

THE CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE

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No. 2

Daddy's Story Hour

By James I. Robison

"Oh, tell me a story, Daddy,"
Was the 'quest of my little girl,
As onto my knee she scrambled
And tossed from her face a curl.
I wrapped my arms around her,
And held her close to my breast
As I asked, "What tale would you rather
I take from the old story chest?"
"Oh, tell of the little children
In the mission fields afar,
Or when Jesus was a baby,
Or the Wise Men's evening star."

So settling back in the arm chair
In front of the evening blaze,
With the glimmering light a shining
On her curls and upturned face,
I paused a moment in thinking,
As from her dimpled lips
Came a sigh of full contentment,
As a bee when nectar it sips.
Then with the key of memory
I unlocked the old story chest,
And chose from its rare old treasures
The one she liked the best.

I told of the long, long journey
Of Joseph and Mary of old,
All the way from Nazareth's village
To Bethlehem's lone sheepfold,
Of the coming of the Christ child,
Of the Shepherds' midnight song,

Of the visit of the Wise Men,
And of Egypt's flight so long.
She had heard the same old story
A dozen times or more,
And all the other best ones,
Kept in memory's store.

But to see her face all eager
As the story unfolded anew,
To feel the hug of a "thank you"
As we bade little Jesus adieu;
And to hear her whisper softly,
"I love you, Daddy mine,"
Was worth a thousand stories
And all the wealth of time.
Into the flickering firelight
We gazed, our hearts as one,
I saw the long, long pathway
The little feet must run.

And I thought of the snares and pitfalls,
Unseen to carefree eyes,
And prayed to the Friend of children
To keep ever sure these ties
To a home where love binds stronger
Than all the attractions of sin,
And to guide the feet of my darling
With her father's to enter in—
To that better home over yonder,
Where the Lover of children dear
Will tell the same old story—
May our children be there to hear.

Editorial

Amusements

The Blessing of Controversy

It is customary to deplore controversy, especially among Christians. We are often reminded that the millennium would be just around the corner if men would only forget their differences and give their attention to matters in which they can agree. But there are blessings in controversy, and there are perils and losses in the lack of it. "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you" is a caution in God's Word. Luke 6:26.

In the *Sunday School Times* we recently read the following pointed words by the late Bishop William R. Nicholson of the Reformed Episcopal Church in his comment on the message to the church in Sardis (Revelation 3:1-5). Though written a half century ago his thoughts are even more pertinent today in view of modern tendencies toward so-called "unity of the faith." This union will result in a priest-made religion being handed out to the people and a departure from the simple truths of God's Word:

"It is remarkable that in this delineation of the church in Sardis not a word is said of their being defective in the orthodoxy of doctrine, and not a word of any conflict with error as being carried on by them. They were attacked neither from without nor within, neither by heathendom nor heresy. There were no persecutions, no Nicolaitans, or Balaamites, or Jezebelites. They had not to contend for the faith, and so doubtless they had lost a true appreciation of it. They were not formally renouncing it, but still professing it, yet they had lost it.

"It is a powerful illustration of the benefits which have come to us from the rise of heresies. Not that the heretics are any the less to blame; but, as things are in this dispensation, we must so teach the truth, always in love indeed, yet so definitely as that we shall call forth opposition, or else we are in danger of losing our own hold upon it.

"Because of the heresies in the past, the intelligent believer of today has both a more accurate and a fuller conception of the truths of the Gospel than had the uninspired primitive Christians. It shows the importance of having to contend earnestly for the faith. Hence how senseless is that hue and cry now so rampant against those who will not yield any part of the truth for the sake of seeming unity. We must endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of

peace, but never by means of holding back or ignoring the truth. Better sacrifice a mere seeming of unity than suffer the light to go out of our own witness for Christ, which is the only unity visible to us that God approves of. No church is a candlestick without it."

In these days when so much is being said about the unification of all Christian bodies in order to present a united front to the world, it is well to remember that the great truths which liberated the church from papal errors grew out of the greatest controversy in church history—the Reformation. Controversy and opposition, although not coveted by God's people, have their place in bringing the church into the unity of the faith.

—THE EDITOR.

QUESTION CORNER

In this column each month will be answered questions on the work and duties of church officers or questions concerning any problem that may arise in connection with the local church or any of its departments. We welcome your questions and ask that they be sent to the Editor, CHURCH OFFICERS' GAZETTE, c/o General Conference, Takoma Park, Washington 12, D. C.

Secret Ballot

Question: In our church business meetings is there any objection to reaching decisions on matters relating to church discipline, elections, appointment of committees, etc., by the secret ballot system?

Answer: There may be times when a secret ballot is desirable, but it has been the custom in our churches for many years for the members to cast their vote either by voice or the raising of the hand. Decisions are reached by the agreement of a majority of those voting. In the General Conference Constitution is the following article: "The election of officers, and the voting on all other matters of business shall be by *viva-voce* vote unless otherwise demanded by a majority of the delegates present." Article VIII, Sec. 3.

This would seem to be a precedent that has been followed throughout our ranks, and it is no doubt the better method unless some special problem arises that a majority of the members feel would demand a secret

(Please turn to page 32)

The following comment about our "amusement mad age" in the *Presbyterian Banner* would almost seem to betoken the doom of our present civilization. We quote from a recent editorial:

"Ancient Rome went mad with its Colosseum and Theater, and its cry for 'Bread and the Circus' was one cause that sent it to its doom. Our age may not as yet have caught up with Rome, but it is approaching its speed. 'Amusement mad' describes it. . . . Churches are languishing, with new theaters going up, often crowded, with a waiting line outside. The moving and talking picture . . . draws an attendance of twelve million people daily, and about forty million see every film that is released. . . . Everywhere crowds, crowds, all on pleasure bent, craving excitement, seeking for a new thrill. The people of this country are spending every year for amusements more than they pay for their schools and three times as much as they pay for their churches! . . . Is sport going to displace religion? We do not think so, but it is well to note early any such signs and symptoms."

The saddest part of this picture is that many Christian churches are being swept into this whirlpool of sport and amusement, and instead of standing out against the popular current they are instead encouraging and directly aiding it. Not so many years ago abstinence from "worldly amusements" was a test of membership in large evangelical denominations. Christian families quite generally frowned upon cards, dancing, theatergoing, et cetera. But today the bars are let down all too frequently. Church members and worldlings join in the popular amusements until the line of demarcation has all but disappeared. The "perilous times" that Paul predicted, when men would be "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God," have come. The "form of godliness" is retained, but the Lord's counsel is to "turn away" from those who through pleasure-seeking are "denying the power" of the gospel.

The Lord nowhere condemns wholesome recreation and real pleasure; and there are hundreds of real Christian young people today who no longer have any desire for so-called "worldly amusements," for they have found something infinitely better. They have found that young people can be happy in a prayer meeting, that there is real joy in soul winning, and that there is pleasure in Bible study. Many churches today seem to be trying to compete with the world in providing amusement instead of providing the spiritual food and exercise that in itself will bring the joy of the Lord into the heart.

—J. I. ROBISON.

Church Officers' Round Table

Results of Literature Work

By S. S. WILL

"So shall My word be that goeth forth out of My mouth: It shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I send it." Isaiah 55:11.

A church member who was distributing *Present Truth* came to a yard where a man was working. She talked with him and then offered him a paper. Curtly he said, "I do not have time for anything like that; go over there and talk to my wife."

So the church member stepped across the lawn to talk with the lady of the home. She was received more favorably, left the paper, and went on her way.

It was my privilege to visit this couple about two weeks ago, and they related the following story:

"Some hours after the paper was left at our house, we glanced through it and saw the announcement for the free Bible Correspondence Course. Mr. Rabitaille had been trying to understand the Bible for the past forty years, so we ordered the course. We were thoroughly interested from the first lesson. We found that the Bible was not too difficult to understand and have learned to appreciate the lessons.

"When the tenth lesson was received, we felt the need of joining a church; but since the lessons had not referred to any particular church, we picked one of our own choice. We were at this church every time the doors were opened, taking an active part in Sunday school, Ladies' Aid, and every activity of the church. The lessons kept coming week by week; and when we studied lessons nineteen and twenty (on the Sabbath), our eyes began to be opened. We saw that we had joined a church which was not keeping the Sabbath. We talked to the minister and other members of the church and were encouraged to drop the matter of the Sabbath, as it would get us into difficulty.

As we studied on, lesson by lesson, we came to the one on tithing. We were convinced immediately and began to send our tithe to the Bible Correspondence School. This was a most unusual decision for Mr. Rabitaille. Previous to taking this course, he was terribly against giving money to the churches, thinking they were entirely mercenary organizations taking advantage of the

people. Now he is taking a different attitude for he wants to give, and has been giving most liberally."

In a letter we received recently they write: "There is one more part of our past you might like to know. We both played a 'keen' game of cards—pinochle, five hundred, all rummy's, bridge, etc. Mr. Rabitaille used to say he'd rather play cards than eat. Since our studies with the 20th Century Bible School we have not touched a deck of cards; and we certainly shall not do so again. We never played for money, so, like many, saw no harm in it. However, we realize that it is not right and, therefore, will not do it. In fact the Lord has given us so much to occupy our time that we do not miss our cards or occasional moving pictures one bit."

These folks now attend a Seventh-day Adventist church regularly and are looking forward to baptism. They are enthusiastic about the message and are talking to neighbors and friends. Their lives have been changed completely: that which they once loved they now hate, and their full joy is the work of the church.

All this took place because a church member stopped at a home, chatted a bit, and left a copy of *Present Truth*. Surely there are many such honest in heart. God's Word will not return unto Him void.

Wanted—a Worker

"God never goes to the lazy or idle when

He needs men for His Service—

Moses was busy with his flocks at Horeb. Gideon was busy threshing wheat.

Saul was busy searching for his father's sheep.

David was busy caring for his father's sheep.

Elisha was busy plowing with twelve yoke of oxen.

Amos was busy following the flock.

Nehemiah was busy bearing the king's cup.

Peter and Andrew were busy casting a net into the sea.

James and John were busy mending their nets.

Matthew was busy collecting customs.

Saul was busy persecuting the friends of Jesus."

Let's all get busy at this great work, and the Lord will use and bless us.

—*The Christian Digest.*

How to Address the Deity

By L. L. CAVINESS

There is a general principle that we must keep in mind in the matter of the form in which we address Deity; that is, we must show proper reverence. In the Romance languages, in German, and in English there have been two different forms used in the second person. One is the *familiar* form (thy, thee, thou) used in the family, which was formerly used in the English also, but has been kept only by the Quakers. The other one is the *polite* form and has been used in addressing those who are not in the inner circle of the family. In English this latter form was the word *you* for both singular and plural.

There is also what is called the "solemn" style. This is like the familiar form. In English this solemn style is still preserved in addressing Deity.

However there is creeping in, in the English language and in some cases in other modern languages, a tendency to replace the solemn style in prayer by the polite style of conversation. This is a tendency which we as Adventists should not follow, for it makes people feel that we are not showing due reverence in our prayers. It is possible that the so-called solemn style was used because God was considered by Jews and Christians to be our heavenly *Father*, and so in prayer the familiar form was used by the Old Testament prophets and by Christ and His apostles in their prayers to God.

The principle in this matter is that we as earnest Christians desiring to show due reverence should be conservative and maintain the style that has been considered proper in prayer these many years. Let us follow in public prayer the form that has been given us by Christ in the prayer that is commonly known as the Lord's Prayer. Read that prayer if you would know how Christ wants us to pray.

Men of stamina are wanted, men who will not wait to have their way smoothed, and every obstacle removed, men who will inspire with fresh zeal the flagging efforts of dissipated workers, men whose hearts are warm with Christian love, and whose hands are strong to do their Master's work. . . . Those who would win success must be courageous and hopeful.—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 497.

Prayer Meeting Helps

Being Born Again

BY MARY HARTWELL

GOD HAS A STANDARD FOR HIS CHILDREN.

1. Man was made in the image of God. Genesis 1:26.
2. Holy, without blemish, no spot or wrinkle. Ephesians 5:27.
3. "Be ye . . . perfect." Matthew 5:48.

CONDITION OF NATURAL MAN IS FAR BELOW GOD'S STANDARD.

1. "By nature the children of wrath." Ephesians 2:3.
2. All are sinners, lawbreakers, and condemned to die. Romans 3:23; 6:23; 1 John 3:4.
3. Man's righteousness is as filthy rags. Isaiah 64:6.
4. Aliens. Ephesians 2:12.
5. Manifest works of flesh. Gal. 5:19-21.

MAN CANNOT, BY MONEY OR WORKS, PURCHASE SALVATION, OR REACH THE STANDARD.

1. Cannot do good when accustomed to do evil. Jeremiah 13:23.
2. Saved by grace, a gift of God, not by works. Ephesians 2:8, 9.
3. Gift of God not purchased with money. Acts 8:9-24.

IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE GIFT OF SALVATION, MAN MUST DIE TO SIN AND EXPERIENCE A NEW BIRTH. (Accomplished by aid of Holy Spirit.)

1. "Except ye . . . become as little children." Matthew 18:3.
2. "Ye must be born again." John 3:3, 5, 7.
3. Daily death to sin. Galatians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 15:31.
4. Flesh is crucified. Galatians 5:24.

HOW MAN MAY KNOW WHEN HE HAS EXPERIENCED CONVERSION.

1. Sorrow for sin leads to repentance. 2 Corinthians 7:9-11.
2. Confession of sin. Psalm 51:3-7; 1 John 1:9.
3. Forsaking sin. Eze. 18:30-32; Prov. 28:13.
4. Restitution. Luke 19:8; Ezekiel 33:15.
5. Manifests fruit of Spirit instead of fruit of flesh. Galatians 5:22, 23.

CONVERSION LEADS ONE TO GOD'S STANDARD.

1. In the likeness of His resurrection. Romans 6:5, 6.
2. New creature in Christ. 2 Cor. 5:17.

What Can I Do?

What can I do today?

Not praise to win, or glory to attain;
Not gold, or ease, or power, or love to gain,
Or pleasure gay;
But to impart
Joy to some stricken heart;
To send a heaven-born ray
Of hope, some sad, despairing
Soul to cheer;
Make truth more clear;
To lift some weighing doubt,
Dispel some dwarfing care,
To lull some pain;
Bring to the fold again
Some lamb astray;
To brighten life for someone,
Now and here—
This let me do today.

—SELECTED.

Bible Conversion

BY BESSIE MOUNT

MAN'S LOST CONDITION.

1. "All have sinned." Romans 3:10, 12, 23.
2. Under death sentence. Romans 5:12; 6:23.
3. "Righteousnesses . . . as filthy rags." Isaiah 64:6.
4. Helpless to change. Jeremiah 13:23.
5. "Who shall deliver?" Romans 7:18, 19, 24.

WHAT IS SIN?

1. God's law His standard. Romans 7:12.
2. Transgression of law sin. 1 John 3:4.
3. All unrighteousness sin. 1 John 5:17.
4. Disobedience. Romans 5:19.
5. Sin is rebellion. Daniel 9:5.

GOD'S PROVISION FOR MAN'S SALVATION.

1. Gave His Son. John 3:16.
2. Died for our sins. 1 Corinthians 15:3.
3. Wounded for our transgressions. Isaiah 53:5, 6.
4. Bore our sins. 1 Peter 2:22, 24.
5. Death paid penalty for sin and purchased life. Romans 5:17-21.

MAN'S PART IN THE TRANSACTION.

1. Conviction of sin. John 8:9; Romans 7:7; 2:4.
2. Repentance. Acts 5:31; 2 Corinthians 7:10, 11.

3. Contrition, sorrow for sin. Psalm 51:17.
4. Belief in Christ. Confess and receive forgiveness. John 3:16; Hebrews 11:6; Psalm 51:3, 4; 32:5; 1 John 1:9.
5. Forsake sin. Proverbs 28:13; Isaiah 55:7; Ezekiel 18:31, 32.
6. Be converted. Acts 3:19.
7. This accepting Christ as Saviour and turning away from sin is new birth. Baptism sign. John 3:3-7; Romans 6:3; 1 Peter 1:22, 23.

A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST.

1. Past sins covered by Christ's righteousness. Romans 3:24, 25; 4:6-8.
 2. Righteousness of law (written in heart, Jeremiah 31:33) to be fulfilled in life. Romans 8:3, 4.
 3. Dead to sin, alive to righteousness. Romans 6:3-8, 12-18.
 4. Christ dwells in heart, living His life again in human flesh. Ephesians 3:17; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27.
 5. Christ our Advocate. 1 John 2:1.
 6. Faith the victory that overcomes. 1 John 5:4.
 7. Can do all things *through Christ*. Philippians 4:13.
- Thus Christ delivers from the *penalty* and from the *power* of sin—an all-sufficient Saviour.



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Young People's Department

OF MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS



NOTES TO OFFICERS

Our Devotional Aids

FEBRUARY is a critical month in the promotion of such year-round devotional features as the Morning Watch, Character Classics, and Bible Year reading plans. Those who began with real earnestness on January 1 will be appreciative of encouragement, and those who may have grown a bit careless will take new courage.

You will want to draw attention again to the Morning Watch and the accompanying book, *With God at Dawn*, which enriches the value of the text by amplifying quotations from the Spirit of prophecy. Just to be conscious of kneeling in devotion each morning and becoming a part of an invisible circle of Adventist youth around the world who open their hearts to God to receive His orders for the day is an experience that is strengthening.

As the Character Classics Bible reading plan is introduced, we find an eagerness to enter upon its blessings. Do not fail to provide yourself with a supply of these leaflets. The daily assignment plan, with the parallel reading in the books of the Conflict of the Ages Series, is brief; and yet each day's presentation, like the manna, sustains life and provides ennobling thoughts. Every young person that expects to grow in his experience must have some systematic plan for the study of the Bible. And it is by Bible reading and acquaintance with the writings of the Spirit of prophecy that young people are established and fortified against doubt and error.

Perhaps one of the first requisites in leaders' promoting these features is that they themselves practice these plans. Leader, when you by personal experience discover the true value of these devotional aids, you will find it natural to mention them often and with enthusiasm.



Naturalists, Attention!

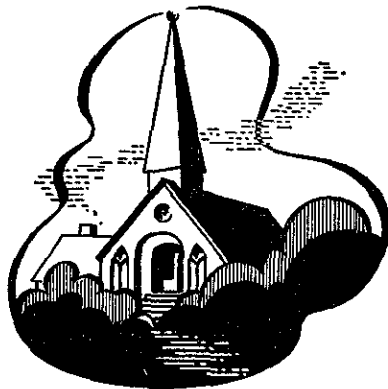
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Topic Tips

MARCH

SENIOR SOCIETY

New Horizons in Inter-America (*Missions*)

What Is Your Spiritual Life?

As a Man Thinketh (*Youth's problems*)

What Is That in Thine Hand? (*SYF*)

JUNIOR SOCIETY

New Horizons in Inter-America (*Missions*)

It Really Pays

Keep a Song in My Heart (*Junior Law No. 7*)

Triumphs of Faith (*SYF—Ingathering*)

Check Up on Yourself

- | | Yes | No |
|--|-----|-----|
| 1. Does your society have a Share-Your-Faith project? | () | () |
| 2. Does your society have an active Share-Your-Faith band? | () | () |
| 3. Were the meetings of your society planned, prayed about, and studied for by your executive committee? | () | () |
| 4. Did you plan your programs with the aid of the GAZETTE? | () | () |
| 5. Are the members of your society reading the Character Classics or the Bible Year? | () | () |
| 6. Did all members report "observing the Morning Watch"? | () | () |
| 7. Has your society the 1950 M.V. Reading Course books? | () | () |
| 8. Do all the youth of your society get and read the <i>Youth's Instructor</i> ? | () | () |
| 9. Are you satisfied with the record of your society as of now? | () | () |
| 10. Will you plan, work, and pray for a better society? | () | () |

Make March M.V. Month

The success of the M.V. Week of Prayer is assured for those that begin early to plan for it. This is one of the big events of the year for youth. Much depends upon M.V. officers' showing genuine interest in this occasion. Plan with your pastor and church board early so that this special young people's Week of Prayer may be the most blessed in the experience of your church. Work co-operatively, prayerfully, and definitely. Write to your conference M.V. secretary for suggestions. If possible get someone to conduct this Week of Prayer for you.

Here are three great objectives:

- * The co-operation of all the young people in a Share-Your-Faith program.
- * The consecration of every unconsecrated youth in each family of the church.
- * The deepening of the consecration of the young people that have already taken their stand for Christ.

Be sure to plan definitely for follow-up work. Invite your young people to join the mighty march of Missionary Volunteers!

Hospital Work

1. Contact the superintendent of the hospital. You will have to obtain permission from him and learn the general rules of the hospital.

2. Each time you visit, see the head nurse on the floor first. This is necessary so you may find out those whom you may visit. Some may be too ill.

3. Select songs with care. Do not use sad songs which mention dying. Use songs that will bring cheer and courage to the patients.

4. Procedure to follow: If a group goes, have several sing while others distribute tracts and talk to the patients as the opportunity affords. Never force yourself on the patients.

5. Do not visit while the family is present. It may be their only time to meet with their loved ones. Do not intrude on their privacy.

6. Encourage the patients. Your ministry is to cheer the patients. The way you speak to them may have a tremendous influence on their health and spiritual welfare.

7. Do not preach doctrine. This will not be appreciated by the hospital authorities. Rather, bring Christ to them as the One who can save them from sin. Tell them that Christ can meet every need of their lives.

8. In talking to the patients, speak in moderate tones. Endeavor to avoid disturbing others.

—JOHN C. MIKLOS,
in *Michigan Volunteer*.

Multitudes need Christ NOW!

Senior Meetings

February 3

SUNSHINE OR SHADOW

BY ARTHUR PATZER
ORDER OF SERVICE

ROUSING SONG SERVICE.

SONG: "If Any Little Word of Mine," No. 629 in *Church Hymnal*.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SYF REPORTS.

OFFERING.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

LEADER'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

POEM: "Your Home Life."

SPECIAL MUSIC.

PANEL DISCUSSION.

POEM: "Home."

CHORUS: "My Home's in Heaven."

STORY: "Thirty-Seven Cents' Worth."

CLOSING SONG: "Mid Pleasures and Palaces," No. 415.

BENEDICTION.

Leader's Introductory Remarks

A young man that was engaged to a young lady showed her a house he planned to buy, for soon they were to be married. But she was a girl that detested housework and saw no need for it. And she commented, "A home, why do I need a home? I was born in a hospital, educated in a college, courted in an automobile; and I expect to be married in a church. We can live out of the delicatessen and paper bags. I spend my mornings on the golf course and my afternoons at my clubs. Then in the evenings we will go out. When I die I am going to be buried at the undertaker's. All I really need is a garage."

If you wish to destroy any kind of an animal attack its nest. The home is the nest of mankind, and its protection is the paramount duty of any culture. The homes of the nation make up its greatest defense for righteousness or against it. No country can become stronger than its family ties. Are our home foundations crumbling? Are they being destroyed? One need not be a philosopher to see the downward trend of society. A wave of naturalism and unbelief is sweeping this nation today. Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, says, "The American home is still the basis of our social order, and the nation will never be any stronger than the home. The rising youth problem in crime stems directly from the home. One thing that most juvenile criminals have in common is the lack of proper home training. There is no character building agency that can take the place of the home."

Dr. DeWitt Talmadge, a great preacher of Brooklyn, once said that the home is the test of a person's life, for whatever we are at home we are everywhere whether we demonstrate it or not. He also said that

a boy may go seventy years away from the parental fireside and never be able to get away from the teachings of his godly father or mother. We all recognize that the home plays this important part in the lives of every young person. How important it is then that we relate ourselves in such a way as to make it truly the best place on earth.

Your Home Life

Be sunny at home and make home life sweet,
And breathe a glad welcome to each one
you meet.

Think out, as you live, a beautiful plan
To make a sweet lady or true gentleman.

No palace on earth can be holy inside
Apart from the home love that there should
abide.

Yet the humblest cot may be radiant and
fair,

If love in its sweetness finds dwelling place
there.

Be kind, true, and earnest; be thoughtful
and see

That tasks are completed, whatever they be.
Help mother and sister and father as well,
And make home a palace where angels may
dwell.

School tasks and home tasks you meet day
by day—

Just work them all out in the sunshiny way;
And brush all the frowns and frownings
aside,

Till only the sunlight of love may abide.

True love and obedience in home life will
chase

All of the frownings that darken your face;
And kindness of heart in home and in life
Will bring a sweet peace that conquers all
strife.

—ROBERT HARE.

Panel Discussion

(The M.V. Leader must exercise extreme care in the selection of the young men and women participating in this panel discussion. Allow approximately twenty minutes for your discussion. The leader might wish to have the audience join in the discussion. Time for preparation should be given to the persons participating in order to have a more intelligent discussion.)

1. Do you believe that father, mother, and children are each an integral part in the family circle?

2. Is money really an important factor in making home happy? Do we have to be rich to be happy?

3. How can we bring sunshine into the home? Here enumerate the following means:

Kindness	Obedience
Cheerfulness	Christianity
Helpfulness	Love

4. How can we bring shadows into the home?

Non-co-operation
Laziness
Faultfinding

5. Do you feel that there needs to be more of a companionship between father and son, and mother and daughter?

6. Is it your observation that we possibly need to spend more evenings alone at home as a family group?

7. Do you really believe that young people are taking their religion sufficiently seriously?

8. Is it your idea that parents must do the major part of the thinking for young people?

9. Do you believe that parents must join the children and young people in their activities and participate in their social life?

10. Much is being said about the foundations of the home structure crumbling. Do you think that the neglect of family worship might have something to do with it?

SUGGESTED REFERENCES—

Ministry of Healing, pp. 388-394.
Desire of Ages, pp. 72-74.
Messages to Young People, pp. 323-342.
Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 144.
See "Home," *Index to the Writings of E. G. White*.

"Thirty-Seven Cents' Worth"

The shabby little newsboy's feet beat an exultant tattoo on the metropolitan city street as he hurried toward the exclusive florist shop. Today was "Mom's birthday"! His right hand eagerly jingled that nickel and thirty-two pennies in his right trouser pocket, while his left hand clutched the last few newspapers. Traffic ignored the little gentleman. He ignored the traffic. People were "just customers" today; but the little lady lying home on the bed, an invalid, was his mother, and today was her birthday. It was not strange, then, that he indifferently made change for his customers on his way down the street, while his heart was exultantly saying, "Today is Mom's birthday. She is going to have the swellest bouquet of flowers that I can buy."

As he pattered into the exclusive, crystal-and-silver florist shop, he was greeted by the manager with these words: "Sorry, Son, no newspapers today."

"But I didn't want to sell you any, Mister," said the boy. "I came in here to buy something." What can this boy buy? thought the florist. How strange that the ragged little waif of the streets should suppose that he could afford the expensive bouquets in this shop, but the curious man inquired regarding the boy's intentions and this is the story that he heard:

"You see, Mister, Mom's birthday is today; and I'm going to buy her the swellest

bouquet in the whole world. I've been saving penny after penny and I even got one nickel, Mister, and now I've got thirty-seven cents; and she's going to have the best bouquet that you've got in this shop. You see, Mister, Daddy's been gone since I was a baby, and now sister is dead. There's just Mom and me left, and so I'm the only one that knows about her birthday. I want to get some flowers—Mother loves flowers. I usually bring her fruit or something like that every day; but I've been saving my money, and today I want to buy the most beautiful flowers in the world."

The man listened attentively to the naive narrative of this sweet-faced boy. His heart was deeply touched. "All right, Son," said the manager. "Your mother will have the most beautiful bouquet in this city today." With the fingers of an artist the florist drew bud after bud, choice flower after flower from behind those crystal doors and wove them together in a gorgeous bouquet.

The boy gasped at the beauty of the flowers as the man wrapped them carefully in the cool, green wax paper and again in the well-known wrapping used by the exclusive florist shop. "How much is it?" said the boy, as he confidently splashed the thirty-seven cents upon the counter.

"Let me see now," mused the gentleman, "that will be exactly thirty-seven cents."

"Well, that's exactly what I've got!" said the boy, forgetting in his excitement that he had already mentioned that fact. He majestically pushed the pennies and the nickel across the counter with both his small hands.

The florist brushed them carelessly into his hand and dropped them into his pocket while he told the boy, "Remember, Son, tell your mother 'Happy Birthday' for me, too."

His newspapers under one arm, the bouquet under the other, the boy hurried from the florist shop into the street and toward home.—MERVIN ROSBLL, in *Challenging Youth for Christ*, Zondervan Pub. House.

Home

You may know the charming fragrance
Of some soft, exotic breeze;
You may rest in soothing slumber
On a flowery bed of ease;

You may sail beyond horizons
On a smooth and emerald sea;
And in ships of gold and silver
Sail beyond Hesperides;

You may go where'er you fancy,
I care not how far you roam—
You will some day wish to travel
Down the lane to Home Sweet Home.

—E. E. DUNCAN.

BUILD FOR CHRIST—

Through your M.V. Society.

Chorus: "My Home's in Heaven"

"My home's in Heaven
Just a waiting for me,
And when I get there
How happy I'll be.

"My home's in Heaven;
The rent is free
For Jesus paid it,
On Calvary."

* * *

February 11

90 PER CENT AND GOD

BY ANDREW C. FEARING

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING EXERCISES

OPENING SONG.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

SYF REPORTS.

OFFERTORY.

OUTLINE OF TALKS

LEADER'S INTRODUCTION.

EARLY HISTORY. (See notes.)

GOD'S OWNERSHIP.

THE DIVINE COMMISSION.

CURSINGS AND BLESSINGS.

"WE PROVED GOD." (This could be given in symposium form; also, members of the audience could be asked to give their experiences.)

PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION.

CLOSING

SONG.

BENEDICTION.

Notes

TALK: "Early History."—This talk should give a brief history of the change from the early denominational plan of Systematic Benevolence to the biblical tithing plan. The best source material available is to be found in Elder F. M. Wilcox's editorial in the *Review and Herald* of April 21, 1949. Utilize only the historical material, not the doctrinal.

Leader's Introduction

Suppose you have absolutely nothing in the way of possessions and a friend approaches you with the following proposition: "I would like to go into business with you. We shall be partners; you have nothing, I know, but I have abundant financial backing and intelligent understanding of the business. I shall give of my resources, executive and advisory ability, and time. You will open in the morning, keep the accounts, and close at night. At the end of each week we shall balance the accounts. If we have a hundred dollars profit, you may apportion \$90 to yourself and lay aside \$10 for me." What an unusual business agreement! Your partner owns, furnishes, and operates; you are merely a steward, and yet the lion's share of the increase is yours.

But what would be thought of you, if, when settling the accounts, you covet the \$10 belonging to your liberal partner, pocket it, shrug your shoulders, and say,

"I will keep it all." He more than deserves his \$10; it is his, but you take it for yourself. Would that not be a despicable act against one who has treated you so generously? Would you not be a thief?

During this program we may observe this parable in reality. You and God are partners.

We plan to talk about money—a subject which Jesus discussed many times. Of His thirty-eight parables, sixteen are related to money. In the four gospels one of every six verses deals with the theme of money. What a man does or does not do with his money is somewhat of a thermometer of his character.

I believe all of you are honest with your fellow men, but the great question is, Are we honest with God? In the early days of our denomination the church used a plan of support which was called Systematic Benevolence. The history of the change from this plan to God's tithing plan will be told by our first speaker.

God's Ownership

(Texts may be distributed among members to be read at proper time.)

It is very easy for one to say "my house," "my suit of clothes," "my automobile," "my bank account." A man makes a mistake in saying this, for the truth is he owns nothing. Someone may say, "I am not so sure about this—I hold the deed to my house, the title to my automobile, and the bank account is in my name." But let us examine God's claims. To begin with we do not even own ourselves. First, God created us; secondly, we were purchased by Jesus with His own precious blood. Can we look into the face lifted high on the cross and see the Man who was set at naught, scourged, reviled, spit upon, and then say we are not debtors to Him for our lives?

Then what about possessions? (Read Exodus 19:5.) Who is the "Mine" referred to? God. Then how much belongs to us? (Also read Psalm 50:10-12; 24:1; 1 Corinthians 10:26.) Even our power to gain wealth comes from God. (Deuteronomy 8:17, 18.) Not a dollar I own is really mine. (Haggai 2:8.) All I have is lent of God, entrusted to me as a steward. And yet He says to us, "Ninety per cent of the increase is yours; all I ask for myself is ten per cent." Our next speaker will tell us what God's plan is for his per cent and give us biblical proof of God's requirements.

The Divine Commission

(Read Matthew 28:19, 20; Romans 10:13-15.)

It is evident that the preacher is to be sent, but how is he to be paid? The laborer is worthy of his hire. Shall it be done by oyster suppers, chicken dinners, modern bazaars, lawn fetes, carnivals? It seems, according to a poll by Dr. Gallup, that approximately one half the population of

the United States are indulging in some type of gambling. For example, 9 per cent are gambling on the numbers game, 10 per cent on horse races, 19 per cent on elections, 29 per cent on cards, 23 per cent on slot machines, 26 per cent on punch boards, and 29 per cent on church lotteries. Think of it; nearly three times as many people are gambling in the churches as at the horse races! All this to support the church! Is this God's program? Of course not.

What is His program? (Read 1 Corinthians 9:13, 14.) Did you note that Paul refers to the ancient temple and the priest's ministry therein? How was the priest to live? "Of the things of the temple." You will notice in verse fourteen that Paul says, "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." This denotes that the ministry of today should live of the gospel even as the Levites of old.

How were the Levites supported? (Read Numbers 18:20, 21.) You see, God gave to the eleven tribes an inheritance in the promised land; they all had property which they could work to gain their sustenance; but to the Levites He said, "You work for Me. You don't till the soil; you don't build houses; you don't buy and sell. You are to give your entire life in service for Me, and I will support you. There is given to Me of the people a tenth of their increase; that is Mine. 'It is holy unto Me [the Lord]'" (Leviticus 27:30), and I in turn will give it unto you who work for Me. I will be your inheritance in the land."

Was this law for Old Testament times only? When Jesus was here upon earth, He put His stamp of approval upon the paying of tithe and commended those who did so. (Read Matthew 23:23.) In this text you will observe He found men who were very careful about paying tithe, even to the smallest things. "These," He said, "ought ye to have done." Ought to have done what? Paid tithe. Then, of course, He hastened to say that neither should they leave the other weighty matters of the law undone.

The tithe according to Nehemiah 10:38 should be brought into "the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house." If all were faithful in this matter, the church and all its activities would indeed be able to finish quickly the gospel commission given by Christ.

Cursings and Blessings

The law of God says, "Thou shalt not steal." Does God consider it stealing when we use the tithe for our own use? We shall let God speak in answer to this question. (Read Malachi 3:7-9.) These texts are as plain as words can make them. "Robbed . . . in tithes and offerings." I am sure you



know that when you have given an offering you have not paid your tithe, or when you have paid your tithe you have not given an offering. The tithe is already God's property. The offering must come out of the 90 per cent which is yours to use. I suppose if one of our church members should rob a bank, we would put him out of the church because he was a thief. If you came into my house and took ten cents from my desk, you would be a thief; even so if you appropriate for yourself the ten cents of the dollar that belongs to God, He looks upon you as a robber. The tenth verse of 1 Corinthians 6 tells us that no thieves will enter the kingdom of heaven. In fact Malachi 3:9 states that any man who robs God is "cursed with a curse." We don't pay tithe to get to heaven, nor do we keep the Sabbath to earn our way to heaven; but we keep the Sabbath and pay tithe because we are saved and love Him and desire to do His will.

When a faithful tithe is paid, all the remaining money is richly and abundantly blessed of heaven. No promise in all the Bible is more lavish than this one in Malachi 3:10-12, where God has challenged us to prove Him, test Him, try Him. He says He is anxious to open the windows of heaven and pour us out a blessing greater than we will be able to receive. Think of what He did for Moses at the Red Sea, Joshua at the River Jordan, Moses standing on a rock in the midst of a dry land, Gideon with an enemy as numerous as grasshoppers before him and you will get a faint picture of what God will do for us if we are faithful. As He took the loaves and fishes and multiplied them, so He will bless and multiply the 90 per cent which is for our use. It is far better to have His blessing on nine tenths than His cursing on ten tenths. There are many people that do not give God a chance with their lives.

Someone may feel that he is too poor to pay tithe. Such an individual is too poor *not* to pay tithe, for he surely needs the blessing of the Lord. Tithing makes nine dollars go farther than ten. I have never known one who paid a faithful tithe that was not more than satisfied with the results. Many great financial magnates pay tithe as

a matter of good business. Let us give God a chance. He says, "Prove Me."

"We Proved God"

A little crippled woman in one of our cities received a pension of \$8.50 a month. She was able to get along quite well, because she had a room in back of a hardware store allotted to her for sweeping the store at night. On Saturday she was given some work around the store, thus earning a little extra. When she attended the evangelistic meeting, the subject of the Sabbath came to her attention, and she accepted it. This step took away her Saturday employment. The problem was a big one. Then came the subject of tithing. "Oh," she said, "I just can't spare 85 cents. How will I live?"

The evangelist felt like saying he thought the Lord could get along without the 85 cents, but that would not be right. He did say comfortingly, "I don't know how God will do it, but I know this: Your clothes will last longer; your food will keep better in the refrigerator; you will be blessed physically—God will fulfill His promise in some way to pour out a blessing upon you."

When her pension came, her tithe envelope received the 85 cents. Coming to the evangelist, she said, "I have paid my bills and have nothing left for the rest of the month. What shall I do?" He could have reached into his pocket and given her a few dollars, but He wanted the Lord to work things out. Tuesday afternoon of that week a woman called the hardware store and wanted her to care for her children while she was away. It was a nice summer afternoon, and watching the children was a pleasure. When the woman returned, she was so grateful that she gave a dollar to the faithful new Christian. Now how far ahead is she? You say 15 cents? Wait a minute. When she received the dollar, she would have 10 cents tithe to pay, so she is 5 cents ahead. That was just the beginning; for this neighbor told others, and soon she had all the baby-sitting she could handle. The next week she came with an offering for the evangelistic meetings. What a happy person!

A barber in a certain city had a peculiar type of trade, dull during the week, very busy on Saturday. In fact he hired other barbers to help him on that day. When he accepted the Sabbath truth, it was a tremendous loss to him in his business. He did not receive sufficient funds to pay his rent. His customers had grown angry, saying if he would not cut their hair on Saturday they would go elsewhere. Then the subject of tithe paying was presented and accepted by this God-fearing barber. For four weeks his business dropped. Finally he asked the evangelist, "Brother, what shall I do?"

The counsel was, "Trust God, believe His promise, prove Him, stay by!" He did so. In the fifth week his customers started to return until he had so much business during the week that he had to hire another barber. He inquired of his customers about their return. Their answer was, "I simply couldn't get a decent haircut anywhere." Why? The Lord did not allow other barbers to give those men a good haircut! "Prove Me now," saith the Lord.

In one of our large churches on the West Coast a doctor said to his pastor, "I can cause my business to increase or decrease according to the extra liberality in my tithes and offerings. I have proved it over and over again. My office secretary couldn't believe this was possible; so after she had written the check for my tithes, I told her to add \$100 extra." During the month following he states he had more business than ever before; more "dead" accounts were collected. The great increase was a miracle. He had proved God once again and was not disappointed.

Problems for Discussion

(It would be well for the pastor or some qualified adult to act as chairman of this part of the program.)

1. IS NOT TITHING A JEWISH LAW GIVEN TO THE ISRAELITES ALONE?

Seed Thoughts for discussion: Abraham paid tithes about 700 years before the law was given at Mt. Sinai. Genesis 14:18-20. (Christ, to whom we now return the tithe, is a Priest after the order of Melchizedek. See Hebrews 7.) Jacob paid tithes about 500 years before Sinai. Genesis 28:20-22. In giving the law to Moses the first mention of the tithe is the simple statement, "The tithe is the Lord's"—not "shall be" but "is," as it always has been.

2. MAY I EVER BORROW FROM MY TITHE FOR PERSONAL OR FAMILY USE?

Seed Thoughts: See Leviticus 27:30-33. Notice the word "redeem" means "buy back." If my watch is in a pawn shop, I have the privilege of redeeming it. However I cannot redeem the watch, if it has not been placed there. Neither can I redeem tithes that has not been paid. In the Old Testament times the cattle would pass a certain line; the tenth animal would belong to God whether good or bad. If a man particularly wanted the tenth animal, he could pay God the full price thereof and then add one fifth more. None of this could have any reference to borrowing tithes.

3. I AM IN A BOARDING SCHOOL. HOW CAN I RELATE MYSELF TO TITHING PAYING?

Seed Thoughts: If parents are members of the church, it is likely the money used for the expenses is already tithed. Your parents

are caring for you at school as though you were at home. However if you work to pay either part or all your bills, the money earned should be tithed. But you say, "I never see the money; it is applied on my account." The business office of any school will be more than willing to arrange for 10 per cent of your earnings to be placed as tithes into the cause of God, if you express your desires to them.

4. DEUTERONOMY 14:22 SAYS I SHOULD PAY TITHE ON MY INCREASE. WHAT IS MY INCREASE?

Seed Thought: Full salary and gifts, net profit on business and income property.

5. DO I PAY TITHE ON MONEY USED TO PAY INCOME TAXES?

Seed Thought: Surely. It is an increase to me to live in this wonderful country, benefit by its protection, police, fire department, etc.

6. WHAT ABOUT PAYING TITHE ON THE MONEY TAKEN FROM MY SALARY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY?

Seed Thought: One cannot pay tithes upon that which he does not receive. When the Social Security is collected, then the tithes should be paid.

7. SHOULD A CHILD BOTHER THE CHURCH TREASURER WITH TITHE ONLY AMOUNTING TO TWO OR THREE CENTS?

Seed Thought: A treasurer who handles over a quarter of a million dollars a year says she delights to write the receipts for children. God wants honesty even in little things, and the child needs God's blessing.

8. SUPPOSE I AM IN DEBT. SHOULD I PAY MY DEBTS BEFORE TITHING MY INCOME?

Seed Thought: See *Testimonies*, Vol. 1, p. 220.

9. SHOULD I EVER GIVE MORE THAN ONE TENTH?

Seed Thought: Some pay a second tithe in offerings. See *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 530.

10. I REALIZE THE PAYMENT OF TITHE IS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY, BUT THERE ARE SO MANY WORTHY CALLS TO HELP THE POOR AND NEEDY, WOULD IT BE WRONG TO USE THE TITHE, OR A PORTION OF IT, HERE AND THERE AS I SEE THE NEED?

Seed Thought: See *Testimonies*, Vol. 9, pp. 247, 250.

Try Religion!

It Will Change Your

LIFE—Romans 6:4

MIND—2 Timothy 1:7

HEART—Ezekiel 11:19

STANDING—Romans 8:1

SERVICE—Romans 6:18

RELATIONSHIP—John 1:12

—*The War Cry*.

February 18

MEN AND WOMEN OF THE HOUR

BY FREDERICK W. EDWARDY

ORDER OF SERVICE

SONG: "Dear Lord and Father," No. 116 in *Church Hymnal*, or No. 125 in *Gospel in Song*.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 91.

PRAYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERTORY.

INTRODUCTION OF TOPIC: By leader.

TALK: "Jawaharlal Nehru, the Man of the Hour in India."

POEM: "If This Were All."

TALK: "The Man and Woman of the Hour in China."

SPECIAL SONG: "The Prayer Perfect," by James Whitcomb Riley.

DISCUSSION: "How We Young People Can Match the Hour." (Ask a number to come prepared to make a brief statement on how to crusade against evil in our own communities.)

SUMMARY: By leader.

CLOSING SONG.

BENEDICTION.

Introduction

As a people obedient to the laws of God and possessors of the only hopeful message to a doomed world, Seventh-day Adventist young men and women have a unique opportunity to be of service today. If we have the knowledge to be of aid to our ailing civilization, why should we not also have the genius, skill, and ability to lead the whole world into a bright new tomorrow in which the hopes of the human heart may be achieved and all our desires and prayers may be realized?

If each of us could but catch a spark of the enthusiasm and devotion to duty that inspires the great Indian leader, Jawaharlal Nehru, who recently visited this country, or the Chiang Kai-sheks of China, what a work we could do for God! During this program as we look briefly into the background of each of these famous nationalists, let us purpose in our hearts to become as ardent in our warfare for God and the cause of right as these famous folk are in fighting for the progress of their countries.

Jawaharlal Nehru, the Man of the Hour in India

After the assassination of the late Mohandas Gandhi, the great political and spiritual leader of India, there seemed to be but one man in all India's millions that was capable of stepping into Gandhi's position and continuing his one-man crusade against racial inequalities and intolerant conditions in that country. That man was Jawaharlal Nehru, the only son of a wealthy Indian lawyer.

When Nehru was a boy of ten, he longed to grow up to win the freedom of his people; but as he grew into young manhood, he lost sight of his goal. This was

during the years his father sent him to London to study law, and he became accustomed to soft living while attending Cambridge. It was an easy thing to happen. His father provided him with plenty of spending money; he was handsome and well-dressed, so why not make the most of his many-sided life? The white light of enthusiasm for aiding his fellow countrymen became dim, and after spending seven years in England he returned to India a decided dandy.

But the sight of India's teeming masses, the low standards of living, and the ignorance on every hand soon shook him out of his lethargy. He became bitterly dissatisfied with himself and his environment and sought a way in which he might be of benefit to his people. It was during this turbulent state of mind that the great humanitarian Gandhi came to visit Nehru's home and told Nehru of his plan for nonviolent protests against the unfair form of government then prevailing.

As a result of this meeting Nehru left his luxurious home and went to live among the peasants in their mud huts. He talked to them for long hours about their problems and often addressed meetings, both large and small. Once he had become identified with the needs of the masses, he possessed the happiness known only to those who are crusading for a great cause. The fervor of his beliefs may be exemplified by a statement made during this time that might well be adopted by Christians who war against the tyranny of the Evil One who rules the world today. He wrote: "Nonviolence in its dynamic condition means conscious suffering. It does not mean meek submission to the will of the evildoer, but it means the putting of one's whole soul against the will of the tyrant. Working under this law of our being, it is possible for a single individual to defy the whole might of an unjust empire to save his honor, his religion, his soul."—Robert M. Bartlett, *They Did Something About It*, p. 50.

Such a thought-provoking proclamation would be worthy of every young person in the church today, for it is just such defiance against evil that is needed in our own lives, in our own communities, and in all the world. Too long has Satan held the upper hand over mankind; it is up to you and me to defy his power in the name of Christ and help liberate those near us that through ignorance are his willing slaves.

Although we cannot endorse all of Prime Minister Nehru's beliefs and policies, we can admire him for the outstanding leader that he is today and for his staunch support of the principles which he believes to be right for his people.

If This Were All

If this were all of life we'll know,
If this brief space of breath
Were all there is to human toil,
If death were really death,
And never should the soul arise
A finer world to see,
How foolish would our struggles seem.
How grim the earth would be!

If living were the whole of life,
To end in seventy years,
How pitiful its joys would seem!
How idle all its tears!
There'd be no faith to keep us true,
No hope to keep us strong,
And only fools would cherish dreams—
No smile would last for long.

How purposeless the strife would be
If there were nothing more,
If there were not a plan to serve,
An end to struggle for!
No reason for a mortal's birth
Except to have him die—
How silly all the goals would seem
For which men bravely try.

There must be something after death;
Behind the toil of man
There must exist a God divine
Who's working out a plan;
And this brief journey that we know
As life must really be
The gateway to a finer world
That someday we shall see.

—EDGAR A. GUEST, in *Collected Verse*, Reilly and Lee Co., Chicago, Ill. Used by permission.

The Man and Woman of the Hour in China

Who would have thought that the bright-eyed little Chinese girl who used to sit under the trees on a Georgia college campus would one day become one of the most influential women in the world? Her father, Charles Soong, had been a cabin boy on a boat that plied between Boston and Savannah but had left the sea to obtain an education. While in the South he accepted the Christian religion. Afterward he attended Trinity College, and he received a theological degree from Vanderbilt University.

Mei-ling Soong followed in her father's footsteps in her desire to be a Christian and attended Georgia Wesleyan College where she was a brilliant and popular student. She returned to China and engaged in social welfare work in Shanghai for ten years.

It was during this time that Mei-ling Soong met a young army officer by the name of Chiang Kai-shek. She recognized the sterling qualities in Chiang, but he was not a Christian; she could never marry a man who did not hold the same high ideals she possessed. It was then that Mei-ling's mother stepped into the picture. Madame Soong asked Chiang whether he was ready to become a Christian. He answered that he would not become a Christian in order to

win the hand of her daughter but that he would be glad to study the new religion open-mindedly. Mother Soong gave him a Bible and asked him to read it. Meanwhile he won the consent of Mei-ling as he outlined his plans for a new China and for their life together.

Madame Chiang took an active part in national affairs—especially the betterment of social conditions. It was she who inaugurated the Officers' Moral Endeavor Society, a sort of Chinese military Y.M.C.A., opened schools in Nanking for children, and encouraged the formation of clubs for women throughout the country.

After studying Russia's military methods and the Marxist program, Chiang was certain neither fitted China's needs. The Generalissimo's stand against communism brought disaster to him and to his country, but it appeared to be the wisest stand to take, considering the future of China. It was then that China's New Life Movement, which outlined eight practical principles, was created by the young couple. Not all these reforms have succeeded, but we must give the Chiangs credit for striving to help their countrymen despite the overwhelming obstacles against them. Once when the Generalissimo was captured, the enemy found this statement in his diary:

"I know that these rebels are very dangerous people. I am determined to fight them with moral character and spiritual strength, and with the principles of righteousness. . . . Jesus Christ was tempted by Satan and withstood him for forty days. He fought against evil influences more strongly than I do today. I am now, however, fighting the mutineers with ever-increasing moral strength. I must maintain the same spirit which led Jesus Christ to the Cross, and I must be ready to meet any death which the mutineers may bring upon me."—Robert M. Bartlett, *They Did Something About It*, p. 104.

The rebel general was so touched by reading this statement that he released his prisoner and permitted him to return to Nanking. After this experience Chiang became a stronger Christian. He said: "The greatness and love of Christ burst upon me with a new inspiration, increasing my strength to struggle against evil, to overcome temptation, and to uphold righteousness."

At fifty-seven Madame Chiang is still the epitome of Oriental beauty, but underneath her social grace is one consuming purpose: service to China. The crisis of the war has made her more religious. In the depths of despair she has felt her human inadequacy and has turned to a power greater than herself. She writes: "Life is really simple, and yet how confused we make it. . . . To know His [God's] will, and do it, calls for absolute sincerity and honesty."—*Id.*, p. 110.

You, Too, Can Match the Hour

Have we learned to let God guide and control our hearts so that we may learn to be a mighty influence for good wherever we are? Surely God's plan for the rapid dispensation of the gospel cannot be carried out most effectively until each of us puts himself wholly under His guidance and control. When men listen, God speaks. But God's plan for the world depends largely upon whether or not you and I are men and women of the hour; whether or not we as young people will listen to the pleadings of the Spirit and help liberate the millions of people who live in moral fogs and in spiritual twilight.

The forces of evil within our nation—love of self, love of power, and love of money and foolish pleasures—have enslaved the hearts of even church members. The hour in which we must make an all-out decision is here and the alternatives before us are plain: Christ or chaos; conviction or compromise; discipline or disintegration. If you are one of the average church members whose contribution of time, effort, and money toward the cause you profess to believe in seldom involves real sacrifice, you have lost the vision.

The remedy lies in a renewed seeking after God's will and purposing to devote our every waking moment to the advancement of His cause. Let us seek every opportunity to be of service in our own neighborhoods—not only to crusade for the cause of Christ but recognizing also our duty to take part in every public drive to thwart the advance of vice, crime, and lawlessness. Let us help promote the adoption of good laws in our communities.



There Is No God

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Psalm 14:1.

"God walks the hills" in a lamb's white fleece;

His wings are spread in the flight of geese;
In the rustling grass His footsteps fall;
His voice re-echoes in redbird's call;
His smile is the crocus in the snow;
The shine of His eye the young moon's glow;

The early dew is His breath so cool.
And sayest thou, "There is no God," O fool?

—MILDRED WOOD HARRIS, in *South Wind Blowing*. Used by permission.

February 25

KNOWING GOD THROUGH NATURE

BY MRS. E. J. BARNES AND
MRS. JAMES ZEIGLER

ORDER OF SERVICE

DEVOTIONS AND FEATURES

SONG: "This Is My Father's World," No. 646
in *Church Hymnal*.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY AND SYF REPORTS.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OFFERTORY.

DEVOTIONAL READING.

PRAYER.

DISCUSSION

LEADER'S REMARKS.

TALK: "We Walked With God Today."

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Green Cathedral" (trio)
or "Trees" (solo).

POEM: "There Is No God." (Col. 1, p. 11.)

TALK: "I've Been With God Today."

POEM: "Out in the Fields With God."

CLOSING

SONG: "There Is a Book," No. 92.

CLOSING PRAYER: Plead for a deeper knowledge of God through His created works that we might share with our children, our friends, and our neighbors this love and knowledge.

Notes to Leaders

PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting is to see and know God through His created works, to realize that it is because of God's love for us that even the tiniest seed springs forth into life, and to help interest more young people in nature.

WAYS TO INTEREST

This is the first of a series of four topics to be given on nature this year. Now would be a good time to start nature clubs, go on walks, have secret number trails, or start a bird list. Pictures of the common birds, flowers, trees, and butterflies of your locality could be studied. Then have a contest later to see who can identify these in the out-of-doors.

SUGGESTION

You may have some nature specialists in your society—flower, mineral, insect, bird, etc. If so you can use their talents to good advantage for this M.V. meeting. This would make the studies more tangible. Have program well planned and perhaps unannounced.

Devotional

"In the loveliness of the things of nature you may learn more of the wisdom of God than the schoolmen know. On the lily's petals, God has written a message for you,—written in language that your heart can read only as it unlearns the lessons of distrust and selfishness and corroding care. Why has He given you the singing birds and the gentle blossoms, but from the overflowing love of a Father's heart, that would brighten and gladden your path of life? All that was needed for existence would have been yours

without the flowers and birds, but God was not content to provide what would suffice for mere existence. He has filled earth and air and sky with glimpses of beauty to tell you of His loving thought for you. The beauty of all created things is but a gleam from the shining of His glory. If He has lavished such infinite skill upon the things of nature, for your happiness and joy, can you doubt that He will give you every needed blessing?"—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 143.

Leader's Remarks

(Read while soft music is played in the background.)

God is a lover of the beautiful. He wants us to enjoy His created works. All nature testifies to His glory. It may be in the sound of a babbling brook, or in the noise of the ocean's waves, or perhaps in the rustling of the leaves. Wherever we may be, we can listen to the "still small voice" speaking to our hearts. Are you conscious of the fact as you hurry off to work or go on an errand that even in those fleeting moments there are many pleasures that may be yours? There are many things around us that, if seen, would make our lives fuller and happier and fill our very souls with joy and contentment.

Do you know all the resident birds near your home?

How many of their beautiful songs do you know?

Do you know where Lydia, the seller of purple, got her purple dye? (*Answer*: murex and crushed pupura shells.)

The birds do not know the difference between the Viceroy and the Monarch butterfly. Do you? (*Answer*: The Viceroy is a mimic of the Monarch in coloring and line markings with the exception of the beaded markings on the outer margins and the semicircular dark line on the hind wings. The Viceroy would make a choice tidbit for the birds, but they won't eat him because he looks like the bitter-tasting Monarch.)

What insect anesthetizes the spider in order to feed his young? (Mud dauber or spider wasp.)

Through what great constellation will Christ appear? (Orion.)

What rocks are by your door?

What grass is by your path? Orchard, Bermuda, Johnson, or Bluegrass?

"From the solemn roll of the deep-toned thunder and old ocean's ceaseless roar, to the glad songs that make the forests vocal with melody, nature's ten thousand voices speak His praise. In earth, and sea, and sky, with their marvelous tint and color, varying in gorgeous contrast or blended in harmony, we behold His glory. The everlasting hills tell us of His power. The trees that wave their green banners in the sunlight, and the flowers in their delicate beauty, point to their Creator. The living green that carpets the brown earth tells of God's care for the humblest of His creatures. The caves of the sea and the depths of the earth reveal His treasures. He who placed the pearls in the ocean and the amethyst and chrysolite among the rocks, is a lover of the beautiful. The sun rising in the heavens is a representative of Him who is the life and light of all that He has made. All the brightness and beauty that adorn the earth and light up the heavens, speak of God."—*Ministry of Healing*, pp. 411, 412.

Today (or tonight) we are going to take two imaginary trips—one to the ocean, and the other to the woods.

We Walked With God Today

Come with me while we take an imaginary walk through the woods. The dazzling snow lies soft beneath our feet. As we walk along the trail, a rabbit dashes off through the underbrush. We pause for a moment to study the snowflakes. Our leader places some of the snowflakes on a dark piece of wool, and through his magnifying glass we see the silvery splendor of the many beautiful, six-sided, star-shaped crystals. Someone exclaims, "I didn't realize there could be so many different forms in such a small amount of snow as I hold in my hand."

"Oh, yes," responds our leader, "there are thousands of different designs in the snowflakes, for no two are alike. The snowflakes you hold in your hand were evidently formed in low and medium clouds, for they do not look as compact as the flakes formed in high clouds."

As we continue our walk, we are filled with awe and wonder as we see the dull blades of grass and broken twigs and the many dejected forms that lie on the ground now covered with sparkling crystals radiant in the afternoon sun of late winter.

We turn our attention to the trees standing tall and stately, even though they are shorn of their beautiful leaves that they gave to mother earth to enrich the soil and keep the plants and insects warm during the winter. In the mind of the naturalist the leafless trees are still alive for he sees beneath the bark, and is conscious that the tree is a living organism with its vital activities being maintained within. We compare the barks of the different trees around us. The bark of the young dogwood is smooth and reddish gray, yet some of the older trees are nearly black in color. The deep ridges and broken scales seem to resemble an enlarged honeycomb or the skin of an alligator.

Study the buds of a horse chestnut tree. "Have you ever had the pleasure of taking a bud to pieces?" our leader asks. "If we do so carefully and intelligently, we cannot help but feel more thoughtful and appreciative of God's love and wisdom in creating plant life for our enjoyment." We break off a twig to take home with us so that we may study further the wonders of God. We see that the resinous varnish is the final waterproofing of the bud, and controls evaporation from within and moisture from without.

A search along the older twigs reveals buds that have not grown into shoots but have remained dormant, shrinking in size and becoming less and less noticeable until

they have seemingly disappeared, lost in the bark of the tree. Perhaps these buds will never spring forth into leaves; they lie unnoticed, but ready to grow into active shoots and produce leaves as the need arises. "It is through the immediate agency of God that every tiny seed breaks through the earth, and springs into life. Every leaf grows, every flower blooms, by the power of God."—*Review and Herald*, Nov. 8, 1898.

We are told in *Spiritual Gifts*, Vol. 3, p. 79: "Before the Flood there were immense forests. The trees were many times larger than any trees which we now see. They were of great durability. They would know nothing of decay for hundreds of years. At the time of the Flood these forests were torn up or broken down and buried in the earth."

Let us leave this well-formed path and go farther into the dense woods where there is not quite so much snow. The ground is soft so we must be careful not to fall over old, rotten, moss-covered stumps or step into icy puddles that are close to the stream of water nearby. The patches of moss by the bank of the stream are covered with caps of snow. A squirrel sees us and is warning all his little friends of the woods. A startled deer darts farther into the thick brush (woods). We linger by the stream to watch the clear sparkling water as it gurgles and splashes over the rocks. We are reminded of Christ's invitation to us in John 4:13, 14: "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again; but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

As we walk through the woods our leader unfolds to us the beauties of nature. "Upon every page of the great volume of His created works may still be traced His handwriting. Nature still speaks of her Creator. Yet these revelations are partial and imperfect. And in our fallen state, with weakened powers and restricted vision, we are incapable of interpreting aright. We need the fuller revelation of Himself that God has given in His written Word."—*Education*, p. 17. "God saw that a clearer revelation than nature was needed to portray both His personality and His character. He sent His Son into the world to manifest, so far as could be endured by human sight, the nature and the attributes of the invisible God."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 419.

We ascend the hill and see a white-breasted nuthatch going up and down the tree trunks with seemingly great ease and comfort. His feet are large and strong, and he does not have to depend on his tail for support as the brown creeper and the wood-

peckers do. His claws have sharp hooks that help him to cling to the bark of the tree.

As we glance around us, we do not find many brilliant colors in the winter landscape; yet there is variety and beauty. We see several of the resident birds and a few of the migratory ones.

At last we reach the top of the hill. The silence is awe-inspiring. "Where are our little friends of last summer?" our leader asks. Without waiting for an answer, he continues, "As we look into the valley below, we realize that very soon the buds will burst forth on the twigs, the insects will begin to hum, and the flowers and grass will spring forth filling the earth with life and beauty." Then he added: "Moses learned to commune with God through nature. 'In the school of nature, with Christ as his teacher, he learned lessons of humility, meekness, faith, and trust, . . . simple, unwavering faith, and a constant trust in the Lord.'—*Counsels to Teachers, Parents, and Students*, pp. 406, 407. While he was working out in the fields, he learned that God was at work everywhere about him. He saw that God had a plan for everything and that God had a plan for him individually."

With a prayer on our lips, we plead, "Lord, show us Thy plan and give us the courage to follow."

We realize that "the lessons to be learned from the various objects of the natural world are these: They are obedient to the will of their Creator; they never deny God, never refuse obedience to any intimation of His will."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 3, p. 333.

The sun is low in the heavens so we hasten through the woods to our homes. As we walk along, single file, our hearts are light; and we praise God with singing. Our hearts are led to exclaim, "How great art Thou, O God, Creator of the universe!"

I've Been With God Today

Let nature give me this—the courage of tall trees;
The silent strength of rocks against the crashing seas;
The beauty of the dawn; the joyousness of spring;
The power to soar above as eagle on the wing.
Let nature teach me this—the peaceful depth of sky;
The quiet of the stars—the gallant way to die.

—"Let Nature Teach Me," by GERTRUDE GRYMES SMITH, in *Nature and Science*, A Manual for Elementary Schools.

As I stood by the sea and felt the cool soft breeze against my face, I could not help but think of the wonders of the deep—the beauty of the white caps on the blue of the water, the strength of the waves and

their obedience to the voice of God who stilled the tempest.

I could see birds flying, playing follow the leader. A closer look revealed the brown pelican. Then with a swoop down he dives into the ocean after his meal. There were porpoises gracefully swimming up and down in the water, just the fins showing above the surface. Once in a while one would jump out of the water, and you could see that he was five to eight feet long.

As I looked closer the sandpipers were fitting along the shore, and with every wave came a large number of coquinas with their various hues, stripes, and plaids. You stoop to pick some up and to your amazement—you hadn't moved fast enough!—they simply had turned the heaviest end of shell up and burrowed down into the sand in great haste and with a slight crackling sound. Sometimes there would come as many as a bucket full of these tiny mollusks with one wave. Then they were gone. They must have known the sandpiper was near and wanted food. As I walked along the shore, the sandpipers ran ahead of me just keeping out of reach, seemingly having just a little fear of man.

Oh, the delight of the seashore, looking for shells alive or otherwise! There are shells of every category: some broken, some whole, some with mollusks still alive in the shell, some pink, some white, and some purple. What gives color, feeling, hearing, and fear to these creatures of the sea?

I realized the waves were closer; the tide was coming in. What makes the tide come higher, higher, then recede again? You say the moon? What causes the moon to do that? What is that long-legged spider ahead on the sand? I ran to have a good look—it was gone, but where? Oh, right there in that hole! It was a sand crab. There is a strange shell—is it a shell or is it a rock? Coquina rock. What is that? Many broken shells cohered or cemented together. Houses and large buildings are made from this rock.

Again the breeze, mistladen and cool, is blowing against my face, and—looking up—the large, fluffy cumulus clouds are floating across the sky. The clouds have shadowed the sun, and there are streaks of light reaching from earth to sky. The sun is drawing water, reminding us of the Creator's plan in caring for our needs. The sun is lowering in the west, with its vivid colors streaking across the sky. The trees silhouetted against this sunset sky, a lonely bird making its way to rest, an occasional butterfly finding its refuge for the night all say along with me, "I've been with God today. Be at peace, for God is nigh."

Junior Meetings

February 3

THE BEST PLACE ON EARTH

BY ARTHUR PATZER

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING SONG: "Father, Make Us Loving," No. 24 in *M. V. Songs*.

FAVORITE TEXTS.

PRAYER.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

OFFERING.

SPECIAL MUSIC.

LEADER'S REMARKS.

POEM: "At Evening Hour."

STORY: "Carl and Dennis."

PANEL DISCUSSION.

CHORUS: "Traveling Home," No. 106.

STORY: "Thirty-Seven Cents' Worth." (See page 6.)

CLOSING SONG: "Home, Sweet Home," No. 191.

BENEDICTION.



Leader's Remarks

Our program is entitled "The Best Place on Earth." Of course we immediately think of Home. Home—where we find mother, dad, and the rest of the family. Home—with all of its hallowed memories.

"Home—A world of strife shut out, and a world of love shut in.

Home—A place where the small are great, and the great are small.

Home—A place where our stomachs get three square meals a day, and our hearts a thousand."

Yes, there is no other place like home. At home you can be yourself; it is where you are not misunderstood. You wouldn't exchange it for anything in this world. As we present this program, I am confident that all of us will do everything we possibly can to make our homes the best place on earth.

Panel Discussion

The J.M.V. sponsor should carefully select a group of boys and girls who will be able to enter into this discussion enthusiastically. The following list of questions and statements are merely to direct the discussion, which can be enlarged upon.

1. When thinking of home, what does it mean to you? Just a place to eat and sleep or what?

2. Isn't it good to know, though, that home is a place where we have protection from the cold, from fear, and from darkness? Is that all home is to you?

3. Don't you think it is nice to have the entire family together in the evening so you can talk, sing, play, and pray together? Let's ask mother and daddy to plan more evenings like that.

4. Many times we take mother and daddy for granted, but what would we do without them? They provide our clothes, our toys and playthings, and our education.

5. We read so many things about homes not being what they should be. How can we help to make our homes better?

6. Do you think it is a good idea to have morning and evening worship in our homes? If we are not already having worship together, let's go home and ask mother and daddy to have family worship every day.

7. Does *co-operation* have anything to do with making the home the best place on earth?

8. What is our home to be like? *Answer:* Just a little bit of heaven here on earth.

9. In thinking of your own home, what do you like best?

10. There are many things that we all can do to make our homes happy. Don't you think we ought to tell mother, daddy, brother, and sister that we love them and then *do* things that will *show them* we mean it? What more can we do to make home the best place on earth?

SUGGESTED REFERENCES

Ministry of Healing, pp. 388-394.

Desire of Ages, pp. 72-74.

Messages to Young People, pp. 323-342.

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 144.

See "Home" in *Index to the Writings of E. G. White*.

Carl and Dennis

A young boy wanted his father's car to take his young friends around late in the evenings. Father said, "Son, you are too young. It is not safe." Carl thought he knew better. He tried to get the keys from mother, but mother stood firm with father. Carl became angry. He decided to run away from home, but he went to tell Dennis, his pal, about it. Dennis suggested that they take the car anyway, but that did not work either. So the two slipped out of the house and ran away. They were missing for several days. Both parents became alarmed

and began a search. They learned that the boys were seen getting on a westbound freight train that afternoon, and they were worried.

Neither Carl nor Dennis had money to buy tickets, so they hid between the cars. They got along fairly well until a rainstorm overtook the train. They got wet and uncomfortable. In trying to change his position Dennis slipped, and in a second he was under the speeding train. Carl was frantic—what could he do? He cried, "Oh, God, help me! Please stop the train! Oh, help me, God!"

Just then above him a voice spoke. "What are you doing in there, Lad?" It was the brakeman on top of the cars. "Don't move, Son, sit tight. We are nearing a switch. We stop there. Don't try to get off until the train stands still. I will be here to help you off."

In a few moments the train came to a stop. Carl was stiff from the strain, chill, and fright. The brakeman had to lift him out. He was pale and trembling.

"Dennis fell under the train about ten minutes ago. I am sure he must be dead. I want to go back and find him," he cried.

"You cannot go back there. We will hold you right here," said a stern voice. Some men rushed back in a motor car. There they found poor Dennis almost dead from bleeding. His left leg was cut off and part of his left hand. He was rushed to the hospital. Carl was grief stricken. He fainted when Dennis was brought in. He also had to be taken to the hospital. Only morphine could quiet his heartbreaking sobs.

Several hours later he came partly out from the effects of the drug, and again he burst out into loud sobs, "Oh, Daddy, I need you, I need you so much." Suddenly he felt a strong, warm hand resting on his and a kiss on his brow. He looked up and there stood his mother and dad. Not a word was said. The three wept silently together for several moments. Then Carl asked with a trembling voice, "Do you know what happened?"

"Yes, we have been told, Son," father answered.

"We are very sorry about Dennis," added mother.

"How is he, Mother?" Carl asked eagerly.

"His father is giving him some of his blood now. The doctor hopes that he can save his life," mother spoke softly.

"If Dennis dies, then I want to die, too. I can't think of going back home without him. Why did we ever get on that train? You must have been worried about us. I am terribly sorry. Now this happened. I can't tell you how terrible I felt when Dennis fell under the train and I could not get off to help him."

"Calm yourself, Carl. Things will be quite all right if Dennis will come out of this. We will straighten all the rest out," cautioned father.

"I will never leave home again, if you will forgive me," said Carl with a contrite heart.

"It is all forgiven, Son. We are so thankful that we can take you home alive and whole. Dennis' parents are not that fortunate, I certainly sympathize with them," spoke father thoughtfully.

Dennis made fine progress and soon the two families, knit closer in love and understanding, were back about their business.

One day Carl was in the garage helping his father wash the car. Somehow that horrible experience kept coming to his mind. Finally he confessed: "Dad, I used to think you were hard and unkind, because you would not let me use the car and do some other things that were not good. I am sure now that you were only thoughtful and were trying to save trouble. You saw the danger. Had I told you what Dennis and I were going to do, I am sure you would have spared us this grief. I don't know why I got so mad and ran away. I am so ashamed of it now. I am so thankful that you forgave me and that you never mention the terrible experience."

By this time Carl was close to his father, and, looking into his face, he added, "I understand you and mother better now, and love you more than ever. I never want to hurt you again. Dennis says the same. I will always have to be a good pal to him and try to help him bear this terrible injury."

There was silence for a moment; then his father put his strong arm around the boy and drew him tight against his heart, and said, "I appreciate your attitude very much, Carl. I know we will always be happy together. This experience will be a lesson for many other boys. We all have to learn that the best way to be happy is to obey and to be considerate of others' rights. That is God's standard for man's happiness. Now we will try to forget the experience, Son. Shall we?"

"Yes, but now that you mentioned God, I want to tell you one thing more, Dad. You know I never cared to pray, 'cause I did not see any need of it; but I surely prayed to God for help when Dennis fell under the train. I felt so helpless. You were not there to help me, so I just cried to God with all my heart. If I could not have called to God, I think I would have fallen down, too. I was petrified. Dennis and I were sorry that we got into that dangerous place as soon as the train started—well, we were sorry for several things. We agreed we would get off at the very first stop, but it seemed the train raced on for hours. Then

when the rain came, we wished we were home. I must not talk about it any more. But, Dad, I like to pray now. I thank God every night for His care and that you were kind and took me back to your heart and home."—HELEN K. OSWALD, in *Hallowed Memories of Home*.

At Evening Hour

At evening time when the work is done
The children's hour has just begun.
It's the father and mother and children, too,
That brings such peace to me and you.

The curtain is drawn across the sky,
A peaceful rest is drawing nigh
When cares and work have gone away,
A symbol of eternal day.

The rickety chair that sways and gives
Adds comfort to the one who lives
The natural life with kids that play;
It knocks the dark spots all away.

They pile the blocks upon the floor
Careful not to push them o'er.
Building their castles up so high,
Ready to tumble if you come nigh.

And when the task of building's done
A little push in playful fun
Scatters the blocks in a jumbled heap
That makes the little builders weep.

Then mother's voice so full of love,
Like strains of music from above,
"Weep not now, my little dear,
For Jesus' peace, it hovers near."

Down upon the floor again
Building a house and a cattle pen.
Just a tumbling up and down
On all fours like a happy clown.

Daddy scans the paper through;
He doesn't seem to look at you.
But in his heart he has a joy
That comes from a rollicking girl or boy.

And now we tuck them into bed
After the evening prayer is said.
They are left in the arms of God above
Who hovers o'er the home of love.

—T. J. EVANS.

Out in the Fields With God

The little cares that fretted me
I lost them yesterday,
Among the fields above the sea,
Among the winds at play,
Among the lowing of the herds,
The rustling of the trees,
Among the singing of the birds,
The humming of the bees.
The fears of what might come to pass,
I cast them all away
Among the clover-scented grass,
Among the new-mown hay,
Among the husking of the corn
Where drowsy poppies nod,
Where ill thoughts die and good are born,
Out in the fields with God.

—LOUISE IMOGENE GUINEY.

February 11 QUIET, PLEASE!

BY CREE SANDEFUR

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN: "Living for Jesus," No. 32 in *M. V. Songs*.

SCRIPTURE READING: Verses on reverence.
PRAYER.

JUNIOR LAW: Repeated in Unison.

J.M.V. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY REPORTS.

OFFERING.

TALK: "Have You Heard God?"

DIALOGUE: "If You Were the Recording Angel!"

DISCUSSION.

TALK: "Little Things That Are Great in God's Sight."

SONG: "The Captain's Call," No. 66.

BENEDICTION.

Note

Today we shall discuss point 6 in the Junior Law: "Walk softly in the sanctuary." We would suggest that you add talks or exercises on specific phases of this subject which you feel would be especially helpful to *your* society members.

Have You Heard God?

A Missionary Volunteer meeting was about to begin. The chorister and organist had taken their places. In fact the first song was announced. There was a large attendance in the auditorium. Surely this would be a grand song service! It was for some, but not for others.

"On the back seat three boys were comparing jackknives evidently with view to making some worth-while trade. Two more lads joined them. There was considerable scuffling, and reaching, and grabbing, and much loud whispering. Finally the superior merit of one knife was proved on the edge of the pew. It did have a keen edge all right.

"A half dozen girls a bit older sat a few rows ahead of the boys. Surely they should have been interested in the inspiring songs being so energetically led. But a dozen or two snapshots were absorbing their attention. The camera must have turned out something highly amusing, judging from the laughter and half-audible comments that followed a good look at its product."

Oh, no, these were not true Junior Missionary Volunteers, because a real J.M.V. "walks softly" and acts reverently in the sanctuary. These were boys and girls that had little respect for God and His house. Probably they had failed to understand fully that God was watching their every action, listening to every spoken word. Possibly they had never read Ecclesiastes 5:1. "Never enter God's house carelessly; draw near Him to listen, and then your service is better than what fools offer—for all a fool knows is how to do wrong." Moffatt.

The church is God's house. That is His special meeting place with Juniors and their friends. He invites us to come there and visit with Him—not visit with one another. Should we be able to see the very person of God when we come to His house, it is easily imagined how quietly and softly we would walk in. We would want to be wearing our best clothes. Our words would be chosen very carefully. There would be no giggling or foul play. Jackknives and photographs would be of little interest. Every eye would be on Jesus. All ears would be listening for the words He would speak. Knowing that God can read our thoughts, we would want to be careful in our thinking while sitting in His presence.

Is it not strange how we forget and fool ourselves sometimes? When we fail to "walk softly" in the sanctuary, it must be that we have forgotten that God is really there. And, yet, He is there watching our every action and listening to every word we speak. We cannot see Him, but we may hear His voice speaking to our hearts. But, of course, if we are making noises, whispering, and talking, we may not hear, for God usually speaks ever so softly.

The next time you are in God's house sit quietly and listen to determine whether God does speak to your heart. Be like one of two little girls who were talking with God at their bedside just before jumping into bed for a grand night's sleep. After their prayers were finished, one of the girls arose to her feet immediately. The other little lady remained for a few moments quietly kneeling, after which she, too, arose to finish making ready for bed. Her friend asked, "Why did you remain kneeling beside your bed after our prayers were finished?" The little Christian answered, "I was listening to see whether God had something to say to me." When we walk softly in the sanctuary, we are giving God opportunity to say something to us.



If You Were the Recording Angel!

Outline

Announce to the Juniors that for a few moments they are to act as recording angels. Have two rows of chairs placed in the front of the room to represent a Sabbath-school service. Possibly there should be two chairs in one row, and three in the other. The number of Juniors used in the dialogue should be determined by the number in attendance. Five would be sufficient. Have the Junior leader give a portion of the mission reading. The Juniors not having a part in the dialogue are to record all acts of irreverence by those sitting in front.

1. While the mission story is being given, two or more Juniors enter whispering and laughing in a somewhat subdued way.

2. After taking their chairs, one of them begins chewing his gum that is already in his mouth. The other one takes a fingernail file and begins using it.

3. Another Junior enters. The two who are sitting turn and look back at the one entering. The late comer stumbles over the feet of those seated as he takes the seat on the farther side.

4. One individual picks up the *Youth's Instructor* which is lying in one of the chairs and begins to read. Another girl powders her face.

5. One boy bends down and reties his shoe strings and then rubs the toe of his shoe on his pants' leg to make it shine better. He also proceeds to comb his hair.

6. One individual in front should quietly walk out during the mission story. Two others become interested in something they possess.

7. Other appropriately irreverent acts may be added to this list.

At the close of the dialogue see which Junior in the audience has noted the greatest number of irreverent acts. It may be that you will want to have two or three read their lists and then have a short round-table discussion by the Juniors to see whether they all agree on the items that have been given.

Little Things That Are Great in God's Sight

Did you ever wonder why the church is any more sacred and holy than your home or schoolroom? It is true that God wants to be with you in your home and in your school, but the house of worship is God's special meeting place for you. It has been set aside for that purpose. We should not use that which is His for ourselves. Our actions in the presence of God may be illustrated by one experience.

Many, many years ago a man forty years of age was leading a flock of sheep across

the desert. The sheep were grazing at the foot of a beautiful mountain. As he led the flock along, to one side he saw a bush covered with fire. Possibly he thought he was alone in the wilderness and wondered who had started a fire. Drawing near the burning bush, he heard a voice call his name. I am sure all of us would be interested should a voice speak to us from a burning bush. As Moses listened, a voice said, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." Exodus 3:5. What made the place where Moses was standing holy? It was God's special presence. The removing of the sandals from his feet was an act of reverence for his God on the part of Moses. Moses obeyed without questioning.

All through the ages there have been men and women that have thought God was not very particular about what He says. This error brought real sorrow to one home. The ark of God had been resting in a certain home for many years. It was decided the ark should be moved to a new location. God gave exact instructions as to how the ark was to be moved. No man was to touch it. But the road over which they were passing with the ark was rough. Uzzah thought it was about to fall from the cart upon which it was being carried. He reached up and touched the ark to balance it. He fell dead. Why? Because God had declared that no man should touch the ark. He did not reverence God as he should. Terrible was his reward for disobedience.

God has told us to reverence His sanctuary. He will hold us guilty if we fail to obey this command. Not only does God want us to "walk softly" in the sanctuary, but He would also have us respect those who have charge of the services in His house. To say the least we are to respect them for their office.

A tragedy came to a group of boys and girls, because they did not respect God's servant. Possibly he was not a very handsome man. At least he must have been bald headed. For some reason the children began making fun of him one day as he walked along the road. Yes, he was God's servant. His name was Elisha. The children called, "Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head." 2 Kings 2:23. God was displeased because of the lack of respect these children had for His servant. The Bible says two bears came out of the woods, and wounded forty-two children. Some of the children may have been killed.

Yes, God is looking for Juniors who will walk softly in His sanctuary, be careful with the furnishings of His house, and respect those who are in charge of the services of His church. God is looking for such Juniors so that He may speak to their hearts and prepare them for His soon coming.

February 18

HOW TO BE A HERO

BY FREDERICK W. EDWARDY

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING SONG: "The Youth of the World," No. 36 in *M. V. Songs*.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 31:1-3.

PRAYER.

OPENING EXERCISES.

LEADER'S INTRODUCTION: "What It Takes to Be a Hero."

TALK: "How Courageous Are You?"

SPECIAL MUSIC.

TALK: "It Takes Faith!"

POEM: "Heroes."

CLOSING SONG: "Living for Jesus," No. 32.

BENEDICTION.

Heroes

There are different kinds of heroes, there are some you hear about.

They get their pictures printed, and their names the newsboys shout;

There are heroes known to glory that were not afraid to die

In the service of their country and to keep the flag on high;

There are brave men in the trenches, there are brave men on the sea,

But the silent, quiet heroes also prove their bravery.

I am thinking of a hero that was never known to fame,

Just a manly little fellow with a very common name;

He was freckle-faced and ruddy, but his head was nobly shaped,

And he one day took the whipping that his comrades all escaped.

And he never made a murmur, never whimpered in reply;

He would rather take the censure than to stand and tell a lie.

And I'm thinking of another that had courage that was fine,

And I've often wished in moments that such strength of will were mine.

He stood against his comrades, and he left them then and there

When they wanted him to join them in a deed that wasn't fair.

He stood alone, undaunted, with his little head erect;

He would rather take the jeering than to lose his self-respect.

And I know a lot of others that have grown to manhood now,

Who have yet to wear the laurel that adorns the victor's brow.

They have plodded on in honor through the dusty, dreary days,

They have hungered for life's comforts and the joys of easy days,

But they've chosen to be toilers, and in this their splendor's told:

They would rather never have it than to do some things for gold.

—EDGAR A. GUEST in *Collected Verse*, Reilly and Lee Co., Chicago, Illinois. Used by permission.

What It Takes to Be a Hero

Everyone admires the hero that makes some daring rescue from a burning building, or saves someone from drowning, or makes some noble sacrifice to save the life of another. But you and I may never have an opportunity to be that kind of hero—and even if we did, we may not be able to think fast enough or be brave enough in such an emergency. Yet every day we have opportunities to be real heroes by having the courage to do what we know to be right even though it may be very hard at the time to do the right thing.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said that "self-trust is the essence of heroism." If you and I can trust ourselves to make right decisions in times of temptation, then we have what it takes to be real heroes. It takes courage to be honest always, when it would be so easy to tell just a little "white lie"; to be humble when others around us are bragging about themselves; to stick to your job when your friends tease you to shirk your chores.

Famous heroes—men, women, or boys and girls—are people just like you and me. They have the same bodies, minds, and hearts, but perhaps it was one of their outstanding traits of character that made them a hero or heroine. What they have done, you, in your fashion, can do also. Study the life of your favorite person, and you will discover that there is nothing mysterious about his success—he merely made the most of his opportunities, just as each of us must learn to do if we want to find lasting happiness.

Think about the postman, who brings the mail to your doorstep each day. Would you consider *him* a hero? Not by outward appearances you wouldn't, yet these plain, hard-working men in gray carry the mail over 103,442 routes through storm, blast, epidemic, and disaster. Few public servants face greater perils in their work; none has a more profound sense of duty. Take the fabulous postmen who carry mail over the toughest routes in the United States—the Star Routes—to our outpost communities and to isolated families where no public transportation is provided and no railroads run. Often death and danger block their paths, and their names are left on the honor roll of duty. Mail carrier Reinhold Dreahn froze to death in South Dakota; an Idaho postman lost his life under a snowslide while in the performance of his duty; the Hitchcock brothers of Ohio were wedged in ice, yet lived to tell of a miraculous rescue and of the clothing that was hacked off them like chunks of armor. These men were heroes—all. But no one sings the praises of a postman, for no one sees any glamour in his drab, gray uniform.

It may seem less exciting always to do

what is right; but if each of us sticks to principle and keeps a clear conscience that responds to truth with the steadiness of a compass needle to the pole, the seeming drabness will be exchanged for the gleams of shining robes of righteousness. "Virtue is its own reward" you know; and you may be a hero in your own eyes, as well as in the eyes of the Master!

How Courageous Are You?

In almost every case of heroism you will find that the heroic deed took courage. Take the case of Theodore Bonawitz, a truck driver, who was passing through the outskirts of a small eastern town when he saw a man signal to him from the roadside. When he stopped his truck and investigated, he found the man could scarcely talk. He pointed to the entrance of a work shaft nearby and whispered that a seventeen-year-old boy lay at the bottom of a steep-sloping pit. The unconscious youth, Harold Nelson, had been knocked out by carbon monoxide from a gasoline pump in the shaft.

Theodore was a simple man who believed in the golden rule. If you lived by it, he felt, you lived by it all the way; so there was only one thing to do—go down after the boy even though he had never seen him before and had to risk his own life. He stumbled down the steep incline over foot-deep holes between ties in a skid track until he reached the bottom. He could not find Harold's body until he stepped on him. By this time the gas had begun to affect Theodore, too; and he could only carry the boy a few feet until he fell down. Nevertheless he got up and alternately dragged and carried the limp form toward daylight until he was twenty-five feet from the entrance. There he collapsed. Bystanders heard his feeble cries, and two men came down to help him; but they soon left when they discovered how thick the gas was. Theodore's legs were growing numb, and he had to leave the boy and crawl up into the open air. He begged the men to go down after the youth, but no one would risk his life to do it.

After a moment's rest he started back down the shaft; and two men, shamed by his bravery, followed him. At last, between them, they returned carrying Harold Nelson to safety. It was then, for the first time, that Theodore Bonawitz saw the face of the way-side stranger for whose life he had almost sacrificed his own.

Although Theodore was unaware of it, his superhuman feat was an inspiring example of the "X" factor of courage—that mysterious but powerful force that turns ordinary, everyday people into heroes when the need for heroism arises.

Christian boys and girls can have an even greater power to give them courage in meeting the temptations of everyday life. All

they have to do is pray in simple faith, and the Lord Jesus will send superhuman strength to help them to overcome. Ephesians 6:10-12 reads: "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might, . . . that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world."

Yes, it takes courage to be a hero—even to ourselves—but Jesus has promised us help whenever we need it.

It Takes Faith!

Heroism takes faith in yourself. If you are afraid, you must pray for strength.

Perhaps you remember the tragic story of the people that lost their lives not long ago on Lake Michigan when their sailboat capsized during a storm? Nineteen-year-old Patsy Smith was the sole survivor. Patsy, her father, her schoolmate, Mary, and two friends of her father's had headed across the lake to Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, when tornado-like winds swept down upon them without warning. The group clung to the boat after it foundered and tried to recover some of the life belts, but only one could be found. Since all of them could swim except Mary, she was given the life preserver.

One of the men struck out toward shore to try to get help, but after swimming a good distance he disappeared beneath the towering waves. The next man that made the attempt went down after going only a few feet. Patsy and her father shook hands before he started out. He, too, swam only a short distance before he was drowned.

With Mary wearing the life preserver and Patsy towing her, the two girls struggled toward the shore far away. For hours they fought the water but seemed to make no measurable progress, and at midnight Mary was exhausted.

"You go on, Patsy," she said, and pushed the life preserver toward her friend. Then she waved bravely and was gone. All alone now Patsy cried to God to save her and tried to swim on. That last hour is still hard for her to remember, but she does hazily recall how the life belt bobbed away from her when she let go for a moment, how the lights on the shore kept blinking out one by one, and how the waves kept sweeping over her ceaselessly.

At 1 A.M. Patsy staggered ashore eight miles north of Sturgeon Bay after swimming some thirteen miles. She was so exhausted after her terrible seven-hour ordeal that she needed a transfusion of blood plasma, but miraculously she was still alive.

"I was fighting hard to keep going," she said. "I didn't want to drown." Then she gave another of those measureless ingredi-

ents of heroic action. She declared: "I prayed. I prayed hard. I prayed all the way!"

Young people, it will take heroic action on the part of each of us to be saved in heaven. You and I may not have the natural qualities within us to be heroes, but we may have that power to meet everyday temptations as well as any unusual emergencies if we have faith and pray. But like Patsy we must *pray all the way*.

* * *

February 25

GOD'S FINGERPRINTS

BY MRS. E. J. BARNES AND
MRS. JAMES ZEIGLER

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING SONG: "Come, Walk With Me the Woodland Trail," No. 157 in *M.V. Songs*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

OFFERTORY.

DIALOGUE: "God's Fingerprints." Includes prayer, talks, poems, special music, and quiz.

BENEDICTION.

Dialogue: God's Fingerprints

CHARACTERS:

Mother and father—Mr. and Mrs. Brown
Son—John Brown
Two girls—Mary and June
Nature leader—Mr. Davis
Members—Roy, Ray, Mike, James, Ronnie, Jack

SCENE:

A home. A Junior comes home from M.V. meeting enthusiastic over the task given to him and his playmates. These boys belong to a Nature Club.

Mother is sitting reading the *Review and Herald*.

JOHN: Mother, guess what we've been asked to do for the Senior M.V. meeting? Our Nature Club is to give the program. There are so many things we could have and do I hardly know where to begin. The boys and Mr. Davis will be over this afternoon.

MOTHER: I think that's a good idea. That will be lots of fun for you boys.

JOHN: I'm going down to the club room. Mr. Davis and the boys ought to be here soon. Call me, won't you? (*John goes out.*)

(*Mother continues to read, and soon she hears voices; then a knock. When she hears voices she starts for the door.*)

MOTHER: Good afternoon, Nature Clubbers. How are all of you? Come on in.

BOYS AND MR. DAVIS: Just fine, Mrs. Brown. And how are you?

MOTHER: Oh, I'm fine. Please have chairs. Jack, you can call John.

RAY: Why can't we all go to the club room and get to our task? That will leave you free.

MOTHER: I was hoping you would stay up here where I could really join you. It's a bit crowded down in the club room anyway. John will bring some of the books up.

(*Jack goes to call John, and John comes in with books and puts them on table.*)

MR. DAVIS: Now, boys, let's gather around the table. Mike, you'll need to bring a chair. (*All are seated, mother along with them.*) First we had better ask God's blessing on our meeting.

JOHN: That's right.

MR. DAVIS (*Offers prayer. Audience bow heads.*): Now what would you boys like to include in this meeting?

JAMES: I have been thinking. Mike likes shells and has a good collection. Why doesn't he pick out one interesting shell and tell about it. Then there's Ronnie with his many collections. Why can't he have someone help him make up a quiz? Each one of us likes the various phases of nature, but each likes some things better than others; for instance I like the study of birds better than I do flowers.

JACK: Fine! James better get something on birds. What about special music? And we ought to have some poems—one or two.

MR. DAVIS: You two boys work on the poems. Mrs. Brown will help you. Jack and Ronnie, make up a good quiz. Do you boys think you could give the special music?

RONNIE: Watch out! I've an idea. Why don't we ask the girls to do that? Mary and June sing nicely; why couldn't they sing "O Forest Fair"? There's a song "Listen to the Song Birds." We could get some girls to help, and we could whistle in the chorus.

RAY: Looks as though the special music is settled. I'll call Mary right now about it. (*He goes out and calls, brings back report.*)

MR. DAVIS: Let's see—(*Mr. Brown comes in.*) Well, Mr. Brown, you're just in time. How are you? (*They shake hands.*) Would you like to help James on birds?

MR. BROWN: Sure. That won't be too hard for us. (*They get some books. Mr. Brown pulls up a chair, and everyone is busy.*)

RAY (*Comes in*): Mary said they'd sing, and they'll be over soon. Isn't that co-operation?

MIKE: I think I'll tell about my violet snail I found on the beach last summer. It isn't very often you'd find one of these shells, for they are so fragile. These violet snails are violet color on top, which matches the blue of the water. This helps protect it from its enemies. It also can throw out a purple fluid that looks like ink—for protection. You know most shells don't float upon the water. The mother snail throws out a substance that hardens as soon as it touches the water, while a bubble forms under it. This keeps the mother afloat. She makes several of these bubbles and forms a raft.

The mother hides her eggs under this raft until they hatch as baby snails. They all float along on their raft. When the babies are large enough to take care of themselves, they detach themselves from the mother raft and build one of their own. These little bubbles look so much like the foam on the ocean that even the birds can't detect them. The violet snail is a little creature—only one and a half inches long—but it can reach out one of its suckers, catch a jellyfish and devour it. Snails carry their houses on their backs, and these snails do, too; but the violet ones turn their houses over so that they will float and enable them to make their rafts and bubbles. Surely God's handiwork is displayed here.

ROY (*Gives poem*): Here's a poem that I like: "The True God."

There is a God, all nature cries;
I see it painted on the skies,
I see it in the flowering spring,
I hear it when the birdlings sing,
I see it in the fruitful plain,
I see it in the flowing main,
I see it stamped on hail and snow,
I see it where the streamlets flow,
I see it in the clouds that soar,
I hear it in the thunder's roar,
I see it when the morning shines,
I see it when the day declines,
I see it in the mountain's height,
I see it in the smallest mite,
I see it everywhere abroad,
I feel, I know there is a God.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN.

(*Girls come in quietly.*)

MARY: Here we are! We have already practiced some. (*Boys stand.*)

BOYS: Hello, girls.

MR. DAVIS: Let's hear it right now. (*Boys sit down.*)

(*Girls sing, "O Forest Fair!" No. 136 in M. V. Songs, and then are seated.*)

RONNIE: Thank you, girls. We have a short quiz ready. Shall we see how it goes?

MR. DAVIS: Yes, let's see what we can remember.

RONNIE: No, let's see how many the audience can answer.

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| 1. How many legs has a spider? | Eight |
| 2. What's poisonous about the poke weed? | Root |
| 3. What insect carries a bread basket? | Bee |
| 4. To what family does corn belong? | Grass |
| 5. What dog has a black tongue? | Chow |
| 6. Which has feathery antenna, a moth, or a butterfly? | Moth |
| 7. What bird can fly up or down, backward or forward? | Hummingbird |
| 8. What bird never cares for its young? | Cowbird |
| 9. What animal sometimes carries its young on its back and tail? | Opossum |
| 10. How do ferns reproduce? | Spores |

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 11. Name a flower that lives on insects? | Pitcher plant or sundew |
| 12. In what constellation is the North Star? | Little Dipper |

MR. BROWN: James and I have a few things on birds. Since this is February, we thought to tell about our feeding station. We had watered the birds all summer; and as soon as it started to get cold, we made a feeding board for the birds near the bird-bath right outside our window. We put some crumbs, seeds, and some suet out; and it wasn't long before there were many winter birds at our station. James asked me some interesting questions about birds. He wants to know what keeps the birds up in the air. When the bird breathes and flaps his wings, he forces air into the hollow parts of his feathers and bones.

JAMES: Do birds have landing gears?

MR. BROWN: Yes, they have, for as they land their feet automatically lock themselves by the strong toe muscles behind the bird's knee. And James is wondering how the birds keep on flying when it is raining, and how with a flip of his wings after his bath he can soar up into the air. The bird has a special oil gland at the base of his tail. He rubs his beak over the oil gland and then very systematically through his feathers, thus waterproofing them. Another proof of God's guidance and protection of the birds is the long flights of the migrating birds. Some of these birds have been known to fly thousands of miles over land and sea every year for many seasons. We were wondering whether some of these very ones feed at our station. You remember about the canary that made the long flight from San Diego to Los Angeles, a distance of 125 miles. The woman who owned the bird had moved to Los Angeles, where she formerly lived, and left the bird in San Diego. In mid-July the bird escaped and disappeared. The bird was thought to be lost. About two weeks later the canary was picked up in Los Angeles, two blocks from his former home. He was taken to a pet shop for treatment of his tired and bruised body. A few days later his owner stopped in at the pet shop on an errand, and her attention was directed to the bird. Recognition was mutual between the bird and its mistress.

MR. DAVIS: I'm sure we have enough for a program. You folk have done very well. That's enough for now. We'll see you all next week. Oh, what about that song? You'd better sing and whistle it through before you go.

(*Girls sing and boys whistle: "Listen to the Song Birds," No. 134, in M.V. Songs.*)

MR. DAVIS: That sounds fine. I thank all of you for your interest and help.

(*Boys and girls get up and say, "Good-bye."*)

Home Missionary Department

The Stewardship of Parenthood

BY F. B. JENSEN

"For this child I prayed; and Jehovah hath given me my petition which I asked of Him: therefore also I have granted him to Jehovah; as long as he liveth he is granted to Jehovah. . . . And the child Samuel ministered unto Jehovah." 1 Samuel 1:27, 28; 3:1, A.R.V.

To every parent God has given the opportunity to do the greatest work in the world: to lead a soul to Christ and train him in the knowledge of salvation. You can never thank God enough for this gracious privilege and this unique opportunity. How strange that parents sometimes take an active interest in foreign mission service which has to do with the saving of lost men and women while they carry on a program in the home that utterly fails to make the correct impressions on their own sons and daughters. Yet you can see this tragedy over and over again in countless homes of well-meaning Christian parents. What can we do to awaken in all parents a true insight into the stewardship of a good home?

There must be religious training in the home. The home must have a spiritual atmosphere—a sense of God's presence, a feeling of responsibility to Him—otherwise we shall never be able to supply this essential in the children's lives.

"Above all things else, let parents surround their children with an atmosphere of cheerfulness, courtesy, and love. A home where love dwells, and where it is expressed in looks, in words, and in acts, is a place where angels delight to manifest their presence."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 386.

It is worth while to notice the expression "above all things else" in this paragraph. Put down, then, as the first essential "an atmosphere of cheerfulness, courtesy, and love." This must prevail if we expect our children to respect us and our religion. Let us not tamper with so vital a principle and hope that everything will come out all right by and by. There must be time for family worship, for getting acquainted with the Bible, for learning the things of God. God will hold us responsible if we let this slip and excuse ourselves claiming that we are so busy that we just cannot find the time to do what God tells us we must do.

Along with this precious heavenly atmosphere there must be parental authority that will early establish in the nature of the child the habits and impressions that will make him a lifelong worshiper and constant servant of God. We cannot afford to fail to impart these first principles to our children; for if we fail here, we fail entirely. Someone has said, "Childhood is like a mirror, which reflects in afterlife the images first presented to it." If those images are



Christian Home Day February 4

The program for Christian Home Day, prepared by the Educational Department for the First Sabbath Service appears on pages 24-26. The Home Missionary Department welcomes the opportunity to join in giving this important subject strong emphasis.

not all that they should be, let us sit down, face eternity, and decide, upon the authority of God's Word, that the home is the most important institution on the face of the earth, that our children are the most important factor in the home, and that we shall so organize our lives as to give our homes our best. Whatever time is left, we will devote to our professions and business. It may mean a little less money, but remember that we can never buy character and salvation for our children after we have driven them out of our lives by an inner selfishness and a worship of the base materialism of our age.

A charming home with happy parents and the comradeship of stalwart sons and daughters will make us millionaires in heaven's coin, but all the money in the universe would never comfort us if we faced the judgment of God with children that we neglected to interest in things of a spiritual nature. "The training of children," said Rousseau, "is a profession where we must know how to lose time in order to gain it." We must learn to leave some things out and make room for some things that we are now neglecting. If we do not, our children are going to break our hearts before they are grown.

Before we leave this essential step in the winning of our children to Christ, it is necessary to emphasize a danger. Many parents give their children a long-faced interpretation of Christianity, and they fail to carry out in their lives a faith that produces a sunny disposition. They do this to such an extent that the children revolt from such unhappy expressions and attitudes. A sentence from Bruce Barton will illustrate what we mean here: "I have seen men (and women), long-faced and sorrowful, wagging their heads bitterly over the evils in the world, and by their very joylessness adding to that evil. And in their hearts they supposed they were representing Him; think of it, representing Him to whom little children flocked with joyous laughter, and old men beseeching Him to have dinner with them in their homes!" You can go into any church across the country and count the many homes where the children are all out of the ark of safety, because the parents are devout, overanxious, and long-faced believers. What can we say to change this tragedy? Of course we ought to mourn over our mistakes and sins—but in the closet alone with God. Then let us come forth forgiving and show the joy of salvation in our conversation, show our trust in God in a smiling expression of inner confidence. There is nothing that will so change the outlook in the home and assure us of success in saving our children as the cultivation of a happy and sunny disposition.

An important habit to foster in the early life of the child is that of attendance at

Sabbath services. No matter how moral and upright the child may be, he cannot be taught to serve the kingdom of heaven and grow up to live for the interests of the church unless Sabbath school and church attendance become a habit from early childhood. This is a must in the duty and responsibility of parents who wish to give to their children the right foundation.

Now let us face this glorious business of being parents and winning our children to Christ in the light of a great chapter in the life of Jesus. Immediately following the transfiguration, or perhaps during the absence of Jesus from the rest of His disciples, a crisis came into their experience. A father came to them for help, and they failed him. Then when Jesus returned, the father came to Jesus and said: "Master, I have brought unto Thee my son." Mark 9:17. This is the highest achievement on earth for any father. And I hope that every father in the church around the world will read this story and find hope, and help, and courage to be a good father and a genuine comrade, and determine to bring his son to the Master.

One father that had a mean temper said some very unkind words one morning. He seriously wounded his wife's feelings and then flew out of the house in a rage. His little boy, watching the situation and seeing the tears in his mother's eyes, ran to her and took her hand in his, and said, "Mother, we made an awful mistake when we married father, didn't we?"

Mothers can never do alone what the father may do and ought to do in the winning of the children for the Master. The home needs the conscious, warmhearted, and constant interest and help of a kindly and understanding father if success is expected. Parents must stand together to encourage and co-operate in the right training of the children, and nothing can take the place of companionship on the part of the father. The failure here has been illustrated on many occasions, but perhaps this experience may help us to see the seriousness of our failures. A young man on trial for a serious crime was asked by the judge whether he was ashamed to bring such disgrace on his father, who was a distinguished lawyer.

He said, "No. When I was a boy, I went to my father for help and advice. He was busy writing the book *The Law of Trusts*. 'Run away, Boy, I am too busy,' my father would answer. He has his *Law of Trusts*, and here am I."

Some years ago the "Parable of the Prodigal Father" appeared in the literature of appeal for better parents. Perhaps it will be appreciated by some of us fathers if we read it again.

"A certain man had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of thy time, and thy attention, and thy companionship, and thy counsel which falleth to me.'

"And he divided unto them his living in that he paid the boy's bills, and sent him to a select preparatory school . . . and to college, and tried to believe that he was doing his full duty by the boy.

"And not many days after, the father gathered all his interests and inspirations and ambitions and took his journey into a far country, into a land of stocks and bonds and securities and other things which do not interest a boy; and there he wasted his precious opportunity of being a chum to his own son.

"And when he had spent the very best of his life and had gained money but had failed to find satisfaction, there arose a mighty famine in his heart; and he began to be in want of sympathy and real companionship.

"And he went and joined himself to one of the clubs of that country; and they elected him chairman of the House Committee and President of the club and sent him to congress. And he would fain have satisfied himself with the husks that other men did eat and no man gave unto him any real companionship.

"But when he came to himself, he said: 'How many men of my acquaintance have boys whom they understand and who understand them, who talk about their boys and associate with their boys and seem perfectly happy in the comradeship of their sons, and I perish here with heart-hunger! I will arise and go to my son, and will say unto him, 'Son, I have sinned against Heaven, and in thy sight; I am no more worthy to be called thy father; make me as one of thy acquaintances.'"

"And he arose and came to his son. But while he was yet afar off, his son saw him and was moved with astonishment, and instead of running and falling on his neck, he drew back and was ill at ease.

"And the father said unto him, 'Son, I have sinned against Heaven, and in thy sight; I am no more worthy to be called thy father. Forgive me now and let me be your friend.'

"But the son said, 'Not so. I wish it were possible, but it is too late. There was a time when I wanted to know things, when I wanted your companionship and counsel, but you were too busy. I got the information, and I got the companionship; but I got the wrong kind, and now, alas, I am wrecked in soul and body and there is nothing you can do for me. It is too late, too late, too late.'"—Blake W. Godfrey.

A few years ago I sat in a professional man's office and had him tell me the story of his own sad and wretched experience with his son. Later on the same morning I sat on the porch and talked with the son and heard him denounce his parents in the most shameful manner. The father had gained wealth and prestige, but he had lost his son.

The plain facts are that many good men at heart do not intend to damage the children and drive them from the message, but we need humbly to learn how to be comrades with our children and see the sweet and inexpressible satisfaction of growing up with them. Moses' counsel is timely for us just now:

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thy heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." Deuteronomy 6:6, 7.

How utterly impossible it is to carry out the job God has given us fathers unless we do have constant and satisfactory companionship with our children! In one of the most tender passages of David we see the ideal father and child relationship, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him."

Referring to the text in which Mark expresses the father's genuine concern for his son's lost condition, we observe that the victory came about when the father took his own child to Jesus. Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, and He healed the boy. What a thrill that father experienced when his son was healed both physically and spiritually. The salvation of the boy was due to the father's interest, to his faith in Jesus, his prayers for his son, and to the fact that he took his own boy to the Saviour. May we know the eternal satisfaction of being able to say, "Master, I have brought to Thee my son."

More Signs Means More Souls

Signs of the Times Campaign, February 18-25

Departmental Activities

Signs Reaches Hearts

Christianity is a heart religion. When the Lord said, "Son, give Me thine heart," He did more than merely entreat one of His created beings. He asked for the very life of the individual and by so doing placed him on the lofty pedestal of freedom of choice, a privilege conferred upon one who was originally made in the image of God. He also pointed out the nature of the Christian religion in that He solicited the very life center of man—his heart.

Since God is not satisfied with anything less than a man's heart, in order to win others to Him we also must necessarily reach their hearts. Anything that helps us to do this must be used both intelligently and effectively. Here is where the *Signs* comes in for more than passing notice. It can be proved with factual evidence that in whatever country this journal is published, and in whatever language, it reaches hearts and wins them to the message.

The present Canadian *Signs of the Times* was formerly published as the Canadian *Watchman*. A number of years ago a businessman gave a young lady a subscription for this publication. When, upon reading it, he discovered that it was a Seventh-day Adventist magazine he promptly threw it into the wastebasket. Succeeding copies were unceremoniously consigned to the same place, until one day he decided to throw one copy into the stove. He raised the lid of the stove with more than usual gusto and threw the *Watchman* into the flames. When he returned later to add more wood, he noticed that the magazine was burned black but the heat had opened it and across the opened page the following words stood out in bold relief: "Jesus Christ Is Returning Again." Angrily he slammed the stove lid down and exclaimed, "These papers are awful. They keep talking even after you burn them."

The words, however, reached his heart. In spite of his efforts to forget, they penetrated deeper and deeper until he reached a point in his experience where he eagerly looked forward to the monthly arrival of the Canadian *Watchman*.

After some time he visited a Seventh-day Adventist minister. "I want to be baptized," he said.

"What makes you think that you want to be baptized?" asked the elder.

The man then related his experience. As the minister listened attentively to his story, he became convinced that the Lord

had led the man. His sound position on our doctrines had been reached by reading the magazine and he was baptized immediately.

After his own heart had been reached and conquered, he felt an irresistible urge to reach other hearts. When this man was last heard from, he had won twelve neighbors and friends to the truth.

While visiting the Saskatoon camp meeting this summer, I met a good brother that had recently been baptized along with his entire family. He told me that for some time he used to throw the Canadian *Signs of the Times* into the stove but that one day he was attracted by a striking headline, read the paper and continued reading.

Only the other day I learned of a native on the island of Puerto Rico. In some way—we hope through the efforts of one of our members—he got hold of a copy of the *Signs of the Times*. So enthusiastic did he become about the paper, that he subscribed for ten of his friends. Eight out of the ten became Seventh-day Adventists. Two out of the eight became Seventh-day Adventist colporteurs. A church of sixty-five members was established as a direct result of the distribution of this one copy of the *Signs of the Times*. "A glorious climax," you say. Yes, with reservations. The final climax will not be revealed until all faithful *Signs* distributors will learn in the world to come of the ultimate results of their labors. They will then realize more fully than they can now that the *Signs of the Times* reaches hearts.

—C. A. EDWARDS.

Wider Circulation of the Signs—

Why? Who? How?

You ask, "Why?" Because the more *Signs* distributed, the more souls will be won for Christ. Past experience has proved the truth of this statement. The primary object in the publication of the *Signs* is to help evangelize the world for Christ and to bring to the world the knowledge concerning the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of Jesus Christ in the clouds of heaven. A cloud of witnesses from the ranks of the church can be summoned to prove that the *Signs* is and has been an effectual means in soul winning.

Thousands of *Signs* have been sent out by our church missionary societies and by individual church members in the past, and

these have brought a harvest of souls; but thousands and millions more in the future should be given wings and sent even to the far corners of the earth. How can the world hear without a preacher, and how can the *Signs* preach unless it be sent? Every week the *Signs* comes out filled with scriptural articles which are calculated to inspire faith, bring hope and courage, and answer the queries of the doubting.

A world in need waits for the enlightenment which the *Signs* conveys on world conditions; but how can they get it unless the *Signs* be sent? World conditions are very ominous. They forecast the coming of another world conflict in the near future—a conflict so disastrous in its results as far to surpass in destructiveness all wars of the past. Terrible instruments of destruction are now in the making that will literally destroy the earth and life upon it. One great object in publishing the *Signs* is to warn the world of the significance of these events and conditions. Our responsibility in distributing it is great.

But you ask, "Who?" In this hour of peril the church expects every member to do his duty and become a watchman for God, giving the trumpet a certain sound. God's great commission "Go ye into all the world" was not given alone to the apostles but to the church and to every member of the church. It is true, very true, that not all can go; neither can all preach. God does not expect the impossible; but it may be proper here for me to suggest that it was the man having only the one talent that proved negligent. Every man, woman, and child can do something in the great work of warning the world. Some can write articles; some can print them; all can distribute. Here is a case where "the last shall be first and the first shall be last." Although each of the three is of immense importance, distribution is far and away the most important. Publishing can produce, but without distribution there is no profit. Distribution brings to fruition the goal of production. The *Signs* has a message of solemn import for our world, and it should not be left in storage in our publishing houses and Book and Bible depositories. Give it wings, silver wings, that will bear it to the ends of the earth. Give it a body with hands and legs that will circulate it far and wide. You ask, "Whose silver, hands, and legs?" Why mine and yours each according to his several abilities.

Of course now you will ask, "How?" There are many ways in which this can be done. Perhaps one of the easiest ways is by mail. Send it to a friend or relative. Send a subscription together with an address to your church missionary secretary. This will send the *Signs* for one or more full years to someone in need of its message. If you

are not financially able to pay for the sending, there is another way in which you can circulate it; and this is often the best way: sell the papers regularly over a regular route. Although the papers do the missionary work, this method provides the personal touch. Churches can assist in this method by subscribing for a club of *Signs* and then have them passed out week by week to the same readers. Paper racks can be placed in public places and kept regularly filled with clean new *Signs*. Of course *clean*

used copies may also be used for this.

Children, full of energy and zeal, can distribute the papers from door to door. They should be accompanied by some mature person. God calls in this hour for the consecration and employment of every resource of money, talent, and body to the end that the world may be warned and Jesus may come bringing everlasting life. Would it not be very welcome to hear the Master say, "He has done what he could"?

—W. R. FRENCH.

concepts of trust, truthfulness, and loyalty. May I have done my part acceptably and, oh, God, I pray that as I train and nourish them I may do it so well that they shall never be rebellious but ever true and loyal.

—Arranged by ARABELLA MOORE WILLIAMS.

February 11

Diary of a Father

Monday. Had a hectic day at the office, but the aggravations are forgotten when I get back to my sweet wife and kiddies. How she manages to keep the place so neat and clean—with supper all ready for me when I get home—is a mystery to me. While she was darning the socks this evening, I read aloud from *Counsels to Parents and Teachers*. What a wonderful book that is, so inspiring, always bringing me back in line, pointing out to me my weak places! The thoughts in these two sentences keep going through my mind: "One great reason why there is so much evil in the world today is that parents occupy their minds with other things to the exclusion of the work that is all-important—the task of patiently and kindly teaching their children the way of the Lord. Parents should allow nothing to prevent them from giving to their children all the time that is necessary to make them understand what it means to obey and trust the Lord fully." I keep wondering whether I am really doing my father's part as I should.

Tuesday. Ronald's been begging to earn some money with a pop stand ever since he's seen the stand the boys had down on Third Street. He seems so little to be starting any business, but he had already saved two orange crates; so I brought home a third today, and we nailed them together this evening, two standing on end and the third placed lengthwise between—making a counter with cupboards beneath. His mother (for we had talked it over, deciding we'd help him with his project) had already bought red and white crepe paper and a bright shelf cover. Ronald directed the decorations, and I was amazed at his good ideas. It looks very attractive and gay. I bought the lemons wholesale. We had a family conference and decided it would be better to sell chilled fruit punch and lemonade rather than soda pop. This was Ronald's chance for carrying on a business in harmony with healthful living.

Wednesday. What a bright-eyed lad to meet me! How eager he was to tell me of his success! (The weather man had helped a lot by giving us a dry, hot day all right.) Ronald had planned his procedure carefully. The children were to give him their money first before he gave them the glass of lemonade or Hawaiian punch. In a small book he

Weekly Church Missionary Services

February 4

Diary of a Mother

Sunday. Read a little longer than usual before getting up this morning. Came across a striking statement in Isaiah that keeps haunting me. "I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me." Am I to have such an experience? Many do, I know. I pray God to give me wisdom that I may know how to train my children so that they will always love and respect their parents and their God.

Monday. I was real proud of Keith today when he came in from his play to look for me. He stood at the living room door and smiled when he saw I had a guest. "Come right along in, Keith," I said. "This is my school chum Grace Morgan."

Keith stepped in so pleasantly saying, "Mother has often told us about you and your experiences in South America. It is fine that you can be here." Then he turned to me and thoughtfully asked whether there was anything he could do for me or my guest. Bless his little heart. How much he is getting to be like his daddy, a real chip off the old block! We must ever keep him sweet and courteous like that. Then he will never rebel against us.

Tuesday. Today the children and I had such fun practicing the correct use of our language. One of us would knock at the door, and the other one inside would ask, "Who is it?" Then came the reply, "It is I." We practiced a lot on the phrases: "he doesn't answer; he doesn't know it;" etc. The children hear the other form, "he don't," so often that it is hard to keep it out of their conversation. I remember when I read *Counsels to Parents and Teachers* I was impressed with how much Sister White stressed the importance of overcoming careless speech, of making improvement every day. We had a long lesson in it today, but the children thought it was a game. I do want

them to develop clear musical tones in their speech.

Wednesday. Imagine me with a bat in my hand! In the midst of my cleaning this afternoon the children rushed in. They just had to have another person on their team. So I dropped everything and played with them a bit. It really was refreshing and invigorating. I gave them many a cause for a good laugh when my turn came to bat. After the game the children pitched in and helped me finish the work I had dropped. What a pleasure it is to see the children growing up, for each day we can do more and more things together!

Thursday. What a hectic day this has been! Accidentally let the gruel boil over, and what a mess the stove was! While I was giving it a real thorough cleaning, Peggy fell and cut her temple. Spent most of the morning at the doctor's and hospital caring for it. Afternoon was just one interruption after another; so I gave up my Thursday schedule, packed a lunch, and when Frank came home, we drove away from it all to the woods. Enjoyed the calm and quiet of nature. Had our evening worship right out there in God's green temple with the evening songs of the birds for our music.

Friday. How I love these Friday evenings when the house is all clean and smells so fresh and sweet, when everything is in its proper place and all is in order, when the refrigerator is full of food already prepared for the Sabbath meals! How I treasure these evening hours for reading and study! I'm feasting, too, on the gorgeous red rose my sweetheart brought home today. The children, too, thrill at the gifts for mother just as much as when daddy's surprises are for them.

Sabbath. The end of another week, a week in which the children have learned lessons—I trust lessons of obedience, thoughtfulness, and reverence—another week in which they have broadened their

printed all the things he had to pay for and their cost. Some of the big boys had helped him keep track of the sales. This evening after the stand was all cleared and the business was over with for the day, I had to add and subtract his final account for him; but he understood my explanations and how pleased he was with his small profit, and with the chance to figure out the tithes on his own earnings. It has given him a lot of self-confidence. How soon they grow up! I pray I may be aware of all the lessons he must learn from me so that he will be prepared to go out into the world an upright, honest, self-reliant man.

Thursday. It rained all day, so there was no stand business today. We played a few indoor games; and when the children went to their rooms, I studied for that Bible study next Sunday night.

Friday. When I reached home, Ronald was busy cleaning up his stand to put it away for Sabbath. Without being told, he knew that would have to be done before he took his bath and put on his fresh clean clothes for Sabbath evening. He certainly learns a lot just watching us—his mom and dad.

Sabbath. As usual we put the family into the car after dinner and drove out of the city into the country. We are always exploring new places for our Sabbath afternoon walks. We found such a shady, cool nook and when the enchanting sounds of the woods didn't distract us, we read a little, each having his own book or paper. While baby was still napping at mother's side, the boys and I (we were all eager to be off) started through the woods. How many different kinds of leaves we did find in that place! Ronald spotted a bald eagle. We watched his easy soaring for a long time. That magnifying glass went from hand to hand so quickly in examining so many lovely, dainty, little things that it looks as if I'll have to buy one apiece. The boys are really developing a broad outlook. They know there is so much more to the world than just the streets and houses of our city. What a blessing these Sabbath afternoons are to each of us! Nature does draw us near to God and His creatures.

—Arranged by ARABELLA MOORE
WILLIAMS.

February 18

When You Love You Win

A true Christian will love the Lord, the church, and the lost souls about him. "The erring can be restored in no other way than in the spirit of meekness, gentleness, and tender love."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 613. Surely we are living in days when many souls are longing for the light of this truth. At this very time each one of us has an

opportunity for personal soul winning through the witness of a consistent life, and personal testimony, as well as such direct methods as literature distribution, taking enrollments for the Bible Correspondence School, and inviting others to our church services.

Not long ago one of our brothers, who was a carpenter, told me that he carried several tracts in his shirt pocket as he went to and from work. He learned to love and respect the men with whom he was working. (When you love you long to win.) He wanted these men to come to a full knowledge and acceptance of the truth. He systematically lent them our tracts. They read these, and one by one they accepted Christ and the third angel's message. One Sabbath morning I stood with him at the entrance into our church while he pointed out seven persons whom he had won as a result of his little tract project.

Whenever we display "the spirit of meekness, gentleness, and tender love," we find that hearts respond to the message that we are presenting.

Upon learning that death had taken away the mother of a certain family, two of our brethren visited the children. The mother had been a faithful Adventist for many years, and her faithfulness had impressed the children although none of them had followed her in living out the truth. This kind visit, the speaking of words of tenderness and love, impressed the hearts of these children. One of the sons expressed his desire to begin to keep the Sabbath. He has been attending the Sabbath services faithfully since that time.

We have a message of hope, and cheer, and love for a sinful, discouraged, and hopeless generation. What a wonderful opportunity is ours! Let us unite in giving this message speedily.

—LEROY J. LEISKE.

February 25

Signs—To Open Eyes and Persuade Hearts

Some years ago Funk and Wagnalls were advertising a work of fifty-two volumes. They said this work was very necessary, because "the world is stumbling blindly in the darkness of doubt and unbelief, weary, discontented, sick at heart, angry with the things that are, unable to agree upon the things that ought to be. The whole world is crying with jangling voices for light and leadership. The church of the living God must answer this need."

One way to answer this need is to place in the hands that are outstretched for light and leadership The World's Prophetic Weekly—*Signs of the Times*. We do not know, nor may we ever know in this life,

what influence the *Signs of the Times* has to open eyes and persuade hearts. In fact things are happening which some of us are totally ignorant of. Recently a man in Atlanta, Georgia, walked into the office of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference president and told him that he had been reading *Signs of the Times* for many years. The president did not know the man, did not know he was reading the *Signs*. This visitor said, "I wish I could do something to help you sell a lot of your periodicals. I would like to see them in every home throughout the land. It would mean so much to the people of the world. It would mean better homes."

It was at that time our president first learned that this man had found the writings of Mrs. E. G. White advertised through the reading of the *Signs of the Times*, and he had in his library practically all her writings. This man had not attended any of our meetings. He said that he purchased and distributed to his friends the book *Steps to Christ* and stated that he bought it in quantities of one thousand. That was news, too.

Said this gentleman, "If I could not replace Mrs. White's volumes, I would not sell them for any price of money the whole world could get together, because they are a source from which I can always draw comfort." This man's eyes were opened, and his heart changed by reading the *Signs*. He wrote a check to the conference president for \$500 and said, "This is for the circulation of the *Signs of the Times*." You can see that his heart had been changed, and his eyes had been opened. How many more people like this man are there in our big cities of the United States? We don't know, do we? We may never know. We have reason to believe there must be many whose eyes have been opened, whose hearts have been changed.

Today when people are afraid, when theologians are afraid, when doubts displace certainties, when confusion displaces faith and hope, hearts need to be changed, and eyes need to be opened.

General H. H. Arnold recently made this statement: "We won the last war, and it is the last war we will win. If we have another war this nation will lose. One nation can not defeat another nation today. We will lose, and the enemy we fight will lose because victory in atomic warfare is no longer possible." Men's hearts are failing them for fear, and the world is crying with jangling voices for light and leadership. Shall we place in their hands this light? Shall we place in their hands the *Signs of the Times* which will give them leadership to everlasting truth and the way to God?

—R. H. WENTLAND.



Christian Home Day



Religion a Vital Part of Home Life

Junior Story Sermon

Finders Keepers

It was almost time for supper that evening before mother discovered that she was out of bread, and Dale must make a trip to the store before they could sit down to eat.

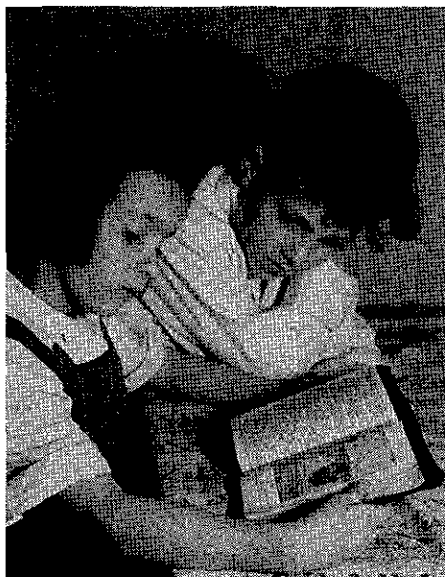
"Why does a thing like this have to happen right when a fellow is the hungriest?" grumbled Dale, as he started off on the errand in rather bad humor and with downcast eyes. But he had not gone very far until he happened to notice something in the grass that was of a different shade of green; and stopping to investigate, he discovered it was a five-dollar bill that someone had lost as he went along the street.

"Hurray!" yelled Dale. "Finders keepers." And what a find it was! In all his life he had never had that much money for himself, and what would not he be able to buy with it! Hurrying to the store he soon purchased the bread and was on the way back home. Should he tell the folks, or should he keep it secret for a while, and show it to the boys before he spent it? Dale decided he would say nothing about it for the present, at least.

By the time supper was served he had lost his appetite, and father looked rather surprised at him as he took a few bites of the pie and then pushed it back, saying he was not hungry.

Supper over, he hurried in to look at the evening paper, and turned, half fearful, to the "Lost and Found" column. Suppose the owner had advertised for it! Sure enough! There it was, a five-dollar bill lost, which was to be returned to a certain address. Dale groaned. Of all the hard luck, especially since it was the first bill of that size he ever had in his possession. But suppose he did not return it? Who would know the difference?

Dale did not sleep much that night. Most of the time he tossed in bed, thinking of all the things that he could buy, and then listening to the still small voice that kept urging him to be honest, and take back the money to the man who had lost it. Perhaps he was a poor man and needed the money badly; perhaps there were boys in the family who would not have enough to eat that week, or perhaps would be denied something that they really needed.



Christian Home Day

February 4, 1950

BY H. C. KLEMENT

OPENING HYMN: "O Happy Home," No. 412 in *Church Hymnal*.

PRAYER. For our homes and our children.

PRESENTATION of Tithes and Offerings.

JUNIOR SERMON: "Finders Keepers," by J. Vernon Jacobs.

SPECIAL MUSIC or Congregational Singing.

READING OR TALK: "Your Home Has a Soul."

READING OR TALK: "Thank You, God."

SPECIAL MUSIC. Junior choir or available talent.

STUDY OR TALK: "Religion in the Home."

HYMN: "Gracious Father, Guard Thy Children," No. 663.

When morning came Dale decided that there was just one thing that he could honorably do, and that was to take back the money.

No matter what he bought with the money, he would constantly be reminded that he had not been true to himself, and then he would not be happy. So he said, "Father, I found a five-dollar bill last night, and I see in the paper that it is advertised in the 'Lost and Found' column. Will you go with me to take it back?"

Mother was surprised, and father looked over at Dale, suspiciously, thinking that he was trying to play a joke on him. But when he found that Dale really meant it, he said, "Dale, I am mighty proud of you. Many boys would not have done that."

It was fifteen minutes later that Dale and his father were standing at a door about eight blocks distant, and after explaining their errand the man said: "Let me see the bill that you found. I remember that my bill had a drop of ink on it." The money was examined, but no ink was to be seen—it was another bill that Dale had found. "Thank you so much for coming over," said the man. "I'm glad that there are some honest people in the world."

"Dale," said his father, as they left the house, "let us run a little ad ourselves, and then if no one claims it we can keep it with a clear conscience." So the next morning in the "Lost and Found" column there appeared this notice: "Found—some money. Please describe kind and amount, date lost, and approximate location."

Several letters were received but none fitted the amount and the part of town in which Dale lived. So Dale was free to keep the bill, and he doubly enjoyed the things which he bought, because his conscience was clear.—*Junior Stories for Today*. (Copyrighted. Used by permission.)

Notes to Pastors and Elders

"If the home life were pure and true, if the children who went forth from its care were prepared to meet life's responsibilities and dangers, what a change would be seen in the world!"—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 351.

We as parents prepare these children in our homes. We need to put forth greater effort to make every influence in our homes be for the uplifting of its members. The program here prepared calls attention to the means by which we can make our home life pure and true.

We urge that every church observe this Christian Home Day, whether or not the suggested program is followed. Let us strengthen the work of the home.

—GENERAL CONFERENCE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Sabbath -- February 4, 1950

Your Home Has a Soul

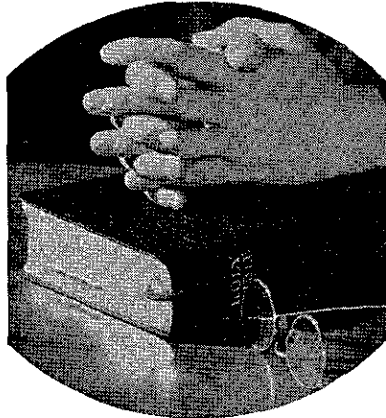
When you drive the last nail into the house you build, you will not be through with the home you make. Houses can be bought, homes cannot. Can we not say, so to speak, that your home has a soul? It cannot be made with hands. There is something outstanding about a home. It lives on in our hearts when we move away. A mother and her love seem to be an essential part of a good home; yet there is something she gives us that she doesn't take away when she leaves.

It is natural enough to want a beautiful house in a lovely neighborhood. We enjoy softly painted walls and attractive wallpaper. The interior decorated with exquisite draperies and finely-fashioned furniture adds a real touch of comfort to a home. The atmosphere lent by priceless paintings and cherished prints adds inspiration, but all of these things together with the latest inventions and costly musical instruments have proved no guarantee of home durability. It is the spiritual values of home that we cherish most. When we look back upon the years that have gone, we are reminded that it is the love relationships, the spiritual guidance, and the Christian experiences that put golden windows in the home of our memories. Should we not be giving more attention to those matters in the home we are now building?

One of the greatest safeguards to an enduring home is the inspiration of a radiant life in the fellowship of the family. Where there is no example of Christian triumph over life's difficulties, people live at a great disadvantage. Parents have no greater obligation to their children than that of demonstrating spiritual radiance.

A school teacher faced the trying problem of knowing what to do about a pupil that frequently went into tantrums. He would kick the desk, scream, and throw papers onto the floor. In a consultation with the principal it was decided to call on the father to solicit his aid. While the teacher waited outside the father's office door, a terrific commotion was overheard. The father had been given the wrong telephone number repeatedly. He cursed and kicked his desk; then in a rage he shoved the letter file off his desk. Still in anger he gathered up the papers from the floor. That teacher did not complete the call. It would have done no good; the child simply reflected at school what he saw demonstrated in the home.

There is something wonderful in every human breast that needs to be fed with



Prayer

Sometime between the dawn and dark,
Go thou, O friend, apart,
That a cool drop of Heaven's dew
May fall into thy heart.

Thus with a spirit soothed and cured
Of restlessness and pain,
Thou mayest, nerved with force divine,
Take up thy work again.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN.

spiritual food. The physical nature cannot live without sustenance. The spiritual being cannot grow without the essence of that which nurtures its life. Some people may find this inspiration in the symphonies. One person at the close of a heavy day when his body is tired turns to his collection of recordings of the master musicians. When one of the great symphonies has been reproduced, his life is renewed. Others may turn to paintings, some to sculpture and wood carving, still others to sunset or flowers, a retreat on the lake, or to the pursuit of a well-chosen hobby.

Whatever the source of inspiration may be, its supreme value will be found only when it leads the soul to the discovery of God. Every child needs impressionable lessons of faith that come from the Bible. The stories of the characters whose names are mentioned in the great faith chapters of Hebrews should be known to all. That youth is robbed who never read David's words, "The Lord that delivereth me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine." 1 Samuel 17:37. When the Goliaths of life attack us, we need a faith that is born of religious training.

There is something about human personality that craves fondness. The good times in the home will be remembered and pay large dividends. Some physiologists tell us that the atmosphere of love surrounding a child

is as important to his health as is the physical ministry wrought for him. How important are the plans we make for happy hours with the family. One of the reasons why the Christmas season brings joy to human hearts is that carols fill the air at that time. "But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13, A.S.V.) Love must be real if the home is to be real. True love always thinks what it can do for another, rather than what it can get for itself. When a parent wants to make the supreme gift to a son or daughter, let him make the gift of himself. No better opportunity can be found for making the greatest of gifts than in the home fellowship of worship.

"Thank You, God"

Religion has always been one of the foundations of the family. One reason is that it develops in parents and children a sense of dependence on God. It does not matter whether it is a spontaneous response of a little child as he cries out at feeling his toes in the seashore sand for the first time, "Oh, daddy, wasn't God good to think of making all this nice sand?" or whether it is simply the inward appreciative response of an adult toward something he sees as he drives along the highway. This building up of a sense of dependence upon God serves us well in times of trouble. Religious expression may be very informal. A child may remark, "Oh, mother, wasn't this a lovely day?" and the reply may be, "It certainly was. What did you notice about it that made you say that?" Then it is very natural to suggest saying "Thank you" to God for the things enjoyed. Expression can be stimulated by questions. What did you do today that you enjoyed most? What was the prettiest thing you saw today? Discussions even with young children will lead to religious growth, and they have their place definitely in the home life.

Today's children face a world of rapidly shifting thought in industry, government, and education. Children need a center of stable thinking, a place of security in the midst of confusion. The findings of the first White House Conference on child health and protection suggest that one of the heaviest obligations of parents and teachers is "The problem of how to steady our children against the high-power impact of new forces which have developed in our modern civilization."

Today's children need to be strong. We make much of physical health, and certainly every child needs a vigorous body; but he needs more. If the child is to face successfully the world in which he lives, he needs strong, healthy standards of thinking and living. He needs certain understanding and experiences that will cultivate healthy emotions and lead him to express and control those emotions in a way that is helpful rather than hurtful.

Where can boys and girls find that quality of dependability, that something that is worthy of trust, that something on which they can always count? In God they can find One that always understands, One who never makes a mistake, One whose love is unailing.

A little girl was very ill. One doctor came and then another. At last some rather painful treatments were to be given, and there could be no anesthetic. Would the child co-operate? Patiently the mother explained that the treatments were to help the little girl get well. Would she lie quietly as the doctor gave them to her? The child answered, "If mother will hold my hand, I will." And she did. Through long years that little girl now grown to womanhood has not forgotten the comfort and strength of that hand.

Something of the same reassurance comes from the sense of fellowship with God. The 1940 White House Conference on children devoted one section of its report to "Religion in the Lives of Children." The report declared: "Some primary responsibilities for the religious development of the child rest upon the parents. In the family he is first introduced to his religious inheritance as he is introduced to his mother tongue. Here the foundations are made for the moral standards that are designed to guide his conduct through life. A child's religious development is fostered and strengthened by participation in the life of the family in which religion is a vital concern."

Religion in the Home

What are the most precious hours of the day?

"The hours of morning and evening worship should be the sweetest and most helpful of the day."—*Education*, p. 186.

Is it necessary to have a regular time for family worship?

"In every family there should be a fixed time for morning and evening worship. How appropriate it is for parents to gather their children about them before the fast is broken, to thank the heavenly Father for His protection during the night, and to ask Him for His help and guidance and watch-care during the day! How fitting, also, when evening comes, for parents and children to gather once more before Him, and thank

Him for the blessings of the day that is past!"—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, p. 43.

Who should be at morning and evening worship?

"In the morning the Christian's first thoughts should be upon God. Worldly labor and self-interest should be secondary. *Children* should be taught to respect and reverence the hour of prayer. Before leaving the house for labor, *all the family* should be called together, and the *father*, or the *mother* in the father's absence, should plead fervently with God to keep them through the day."—*Id.*, Vol. 1, p. 397. (Italics mine.)

Does Satan work against this plan?

"The idea that prayer is not essential is one of Satan's most successful devices to ruin souls. Prayer is communion with God, the Fountain of wisdom, the Source of strength, and peace, and happiness."—*Id.*, Vol. 7, p. 42.

"Parents, help your children. Arouse from the lethargy which has been upon you. Watch continually to cut off the current, and roll back the weight of evil which Satan is pressing in upon your children."—*Id.*, Vol. 1, p. 397.

How should worship be conducted?

"Come in humility, with a heart full of tenderness, and with a sense of the temptations and dangers before yourselves and your children."—*Id.*, pp. 397, 398.

"At family worship let the children take a part. Let all bring their Bibles, and each read a verse or two. Then let some familiar hymn be sung, followed by prayer. . . . In a simple petition tell the Lord your needs, and express gratitude for His mercies. Thus you invite Jesus as a welcome guest into your home and heart."—*Id.*, Vol. 6, pp. 357, 358.

"The father, and, in his absence, the mother, should conduct the worship, selecting a portion of scripture that is interesting and easily understood. . . .

"Fathers and mothers, make the hour of worship intensely interesting. There is no reason why this hour should not be the most pleasant and enjoyable of the day. A little thought given to preparation for it will enable you to make it full of interest and profit. From time to time let the service be varied. Questions may be asked on the portion of Scripture read, and a few earnest, timely remarks may be made. A song of praise may be sung. . . . As circumstances permit, let the children join in the reading and the prayer."—*Id.*, Vol. 7, p. 43.

"Fathers and mothers, each morning and evening gather your children around you, and in humble supplication lift the heart to God for help. Your dear ones are exposed to temptation. . . .

"Each morning consecrate yourselves and your children to God for that day. Make no

calculation for months or years; these are not yours. One brief day is given you. . . . Lay all your plans before God, to be carried out or given up, as His providence shall indicate."—*Id.*, p. 44.

"Let the services be brief and full of life, adapted to the occasion, and varied from time to time."—*Education*, p. 186.

Is this the time for long prayers and long chapters?

"In the family, long prayers concerning remote objects are not in place. They make the hour of prayer a weariness, when it should be regarded as a privilege and blessing."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 358.

"The service should be short. When a long chapter is read and a long prayer offered, the service is made wearisome, and at its close a sense of relief is felt."—*Id.*, Vol. 7, p. 43.

How is God dishonored?

"God is dishonored when the hour of worship is made dry and irksome, when it is so tedious, so lacking in interest, that the children dread it."—*Ibid.*

How should one read and pray?

"Parents should teach their children to speak so plainly that the listeners can understand every word. They should teach them to read the Bible with clear, distinct utterance, in a way that will honor God. And let not those who kneel around the family altar put their faces in their hands close down to the chair when they address God. Let them lift up their heads, and with holy awe speak to their heavenly Father, uttering their words in tones that can be heard."—*Id.*, Vol. 6, p. 381.

What is expected of Christian homes?

"So the homes of Christians should be lights in the world. From them, morning and evening, prayer should ascend to God as sweet incense. And as the morning dew, His mercies and blessings will descend upon the suppliants."—*Id.*, Vol. 7, p. 44.

What further blessings do such homes have?

"Ministering angels will guard children who are thus dedicated to God."—*Id.*, Vol. 1, p. 398.

"Angels delight in a home where God reigns supreme, and the children are taught to reverence religion, the Bible, and their Creator. Such families can claim the promise, 'Them that honor me, I will honor.'"—*Id.*, Vol. 5, p. 424.

In what ways may religion be expressed?

In so many ways religion is expressed in the home. The One who gave us the home, "to dress and to keep it," intended that our sweetest moments and our happiest hours should be spent there. One should plan for happiness in the home. Why spoil the day

(Please turn to page 29)

Department of Education

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

Making the Bible a Vital Part of Home Life

Home Without a Bible

What is home without a Bible?
'Tis a place where day is night:
Starless night, for on life's pathway
Heaven can shed no kindly light.

What is home without a Bible?
'Tis a place where daily bread
For the body is provided,
But the soul is never fed.

What is home without a Bible?
Listen—ponder while I speak!
'Tis a home with Bibles in it,
But not opened once a week.

Lost! The Bible! Lost—its teachings!
Lost! Its help each day in seven!
Lost—to live by! Lost—to die by!
Lost! What's lost?—the hope of heaven.
—AUTHOR UNKNOWN.

Notes to Leaders

The home of today has so much reading material available—the daily newspapers, news magazines, women's magazines of over a hundred pages, various digests, trade journals, and comics—that the Bible is easily crowded out of the modern family life. But its treasures are valuable and vital to the Christian home. The Bible should speak in the home, should become a companion of each member of the family. It should be elevated to its rightful place, and the best way to do that is to wear it to pieces by constant use. Our program this month brings out some of the ways in which this may be done.

Surely no more important topic could be discussed, and we trust that every Home and School Association will use the material here presented as the basis for one of its meetings, even if not the February meeting. The program is not long, hence there will be time to play two or three of the games mentioned so that parents can learn them and then introduce them in their own homes. If possible to arrange it would be well to give to each parent a mimeographed or multigraphed copy of all the games here explained. The teacher may be able to help in making this possible.

We trust that each home will be richly blessed as a result of this program and that the Bible will occupy an increasingly prominent place in our daily living.

—ARABELLA MOORE WILLIAMS.



Bringing the Bible Into the Home Life

"The very knowledge children and youth need to obtain for usefulness in this life, and that they may carry with them in the future life, is found in the word of God." —*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 384.

We may be inclined to pat ourselves on the back assuring ourselves that we are fulfilling our duty when we send the children to Sabbath school and to church school where they have the opportunity of studying the Bible. But that is not enough. The Bible must become a part of home life. It can become a most real, living value for children and a growing value for the youth if its treasures are shared in daily life together. Parents, of course, cannot share what they do not possess. They first of all must treasure the Bible as the source of wisdom for Christian living; must recognize it as the fount of inspiration and strength.

The Holy Bible is to be thought of as a holy object, to be revered for its message from God above. This reverence is manifested by placing no other book or object on top of the Bible. It would also be helpful to set aside a particular place in the home for the Bible and other materials of worship—the place where the family is wont to gather for counsel and for family worship. It must be whatever arrangement best meets the spiritual needs of the family. Of course there will be Bibles elsewhere in the house, but the focal point of the family devotional life may center about this cooperatively arranged "altar" of worship.

Who can measure the lasting impressions made when children can share in experiences similar to the following, as told by one mother: "Spring and summer evenings, when after-supper playtime was over and the weather was good, a group of children

would gather on our front steps for storytelling time. The group began with my own three, but gradually their neighborhood playmates began to come up to listen. Once I counted fourteen boys and girls, ages six to ten or twelve years. . . . One evening I began that exciting adventure of Joseph, choosing, of course, the events they could appreciate. The story had definite reality for my listeners. It was often interrupted by questions. 'Why did the father of all those boys do more for Joseph than he did for the others?' one boy asked. I explained. . . . At the end of the story (when Joseph had forgiven his brothers and given them all new homes in Egypt) another child commented, 'Well, the others were older, but Joseph was really the big brother in that family.' She knew from experience what a real 'big brother' would do for the others."

Another mother made the noon lunch hour—when her two children came home from school—a sort of diversion that made even a simple ordinary luncheon interesting. The children would recite a poem or a song learned at school, or the mother would repeat a poem or tell a very short story. One day she told the story of "A certain man had two sons." When she came to the words, "Father, I have sinned," she saw the eager light of sympathy on her nine-year-old daughter's face and the tears that she couldn't keep back.

The Bible contains unlimited treasure for memory's storehouse. Rich is he who has the long-practiced habit of memorizing the clear, challenging sayings of Jesus, the lovely poetry of faith and the joyful confidence of the Psalms, the inspired language of the prophets, and the wonderful messages to the early Christians. How beautiful but rare is the picture of a family group repeating together, from memory, Luke's incomparable story of the Bethlehem shepherds, or the comforting description of the New Earth, or one sweet psalm after another. The members of such a family will have something lovely that will always be remembered and associated with home. Not in vain is the instruction, "My son, keep my words, . . . write them upon the table of thine heart." (Proverbs 7:1, 3.) John Ruskin said of the Bible portions that his mother required him to commit to memory, "They are the one essential part of my education."

Will your child read the Bible all his life? If under your inspiration he learned to read it for himself when he was young, the answer is more likely to be yes. His first Bible must have extra-large type. Use a chalkboard, too, on which can be printed in large letters the first easy passages he learns to read. These can be read and reread, both from the chalkboard and from the Bible itself. It won't be long before he will be hunting his own favorite passages. But the child must not be allowed to tire of this nor should he be called in from play to read the Bible. No greater legacy can be left than to teach a child to read and to love the Bible. "It is impossible to mentally or socially enslave a Bible-reading people," said Horace Greeley.

The Bible and Recreation

There are some homes where the comics become a part of everyday living. Comic stories are heard over the radio, and comic magazines have become *the* chief reading material. Their characters are the topic of conversation and models for toys, and their plots form the basis for children's play. What a contrast to the home where the Bible becomes a part of everyday living, where it is used in the hours of devotion at worship time, where it is often read both alone and in family groups, where it is the source of many a memorized verse or chapter, and where it is used in play as well.

Our publishing houses have an ever-growing number of Bible games to offer to our people. Here are a few of them: Bible Geography, Bible Characters, Bible Truth, Bible Books, and Bible Seek. There are other Bible games available at Bible Societies and religious book shops, such as Bible Women, Bible Cities, etc.

But it is not necessary to have ready-made games. Many pleasant hours can be spent playing Bible games that require only those articles to be found in every home—paper, pencils, and Bibles. The family will enjoy many of these. Why not take time to play two or three of the following games in the Home and School Association meeting so parents will learn how and discover what fun they are?

Cappping Bible Names

To cap names, take the last letter of the chosen name for the first letter of the next name. The leader says, "We'll cap Bible names of people," and starts with, say, Ahab. The next person suggests a name beginning with B—Boaz. This name ends with Z, so the next name might be Zilpah; then Herod, Daniel, Lot, Titus, Sarah, Haman, Nebuchadnezzar, Rahab, and so on.

A variation of this game would be to cap names of Bible cities or towns or Bible verses.

Quotations by Alphabet

The leader selects a letter from a pile of letters (which may be printed on slips of paper or cardboard) explaining that each person is to recite or read a Bible verse beginning with that letter. The first letter may be "B." This is an easy one, since many verses begin with "Blessed." Other letters are equally easy, some more difficult. Allow a certain amount of time for each letter chosen, depending upon the ability of the group; but keep it moving rather briskly to maintain interest and enthusiasm.

A Thinking Game

The leader begins with the words, "I am thinking of a king . . ."

He next says, "Who enjoyed many blessings."

Next, "He liked to magnify himself."

Next, "He was often troubled."

Next, "He made life difficult for those who worshiped the true God."

Next, "God sent him several messages." Continue until the king is recognized as Nebuchadnezzar (which may or may not be the king the leader had in mind in the beginning). The idea of this game is to mention less obvious points in the characterization so as to keep from guessing the name too quickly.

Pictures

Ask each person to draw a sketch of some incident in the Bible, allowing only a certain number of minutes. Each sketch should be numbered. The drawings are then passed around, and each person writes on another slip of paper the numbers of the pictures and what he thinks is the correct title for each. This is fun for often it is not too easy to know which Bible story a given sketch illustrates.

Variety Game

On the table are a pile of letters of the alphabet and a box of questions. Each person playing draws a letter from the pile, and the leader draws a slip from the box and reads the question thereon; for instance, "Who can name a Bible king?" Each person will answer in accordance with the letter he drew, using that as the first letter of the name; so, of course, the answers will all be different. Other questions might call for names of cities, rivers, trees, articles of food, women, prophets, and so on. Or the requirement might call for a verse from the Psalms, Matthew, the books of Moses, the gospels, the New Testament, the Old Testament, and so on, each to begin with the letter that the individual drew from the pile, so all will be different. Bibles may be used.

Identifying Characters

The leader says, "I am thinking of someone in the Bible." The rest ask questions: "Is it a man?" "In the New Testament?"

"Was he a king?" "A disciple?" "Did he travel?" and so on, never asking the name until twenty questions have been asked. When a person thinks he has the correct answer, he writes it on a slip of paper together with the number of the question that gave him the deciding clue. After the twentieth question has been asked, the winner is the one who first guessed the right name.

These games are not only fun to play, but are instructive. Give each member of the family an opportunity to be the leader.

Growing in Relationship to the Bible

"The parents are to guard their children with wise, pleasant instruction. As the very best friends of these inexperienced ones, they should help them in the work of overcoming, for it means everything to them to be victorious. . . . With loving interest they should teach them day by day what it means to be children of God and to yield the will in obedience to Him. . . . This must be a daily, hourly work. Parents, watch, watch and pray, and make your children your companions."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, pp. 93, 94.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNPOSTS ALONG THE WAY

The Preschool Child

Enjoys a few Bible stories often retold.

Enjoys pictures of familiar Bible stories.

Begins to apply to his own experience the lessons learned in Sabbath school.

Begins to recognize and understand memory verses that have meaning for him.

Begins to think of the Bible as the special book that tells about God and Jesus and as the source of loved stories and verses.

The Primary, Prejunior

Is able to retell Bible stories.

Comes to appreciate the Bible as the special book containing God's letters to us, telling us about God and Jesus and the way we should live.

Grows in ability to read by himself simple and familiar passages from the Bible.

Takes great pride in owning his very own Bible.

The Junior

Develops skill in handling the Bible. Learns how to use a Bible dictionary, a concordance, and a commentary.

Gains through the Bible a better understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus and a beginning appreciation of Old Testament history.

Acquires some knowledge of the background and history of the Bible.

Comes to seek solutions to life's problems in the Bible record of God's will for His people.

The Adolescent

Develops greater understanding of the Bible as a record of the religious experiences of people seeking to know God and of God's reaching out to His people.

Grows in ability to find personal help and inspiration in the Bible.

Mothers and Bibles

Why does the modern mother give her small child everything else before she gives him the Bible? Why does she wait until he is twelve or fourteen years of age before she puts into his hand that best gift? "He would not understand its pages," I hear someone say; but I beg to differ. Children understand some of the "deep things" at an early age. Remember Jesus' words: "I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes." Matthew 11:25.

Very often a boy or girl receives his or her first copy of the precious Book at Sabbath school. To me this is sad. Mother, you should be the one to give your child a Bible; the blessed privilege is yours.

"Is God only for grown-up people?" asked a little lad, his big brown eyes full of wondering perplexity.

"Of course not, Heath. Why do you ask?"

"'Cause when I talk 'bout God and want a Bible all my own, you and Father say, 'Wait till you're older.' How old, Mother?"

Yes, how old, mother?

Why do you give the children books of fairy tales before they can read, with "Little Son or Daughter, from Mother" written on the flyleaf? Why do you not give the Bible before the book of nursery stories?

Perhaps some will ask, "What effect would the giving of the inspired word have upon a child?"

For the answer take a little child of three; present him with a Bible and say to him, "This is God's Word, and Mother wants you to own it and cherish it always. She will read it to you until you are able to read for yourself." The baby eyes will brighten, the tiny hands will reach out to receive the gift, and it will be fingered often and lovingly—nay, reverently—for there is a baby reverence for holy things. "My own Bible!" the red lips will say over and over.

What son or daughter can go far wrong with a praying mother, a mother who makes the Bible first in her gifts to her child?

Christ said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14. And does He want His word withheld from them until twelve or fourteen years have flown?

Mother, see to it that your child knows the Lord and His teachings at an early age.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN.

Religion in the Home

(Continued from page 26)

grumbling about the weather, the food, or the neighbors?

One happy wife, when asked for her secret, replied: "When Jim and I were married we didn't have many things, and the prospects weren't too good either; so I determined that we should have one thing always, anyway, and that was happiness. We just laughed together, and planned little surprises for each other, and never took time to notice the unpleasant things. I love the sunshine as it streams into my windows; but when it rains, it's raining daffodils to me."

Is that the way we treat such annoyances as a leaky tap, misplaced tools, and upset plans? Children absorb the spirit of their surroundings. We parents need to watch ourselves. No wonder Ellen G. White wrote, "Above all things else, let parents surround their children with an atmosphere of cheerfulness, courtesy, and love."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 386.

The pictures on the walls reflect the atmosphere of the home. Yes, there is even education through pictures. This may take some study, but the results are worth the effort; for pictures are windows to help us see faraway places and distant epochs. Each picture has a message for those in the home and those who stop at its portals.

The religion of the home is also revealed by the books and magazines in evidence. What about the religion of the home where

"funnies" and other trivial material consumes most of the reading time?

Religion in the home embraces the songs the children sing and the tunes mother hums as she carries on her work, also the melodies the older boys whistle at their work or play.

If the high ideals of a Christian home are to be maintained, the radio can seldom be kept going from morning till night; much less the television set.

Yes, religion in the home embraces all daily living. It begins upon awakening in the morning and does not stop with morning worship, but shapes and molds all the events of the day: the conversation at the table, the quality of father's work, the cheerfulness of the mother at her tasks, the play of the children, the evening worship, the children's happy bedtime hour, and then the contented evening hours of the father and mother until night draws her shades and all are wrapped in peaceful slumber.

"Abraham was honored of God because he cultivated home religion, and caused the fear of the Lord to pervade his whole household."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 547.

"Will those who claim to be the children of the Most High, elevate the standard,—not simply while assembled in your meeting, but as long as time shall last? . . . If you do as did the children of Israel in forsaking God's express requirements, you will surely receive of His judgments; but if you put away sin, and exercise living faith, the richest of Heaven's blessings will be yours."—*Id.*, p. 541.

Elevate the Standard



H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS

Our Foreign Missions

Wadi's Sacrifice

Recently we graduated one of the largest classes in the history of the Malamulo (Mal-a-mu-lo) Mission Training Institute. As I sat watching the happy faces of the graduates while they listened with rapt attention to their graduation exercises, it made me think of another graduation—one that occurred here several years ago. And I thought of the happy shining face of Wadi Kuyenda Citanye who sat listening then, his heart rejoicing because he was now finished with his training and could go forth to labor for the Master. It was not his first experience at teaching. The field had been so destitute of workers that he had gone out after he had only the equivalent of six grades of schooling. He had taught in the densely populated Lower Shire (Shere) River district at a pitifully small salary, and in a ramshackle mud-and-pole school. But his ability had been so evident and his service so faithful that at the end of three years he was called back to Malamulo for further training.

Now it was all over. He was prepared to do real service now, and his heart thrilled anew at the thought of again entering upon the work of training little children.

The morning after Wadi received his diploma there came the routine physical examination of the graduates. That was the morning never to be forgotten. The doctor seemed to take a little longer with him than he did with some others. Wadi thought he could read a little disappointment, a little anxiety, in the doctor's face. He saw the doctor finish his work, look out of the window for a moment or two before he turned around slowly and quietly said, "Wadi, you are a leper; you cannot go out and teach." Evidently he had caught this dreaded disease down in the unhealthy river valley while he was teaching his Namacherenga (Na-ma-che-ren-ga) school.

Too stunned for words, amazed and heartbroken, Wadi stumbled out of the office hardly knowing what he was doing. All his brightest ambitions now lay scattered and broken. What could he do? There was only one thing left for him to do and that was to take the road to the south which led to the leper colony just over the hill from the mission. With heavy heart and trembling hands he gathered his few belongings together and left behind him the dearest dreams of his life. Yesterday he was a joyous graduate, but today he was a leper.

Arriving at the leper colony, he threw himself onto his bed of straw, and when his heart could make words, he sobbed, "O God, why hast Thou thus dealt with me? Is this the reward of my faithful, untiring service? O God, hast Thou forgotten this poor African child? Why? O God, why—why—why?" He continued until his brain and his heart were weary, and he slept. With the new day came hope and courage again. His case was not advanced. There was hope. It might be two years or three, but he would get better. Then—then he could teach.

While taking his cure Wadi acted as chaplain of the leper colony. He was a leper, and he could talk courage, and faith, and hope to other lepers.

The days and weeks and months went by, and after two years of rigorous treatment Wadi was examined and found to be clean. "You can go now," said the doctor. "At last the glad day has come when you can take up your lifework."

But Wadi hesitated. "I think," he said very slowly and deliberately, "I think I have found my lifework. I think—if you want me—I will stay."

Recently I stood on the bank of the little river that flows near the colony and saw many lepers baptized. The deaconess who led the candidates down into the water had lost practically all her fingers and toes. Every one of the happy people looked up into Wadi's face as he baptized them as if into the face of an angel, for had he not led them out of darkness into marvelous light? Had he not told of a wondrous land where the inhabitants would never say, "I am sick"? And I said to myself, "Ah, Wadi, you have seen again and again, and so have we, why this cross was laid upon your strong shoulders. You see, Wadi, God needed a consecrated preacher and teacher here in the leper colony, and God knew the only way He could get you to see the great need."

Wadi's sacrifice has ever reminded me of the sacrifice of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who became sin for us that we might enjoy purity through His righteousness, and who "was treated as we deserve that we might be treated as He deserves," and who now ever lives "to make intercession for us."

—MRS. JOSEPHINE CUNNINGTON
EDWARDS.

God Deals With Persecutors

Pastor H. C. Brown, until recently missionary to Mexico, sends word that he met with our church members in a certain place in Mexico where some time ago persecution really broke out with a fury that caused Dr. I. S. Ritchie and Pastor Harold House to scurry for safety. Pastor Brown states: "I met with our dear believers in that area many of whom still had scars on their heads from the wounds which they suffered during that siege. The church building had been completely destroyed, and the persecution did not cease for nine months.

"There were some interesting, possibly supernatural, happenings that took place in connection with that persecution. The leader of a mob of some seven hundred religious fanatics found himself in serious difficulties—first of all his own wife betrayed him, and then he ended his life by jumping into the river.

"There were two women also in the mob that were very vociferous as they yelled, 'Down with the Adventists' and 'Away with the Protestants!' Strangely enough both of these women were struck down with paralysis and typhoid fever.

"Another leader of the mob was murdered during the night, some of his own followers being responsible for the deed. It was reported that some others died from heart attacks, and the man who stole the tithes and offerings from our church lost his business soon after and went into bankruptcy. Our church members are now assisting him with food for his family. He confessed that what has come upon him is a judgment from God.

"Our brethren have moved forward building a new church larger and better than the one which the enemy destroyed, even though they were hard pressed financially to complete it."

As we think of the splendid courage of these people, a people who have come out of superstition and Christianized paganism, we thank God for the power of the Gospel in their lives.

We wish that you might have the opportunity of visiting this part of the Mexican Union Mission. The appeal is tremendous. Thousands of youth reach out their hands to us begging that we help them to establish educational facilities among them in order that they might be trained for service for God. Among this great number of Mexican Christian youth are many Indian young people. What potentialities are here! "Train them to be workers for Christ, then send them forth to minister to their own people." That is the cry that comes to us from the leaders.

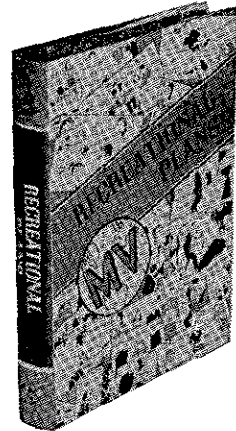
—W. E. MURRAY.

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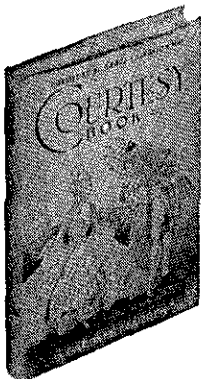


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ADD POSTAGE AND FREIGHT

"Though Your Sins Be as Scarlet"

This beautiful text in Isaiah 1:18 has had a wonderful fulfillment during the past few months in one of the Cape Field [South Africa] churches.

In the early part of this year a woman while under the influence of liquor fell on a stove and was very badly burned. The doctor was called, and he ordered her to be taken to the hospital. One of our Cape Field church members was visiting near the home of this unfortunate woman and went in to see if she could help. The injured woman asked if they would call in a minister to pray for her as she thought she was going to die. Brother Beyers was in this town at the time, and he visited and prayed with this badly burned woman. The next morning she was able to walk about and in a very short time was entirely well. From that day on she gave up drinking and later gave up the use of tobacco. She began to attend church. On Sabbath, June 18, she with several others was baptized by the writer.

It was my privilege to visit her and to hear her story from her own lips. She comes from a very good family—her brother being the mayor of a large town in the Transvaal. She is well educated and plays the piano very well. (She is the organist at her church.) She told me that because of domestic and other worries she took to drink and let herself go until she sank to a very low level. Her husband left her, her parents disowned her; and she became, seemingly, an outcast.

The experience recorded above brought her to the Lord, and she has given herself to Jesus and plans to devote her life to helping those who are under the power of her old master—the devil. Her income consists of a very modest sum from her husband for the maintenance of their child. While I was visiting with her, she asked our local worker whether he would take her tithe. She went into the bedroom and brought out a little tin box from which she took her tithe. She has done her bit in the Ingathering and had, at the time I visited her, already collected over £6. She told me that she went to the bars where she used to drink and from the barmen and her previous drinking companions gathered money for the cause of God. This was surely a very courageous act. "He hath sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." Isaiah 61:1.

—A. C. LE BUTT.

There are two kinds of failures: The man who will do nothing he is told, and the man who will do nothing else.

—DR. PERLE THOMPSON.

Special Days and Offerings

February 4

Topic: Religion a Vital Part of Home Life

February 11

Second Sabbath Mission Offering

February 18-25

Signs of the Times Campaign

Our Correspondence School Brings Hope

The following touching letter was received by one of our Correspondence School directors in Poona, India. The lady and her two daughters have since been baptized. But let her tell her own story:

"There is so much I could say about the happiness this Bible Course has brought me, but it is difficult to put into words all that I have received from studying God's Word. I am so very thankful that I had this opportunity, and I feel that whoever put that enrollment card into our mailbox did my family and me a big favor. It seemed as though God had it put there, for He knew I was praying for the truth, I wanted it with my whole heart.

"We were not in the habit of going to church, as I was a Catholic and my husband a Protestant. Our son was taken sick and died without being baptized. That is when I went through great torment of mind, wondering where he was and what he was going through on account of not being baptized. I had all sorts of wrong ideas. I was determined to find out the truth. I just had to know.

"That winter I tried to read my Bible, but I couldn't seem to get much understanding. It made me tremble every time I held a Bible in my hand, for we were told when children not to read the Bible. We never had one in our home. My parents still do not have one. Our children had Bibles given them from our local church, and I tried to find out from them whether a person was lost if he died without being baptized. I felt he must be with God, for he was such a good boy and only thirteen. He hadn't been a hardened sinner, but was always good and kind and true.

"Then along toward spring I received this enrollment card, and it was an answer to my prayers. I found out what I wanted to know. I learned how to read the Bible without having a feeling that I should not. I do not tremble any more while I study. In fact I feel more secure and happy inside. I know where I am in life now.

Secret Ballot

(Continued from page 2)

ballot. Under such circumstances it would be proper to take such a ballot, but special care should be taken that it be both secret and accurate and that the tellers appointed use caution to make certain that the results are accurately tabulated and reported.

In most deliberative bodies it is required that when important decisions are reached each member make it known how he votes, and in some instances the vote is made a matter of record. This would hardly be advised in our churches, but it does indicate that how a member votes is a matter of concern to the whole body rather than to the member alone.

Voice of Prophecy Student Challenged to a Debate

I realized what a great challenge confronted us as a people in this long neglected field when I came to Orissa [India] two years ago, and I wondered just how we were going to supply workers to finish the task committed to us. Since the Voice of Prophecy has come to our field it is not hard to understand that perhaps God has this agency in mind with which to prepare workers. I think that some of the young students taking the Voice of Prophecy lessons provide a potential source of future workers.

It was in November last year that I had the privilege of visiting one of the Voice of Prophecy students in the little village of Parlakimedi. Here I met a fine young man, about twenty years of age, who was intensely interested in learning the truth as it is taught in the Bible. I spent about three hours with this young man going a little more deeply into some of the things he had learned, and it was at this time that his sister and father also became interested. Just recently I received a letter from them in which they stated that not one but all three are observing the true Sabbath. The young boy was challenged to a debate in his local church and wanted me to remember him in prayer as he took the affirmative side on the topic "Saturday, the seventh day, is the true Sabbath." He is a fine appearing lad with clean habits. I understand that largely due to his influence and determination some fifteen or twenty others are becoming interested in the truth. This young boy represents a large field in Orissa, and it is my aim and desire to get him into one of our schools so that he may go back and enlighten his people.

Just recently I received word that the superintendent of the Sunday school in his village has accepted the true Sabbath and is calling for a visit.

—H. T. BURR.