

Macedonian Call

Volume 18

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, JULY, 1944

Number 7

1,000 NUGGETS OF "SUPER" GOLD

or

Choice Scriptures to Mark and Memorize

"More (super) to be desired are they than gold; yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."—Psalms 19:10.

Many years ago in the state of Kansas, I spoke on the subject of "Choice Passages of Scripture," and read a number of them and commented on them. After the services a lady in middle life came to me and said, "I am county superintendent of schools, and have been impressed with your lesson. I have memorized many choice poems and other passages of good literature. But I have made a mistake—I have not memorized choice passages of the Bible."

I immediately agreed with her that she had made a mistake. And yet, friends, think of the millions all around who are making the same mistake. Call upon the graduates of any secular college to quote a dozen verses from the Bible, and see if you can find one in twenty-five who can do it. It is a shame and disgrace upon our so-called Christian civilization that our youth know so little about the Book which has molded our moral culture more than all the other books combined. Can one wonder why there is more crime in America than in any other nation of the world? We have drifted far and fast from the things which have really made us great as a nation.

The Bible has the most beautiful and helpful language in the world, and will do more to make men happy than all other books combined. If your child is well acquainted with it, he is appreciated in English classes in school. How many passages of it can YOU quote? How many does your child know from memory? Think of it, brethren! You will coax, and threaten, and bribe, and ding-dong on your child to practice on its music lesson AN HOUR EVERY DAY, and yet you will not have it practice fifteen minutes A WEEK on the Word of God which will bring true music to the soul! Music is a mere accomplishment for time, but the Word of God is an accomplishment for eternity. I sometimes

wonder whether we are Christians at all, or are mere heathen! We surely have no proper sense of values.

Listen to this: If you should have your child memorize only two choice verses each week, that would mean 100 choice passages a year. (And by all means, there should be constant review.) If you commence when the child is five years old (you could commence earlier), by the time it is 15 years old, it would have 1000 choice passages of God's Word to guide it—just at the age when it is starting out in life alone and when it needs it most. And if it has learned, in addition most of the Bible stories and the lessons taught of right and wrong, it has a foundation of Christian living which it will be hard for the devil to shake.

You may never be able to leave your child a farm or a good business. You may not be able to put him through college or even through high school. But here is an education which EVERY parent can give his child, no matter how poor, and which he SHOULD give it. Here is treasure which you can give it which is more to be desired than gold. It costs only a little faith and labor on your part.

Many who read this may be living back in hills and hollows, on poor farms, or "across the railroad tracks" in towns and cities. And yet in your poverty and lack of opportunities, you can give your child without such opportunities the best education one can possess, and the greatest riches one can enjoy. You can, by spending a few minutes each day, inject into his growing and receptive mind, the most helpful ideas in the world, and you can make him an heir to mansions in the skies. Think of it, brethren!

I tell you, that your child who goes out into the sinful world with those Bible stories and the lessons of warn-

ing and hope, for which God ordained them, and with one thousand choice passages of Scripture stored in a reverential mind—goes out into the world better prepared to meet its temptations and to do good in it and to be happy, than the child who goes out with a college training, or a million dollars, WITHOUT that religious training. He has that which will make him more agreeable to his fellowmen, give him more satisfaction in all his affairs, and render him more happy than all the college training and money which the world can give.

The writer now gives you references on 1000 choice verses which he has memorized himself and many of which we taught our children. Mark these boldly in your Bible. Write us if you will learn two of these each week, or will have your children learn them; for your example may encourage others. Instead of piling up gold for our child in the bank, let us pile up "super" gold in their minds, which is more to be desired than the shining gold in the banks, and which will be sweeter to him in the bitterness of life, than honey and the honeycomb.

Just now we give references on Choice Passages of Scripture for marking in your Bible and memorizing, in Psalms and Proverbs only which may last till the close of the year. Save this paper. If you wish this article and all the 1000 references to be put in neat tract form, fitting an envelope, to be printed when the paper shortage permits, be sure to write us. But don't forget to memorize two verses a week and write us if you are. What super-gold! And how cheap! Are you wise enough to reach for it and store it, for the time to come?

Choice Scriptures to Mark and Memorize

Psalms: 1—8—15—19—23—37—90—103—119:9, 67, 89, 97-105, 130, 164, 172—120:2—122:1—127:1—132:11, 12—137:1-6—138:2—139:4—139:7-12.

Proverbs: 1:7-9—3:9, 10—4:13—4:14, 15—4:18—4:23—6:6-8—6:16-19—10:1—11:1—11:14—11:15—11:22—12:15—13:1—13:24—14:12—14:34—15:1—15:3—15:

MACEDONIAN CALL

Devoted to the work of establishing and developing New Testament churches.

Published Monthly by
D. A. SOMMER
818 Congress Avenue
INDIANAPOLIS, 8, IND.

Subscription Price, \$1.25 a Year
New Names in any number, \$1.00 each.
Old names in clubs of five or more,
\$1.00 each.

Entered as second class matter May 1, 1936,
at the post office at Indianapolis, Indiana,
under the Act of March 3, 1879.

10—15:16 — 15:33—16:2—
16:18 — 16:31—16:32 — 17:5
— 17:13—17:17 — 17:22 —
18:10—18:12—18:13 — 18:17
— 18:24—19:11 — 19:17 —
20:19 — 21:2 — 21:13 — 22:1
— 22:6—22:15 — 23:29-32 —
24:6 — 24:17, 18 — 25:17 — 25:
21, 22 — 26:4, 5 — 26:12 — 26:17
— 26:20—27:1—27:2—27:6
— 28:1 — 28:9—28:13—28:
23—29:15—29:20—30:17.

Discipleship

Party politicians too often try to adapt their programs to the tastes and prejudices of the electors. False prophets in all ages make plausible and bewitching promises to catch the popular ear. But Jesus at the very height of His popularity, checked and discouraged the enthusiasm of the crowd by claiming the complete renunciation of everything. "If any man cometh unto me, and hateth (love less) not his father, mother, and wife and children, and brethren and sisters, yea, and his own life also he cannot be my disciple". Luke 14: 26. Jesus Christ demanded as the necessary preliminary of true discipleship that we should renounce all that we have and place ourselves unconditionally and absolutely in His hands.

What is involved in being a Christ-like Christian? Two things which Christ expressed in parabolic form. If you are to be a Christ-like Christian you must first build a tower, and secondly, go forth to war. That is to say, you must build up a Christ-like character, and secondly, you must fight to the death against the Devil and all his works. But before you do this, Christ says "count the cost". Do not leap in the dark. Do not assume the sublime and holy title of "the disciple of Christ" until you know what it means. It means, let me repeat, first of all a God-like life here—not hereafter, but here! Not in the third Heaven or even in paradise, but on earth. What does it involve? In the first place, says Christ, it involves being misunderstood and persecuted by your own family. As the Record teaches a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

No one dislikes the intense, enthusiastic, aggressive, Christ-like Christianity so much as your pretentious smug church member. You see it is such a painful, irritating reflection on him. The unconverted man

rather appreciates it. He likes a Christian to be a real Christian, an unmistakable Christian. Even if he has no desire to be one, he honours the consistency and the courage of the disciple of Christ. But the half hearted, lukewarm, inconsistent, worldly, self-indulgent Christian (?) is particularly embittered by the spectacle of a Christ-like Christian, whose very existence condemns him so much by exposing his unworthiness so vividly. On the other hand, the disciple of Christ must positively "hate", utterly loathe the selfishness and the worldliness of half hearted Christianity. "Abhor that which is evil". Oh! that we would "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and all thy soul, and with all thy mind". Matt. 22:37.—Winford Lee.

Post-News of Pre-Views

Spread of Hebrew Culture

This series of articles has thus far dealt with a consecutive treatment of the experiences of the Hebrew nation from its first captivity to its restoration in Palestine. In a few more months it is planned to deal with the major experiences of heathen nations which are given prominence through the predictions made by inspired prophets and the fulfillments as shown in secular history. But for the present the series will deal with several particular items found here and there in the writings of the inspired prophets and which show the divine source of the predictions. Regarding the sub-head of the present article the following prediction is quoted: "In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the Lord of hosts." Isa. 19:18. Following will be seen historic confirmation of above prediction. "The fame of Philadelphus depends, however, far less upon his military exploits, or his talents for organization and administration, than upon his efforts in the cause of learning. * * * Learned men were invited to his court from every quarter; and literary works of the highest value were undertaken at his desire or under his patronage. Among these the most important were the translation of the Hebrew Scriptures into the Greek language (which was commenced in his reign and continued under several of his successors)." (The reader should be informed that Philadelphus was a ruler in Egypt of the Ptolemaic line). "The first in importance [of Bible versions], and the oldest complete version in any language, is the Alexandrian, known as the Septuagint commonly designated by LXX * * * The truth about its origin is, that Alexandria became, after the Dispersion, a center of Jewish population, and eventually of religion." The first quotation above is from Rawlinson's Ancient History, page 271. The second is from Schaff-Herzog Encyclopaedia, article, Bible Versions. It is also confirmed by Josephus, Ant. 12-2-1.

Aside from the connection of this item with the subject running through this line of articles, it is interesting information for the student of the Scriptures, that the version known as the Septuagint is a Greek

translation of the Old Testament. And so useful was such version considered that Christ and the apostles often if not usually, quoted from it when they made reference to the O. T. The value of this version to us is in the fact that many of us are not prepared to study the Hebrew Scriptures in their original form, but with the aid of Greek-English lexicons such as Donnegan and Liddell—and Scott as well as the New Testament lexicons, we can make more critical examination of the original. The scholars employed by Philadelphus and his successors had no motive for corrupting the meaning of the text. And, while some errors are to be expected, yet the general correctness of the version is assured.

And so again, by this circumstantial fulfillment of a prediction made by one of the prophets of the Lord in olden times, we are furnished with another installment of the line of evidences being considered by this series of articles. When we see the minute carrying out of these predictions and recorded by reliable historians, we are made to wonder anew at the dignity and surety of the statements of Holy Writ. And in this we have our faith strengthened in the Word of God despite all the combined efforts of Satan in the armageddon against the Word of Truth.—E. M. Zerr.

The Kneeling Camel

The camel at the close of day,
Kneels down upon the sandy plain
To have his burden lifted off
And rest to gain.

My soul thou too shouldst to thy knees
As daylight draweth to a close,
To let thy Master lift thy load
And grant repose.

Else how canst thou tomorrow meet,
With all tomorrow's work to do,
If thou thy burden all the night
Dost carry through.

The camel kneels at break of day
To have his guide replace his load
And rises up again to take
The desert road.

Thou too shouldst kneel at morning's dawn,
That God may give thee daily care,
Assured that He no load too great
Will make thee bear.

—Anna Temple.

Back to Christ's Church

The world needs today to read God's book, to get back to the religion of Christ, and to the purity of His church. Picture the simplicity of the church as it was in the days of the apostles. They met on the first day of the week, in some private home or some upper room. As they came together, there were no pealing notes of pipe organ nor sound of stringed instruments, for these things did not come into the worship until hundreds of years later. That Christian assembly sang praises to God, with the spirit and the understanding. Their

prayers were part of their sacrifices. They had no creed, no church manual, but continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine. Elders, or bishops, qualified according to God's word, supplied their spiritual food. As occasion demanded and ability enabled, others had a part in the edifying of the church. They observed the communion on the first day of every week. They contributed of their means as God had prospered them. No one had a right to tell another how much to give. This constituted the simple, yet impressive worship, of the early church. "What an odd worship", you say. Yes, but it was pleasing to the Lord, because it was from the heart and we read that the hand of the Lord was with them. This was the Lord's plan. Why should we not follow His plan today?

This was the age in which the church covered the earth as the waters cover the sea. In this time there was but ONE church. Where did God ever give man the right to build, organize or establish another? We survey the religious world today and see multitudes of religious bodies, churches, teaching doctrines that contradict each other, wearing names not found in the New Testament, yet claiming to be Christ's church. Can this be true?

Two hundred and fifty different churches are found in America today. Christ shed His blood for one, that leaves two hundred and forty-nine without the benefit of Christ's blood, without redemption.

Paul tells us that it is in the kingdom of God's Son that we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of our sins.

Christ said, "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold, them must I also bring, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd". If people could be saved by belonging to the one church, the one the Lord built, in the days of the apostles, they can be saved by belonging to it now. If that ONE church is able to save you, the rest are not needed. **THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE IN THE CHURCH CHRIST BUILT.**

Churches of men create confusion and discord. Christ prayed that His people might be one. The testimony of His word stresses the unity of His followers. Paul admonished the church to stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

The Lord never expected His church to be divided and subdivided into groups, parties, and factions for which there is no authority in His word. The need of the age is to get back to the religion of the Bible, to the unity, the peace and the harmony of Christ's church.

Christ prayed for the unity of God's people saying, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word, that they all may be one". What a force for good the Lord's people would present, working and praying together for unity, for oneness, speaking the same thing, walking by the same rule, being of one mind.

Such is the purpose of the church of Christ. We dedicate our labors to bring

about the answer to Christ's prayer for the unity of all true believers.

Are you dissatisfied with the churches of men? Come back to the Bible, take it as your guide, obey Christ's commands, be a member of His church. God gave His word to prove that Christ is His Son, but you must BELIEVE it, for Christ said, "If ye BELIEVE not that I am He ye shall die in your sins". God offers reconciliation, but man must REPENT, for Christ said, "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish".

God persuades us to accept His Son, but we must CONFESS Him before men, for Christ said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven". God promises salvation, but man must be BAPTIZED, for Christ said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." God provides the straight and narrow way which leads to life eternal, but you must walk therein. Will YOU do this?

The church of Christ, whose address is given below extends an invitation to all thus minded. "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts". Tomorrow may be too late.—Written by Robert H. Brumback, Evangelist, Churches of Christ, 3931 Harrison Street, Kansas City, Mo. This is number three of a series. Others supplied upon request.

Power of Prayer: A Demonstration

Revelation 8:1-6

To boys in arms, their families, and to all, wartime brings many heartaches, worries, question marks. Why all this? What the future?

The Gospel promises peace: peace pervading the heart of man, swallowing fear, doubt, and discontent, in firm faith that God holds the future in his hand. Our Gentle Master gave the invitation: come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. We cast our cares upon him; for he careth for us.

But in wartime I answer the blank space with a proposal to study as an outstanding demonstration of the power of prayer the suggested selection from Revelation. Our study will be simple and brief, requiring that you think. Yes, there shall be wars and rumors of wars; but come!

The Lamb breaks the seventh seal, and there is silence for half an hour. John looks on as the seven angels standing before the throne receive their trumpets. In a while, he will see these trumpeters blow one by one; he will see fire and blood, as the calamities of centuries come upon the earth: he will see an angel flying in the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth . . . an impressive, dramatic prophecy of the sounding of the final trumpets; he will see woe following woe! But now, the angels stand together, holding their trumpets, waiting, and another comes to the altar before the throne: and before the voices of the trumpets are released, the prayers of the saints are heard!

"Prayer moves the hand that moves the world." There while the trumpeters wait, much incense is given to the angel who has the censer, which he offers with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar. The angels stand waiting, all in silence, while the smoke of this amazing offering ascends up before God: "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Still they wait, as the angel takes fire from the altar and fills his censer, and casts it into the earth: there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. (I stand in awe.) It is only now that the trumpeters lift their trumpets to their lips preparing to sound. Soon John will see the four winds released, but heaven waited on the prayers of all saints. Can we believe? For somewhere in the long period marked by the seven trumpets, we stand!

"Comfort ye, comfort ye my people," saith your God.—K. Morgan.

"Look at the Birds"

Did you ever notice how carelessly—that is, without care—a hawk soars through the blue sky? Perfect balance, perfect poise, and grand sweeping circles of flight! Yet if you were suddenly dropped from a plane, do you know what you'd do? You'd become frantic from worry and start thrashing your arms and legs around as though you were pedalling an imaginary bicycle. What would be the result? Well, you'd fall faster, and hit harder, and be picked up in small pieces, that's what! There isn't anything to stand on up there, and you're going to fall any way. You might as well do it gracefully then! Why worry about it? You won't help the situation any. If worry kept people from falling, we could all sail around on windy days and doff our hats to each other a few thousand feet up in the ozone, so long as we didn't get cheerful about our ability. But worry doesn't keep you from falling! Worry hastens your fall!

It hastens your fall from Christ too. When members of the One Body cease to have confidence in the Lord, when they think there's no good left on earth, when they think that everyone but themselves is a hypocrite, then they're just about due for a fall. It is only when we can maintain perfect confidence that if we do our part, God will do His part, and it will all come out right eventually, that we can labor against difficulties and go right on "conquering and to conquer".

I value myself more than a bird! I know I have a purpose on earth and a Father in heaven. "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" Why not be wise as an owl, cheerful as a sparrow, and happy as a lark? The same God who made them, made you! The mere fact he gave you a greater intelligence is no sign he wants you to use it to develop a greater doubt. Trust in God and do your best!—W. Carl Ketcherside.

A Voice From Far New Zealand

Pillar and Ground of the Truth

That the Church, as seen in the New Testament, was designed, and built to be, for all time, the only institution on earth to sustain the truth, i. e., "the faith once for all delivered unto the saints," is indisputable.

And that, as seen therein, fitly framed together, it was the best possible instrument for that purpose, who would dare dispute?

It, therefore, must have had within itself as other of God's creations, the capacity to replenish itself for all time. It was, therefore, able to produce its own necessary and prescribed permanent teachers—evangelists, pastors (elders), and teachers.

The New Testament Church certainly had this capacity. And it selected its ministers, named above, after the results of practical instruction given the whole body had demonstrated who were fit.

However, the Church has long ceased to function as in New Testament times, the theological, or Bible, college system being substituted. The result is that the Church itself has lost the capacity referred to, neither having elders of the required aptness to teach, nor producing such. So that, considered apart from "The Minister" from the college, it is become quite helpless, and unable to maintain itself in the faith, much less be "the pillar and ground of the truth."

This condition is inevitable under the college system. For not only is it a human substitute, but it lacks the essential capacity of the Church, and at its best cannot be other than a clerical factory.

For example: The college may receive, periodically, say, one young disciple from each local church for training. The rest, who receive no training, remain spiritually illiterate, utterly impotent, and unfit ever to attain to New Testament standards for elders and teachers. The lone college product therefore becomes, practically, the substitute for them all, and consequently the character of the Church is entirely changed. And if ever elders are appointed, they become such only as a matter of "form not having the power" to "feed the Church of God," which is their true function.

The Church, on the other hand, if it functions as in the New Testament, has the capacity to train every disciple to his or her potential limit. It has but to labour with this set purpose daily, to make the Church an unshakable pillar of strength and of beauty, becoming the glorious foundation upon which it is built.

Brethren: Is there any sufficient reason why practical instruction should not be given in the Church itself? What more is needed than a thorough knowledge of "the faith once delivered," and facility for its expression? Only thus can full use be made of all the available man-power in the kingdom of Christ in "the good warfare," "the good fight of faith." In these days of increasing leisure, that power should be immense. Behold the utter helplessness of many of our local churches, when bereft of "The Minister," after years of his ministry!

Unlike Paul's instructed, unable to "work their own salvation" in his absence, they have to call in "Methodists," "Presbyterians," "Baptists," "Seventh Day Adventists," "Plymouth Brethren," and the "Salvation Army."

Alexander Campbell said that, according to Mosheim, "the first theological college, established in Alexandria, in Egypt, in the second century, was the grave of primitive Christianity." Such colleges have ever maintained a great stone upon that tomb, and sealed it. Modern colleges, by whomsoever established, have sooner or later the same effect. Though they load that grave with many flowers, these but tend to prevent its resurrection to "the glorious liberty of the children of God." Pray God that the stone be rolled away!

Why not work, therefore, for a restoration of that ancient efficiency of the New Testament Church? Why dishonour Christ with substitutes? Let God be glorified "in the Church, and in Christ Jesus, unto all generations, for ever, and ever. Amen."—James Simpson.

[Bro. Simpson went to New Zealand from Armadale, Slamannan District, some years ago.]—Scripture Standard, published in England.

She Gets the Listeners!

Here's the experience of a member of the Webster Groves congregation in arousing interest in the radio broadcast. Listen and profit!

"I know when you heard the first broadcast you thought it was very, very fine and you wanted everyone to hear it. I did! But my experience was that when I mentioned it I failed to arouse enough enthusiasm. One Sunday afternoon when the Manchester Singers were singing "Beautiful Garden of Prayer" I remembered that it was the favorite song of a former neighbor of mine. So I called her and she tuned in just in time to hear the last phrase. This amused her and she listened to the rest of the program. Now I wait until the program starts and rush to the phone and call to friends to tune in. One day, a former neighbor of Carl's in Nevada, Mo., called during the week and said, "You forgot to remind me to listen to the broadcast Sunday." Sometimes when I tell them during the week to be sure and listen, they ask me to call them just before the program starts. One lady sent her sister to the phone because she was already listening, and wouldn't be disturbed. It's a good plan! Try it next Sunday!"

The radio will only become effective when the hearts of the members are moved as was the heart of this sister to take the gospel to their friends and neighbors. If every member in the church would make it a point to tell five people per week about the broadcast, ere long we would be speaking to multiplied thousands of people! We who sit in our homes and enjoy the gospel as it comes in to us, do we think of others who need these soul-saving gospel messages? I spoke on the subject, "Why We Sing and Do Not Play" on Sunday after-

noon, May 28. I wanted to see the reaction of the listening audience! It was favorable to this straightforward indictment of instrumental music in worship. The world is waiting for the gospel. Will you help us take it to them?—Missouri Mission Messenger.

(We hope that ALL the disciples in Indiana will realize that they are doing real missionary work in inviting their friends to listen to the preaching and teaching of the gospel over the radio. Send for announcement cards to hand to friends to place on their radios to remind them. The devil is not sleeping this hot weather and neither should God's people neglect this great opportunity.—Editor.)

Will You Please Read This?

Oregon.—While in Portland I made several needed calls, and preached for them. I have advocated that we need more and more BIBLE READING in our services, done in a careful manner, by one whose understanding of the scriptures and whose diligent preparation enables him to read distinctly and give the sense. I think that most every one would find himself capable with some practice of reading intelligently and well. I think that our opening lesson could be read better most of the time. I think that all congregations should have an "opening lesson" read, and others too. At Portland and Klamath Falls, in lieu of sermons I read the book of Ephesians and Galatians, and in each case gave a brief outline of the plan of the book, and found that the people appreciated this approach to these books. I attended the meeting of California brethren at Oakland, and enjoyed reunion with old acquaintances, and was glad to make many new acquaintances, and was strengthened by the association with these good brethren, set to help one another in converting their section of the world. Here in Estacada we are carrying ahead in an offensive, planned to widen our beach-head, and strengthen our fortifications. We have reached every house in town in advertising, getting acquainted, leaving a leaflet, and insisting on their attendance at our meeting, and sometimes pausing to preach awhile privately. There have been non-members at every service, but one. Each evening we study a chapter from Acts, and conclude the service with a sermon. A series of meetings, with the church doing some singing each evening, often proves that a little bit of practice will work a miracle with the singing in most congregations: think about it. Will you pray for our work? Portland brethren tell me of baptizing a Negro woman.—Kenneth Morgan.

(Say, brethren, please read again the bold face in this report. I wish to give my endorsement to that practice 200 per cent!! When it becomes a general practice of a preacher to read whole books publicly (wisdom dictating how much at a time), with ALL the members looking on their own books, then we may look for great things from the Church of God. In the New Testament, preaching was for the

world and teaching for the church—"teaching them to observe all things." Even Paul's "preaching" to the disciples at Troas vanishes in the revised, for it translates "reasoned with," and does not at all mean what we call preaching. There can be no real reformation till we abolish the denominational preaching system to Christians and restore God's teaching system to them. But, preacher man, you'll have to study the Book. One great work such will accomplish is that the mere imaginative, glib, sermonizer will lose his influence and will go to his own place, for the congregation will soon know more than he does. May God speed that day.—Editor.)

Drifting Away from God

It is the easiest thing in the world to drift down stream. An old dead log can do that. But it takes muscle, steam or electricity to propel a boat upstream. It is easy to drift with the crowd in moral and religious things. An imbecile can do that. But it takes faith and hope and courage to stand against the evils of the day when it seems the whole world is against you.

Some one has said, "The way of least resistance makes crooked rivers and crooked men." Both are always going down, down.

In the days of Israel's judges, the people obeyed God a little while; then disobeyed Him; were sent by God into the hands of their enemies; repented; and were given a deliverer. Such was the cycle over and over again for more than 400 years.

Paul warned the Galatian brethren: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel . . . But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:6-9.)

The seven churches of Asia had not probably been in existence more than 60 years, but all had drifted but one, it seems. One had left its first love; another was lukewarm, and another had a name to live but was dead.

No denomination today 100 years old has the same doctrine it had in the beginning, at least without a break. All movements, political, religious or what, have progressive and conservative elements within it struggling for preeminence. The individual, too, has the flesh and spirit continually warring against each other. Life is made up of backslidings and reformations.

One generation fights for certain principles; the next generation enjoys the fruits of their labors and drifts from the principles; the third generation hardly knows what the first generation fought for. So it always has been, and so it always will be. God made man to struggle—to exercise himself. When he ceases to do it physically, he becomes a weakling; when he neglects it morally, he becomes a degenerate; when he ceases to struggle spiritually, he ceases to be a Christian and he presents to the world the sorry picture we have today in our so-called Christian civilization.

World War II comes as a result of our failure to struggle morally and spiritually.

A great one said, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"; Paul puts it, "Watch thou in all things."

How pleasant to turn from the confusion and decay in all around we see, to "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever." (Heb. 13:8.)

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, LEST HAPLY WE DRIFT AWAY FROM THEM. (Heb. 2, Revised.) (Last article by D. A. S. in Indianapolis News.)

One of George Ade's Famous Fables

A congregation needed Money for repairing the Church, so the Women got together and decided to hold a Raspberry Festival. Sister Frisbie invited them to come and Carouse on her Front Lawn. Some 22 Members of the Flock flew out and bought a few Things to Wear, the Outlay for washable Finery running to about \$8 per Head.

Mr. Frisbie got \$9 worth of Chinese Lanterns and strung them around. He wanted to do the Thing up Brown so as to get a Puff in the Weekly. The Paper came out and said that the Frisbie Front Yard with its Myriad Twinkling Lights was a Veritable Fairy-Land. That kind of a Notice is worth \$9 of anybody's Money.

Mr. Frisbie and three other Pillars of the Church devoted \$7 worth of valuable Time to unloading Tables and Camp-Stools.

The Women Folks ruined \$14 worth of Complexion working in the hot Kitchen to make Angel Food and Fig Cake.

On the Night of the Raspberry Orgy the Public trampled down \$45 worth of Shrubbery.

When it came time to check up the Linen and Silverware it was found that \$17 worth of Spoons with Blue Thread tied around them had been lost in the Shuffle.

The Drip from the Candles ruined \$29 worth of Summer Suits and Percale Shirt-waists.

Four Children gorged themselves and each was tied in a True Lover's Knot with Cholera Morbus before another Sunrise. The Doctor Bills footed up \$18.

After clearing the Wreck, paying the Drayman and settling for the Ice Cream and Berries, it was discovered that the Church was \$6.80 to the Good. So everybody said it was a Grand Success.

MORAL: Anything to avoid dropping it in the Basket.—Selected.

"It Biteth Like a Serpent"

When General Montgomery on being asked in the heat of the North African campaign, how he kept so fit, he replied to those English soldiers, "I do not smoke, I do not drink, I go to bed at 10 o'clock (except when duty forbids) and I am 100% fit."

Immediately Winston Churchill put on the air for the millions of fighting boys, "I

smoke, I drink, I never sleep and I am 200% fit."

Not long after, Churchill went down with pneumonia. In time he was up again. But not long after he went down again and for much longer and much worse. According to the reports the doctors had to take from him both his tobacco and his rum to save his life. Physicians say, in re to pneumonia, "three times and out." Four words Churchill will do well to learn by heart.

On the use of liquor I'll take Montgomery's word to that of Churchill's, and, Solomons to F. D. R.'s. Solomon's: "At last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder."—National Voice.

(Our readers would do well to subscribe for this prohibition journal, National Voice, 8 months, \$1; 126 W. 3rd St., Los Angeles 13, Calif.—Editor.)

If You Have a Friend Worth Loving

If you have a friend worth loving,
Love him. Yes, and let him know
That you love him, ere life's evening
Tinge his brow with sunset glow.
Why should good words never be said
Of a friend—till he is dead?

If you hear a song that thrills you,
Sung by any child of song,
Praise it. Do not let the singer
Wait deserved praises long.
Why should one who thrills your heart
Lack the joy you may impart?

If you hear a prayer that moves you,
By its humble, pleading tone,
Join it. Do not let the seeker
Bow before his God alone.
Why should not your brother share
The strength of "two or three" in prayer?

If you see the hot tears falling
From a brother's weeping eyes,
Share them. And by kindly sharing
Own our kinship in the skies.
Why should anyone be glad
When his brother's heart is sad?

If a silvery laugh goes rippling
Through the sunshine of one's face,
Share it. 'Tis the wise man's saying—
For both grief and joy, a place.
There's health and goodness in the mirth
In which an honest laugh has birth.

If your work is made more easy
By a friendly, helping hand,
Say so. Speak out brave and truly
Ere the darkness veil the land.
Should a brother workman dear
Falter for a word of cheer?

Scatter thus your seeds of kindness,
All enriching as you go—
Leave them. Trust the Harvest Giver,
He will make each seed to grow.
So until the happy end,

Your life shall never lack a friend.
—Selected.

The Facts About Spain

The Spanish question from the beginning has been dynamite to publicists and politicians, for it has always been a matter of religion rather than politics.

The legally elected government of Spain, encouraged and supported by Russia, was not Communistic, but it was anti-church and extremely radical. It put poor men in the saddle.

The purpose of Franco's rebellion was not merely to restore the government to the old ruling class, but to save Spain for Catholicism and to save the vast properties of the church. These properties, accumulated under many centuries of pious Catholic rule, were worth untold millions.

Any government that sided against Franco and the Catholic church in Spain would lose the friendship of South and Central America, for these are almost solidly Catholic. That was the setup when our government made its decision.

The decision to help Franco, by refusing help to the legally constituted government of Spain, was determined by three factors: pious Catholics in our State Department, so-called reactionaries in the State Department who hated and feared Communism, and gentlemen of like mind in the British government.

The rest is history. We helped establish Franco, and thus helped Mussolini and Hitler set the stage for this war. Considered only as a political matter, it was the costliest blunder in history.

Drew Pearson recently said in his column that gentlemen of the State Department now confess and repent their error. This may be true, but things are still happening under the surface—things that nobody on the outside can explain or understand.

As you know, many adventurous and idealistic American youths, having more vision than our government, went to Spain to fight against Franco and Hitler and the whole Fascist setup.

They were deprived of their citizenship, and now, though they are battle-wise and proven soldiers, they are denied the right to fight for their country.

Pearson printed names and case histories of these men—some of them officers—who have been taken from combat forces without explanation and transferred to labor and medical units so they will be kept at home for the duration.

Somebody should make an explanation. The whole thing is dynamite—especially since Russia became our ally—but it is better to bring things into the open than to have people suspecting more than the facts warrant.—Robert Quillan, Columnist.

Getting Ready to Move

The owner of the tenement which I have occupied for many years has given notice that he will furnish but little or nothing more for repairs. I am advised to be ready to move (we are only promised three score years and ten).

At first this was not a very welcome notice. The surroundings here are, in many

respects, very pleasant, and were it not for the evidence of decay, I should consider the old house good enough. But even a light wind causes it to tremble and to totter, and all the braces are not sufficient to make it secure. So I am getting ready to move.

It is strange how quickly one's interest is transferred to the prospective home. I have been consulting maps of the new country and reading descriptions of its inhabitants. One who visited it has returned, and from him I learn that it is beautiful beyond description—language breaks down in attempting to tell of what he heard while there. He says that, in order to make an investment there, he has suffered the loss of all things that he owned here, and even rejoices in, what others would call, making a sacrifice. See 2 Cor. 2:4-10.

Another, whose love to me has been proven by the greatest possible test, is now there. He has sent me several clusters of the most delicious fruits. After tasting them, all food here seems insipid.

Two or three times I have been down by the border of the river that forms the boundary, and have wished myself among the company of those who were singing praises to the King on the other side.

Many of my friends have moved there. Before leaving they spoke of my coming later. I have seen the smile upon their faces as they passed out of sight.

Often I am asked to make some new investments here, but my answer is, "I am getting ready to move."—Selected.

Rich Churches

According to the Bible, there are two kinds of riches—material and spiritual. The church at Laodicea boasted of its material riches, but the Lord reminded it of its spiritual poverty. The rebuke is as follows: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked; I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve, that thou mayest see." (Rev. 3:15-18.)

It is lamentable that many churches, as well as individuals, are putting their trust in gold and silver and are seemingly unaware of their spiritual bankruptcy. I could name more than one congregation that have hundreds of dollars piled up in their treasuries, some of them thousands. They seem to have a poor conception of the work of a church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Their idea seems to be to hold their money, contributed by the members of the congregation, to be spent at home, notwithstanding the fact that there are thousands of communities in the United States where a real gospel sermon has never been preached.

The average Christian expects the money that he contributes on the Lord's day to be used in the Lord's work. He desires to see the Lord's kingdom grow, to give other people an opportunity to hear the "wonderful words of life." The elders of a congregation have no right to turn deaf ears to the cries of lost souls, while they look around for some way to spend the money at home. And it is wrong for a congregation to lay up large sums of money for the future. Christ warns us against laying up "treasures on earth." Furthermore, the accumulation of a large balance in the treasury discourages giving on the part of the members of the church. Their natural reaction is: "Why give when the church does not need it? We have more money in the treasury than we need now." On the other hand, elders with a sense of duty and a vision know that contributions will increase when the congregation is made to see that an enlarging program demands an ever-increasing contribution.

Solomon says: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Prov. 29:18.) That principle is certainly exemplified in many present-day churches. Because the leaders lack vision, the congregation gradually, but surely, retrogrades. Not the members as a whole, but the leaders, are to blame for lack of growth in many churches. No institution is likely to advance beyond its leadership.

While the Laodicean church was boasting of its material wealth and was being indicted by the Lord for spiritual paucity, the church at Smyrna was receiving from the Savior a different message. To it Jesus said: "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan." (Rev. 2:9.) It seems quite probable that the Smyrna church was poor from the material standpoint, but the members received divine assurance that they had laid up for themselves a rich spiritual deposit in the presence of God. Theirs was the better conception of life. They had learned the meaning and the value of the Savior's words when he said: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matt. 6:19-21.) Why have we not learned that lesson also?—D. D. Woody in Gospel Advocate.

CHURCH NEWS

Brookport, Ill.—We closed a very successful meeting June 18 here. Bro. Brumbach of Kansas City was the speaker. It was a feast for us. Bro. Brumbach did not fail to declare the whole counsel of God, and many attended that had never attended before.—A. T. Kerr.

Washington — Congratulations on the present issue of the M. C. (June). Comment on Hall's note about effectiveness of newspaper sermon: I believe, myself, that this has every advantage over radio—on a met-

ropolitan, or even a smaller, newspaper—and will encourage and promote the idea.—Kenneth Morgan.

Klamath Falls, Ore.—We have the streamlined book, "The Church of Christ." I am enclosing \$7.50 for which please send me 10 more to hand out.—Jennie Price. (We think others will find this a thorough book to hand to intelligent and interested non-members. Or even members, for they can in a connected and orderly way learn the reason for their hope regarding the doctrine of the true Church of Christ.)

The Missouri Mission Messenger comes out with 8 pages this month, and the West Coast News now has 8 pages. We are glad to see growth, but I wonder how they do it. The M. C. has had to cut down 4 pages, and will not be permitted to print any tracts, etc., as long as this shortage continues. Maybe the government does not restrict the little printing companies as he does the big ones.

Bruxy, Mo.—Recently closed a two weeks meeting and Vacation Bible study at 1113 N. National, in Springfield, Mo. There were four baptisms. We had good interest and attendance in the Bible study. Over sixty enrolled, average attendance about forty-five. Bro. Weems, of St. Louis, was with me and taught one of the classes in the Bible study.

This meeting was the culmination of about six months work in Springfield and surrounding territory. My next work is scheduled for Denver, Colo.—Roy Harris.

Bro. W. Carl Ketcherside has recently published two new tracts called "The Road to Happiness," 10 pages, and "Can God Bless America," 6 pages. These are good tracts, neatly printed, with space for advertisement of your place of meeting. Send for samples to him, 7505 Trenton, St. Louis, Mo.

To the Soldiers in England—There are several grades and shades of churches of Christ in England, as there are in America. You may be able to find some church near you, if you will write to Raymond Hill, A. R. C. A (London), N. R. D., 16 Fulham Gardens, London S. W. 6, England. Reader, send this address to your soldier boy or friend in England.

Indiana—"I think I am one of the weak members you mentioned yesterday on the radio who nearly backslides between Lord's Days. I had just been thinking that your mid-week talk gives me the edification I fail to get (more often than not) at our Sunday worship." Brethren everywhere, let us work hard to developing all the faithful men, that this can not be said of any Lord's Day meeting: that there was not much real edification.—Editor.

"The radio will probably reach more people per dollar spent than any other method, with one exception, and that would be in the case of every Christian talking the truth whenever opportunity presents, and that costs not one cent."—C. D. McCay.

Kemp, Ill.—I think your radio program is just fine. I don't always get to hear it, but I like the plan very much and I believe it will do some good. I am enclosing one dollar to help on your expenses. I like the M. C. Keep up the good work. As ever, your brother in Christ.—A. C. B. Honn.

Try God's Plan—A few weeks ago the Methodists in conference in Kansas City, admitted that in the last ten years they had lost 800,000 pupils from their Sunday Schools. I wonder why? Evidently the parents did not stand behind the children. Every evidence is that parents have made

the Sunday School or Bible study before the hour of worship a substitute. If that is true, it is an evil. Besides, when it is what some think it should be, the child gets only a few minutes of Bible study ONCE A WEEK, whereas, according to the Bible, parents ought to give their child almost that much EVERY DAY. Is it not about time that we work at God's plan with all our might. Will all of our readers please write us, who, in their homes, will start their children to memorizing the scriptures we have given, elsewhere in this paper, or some of your own selection. Your example may influence others. We will not mention your name. Two scriptures a week is not much, but if kept up, means very much in ten years. Do you have a real interest in the soul of your child?

We are trying to help parents by reading two choice passages of Scripture over WIBC, and commenting on them. Notice our leading article this week on page one. It is such a small thing to have our children memorize two passages of scripture each week, yet it means so much in a few years. Here is what a man and woman wrote us: "We thank you for the nice talks you give over the radio every Thursday, and sure like to hear them. We think we all neglect our duty too much—don't read enough in the Bible. We have six children, the oldest being 13. We are sending for the 35 Rules on How to be Happy. We try to teach our children the right way, the best we know. We shall try to help them learn those verses you gave this morning. We hope you still continue to give your talks over the radio, for we think they will help lots of people." Will all church members who have children show the same zeal?

Anselmo, Neb.—We are still meeting each Lord's Day for Bible Study and Worship Services. We have changed our meeting place from Broken Bow to a schoolhouse about three miles north of Ansley on gravel highway 183. Should any of the brethren be going west this summer or fall, we would be glad to have them stop over a Lord's Day with us. If they cannot make connections to come by this way, a letter to the group would help.—Mrs. Roy Wilson, Correspondent.

Salem, Mo.—Closed three weeks of work here. Attendance much better than last year, and attention undivided. Four placed memberships and one was baptized during the meeting. I also conducted a young people's development class after school each day. Good interest was shown in this work and I deem it profitable. During my stay in Salem, I addressed the high school in an assembly, and delivered the Memorial Day address at Jadwin Church the afternoon of May 28. Salem is the home of Bro. Otis Crandell, who is beginning work in the field July 9 at Unionville, Mo. Bro. Crandell is entering the work with zeal and determination which should not only benefit individual congregations, but the brotherhood in general as well.—William Hensley.

We have received a card announcing the death of Sister Mary Hannah Peck, Napa, Calif. Sister Peck was the widow of A. J. Peck, an old preacher. She was also the mother-in-law of Dr. Sorey in Riverside, Calif. I have met Sister Peck a number of times through the years, and was impressed that she was a Christian trying to follow her Savior.

Red Cloud, Neb.—Just finished two weeks of vacation Bible study and meetings at Agra, Kans. Brother Clyde King, who is an elder at Agra, and two sisters, Edith

King and Irene Crown, were competent instructors in a successful study. Over 50 were enrolled and despite much sickness, the average attendance was in the high thirties. The meeting was well attended by the membership, which enjoyed an all-day meeting the final day to lay future plans for mission work in Kansas and Nebraska. At present Brother Clyde King, my wife, and myself are conducting the sixth study for children here. We have 31 enrolled at the end of the first week, with an average attendance of 20. We expect a larger attendance next week. Bro. King is a good worker with children, having several years' experience in public school work. At present he is grade school principal at Phillipsburg, Kans. He also is doing well in sharing the time for nightly lectures from Romans.—William Hensley.

Anderson, Ind.—We are reporting to the Brotherhood through the M. C. for the first time I believe, but we are now enjoying a feast of good things, and want our brethren to share our joy with us. Bro. R. O. Webb of Secor, Ill., is now laboring with us in Bible reading at night and vacation Bible study in the day, this being the first vacation Bible study he says he ever attended. We wish to take this means of heartily recommending him to the Brotherhood as a very capable man in this type of work. He has much talent and ability for the work needed with children. His charts and innumerable stories are a delight and source of inspiration to both young and old. He with the help of the sisters enrolled over 200 children. We never expect more than half that number attending. Eighty-six is our high number this week. We expect to reach 100. We have three teachers and three sub-teachers, besides Bro. Webb. An outing is planned for the last day, Friday, June 30, also a program at night so the parents may come, see and hear how much children can learn about God's word. This is a great way to help make good characters for tomorrow. We hope and pray that many more congregations will take advantage of all opportunities to conduct vacation Bible studies in their localities. Brethren, pray for us in our labor of love.—Murl Howard.

Sullivan, Ill.—The Sullivan, Ill. vacation Bible study is history, and to say "it was a success" is putting it a little mildly. True it was not as large, as far as numbers are concerned, as some others in which I have assisted; but so far as attention, constant attendance, and interest by all concerned, it was very satisfactory. The combined efforts of five sectarian churches here had a total enrollment of ninety-one pupils, while our total enrollment for the same period was twenty-seven pupils. On Thursday evening we devoted the whole hour's service to showing the parents and friends some of the things that the youngsters had learned. They went through their exercises very successfully; and I believe all present realize it is a very good thing, and will be to the upbuilding of the congregations if the young are taught more thoroughly and in a regularly consistent manner. The outing on Friday was a success, too, everyone having had a nice time at the park; although it was terribly hot. Bro. Roberts also conducted an adult class each evening during the period of the vacation Bible study, which was attended reasonably well. Bro. Roberts goes to Bee Creek and Jerseyville, Ill., for five weeks of work, while I will go home.—Flora Roberts.

Millions of people are in a death grapple, thrones are crumbling, empires are going

to pieces. Are we coming close to the end of time? In the fourth, fifth and sixth centuries the Roman Empire went to pieces. New empires came into existence. Many of them went down and others sprang up. And these, too, have changed. But the kingdom of Christ goes on, for Daniel said it should never fall, but would break in pieces and consume all these other kingdoms. The book, "Drama of World Empires," gives a running view of world events which will interest every Bible reader. We will send that to you, along with the booklet, "Fight of Faith," or send to your friend, for fifty cents. Why not send a dollar bill, and order the two for yourself, and have the two sent to some thoughtful acquaintance?

Estacada, Ore.—Our meeting started first Lord's Day evening, and is continuing each evening. We are enjoying a spiritual feast of plain gospel preaching and teaching, which cannot help but do our souls good if we retain it as we should. Bro. Kenneth Morgan has been doing the preaching. Bro. Powers arrived yesterday and will be a great help and encouragement to us all as there are only a few faithful disciples left here who can and do meet regular. Others no doubt would come but have no gas to bring them. Some outsiders are attending and seem interested in the plain lessons presented.—Mr. and Mrs. A. Douglass.

Des Moines, Iowa—The development work of Bro. Harold Shasteen with the two congregations here, bearing fruit as we note the improvement of those who take public part, yet much remains to be accomplished along that line and other parts of church work. The meeting last Tuesday evening was for the special benefit of the sisters who are to teach in the coming vacation Bible study for the children at each congregation. Reports are coming in that the radio program from here is being heard in parts of Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Minnesota. Write in if you hear the program, and let us know. Address your letters or cards to Church of Christ Broadcast, Radio Station KRNT. Don't forget the time, 10:30 to 11:00 each Saturday night, 1350 on the dial. The writer just returned from a visit over Lord's Day with the congregation at Cedar Rapids, where he spoke morning and evening. Also led the congregation in a study of Paul's first missionary journey, with our books closed, but tracing it out on the map. The brethren there do real well in preparing themselves for this study, and also in quoting the memory verses assigned. Two of the young brethren gave interesting five minute talks on subjects assigned them. Several things that we note that makes the future of the work in Cedar Rapids look brighter. Some fine young couples working together with the older ones to make the church what it should be. We are trying to encourage them as much as we can.—Eugene Suddoth, 3646 Vandalia Road.

There is a small group of brethren meeting in Lebanon, Ind., on the west side of the square, in an "upper room", contending for the "narrow way", incidentally symbolized by the narrow stairway leading up to it! Brethren from Anderson are helping out nearly every Lord's Day. Recently Bro. C. R. Turner was there in two meetings on Lord's Day, with dinner in the park. A nice crowd for them, and all seemed benefited. Send a contribution to help in the work. Send to A. L. Wakefield, Lebanon, Ind., R. 6.—D. A. Sommer.

Neosho, Mo.—Bro. Edward Buttram, of Springfield, Mo., is to locate here and help

our leaders, Brethren Lambert and Schost. We welcome any faithful brethren to meet with us on their vacation in the Ozarks.—Mary Cook.

Do you remember our December issue of M. C. of last year, with the picture of the man fighting birds, with the heading, "You Can't Keep the Birds from Flying Over Your Head, but You Can Keep Them from Building Nests in Your Hair?" Important essay on Temptation and how to escape it. Many other good articles from our writers in that issue. It makes a good tract to hand to members or non-members. We happen to have about 200 copies left over, (12 pages, remember), which we can send you for two cents a copy, which with the postage makes them less than cost. "Sow the seed of the kingdom, brother." We also have nearly a hundred of June issue at same price, featuring "How All Christians May Be United, and Not Give Up Any Truth."

We thank brethren for their favorable letters concerning our broadcast over WIBC (1070) each Thursday, 8:15 A. M. One listener adds to his name "Quaker" and writes: "Your time on the air is well worth while. Good common sense. I am answering as an interested listener of your 15 minute broadcast. It will do much good to many. Your messages are very clear. I do believe you are sincere." The Lord willing, we shall continue to try to give something "worth while."

Anderson, Ind.—Our Vacation Bible Study for children closed June 30th with average attendance of seventy. Bro. R. O. Webb was in charge, with three teachers assisting: Sister Elsie Carpenter, Sister Rachel Haw, and Sister Levene Wash. Each of these had assistant teachers. Bro. Webb also conducted a Bible reading at night for all. This began a week before the Vacation Bible Study. Three weeks of Bible reading in all. The church here is enjoying a gradual growth, both spiritually and numerically. In recent months two restored and two placed membership. We use local talent here. The Lord having blessed us with at least five speakers. Also five song leaders. We are sending two speakers a month to Lebanon, Ind. The speaker program is scheduled six weeks ahead to give all a chance to prepare. The Ladies Bible Class meets twice per month. Sister Elsie Carpenter is the teacher. Each Wednesday night two families are appointed to contact families outside of the church, to make acquaintances and to invite them to our services. The following Wednesday night a report is made public. Then two other families appointed. Also each Wednesday night we have a class for children from five years to 12 years. The older boys lead singing (4 of these), smaller ones say verses, others read and tell short stories. This is in charge of myself. All this work is under the able supervision of Bro. Murl Howard Elder. Last Wednesday night we had song practice (I also had charge of this service); we learned to sing new songs. One brother was called on to write a list of five things necessary for good singing.—Rorden V. Higgenbotham.

Jerseyville, Ill.—July 6th. The meeting here is starting with good attendance. Several strangers out each of the first three evenings. Will continue three weeks. We closed a two weeks' meeting at Bee Creek last Lord's Day. It was just twenty years in the month of June since we assisted the brethren there. Many changes in that time!

The electric lights have replaced the old kerosene lamps, and the cement road has put the community nearer the larger towns—and the picture shows. The theatre is responsible for much non-attendance. The evening that the local picture show is open the church attendance is noticeably less. Often, I fear, because some members choose to go where the god of pleasure is being served. We endeavor to point out the evil of this institution. We did considerable personal work, which resulted in restoration of two. The only visible results. I still have time for other meetings this fall. I can be reached at 12 A St., Bonne Terre, Mo.—L. C. Roberts.

Yield Not to Temptation

Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin. Each victory will help you, some other to win.

Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue,

Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through.

Shun evil companions, bad language disdain,

God's name hold in rev'rence, nor take it in vain,

Be thoughtful and earnest, kind hearted and true,

Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through.

To him that o'ercometh, God giveth a crown,

Through faith we shall conquer, Though often cast down;

He who is our Savior, our strength will renew,

Look ever to Jesus, He'll carry you through.

Ask the Savior to help you, Comfort, strengthen and keep you,

He is willing to aid you, He will carry you through.

This old song used to be a sermon to me, when I was young, both in years and in the Faith. I remember time after time when I would be tempted to do some seemingly trivial thing (at least it would be considered trivial in these times), I would think of the words of this song, and hence be held back from yielding.

To me, it is a very sorrowful thing that we have neglected the singing of such good old spiritual songs. Some that we sing nowadays seem to me to verge on the juke box type. They lack the words and tunes that can cause us to think while we sing. My Book tells me to "sing with the spirit and the understanding."

Our son in the service enjoys having me write out the words of a favorite song, and send it along with a letter. He has been in the service close to three years, and has not had as much opportunity to attend the worship of the Lord as he would wish. He says the words of these songs I send come back to him, but when he tries to sing them he has forgotten some of the tunes. Perhaps some of your boys would enjoy having songs sent to them too.—A Sister in Christ.