 - d. Witness for Bible truth. Acts 5:32, 42; Isaiah 43:10; *Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 706.

PERFECTION AND REWARD.

1. Bible purifies the life. Psalm 119:9.
2. God's truth sanctifies. John 17:17.
3. Challenges obedience to the Word. 1 Peter 1:22.
4. Living its precepts brings reward. Psalm 19:11; Joshua 1:8.

Building Faith for Overcoming

BY LOUISE C. KLEUSER

POWER TO OVERCOME PROVIDED. *Steps to Christ*, p. 21, pocket edition.

1. "I can . . . through Christ." Philippians 4:13.

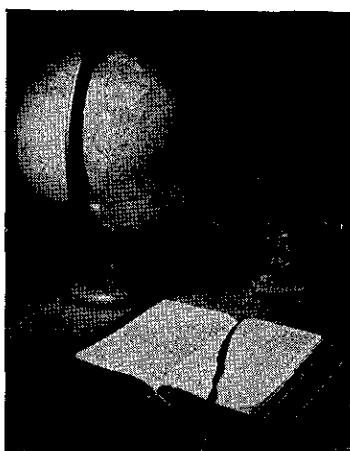
2. I cannot overcome without Christ. John 15:5.
3. "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." Matthew 28:18.
4. No temptation is too great. 1 Corinthians 10:13.

STEPS TOWARD VICTORY. *Steps to Christ*, pp. 49-51.

1. Claim victory by faith. 1 John 5:4.
2. Pray earnestly for help and confess sin. John 16:23; James 5:16.
3. Flee from evil habit. 1 Corinthians 10:14.
4. Plant a good habit for every evil one. Romans 12:21.
5. Fix eyes on Jesus. Hebrews 12:1, 2.
6. Resist "unto blood." Hebrews 12:4.
7. Cause devil to flee. James 4:7, 8.
8. "Whom resist stedfast in the faith." 1 Peter 5:9.

GOD'S SPECIAL HELP FOR OVERCOMING.

1. The conscience will be quickened. *Steps to Christ*, p. 24.
2. Get a vision of Calvary. *Steps to Christ*, p. 31.
3. "He will . . . work in you." *Steps to Christ*, pp. 47, 48.
4. "God supplies the fact." *Steps to Christ*, p. 51.
5. Ministering angels are present. *Steps to Christ*, p. 53.
6. His tender pleading entreats the sinner. *Steps to Christ*, p. 54.
7. His power is granted. *Steps to Christ*, p. 93.
8. He draws near with mercy and forgiveness. *Steps to Christ*, p. 55.
9. Satan cannot overcome us. *Steps to Christ*, p. 99.



Mother Put It Off

"Mother," began dad, straightening up from tying his shoestrings, "don't you think we ought to invite our new neighbors downstairs to go to church with us?"

Mother gathered up her comb and pins, and shrank within herself.

"We hardly know them," she protested in a small voice. "Can't we wait and ask them some other time?"

So dad dropped the subject, and went to the hall closet for his top coat.

"Ready?" he called to the two children, dressing in their rooms. "I'll go down and get the car out."

He passed Mrs. Lane in the lower hall, tipped his hat, and smiled politely.

Every week he patiently suggested that they include the Lanes as they went to church, until finally mother was ashamed and gave her consent.

"We'd like to have you go to church with us," she invited, right after breakfast.

"I'm sorry," returned Mrs. Lane. "I have been waiting for you to ask me ever since you moved upstairs, but now you see it is impossible." She stepped back and gestured toward the packing boxes set against the wall. "We are getting ready to move away, so it is too late."

—EDNA ATKIN PEPPER.



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ARE YOU MOVING?

You should notify us in advance of any change of address, as the post office will not forward your papers to you even if you leave a forwarding address. Your compliance in this matter will save delay and expense.



Young People's Department

OF MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS



NOTES TO OFFICERS

What's Coming in January?

SENIOR TOPICS

Build Your Society.
The Scriptures a Safeguard.
Is There Oil in Your Lamp?
Twentieth Century Reverence.

JUNIOR TOPICS

1950 Take-off.
Let's Tune In.
Oil in Your Lamp.
Walk Softly.

1949 M.V. Officers— Prepare for New Year

Take inventory.
Seek to complete all unfinished business and projects.

Give your successor all information regarding any unfinished work.

Complete records and reports.

File records and reports to the society, send to the conference M.V. secretary those which belong to him, and give to any other person those which belong to him.

Prepare the society for the new year.

Assure the incoming officers of your hearty co-operation—and then co-operate!

Give of your inspiration and experience through the regular membership duties in the society, in missionary bands, and other avenues of service.

Read again the Bible story of Elijah and Elisha.

With God at Dawn

With God at Dawn is the theme of the new 1950 MORNING WATCH booklet and the accompanying book of quotations from the Spirit of prophecy prepared by Mrs. E. W. Dunbar. We feel that the daily morning meditations which have been chosen for this year will be especially helpful. Have you laid plans—

To give the MORNING WATCH booklet to your society members?

To distribute it by Sunshine Bands?

To distribute it by Prayer and Personal Workers' Bands? And SYF Bands?

To supply hospital and waiting rooms?

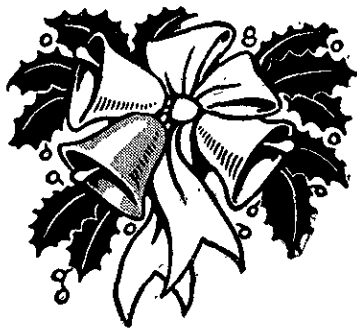
To place it in hotels beside the Gideon Bible?

To suggest its use to Sunday-school superintendents for their members?

To mention it to leaders of other youth organizations?

To urge your members to use it as a holiday greeting card?

The commentary, *With God at Dawn*, will also prove an excellent holiday gift suggestion, as well as a "must" for your own personal devotion enrichment.



Your Holiday Gift List

This year we suggest that you urge your M.V. Society members to give Missionary Volunteer gifts this holiday season. Why not remember that brother, sister, cousin, friend with one of the following M.V. Reading Course books—or even with a whole course?

SENIOR COURSE:

Sky Pilot of the North, by Fern Royer Owens.

Ann of Ava, by Ethel Daniels Hubbard.

Through My Binoculars, by O. C. Durham.

Christ's Last Legion, by Arthur W. Spalding.

Days of Destiny, by J. A. McMillan.

JUNIOR COURSE:

Tommy Goes to Africa, by Oliver and Fredonia Jacques.

The Mountain Buck, by Mabel E. Cason.

The Mighty Prince, Bible Pageant Series, by M. L. Neff.

Really Truly Stories, Book IV, by Gwendolen Hayden.

PRIMARY COURSE:

Raja, by Elsie Lewis Rawson.

Tarnish, by Osa Johnson.

Gay, The Shetland Sheepdog, by Margaret S. Johnson.

The Children's Hour, Book V, by Arthur S. Maxwell.



AS YOU GO ON YOUR WAY

Your life must touch a million lives in some way ere you go

From this old world of struggle to the lands you do not know.

So this the wish we'll always wish, the prayer we'll always pray:

Let your life help the other lives it touches by the way.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN.

Leadership Hints

PRAYING LEADERS

For a Missionary Volunteer leader to have the strength of purpose and the tone of leadership in his life which will win souls and influence young men and young women heavenward, it is necessary that he find his strength where Jesus did. He should be able to go apart from the multitude and come back refreshed after having drunk deeply at the fountain of spiritual strength. It is necessary, too, that the wise Missionary Volunteer leader plan special seasons of prayer for the officers of the society. Following are a few hints for a successful officers' prayer band:

1. Meetings should be held regularly and not too far apart.

2. Choose a place where there will be no disrupting elements from outside. Quietness is necessary when we unite to seek an audience with our heavenly Father.

3. Avoid formalism. Prayer bands always present this difficulty.

4. Remember that the minutes fly and the prayer-band time is brief.

5. Know what you are going to say and say it; then stop. Don't preach.

6. Give the members of the band, your fellow officers, an opportunity to present their problems and burdens.

7. Encourage everyone to take part in prayer and in the discussion.

8. Encourage each to make a prayer list of his own, not too long, and to work for, and pray with, the individuals.

9. Get all to pledge themselves under God to get in touch with the unconverted young people and to win them for Christ.

10. The aim should be to make possible in the heart of every officer an intense passion and an earnest zeal for the winning of souls.

Where the Old Man Used to Kneel

I heard a story of two young men who were very wicked; yet their father was an earnest, consecrated Christian. He held family prayers every night, kneeling down by a little table that stood in a corner by the hearthstone; but the two young men did not care to bow with their father at that little old table. Finally the father died. He had prayed for his sons many times, and sometimes with tears in his eyes he had talked with them about their Saviour, but they did not care to hear him.

Time went on, and in afteryears they decided, as they had gained in property, to remove the old house and build a larger one. They were both carpenters; so they undertook the job themselves. They took off the roof and the sides of the house. Then they began taking up the floor, plank by plank. When they got near the old hearthstone, one of them

stopped and looked at his brother. "Here's where father used to kneel and pray; there's where the little table stood, and the Bible was always on it," he said.

"Yes," his brother responded; "it seems to me that I can see the print of father's knees on that old plank now!"

"I can't take up that plank; you take it up."

"No, I can't; I wish you would."

They looked into each other's eyes. The voice of their father seemed to speak to them, and the Spirit of God vitalized the voice, and right there where the old man had prayed a thousand times, the boys prayed that day, and asked the old, old question, "What must I do to be saved?" And the Spirit of God came down and revealed Jesus to their hearts; and before that plank was ever taken up, they gave their hearts to God.—*Selected.*

—SYF—

WHILE TRAVELING:

While you are traveling on pleasure or for business, carry tracts with you. Leave them in your hotel room or tourist camp. The next traveler following you may be attracted to our colorful tracts and may become deeply interested in Bible truth.

LOANING BOOKS:

To safeguard the gospel seed that may become lost in infertile places, such as dusty shelves and dark corners, and not returned to you or passed on to others, some societies are furnishing printed gummed labels to be used in Crisis books before they are loaned to friends or neighbors. The following is imprinted on these gummed labels:

The purpose of lending this book is to stimulate a greater interest in the study of the Bible, to arouse a keener desire to know the will of God as revealed in His Word, and to encourage the reader to prepare for the soon coming of Jesus. When you have finished reading it, please return to:

Name.....

Address.....

This simple device impresses the readers with the necessity of finishing the book within a few weeks, and also encourages the return of the book.

STORY HOUR:

In the Middle West, fifty gospel teams, intent on statting a children's story hour, recently visited the homes in a certain neighborhood. This survey, using appealing literature, resulted in the establishment of the Story Hour with one hundred boys and girls eager to attend the first Sunday afternoon feature.

A guide, as he was conducting his party under Niagara Falls, explained, "We've never lost a man, but we'd have lost many if we had not followed the custom of joining hands."

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Senior Meetings

December 3

WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE AN S.D.A.

BY GEORGE E. VANDEMAN

ORDER OF SERVICE

DEVOTIONS AND FEATURES

SONG: "For the Beauty of the Earth," No.

22 in *Church Hymnal.*

SCRIPTURE: Revelation 12.

PRAYER.

SYF REPORTS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

OFFERTORY.

DISCUSSION

What It Takes to Make an S.D.A.

INTRODUCTION, by leader.

SYMPOSIUM: "The Commandments of God."

TALK: "The Spirit of Prophecy."

CONCLUSION.

CLOSING

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE SYF PLANS.

SONG: "My Maker and My King," No. 71.

BENEDICTION.

Introduction

In last month's Share-Your-Faith program we discussed how to lead a friend to Christ. Just imagine how miserable an individual would be with only an understanding of our doctrines and without a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. If he does not have within him the confidence to know that his sins are forgiven and that Jesus loves him beyond all telling, how much good will the doctrines do him? There is a saving power in the truth we love, but we all recognize that outward form will not stand the test of the judgment. From the bottom of the heart a man should first of all say this:

"I felt His love,
The strongest love that mortal
ever felt.
Oh, how it drew my soul above
And made my hard heart melt.
My burden at His feet I laid,
And knew the joy of heaven,
As in my willing ear He said
That blessed word, 'Forgiven.'"

Is there anything more wonderful in all the world than the comfort and satisfaction of knowing that your sins are forgiven and that Christ is an ever-present friend? After this stage is reached you can safely proceed in leading a soul to Christ and into the church.

What It Takes to Make an S.D.A.

Why do we call ourselves Seventh-day Adventists? Why not Christian, Church of God, Presbyterian, or Methodist? All these are great names, and behind them has been

a glorious history. In spite of the fact that today in the popular churches we find a letting down of the standards and a compromise with the world, no one should be ashamed of the title "Methodist." God blessed in a mighty revival under that name during its early days. The Wesleys were so methodical in their devotion and missionary work that they were derisively called "Methodists."

In spite of the fact that many good people call themselves "Christians," or "Church of God," we believe these to be the family names for all God's children. Our loyal pioneers wisely thought that we ought to choose a name that was significant of the great doctrines we hold.

We sometimes feel like the little boy who, when asked what denomination he belonged to, said, "I don't want to be boastful, sir, but I am a Seventh-day Adventist." Mingled feelings of pride and true humility surge through our hearts when we think of the message we bear, and every true possessor of it ought to know how to share that message intelligently. To be a Seventh-day Adventist is to be different from the majority of people, and these days one needs to have a mighty good reason for being different. Every young person is called to share his faith in the simple, ordinary ways that meet all of us daily. However, this week we want to discover how rewarding it is and what a thrill we receive when we do the complete job of introducing friends to the full message.

There is one Bible verse which contains a wealth of meaning, and without which we would have no reason to exist as a people. Revelation 12 describes the true church from John's day down to ours, and in the last verse he gives us a blueprint of what the true church will be like in the last days. Since we are all convinced that we are living in the last days, we ought then to be able to discover these earmarks among our people or else be forced to the conclusion that this is not the true church. (*Read Revelation 12:17.*)

On the surface this verse appears difficult to understand, but when we remember that Revelation is a symbolic book, we discover five symbols in this verse which need to be interpreted. The *dragon*, the *woman*, the *remnant*, the *commandments of God*, and the *testimony of Jesus*. Breaking it down simply, we find the verse reading: And *Satan* (dragon, Revelation 12:9) was *angry* (wroth) with the *church* (woman,

Jeremiah 6:2; Isaiah 51:16) and went to make war with the *last end* (remnant) of her seed which keep the *commandments of God* and have the *Spirit of prophecy* (testimony of Jesus, Revelation 19:10).

It is not difficult to understand the Bible when we follow the Scripture plan of unlocking the meaning of these various terms. God clothed His message in symbols to protect the truth during the Dark Ages when the enemies of God would have destroyed it. But how clear, how simple, how easily understood it is when we follow the above plan which God Himself has given! (Read Isaiah 28:10-13.) In just so many words God says that in the last days Satan is going to be angry with the people of God for two reasons: (1) They are keeping all the commandments of God; (2) they have something special—the gift of prophecy. It takes these two earmarks to make a Seventh-day Adventist.

The Commandments of God

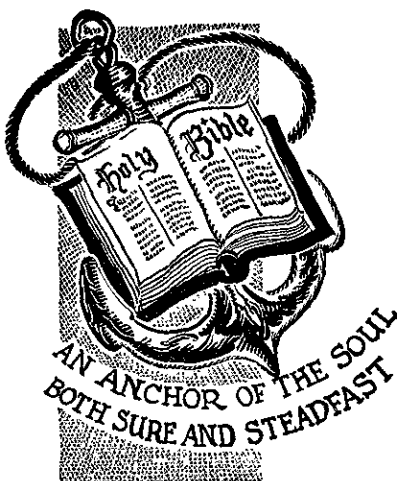
There are six commandments that are generally disregarded by popular Christians today, and it is God's plan that we help people to discover what they are and to obey them in His strength. Notice as we discuss them one by one that *God never takes anything away from us that is good for us.*

In these six commandments we find described a way of life which alone can bring true happiness. Of course, here we get into trouble if the individual with whom we are working has not been truly converted, as discussed in last month's program. But when the heart has been made new again, it is anxious to fit into God's plan. Here are the six disregarded commandments in flashlight pictures:

THE TRUE SABBATH

There are two hundred ninety-seven words in the Ten Commandments. Divide it right in half and you will find that the very middle word is the word "is"—"The seventh day *is* the Sabbath." God knew that we would forget, so as kindly and tactfully as He knew how, He placed a little sign at the beginning of the commandment which guards the sacredness of the day. Many times we have seen the word "Please" neatly placed on a beautiful lawn. The owner need not say more. How much more complimentary and effective is such a sign than a brisk "Keep Off." Just so, God placed at the beginning of the fourth commandment the kindly word "Remember."

Taking just three simple Bible texts, for instance, one has sufficient proof, at least to open up the subject, which would convince any honest heart that is seeking after truth.



"I was in the Spirit on the *Lord's day.*"
Revelation 1:10.

"The Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day." Matthew 12:8.

"The seventh day is the Sabbath." Exodus 20:10.

These three texts simply say that (1) God *has* a day, (2) that *day* is the Sabbath, and (3) the *seventh day* is the Sabbath. Although people have tried to get around these texts until they have worked up a sweat, we must remember that we are not interested in getting around any one of the Bible texts, for God has written them. Then when we discover that it was the Lord Jesus Christ who was the active agent in creation (Ephesians 3:9) when He gave us the Sabbath, we see that it can be nothing more or less than the Christian Sabbath, the true Lord's day.

Back in 1944, during the heart of the war years, we were riding an Eastern train and stepped into the dining car for a bite to eat. We did not have as much food in those days. The menu could be printed on one side of the sheet. But while we were waiting for the food to be served, we noticed on the back side of the menu folder a lovely engraving of the Stars and Stripes. Seventh-day Adventists everywhere are good citizens of the country in which they live, and as an American, my heart naturally stirred with enthusiasm for my country as I looked at the Stars and Stripes. Imagine my surprise when, engraved just beneath this picture of the waving flag, the following words, "Just a piece of cloth," caught my eye. Naturally, I was interested to read on, and this is what I read: "That is all it is—just a piece of cloth. You can count the threads in it, for it is no different from any other piece of cloth. But then a little breeze comes along and it stirs and comes to life and flutters and snaps in the wind, all red and white and blue. And then you realize that no other piece of cloth could be just like it. Yes, it is just a piece of cloth until we breathe life into it, until we make it stand

for everything we believe in, and refuse to live without it."

Fellow young people, the Sabbath is just an ordinary day, with twenty-four hours in it, and it is no different from any other day until it stirs and comes to life as the symbol of everything we believe in, and then refuse to live without it. Unfolded in the life of a Christian we immediately realize that no other day could be just like it. God said it was the *sign*, or *symbol* or *flag*, of our loyalty to God (sanctification, Ezekiel 20:12).

TITHING

Every Bible student fully recognizes that in Old Testament times the church was supported by tithe. God has blessed people who have been faithful in their tithing ever since the days of Adam and Eve. There is no reason why God's people today cannot receive some of the blessing as well. In 1 Corinthians 9:13, 14 we find that the Old Testament plan of tithing was transferred to the New. In fact, the only thing Jesus ever commended in the lives of the Pharisees was that they paid tithe. (Matthew 23:23.)

Imagine the confusion in our government if we should follow the plan of hit-or-miss free-will offerings to support it. Suppose the tax collectors would pass the hat and urge the people, on the basis of patriotism, to give liberally for the support of their country. Just how long would any country retain the respect of other countries? That country would be bankrupt within a week. Why then should we think that the church of God should be supported without a regular plan of systematic giving? God has commanded the tithe, and with that command He shares unlimited blessings. God gave the Sabbath to test us; He gave tithing so that we can test Him.

HEALTHFUL LIVING

Perhaps one of the most sensible features of our message is the instruction given for the care of our bodies. Did you know that more than five million people in North America are interested in healthful living to the extent of laying harmful things aside, and I am very sure that the majority of these are not following this plan solely through interest in the hereafter. Is it not common sense to have good health here and now? Any virile young person who wants to excel in the job to which he has set his hand, will be thrilled with the challenge that our message of healthful living presents. Do not share this beautiful phase of our message in a defensive, negative, defeatist manner. The more we study it, the more consistently we live it, the more sensible and sane it becomes. (1 Corinthians 10:31; 3:16, 17; 3 John 2.)

APPROPRIATE APPAREL

Living as we are in a world of rebellion against God and increasing sin and utter abandon in the ways of self-indulgence and vanity and pride, some of the requirements of God may at first appear rather peculiar. Carefully studying the Bible references regarding this phase of our message, and understanding fully the origin of many of the practices of today, any clear-minded young person can see where we are headed and the influence of certain trends which eventually will cause a black-out in his experience.

When we cite such verses as 1 Peter 3:1-5, 1 Timothy 2:9, and Jeremiah 4:30, the thought immediately arises, But haven't times changed? Yes, times have changed, but these verses have not changed; human nature has not changed; and God has not changed. The Lord still recognizes that this one element of pride is the dangerous element that he wishes to remove before His return. No matter how much God loves us, He simply could not admit us into the kingdom with any trace of selfish pride, when He expelled one of the archangels for the same thing.

The armies of the nations, in a determined effort to bring about concerted action and self-forgetfulness in the masses, in an attempt to reach a desired goal, will put every man and woman in a conservative uniform. Although God does not require a uniform today, we are in the army of God, with very serious business to do. We are to be the happiest Christians alive, yet thoughtful care to keep our attire in harmony with our profession will shield many of us from dangers we little dream lurk in our pathway.

Again may I say, please do not share this phase of our message in a negative, defensive way. God desires His people to be clean, to be neat, to be appropriately yet modestly dressed.

PROPER RECREATION NEEDED

One of the most fascinating temptations which the enemy of souls has been able to exert is to light the lights and play the music so sensationally as to actually be a trap for Christians. God desires that every one of His children have a good time. There is an early church legend about the apostle John which says that one day while he was playfully handling a flock of doves and talking to them as he would to human friends, a hunter came by and protested that one so saintly as the apostle John should not be wasting his moments on such a useless pastime. John then asked the hunter why he carried his bow with loosened strings. "That it will retain its strength," the hunter replied.

"Ah, then," replied John, "if a stick of wood needs to unbend occasionally to retain its usefulness, why then do you think it strange that a servant of God should sometimes relax to keep fit for service?"

Yes, it is absolutely essential that our natures be well rounded and that the tensions be let down in wholesome recreative activity, but every one of our Missionary Volunteers recognizes full well the danger in store from unlimited and carelessly chosen amusements. There are problems to meet these days which demand much of the grace of God. Prayerfully think through the following scriptures and we feel sure that God will guide in the proper choice of outlets. When we see youth who are investigating the message lay aside their unsafe former activities, we need no further proof that God is still working miracles. (Isaiah 62:10-12; 1 John 2:14-17; 2 Corinthians 6:15-18; Philippians 4:8; 1 Peter 2:11.)

ORDINANCE OF HUMILITY

And last but not least of these six commandments commonly disobeyed is the ordinance concerning feet washing. Why is it necessary? we ask today. Simply this, it is a little baptism. It renews one's baptismal vows. Entering upon this service, made beautiful by the Spirit behind it, and recognizing that it refreshes those baptismal vows, surely no one would absent himself on that day. Soul winners find very little difficulty in men and women accepting this beautiful rite.

The Spirit of Prophecy

Program after program might be written concerning this special blessing to God's people. In leading men and women to a clear understanding of what it means to become a Seventh-day Adventist, this other phase of the twofold requirement in Revelation 12:17 should be made clear. God points out that the church waiting for the coming of the Lord is to possess this gift. The very fact that Jesus repeatedly warned us against false prophets in the last days is ample indication that there was to be a true prophet.

Have you ever seen a thirteen-dollar counterfeit bill? No? Why not? Simply because there are no thirteen-dollar genuine bills made. People do not take the trouble to counterfeit that which is not genuine. Just so, there could be no false prophets in the last days unless there was a true prophet. The life and works of Ellen G. White amply testify that God has chosen an instrument which will command the respect of any mind or any soul in whatever climate or continent.

Some months ago we were looking at the giant telescope on Mt. Wilson in California. As that great lens was focused upon the heavens, none of us had any idea that its penetrating power would bring any new stars into existence. We all knew, however, that it would reveal more clearly the ones that were already there. Just so, whereas the writings of the Spirit of prophecy bring no new doctrines into existence, they reveal more clearly the ones that are already there. We have found nothing more helpful in establishing men and women in this wonderful message than a clear Bible reason for believing in the gift of prophecy. And as the story of the gift has been unfolded, men eagerly grasp the significance of the help and counsel and inspiration this gift has been to the church.

Conclusion

Naturally there are other features aside from the commandments of God and the Spirit of prophecy. These are the core of truth, but men need to understand about their future in life and in death. They need to understand the obligations of church membership. The denomination has prepared interestingly written and strikingly illustrated Bible lessons covering each of these truths. Every young person will want to thoroughly acquaint himself with the reasons for his faith. Then there will be no embarrassment, but the satisfaction of knowing that you have had some part in establishing a friend in the faith that will bring true happiness here and an eternally happy home in the hereafter.

May God bless you in this business of sharing the most wonderful thing in the whole world—the last warning message to those who are in the darkness of error.

* * *

December 10 GOOD BOOKS FOR GOOD GIFTS

BY VILLA HOUGHTON

ORDER OF SERVICE

SONG SERVICE.

SOCIETY FEATURES.

SYF BAND REPORTS.

SCRIPTURE READING.

OPENING HYMN: "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow," No. 683 in *Church Hymnal*.

PRAYER.

DIALOGUE AND PORTRAYAL OF M.V. READING COURSE BOOKS: "Good Books for Good Gifts."

SPECIAL MUSIC: (called for within the dialogue).

OFFERTORY: (within the dialogue).

CLOSING HYMN: "Praise Him! Praise Him!" No. 645.

BENEDICTION.

Notes to Leaders



Since it is nearing the holiday season, and books are such worth-while gifts for our families and friends, it would be interesting to arrange the setting and decorate your platform for this

program in true holiday fashion. The program introduces the 1950 M.V. Reading Courses.

We would suggest that on the left side of the platform you set up an evergreen tree. Mrs. E. G. White says that an evergreen tree placed in the church is not a sin, for it may be made a great blessing. Beside the tree, or in front of it, place a table with chairs around it. Place boxes and cans of food and fruit on the table; and on the floor near by arrange some small empty baskets. Also on the table have the sets of new M.V. Reading Course books. The complete list of the 1950 M.V. Reading Course books is on page 5. You will want to obtain all of these for your M. V. Society library.

Mrs. E. G. White wrote: "While urging upon all the duty of first bringing their offerings to God, I would not wholly condemn the practice of making Christmas and New Year's gifts to our friends. It is right to bestow upon one another tokens of love and remembrance if we do not in this forget God, our best Friend. We should make our gifts such as will prove a real benefit to the receiver. I would recommend such books as will be an aid in understanding the Word of God, or that will increase our love for its precepts. Provide something to be read during these long winter evenings."—*Review and Herald*, December 26, 1882.



On the right side of the platform make a large imitation book, about the height of a door, with a cover that will open and close. If you can make several covers, similar to the original ones on the books, these can all be at-

tached on the large cover so that they can be taken off one at a time. This would be very good. However, if you cannot make these covers, one cover with the words, "M.V. Reading Course Books for 1950," would be sufficient.



The idea of the large cover that opens and closes is that when the family is filling boxes and baskets and including books in them, they will be talking about each book, and at that time

the large imitation book will open and some of the characters will walk out on the platform and tell interesting scenes or experiences from the book. Then the characters will go back into the book again. If your society is not large enough so that several people can take part in producing portions of each book, one person could represent each book and step out between the cover and the body of the book and tell an interesting event in that book to stimulate interest in it.

The family in our dialogue would consist of Mother, Daddy, Gary (a boy about twelve), and Barbara (a girl about eight). The characters used in telling about the books would depend upon what sections

of the books you use. We have written a sample dialogue that could be used. At the time the books are being introduced or the story portrayed, the family should all sit perfectly still as though this is what they are thinking and reading in the book.



Be sure to hand out the M.V. Reading Course books to those who are going to participate in telling the stories far enough ahead of time so that they will be able to pick out the interesting scenes they would like to describe.

Good Books for Good Gifts

SETTING: As described in the "Notes to Leaders."

CHARACTERS: A family—Mother, Daddy, and two children (Gary, a boy of twelve; and Barbara, a girl of eight); and the characters necessary for the interviews or portrayals of the experiences from the M.V. Reading Course books.

ACTION: To begin the program, the family walk onto the platform and take their places around the table, ready to fill the baskets. Be sure that no one has his back to the audience. They should sit in a semicircle facing the audience and each other.

* * *

DADDY: Well, everything is ready to make up the baskets for the poor families at the edge of town, and also to get our offerings ready to give to Jesus. (*They take their places around the table and are seated.*)

MOTHER: Jesus has been so good to us. Before we start fixing the baskets, let's sing, "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow."

CONGREGATION AND FAMILY: (*All stand and sing the hymn.*)

PRAYER IS OFFERED BY THE FATHER. (*Then all are seated again.*)

GARY: Whose basket are we going to fix first? I think it's so much fun giving these good things to poor boys and girls.

MOTHER: Well, I know of a poor family. There is a little boy just about your age, Barbara. Shall we fix their basket first?

BARBARA: Oh, yes! Let's do! And I'd like to give the little boy this book, too.

DADDY: Which book is that? (*Daddy takes the book.*) *Raja!* Well, let's see what it's about.

(*As the family sit quietly looking at the book, the large book on the other side of the platform opens, and a person or persons come out to tell some interesting portions of the book. Then they go back in the book again, and the conversation continues.*)

MOTHER: That will surely make a nice gift for the boy.

(*They finish filling the basket and set it aside. Then they pick up another empty basket.*)

GARY: Mother, there's a boy who comes

by here every day selling papers. His daddy is too sick to work, and he has some little brothers and sisters. I think it would be nice to give them a basket. I can find out where they live.

DADDY: Surely, son. We'll fix them a basket. You find out tomorrow where they live so we can take it to their home.

GARY: Steve will really be surprised. (*As they start filling the basket, Gary picks up a book.*) Here's a book I think Steve would like to read. It's *The Mountain Buck*. It's a story about a fawn who was lost in a forest, and a boy and girl raise the little pet deer. I liked this story a lot.

BARBARA: Mother, here's another book that looks interesting. What is it about?

MOTHER: Maybe we can put it in this basket, too. This one is entitled, *Tommy Goes to Africa*. Let's look at it.

(*This book is then depicted or described by folks who come out of the covers of the large book.*)

DADDY: One of the young fellows from my office was hurt just recently in an accident and will be laid up for a while. I've been talking with him at noon about the Bible. I think this book, *Days of Destiny*, would be an excellent one to give him. (*Begins wrapping the gift.*) It presents the Bible truths in such an interesting way.

MOTHER: The new couple in our church are very much interested in foreign missions. I think this book, *Ann of Ava*, would appeal to both of them.

GARY: What mission land is it about, Mother? I like mission stories, too. Tell us about it.

(*As Mother starts opening the book, the large cover opens and a section of the book is given.*)

BARBARA: Would you like to hear the new record that Daddy brought me today? The name of it is (*Fill in name of special music.*)

MOTHER: Yes, put it on, Barbara.

GARY: I didn't know you had a new record. Let's hear it.

SPECIAL MUSIC. (*As Barbara is pretending to put on the record, have those giving the special music quietly stand beside piano and sing or play. If you are not able to have any special music, an appropriate recording of a hymn could be used.*)

DADDY: Mother and I have names of a few families that we got from the Men's Missionary Society and the Dorcas. I think we had better fill their baskets now. (*Looks at list.*) Here's one family where there are two boys—one fourteen, and the other five.

MOTHER: I enjoy so much doing things for others. You know Jesus always worked for others, and when we do the same, it makes us happier.

BARBARA: Oh, let me pick out a book this time.

MOTHER: Yes, you may pick one out; and Gary, you may pick out another if you wish.

BARBARA: Here's Uncle Arthur's book! Can we put it in, Mother?

MOTHER: *The Children's Hour* has splendid stories. I wish every boy and girl could have that book.

(For the Junior meeting, tell at least one story from this book.)

GARY: Here's another good book for Juniors—one of the *Bible Pageant Series*.

DADDY: I think this makes a fine Christmas basket for this family. Let's fix up another now. Here's the name of a young couple. They have no children, but evidently they are in need of food.

MOTHER: Oh, I must be sure to call on them and see if I can do anything else for them. Let's put in a couple of books for them also.

BARBARA: What's this book about, Gary?

GARY: *Sky Pilot of the North*. Wait till I open it and see.

(Part of this book is then portrayed to the audience, or the characters are interviewed as they open the cover of the large book and step out.)

DADDY: It is splendid reading material. So inspiring. I think that finishes that basket.

MOTHER: Where is the slip of paper with the names? Oh, here it is, Let's see. What is the next one? This is the last name on our list. My, this is a large family—seven children. Better get a big basket this time.

GARY: They will need lots of food and lots of books, too. I hope we have enough for them all.

BARBARA: Here's a good story about a lion cub named *Tarnish*. And this is another good one, *Gay, the Shetland Sheepdog*. Look at this one, Daddy. Don't you think they will like it?

(As Daddy opens the book, the cover on the large book opens and part of the book is narrated.)

DADDY: The older children will enjoy reading Arthur W. Spalding's book, *Christ's Last Legion*. Shall we put it in? (The other members of the family agree.)

GARY: And here is one more—*Really Truly Stories*. They wouldn't want to miss these. Let me show you this book.

(The cover to the large book opens and the book characters decided upon step out and tell their story.)

DADDY: Now that we have finished filling the baskets and giving to others, let us show Jesus that, as we remember others at this season of the year, we also remember Him. And let us show our love to Jesus by bringing Him our gifts and offerings. (Turning to audience.) Won't

you join us as we give our offerings at this time?

OFFERTORY. (The ushers receive the offering as usual. "Daddy" offers prayer.)

MOTHER: Let us all sing "Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!"

BENEDICTION BY "DADDY"—the leader for the evening.



* * *

December 24

ON KEEPING CHRISTMAS

BY MARION SEITZ-SIMMONS

ORDER OF SERVICE

DEVOTIONS AND FEATURES

SONG SERVICE OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

OPENING SONG: "O Come, All Ye Faithful," No. 105 in *Church Hymnal*.

PRAYER.

DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE LEADER.

READING: "Keeping Christmas."

STORY: "The Carol of the Ages."

SONG BY CONGREGATION: "Joy to the World," No. 189.

READING: "A Father's Gift to His Son."

CLOSING

SONG: "As With Gladness Men of Old," No. 112.

BRINGING OF OFFERINGS AND GIFTS.
CONSECRATION PRAYER.

Notes to Leaders

Several weeks before time for this program ask the youth to plan to bring a special offering to this meeting. If a tree has been provided, let all come forward while the special song is being sung and place their offering on and about the tree. Gifts for the poor and needy may be distributed the following day. Make announcements and have the secretary's report before the singing of the carols at the opening of the service. At the close make an appeal to the youth to give Christ their hearts.

Introductory Remarks

The holiday season, as we often hear it called, is here again. I think we can all agree with the one who wrote, "I have al-

ways thought of Christmas as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; a time when men and women seem to open their hearts freely—and so I say, God bless it!" There are many practices connected with Christmas that we can follow. The practice of giving gifts is certainly good if the spirit behind it is one of unselfishness. But in all our giving we sometimes forget the One we love the best, Jesus Christ. We as Seventh-day Adventists know, or should know, that at Christmas we are not celebrating the birth of Christ. Neither the Bible nor history gives us the exact date of His birth. Yet why should Christ be forgotten as we make our Christmas gifts? Let us during this holiday season turn our thoughts to Him who is the perfect Gift.

Keeping Christmas

"There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas Day, and that is, keeping Christmas.

"Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness. . . . Are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

"Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts; to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open. . . . Are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

"Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began at Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and bright-

ness of the Eternal Love? *Then you can keep Christmas.*

"And if you keep it for a day, why not always?"

"But you can never keep it alone."

—HENRY VAN DYKE.

The Carol of the Ages

The familiar and well-loved carol, "Joy to the World," deserves, more than any other song of Christmas heritage, to be called "the carol of the ages." The beauty and strength of its confident music as well as the joyous words truly give it universal Christmas appeal.

About eighteen hundred years before the birth of Christ, an ancient Hebrew gave expression to one of the Liturgical Psalms, this Psalm having been used in temple worship and ancient religious feasts.

Seventeen hundred nineteen years after the birth of Christ, Isaac Watts, an English hymn writer, gave us the words we now sing. They are from both the ancient Jewish worship and the Christian worship of today.

The music is taken from different parts of "The Messiah," written by George Handel, a German musician. Many parts of both are identical, with the exception that they are written in a different key.

In 1830, an American, Lowell Mason, took the phrases from "The Messiah" and the joyous words of Isaac Watts and welded them together. Thus the carol of the ages was almost three thousand years in the making and is a carol of four nationalities—ancient Hebrew, English, German, and American.

And it is a message for the ages—

"Let earth receive her king."
"Let every heart prepare Him room."
"No more let sins and sorrow grow."
"The Lord is come."

—From *Christmas Ideals*, Vol. 4.

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A Father's Gift to His Son

Traveling on a railroad train recently, a prosperous businessman said to E. Mitchell Hodges, the well-known writer, "Would you like to know what I'm going to give my boy for Christmas?"

Hodges said, "Yes," and thought what a costly present that father could easily afford to give to his boy. The gentleman pulled out his purse and took from it a piece of paper which he handed to Hodges. On the paper was written:

"To my dear son: I give you one hour of each week day and two hours of my Sundays, to be yours, to be used as you want them without interference of any kind whatsoever."

Hodges silently reflected: "I wonder how that boy will feel and what he will think when on Christmas morning he reads that slip of paper. If he is just an average boy, he will be very much dissatisfied. If he is an unusual boy, he will realize that his father has given him something that he can never repay."

"Tell me," said Hodges, "how did you happen to hit upon the idea of giving such an extraordinary present?"

The gentleman said: "The other day a young fellow, whom I had not seen since he was a child about my boy's age, came into my office to 'make a touch.' His face and bearing carried the telltale marks of idleness and dissipation. He was simply a human derelict. 'Robert!' I exclaimed in amazement, 'to see you like this!—and you with such a father!'"

"Well, I've often heard that dad was a fine man," the boy answered. "All his friends have told me so. I never knew him. He was so much occupied with his business and his clubs that I only saw him occasionally at meals. I never really knew him."

"That made me 'think furiously,' as the French say, and believe me, from now on I'm going to see to it that *my* boy has a chance to *know* me."

* * *

December 31

THE VOICE OF PROPHECY OPERATION DOORBELL

BY D. V. POND

ORDER OF SERVICE

SONG: "There Is a Place of Quiet Rest,"
No. 681 in *Church Hymnal*.

PRAYER.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

SYF REPORTS.

SIMULATED VOICE OF PROPHECY BROADCAST: "The Voice of Prophecy Operation Doorbell."

POEM: "Keep the Message on the Air."
(See page 1.)

OFFERING.

CLOSING SONG: No. 182, "'Tis Almost Time for the Lord to Come."

BENEDICTION.

Attention, M.V. Leaders

The last program of 1949 will give us an opportunity to enlarge the listening audience of the Voice of Prophecy. This agency is greatly blessed of God, and our Missionary Volunteers will eagerly enter into this plan.

About November 15 the conference will send you the script for the live broadcast of January 1, 1950. This is to be used for the M.V. Society meeting, with the platform set to resemble a broadcasting studio. This is the program broadcast nine years ago, January 4, 1942, at the time of the first coast-to-coast network release.

It would be most effective if individuals who had accepted the truth through the

Voice of Prophecy or who had completed the Bible Correspondence Course could be present and interviewed during the program.

The material printed in the GAZETTE is merely to instruct and supplement, and should be used with discretion.

This "Operation Doorbell" is quite familiar in most sections by now. What an impact upon our communities, if, during this last Sabbath afternoon of 1949, 15,000 Missionary Volunteers could ring doorbells and make inquiry about the reception of the Voice of Prophecy broadcast! Let's enter into it. Follow the instruction of the GAZETTE. Have this visiting before the program, if possible, so there might be opportunity to relate experiences.

The Voice of Prophecy has been most wholehearted in supporting our Share-Your-Faith Youth Congresses, and this is an opportunity for all of us to say, "Thank you," and join in a world-wide effort that is preaching Christ to the millions.

If the supply of radio logs or enrollment cards which has been sent to you is inadequate for your needs, please write directly to D. V. Pond, The Voice of Prophecy, Box 55, Los Angeles 53, California, stating the number of additional pieces of materials you desire.

—EDITOR.

Notes

Sunday, January 1, 1950, will be a momentous day for the Voice of Prophecy because it will mark the beginning of its ninth year of national broadcasting.

On January 4, the first Sunday in 1942, one month after Pearl Harbor, the Voice of Prophecy opened its first national broadcast with the greeting, "Hello, America!" The messages following that greeting have never ceased going out over the air waves every Sunday. But today it is not, "Hello, America!" but, "Hello, World!"

The stability and rapid growth of the Voice of Prophecy during the few short years since 1942, reaching out to all continents of earth, have been a marvel to many. Its program is now being heard every Sunday on two great networks, the Mutual Broadcasting System and the American Broadcasting Company. It is carried on nearly 700 stations, some of them among the most powerful in the world, such as Radio Luxembourg's powerful 200,000-watt station which covers all Europe and Western Asia, and Monte Carlo's 125,000-watt station which benefits all Southern Europe.

The Plan

One of the greatest concerted actions ever made by the united Missionary Volunteer Societies of North America is planned for the last week end of 1949. The Voice of Prophecy is suggesting that each M.V. Society produce a simulated broadcast of a regular Sunday-morning program of the Voice of Prophecy, as nearly like the original as possible, this program to be "broadcast" during the M.V. meeting on the last week end of 1949.



The complete radio program continuity is being mailed to your local conference office from the Voice of Prophecy, and will, in turn, be mailed to each local society by your conference M.V. Department. This continuity is identical to the one that Elder H. M. S. Richards, Voice of Prophecy speaker, and the radio group will actually use on Sunday morning, January 1, 1950, in broadcasting over the two great networks, the Mutual System and the American Broadcasting Company. And this is the very program that was given on the original coast-to-coast broadcast on its first Sunday, January 4, 1942.

Then, regardless of whether your M.V. program is conducted on Friday night or Sabbath afternoon, the Voice of Prophecy heartily recommends that "Operation Doorbell" be put into effect by your society, inviting the adults to take part along with the youth.

HERE IS "OPERATION DOORBELL"—

- * Any number of teams of two persons go to the doors of homes in territory assigned to them by the M.V. leader or M. V. executive committee.
- * The very first remark could be the question, "Do you listen to the Voice of Prophecy radio program on Sundays over station ———?" (Give the local station call letters.)
- * Whatever the answer, the interview may be continued by stating that your call has been made in the interest of the internationally known Voice of Prophecy radio program. As the majority of people have heard our program at one time or another, it is easy to break the ice by connecting your visit with a well-known national religious broadcast.
- * From there on it is a simple matter to go into a pleasant discussion of the need for Bible study in the home, and then present an enrollment card or a sample lesson of the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence Course, and invite the person to enroll.
- * Explain carefully that there is no obligation now or at any time in the future.
- * Explain that other Bible lovers have made this free offer possible.
- * Urge each home to listen to the Voice of Prophecy nationwide broadcast the following morning—the beginning of the Voice of Prophecy's ninth year of national broadcasting.
- * Ask the family or the person you have met for the privilege of offering prayer in their home before you leave.

* "Operation Doorbell" should be planned to take not more than an hour or two, with everyone returning to the church to relate his interesting experiences.

One of our union Missionary Volunteer secretaries has recently written the following to the Voice of Prophecy:

"We have always asked the young people to keep a record of: (1) The number of homes visited; (2) the number who listen to the Voice of Prophecy; and (3) the number of homes in which they had prayer. These figures have been recorded when the young people return to the church. The amazing thing to me is that, on the average, over 50 per cent of the homes we contact are already listening to the Voice of Prophecy. Even in Catholic New Orleans, where each one of the seven homes I called on personally were Roman Catholics, six of them were listeners to the Voice of Prophecy.

"When we suggest the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence Course, the people are more than willing to sign up for it. To the few who hesitate, we suggest that we shall be glad to leave an enrollment blank for them to look over, and by dropping it in the mail they can be enrolled in the course.

"Three weeks ago last Sabbath one young man in Texarkana preferred to go to the depot to contact people who were waiting for trains. He talked to fifty people during the hour and found that forty-eight of them were listeners to the Voice of Prophecy.

"Then the real spur to continue activity along this line comes immediately after this hour of 'Operation Doorbell.' Everyone comes back to the church and reports the experiences he had as he met the people in their homes. Many folk go alone, but husbands and wives sometimes go together. Medical doctors, dentists, nurses, teachers, day laborers, students, and farmers have all helped in this project and all get an equally big thrill out of it.

"We are now working on the idea of expanding this activity by having one group visit the local hospitals while the others are calling on homes. We feel that the right approach to the person who is ill will result in his enrolling in the Voice of Prophecy Bible Course."

Voice of Prophecy Highlights

TO PASS ON TO YOUR SOCIETY

- ★ There are 100 Christian workers on the Voice of Prophecy staff in the Los Angeles office alone.
- ★ More than 10,000 letters are received weekly from radioland; sometimes as many as 4,000 letters in one day.

★ 2,200 Bible lessons are received for correction every day.

★ 4,400 letters are mailed daily.

★ 132,500 pieces of mail are sent out each month, involving a postage bill of \$4,500.

★ Over 90,000 copies of the *Voice of Prophecy News* are sent out monthly to all contributors.

★ 15,000 books-for-the-month are mailed on request each month.

★ Over 40,000,000 pages of Christian literature are mailed out annually.

★ More than one million Voice of Prophecy radio logs are distributed each year.

★ Reaching scores of nations.

★ Preaching Christ to multiplied millions.

★ Heard in Central and South America.

★ The Voice of Prophecy broadcast is now heard in the English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, Italian, Danish, and Chinese languages.

★ Those who cannot hear may read, for the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence Courses are now translated into more than twenty languages and dialects, among them, English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, Italian, Dutch, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Malayan, Arabic—and now, Russian! Bible lessons are available also in Braille for the blind. Over 40,000 active Voice of Prophecy students are now enrolled in the Los Angeles office alone.

★ Thousands of Juniors are learning to love and understand the Bible in their youth. Many hundreds of young married couples are establishing their homes on the principles learned from the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence lessons. There are 75,000 Voice of Prophecy Bible Course graduates, and tens of thousands of these have come to acknowledge Christ as their Saviour. They now understand better His love and sacrifice, and that He is soon coming back to this earth for them. Many of these are adding their prayers to yours and mine for the advancement of the gospel of Christ, and are regularly supporting God's work with their means. They are joining hand to hand with us in spreading His glorious truths, and are walking in the steps of their Master.

Message From

H. M. S. Richards

VOICE OF PROPHECY SPEAKER

"What better way could be found to Share-Your-Faith than by uniting with the Voice of Prophecy in this excellent new plan—'Operation Doorbell'? What better plan can you, as a Missionary Volunteer, find to get into active, loving service that will not only be thrilling to you but will

bring many more to listen to the weekly broadcasts and to study the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence lessons which are bringing thousands into this message?

"Here is your best and last opportunity of 1949 to co-operate with the Voice of Prophecy radio program, one of God's grandest methods of reaching the millions with His final message."

NOTES TO OFFICERS

(Continued from page 6)

Stories of Hymns

"LET THE LOWER LIGHTS BE BURNING"

(No. 79 in M.V. Songs)

The words of this hymn were suggested to Mr. P. P. Bliss on hearing the following incident:

On a dark, stormy night, when the waves rolled like mountains and not a star was to be seen, a ship neared the Cleveland harbor. "Are you sure this is Cleveland?" asked the captain, seeing only one light from the lighthouse.

"Quite sure, sir," replied the pilot.

"Where are the lower lights?"

"Gone out, sir."

"Can you make the harbor?"

"We must or perish, sir!"

With a strong hand and a brave heart, the old pilot turned the wheel. But alas, in the darkness he missed the channel, and with a crash upon the rocks the boat was shattered, and many lives were lost.

The Master will take care of the lighthouse. We must keep the lower lights burning.

This song has been of help and encouragement to many persons as the young people's singing bands have carried this message in song.

"SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING"

(No. 563 in Church Hymnal)

An accident occurred to the engine of a train that ran through the mountains of Tennessee, and the passengers were delayed at a little village hotel while the damage was being repaired. A young lady and a man among the passengers were shown into the little dismal parlor, in one corner of which stood an old-fashioned piano badly out of tune. The only other occupant of the room was an old woman, who was evidently a boarder there. Outside it was dark and rainy, but this did not seem to interfere with the comfort of a group of loafers who smoked under the parlor window. To pass away the time, the young woman sat down at the piano, and, after playing a waltz or two, struck into "Old Hundred." At this, the old woman came over to the piano and spoke.

"I was thinking, my dear," she said hesitatingly, "that if you could sing a little mite, just some old hymn or something, it would seem real good. Who knows but it would help the poor boys out there! They're most likely away from their homes and their mothers, and it's not probable they hear much good music—the Lord's music, you know."

After some hesitation the young woman consented, and together she and her companion sang hymn after hymn; the old woman listened with evident delight. The men outside laid down their pipes, and all conversation stopped, that they might hear better. By and by the young woman sang alone:

"Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
At the heart's portal He's waiting and
watching,
Watching for you and for me.

"Come home, come home!"

Ye who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!"

As the last sweet strain died away, one young man on the outside, with a face better than most of those about him, stealthily brushed away a tear. Just then the message came that the train was ready, and the singers went on their way. Several years later this same man who had sung stood in a little group of men who were listening to the words of an evangelist and gospel singer, who had just been singing to an audience the words of this very song. When he [the evangelist] had finished, he turned to the group and said, "I remember well the first time I heard that hymn. It was in a little hotel in the mountains of Tennessee, where I had been squandering my substance, a real prodigal son. There came one afternoon a little company of people who were delayed by an accident to the train, and one or two of them began to sing around the piano. The woman's voice I shall never forget. She sang one of my mother's old hymns, and then this one, 'Come Home.' Wherever I went the next few days, I seemed to hear that voice saying, 'Come Home'—and the end of it was, I came."

"Not the end, sir," said the astonished gentleman. And then he told him his part of the story, and how the white-haired old woman had prompted the singing, and how she had thought that it might do some of the boys on the outside good.

—SILAS H. PAINE.

It was in a town in Japan. The hour of the evening meeting had come, but the organist, a native Christian, had not appeared. He was usually so punctual that the missionary became anxious, but he could not wait; so the meeting began without him. The missionary gave out the hymn, "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling." As they were

singing it, the organist came in. After the hymn was sung, he asked to be allowed to speak. He said: "This afternoon I walked up the mountainside to the edge of the volcano and looked down into the steaming depths of it. I went over the edge, where I thought the ground was firm, but it was not firm, and I began to slide down, down the steep sides of the volcano toward the smoke and fire below. I cried, but there was none to hear. At last I caught a piece of rock, and stopped. I tried to climb up, but the earth always gave way, and I slid down again. I cried, but no one heard, for everyone is afraid of the evil spirits there, and few pass that way. At last, after a long while, when I had almost lost hope, and while I was singing this very hymn, 'Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling,' I heard a shout. It was Wong, a charcoal burner, who was going home from the woods. At first he thought it was a demon in the volcano, but then he realized that what was being sung was a Jesus hymn; so he looked and found me. He got help and ropes, and here I am. This is now my favorite hymn. It saved my life."

More SYF News

One Missionary Volunteer Society has been able to broadcast its Friday night Missionary Volunteer meeting direct from the church. This program has been adapted to interest the youth of the community and to bring cheer and hope to invalids, shut-ins, and aged. After the singspiration and prayer the audience enjoyed an interesting program which varied from week to week. Besides the panel discussion on some vital Bible theme, followed by an appeal to the heart, the young people presented devotional thoughts, poetry, Bible quizzes, and letters from the radio mail bag. One feature in connection with this youth program was their announcement of a special piece of free literature that would be sent to each one who requested it. For the best letter of the week coming from some shut-in, the young people promised to deliver a potted plant and a souvenir booklet. Through this broadcast thousands of people have received literature. Addressing is done at the close of the broadcast each week. Many have enrolled in the Bible Correspondence Course, contacts have been made with shut-ins, and many youth have attended the M.V. meetings. The adventurous spirit of missionary service is in that society, and the youth are enjoying their crusade for others.

—SYF—

A number of our doctors and dentists are maintaining racks in their waiting rooms. From one dentist's rack 3,666 pieces of literature were taken during the past year.

Junior Meetings

December 3

CAN I?

By J. F. KNIPSCHILD, JR.

ORDER OF SERVICE

CHORUSES: (Use those containing "eye" or "I").

OPENING SONG: "I Would Be True," No. 58 in *M.V. Songs*.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

OFFERING.

SYF REPORTS.

JUNIOR LAW: Repeated together.

LEADER'S INTRODUCTION.

SCRIPTURE: (Given by several Juniors).

DIALOGUE: "What Are My Standards?"

MATHEMATICAL PROBLEM.

POEM: "One Year to Live."

CHALK TALK: "The Best Word for Juniors Today."

CLOSING SONG: "Steady and True," No. 64.

BENEDICTION.



Leader's Introduction

Today we want to think a bit about one law that is, I believe, the heart of our Junior Law. It is, "Keep a level eye."

What does it mean to "keep a level eye"? (Have general discussion for several minutes.) Yes, it means the combination of a number of things. If we observe and follow the other seven rules of our law that we've learned, they will help us to obey this one. If we obey this one rule, we cannot help but show our friends that we are following the others; so here is one key to a happy and successful life we should constantly think about.

Let us turn the wording around and see what we get—"I keep level!" You have heard of the kind of instrument a carpenter uses to see if what he is building is even or "on the square," haven't you? It is called a level. Is it necessary to one who builds homes? Most definitely. So it is that God has given us "levels," or rules, in His Word that will help to build our lives into the temples He desires to dwell in. Such temples will remain steadfast and true through all kinds of weather. One time God said through David in Psalm 32: 8, "I will instruct thee and reach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with Mine eye." In other words God says, "Do you want to keep a level eye

—knowing what to say or do, and how to act on any occasion along the road of life? Let me teach you and guide you by my level eye!" Jesus is the only One we can follow safely. Is He your one and only Pilot, right now?

Instead of a regular scripture reading we are going to have several Juniors briefly tell us several stories of people in the Bible who with God's help kept a level eye. At the close of each story see if you can tell the name of the character and in what way he kept a level eye.

(Suggestions: By previous arrangement, have the Juniors ready to tell the story suggested about the character without revealing the name. At the close of each story, let the Junior telling the story ask the audience for the name; then the Junior leader ask the audience for the specific trait exemplified in the life of this character that helped it to keep a level eye. Enlarge on each trait as you see fit.)

1. *Joseph*—Genesis 37:13-28; 39:1-6. HONESTY.

2. *Barnabas*—Acts 4:36; 9:27; 13:2-13; 15:36-40; 2 Timothy 4:11. PATIENCE.

3. *Moses*—Exodus 1-3; Hebrews 11: 23-26. DETERMINATION.

4. *David*—1 Samuel 26. RESPECT.

5. *Caleb*—Numbers 13-14:9. CONFIDENCE.

6. *Hannah*—1 Samuel 1. KEPT HER WORD.

7. *Job*—Job 1; 2:7; 23:12. SACRIFICE.

8. *Ebed-melech*—Jeremiah 38, 39. LOYALTY.

9. *Vashti*—Esther 1. PURITY.

10. *Abraham*—Genesis 12:1-4; 14:1-20; Hebrews 11:8-10. OBEDIENCE.

What Are My Standards?

LEADER: We all have friends in our neighborhood who belong to the worldwide Scout organization. Their standards are high, and the nation honors them for keeping them so. What is the Scout Law which helps a Scout to "keep a level eye"? (The Scout Law to be given by two Juniors, one to recite the first sentence of each rule and the other to recite the explanation.)

SCOUT LAW

1. A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY. A scout's honor is to be trusted. If he were to violate his honor by telling a lie, or by cheating, or by not doing exactly a given task, when trusted on his honor, he may be directed to hand over his scout badge.

2. A SCOUT IS LOYAL. He is loyal to all to whom loyalty is due—his scout leader, his home, his parents, and country.

3. A SCOUT IS HELPFUL. He must be prepared at any time to save life, help injured persons, and share the home duties. He must do at least one "good turn" to somebody every day.

4. A SCOUT IS FRIENDLY. He is a friend to all and a brother to every other scout.

5. A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS. He is polite to all, especially to women, children, old people, and the weak and helpless. He must not take pay for being helpful or courteous.

6. A SCOUT IS KIND. He is a friend to animals. He will not kill or hurt any living creature needlessly, but will strive to save and protect all harmless life.

7. A SCOUT IS OBEDIENT. He obeys his parents, scoutmaster, patrol leader, and all other duly constituted authorities.

8. A SCOUT IS CHEERFUL. He smiles whenever he can. His obedience to orders is prompt and cheery. He never shirks or grumbles at hardships.

9. A SCOUT IS THRIFTY. He must not wantonly destroy property. He works faithfully, wastes nothing, and makes the best use of his opportunities. He saves his money so that he may pay his own way, be generous to those in need, and helpful to worthy objects. He may work for pay, but must not receive tips for courtesies or "good turns."

10. A SCOUT IS BRAVE. He has the courage to face danger in spite of fear, and has to stand up for the right against the coaxings of friends or the jeers or threats of enemies, and defeat does not down him.

11. A SCOUT IS CLEAN. He keeps clean in body and thought, stands for clean speech, clean sport, clean habits, and travels with a clean crowd.

12. A SCOUT IS REVERENT. He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties, and respects the conviction of others in matters of custom and religion.

—Scout Manual.

LEADER: Isn't this a helpful set of rules? Should our standard be any lower? No, indeed! And it is not. The Scout organization is basically a training for better citizens in this world; but we, as well as wanting to be the best citizens here on earth, are also planning for citizenship above. There are, therefore, other things which Junior M.V.'s must add to this code of laws in order to prepare for citizenship in heaven. The best Christmas gift we could give to Jesus is ourselves. Let us enthusiastically be faithful in our Bible reading, Morning Watch, progressive classwork, and in sharing our faith.

As we come to the close of this year, let us earnestly pray God that our J.M.V. Society will be the best ever during the new year.

Mathematical Problem

(Pass a sheet with this problem on it to each Junior. Be sure to emphasize the importance of bringing their Bibles and pencils to this program.)

() Take the number of eyes "of them both." Genesis 3:7.

+ () Add the number of eyes that "were dim." Genesis 27:1.

+ () Add the number of eyes which "are open." Numbers 24:3.

+ () Add the number of "the apple of his eye." Deuteronomy 32:10.

— () Subtract the number of eyes "the Lord opened." 2 Kings 6:17.

— () Subtract the number of the eyes "of the Lord." Psalm 34:15.

- () Subtract the number of the eyes "of the Lord." 2 Chronicles 16:9.
- + () Add the number of eyes in the wise man's "head." Ecclesiastes 2:14.
- + () Add the number of eyes which "shall see the King." Isaiah 33:17.
- () Subtract the number of eyes which "offend thee." Matthew 5:29.
- () Subtract the number of eyes "to be cast into hell." Mark 9:47.
- () Subtract the number of eyes anointed by Jesus. John 9:6.

Answer: The number of eyes a person has with which to serve Jesus.

—*The Temple Builder's Puzzle Book*, Helen A. Maxfield, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich. Reprinted by permission.

The Best Word for Juniors Today

SUGGESTION: The following makes an excellent chalk talk. Do not put the whole diagram on the board at once. First, ask the Juniors if they can guess what the best word for them is? Finally ask the Juniors to find Mark 13:37—the first one to find the verse, read. Now put down the word WATCH as described here. Then commence to ask, "What do you think we should watch beginning with the letter 'W'?" Then ask the first Junior who finds Psalm 19:14 to read the verse. Following the reading of the verse place the text next to the word "Words." Continue this process down through the key word—WATCH. It would be well to illustrate each point with a very brief illustration or story. Close this last part of the program with a special appeal, following which it would be well to have a special consecration prayer. Suggest that each Junior write this line in the back of his Bible.

Mark 13:37

- W—ords Psalm 19:14.
- A—ctions 1 Samuel 2:3.
- T—houghts Proverbs 23:7.
- C—ompanions Psalm 119:63.
- H—earts 1 Samuel 16:7.

If we keep this "best word" in mind from this time on, then we will be able to "Keep a Level Eye." I want to be ready when Jesus comes, don't you? What shall we do then? W-A-T-C-H. That is the best way to "Keep a Level Eye."



One Year to Live

If I had but one year to live;
 One year to help; one year to give;
 One year to love; one year to bless;
 One year of better things to stress;
 One year to sing; one year to smile;
 To brighten earth a little while;
 One year to sing my Maker's praise;
 One year to fill with work my days;
 One year to strive for a reward
 When I should stand before my Lord,
 I think that I would spend each day,
 In just the very self-same way
 That I do now. For from afar
 The call may come to cross the bar
 At any time, and I must be
 Prepared to meet eternity.
 So if I had a year to live,
 Or just one day in which to give
 A pleasant smile, a helping hand,
 A mind that tries to understand
 A fellow creature when in need,
 'Tis one with me—I take no heed;
 But try to live each day He sends
 To serve my gracious Master's ends.

—MARY DAVIS REED, in *Quests and Conquests*, by Dean C. Dutton, Life Service Publishing Co., Guthrie, Okla.

* * *

December 10

GOOD BOOKS FOR GOOD GIFTS

BY VILLA HOUGHTON

Notes to Superintendents

Read the "Notes to Leaders" and the program for the Senior Missionary Volunteer Society meeting for this date, pages 8-10.

The same type of dialogue can be adapted for the J.M.V. Society meeting. We would suggest, however, that you just mention the Senior M.V. Reading Course books, and describe portions of the Junior and the Primary books only. You can take one chapter or story out of several of these books and have the boys and girls take part in reproducing interesting scenes.

The Man Next Door

Jesus died to bring salvation
 For the rich and for the poor;
 Men of every tribe and nation—
 He includes the man next door.

Millions are in heathen darkness,
 And with pleading hearts implore
 For the gospel of salvation—
 What about the man next door?

"Go into all the world," said Jesus,
 "Tell them of My mighty power;
 Bring your sheaves from every nation—
 Bring with you the man next door."

When we stand before our Saviour
 On that glad eternal shore,
 Heaven's glory will be brighter
 If we've brought the man next door.

—Author Unknown.

December 17

CHECK AND DOUBLE CHECK

BY H. R. NELSON

ORDER OF SERVICE

SONG: "Can He Count on You?" No. 49 in *M.V. Songs*.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:18-23.

PRAYER.

OFFERING.

LEADER'S REMARKS.

STORY: "For Others."

TALK: "Almost Is Not Enough."

EXERCISE: "Check Yourself."

SONG: "Stand Up for Jesus," No. 61.

Note to Superintendents

The purpose of this meeting is to have the Juniors consider their past experiences with the idea in mind to do better in the year to come. The stories give experiences taken from the lives of Juniors during 1949. These are actual experiences and should so be related. The exercise should be given in such a way as not to embarrass any Junior—make it a personal check. You will notice it covers the points of the Junior Law. Thus emphasis can be put on the importance of faithfully keeping the Junior Law.

For Others

One of the counselors at Junior Camp was seated where he could hear the conversation between two brothers. The boys were attending camp and the older boy was questioning his younger brother about his spending money.

"Jack, how much do you have left in your envelope," asked the older boy.

"Not very much. Yesterday I bought one of those pennants and that little poor boy was standing near by." He pointed to the little fellow who was seated on the other side of the lodge.

"What happened?" asked Bill.

"Well, this boy is really poor, as you can see by his clothes. He didn't have any money and he looked so longingly at my pennant. So I bought one and gave it to him."

The counselor who was listening knew the poor boy and his circumstances. He also knew that Jack did not have very much, that his mother was a widow with several children and that three of the boys were at the camp. They really did not have anything to give away. The counselor was interested, so he stepped over to the boys.

"I heard what you told your brother," said Mr. Brown, as he looked at the little fellow. "That was a very fine thing for you to do. I want to repay you for your unselfish spirit: Here is a dollar for you."

As he handed the dollar bill to Jack, he saw that the boy did not want to take it. "But I want you to have it," insisted the counselor.

After hesitating a moment, Jack took the money. He looked across the lodge and saw the poor boy. Like a flash he started for him.

"Here, wait a minute," called Mr. Brown, as he jumped to his feet and grabbed Jack by the arm. "Where are you going now?" he questioned.

"I am going to give this money to that poor boy over there," Jack replied.

Mr. Brown's heart was touched as he looked into the earnest eyes of the boy. "Now listen, Jack, that money is for you. I want you to have it all for yourself. I will give something to the poor boy also, but I want you to keep what I have given to you."

Jack did not seem to want the money, but finally kept it, and Mr. Brown walked away.

True to his promise, Jack did not give the money to the poor boy. But the next day he went to Mr. Brown and said, "Please, Mr. Brown, take this dollar bill back. I don't want to keep it. It really doesn't belong to me. I don't want to be paid for doing something good for someone else."

Mr. Brown saw the earnest appeal in the eyes of the boy and reluctantly accepted the dollar bill. At the same time he realized that he was looking at a boy who had the true spirit of Christ—a true Missionary Volunteer who would, no doubt, some day be a great worker for God.

How is it with you boys and girls? Do you have the unselfish spirit that was manifested by Jack? As you look back over the past year, have you lived an unselfish life? Have you done good deeds because you wanted to do them or because someone paid you for doing them? Did you help someone whom you knew could never repay you for your kindness? Is the love of Jesus expressed in the things you do and say each day? Have you been faithful in keeping the Junior Law by doing your honest part? Now is the time to check and see how you have done and to make improvements in your way of living.

Almost Is Not Enough

It was the last night at Junior Camp. One hundred fifty-three boys and their counselors gathered around the campfire. Yes, this was the night! Those who had worked hard during the camp would receive their honors this night.

After a rousing song service the boys settled down in great anticipation as the program continued.

First, there was an Investiture service. As those who had been invested knelt around the campfire during the consecration prayer, heaven seemed very near. No doubt angels were near, writing down that consecration prayer and taking note of the boys in the circle.



All eyes were on the camp director as he announced the names of those who had earned vocational honors during the camp. They came for honors in leathercraft, metalcraft, wood carving, wood handicraft, birds, ferns, amphibians, reptiles, trees, insects, and the swimming honors, including junior and senior lifesaving. It was a happy band of Juniors that marched around to receive their honor tokens from the instructors. It seemed like an almost endless line.

At last the tokens had been handed out. Was this the end of the program? Oh, no! Every boy sat at rigid attention as the camp director started to speak about the outstanding work of some of the Junior boys. He was soon to announce the names of the boys who had been awarded the highest honors given by the camp. It seemed that even the whippoorwill stopped to listen. Slowly each name was read and the boys marched to the front. There they stood—eight fine-looking boys. The director commended them for the admirable record they had made in camp, for their excellent spirit, for their co-operation in the camp activities, and for their leadership among the boys. The honor tokens were presented, then a mighty applause broke forth showing that every camper present gave hearty approval.

After the evening song and prayer the boys found their way back to the cabins, happy for the many good experiences at camp. Soon the silence whistle blew and all was quiet. The lights were out—that is, in all but one cabin.

The counselors waited, but the lights remained on. After a while they went over to this cabin to see what was wrong. As they walked into the cabin, they found the boys dressed, some sitting on their beds, others lying on their beds.

What was it all about? What were they going to do? When questioned by the counselors, they explained that they were going to stay up all night. They were not going to do anything bad, just stay up all night. Sitting on one bed, fully dressed, was one of the boys chosen as an Honor Camper, one of the honor badges in his possession.

After a brief conversation with the counselors the boys undressed and went to bed without further trouble.

The next morning everyone was busy packing or carrying suitcases or boxes to the line in front of the lodge. While the boys were bringing down their things, the staff

had a special meeting. The decision was made.

Flag ceremonies followed, then the boys marched to the dining room for breakfast—that is, all but one whole division. As this division stood at attention, the camp director made a few remarks about the cabin that had planned to stay up all night. There was perfect silence as one of the boys stepped out of line, marched to the director and gave back the honor token he had received the night before.

Yes, he had it—would have taken it home with him—but for one careless act. So near the end of camp, yet he lost it.

How is it with you boys and girls? It is almost the end of the year. Are you going to be careless and lose all the blessings of the year? Life is like that, too. At the very end you can lose eternal life by becoming careless. Better check—yes, double check—to be sure that you are not losing out now. Jesus is coming soon and we want to be ready. Let us all make sure that we are so living that we will be ready when He comes.

Check Yourself

(NOTE: The following questions may be placed on the blackboard. Have the Juniors read them out loud but answer to themselves. After all the questions have been read, ask the Juniors to think about their score. Do they feel satisfied? Follow with prayer by the Junior superintendent or by some of the Juniors.)

LEADER: It is a good thing to examine ourselves, to check ourselves to see how we are measuring up to the goal set before us. We are not to give the answer out loud—say it to ourselves. God always knows the answer to each question. If we can answer yes to all the questions, we are doing well and developing the true character. If we have to say no to any of the questions, it is time to think seriously—to check ourselves carefully every day. Do not tell anyone else your score.

1. Whenever I am asked to take part in the Junior meetings, I do so.

2. I have tried to read something from the Bible every day.

3. I try to follow the habit of praying at least twice a day—morning and evening.

4. I try to be obedient to my parents and my teachers every day.

5. I have tried to keep a level eye at all times.

6. I try to share my faith regularly so that I will have something to report.

7. I have tried to do my honest part each day.

8. I try to be reverent in the house of God and at the Junior meetings.

9. I have tried to care for my body according to the rules of healthful living.

10. I have tried to be cheerful at all times.



American Temperance Society



PROGRAM

Sabbath, December 10

OPENING SONG: "Sound the Battle Cry," No. 499 in *Church Hymnal*.

RESPONSIVE READING: "Temperance," p. 608 in *Church Hymnal*.

PRAYER.

SPECIAL MUSIC, or "Standing by a Purpose True," No. 497.

SERMON: Sermon or symposium on "Making Our Influence Felt." The circulation of *Listen* on a national scale.

OFFERTORY: The offering this year is to help place *Listen* in 1,000,000 American homes. Let's make it the largest offering ever made by Seventh-day Adventists for the cause of temperance.

CLOSING SONG: "Rescue the Perishing," No. 623.

BENEDICTION.

Special Instructions to Pastors, Church Elders, and Temperance Secretaries

BY W. A. SCHARFFENBERG

Executive Secretary, American Temperance Society

Sabbath, December 10, 1949, has been designated, by action of the General Conference Committee, as Temperance Day.

We trust that the matter appearing in this issue of the CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE, as well as the additional matter that has been mailed to each pastor, church elder, and church temperance secretary, will serve as source material for the special Temperance Day program scheduled for that day.

The offering to be taken up in connection with the Temperance Day program will be used this year for the circulation of *Listen* on a national scale. *Listen* is recognized as the outstanding temperance journal in the country. It should be sent to every official, school superintendent, principal, teacher, clergyman, physician, law-enforcement officer, and librarian in the country.

Twenty-five per cent of the funds raised may be retained by the local church and used in sending *Listen* to influential people in its immediate community. Twenty-five per cent of the offering will be retained by the local conference and used for the circulation of *Listen* throughout the conference, and 50 per cent of the offering will be forwarded to the General Conference for the circulation of *Listen* throughout the nation.

Under the special *Listen* Sponsorship Plan you can send *Listen* subscriptions to ten different addresses for only five dollars. The names and addresses of all sponsored subscriptions should be sent to the Book and Bible House of your conference. Such lists are not to include the names of Seventh-day Adventists. All Seventh-day Adventists should be urged to sign the pledge and become active members of the American Temperance Society. *Listen* serves as the voice of the American Temperance Society, and is sent out gratis to all members of the Society. (Sabbath, December 10, is not,

however, to be used in launching the pledge-signing campaign and membership drive, but rather for the taking up of a straight offering for the circulation of *Listen* on a national scale.) Special blanks on which to report the sponsorship subscriptions to *Listen* will be mailed to each church. Please use these forms in reporting these subscriptions to the Book and Bible House.

"How important it is that God's messengers shall call the attention of statesmen, of editors, of thinking men everywhere, to the deep significance of the drunkenness and the violence now filling the land with desolation and death! As faithful collaborators with God, we must bear a clear, decided testimony on the temperance question. . . . Now is our golden opportunity to co-operate with heavenly intelligences in enlightening the understanding of those who are studying the meaning of the rapid increase of crime and disaster."—*Review and Herald*, Oct. 25, 1906.

If \$250,000 could be raised for the temperance cause this year, *Listen* could be sent to 500,000 influential statesmen, judges, physicians, editors, and citizens in the country. What an influence that would have on thinking men and women everywhere!

If your church membership stands at seventy-five, plan to raise seventy-five dollars on Sabbath, December 10, 1949, for the cause of Christian temperance. Let us make it a dollar day and do all in our power to combat the evils of intemperance.

Pertinent Statements From the Spirit of Prophecy on the Temperance Issue

A DIABOLICAL SCHEME ORIGINATED BY SATAN

"Satan gathered the fallen angels together to devise some way of doing the most possible evil to the human family. One proposition after another was made, till finally Satan himself thought of a plan. He would take the fruit of the vine, also wheat, and other things given by God as food, and would convert them into poisons, which would ruin man's physical, mental, and moral powers, and so overcome the senses that Satan should have full control. Under the influence of liquor, men would be led to commit crimes of all kinds. Through perverted appetite the world would be made corrupt. By leading men to drink alcohol, Satan would cause them to descend lower and lower in the scale."—*Review and Herald*, April 16, 1901.

Rallying Our Forces

BY J. L. MCELHANY

President, American Temperance Society

It would be impossible for me to over-emphasize the very great importance of rallying all our people to a vigorous response to the appeal set forth in this program. Our own young people are in danger. They are surrounded on every hand by the most vicious and seductive influences. The use of alcohol as a beverage is advertised in the most attractive manner. Many of our young people are not old enough to recall the utterly vicious ways of the liquor traffic. We must do all we can to fortify them in their own personal experience against this monstrous evil.

We need to rally our own forces to carry the banner of temperance to the world.

We know that you will gladly co-operate in the effort to effectively present this program on Sabbath, December 10, and that you will use every opportunity possible to assist in this good work. We want you to know your efforts are appreciated.

Scriptural Admonitions

"Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink." Isaiah 5:22.

"Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and maketh him drunken also." Habakkuk 2:15.

"Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!" Habakkuk 2:12.

"Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?" Psalm 94:20.

"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Proverbs 20:1.



Temperance Day Program



THE GREATEST CRIMINAL PRODUCER

"Houses of prostitution, dens of vice, criminal courts, prisons, almshouses, insane asylums, hospitals, all are, to a great degree, filled as a result of the liquor-seller's work. Like the mystic Babylon of the Apocalypse, he is dealing in 'slaves, and souls of men.' Behind the liquor-seller stands the mighty destroyer of souls, and every art which earth or hell can devise is employed to draw human beings under his power. In the city and the country, on the railway trains, on the great steamers, in places of business, in the halls of pleasure, in the medical dispensary, even in the church, on the sacred communion table, his traps are set. Nothing is left undone to create and to foster the desire for intoxicants. On almost every corner stands the public house, with its brilliant lights, its welcome and good cheer, inviting the working man, the wealthy idler, and the unsuspecting youth.

"In private lunch-rooms and fashionable resorts, ladies are supplied with popular drinks, under some pleasing name, that are really intoxicants. For the sick and the exhausted, there are the widely advertised 'bitters,' consisting largely of alcohol.

"To create the liquor appetite in little children, alcohol is introduced into confectionery. Such confectionery is sold in the shops. And by the gift of these candies the liquor-seller entices children into his resorts.

"Day by day, month by month, year by year, the work goes on. Fathers and husbands and brothers, the stay and hope and pride of the nation, are steadily passing into the liquor-dealer's haunts, to be sent back wrecked and ruined.

"More terrible still, the curse is striking the very heart of the home. More and more, women are forming the liquor habit. In many a household, little children, even in the innocence and helplessness of babyhood, are in daily peril through the neglect, the abuse, the vileness of drunken mothers. Sons and daughters are growing up under the shadow of this terrible evil. What outlook for their future but that they will sink even lower than their parents?"—*Ministry of Healing*, pp. 338, 339.

OUR DUTY IN OPPOSING THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC

"How can Christian men and women tolerate this evil? . . . There is a cause for the moral paralysis upon society. Our laws sustain an evil which is sapping their very foundations. Many deplore the wrongs which they know exist, but consider them-

selves free from all responsibility in the matter. This cannot be. Every individual exerts an influence in society. In our favored land, every voter has some voice in determining what laws shall control the nation. Should not that influence and that vote be cast on the side of temperance and virtue? . . .

"We may call upon the friends of the temperance cause to rally to the conflict, and seek to press back the tide of evil that is demoralizing the world; but of what avail are all our efforts while liquor-selling is sustained by law? Must the curse of intemperance forever rest like a blight upon our land? Must it every year sweep like a devouring fire over thousands of happy homes?"—*Review and Herald*, Nov. 8, 1881.

AN ARMY TO BE FORMED

"Let an army be formed to stop the sale of the drugged liquors that are making men mad. Let the danger from the liquor traffic be made plain, and a public sentiment be created that shall demand its prohibition. Let the . . . voice of the nation demand of its lawmakers that a stop be put to this infamous traffic."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 346.

OUR MOTTO

"We talk of the results, tremble at the results, and wonder what we can do with the terrible results, while too often we tolerate and even sanction the cause. The advocates of temperance fail to do their whole duty unless they exert their influence by precept and example—by voice and pen and vote—in favor of prohibition and total abstinence. We need not expect that God will work a miracle to bring about this reform, and thus remove the necessity for our exertion. We ourselves must grapple with this giant foe, our motto, No compromise and no cessation of our efforts till the victory is gained. . . ."—*Review and Herald*, Nov. 8, 1881.

A Murderer's Testimony

BY L. A. WINO

A tramp once asked for a free drink in a saloon. The request was granted; and, as he was in the act of drinking the proffered beverage, one of the men present exclaimed, "Stop, make us a speech, it's a poor liquor that doesn't loosen a man's tongue."

The tramp hastily swallowed the drink; and, as the rich liquor coursed through his blood, he straightened himself and stood before them with a grace and dignity that all his rags and dirt could not obscure. "Gentlemen," he said, "as I look at you and myself it seems to me that I look upon the picture

of my lost manhood. This bloated face was once as young and handsome as yours. This shambling figure once walked as proudly as yours—a man in the world of men. I, too, once had a home, and friends, and position.

"I had a wife as beautiful as an artist's dream; but I dropped the priceless pearl of her honor and respect in the winecup and, Cleopatra-like, saw it dissolve and quaffed it down in the brimming draught. I had children as sweet and lovely as the flowers of spring, and saw them fade and die under the blighting curse of a drunken father. I had a home where love lit the flame upon the altar and ministered before it; but I put out the holy fire, and darkness and desolation reigned in its stead.

"I had aspirations and ambitions that soared as high as the morning star, but I broke and bruised their beautiful wings and, at last, strangled them that I might be tormented with their cries no more. Today I am a husband without a wife, a father without a child, a tramp with no home to call his own, a man in whom every good impulse is dead, and all swallowed up in the maelstrom of drink."

The tramp ceased speaking; the glass fell from his nerveless fingers and shattered into a thousand fragments on the floor. The swinging doors pushed open and shut again; and when the little group about the bar looked up, the tramp was gone.

This scene is being re-enacted daily throughout the world. What a price to pay for the things they want!

The Voice of Experience

BY J. A. BUCKWALTER, Associate Secretary of the American Temperance Society

Riding the night patrol in Los Angeles one night, we turned a street corner; and one of the police officers pointed to a man walking along the sidewalk and said, "There goes a 'wino.' [A 'wino' is a man who has become a chronic alcoholic as the result of drinking wine.] I am going to pick him up so you can question him."

As the patrol car pulled up to the curb, one of the officers opened the rear door and stepped out. The "wino" looked toward the car, then walked over and sat down just like he expected to do that about every other day of his life. Probably it was the most comfortable seat he had had since the last time he had sat in an automobile of a similar nature.

After the police had questioned him, one of the officers said, "Now, this is Mr. McDougal [meaning me]; and I want you



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to answer any questions that he asks you."
I will give you a portion of our conversation.

"My friend," I asked, "how many jobs have you had in the past three or four years?"

"Oh, about forty," he replied. His voice was dead and metallic. There was no vitality or note of hope.

"How long since you had the last job?" was my next question.

"Over a week."

"How long did you keep it?"

"About a week."

"What's the matter? Couldn't you go back Monday morning?"

In reply he shook his head in the negative.

My next question followed quickly. "Are you married?"

This time he responded by nodding his head.

"Where is your wife?"

"I don't know."

"Do you have a family?"

"A boy."

"And where is your boy?"

"I don't know."

I wish you could have looked into the face of that man as he started out into the streets with a look of utter misery and abject hopelessness.

I had tried to appeal to him with the thought that there was a spiritual power that could salvage his life and home; and I talked to him about possible medical attention, but there was no response. That night I looked into the face of a man from whom all hope had fled—and that man was younger than I am.

Alcohol had wrecked his life, blasted his career, broken his own heart and the hearts of his loved ones. He felt himself a hopeless victim of a tyranny which he had no power to break.

It does something to your own heart to look into the face of another human being whose life has known such stark tragedy. It makes one feel that he must hit this evil and hit it hard.

The consumption of alcoholic beverages is one of the greatest enemies of the advancement of the third angel's message. Satan has never invented a stronger weapon to gain control of human thinking and lead the youth astray. The call of the Spirit of prophecy is for Adventist people everywhere to arouse to action and do all in their power to rescue thousands from ruin. Truly, the honor of God, and the stability of our nation, and the future of our youth depend upon our response to this appeal.

"BEER BELONGS"

I saw a liquor ad one day
Deceive the madding throng.
It showed a home—the modern way—
And said that "Beer Belongs."

It showed the sweetest family scene,
With children singing songs;
The mother kept the home so clean.
The ad said, "Beer Belongs."

But when I saw that liquor ad
My heart defied such wrongs,
For I recalled my drunken dad
Who thought that "Beer Belongs."

And I recalled my mother's tears,
Soul-seared with iron tongs,
The family fortunes plagued with fears,
Because—well—"Beer Belongs."

Oh! Beer belongs where sin is rife,
The heart of crime and wrongs,
Behind the scene in family strife,
In jail—yes, "Beer Belongs."

—ADLAI A. ESTEB.

On Smoking

The following news item appeared in the September 17, 1949, issue of the *News and Observer*, published in Raleigh, North Carolina:

SMOKING ROOMS

"Establishment of smoking rooms for students of Creedmoor High School, the first in Granville County schools, was disclosed today by Principal A. Woodrow Taylor.

"Taylor said the rooms are open at recess and the noon hour, one each for boys and girls for use of those who have filed with school authorities written request from parent or guardian for use of the smoking rooms. Sixteen students have filed the required request, Taylor said."

On September 20, 1949, the following editorial appeared in the same paper:

STUPID HABIT

"In Creedmoor the principal of the high school, perhaps bowing to the inevitable, is setting up smoking rooms for the boys and girls in the school. This may be sound school administration. It may be simple good sense in fire prevention in a school, if the high school children are going to smoke, to make them smoke more safely in supervised smoking rooms set up with the consent and at the request of their parents. All the same, even in a tobacco state, this whole business may be recognized as an event in the acquisition by the young of what is probably the most stupid habit on earth—and one of the most destructive ones.

"This editorial is written by a man who has been smoking since he was of high-school age and will continue to smoke probably with some unsuccessful efforts to stop as long as he breathes. It is written by a man who, like all the rest of us in this area, has the base of his living and income in tobacco culture. But it is also written by a man who knows from personal experience that smoking is an expensive, dirty, injurious habit which as time goes on furnishes relatively little pleasure except as a surcease from the habit pangs of not smoking.

"There are certainly worse habits that the young can acquire. Nobody ever beats his wife or mistreats his children as a result of smoking. Our highways are not made dangerous by people under the influence of tobacco. But the certain fact is that people who do smoke chain themselves for life to a habit which costs them much in health and money.

"Maybe to the young smoking seems a sign of maturity. Probably no arguments are going to stop the young who want to smoke. Perhaps parents and principals are doing the best they can when they recognize and regulate the situation. Still and yet, and all the same, somebody even in a tobacco state ought to say to the young every now and then that all smoking is stupidity and that not smoking at all is probably the best sign of mature good sense in young and old alike."

The following comment, which appeared in the same paper under date of September 4, 1949, will also be of interest to our believers:

NON-SMOKING SENATORS

"Several days ago the publicity department of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company sent out a picture of Senator Hoey being presented a carton of Cavalier cigarettes, the new Reynolds brand, by a Cavalier-costumed gentleman in Washington. Writing about the picture in *The Chapel Hill Weekly*, Louis Graves says he has not heard whether Senator Graham received a carton of cigarettes or not, but that he, like Hoey, would give them away because both are nonsmokers. Mr. Graves goes on to say, 'I'll bet there is not another state in the Union both of whose senators are nonsmokers; and these two nonsmoking senators represent the state which leads all others in both tobacco growing and tobacco manufacturing. What a frightful blow it would be to the state's whole financial structure if other people did not give any more support to North Carolina's chief

branch of agriculture and chief industry than our two Senators do!' And in this day when nonsmokers are something of a rarity, Mr. Graves thinks it is worth mentioning that he also is among the scornors of the weed along with Attorney General Harry McMullan. Both quit years ago."

LISTEN Testimonials

From all walks of life and from all parts of the country come letters of appreciation for *Listen*. Here are a few of the many testimonials that have come to our desk:

From a Police Magistrate:

"The publication is the best on the alcoholic menace I have read; and that is a broad statement, for I have read and written on the subject for many years."—D. E. CONE.

From a News Correspondent:

"Having worked on the staff of several weekly publications, daily papers, magazines, etc., maybe I'm a bit more critical than other readers. But this first issue of your new pamphlet certainly seems without fault.

"Your photography is excellent, and the articles are thundering in that they are short and to the point.

"Much success to you in this new undertaking, and please let nothing stop such worth-while articles as are found in your 'Journal of Better Living.'"—MRS. M. C. MIDKIFF.

From a Famous Song Leader:

"My sincere congratulations to you folks on your new magazine, *Listen*. It is certainly one of the most attractive and interesting of all magazines of this character."—HOMER RODHEAVER.

From a College President's Secretary:

"As I opened the president's mail this morning and glanced through the magazine *Listen*, my first reaction was, 'Now we are getting somewhere.' Here, at last, was the kind of enlightened, intelligent temperance action that is so sorely needed: not the torch-bearing, saloon-storming women of the turn of the century, bringing only ridicule on themselves and their cause; not the sanctimonious moral tirades that only those of the same ideas would listen to. No, here at last were cold, hard facts, presented in graphic and interesting form in an attractive setting, that will catch the eye of all sorts of people and will surely shock some of them into coming to their senses about the drinking problem—which, being the curse of America today, is also the curse of the world."—MRS. GLADYS R. BUELER.

From "International Journal of Religious Education":

"Congratulations on the first issue of your magazine, *Listen!* It is a beautiful periodical, and very well edited. I hope it

will soon reach a wide public. . . . We will want to list *Listen* among the recommended materials for parents and leaders of religious education."—LILLIAN WILLIAMS.

From a Temperance Leader:

"Congratulations on the first number of *Listen*. It is the most attractive, interesting, and informative temperance magazine that has yet appeared. The selection and the arrangement of articles are most effective, and the illustrations are superb."—O. G. CHRISTGAU.

From The Allied Church League of Halifax County, North Carolina:

"When I received your July issue of *Listen* yesterday morning, I found it so attractive in appearance and so fascinating

LISTEN

BY J. L. MCELHANY

President, General Conference of S.D.A.

I think *Listen* is the finest piece of literature that has ever been brought out in the cause of temperance. I urge you to do your utmost to give it the widest possible circulation—in our churches and out of our churches, anywhere and everywhere—all the time doing your utmost to bring to the attention of the people everywhere the message this magazine contains. It is a magazine of which we can well be proud and which we can carry to men of high and low degree everywhere, and lay it before them as an exemplification of the great principles of temperance for which we as a church stand.

and informing in content that I immediately dropped all my plans for the day—some of which were of some importance—and did not resume until after I had read every page.

"This magazine is like a messenger sent from heaven. It will be received with gladness by its friends and with fear and trembling by its foes.

"I think every church member and every public-spirited citizen should be a regular reader of this grand temperance magazine. I hope to find time to try to get several hundred subscriptions for you."—J. M. SEAVER.

From a Board of Temperance Chairman:

"At our first Board of Temperance meeting after our annual conference at Lakeside, we passed a motion to put *Listen* on the library table of every high school in the bounds of our conference and to secure as many subscriptions as possible besides. We set up a special committee to carry out that project."—REV. ROTHROCK.

From Pennsylvania Temperance League:

"We commend the Seventh-day Adventists for the publication, *Listen*, which is generally conceded to be the best such

Not by My Vote

Men will have strong drink, and men will sell liquor, but

NOT BY MY VOTE

Saloons may go on like the brook, forever, and men may die by the thousands in them, but

NOT BY MY VOTE

Truth may be wrecked and character dismantled, homes may be destroyed and women and children beggared, but

NOT BY MY VOTE

Children may be caught in the saloon's snare, the victims of alcohol may fill our jails, almshouses, and insane asylums, but

NOT BY MY VOTE

The saloon may impoverish and degrade the people, producing idleness, disease, and pauperism. It may breed anarchy and crime, but

NOT BY MY VOTE

The government may license the drink traffic and for a consideration take "a reward against the innocent" and bargain away the public health and the public morals, but

NOT BY MY VOTE

The liquor traffic may corrupt the social and political life of the nation; it may worm its way into all business and even into the sacred precincts of the home and the church, but

NOT BY MY VOTE

The bells may toll the death knell of a human being slain by Rum every five minutes of the day, but

NOT BY MY VOTE

publication presented to the public. It has good material presented in an attractive way—color and picture—and is designed to make a popular appeal. Evidently this is a venture on the part of the Adventists and one into which they are putting large sums of money. It appears to be a program that should be supported by the whole church—an interdenominational program."—L. L. OWENS.

Conquering and to Conquer

BY C. S. LONGACRE

Associate Secretary of the American Temperance Society

We came; we saw; we conquered; and the enemy is ours. Thank the good Lord for the victory!

The day before the election was a day of prayer and fasting. No "dry" meeting in Oklahoma was held without prayer and the invocation of God's blessing upon the "dry" cause.

No "wet" meeting was ever opened with prayer, for they knew that if they did pray, they would have to offer a prayer similar to the one John Wesley said when he was asked to pronounce the blessing upon a roasted pig set before him on the dining table. He prayed: "God, if Thou canst bless what Thou didst curse, then bless this pig."

December 24

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

BY ADELE DORLAND

ORDER OF SERVICE

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: (Use one for opening song).
 LEADER'S INTRODUCTION.
 SCRIPTURE: "The Spirit of Christmas."
 PRAYER.
 OFFERING.
 SECRETARY'S REPORT.
 STORY: "How a Lonesome Christmas Turned Into a Merry One."
 STORY: "A Truck for Joey."
 LEADER'S REMARKS.
 DIALOGUE: "What Shall We Do?"
 DISCUSSION OF CHRISTMAS PLANS.
 CLOSING SONG.
 BENEDICTION.

Leader's Introduction

The Christmas season is a joyous time filled with gaiety and laughter. It is a time of year when people are happy just to be alive. The very atmosphere is filled with what we call the spirit of Christmas. Sometimes in thinking of the good things that come with Christmas—the gifts we are going to receive, the Christmas party, the dinner we can hardly wait to eat—we forget the real spirit of Christmas. Today let us find out from God's Word what is meant by the spirit of Christmas.

The Spirit of Christmas

(This is to be recited by seven Junior boys. Each one might have a card with the word that he is telling about lettered on it.)

FIRST JUNIOR: The spirit of Christmas means *humility*. "And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself." Philippians 2:8.

SECOND JUNIOR: The spirit of Christmas means *unselfishness*. "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32.

THIRD JUNIOR: The spirit of Christmas means *service*. "But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant." Philippians 2:7.

FOURTH JUNIOR: The spirit of Christmas means *sacrifice*. "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8.

FIFTH JUNIOR: The spirit of Christmas means *perfect obedience* to God. Christ said, "Not My will, but Thine, be done." Luke 22:42.

SIXTH JUNIOR: The spirit of Christmas means *forgiving* as Christ forgave. "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34.

SEVENTH JUNIOR: But, beyond all, the spirit of Christmas is *love*. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-

begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

LEADER: We shall miss the true spirit of Christmas this year unless we can follow Christ's example in these ways. Let us ask the Lord Jesus right now to fill us with the true Christmas spirit.

How a Lonesome Christmas Turned Into a Merry One

"I wish we didn't live in Peru, mother," Helen complained one day shortly before Christmas. "There is no snow; and there will be no Christmas tree or popcorn balls or stockings to hang up, or anything. I wish I could be in the States and have a good time on Christmas like the other children." You see, Helen's parents are missionaries down in Peru, but they have not forgotten all the good times Christmas had brought them in the States when they were children, so they sympathized with their little daughter.

"But, just think, dearie," said mother, as she drew her little girl to her, "think of the thousands of poor little Peruvian children who have never even heard of Christmas presents and who have hardly enough rice and bread to eat each day. What would you think of trying to make some of them happy this Christmas?"

Helen thought that a very happy idea. "Oh, I'd like to, mother! But how can I without money to buy things?" she inquired.

"We might make something pretty that would not cost much," answered her mother, "and perhaps you could give them some of your toys, dear. For whom will they be?"

"For my little friend Josefina!" said Helen excitedly. "She is such a nice little girl, but she has no toys, and her three little brothers don't have any either. And their new little baby sister—let's give her something, too." She fairly jumped up and down with glee. "And please let me take the things over Christmas morning and surprise them—in my nice basket."

Mother agreed, and they set to work that very day to make a scrapbook for Josefina. Helen first cut out the pictures she found in magazines and then neatly pasted them on some heavy, glossy paper which she had cut into sheets and tied together with ribbon in the form of a book. The work took several days; but she sang as she worked, and at last the pretty gift was finished, just the day before Christmas.

Then they went to town and bought a box of colored crayons for Armando, the oldest boy; a large colored ball for the next one, Lorenzo; a doll for the two-year-old; and a rattle for the new black-eyed baby who had come very near to being a Christmas present herself. Besides, there were

some extra toys, cookies, apples, oranges, and other goodies to help fill the basket.

Early Christmas morning found Helen dressing hurriedly. What fun it would be to see the children open their eyes as they got a peep at the presents! She could hardly wait.

After breakfast she and her mother started off with the precious basket. In front of the little mud hut they stood and clapped their hands—that is the custom in Peru—to let the people know of their arrival. The children came running out to greet the early visitors, wondering what it all meant. And what could be in that fat-looking basket?

After inquiring about the health of all the family and admiring the tiny baby for a few moments, Helen could wait no longer. "We have come to wish you a Merry Christmas, and we hope you will like the surprise basket," she said, placing it on the table in front of the mother as she spoke. One by one the things were taken out and given to the children, and I think no one was happier than Helen herself as she watched the smiles and heard the expressions of delight while they examined their presents.

As they walked home, Helen said, "Oh, mother, I believe this is the merriest Christmas I ever had!"

—INEZ HOILAND-STEVENS.

A Truck for Joey

Tim jingled the money in his pocket. Five dollars seemed a fortune! He had shoveled mountains of snow and run dozens of errands to earn it. And now he was on his way to buy two things at Graham's Gift Shop. One was the alabaster box his mother had admired early in October. The other was a leather catcher's mitt for himself.

"Hi, Timmy!" The boy turned to see his cousin Ann running toward him. "May I go shopping with you?" she called. "Mother's too busy to take me."

"Sure, come along." Tim was glad to have someone to share his plans.

Ann wanted to choose her gift first, so Tim went with her to the variety store. They had to push their way through the crowd. "Let's look at the toys while we're here," Ann suggested.

A group of eager children stood in front of the toy counter. One mother was holding up her small boy so he could see over the heads of the others. "Look, truck!" The child clapped his hands with glee when he saw a large wooden truck big enough for him to ride on. "I want truck," he pleaded.

"No, Joey, it costs too much," the boy's mother told him gently. "Let's go look at the mittens. You need a new pair if you're to play outside this winter." As she

carried Joey away, Tim noticed how shabby her clothes were and how tired she looked.

"You stay here a minute," Tim told Ann suddenly. He started after the mother and her small boy. Joey was still begging for the truck when Tim caught up with them.

"Would you like for me to watch your boy while you shop?" Tim offered. "You must be tired of carrying him."

"I am," the mother replied. "He's so lively I'm afraid he might get lost if I let go of him."

"I can take him back to see the toys. I'll watch him."

The mother readily consented and set Joey on the floor. As she raised up and hurried away, a letter fell from her pocket. Tim picked it up to return it to her when she returned.

Ann and Tim had fun showing the toys to Joey. "He always wants to come back to the truck," Ann laughed. "I hope he gets one for Christmas."

When Joey's mother returned, they told her how much her son liked the big truck.

"I noticed that, too," she smiled, "but he'll have to wait another year. His father has been sick all fall and it takes most of what I earn to keep this young man fed!"

Tim remembered the letter and the woman seemed pleased to get it back. "Thanks for helping me out," she told the cousins, "and a Merry Christmas!"

Tim and Ann watched until Joey and his mother had disappeared. "I wish we could give Joey a Christmas present," Ann said slowly. "But we don't even know where he lives."

"I know," Tim told her. "The address was on the letter I picked up. Mrs. Joseph Gray, 220 Walnut Street."

Tim was fingering the money in his pocket. The truck cost two dollars. He could buy it instead of the mitt. "I'm going to get the truck," he decided. "I'll ask Mr. Graham to save the mitt until I can earn more money and buy it, too."

Tim found it hard to wait for Christmas morning. When the day came, he watched breathlessly as his mother opened the gift from him. "How lovely!" she exclaimed when she saw the alabaster box. Tim forgot to wish that he had a mitt.

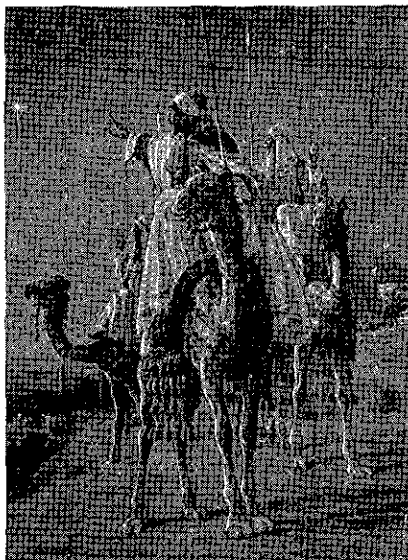
After breakfast Ann and Tim started for Joey's house. Ann carried a bundle of warm clothes her young brother had outgrown. Tim's package contained the truck and some candy and nuts. Quietly they placed their gifts on the Grays' front porch and Tim knocked at the door. Then he and Ann ran and hid at the side of the house.

The door opened and Mrs. Gray's voice called, "Come here, Joey! Santa brought you some gifts after all!" The little boy's happy shout told the cousins when he reached the porch.

"My truck!" he cried, and Tim and Ann knew that the paper was torn from the biggest package.

As they started home Tim felt warm and happy inside. He wondered if the Wise Men had felt like that after presenting their gifts to the Christ child so long ago in Bethlehem.

—BERTHA GAGOS, in *The Christian Advocate*. (Reprinted by permission.)



Leader's Remarks

As Junior Missionary Volunteers we want to show the true spirit of Christmas to others this year. Every Seventh-day Adventist young person knows, or at least should know, that we are not celebrating Christ's birthday on December 25, for He was not born on that day. Yet the spirit of giving at Christmas certainly can be associated with Christ, for He was the greatest Gift God gave to man.

The practice of giving gifts is not wrong, but we might learn a lesson from the way the wise men brought their gifts. Remember, they did not bring their gifts to Joseph, or to Mary, or to the innkeeper, but rather to Jesus. We, too, can bring our gifts to Jesus, for He said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

Sometimes we feel that because we do not have a lot of money and cannot buy beautiful and expensive gifts for people, we cannot bring Christmas cheer to anyone. However, it does not take a lot of money to give something. Listen while some of our girls discuss what can be done.

Morning Prayer

Be with me, Lord, as *here* I pray,
And keep me by Thy side today.
Please make me gentle, pure, and true,
And kind in all I say and do,
Honest in every word and deed,
And quick to help when others need.
Amen!

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN.

What Shall We Do?

FIRST GIRL:
What shall we do to make Christmas Day
The happiest of the year
For someone who may need our love,
And a thought of kindly cheer?

SECOND GIRL:
I'm making some scrapbooks, the prettiest I
can,
To take to the hospital here,
For the sick little children who else might
find
Their Christmas day most drear.

THIRD GIRL:
I'm going to make some candy—my best—
And tie it in wrappings gay,
And take it to an old lady near by
Who'll be all alone that day.

FOURTH GIRL:
I've nothing to give, but I'm going that day
To play with a little lame boy,
And read him a book while his mother rests;
I hope 'twill give them both joy.

FIFTH GIRL:
Let's give a surprise to the shut-ins we know,
And go in the early morn,
And sing 'neath their windows our sweetest
songs
About when the dear Christ was born.

SIXTH GIRL:
Oh, this is the way I'm sure we can have
The very happiest day;
To think of others, to give love and cheer,
Will bring us joy alway.

Note to Superintendents

After the dialogue conduct a service in which the Juniors tell what they plan to do on Christmas or during the Christmas season to bring cheer to someone. Encourage each one to make a Christmas list of things they can do when they go home.

"The Holy Spirit loves to address the youth, and to discover to them the treasures and beauties of God's word. The promises spoken by the great Teacher will captivate the senses and animate the soul with a spiritual power that is divine. There will grow in the fruitful mind a familiarity with divine things that will be as a barricade against temptation."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 132.

Everything can be done better than it is being done. If we have an expert, we fire him. We don't want men who know it all. We want men who see so much they haven't done that they haven't time to think about how good or efficient they are.—HENRY FORD.

The work that centuries might have done must crowd the hour of setting sun!—CLARA THWAITES.

Counting time is not so important as making time count.—JAMES J. WALKER.

Home Missionary Department

Forward to New Victories in 1950

"There Remaineth Yet Very Much Land to Be Possessed"

Text: Joshua 13:1.

I. Reviewing the victories and progress of the past.

II. Facing the unfinished task of the future.

I. *Reviewing the Achievements of the Past.*

The first twelve chapters of Joshua give us a thrilling recital of the triumphs of God's people in the conquest of the Promised Land. Great progress had been made, all within the life span of one man, Joshua. But now Joshua was "old and stricken in years." It was, therefore, the sunset hour of this great man of God; and in that closing bit of time God expected him to finish the work he had so nobly begun.

In this glorious bit of sacred history we see a fitting and striking parallel to the work of God and the people of God today. Within the life span of human beings still living, the great second advent movement has marched around the world in the most thrilling conquest of all time. But now it is the sunset hour, and we hear again the voice of the Lord saying in thunder tones, "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." In this sunset hour we must face the sunset task.

Our danger today is the same danger that ensnared Israel. They settled down to enjoy the fruits of their victories. They lost the aggressive spirit. They were rocked to sleep in the cradle of carnal security. They ceased to march forward "conquering, and to conquer." They forgot the military strategy and advantages of offensive warfare. They became "settled on their lees."

We like to recount the wonderful progress in this great second advent movement. We rejoice as we see the lengthening chain of sanitariums, hospitals, and clinics encircling the globe. We are thankful as we see the growth of our educational institutions fulfilling the divine blueprint for the modern schools of the prophets. We glory in the story of missionary advance into nearly every land on earth. We are enthralled by the miracles of transforming power.

We are stirred also by the revival of the great Dorcas Welfare program that is ful-



Missionary Program for Sabbath, December 3

BY ADLAI ESTEB

OPENING HYMN: "Hark! the Voice of Jesus Calling," No. 447 in *Church Hymnal*.

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 10:1, 2; Philippians 3:13, 14.

PRAYER.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SPECIAL MUSIC OR HYMN: "Far and Near the Fields Are Teeming," No. 448.

BIBLE STUDY: "There Remaineth Yet Very Much Land to Be Possessed."

RECITATION: "Faces at the Window."

HYMN: "Work, for the Night Is Coming," No. 446.

BENEDICTION.

filling Isaiah 58. The marvelous relief program has been brought before the eyes of the entire world. Dorcas is on the march around the world. Our hearts rejoice to see the response of our great army of youth to the Share-Your-Faith movement. "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!"—*Education*, p. 271.

How our hearts leap for joy when we see how "the wealth of the Gentiles" is flowing into the work of God in harmony with the divine prophecy. A recent gift of over \$2,000,000 from one individual should make us realize how easily God can give us favor before the world until the work is done.

We give grateful thanks to God as we see how the publishing work has prospered.

God designed that "the canvassing work is to be revived, and that it is to be carried forward with increasing success."—*Colporteur Evangelist*, p. 35. Scores of well-equipped publishing houses are located at strategic places all around the world. Has sacred history ever been able to record more thrilling stories of hazard, hardship, heroism, and adventure than those written by our faithful army of colporteur evangelists in every land?

Further, in the materialistic world we have shared with others the joy of the brilliant conquest of space; and from horseback, ox carts, and canoes we have leaped in one generation into streamlined trains, automobiles, and floating palaces on sea and flying fortresses and pleasure ships of the air. We like to recount the amazing conquest of time and the development of the telegraph, telephone, and radio. The breath-taking attacks on the power hidden in the atom, our conquest of mechanics and dynamics, and the wizardry of electricity present chapters in the triumphs of the century which stagger the imagination of men.

Shall we be content to rejoice in all these achievements in the physical and the spiritual worlds, and settle down on our lees? Shall we thank God for all these victories and many others too numerous to mention, and forget that God still speaks? He says today as of yore: "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed." In this sunset hour we must face the sunset task.

II. *Facing the Unfinished Task of the Future.*

What is the unfinished task we face? In the language of our text it is not "some" land, or even "much land," but "very much land to be possessed." What are some of these unconquered areas that challenge the church of God today? They are parts of two worlds—the world within and the world without.

1. *The World Within.* There is a great work yet to be done in the hearts of God's people. "Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 1, pp. 187, 188.

Every one knows the plague of his own heart. Each one knows the bane of his experience. Some must conquer their fears; others their doubts; others their impatient spirit, their temper, their tongues. Others find a great temptation in fashion; or love of the world. Some feel the overwhelming power of the love of money, the love of praise, or the love of power. But there must be no room for these things, for "Christ is everything and everywhere." Colossians 3:11, Moffatt. There are still others who must attack and overcome their indifference to and neglect of the work of God. A heavy condemnation rests upon those who neglect the work of the Lord. "Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty." Judges 5:23. All the sins of commission or the sins of omission must be summarily dealt with. How many Christians have cried out: "They made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept." Song of Solomon 1:6. Each one of us has a garden within the heart to keep beautiful and fruitful for Jesus; but we *must* get rid of "the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines." Song of Solomon 2:15.

2. The World Without. When we have developed a beautiful garden within our hearts, we must not forget that there are other vineyards in which we have been given responsibility. There is, first, the home in which we live—our little garden of Eden; second, the church where we have our membership—"for the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel" (Isaiah 5:7); and third, the whole wide world in which we live, for "the field is the world" (Matthew 13:38). When we view the vast amount of work that needs to be done in these vineyards, we are led to exclaim in the words of our text: "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed."

Let us come a little closer to our supreme task of evangelism. Let us see the millions of faces that crowd into view. We see them through our windows—the windows of our homes, the windows of our churches, the windows of our offices. They are everywhere. They are waiting. Many of them are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting to be gathered in. "All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in."—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 109.

In view of these waiting millions, how can we be content to sit in church or at home and merely pray for them or only

give money to help them. Soul winning cannot be done alone by purse, but by person; not by proxy, but by proximity. Come close to the people. "We are not to hover over the ninety and nine, but to go forth to save the lost, hunting them up in wilderness of the large cities and towns."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 232.

In our house-to-house visitation crusade—*Operation Doorbell*—we find home after home where prayer has never been heard before. We find families that have never had a Bible. We find many, oh, so many, troubled souls, sorrowing hearts, unhappy people who need the spiritual ministrations of Christians who know and love God. How often we have arisen from prayer to see the tears flowing down the cheeks of people we had never met until just a few moments before when they answered the doorbell. Our own hearts have melted as they have taken our hands and told us what that prayer had meant to them.

How many homes there are remaining yet to be possessed! How many families are there in your community that have never been visited? Do you say, "Let them come to church and hear the message"? But that is not the answer. "We are not to wait for souls to come to us; we must seek them out where they are. . . . There are multitudes who will never be reached by the gospel unless it is carried to them."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 229.

This house-to-house visitation program is the divine program given us of God. In fact, it was the divine pattern of work left to us by the Master. Why has it taken us so long to find this out? Note these statements which are crystal clear: "Our Saviour went from house to house, healing the sick, comforting the mourners, soothing the afflicted, speaking peace to the disconsolate. He took the little children in His arms and blessed them and spoke words of hope and comfort to the weary mothers. With un failing tenderness and gentleness, He met every form of human woe."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 188.

There is no ambiguity about that statement. "Our Saviour went from house to house, . . . comforting, . . . soothing, . . . speaking peace." Now note this corollary utterance: "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.

From these statements we are assured that this house-to-house visitation is a vital part of the divine blueprint of personal evangelism. Paul, as well as Jesus, followed this pattern. At Ephesus he visited the

homes of the people. In fact, he affirmed that not one person could say he had not been warned. "Remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears. . . . And have taught you publicly, and from house to house. . . . I am pure from the blood of all men." Acts 20:31, 20, 26.

The next great movement in our denomination is a mighty laymen's movement, a return to the pristine splendor of the early church with victory *within* and *without*, going forth, "conquering, and to conquer." (Revelation 6:2.) It is our only hope for a finished work. "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 352.

It is the sunset hour; we must face the sunset task. Let us respond to the ringing summons of God to His people as He says: "There remaineth yet very much land to be possessed."

Wisdom is knowing what to do;
Skill is knowing how to do it;
Virtue is doing it.

Faces at the Window

When we sit in the comfort of home's fire-side,
And we bask in the blessings which God has supplied,
Through the merits of Christ the crucified,
Our hearts are glad.

But please look through the window and see out there
All the faces of millions pass by in despair;
Can we still be content to say only a prayer
For those so sad?

When we sit in the ease of an office chair,
Mid the blessings of peace and the freedom we share,
And the joys of a land with which none can compare—
"Land of the Brave"—

Oh, look out through the window and see anew,
Many millions of faces that crowd into view,
And then ask yourself seriously, What can we do
Their souls to save?

When we sit in our church in our comfortable pews,
And we thrill with the glories of God's "Good News,"
Let's remember the nations with no chance to choose
God's message to man.

Please look out through the window and see, I pray,
All these millions of sheep who have gone astray—
Oh, my brethren, let's hasten and find them today,
For this is God's plan.

—ADLAI ESTEB.

News from Soul Winners

God Brings Them In

Fourteen years ago one of the Cole sisters of Kentucky quit going to church because of a dream she had. In the dream she was in a great forest. All the trees in that forest were dead with the exception of one or two, and on these appeared strange lights. The Lord impressed her that these represented His true church. She inquired of the Lord where she could find His church, and at the time she was informed that she would be told at a future date. Subsequent to her dream, she and her family moved to Cincinnati.

Sometime in February, 1948, this sister began reading her Bible, and thought it might be well for her to memorize portions of it. She began with the Ten Commandments. When she came to the fourth commandment, she discovered that the seventh, not the first, day of the week was the Sabbath. She immediately called on her sister and told her of finding that Saturday, the seventh day, was the Sabbath. She and her sister decided they would begin keeping Saturday, which they did, feeling that they were the only persons in all of Cincinnati who were keeping God's true Sabbath.

Shortly after they began keeping the Sabbath, this sister, whose name is Mrs. Roach, had another dream in which she was told by the Lord to join His church. She told the Lord she had searched for His church but could not find it. Shortly after this second dream she went to see a third sister who was taking Bible studies from two ministers from God's Bible School. As she entered the home, she found these men were there. Apparently they knew that she was keeping the Sabbath, because one said to her, "Are you the woman who keeps Saturday for the Sabbath?"

She replied, "Yes, I am. I keep Saturday because the fourth commandment says the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God."

They tried in many ways to convince her that the law had been nailed to the cross, but she was a sufficiently good Bible student to show them that the seventh-day Sabbath was still in force. These ministers reported back to their school, and three ministers came to the Roach home to convince her that the seventh-day Sabbath had been nailed to the cross, and to invite her to attend their college. After consider-

able discussion she told them she could not attend any church that did not keep all the commandments of God, including the seventh-day Sabbath.

About the time Mrs. Roach was having this discussion with these ministers, the pastor of the local Seventh-day Adventist Church, E. H. Schneider, was forced into a discussion with a minister of the Church of Christ. One of the attendants at this church was the mail carrier for the district in which Mrs. Roach lived. He had talked with Mrs. Roach and had told her there was a church in town that kept the seventh-day Sabbath. One day, while delivering mail to her, he brought her a newspaper in which appeared an advertisement telling of evangelistic meetings being carried on at the Cincinnati Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sunday nights.

Mrs. Roach read this ad, then went to the Lord in prayer. She asked the Lord that it might be revealed to her if this was His church. That very night she had a third dream in which she found herself being directed of the Lord to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cincinnati. As she came to this church, she saw that a large stone had been used as a stepping-stone into the church. She was amazed at this stone, and drew near to examine it. As she came near, she noticed that a pair of slippers had been cut out of the rock. These slippers seemed to be like her bedroom slippers, and just about the right size. As she drew closer to examine them, her feet slipped into them. They fit perfectly. They seemed firm and solid, and the Lord seemed to say to her, "This is the solid Rock upon which My church is built, and this is My church."

As she stood with her feet comfortably fitted into these slippers, she looked into the church. The church seemed to her to be made of pure gold, the most beautiful church she had ever seen, and the Lord seemed to say to her, "Yes, this is My church."

Upon awakening the next morning, she called her sister, told her of the dream, and asked her sister to accompany her to this evangelistic meeting that very night. Her sister invited her young married son, and he came with these two sisters.

The topic that night presented by Elder Schneider was "The Return of Jesus." As they listened to this sermon, Mrs. Roach knew she was in God's church, and this was the church she was to join. At the

close of the service, as Elder Schneider was shaking hands with the people, she and her sister and nephew requested baptism, although this was the first time they had ever been in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They were invited to join the baptismal class, but they wanted to be baptized immediately.

"But how do you know this is the true church?" Elder Schneider asked.

"Oh, I know this is Christ's Church," Mrs. Roach replied, "and we want to be baptized and received into this church."

"But there are many things you have to learn before baptism," suggested the pastor.

"We are willing to accept anything that you teach, because we know you are teaching the Bible and nothing but the Bible, and the Lord has revealed to us that this is His church."

She asked Elder Schneider to visit her so that she could tell him how she knew this was God's remnant church. He came, and she told of her dreams, and of her desire to be baptized into the church.

After a series of Bible studies and continued attendance at Sunday-night meetings and also at church services on the Sabbath, Sister Roach, together with her sister, Mrs. Furrow, another sister, Mrs. Sparks, and a nephew, were all baptized. There are seven sisters in the family, and Sister Roach reports that in the not-far-distant future she believes every one of them will accept the third angel's message.

We, of the Walnut Hills Church, rejoice that God is calling the honest in heart to embrace His last warning message to a dying world.

—E. H. SCHNEIDER.

Village Nursing in Alaska

"The medical work is the right arm of the message." I longed to see just how much of an entering wedge it would prove to be.

Mr. Emery and I first noticed the close relation between the physical and spiritual needs during the three summers we engaged in the colporteur ministry among the natives of Alaska. As we traveled from village to village, the people would somehow find out that a nurse was among them and would say, "Oh, you the nurse? My baby sick. You help me?" It often seemed that they had a village delegate that would take me to each door of those who were ill. Usually it was the door of each cabin. Many of the babies die from such diseases as whooping cough and pneumonia. You should not wonder at this, for a small one-room cabin housed a large family and was so filthy and lacking in pure, fresh air that I would leave one foot in the door so I could put

my nose to the crack and take a real breath now and then.

Every home in every village of Alaska, except Nome and the Aleutian Islands, had been visited by our colporteur ministry. As each home was entered, a new coal was added to the already burning desire to more fully bring the third angel's message to these souls. Up to this time there had been no full-time native worker. Elder Wood, superintendent of the Alaska Mission, deeply burdened for these people, called us to come. It was with a full heart and a knowledge of a people greatly in need of physical and spiritual help that my husband and I climbed the ladder to the rain-drenched dock of a village of two hundred fifty inhabitants, with native and white population about equal. Scarcely had we finished carting our baggage over the hill to our new home when the commissioner invited us to attend the town council called especially to appoint me as the town nurse. We assured them that we were there to aid each need, physical or spiritual.

One of our greatest privileges was to lend physical aid to a very aged Indian man. He did not know how old he was. His arms shook continuously, and he believed that another native of a near-by village had bewitched him. This caused him much pain mentally. He lived alone on the beach in a stuffy, damp, cold house, eating only what the community set by his bedside. On Sabbath our little company would take him food and then sing, pray, and read to him. The odor of his room was so offensive that the commissioner had to leave the room three times because of severe attacks of nausea while inquiring after his needs. During the cold winter months he became so ill he could not get out of bed. It was clearly seen that in this accumulation of filth and helplessness he would not live long. The Lord burdened our hearts to share our home with him. The coal dust had caked on his body for several years, so it took many daily medicated baths to remove dirt and odor. He was shaved, given a haircut, and three-quarter-inch toenails were removed with a hack saw. Meals were served him regularly. How he changed as Mr. Emery studied the Bible with him! He believed the Sabbath truth and rejoiced in singing hymns of praise. He is now receiving hospitalization. As he was placed in the plane to go to the hospital, he said, "I never wanted to fly in that big bird. I rather row my canoe over." Our last visit found him happy and firmly trusting in Jesus.

The medical missionary work is ever onward and God is continually opening up hearts to receive the light of truth by the right arm of His message.

—MRS. S. H. EMERY.

Missionary Leadership

Training the Laity

In discussing the subject, "Training the Laity," it might be well to consider four main points. First, reasons for training the laity; second, branches of service in which the laity should be trained; third, persons responsible for the training; and fourth, results to be expected from such training.

The reason for the existence of the Home Missionary Department is synonymous with the one for training the laity. "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church-membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 117.

Divine commands from our Saviour supply another reason why lay members should be trained. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. . . . Lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Mark 16:15, 18. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Matthew 28:19, 20. We are told that "the commission given to the disciples is given also to us. Today, as then, a crucified and risen Saviour is to be uplifted before those who are without God and without hope in the world. . . . From door to door His servants are to proclaim the message of salvation."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 29.

There are many shut-ins who need a pleasant visit, many orphans who need the human touch to let them know someone cares, lonely prisoners who need to know of the love of Jesus, many who have learned of the Advent message through the Bible Correspondence School or literature left by colporteurs, who will never receive the attention they need unless the laymen give it. Because the need is so urgent and so great, the laity should be trained.

There are many branches of service in which the laymen can be of use. "Every church should be a training school for Christian workers. Its members should be taught [1] how to give Bible readings, [2] how to conduct and teach Sabbath-school classes, [3] how best to help the poor and to care for the sick, [4] how to work for the unconverted."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 149. "There are ways in which all may do personal service for God. Some

can write a letter to a far-off friend, or send a paper to one who is inquiring for truth. Others can give counsel to those who are in difficulty. Those who know how to treat the sick can help in this line. Others who have the necessary qualifications can give Bible readings or conduct Bible classes."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 433.

Dorcas members can do a marvelous job of administering to the needs of the unfortunate of the neighborhood and to war-torn countries overseas. Those already trained in the making of garments and preparing nutritious meals should give of their time and talent to help others to learn, that they, too, may be of service to the poor and unfortunate.

Bands should be formed, with able leaders taking the initiative. These bands should be small, so that leaders can ascertain the ability of each member and utilize his efforts. We are told that the training course for the laymen should be exceedingly simple, in order to meet the needs of all classes, and must include in its scope the necessary instruction covering every phase of the evangelistic work of the local church. The course that may be given with good results in the churches is outlined as follows:

1. Church officers' training—duties and responsibilities.
2. Laymen's Bible work—instruction in giving simple Bible Studies.
3. Medical missionary and Christian help work.
4. Circulation of the printed page in personal service.
5. Home-foreign work—methods of evangelism among foreigners in this country.
6. Dorcas work—instruction in making clothes for needy, quilts, etc.

To whom is delegated the task of training the laity for service? This task must be undertaken by the missionary committee of the church, which is composed of members of the church board. "The mobilization of our lay membership for the finishing of the work and the completion of the missionary organization of our churches calls for a force of officers who will bear the responsibilities of missionary leadership."—*Laymen's Missionary Movement*, p. 84.

The officers themselves must first be trained and given opportunity to become familiar with their duties. This can be accomplished by church officers' institutes which may be held over week ends for

certain districts in the conference, by ten-day institutes, or by reserving a certain hour each day of camp meeting which will be devoted especially to the needs of the church officers. This training is of vital importance. As the conference Home Missionary secretary travels from church to church, he has an excellent opportunity to call together the missionary officers and encourage and instruct them as to what is expected of them after he leaves the field. "A trained leadership in our churches will help to give life and vitality to the movement and make possible the accomplishment of greater results in the work which must be done. These officers form an important link between church members and the conference administration, and their position is of no minor importance in the successful operation of the plans for training the laity."—*Ibid.*

What are the goals to be expected from a trained group of laymen? "When this ideal standard has been attained, there will come from our churches hundreds and thousands of well-trained, efficient workers, who will be able to participate successfully in the advancement of the message. In connection with this part of the program, we may look for a great church extension movement, which will result in whole families launching out into unentered fields to establish little centers of influence. . . . When every faithful member of the remnant church is winning at least one soul for Christ each year of his Christian profession, we shall see the dawn of the triumph day."—*Id.*, p. 85.

We really want Jesus to come soon, but we must remember that this cannot be accomplished until "the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work." And before they can rally to the work, the laity must be trained to do a good and efficient job.

—J. H. WAGNER.

Entering New Territory

"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14. The fact that the end has not yet come is our most conclusive evidence that the gospel of the kingdom has not yet been preached in all the places that God intends it shall be proclaimed.

All such places, then, constitute new territory. It may be the unconverted neighbor next door or in the same block as we live. It could be our home town or city. It might be the surrounding countryside, neighboring city, or a whole county in which no Adventist lives.

How to reach such individuals or places with the last warning message is the one big problem facing the church. It con-

stitutes our commission and our task. It should be the one central objective of our lives around which all our plans and purposes revolve. The methods of entering new territory may vary a bit in accordance with just what we consider new territory. As we most commonly think of that term, it applies to some city or fairly large community within the boundaries of which there is no living representative of the third angel's message. It is hard to believe that there are any such communities or cities where no one would accept the truth if it were presented in the right manner.

The problem then resolves itself into one of how to make contact with the individuals within the boundaries of the given territory and then how best to present the message to them. The problem becomes more complicated when we realize that all individuals do not have the same interest in spiritual things, nor do all respond to any one plan or method in the same manner. The varying hereditary and environmental background of the individuals is bound to make this true. Therefore, it can be said at the outset, there is no one universal method of opening or entering new territory. One method may prove more effective in one section and some other method in another section.

Those seeking to fulfill the gospel commission of, "Go ye into all the world," must, therefore, be familiar with various methods and must adapt their program to the particular type of people with whom they wish to work.

Those who make a success in the field of salesmanship try to know something about their prospective customer before

they make any attempt to sell him their commodity or product. Although we must not lower the gospel to a commercial level, yet some of the same principles that apply in salesmanship surely apply in presenting the gospel. Salesmen try to learn as much as they can about their customer—his background, interests, hobbies, prejudices, and needs. This is termed the pre-approach. It helps them to make a favorable impression in their approach, create an interest, develop a desire, and finally consummate a sale. In getting a person to accept the truth we must cause the other person's mind to go through the same process as it goes through in the making of a sale. We must create a desire and a final acceptance of the Lord Jesus and His way of life for mankind.

Having learned something about the prospective customer, the salesman begins where the other man's interests lie. If the man is a farmer with a prize-winning dairy herd, he may begin talking about dairy herds. From this he proceeds to other things that they both agree upon and which will give pleasant conversation. Then he begins talking about his product and how it will serve his customer's needs. By this procedure he creates a favorable attitude and finally convinces his customer of his need of the product, and the customer makes the purchase.

Surely the gospel worker will want to be as tactful as the commercial salesman. Therefore, some knowledge of the individual or community to be contacted is of extreme importance and value. We would not wish to approach an atheist in the same manner as a Catholic, or a Catholic in the same manner as a Protestant. Also there would be a difference in our approach to a group of farmers as compared with a group of factory workers or school-teachers. When we think of a community or deal with a group, we are generally faced with a mixed background on the part of the individuals, so we should adapt our procedure with a thought for the majority.

After this preliminary study of those with whom we expect to work, there are different ways of proceeding to make contacts. It may be by systematic distribution of literature, an invitation to enroll in a Bible correspondence course, an invitation to attend a series of public evangelistic meetings, or one of several other initial approaches, such as a thorough covering of the territory by our colporteurs to discover possible interests. One very good way for our lay people to discover those having an interest in spiritual things is to enter into the annual Bible reading program sponsored by the American Bible Society. To make

Leadership

A leader loves the people with whom he works.

A leader acquaints himself with his people.

A leader believes in the cause he is fostering.

A leader is sincere, unassuming, never pompous.

A leader is full of courage and zeal.

A leader is enthusiastic and glowing.

A leader turns cold water into steam, and does things.

A leader anticipates the needs, and works to get them supplied.

A leader encourages others to take part.

A leader shares responsibility, training new leadership.

A leader gives others the praise and the glory.

A leader keeps up to date, forges ahead.

A leader relies on power from above to guide him in his work.

A leader spends much time in prayer.

house-to-house calls in this program is something we can all endorse, and since the American Bible Society is nondenominational, we avoid prejudice in this initial contact.

By whatever method we proceed, we must keep in mind, first, to use such literature or present such topics as are generally accepted so as to gain and hold the confidence of those we contact. In the end, reaching people through personal contact is the most effective, and our program should look forward to such contacts. Here again we must gain the confidence of the individuals. If they have confidence in us, they will all the more likely have confidence in what we present. Contacts gained through a literature distribution program may lead to personal Bible studies or attendance at a series of public meetings. Sooner or later you are going to be talking on subjects upon which you do not agree. This presents a real test to our adroitness. We must remember that the other person's mind may be traveling in the opposite direction to ours. You never saw a freight train brakeman board a moving train by running in the opposite direction. No, he travels in the same direction as the train so as to board it with as little jar as possible. We should remember to emphasize and to bring out points on which we agree in order to avoid the jar of disagreement as much as possible.

Then there are two or three other points well worth our remembering. One man has said that the more arguments he won, the more friends he lost. In other words, no one enjoys being beaten in an argument. So do not make your approach in an argumentative manner, but rather in an exposition or teaching manner. Avoid ridiculing anyone. You may be talking to a person who does not care any more for the person or religion being ridiculed than you do, but he will not respect you for stooping to ridicule. He may assume that if you ridicule someone else while talking to him, you will also ridicule him while talking to someone else. Such thoughts will not build confidence in you or the things you are presenting. Be honest and sincere. Such qualities are always appreciated and admired. A great deal might be said about what such characteristics include. Although our approach must be tactful, it must not be deceitful. The evangelist, when advertising to draw a crowd, must not permit such advertising to be misleading. If we resort to such practices, it will cause people to lose confidence and to put us in the class of tricksters. We might mention other things, and all apply to individual approaches as well as to public approaches before large audiences.

We must ever be alert for opportunities to present present truth in new places, but

let us do so with proper care and thought. Let us learn as much as possible about those to whom we wish to present the third angel's message so that we can approach them with tact, winning their confidence and interest. Let a program of appropriate literature distribution be inaugurated, make personal contacts, follow with enrollments in the Bible correspondence course, the lending library program, personal Bible studies, group Bible classes, or a public evangelistic effort, depending on developing

opportunities and available resources and help.

In the words of the Master, "Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." Matthew 10:16. This calls for study and careful planning, not a blundering program. In closing, Paul's counsel to Timothy may be very appropriate: "Shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness." 2 Timothy 2:16.

Departmental Activities

The Possibilities in Literature Ministry

A church member was impressed one Sabbath afternoon to take some of our message-filled papers to her neighbors. She found a lady who immediately manifested an interest; next, the husband and three daughters became interested. Then the husband of the married daughter began taking studies, and the young men who were keeping company with the other two daughters were gathered in. But that was not all, for the mother of one of the young men, his sister, and her husband also accepted the message. No less than eleven persons were won as a direct result of this first contact. Is that all? Oh, no! All five men found their way into different spheres of God's work—a missionary, a college teacher, an evangelist, a health food worker, and the fifth is in hospital work. Eternity alone will tell the total result of her faithfulness.

What can literature distribution do for the church? It can change apathy and disinterest into rewarding activity.

By visiting the territories surrounding the church systematically with the printed page, and urging every able-bodied person into service, there will follow a revival, not only outside the church, but inside as well. The midweek prayer meeting will take on a different aspect, there will be experiences to relate, testimonies to be given. The needs of the neighborhood will be known, and the Dorcas Society will be called into greater service.

As the recipients of the literature ask questions, the distributors begin to realize their need of a better acquaintance with the Scriptures. Thus a "Light Bearers" class is called for and lay evangelism is born. Soon the church is on fire for God.

"Church members, awake to the importance of the circulation of our literature, and devote more time to this work. Place in the homes of the people papers, tracts,

and books that will preach the gospel in its several lines. There is no time to be lost."—*Southern Watchman*, November 20, 1902.

"Being Dead Yet Speaking"

"A plaintive, compelling echo comes to us from a land from which freedom and liberty have already flown. Forbidden to work, persecuted, afflicted, but aflame with the love of Christ, Elder H. J. Loeb sack, our veteran Russian leader, who now sleeps in Jesus, said at his last meeting with the late Elder L. H. Christian: '*Tell our people in America, with all your might print and circulate books; print and circulate more books; print and circulate more and yet still more books.*' What a plea from the depths of experience! Perhaps he saw and understood, with a clearness not yet realized by us, that when human voices are stilled by law and edict, literature secreted in countless homes will carry the cause on.

"The circulation of literature is the most economical way of announcing the message of God for today; it is the most rapid way of doing it; it is the most extensive way of doing it. It can be carried on more extensively than any other phase of work because we can draw so many thousands and tens of thousands of people into it. It is the least controversial way of doing it. People cannot argue with the message-filled literature. They can read it. They may get angry and throw it down, but it does not get angry or heated, and does not say anything out of place, or that is disrespectful or discourteous. It gives the same beautiful message all the time. Heralding the word with literature and heralding it on the platform—it is all giving the gospel to the world.

"There has never been a time when the press has had more to do in molding the opinions of men than it has today. Everything of importance is printed, and it is by this means that the people expect to become acquainted with the affairs of the world. The judgment, the coming of the

Lord, the resurrection of the righteous, and the destruction of the wicked are events of the deepest interest to all who have ever lived. Our work is to warn all nations, and tongues, and peoples of these things which are right upon us. How are we going to do it? Will not the press be the real agent? . . . As I look over the world, and see the thousands who have never heard one word about this truth, many of whom would purchase and read our publications, and be saved by the truths they contain *if someone would only take them to them, I wonder if the Lord will save those who might do such a work, but remain idle.*"—Elder A. G. Daniells, "Literature Evangelism," by W. P. Cooper, Evangelistic Council, San Francisco, May 22-June 5, 1941.

How many church members there are who feel the desire to be about the Master's business, yet, because of lack of eloquence, they feel like Moses, and cry, "I am slow of speech and slow of tongue"! To such a one the Lord has provided a mouth speaking with the most persuasive elo-

quence and with a tongue that is silent to abuse, voicing its opinions only when asked, yet speaking in such convincing terms that the honest in heart cannot fail to acknowledge the truths presented.

This gifted speaker is tireless and oblivious to time and space; therefore, to those who may be confined to beds of sickness or the cripple's chair, the printed page will go where you cannot go; furthermore, it will witness when the reader is ready to listen. "In enlightening and confirming souls in the truth, the publications will do a far greater work than can be accomplished by the ministry of the word alone. The silent messengers that are placed in the homes of the people . . . will strengthen the gospel ministry in every way; for the Holy Spirit will impress minds as they read the [tracts, papers] books, just as He impresses the minds of those who listen to the preaching of the word. The same ministry of angels attends the [tracts, papers] books that contain the truth as attends the work of the ministry."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, pp. 315, 316. —H. A. L. FREEMAN.

December 10

Dedication of My Talents to the Task

I have been profoundly impressed by this wonderful statement found in the *Testimonies*: "God will do the work if we will furnish Him the instruments."—Vol. 9, p. 107.

It is a thrilling thought, a cheering thought, that God can do the work and that God will do the work if we will furnish Him the instruments. Then the essential thing—the most urgent thing—for us to do is to dedicate our hands to God to do His work, to dedicate our feet to Him to run His errands, and, in deed and in truth, to dedicate our entire lives to Him.

That is what God is waiting for. We read: "The great outpouring of the Spirit of God, which lightens the whole earth with His glory, will not come until we have an enlightened people, that know by experience what it means to be laborers together with God. When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; but this will not be while the largest portion of the church are not laborers together with God."—*Christian Service*, p. 253.

Do you want to see a finished work? Then dedicate your talents to the task. Do you want to win souls for Christ's coming kingdom? Then dedicate your talents to the finishing of His work of salvation on earth.

Really, how much do you care about the lost souls all around us? Christianity is the sensitizing of the soul. It is the spirit that cares. Ask yourself this supreme question: How much do I care? Press it home to your heart.

The old year is drawing to a close. How much have you cared about the work of God this year? How much have you done? In this last month of the old year will you try to redeem the time? Are you getting ready for greater conquests for Christ during the New Year just ahead?

I heard the Old Year talking, and he seemed to say to me,
"I'm what mankind has made me, not what I hoped to be.
I did not bring the failures; my ways were bright and new.
I was the time allotted—the work was man's to do.

"I am what men have made me, not what I hoped to be.
And so shall be the New Year which soon shall follow me."
Our days are good or evil, as each one serves and strives—
Years are but the records on which men write their lives.

Weekly Church Missionary Services

Readings for December 3, 10, 17, and 24 prepared by Adlai Esteb

December 3

My Responsibility Toward the Unfinished Task

"It is a wonderful privilege to be able to understand the will of God as revealed in the sure word of prophecy. This places on us a heavy responsibility."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 19. What is this heavy responsibility?

We know that the work of God will be done on the earth, for Paul wrote that the Lord would "finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness; because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth." Romans 9:28. Furthermore John the revelator saw the people of God standing on the sea of glass singing the song of Moses and the Lamb, the song of victory. But how will it be done?

The answer to these two important questions should be of supreme interest to every follower of Jesus. What is the answer? What is this heavy responsibility toward the unfinished task? And how will the work be finished?

"In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light-bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world.

On them is shining wonderful light from the Word of God. They have been given a work of the most solemn import,—the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention."—*Ibid.*

When every church member recognizes his debt to God as Paul did, we will see a marvelous transformation—a "revival and reformation" in the church. How many are there who consider "no other work" of so great importance? Remember, we are to "allow nothing else" to absorb our attention.

We have a message from God to give to the world. This is our divinely appointed task. It is our business to do it and the devil's business to hinder us if he can.

Someone has said, "All we get from heaven, we owe to earth." Surely light from above is for the path below. When God has been good enough to give us light, we must let it shine. It is a wonderful privilege, but also a heavy responsibility.

If I have strength
I owe the world the service of the strong.
If music, then I owe the world a song.
If I have that which will illumine sin's darkest night,
Then help me pay my debt with living light.

December 17

The Line Shall Not Break Where I Stand

"If Christians were to act in concert, moving forward as one, under the direction of one Power, for the accomplishment of one purpose, they would move the world."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 221.

In order for the church to move forward "as one" with such amazing power as that, it will be necessary for *everyone* to do his duty faithfully. The line must not break anywhere. A chain is no stronger than its weakest link. Is that true of the church? What a thought to contemplate! Is the church no stronger than its weakest member? How is it with you? Can *you* say today, "The line shall not break where I stand"?

If we had the burden for a lost world that Jesus possessed, there would be no weak places in the line of evangelism. We must ask God to send down spiritual fires from heaven and warm our hearts to the commandment, "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Real religion makes us think of others. Indeed, Christianity is the sensitizing of the soul. Jesus makes you care.

Have you ever read this statement? "Among God's people today there is a fearful lack of the sympathy that should be felt for souls unsaved."—*Id.*, Vol. 7, p. 13.

How do you feel toward those who seem to disregard the truth? Deep down in your heart do you feel sympathy toward them as victims of the enemy of happiness and good?

How much do you care? If we care enough, we will carry on a more aggressive soul-winning campaign than anything we have yet seen. If we cared enough, we would be kinder. "If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tender-hearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one."—*Id.*, Vol. 9, p. 189.

If the "line" never breaks, we will not see any of our neighbors in that awful hour just ahead, pointing a finger at us and saying, "Why didn't you tell us?" It depends on whether or not "the line breaks where you stand."

Here is a vision given to the servant of the Lord: "In the visions of the night a very impressive scene passed before me. I saw an immense ball of fire among some beautiful mansions, causing their instant destruction. I heard someone say, 'We knew that the judgments of God were coming upon the earth, but we did not know that they would come so soon.' Others, with agonized voices, said, 'You knew! Why

then did you not tell us? We did not know!'"—*Id.*, Vol. 9, p. 28.

May that dreadful experience never happen to us. It won't if we can be true to this motto: "The line shall not break where I stand." Let each one say, "I will do my part."

December 24

My Missionary Plans for 1950

As we contemplate the new year just before us, and begin to plan for our missionary endeavors, let us try to consider how God looks upon the work to be done. It is possible for us to discover some of the plans of the Lord, for we have been given some definite statements which reveal to us what the mind of the Lord is regarding the work to be done.

First, God is calling us to do a larger work. Notice this clear-cut statement taken from the pen of inspiration: "God in His providence is calling His people out from their limited sphere of action, to enter upon greater enterprises."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 3, p. 405. What are some of these "greater enterprises"? For primary consideration I would suggest that every church enter upon a great house-to-house visitation program. We sometimes refer to it as "*Operation Doorbell*." This is definitely included in the divine blueprint for missionary work, for we read: "Wherever a church is established, all the members should engage actively in missionary work. They should visit every family in the neighborhood, and know their spiritual condition."—*Id.*, Vol. 6, p. 296.

In this house-to-house visitation program, we mean more than just leaving a tract at the door. We mean getting into the homes and praying with the people. We are to "know their spiritual condition." We cannot do that at the front door. We must get inside and actually visit with the people. We must get acquainted with them, sympathize with them when they tell their troubles. Many are sick. We should suggest praying for them. We can tell stories to the children. We must show the people that we love them. This was Christ's method. "Our Saviour went from house to house, healing the sick, comforting the mourners, soothing the afflicted, speaking peace to the disconsolate. He took the little children in His arms and blessed them and spoke words of hope and comfort to the weary mothers."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 188. Again, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.

The second important thing for us to consider involves the organization and training of the "army of the Lord." Since

God is definitely calling us to leave our "limited sphere of action" and "to enter upon greater enterprises," then we will need to see our churches organized much better than they have ever been in the past. Here is the divine call—a ringing summons from God concerning this very thing: "Time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, p. 27.

A few months ago one church accepted this challenge. The pastor, who was looking for new ideas in evangelism, attended the Laymen's Evangelistic Institute held in his conference. He and the delegates from his church went home determined to follow the blueprint. He organized his church. He, with his helpers, selected 200 active church members who promised they would work their territory faithfully. They were assigned definite districts. Each one was given ten homes to visit, which meant that the 200 members visited 2,000 homes each week. Not only did they distribute their series of twelve tracts for the twelve weeks, but they had many precious experiences praying with the people. These experiences were related at the weekly prayer meetings. The prayer-meeting attendance has doubled.

At the end of the twelve weeks of visiting, an announcement was left at each home, and a personal invitation was given to attend a series of meetings on Bible prophecy to be held in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As a result, 400 or 500 non-Adventists crowded into the church each night of the meetings. The church was filled—the downstairs and also the balcony. There are more than 100 now keeping the Sabbath and attending church regularly. Of these, fifty-five have already been baptized as the first fruits of this great co-operative effort of evangelism in which the church was "organized to do a large work." The pastor is thankful to the Lord and is confident that this is but the beginning of greater things.

In every church let us make our missionary plans large for the coming year.

December 31

Join the Temperance Cause

If you had four barrels of whisky in your cellar and had just accepted this message, what would you do? Would you sell it, give it away, or destroy it? That was the problem confronting one of our recent converts.

The wife suggested they sell it. Someone offered them \$100 a barrel for it. They began to pray about the matter, asking the Lord to guide them. The more they thought about it, the more they were convinced

(Please turn to page 34)

Department of Education

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

THE FOUR WALLS OF HOME

"That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace." Psalm 144:12.

Notes to Leaders

Every Home and School Association that is looking for an inspiring yet practical program should present this one prepared by Madge Haines Morrill who gives us the following suggestions for making it a success:

"Between the sections of the program, special numbers may be given, such as recitations of poems by children; special musical numbers, either vocal or instrumental; speaking choir numbers; or choral music.

"If the speaker wishes to emphasize the point of the cup full of honey, he may wish to hold a cup in his hand during the times this point is brought to attention.

"Along the four walls of the room, there may be placed the four types of exhibits that are discussed in the program: art, music, literature, and recreation. There may be pictures of famous artists, drawings by local children, scrapbooks of pictures, etc. The music table may have different types of books on music, record albums, some simple instruments, and other material related to music. The table for literature should have some well-known collections of poems, poetry scrapbooks, books for children, Moulton's *Modern Reader's Bible*—or other books that give the poetry of the Bible in its poetic form. This table may also have pictures of some of the favorite poets, such as Tennyson, Longfellow, etc. The table on recreation may have nature games, educational card games, travel folders, suggestions for indoor and outdoor games, and, of course, hobbies.

"At the conclusion of the program ushers may pass out mimeographed copies of the self-test, 'Is Your Home a Home?' and

each one who wishes may fill in the test, and grade his own paper. If the audience wishes, they may pass back slips of paper on which each individual score has been placed (without the name); and these may be tallied on a blackboard so each person may see how he has rated in relation to the others in the group. (Some Home and School gatherings have found this part of the program to be the most fun of all.) Sometimes the mimeographed tests are passed out as the people come in to the program, but are not filled in until after the program has been presented."

—ARABELLA MOORE WILLIAMS.



Is Your Home a Home?

Are You Providing an Adequate Environment for Your Child?

A home is more than four walls and a roof. Sometimes a home is *less* than four walls and a roof. The pioneer mothers made homes in their covered wagons, and many mothers today make homes in trailers, in tents, and in tenement rooms. A home is more than a house. A home is an environment. A home is where bodies grow and live, and where minds are developed and characters perfected.

But often we homemakers are so busy feeding and clothing and nursing the members of our family that we give little time to the emotional development of our children. We take time to provide adequately for the physical needs of our family, but we need to take time also to provide for

a rich environment that will help to mold characters.

A mother holds an empty cup in her hand. She says, "This empty cup is like the life of my child. I want to fill it with honey and not with vinegar."

Will that mother then pour the cup full of honey and hope that no one will come and pour vinegar into it?

No, the mother pours the cup *full* of honey, and then she knows there will be no room for vinegar. The mother says, "I will fill my child's life *full* of the good and wholesome, and of the uplifting things of life. Then there will be no room for those things that are trivial and ugly—there will be no room for the vinegar of life."

Parents may choose which they shall use to fill the lives of their children: honey, or vinegar—good or bad. All depends on the environment or atmosphere created by the home.

In speaking of the influence of environment upon children, Luther Burbank, the great authority in plant development, said, "All animal life is sensitive to environment but of all living things the child is the most sensitive. Every possible influence will leave its impress upon the child. It is the most susceptible thing in the world to influence."

Home environment is recognized as an agency that helps to mold a child into either a normal, useful adult, or into an abnormal, maladjusted human being who may become a ward of the state.

Parents may make the life of their child rich and significant by using all the resources at their command. Art, music, literature, recreation—these are the rudiments of a well-balanced life, and they need to be woven into every home environment.

Art, music, literature, and recreation may be likened to the honey the mother used to fill the cup. They are within reach of every home, whether it be rich or poor, learned or unlearned. Parents may use these four ingredients to provide a rich environment for their children.

Of course, a home must be built upon a solid foundation. *Love* is the solid foundation that will hold the house together even

though storms and conflicts arise: *love of God*, love of country, and love of every member in the home.

Then, on top of this solid foundation, a home may build four beautiful walls; these walls may be made up of the finer things of life. Let us divide them into the four groups already mentioned: art, music, literature, recreation.

Art

An old Persian proverb says, "If I had but two loaves of bread, I would sell one and buy a hyacinth, for hyacinths can feed the soul."

John Muir, the nature lover, once said, "Man must have beauty as well as bread."

Beauty is necessary in a home. It is second only to proper body development because it helps to provide correct emotional development. Beauty and the finer things of life tend to stabilize and control the emotional life of a child.

Do children respond to beauty? Have you ever seen a little child reach out a chubby hand toward a flower and lisp, "Pretty, pretty." There seems to be an inborn instinct in children to love flowers. Flowers are beautiful, they are colorful, they are fragrant. A child turns to them as naturally as the sunflower does to the sun.

Some homes have hired gardeners who tend spacious, formal gardens. Other homes have but a few tin cans of "potted flowers" on a window ledge. Yet each home is bringing to its children a love of beauty as seen in leaf and bud and flower.

Every home has the need of some growing thing. A potted plant may shed its beauty; a lone rosebush growing by the door may give its sweet perfume. God made growing things for man to enjoy, and growing things may teach lessons of dependence as one waters and tends the plants. As the plant depends on the hand of its owner for life and nourishment, so man depends upon his Maker for life.

Children enjoy helping mother as she arranges a bowl of cut flowers. Sometimes the children are given the opportunity to arrange the flowers themselves, and mother will often be happily surprised at the artistic ability of her children as they carefully place the flowers in a vase. True, the arrangement may not follow the rules, but many times it is more natural and more pleasing to the eye than the type of bouquet mother learned to arrange at some flower club lecture. And even when baby sister toddles in with her hands full of petals and begs, "Me make pretty," mother may place a shallow bowl of water on the table. Sister's arrangement of petals floating on the water may make the loveliest bouquet of all.

Pictures hung on the walls of the home are like windows that look into far places. They give the children in that home a broad view of life; they help to mold the character; they develop a love of the beautiful. The homemaker may take a check of the pictures in her home. Are they the kind that will be helpful to her child? Some homemakers like to change the pictures with the seasons; others change pictures occasionally. One needs to enjoy the pictures in his home, and sometimes when a picture has been on the wall too long, it becomes a forgotten picture. A new one hung in its place might add interest to the room.

Betty and little John, my neighbor's children, often came to my house for a "visit." Their first reaction when coming into the room was to go from one wall to the other, pointing to the various pictures. "See, pretty picture, see," little John kept pointing and talking to his sister.

I wondered why they would be attracted to the pictures more than to other things in the home; but one day I visited their home. The walls were bare. The room seemed lonesome without pictures. Then I knew the reason for the children's taking such an interest in the pictures on my walls.

Some homes are picture conscious. Mothers and children collect pictures, making scrapbooks or picture files. They go to visit museums, or art galleries where the best pieces of art may be studied and enjoyed.

Some homes encourage their children to create pictures of their own. Mother provides a pin-up board where her children may display the pictures they have colored or have drawn themselves. To give the child the opportunity to do creative work is one of the best forms of emotional release that a home may use.

Art may be found at the windows of the home. Even if only a small portion of the sky can be seen from the window, mother may take a few moments to enjoy and to teach her children to enjoy the lovely colors of sunset and sunrise. A supper that has cooled while the family admired the sunset may be more appetizing for the uplift of a few minutes spent in contemplation of the colors used by the Master Artist.

Music

"The fact that one hospital bed out of every two is occupied by a mental patient suggests the need of protecting young minds from wrong pressures." (Quotation taken from a pamphlet, *Radio in Home, School, and Community*, published by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. See page 3.) Music may be a wrong pressure, or it may be a good one. Music may help

to make a child grow healthfully and normally, or it may help to cause a warped life.

Mother wants to fill her cup with honey, not with vinegar. She wants to fill her child's life with the right kind of music, and then there will be no room or inclination to use the wrong type of music.

Once, on a sightseeing trip in Chicago, we were ushered by guides into the audience theater of a radio station, but we failed to inquire as to the type of program that was to be presented. The doors were closed and the program was under way before we realized the kind of "music" that was to be given. We were glad that the program was a short one.

During the half hour that we were there, we saw a group of young people in the audience go *wild* under the influence of fiendish music. At no other time had we ever witnessed such contortions, such giddy gyrations, and such unhumanlike actions. The throbbing of the drums, the blaring of horns, and the convulsive dancing of the young people in the aisles seemed almost a duplicate of the devil dances of Africa that we had seen in moving pictures, except that the costumes and the color of the participants were different. We could only imagine the result of such music on the lives of those young people, and we could better realize why there are so many reports of crimes by the youth of our nation.

But the next afternoon in Chicago we witnessed a different type of radio program. We were ushered into the visitor's gallery of the radio station at The Moody Bible Institute, and there we saw young people playing sweet strings and we heard them singing beautiful gospel hymns. How different these young people looked—no gaudy make-up was on their faces! Their countenances were *bright with the inner peace* and hope that comes from a Christian life.

Later that same evening we heard a thousand young people in the chapel of the Institute blend their voices in holy songs at their vesper service. We heard them speak of their desire to evangelize the world; we could see the peace of Christ written on their faces. They would go out into the world, not to drink and dance and commit crimes; but rather, they would go out *to love and to restore*.

Music is like fire—it can destroy or it can be of service. We need to show our children the right use of music; then they will be able to make their own decisions for the right. If a child has been brought up to enjoy the high-class type of music, the other kind will be more likely to be repulsive to him.

Let us take inventory of our own home. Is it providing *enough* of the right kind of music? Do we help our children to

evaluate and choose the right kind of radio programs? Do we have musical instruments in the home, and are we encouraging our children to play them? Do we sing with our families? Do we have collections of good songs? Do we take our children to concerts and musical programs that will be beneficial to them? There is danger, perhaps, in our great desire to shun evil, that we fill the cup only half full of honey. We need to fill it to the brim if we wish to have no room for the bitter of life.

Literature

Man was created *above* the animals and was given the power to think.

"Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator,—individuality, power to think and to do. . . . It is the work of true education to develop this power; to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought."—*Education*, page 17.

Books can be a medium for thinking. It has been said, "A man is himself, plus the books he reads." Young minds grow and expand with the books they read.

But, like music, reading is a habit that needs to be cultivated, else the wrong kind of reading may come in to fill up the half-empty cup. Let a young child know and feel the influence of good books, and when he is older, the cheap ones will seem trivial and distasteful to him.

Parents need to be wise. They need to keep the cup full all the way to the top. Schoolbooks and a few church papers may not be enough to establish a right taste in a child's mind. Nor is it quantity that counts. It is the *quality* of the books, the subjects chosen, the presentation and general make-up of books that count.

Also, it is the parent participation that helps to mold the right choice. If mother and father read and enjoy a book, if they talk about it and show their enjoyment, the influence is contagious. John and Mary, too, will realize there is joy in reading, and in reading of the right kind.

Books are so cheap today. Even some of the ten-cent variety are desirable. Yet, I have seen parents bring home bubble gum from the dime store, when they might have given their child a worth-while book for the same price as the bubble gum.

Parents may take a check of their library. Is it up to date? Do your books cover a wide variety of subject matter? Do you subscribe to magazines that contain current events, or character-building material, or natural science?

Do your children have books of their very own? Children need books to own and to love. They need to grow up with

books for friends. They need a change of books to suit the growth of their mentality. Mother changes the hemline in Mary's dress as she grows up; and mother needs to change the mental diet in accordance with the new growth of her child.

Some families have developed the library habit. They go to the public library and choose books that are helpful as well as entertaining. They consult the librarian for books of the type they wish to use. The library habit is a good one to develop, but it must be guided so the child will understand and make the right choices.

Do you and your children have the reference habit? "Mommie, what is the name of that bird? What kind is it?" But mother may not know. Then comes the fun of turning the pages of a bird book until the right bird is found; there is fun in discovering the world around us, and this is available through the knowledge found in guide books on nature. Own them, and borrow them; use them, and discuss them. Children love to make discoveries, and every day can hold its treasure. Snowflakes, bits of moss, a red autumn leaf, the blue of a robin's egg—these may lead on and on into richer, fuller lives when books are consulted and enjoyed.

Does your family have a reading circle? Every family takes time to eat and to sleep, and every family needs to take time to grow mentally. Nothing is so helpful as family reading. It is a treasure that should never be left buried, even though it may cost time and effort.

Children need to grow up with beautiful memories. They need memories of evenings spent listening to the voice of father and mother reading stories and poems. Children who have such memories to grow on are rich and increased with mental wealth.

Rhythm plays an important role in the development of a child. He needs the rhythm of a mother's rocking chair, the rhythm of a mother's lullaby, and later he needs the rhythm of poetic forms. There is something about the nature of a child that makes him crave these things. We as parents should be wise and give our children full measure of these treasures that may be had without cost.

Psychologists tell us that poetry is valuable because it may serve as an emotional release, and that it is necessary for the full development of the child.

Those of us who had mothers who gave us the rhythms and lovely ear patterns of poems cherish these memories as we would precious jewels. Mother's poems about the blue clouds, her poems about the red apple trees, her poems about the little birdie who hopped upon the window sill, her poems about the lovely stars at night—who can value the worth of these?

At first we lisped them with her; then later we came to know them all by heart. We dug out poetry books from the library shelves and we begged her to read the same poems over and over. We never tired of them; they were like music that pleased our ears. We grew up with a joy for life. The world about us was filled with wonderful things; life was full and significant.

Every home needs poems: poems for Thanksgiving Day; poems for other special days; poems of love; poems of heroic deeds; and poems of religion that help to stretch one's soul.

The poems of the Bible are among the most beautiful to be found in the literature of any nation. Don't be frugal with Bible poems.

No home needs to be so poor that it cannot have its treasury of poetry. Even if one cannot afford to buy expensive bindings of poem books, he can make scrapbooks of poems that he finds in the library or in the books of his friends.

A most interesting hobby is the making of scrapbooks of poetry, illustrated with cutout pictures, or with illustrations drawn by the children themselves. Sometimes children will voluntarily create poetry of their own. This tendency should be fostered and encouraged. Scrapbooks of one's own poems, and illustrated by one's own pictures, make a most fascinating collection. Such books can be of more value than high-priced anthologies of poetry.

When a child's life is filled with "honey" of this type, there is no room left for the vulgar and sordid things of the world. It is the God-given privilege of every parent thus to fill his child's life.

Recreation

We have made three walls to our home; now we are ready to make the fourth and last wall. Recreation may be that wall. Recreation may serve as the golden cord that ties a home together. Through a common interest of planning for leisure a family may find true comradeship. When parents take time to play with their children, they are taking time to bind their children to them as no other method could do.

Fathers and mothers go walking with their children; they look for birds and flowers and trees. They talk about the parts of a flower, they recite a poem about a roadside flower, the children hunt for other flowers and make wonderful discoveries.

The children come home with their cheeks pink from the fresh air and the exercise; they come home with their hearts full to overflowing with love and a comradeship that only *home* can give them.

Travel adventures are rich experiences. If father's car does not drive too fast, there

is time for points of interest along the way: historical backgrounds, products of the rich soil, enjoyment of the beauty of seascapes and mountain scenery.

Pets at home have their contribution to make to the well-rounded life of a child. They give him something to love that is all his own; they help to develop responsibility and care for something dependent upon the child's own hand.

Hobbies are a treasure house all their own. Parents may share their joys and enthusiasms with their children. The list of hobbies is numberless, and the benefits may be numberless, too. Every home needs hobbies as much as it needs groceries from the corner store.

If we build our home with four strong, beautiful walls—art, music, literature, and recreation—we may expect our homes to stand even when storms may try to blast them. These are the walls we may use to give our children a full, rich life. They are the walls that will help our children to grow in a way that is right.

Here is a check sheet that you may wish to fill in and grade; you may use it as an inventory when you ask yourself the question, Is my home a home?

Questionnaire to "Is Your Home a Home?"

Directions: Grade each question by points.

Grade Points	Total Score
5 Excellent	80-100 Excellent
4 Good	60-79 Good
3 Fair	40-59 Fair
2 Weak	20-39 Weak

Place the grade points in front of each question according to your estimate of how nearly your home meets the answer. Add the total score to find your rating.

ART

- 1....Do you have pictures on the walls of your home, and do you change them occasionally?
- 2....Do you have a picture file or scrapbook? Are you helping your children to be picture conscious?
- 3....Do you make flower arrangements or artistic displays in your home? Do you have a pin-up board or an art corner where your children may place pictures they have cut out or drawn?
- 4....Do you have potted plants in your home? Is your yard landscaped, with a lawn, flowers, shrubs, or trees?
- 5....Do you take time to enjoy and to teach your children to appreciate the symphony of sunset and sunrise colors?

MUSIC

- 6....Do you have a radio or a phonograph or both? And does your family listen to symphonies and to the better class of music?

- 7....Do you have a piano, organ, or other musical instruments in your home?
- 8....Are your children encouraged "to play" music, or are they given music lessons?
- 9....Do you have books or collections of good songs and do you and your children frequently spend time singing from them?
- 10....When location and occasion permit, do you take your family to musical concerts and programs?

LITERATURE

- 11....Do the books in your home cover a wide range of subject matter, and do your children have books of *their very own*?
- 12....Do you have books of poetry, and do you encourage your children to make poetry scrapbooks, or files of poetry? Are you on "speaking terms" with such poets as these: Longfellow, Whittier, Tennyson?
- 13....Do you subscribe to magazines that contain current events, character-building and educational material, and child-interest subjects?
- 14....Do you have a dictionary larger than pocket size, and an encyclopedia set or general reference books for your children's use? Do you help your children to cultivate the habit of research, training them to hunt for answers to their own questions?
- 15....Do you as a family have a reading circle? And do you sometimes tell your children stories, including such subjects as history, nature, Bible, biography?

RECREATION

- 16....Realizing that parent-child comradeship needs to be encouraged, do you take time to play with your children or to go on outings with them?
- 17....Do you have recreational gatherings for your children, providing games of either mental or physical development, and do you give them opportunity to participate in community activities?
- 18....Do you make trips with your children, taking time to observe the beauties of nature, and to point out the geographical features, the historical background, and the economic products of the sections through which you pass?
- 19....Do you point out to your children interesting things about birds, flowers, shells, stars, trees, minerals, and other nature subjects, helping them to identify special members in each group, by the use of guidebooks on the various subjects?
- 20....Does each child in your family have a hobby? (Pets may be included as a hobby.)

Join the Temperance Cause

(Continued from page 30)

that if whisky was not good for Adventists, it was not good for anyone else, and they were finally impressed with the fact that they ought to destroy it. When they came to this conclusion, the new convert invited his father to go down in the cellar with him.

He took an ax and smashed the first barrel. As the whisky spilled over the floor and into the drain, the fumes almost overcame them. The next-door neighbors smelled the liquor and for a moment thought it was their own whisky. When they learned what their neighbors were doing, they thought they had gone crazy, but the father and son continued to destroy the remaining barrels.

The father of this new convert was also in possession of some whisky. Later he also accepted the truth, and when he did, he followed the example of his son in destroying his whisky.

Today these men are rejoicing in the message, and have become active crusaders for the temperance cause, having distributed over 5,000 pieces of temperance literature in their local community. If each member of the church would make his influence felt for the cause of Christian temperance as these men are doing, Seventh-day Adventists would soon be recognized as the leading temperance advocates in this land.

We are appealing to all our lay members at this time to give their wholehearted support to the program which is being launched by the American Temperance Society. Not only do we need your moral endorsement, but also your financial support. Let each member of the church:

1. Take the total abstinence pledge.
2. Become active members of the American Temperance Society, and remit the annual membership fee.
3. Contribute liberally to the various projects sponsored by the American Temperance Society.
4. Sponsor ten subscriptions to *Listen* (at a cost of \$5.00), for your neighbors and friends.

5. Become a qualified voter and take an active part in every local option campaign.

"Years ago we regarded the spread of temperance principles one of our most important duties. It should be so today."
—Ellen G. White.

"From the light that God has given me, every member among us should sign the pledge and be connected with the temperance association."
—Ellen G. White.

—W. A. SCHARFFENBERG.

Private Institutions

(Continued from page 3)

will be meeting the goal and the objectives of our self-supporting work.

I think of your group as a halfway station between the individual church member who gives loyal service of time, effort, and resources, and the composite organized entity known as the General Conference, union conferences, and local conferences. An individual can make a very real contribution. In fact, no one has ever measured the potentialities that reside in a lone individual who has a conviction, a vision, audacity, and a determination for God. We see it all the while in the sacrifice in time and money that is made by an individual here or there. Great contributions are made by the ideas of individuals. The Ingathering was an idea of a lone individual. It grew and grew.

Even more so can a group of good loyal Adventist individuals make a tremendous contribution. You are halfway stations. I use that word in the most honorable sense of the word. We do not want the individual to be confused with the composite body. Each must be in his place, rightly related one to the other. As I see it, a group of individuals bound together in some way, legally and by a commonness of purpose, can make a large contribution to the organized work, even though, as it were, they are on their own.

As I look back on the history of the Christian church nineteen hundred years ago, it seems to me that the people then were reaching out on all sides everywhere. And the purpose of the organized group at Jerusalem was to give some general sense of direction, to co-ordinate efforts, as it were, and to encourage the people and to cheer them on in their battle to break down the walls of heathenism and idolatry.

I am glad you have this Association. I see in it great possibilities. Let us keep a beautiful balance between the initiative and the sparkling quality that reside in individual conviction and thought, and the unified endeavor that is crystallized in your Association, and its relationship to the General Conference.

* * *

From the Azores, Mission Director Manuel Lourinho writes that the work is going forward in this group of islands. On the island of Flores, one of this archipelago, six persons have been baptized, and a considerable number of others are interested. On the island of Pico an interest has also been manifested, and soon the first baptisms will take place. The little chapel now in process of construction will soon be finished.

Our Foreign Missions

Beating Swords Into Plowshares

Just across the Lunga River from Henderson Field on Guadalcanal is the Betikama Missionary School, our training unit for the Solomon Islands. Around Henderson Field is Camp Guad, the American base camp for this area. Recently we were privileged to have a visit from the camp chaplain, who was accompanied by a visiting chaplain. As they stood on our front veranda and looked out over the school compound, the visiting chaplain remarked, "This is surely beating swords into plowshares." You see, nearly all the buildings erected thus far have been from surplus materials bought from the American Army.

The first sod was turned for the Betikama Missionary School during the first week in December, 1947. Since that time thirteen buildings have been erected, and the fourteenth and fifteenth are in process of erection now. Five of the eight dormitories planned are completed. These buildings are of Quonset hut material and very suitable for the purpose. Our resources of this material are exhausted, but we hope to be able to procure some more soon.

Our school building has not been started yet, due to lack of material, and up to the present time school has been conducted in one of the Quonset hut dormitories. But that has grown too small, for our Sabbath-school membership now stands at 114, and our school enrollment at eighty-eight. A building which will later serve as a workshop is nearing completion, and this will be used temporarily for a schoolhouse.

Talking about Sabbath-school membership reminds me that we have over one hundred mouths to feed, for all our members are resident in the compound. During the fifteen months since building began, acres of gardens have been planted and have produced well. The school farm is the admiration of all who pass by. The smooth-running institution as it stands today is a testimony to the solid work put in by Brother Thrift before he moved on to larger responsibilities. All are awaiting the arrival of the new headmaster, Brother R. Richter. The spirit of the place is excellent, and we are looking forward to many teachers stepping out from its doors to answer the ever-increasing number of calls from the Coral Sea Union. Please, do not forget Betikama.

—LESTER LOCK.

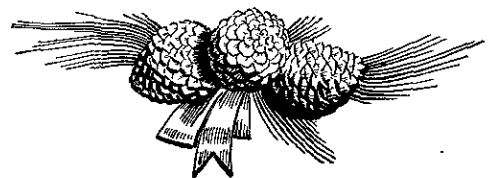
Sarawak Mission Meeting

Sarawak, formerly the land of the white Rajah, has now become a British Colony. We have a well-organized mission in this state in Borneo, and how pleased I was to attend the General Mission Meeting held in Kuching, April 15-20, 1949! Hardly had I arrived and eaten lunch when Brother Fox said that he had arranged for L. C. Wilcox and me to visit the Ayer Manis School for Dyaks. This school is located in a beautiful spot thirty-seven miles from Kuching. Dyak students and believers were awaiting our arrival at the school. In the special service which followed our arrival, I was deeply impressed with the splendid way in which these young people sang the gospel hymns. All the songs are memorized by our believers who have never attended a school. In fact, there is no literature whatsoever in the Dyak language.

It was our privilege to visit a new church several miles from Ayer Manis. We now have over eighty members in that place, and the Dyak Chief of the village has indicated his desire to be a Christian. We visited the Chief in his "quarters" in the long Dyak house. Dyak families do not live in separate family homes, but the whole village, numbering several hundred, all live together in the "long house." These houses are built largely of bamboo and are erected on stilts eight or ten feet above the ground. The main entrance is by a notched log—sometimes a bit difficult for a foreigner to climb.

The mission meeting held at Kuching was well attended. Our sermons were translated into four languages and dialects, as follows: Malayan, Land Dyak, Sea Dyak, and Chinese. Each district leader gave a thrilling report of how the Lord had opened the way for the preaching of the advent message. In spite of local opposition, the workers pledged themselves to enter eighteen new villages this year among the Land and Sea Dyaks. Under the enthusiastic leadership of L. E. A. Fox, we have every reason to believe this objective will be fully realized.

—R. S. WATTS.



A Taste of Better Things to Come

The leper work at Malamulo has recently received a special gift from overseas of a small shipment of Diazone, the new American drug for the treatment of leprosy. There have been wonderful reports concerning this new drug. It has been used at some of our other leper centers recently. We are happy to have some of it to treat a few of the 300 lepers at Malamulo. Unfortunately the supply is only enough to treat five of the patients. The medicine can be given by mouth, and so does not cause the many sore places from injections that we are used to seeing as a result of the present type of treatment. However, it does require much laboratory work in checking the blood count each week. We have had a gift of laboratory equipment for this work from a doctor overseas.

Of course it has been very hard to select the five patients. All the lepers want the treatment, for they have heard about it for some time. It is quite expensive, running about £10 for one patient for one year; so until we have more funds available, we will not be able to give all the patients this medicine. Just a taste—that is all we have at the present time.

On the other hand, we do hope to give them all a Christian experience at this center that will be a taste of heaven. We know they all want new medicine, but we hope to get them all to hunger and thirst for the new life. The patients hope to be cleansed of the leprosy, and we want them to be cured; but we also want them to be cleansed of their sins.

—M. F. FOWLER, M.D.

Suffering for the Faith

Elder J. L. Brown, who was formerly the president of the Central American Union Mission, tells the following story:

During the Honduras Mission annual session in 1947, a former priestess was baptized. Upon returning to her home she found that the news of her baptism had preceded her, and that the people were awaiting her arrival and that of the other Adventist delegates who accompanied her. Some of the citizens of her home town became intoxicated and tried to force the session delegation to drink strong native whisky with them. In fact they threatened them with their revolvers and stoned some of the believers. They cast some out of the houses which they had rented, and the trouble continued for some time.

However, a later communication from Cuyamel, the home of this former priestess, states that every one of the believers is of good courage. They are calling for an evangelist to start a series of meetings in

Special Days and Offerings

December 3

Home Missionary Day
Topic: My Responsibility Toward
the Unfinished Task

December 10

Second Sabbath Mission Offering

December 31

Thirteenth Sabbath Mission
Offering
South American Division

that place, for they believe that many of their former enemies will attend our meetings and eventually accept the message of truth.

The same letter which tells of the courage of our believers also states that one man paid \$100 to get musicians and dancers to start a mob in front of our church while meetings were being carried on, hoping in this way to break up the meetings. A translation of a few lines from this letter reads as follows:

"The people are very much excited, and are trying to chase us out of this village. They have stoned us and insulted us, not once, but many times. They have also used ugly and insulting words during the hours when we have been holding our meetings." However, none of these dear believers are discouraged; all are determined to press forward.

May we all be as courageous as they are! Let us pray for them that they may be faithful, and let us also pray for ourselves, that when we face similar trials and persecution we shall be as faithful as they, and as loyal to our convictions as were the martyrs of olden times.

Religious Publications Banned

(Continued from page 3)

Early this year all youth publications issued by the Church were suspended by the government, ostensibly because of paper shortage. When the church paper committee met with representatives of the government and asked permission to publish at least one paper for youth, the spokesman for the government declared, "About youth papers there cannot be any discussion. No young people's societies are allowed and no Church periodical for young people."

—From a Release of the News Bureau of the National Lutheran Council, New York, Erik W. Modean, Editor, in *Current Religious Thought*, April, 1949.

First Fruits From the Gilberts

Thirty miles north of the equator, near the 174th longitude, lies the island of Abemama, headquarters of our mission in this new and interesting field. On this island, which is some thirty miles long and which encircles a beautiful lagoon in the shape of a "C," live about one thousand people who spend their time fishing, cutting copra, and talking of the latest news, which, here on Abemama, is the progress of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission on the island.

Already we have two Sabbath schools operating, and on January 29 of this year these schools combined at Takabaru for services. There were approximately seventy people present. The church service dealt with the new birth and baptism, for on this particular Sabbath there was to be a baptism. About three o'clock, had you been here, you would have seen a truckload of happy folk, others on bicycles or afoot, all headed for the boat pool, where the ship "Fetu Ao" lay peacefully at anchor. There were more than one hundred present as five candidates were led down into the waters of the lagoon. One has passed the allotted span of life and although not able vigorously to defend his new faith, yet, as he remarked to an old friend in the course of conversation, "This one thing I do know—Jesus is coming soon and I want to be ready." What a wonderful hope to each one of us is this!

—JOHN HOWSE.

Training Church Leaders

(Continued from page 2)

particular school the students are requested to report to the Bible Department the way in which the congregation was served. They have found it desirable to leave one or two young men to help a particular church throughout a school year, or even longer, and in many cases these have been elected to leading offices in the church and actively participate in the board meetings and in the general program of the church.

We believe this to be a most desirable procedure because these young men and young women, while in training, will place their theory into actual practice during the time when they can receive help and counsel from the brethren who have been chosen to train them.

We thought it would be an encouraging note to share with our local church leaders that a definite training program is under way, and that it is our intention to make it increasingly practical.