

# Macedonian Call

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Number 1

## LET THE WORLD GO BY— FOLLOW CHRIST

*"Dearly Beloved, I beseech you as STRANGERS and PILGRIMS, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul."  
(1 Peter 2:11.)*

*The Church has never had such influence for good over the world, as it had in those days WHEN IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WORLD.—Historian.*

GOD intended for his people to gain influence over the world, but how? History gives the answer.

God created the earth and put man on it to govern it for his glory; but Satan came and conquered a good part of the world, and the good people were thrown far into the minority. But God planned to send his Son in the course of time to re-conquer the world for himself.

At the appointed time Christ came to seek and save that which was lost. He taught about the Kingdom he was going to establish, but died at the hands of his enemies. When he arose from the grave, he gave his apostles command to go into all the world and preach his gospel to every creature. He then ascended to heaven and was crowned King of kings, and Lord of lords; and sent the Holy Spirit down to guide the apostles into all the truth concerning his Kingdom.

Christ showed his apostles plainly that the only way to gain influence for good over the world is TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WORLD, and to be separate from it. Through the inspired apostles he told the disciples to be not conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of their minds, by reading and mediating on His word. He forbade them to be unequally yoked with unbelievers, and told them to seek those things which are above where He is, and that their lives are hid with Christ in God. He enjoined them to love not the world neither the things that are in the world, and that even the friendship of the world is enmity with God. In short, he said that they were STRANGERS and PILGRIMS as in a foreign land and that though they were in the world they were not part of it.

The Church as such was not to dabble in politics or social affairs or in other worldly alliances, but was to try to help the world by converting the people in it. They were to let their light shine that oth-

ers might see their good works and glorify the Father in heaven.

And the early Christians followed this separateness, and lived to themselves, so much so that the heathen about them said they were haters of mankind, and persecuted them. The idolators thought it strange that Christians would not run with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of them. That was in harmony with what Paul had said that all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. Jesus himself had said: "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

Yet the Church in its separateness continued to gain true favor with millions of people, and it never had such influence for good over the world, as it had in those days when IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WORLD.

When the Church began to conform to the world, it gained prestige in a worldly sense with WORLDLY people, but lost its spiritual power. In the First Century, it had met in upper rooms, private homes, catacombs; but when, in the Third and Fourth Centuries, it began to appeal to the world in the building of great temples of pride as places of worship, it lost part of its power for good over thinking people.

God knew the lust in man for power and so in his Church he made the highest officer an elder, called also a bishop, in a local church, and he was to share that authority with one or more fellow elders. The first great step from this was made in the Second Century when they exalted the most eloquent and influential elder or bishop to be "THE bishop" and the leader over the other bishops whom they now called "elders" only. And they reasoned that as the Roman Empire had only one head over all,

so the Church should have only one head over the whole; and they began centralizing to that end. They continued this apostasy, not without opposition; yet in about the Sixth Century, the bishop of Rome had obtained ascendancy over nearly all the other bishops, except a few "heretics," as they called them, scattered in hills and mountains.

Recently, in my home city, a great religious body elevated one of their bishops into an arch-bishop; and the papers were filled with descriptions and pictures of the pomp and show and paraphernalia of the performance. How contrary it all was to the teaching of Christ when he spoke of just such things and said, "So shall it NOT be among you; but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister; and whosoever of you will be chiefest, shall be servant of all. For the son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

In the Fourth Century, the Church gained secular power, and ever since has used the secular arm to enlarge its powers when it had the chance. But a state-church is a no-church, for the very word church means "called out," and such a church is not called out of the world. The union of Church and world has always been a detriment to the Church, just as a union of the sons of God and daughters of men before Noah's day, led to the corruption of the whole world. The strength of the Church lies in its separateness.

Sometimes an earnest Christian becomes so-grieved at the corruptions in politics that he throws himself into it to reform it; but in the end he becomes so "messed-up" that I think the Lord would hardly recognize him. Sometimes one enters reform movements; but even when he has accomplished his reformation, he has not saved the people, only reformed them a little; and he himself may have become spotted with the world.

We become troubled at events internationally, nationally, and locally; but God still rules in the kingdom of men, in a general way at least. Christians were troubled when the city of Rome fell to the barbarians and the Roman Empire went to pieces, in the fourth and fifth centuries, but "The City of God," remained. No matter what comes, it is our business to "let the world go by and to follow Christ." "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."

The main object of the Church is not to reform the world, BUT TO CONVERT

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IT; yet in doing that it always makes people better. And so the great purpose of every CHRISTIAN should be TO MAKE OTHER CHRISTIANS; and in doing this, the good in the Church oozes out into the world and helps reform it. But when the Church enters the world to make it better, it always muddies the pure Water of Life. The Church always has done the world the most real good WHEN IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WORLD.

The apostolic Church had simple singing as its music, and instruments were unknown in its melody for hundreds of years. But through centuries the Church has tried to woo and win the world by organs, harps, violins, bass viols, trombones, horns, flutes, pianos, or some such instrument. At certain times, maybe the Church draws many people by these artificial means; but still the church members grow more worldly all the while, and regular church attendance declines. Such influence is not for real good.

The early Church gave of its means as the members had been prospered; but today she inveigles the world into a temporary fellowship with her through money-raising schemes of entertainments, suppers, bazaars, raffles, fortune wheels, bingo parties, and other gambling and worldly devices. Maybe the Church does draw a crowd together, but a crowd of what? It has muddied the Fountain of Life, and caused clear-thinking people to turn away in despair.

Don't fancy that you can convert the worldly people by conforming to their worldly ways. You go with them to their banquets where the wine is flowing; or to their games with their betting and other gambling and revelry; you sit down with them and play poker, bingo or bridge; you go with them to a prize fight or wrestling match, with the betting and whooping and fighting and general crookedness and riot. And what is your influence for good? Talk Christ at such places and times and see where you get. The Church today has lost its influence because it has lost its separateness from the world.

Still ringing through the ages comes the warning cry to Christians: Love not the

world, neither the things that are in the world; keep yourselves unspotted from the world; set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth; as strangers and pilgrims abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul. And the history of the Church shows that she never had such influence for good over the world, as she had in those days WHEN SHE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE WORLD.

The Church is a great Spring of the Water of Life. If it is polluted at its source by contact with the world, it is polluted all along its course. But if it is kept pure at its source by separateness from the world, all peoples, tribes and tongues can drink of it and be healed, as it flows down the ages.

So let us Christians throw ourselves with all our might into the great work of reading God's Word, praying, teaching our children, talking to our friends or sending them Christian literature, developing faithful men who shall be able to teach others, establishing new groups of disciples wherever we can; and letting the world go by.

And if we will faithfully do this, then when "the world goes by" in a different sense, in the sense that it is carried down with the general conflagration at the end of time—we shall be glad that we followed Christ and are now on the Rock of Ages, and that through the period of our earthly pilgrimage we let the world with its pleasures and glories and sins pass by.

I'm but a STRANGER here,  
Heaven is my home;  
Heaven is my fatherland,  
Heaven is my home.

**A "Fighting" Soldier**

Dear Bro. Sommer: One of my soldier friends (a Catholic) thinks it ridiculous when he sees me "wasting my time" studying the Bible, when men specialize by studying for a lifetime so as to teach the layman. Also that a layman can not possibly get anything out of it in the short time he has to study the Bible. I wrote, in answer to his consternation this, and if you think it of value to others faced with similar circumstances you might put it in the M. C.

**WHY I SHOULD STUDY MY BIBLE**

1. To learn of Christ.—Matt. 11:29.
2. To grow in the knowledge of Christ.—2 Pet. 3:18.
3. To know how to keep His word and do His commandments.—1 John 2:5; Rev. 22:14.
4. To become complete in Him.—Matt. 5:48; 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
5. To have faith in God.—Rom. 10:17.
6. To meet God's approval.—2 Tim. 2:15.
7. To be always ready to answer for reason of my hope.—1 Pet. 3:15.
8. To be freed from sin.—John 8:32; John 14:6.
9. To try or test man's teaching.—Acts 17:11.
10. In search of eternal life.—John 5:39.

Lt. Ray O. Webb, CAAF,  
Courtland, Ala.

(Letter)—Eleanor and daughter are living down here in a house trailer where we can see each other as much as possible. I will have completed my training here in

the states by the end of this year in heavy bombardment as pilot of a B-24. So I look to be sent across soon, to replace one of those who have given so much—that we in this country might have freedom of worship.—Ray O. Webb.

(Note.—Bro. Forrest McKinney, whom I have known from his childhood and whom I baptized here in Indianapolis a couple of years ago, and who is with the Ninth Army in France, and has gone days without taking his clothes off, sends us a Greeting card: "Just a few lines to express my desire to be with Christians at home during this holiday season.")

Bro. Henry Boren was wounded in battle, and now lies in a hospital in England. Before he left to go overseas, he wrote to the publisher: "Bro. Sommer, tell the brethren to have something worthwhile for us to come back to." Bro. Ray Webb is in his heart saying practically the same thing. All right, Bro. Henry and Ray and Forrest and all the rest of you. We're going to have something worth while for you to come back to. You see from this M. C. that we are moving right along. There is more activity and development than I ever saw before. But oh, there are so many yet who have gone on a sit-down strike in religion, or are demanding higher wages, or shorter hours, or are on a slow-down strike, or have in short, gone to sleep on the job in religion—while the religious world is going up in flames of apostasy all around them. Oh God, awaken them! Stir them somehow to be more devoted, read thy Word more, pray more, teach their children more, attend services better, take part more intelligently, teach others more earnestly and talk to their friends more often or hand them, or send them, more printed gospel. In Jesus' name.—Editor.)

**A Great Scripture**

Good afternoon, friends of the Bible. We have chosen "A Great Scripture" for the subject of our radio sermon this afternoon. We ask you to study with us again, noticing the very important part the Holy Scriptures play in each point which we advance for your consideration.

Beginning today I am reminded of a teacher who stood before a Bible class composed of boys and girls. She asked each child to recite the first verse in the Bible they memorized. Practically all the boys and girls quoted the great scripture, John 3:16. It was indeed a favorite with each of them. Smilingly the kind teacher praised the youngsters, one by one, for learning such an important verse. She knew they would never forget the importance of such teaching throughout life.

Today I wish to talk about this same scripture: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Here we discover not only the great unselfish sacrifice God and Christ gave to the world, but the possible life and reward for all men who are willing to acknowledge and trust the greatest event the world has ever known—the death of Christ. Certainly this would not only be a good verse to memorize, but also a good verse to understand as well. Let us remember, it is one thing to learn a passage, but it is indeed another thing to know its meaning. We might be able to quote chapter after chapter of divine writ, but if we did not stop to gain the full meaning of the same verses, it would profit little. It would cause us to be like the man who found himself in the row boat, at mid-stream, without any oars.

Under those conditions it would be a hard task for him to row to the shore. Consequently, it is likewise difficult for anyone to live a full Christian life, who memorizes scriptures for the mere satisfaction of saying them. To gain the most out of the same scriptures, one should know their true meaning.

In John 3:16 we find the type of scripture that we might repeat from memory in record time, yet we have not gained its full value unless we stop to learn its meaning. Notice the first part: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son." This teaches not only the great love God had for the human family, but the actual example of His great grace in the sending of His only Son to die for man. Without a doubt, every child or adult person who listens this day, knows this to be the case. In fact, I doubt very much if there can be one objection raised by spiritual people to such a remark. Truly this corresponds to God's part as revealed in Ephesians 2:8: "For by grace are ye saved . . ." Yet there is another part found in John 3:16 which we must not forget: ". . . that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This is equivalent to man's part of Ephesians 2:8: "For by grace are ye saved through faith . . ." So once again we have reached the point of God's part and man's part.

Since the position that God plays is generally accepted by all religious people, I do not deem it as necessary for us to spend time in explaining or attempting to prove that God has bestowed grace on the human family. There is no danger about God falling down on His part of the work, but there is a possibility that man may neglect or misunderstand what he is commanded to do. Thus, we direct most of our sermon to man's part of John 3:16. How needful and necessary it is for all men to know what Christ means when he says: "Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This takes our minds to the actual meaning of a true faith.

You will remember, if you have been in our audience the past few weeks, that we have discussed the faith that counts with God. It is a faith that obeys God. The same is true of man's duty to believe in order to have eternal life. In fact, no one will affirm that man could possibly gain eternal life unless he obeys God. In conversion, he obeys the commands of God. This actually proves his belief or faith in God. In the daily Christian life, he obeys the commands of God. This again proves that he has faith or believes in God. Hence our first conclusion on the word "believeth," of John 3:16, is obedience to the commands of God.—Wm. Hensley.

#### Accomplishment

There was a doubt a month ago  
But now that doubt has fled,  
And what I thought a cruel blow  
Has proved a joy instead.

Somehow it seems the skies have cleared  
And ended is the rain,  
The dismal thing I greatly feared  
Is an accomplished gain.

Last week grim trouble barred the way  
And fretful was my mind,  
But life looks different today,  
That cares I've left behind.

I wondered if the strength I had  
So great a load to bear,  
But now it's over and I'm glad  
I conquered my despair.

There never comes a doubt to men

Which causes them to sigh,  
But it will leave them happier when

They've bravely passed it by.

—Edgar A. Guest.

#### "All Power"

Christ said he had "all power in heaven and in earth," so has power over all of us. He has power over demons and saints, over hell and heaven—over all and everything.

**He Had and Has Power to Keep Himself In the Minds of the People.** How many people do you know? How many people are there in this world who know you? Millions of people have lived on this earth. How many of them do you know? Give us the names of about one million of them? Can't do it, you say. Christ knows all of them and multiplied thousands know Him. Thousands of people were living when Jesus was here on the earth. There were kings, priests, philosophers and emperors. If we should leave out a small group of names you read about when you read about Him—a small company you read about the other day when you read about Him, I do not believe you could name a dozen persons who lived then. What has become of all these people? You remember Him, why not them? Ah, He had power they did not have. He had and has power to keep his name in the minds of the people. Roman Catholics have tried to burn all volumes of His wonderful Book; infidels have and still are trying to stamp his name out of the memories of all; but can do nothing of the kind, for He has power to keep his name in our minds. There is no country where His name is not known. He is known more widely than Caesar, then Nebuchadnezzar, than Alexander the Great, than Washington, than any man that ever lived on this earth. How widely known are you? How many people will know anything about you seventy-five years after you are dead? What do you know about the people of one hundred years ago? You can't name a dozen of them who lived fifty years ago. How is it that this man who was as poor as the poorest of them and hung on a Roman cross between two thieves is so well known and so well remembered? He lived more than nineteen hundred years ago. Thousands of Jews have lived and died since He lived, but are all forgotten by the world. This Jew, as you call him, had power to keep his name in the minds of the people. He is remembered; your great grand-father is forgotten. Infidels admit there was such a man as Jesus. Can they tell us why it is that He is so well remembered? He had and has power to be remembered by us all; no other man ever had that power.

**He Had Power to Be Obeyed.** Grant was a great general and there are a few people still living who knew him personally, but who remembers and obeys his orders today? His friends do not remember but few if any of his orders. Napoleon was a great conqueror, and there are people on earth, perhaps, who remember him by reputation anyway. But who cares for what Napoleon said and commanded? He changed the map of Europe and the face of the world's governments—but who cares for his commands now? Who is striving and sacrificing to obey and to get others to obey him? Napoleon did not have power to be obeyed down through the ages.

Nebuchadnezzar was a great king and at one time was king of kings so far as earthly kings were concerned. But who today cares for his commands? There is no one who cares for his commands, but thousands are seeking to know what Jesus

said and commanded. It is better than nineteen hundred years ago since He hung on a Roman cross between two thieves, yet there are multiplied thousands living who are anxious to obey Him. How is it that He is obeyed today? Let infidels answer? Let backsliders blush with shame. Let careless and indifferent Church members, even Elders some times, blush with shame, repent and do more for Him and His cause. No king or priest or dictator ever had such a sway over mankind as He has. No emperor ever had such a host to bow to his commands. He who was laid in a manger; he who had not so much as the birds of the air or the foxes; which He could call His home; he who was crucified between two thieves has power to be obeyed. This no other man, rich or poor, high or low has ever had. What does this mean? It simply means that He who was cast down, He who was spit upon, He who was whipped and beaten and had no place to lay His head, has been exalted to the highest throne ever erected and has "all power" over every thing. He has "all power in heaven and in earth." Yes, He has power to be obeyed and thousands obey Him, while other thousands disobey Him and have no future to look to. No other man ever lived on this earth who had such power to command and be obeyed—as this man who was despised and forsaken by kings, priests and noted people.

**He Had and Has Power to Keep His Word (Bible) Here in the Homes and Hearts of People.** His word cannot be destroyed. He said it would live and abide forever and it is still here as a flaming sword in the pathway of its enemies. Catholics have tried to burn it up and infidels have tried to trample it out, but it has grown wonderfully in circulation. Many Jews lived when He lived, and wrote orations, poems and other literature, but where are their writings now? Your great-grandfather wrote a book once and you have been told it was good, educational and much appreciated, so you have been trying to find a copy, but can't; it is out of print and forgotten only but by a very few who knew of it. That man didn't have power to keep his book and words living. Jesus has that power; His word cannot be destroyed. It is still in the homes and minds of multiplied thousands. He has power to keep his book here though thousands have tried to destroy it. No other man could keep his book here under such circumstances. His power, too, is in His word which we love and which thousands would die rather than give up their faith in Him and His blessed word. O, that wonderful power! How can men and women who claim to believe that Book so shamefully disobey it? He has power to keep his word here and to make you and me face it in the judgment.—W. G. Roberts, Hammond, Ill.

#### Is The Church Necessary?

Did you ever hear a person make the statement that he didn't think one had to be a member of the Church and attend church services, to be saved? They usually agree that it is a good thing to be a member but not a necessary thing. I am convinced that the teaching which people have had is responsible for this idea. If people fully understood what the New Testament church is, then I believe their minds would be changed regarding this important subject.

Most people get their ideas from sectarian teaching and thus they get a false impression of the church. The first impressions are generally the hardest ones

to remove, but with the Bible as the standard, let us do our best to teach all the truth.

Is the church of Jesus Christ an essential institution? Yes, the church is very important and essential. Do you think that an all-wise God would waste his time and effort in building a useless thing? Do you think he would care whether it was built on the rock or the sand, if it is worthless? And would he care whether the gates of hell prevailed against it or not, if it is unimportant?

The Greek word from which we get the word "church" means "the called-out ones." It is from a preposition that means "out of," and a verb that means "to call." The noun from the two words means those who have been called out of something and congregated together. But since Christ called these, they are ones who have been called out of darkness into the glorious light of the gospel. The apostle Peter has said with reference to those who constitute the church, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:10). Since this is a well established fact of inspiration, we may safely affirm that the churches of Christ are the saved people on earth.

If we have no church then we have no saved people, and if we have a church then we have saved people. This is in harmony with another inspired scripture which informs us that "The Lord added to the church such as were being saved" (Acts 2:47). If the Lord added to the church such as were being saved, that tells who compose the church of the Lord—the saved, and only the saved; for he did not add any who were not saved. With this Bible idea before us, how can anyone be so faithless as to say that the church is not important?

Paul says that the church is the "body of Christ and is the fullness of him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:22, 23). The word fullness suggests that there is no responsible person out of the church that belongs to Christ. If the church contained every Christian on the earth save one, then that passage should not say that the church is the fullness. All, therefore, who belong to Christ are in the church, honoring and glorifying his precious name in that one institution.

We are also informed that Christ gave himself for the church. This is proven by the statement of Paul in Eph. 5:25, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." Christ died an ignominious death upon the cross that his church might be established. There are no words within our vocabulary sufficient to portray in its staggering fullness—the awful scene which transpired at Golgotha; we can only vision with finite perception the rabid multitude, the humble figure in their midst, and the haughty forms of the Roman soldiers who stood guard. Perhaps we can paint upon the canvas of our hearts the vision of him hanging there, with the blood gushing from the nail wounds in his hands and feet and writhing in anguish on behalf of the souls of men. Let us remember that all of this was endured that he might establish a church in which we might worship, work and walk together. But if the church is not necessary to salvation, as many say, Christ foolishly gave himself for no good reason. Do you want to accuse Christ of being so bereft of reason? So foolish? If the church is not essential

to your salvation, surely Christ should have known that fact, yet Paul says he gave himself for it.—Harold Shasteen in radio talk at Des Moines.

### "Preach the Word"

When Paul told Timothy to "Preach the Word" (2 Tim. 4:2), just what did he include and exclude? I have had many people say to me that it makes no difference what position a man takes on some of the modern innovations just as long as he "preaches the word." There is only one thing wrong with that position and that is it isn't right. All too often the idea is conceived that preaching the word is proclaiming faith, repentance, confession and baptism with no more and no less. Where in God's truth can we find authority for that? The rest of Christ's and the apostles' teaching is as much the "word" as the four subjects heretofore mentioned. Of course they are a part of it, and we recognize the fact that if souls are saved they must be preached.

Now, let us investigate a little further and see what else it includes. According to 1 Tim. 1:3, Timothy was told to abide at Ephesus that he might "charge some that they teach no other doctrine." In other words, Timothy was to rebuke and warn those who taught contrary to the doctrine of Christ. Would we dare say that Timothy was not preaching the word? Aren't preachers and teachers duty bound to warn the people of false doctrines and false teachers today—if not, why not? We also see that Titus was told to "Speak thou the things that become sound doctrine" (Tit. 2:1). The rest of the chapter enumerates what Paul classifies under the heading "Sound Doctrine." According to 2 Tim. 4:2, 3, doctrine and the word are the same thing, so we see all these things were included in Paul's statement "preach the word."

With the above paragraphs firmly fixed in our minds, let's go still further. In the light of God's truth a man CAN'T "preach the word" unless he includes the above mentioned when it's necessary. If man were at will to pick the part that he wanted to preach and discard what he wanted to, the text should read, preach any part of the word you want to. No preacher can preach merely what he WANTS to, he must preach what the Holy Spirit TOLD him to. But still the critic would ask—if there was a locality where the poison of modern innovation was not threatening (I don't know of any) wouldn't it be all right to use a man, even if he won't state his position or stand. In God's sight a thing is either right or it is wrong. Anyone that won't take a stand and denounce the evils that threaten the church today is a traitor. Now I submit to you an honest question. If a man is traitor in ONE point, can we use him because he preaches some things according to the scripture? Jas. 1:8 says "a doubleminded man is unstable in his ways." "If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed" (2 John 10).—Winford Lee.

### We Have NOT Been Stingy With the "Nuggets of Gold"

Anyway, they are the Lord's, and he told us to give them away. Of course, we are only giving the references. We said "1,000," but Sister Ragene Sims has kindly counted them for us, and we have cited you to 2,674 choice verses of Scripture. Many of these are grouped in whole chapters, and there are many more in the Book which God has

given us. What a gold mine which is almost unexplored by us!

Now, brethren, I am not asking you to do something I am not trying to do myself, for the publisher of this paper is reviewing hundreds of passages he memorized in earlier life.

Bro. George Robinson writes: "I would like 250 'Nuggets of Gold' for local distribution. A visitor has asked me for just such an outline as covered in Scripture on 'The New Testament Church.' I marked all the scriptures with a red ink line, which you published in M. C., and am doing the same with the complete list. In fact, we have a young member 12 years old whom we have put to work on the 'verse a week plan' and he recites a number of them at each Wednesday evening meeting. This list will encourage others to do the same. One thousand Nuggets of Gold should be included in the next edition of Simplified New Testament."

Brethren, EVERY ONE of us is commanded to give a reason for our hope. Can we give the scriptures which show that the Church of Christ is THE Church of the New Testament. If you can't, why not begin NOW, to memorize the scriptures on that subject given in this 8 page folder, so that you can quote them and give an intelligent answer for your hope? We will send you a folder free for EVERY member in your congregation, if you will tell us how many you need. Let's be in earnest, folks, and read the Bible this new year as never before.

We deem it just to state that the 500 Nuggets which we stated in the M. C. some time ago we would send free to Bro. Freeman's soldier list of the "Service Tie," were paid for by brethren at Chillicothe, Mo. More than 4,000 copies are now in circulation. We receive nothing financially for ourselves out of these leaflets, but use all that comes in to scatter more truth.

Sister C. C. R. writes: "I think they are fine. I was surprised I could learn the What Then poem, but I learned most of it while helping my daughter learn it on our way into the city one day. She had it all memorized by the time we got to the city. She thought it so good to keep her mind off worrying about her husband on the front in Germany." (Other wives and relatives of soldiers might find a relief in memorizing that grand sermon in poetic form, and also in memorizing, or at least marking and reading again and again, the devotional passages in the "Nuggets." Eleven thousand of the What Then cards are now in circulation.)

Sister Anna Schlieper, mother of Otto Schlieper, elder at Hardford, Ill., writes: "Please send me 50 more if you have them. So far I have marked my Bible through Proverbs. It is indeed an inducement to study one's Bible. I like the size for mailing out. Am enclosing a check to help carry on the work. I hope to send them instead of holiday cards." We thank our many friends for their donations, which are making this literature work possible. Let us fill the earth with the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. It is our business to sow the seed, and God says his word will not return unto him void.

Sister M. A. A. in Indiana writes: "I have been memorizing and teaching sur two older children some of the 1,000 Nuggets. . . I enjoy the M. C. very much. I believe those who do not have an opportunity to attend the worship of the Church regularly appreciate such a paper more than those who are in position to attend regularly." That's right, teach the sta-

dren. Even if we do nothing but read the passages ALOUD OFTEN, the ear will become accustomed to the words, and before one knows it he has memorized the words.

Charles Adams, a soldier at Elgin Field, Fla., writes: "I received your leaflet of 1,000 choice scriptures. Thanks very much. I memorized some of the verses that were in the M. C. a while back. It makes it so much more interesting, and one can get good out of them."

A brother in California writes: "I knew an old sister who memorized exactly 40 chapters of the Bible. This was a great source of comfort to her in the sunset of life, after becoming blind." She had HER "1,000 nuggets of gold," didn't she? And it was a good investment. Let us lay up, not merely in social security, savings banks, lands, etc., but lay up God's gold in our minds and hearts, for old age, and BEYOND old age—for eternity. "More to be desired than gold."

Robert Brumback sends for \$2.50 of What Then, and the same of Nuggets. . . I just received the choice scripture references to mark and memorize which I think are grand. Send me \$1 of them and \$1 of Rules on Happiness.—Mrs. Mattie McDaniel, Calif. . . Send 25¢—Church at Indiana Ave., Bloomington, Ind. . . And many others.

Another Advantage of God's Nuggets of Gold—If we ALL will work on choice scriptures this year as we should, recite them in our homes, classes, social gatherings, etc., it will occupy our spare time, keep us out of mischief, will help keep us out of squabbles with our brethren and neighbors, for the scriptures learned will take away the desire for contention, and they will fortify us in general to meet the devil at every turn. He's trying to make a breakthrough, as the Germans did at "the Battle of the Bulge," and we must be on the alert to meet him, as some Americans seem not to have been to meet their enemy. "Watch thou in all things." Jesus put the devil to flight by saying, "It is written," and quoting the Scriptures. And "the sword of the Spirit is the word of God."

My soul be on thy guard,  
Ten thousand foes arise;  
The hosts of sin are pressing hard  
To draw thee from the skies.

#### CHURCH NEWS

Announcing four week program, Jan. 1 to Jan. 26 inclusive, 7:30 p. m. except Saturday, of Vocal Music Training and Public Speaking Development conducted by Bro. Roy Harris of Brixey, Mo., at the Church of Christ, 21st and Madison Ave., Anderson, Ind. You are invited to attend these services.

Nevada, Mo.—Dear Bro. Sommer: In the list I sent you last week, we did not include that of our son, for was uncertain whether he would receive it, but we received a letter this week-end stating he was reading his M. C., and how much he enjoyed one of the articles. He is with General Patton's army in Germany. Etc.—Mrs. R. Phelps, Mo.

Shippensburg, Pa., 36 Cumberland Ave.—We do not have any one to come over and take up the work here yet. Still hope that some one will answer our appeal ere long. There seems to be somewhat of a stir through the East now, and if we can keep after it we may get something accomplished. Bro. Brumback is doing a good work in here but it's too much for him to handle alone. He should have some one else to be working along with him. But the call comes from everywhere now for workers and the need is as I see it great. I am glad that we are in the condition we

are now, for we are not as yet disturbed.—C. J. Beidel.

I belong to a farm club, and intend to pass one of the What Then cards out to every member, and to enclose one with each of my greeting cards and letters.—Missouri. (Brethren, is there a more inoffensive way of getting some truth before the people—especially those who are not thinking of what comes after death?)

Kansas City, Mo.—The church at 59th and Kenwood is doing very well considering the number of our young men who are in the armed services and the number of the members whose work hinders them in attending each service of the church. We recently concluded a short meeting with Bro. Wm. Hensley, who is also assisting in the radio work. We believe much good can be accomplished through the use of the radio.—W. C. Davis.

Tahlequah, Okla.—The meetings at Stover, W. Va., Nov. 12 to 26, were somewhat hindered by a combination of sickness and bad weather. But it was a happy privilege to be at Stover again, to give encouragement to those brethren. There were no additions to the church. On our last Lord's day we held a special meeting at Toneytown for the purpose of putting that congregation in order—and we now expect that the faithful may work with that congregation without hindrance. I am sending nine subscriptions.—Kenneth Morgan.

"I don't read the Old Testament very much because there is so much about ancient empires, and I never studied Ancient History in school." Well, that is one of the very reasons why we published "The Drama of World Empires; Or, the Map on the Horse." It was written for the commonest of the common people, and weaves the ancient secular history with Bible History, especially as it pertains to Daniel's prophecies of the World Empires. Also, it contains considerable exhortation on the final triumph of the Right, which will help encourage us in these dark days of world revolution and world war. Price 50 cents a copy. It makes a nice course of study in easy prophecies, and if you will look up the scriptures and read the connection, you will spend many more profitable evenings this winter, than listening to cheap and oftentimes demoralizing radio programs. The prophecies and their fulfillment will help strengthen your faith in God's word.

Sullivan, Ill.—The week of study in the Hebrew letter at St. Louis was time well spent, also was good to renew old acquaintance. I closed a two weeks meeting at Hartford, Ill., night of Dec. 17. The meeting was much hindered. First, the death of Bro. Arthur Ottwell's wife; a brother was burned in an explosion at the plant where he worked; Bro. Otto Schlieper took his wife to the hospital, seriously ill; I was sick with a cold the last week, had to miss one night (Bro. Harold Ottwell preached); then the last week we had a 9-inch snow which partly melted and formed a glaze of ice on the streets. With all that, our attendance was fair and three were baptized and one restored to fellowship. I am scheduled to preach at the Fullerton Ave. congregation in Chicago Dec. 24. The family is going with me and we shall visit our son Ray while there.—C. R. Turner.

Dec. 6 marked the close of my series of meetings at the Green Mound congregation, southeast of Beloit, Kans. The visible results of this effort were five baptisms. The congregation is to be commended for their work planned for next year, which is to include a period of development work. A fine group of brethren there, and they

have a wonderful opportunity. Will go to Martinsville, Ind., Jan. 6. Will teach the book of Colossians the following week.—Winford Lee, Ethel, Mo.

(Letter)—The work here in Anderson is progressing as usual, not many outside attendants but some that are pretty regular. We are striving to do our bit for the Master, which sometimes seems to be very little. Bro. Howard and I attended the one week Bible reading in St. Louis on the Hebrew letter. We with our wives have been meeting Saturday nights and studying the book together, that is, we are teaching them (our wives) the things we learned.—John B. Wash.

(That's fine, if the wives will stand for it! But why not? You paid to attend that Reading, and they are getting it for nothing—second hand, of course. My wife heard me recite the Poem What Then, again and again, and she will hear a great many scriptures we are re-memorizing. Maybe all this will help revive the "family altar" in a little different form. Any way, we will "talk of the word of God when we arise, and walk by the way, and sit in our houses, and lie down at night." Brethren, we are going to get somewhere, if EVERY home will engage in some kind of work like this, instead of wasting time with Lum and Abner.—Editor.)

Those who attended the Mattoon and New Castle mass meetings remember Bro. Vandersloot from New York. I have received word from his son that Bro. Vandersloot died Dec. 8 at the age of 75 years, of cancer of the stomach. We all remember Bro. Vandersloot's firm stand for what he believed was right. He did not endorse this modern apostasy. He lived at Kelton, Pa., when my folks lived there, when I was a baby, and he was always a friend of the family. He was living in Maryland when he died, but had lived a good while on Long Island. The son, Jay S. Vandersloot, Parsonburg, Md., hopes to carry on the work of his father as best he can.

(Letter)—We enjoy the M. C. very much, everything about it. The articles are instructive, the letters from different people and churches are newsy and interesting; they seem like old friends, although many of them are total strangers. We here in Independence rejoice that Bro. George Kreiger is getting along so nicely. We hope it won't be long before he will be able to meet with us again. We had a nice visit with Bro. Morris Acree while he was here. But he had to leave, all too soon. He has gone to Fort Ord, Calif., where he will await further orders. Morris had his training at Camp Fannin, Texas. Flora and Sharon Kay were with him. They have remained at home now though, and it is really good to have them back at church. Bro. Willie Ballenger has entered the University of Kansas Hospital for observation. He hasn't been so well lately. We all hope he will improve quickly. Your sister in Christ, Mrs. George A. Phillips.

The article on "The Greatest Evil in the Christian World," in December M. C., contains some of the most vital principles of the religion of Christ, we believe. And it gives HISTORY to confirm the truth of our position. A good many are sending for extra copies to circulate among brethren.

ren who have been befuddled. An elder in a large church and community which has been confuted on the subjects writes: "There may be points in favor of personalities sometimes, but any way I favor your policy of recent years; and there has never been a better written article on any issue than the one on the college-pastor issue in December M. C. Enclosed are \$2 for some copies that I will see that they get into a lot of hands that should have them." Orders have come from Michigan, and from as far south as Dallas, Tex., where they sure need them. And let us remember that this article is CONSTRUCTIVE and not merely negative.

#### Mutual Forbearance

The kindest and the happiest pair  
Will find occasion to forbear;  
And something every day they live  
To pity and perhaps forgive.  
—Cowper.

Duty to God: "I cannot but take notice of the wonderful love of God for mankind, who, in order to encourage obedience to his laws, has annexed a present, as well as a future reward to a good life; and has so interwoven our duty and our happiness together; that while we are discharging our obligations to the one, we are at the same time making the best provisions for the other."—Melmouth.

Jerseyville, Ill.—The four weeks with the churches at Nowata, Okla., was begun on Nov. 4th. The first two weeks the gospel was preached each evening from their new place of worship at 136 Maple Ave. These thirty-five or more brethren have been meeting in their homes for the last three years, but now have secured a satisfactory hall which has been rented for one year. We had some outside attendance, but other churches were drawing the attention of the public. The last two weeks were devoted to the study of the book of Acts. The brethren enjoyed these studies and were much strengthened. Brethren passing through will find a hearty welcome. Bro. George Eccles can be contacted at the post office. Bro. Lee and others helped much by their almost unbroken attendance till his second "blow-out" during the fourth week prevented further trips. Three placed membership during the meeting. I am now in the second week of meeting at Agra, Kans. The roads were impassable the first week and now snow and much colder weather is hindering. The audience was as small as 10 one evening. There is a splendid group of young people with whom we are enjoying a period of Bible drill each evening. No preventing providence and we shall move to our new home at 218 S. State St., Jerseyville, Ill., on Dec. 26th. Plans are arranged to assist the church at Jerseyville 6 months of 1945. The remainder will be spent in assisting the church elsewhere. Your Bro. in Christ.  
—L. C. Roberts.

Spokane, Wash.—It is with great appreciation that we receive the news of the decision of the Mid-West churches to again show their active interest in the Northwest work, in a very practical way, by sending Brother Kenneth Morgan out here for another year. The Northwest churches are sharing in this support. Some are doing it by direct assistance to Kenneth while he is working in their midst. We in Spokane expect to put forth special effort to make 1945 a better year for the church than 1944. We would like the brethren to

know that Farragut, Idaho, Naval Training Station is situated within reach of Spokane, so that the boys can come here to attend church. Some of the boys might not realize that they can come till they have been there for some time and then they might get to the wrong place. The address of the church is W. 2002 Boone Ave.—Arnold Hintz, 2411 Normandie St.

These appreciate the M. C.—The M. C. is fine.—W. Cassell, Calif. . . . The M. C. is getting better every issue. I wish more people could read it. Keep up the good work.—Louis B. King, Wash. (And he sends a list of names.) . . . Keep up the good work. We get much help from your writings and the rest of the paper.—Jas. G. Wright, Mo. . . . Think M. C. getting better all the time. Enjoying it very much. If possible, every member of the Body of Christ should read it.—W. R. Sallee, Mo. (And he sends a list of names.) . . . We wish to be sure never to miss a copy of the paper, and I am trying to persuade others to sign for it.—T. Cook, Mo. . . . We sure enjoy the paper and don't want to miss an issue.—William Wyatt, Kans. (And he sends a list.) . . . It seems that the Macedonian Call gets better with every issue, if that is possible.—Mrs. Scott J. Armour, Wash. . . . With best wishes for the future of the Macedonian Call.—Mrs. Lillie Riggin, Ill. . . . We enjoy reading it ever so much.—Mrs. J. L. Thompson, Mo. . . . Enclosed are two subscriptions to your worthy paper. I wish I could send it to all I love. It certainly is a strength spiritually.—Mrs. Atwood, Calif. . . . I have enjoyed the M. C.—A WAVE, Arlington, Va. . . . Fine little paper.—Mrs. C. C. Price, Kans. . . . May you long be spared to carry on the good work, and may we all be able to help, is my prayer.—Lalie Mavity, Ind. (And she evidently means that by the check she sends. Ed.) . . . The M. C. is good to the last letter, and hope we'll never have to be without it. May the Lord bless and keep you in the narrow way.—M. B. Foster, Colo. . . . We think the M. C. is a fine paper, and enjoy it very much.—Dale Anderson, Ore. . . . Best wishes to you as you publish that great journal, the M. C.—William J. Hensley (working with churches in K. C., Mo., and broadcasting for them). . . . Some one has been so kind as to send me the Macedonian Call which I appreciate very much.—O. J. Thomas, Ky. (And he sends a dollar for an assortment of tracts to hand, or send, out. Let us ALL keep passing the truth on in this way.) . . . I think the Macedonian Call is a fine paper and hope you will soon be able to enlarge.—William F. Doman, Ill. (And he sends for 120 What Then and 100 Make Home Front Strong and other literature.) . . . These sentiments are some which have come in since last M. C.

A leader in a church writes: "I agree with you that we should spend our time, as-much as possible, in teaching the Bible. I am getting away from the idea of teaching men to sermonize. We have not yet arrived at the apostolic practice where Christians were so full of the truth and the love of God that when opportunity offered, they wanted to exhort their brethren to continue steadfast and to impart new truths they had learned from the Scriptures. It should not be necessary for some to be selected every Lord's Day, to make talks, but all should be so informed in the Scriptures that they could give a lesson that would edify their brethren whenever opportunity offered. They should have a desire to talk of the hope we have of a life with Christ and God, and also the way we should conduct ourselves in order to obtain that home above. Of course, we

cannot expect new members to do as the older members, but they should be encouraged to study and taught so that they too can be effective in setting forth the truth to those with whom they come in contact, and especially at first, to exhort one another."

(The editor of the M. C. heartily endorses this sentiment, and has always believed it. Let us so fill up the minds of the brethren with the good things of God's Word that we have to hold them back rather than prod them along as we so often have to do today. Read the N. T. closely and see if this is not the practice there. Of course, one hindrance to this is that some talkative people wish to talk all the time, and others with good, sound thoughts, yet great degree of modesty, will not talk unless asked to. But this can be regulated by general understanding as to propriety . . . and consideration for others. And common sense should cause one to be short and to the point.)

7117 Manchester Ave., St. Louis, Mo.—I am now in St. Louis, to conduct a singing class for the church on Manchester next week, beginning Christmas Day. We will have both day and evening classes. They made the arrangements a little too late to advertise it very much, but a few are planning to attend from out of town, any way. I feel that a great many congregations need better singing more than any one part of the service. That is, I believe they need improvement in that line more than in any other. However, many of them do not have either the inclination or the means to have much singing development in their home congregations, so it seems to me that if we could develop a leader or two for each congregation, they in turn could go home and develop the singing.—Roy Harris.

Kansas City, Mo.—I began work with the brethren here on Oct. 6, and during parts of October and November I was privileged to preach the gospel in meetings at 50th and Kenwood congregation and 26th and Spruce congregation. I began speaking on the Churches of Christ Broadcast, Lord's Day, Oct. 8, on station WREN, Lawrence, Kans., 1:00-1:30 p. m. The broadcast has carried the gospel into many homes that know little or nothing of the doctrine Christians love and cherish. Certainly, this is one more medium brethren can use to carry the gospel to lost souls. Then, there is the great opportunity afforded through the written tract and sermon of sending the gospel to the unsaved and as a morale builder to the fighting man and woman. This medium has been a source of sending the word into not only the United States, but to lands beyond the sea. May God ever find us as Christians who seize every opportunity, within scriptural means, to send the teaching into the homes and hearts of both Christian and sinner.—William J. Hensley, 2539 Lister Avenue.

We have received a copy of "New Testament QUESTIONS," by Bro. Zerr, and published by W. Carl Ketcherside, 7505 Trenton Ave., University City, Mo. The type is large and clear. We have not had time yet to try out the book, but it appears that it will help in the study of the Bible, and we welcome anything which will help brethren study more the Divine Word. If you don't have a copy, and wish to be sure you are getting something which will help, maybe you can borrow a copy from some brother in the congregation who has a copy, and can try it out for a few days to your satisfaction. Brethren, let's study the Bible, for therein alone are the principles which will save the world. The next

batch to be bound will not be till March. Send orders to Bro. Carl.

Gallatin, Mo.—To cooperate in saving space for the Gospel teaching, during the paper shortage, we are reporting only at intervals, and briefly, but we continue regular development program each Lord's Day service (attendance good)—Have preaching first and third Sunday by Bros. Harold Hays and James Truitt, respectively (outside interest good)—Advertise our meetings weekly in the local paper, in connection with advertising "The Gospel in Word and Song" broadcast over WREN (1250) at 1 p. m. every Sunday (a number outside tune in)—Hand out, or send, the printed sermons as tracts—And have a Gospel "Singspiration" occasionally. The field here is wide—may we ever be found "sowing the seed of the kingdom" while it is day. To God be all praise and glory.—D. Patterson.

Glendale, Ariz.—In past writings we have given a pretty thorough report on what the congregation here is doing toward development work among the adult members, but not much has been said about our fine class of little people. We have around twelve and fifteen attending every Lord's Day. They give some fine Bible drills at evening worship. They often make some of the adult members stay on their toes to keep up with them. Each child is asked to recite a memory verse each Lord's Day morning and emphasis is placed upon giving new ones as often as possible. (Why not have this among adults, too?—Editor.) We are greatly rejoiced at having two more members meeting with us regularly now. They are Bro. Roy Loney's two children. They are making Phoenix their home at the present. We hope they will be with us awhile, as we certainly need an increase in our membership, rather than the decrease resulting from the army taking a number of our members.—Laura B. Norris, 607 N. 3rd Ave., Phoenix, Ariz.

Ripley, Ia.—I recently conducted a Bible study for the small group of new converts who meet in the Pfister school house, half-way between Festus and Bonne Terre, Mo. We spent half the time each evening in Bible study with all looking on in their New Testaments, and I would then give a short exhortation. Since the congregation was started just a year ago, I noticed much improvement in the ability of those who took part in the services. At this writing we are engaged in a protracted meeting at Ripley, Ia. Before I came several of the young people went to the homes in town inviting the townspeople to the meeting. About a hundred tracts were left in the homes. Since I came I have also visited every home and extended invitations to attend. The meeting is now but three nights old but outsiders are already in attendance.—Harold Shasteen.

Salem, Mo.—I have been very busy this fall and summer. I began a three week's song development program with the congregation at Unionville, Mo., on July 8th and also conducted a two weeks' Vacation Bible Study for them during the same period. From there I went to Lemons, Mo., where I sang for a meeting conducted by Winford Lee. Next to Bethany, Mo., for a three weeks' Mission Meeting, where I assisted C. R. Turner. Then to Hammond, Ill., to sing for a meeting conducted by Roy Harris. Then to Salem, Mo., for about five days of a meeting conducted by Brother Edw. Buttram. Next to Holiday, Mo., where I preached for two weeks, then to Martinstown, Mo., for a week of song development and Bible drill followed by two

weeks of preaching. From there I went to Brookport, Ill., for a two weeks' meeting where I did the preaching. Then to St. Louis for a week of Bible reading, conducted by W. Carl Ketcherside. I will be at home during the month of December, then to St. Louis for the winter Bible Reading. I still have some time open in 1945 for song development, evangelistic work, Vacation Bible Schools, or other church work.—S. Otis Crandell.

Bloomington, Ind. (Private Letter)—The new tract you have out is splendid (1000 Nuggets of Gold). I've heard many favorable comments on it recently. Please mail me around 50 for personal use in letter-writing. I believe the church is going to purchase some too. (Have already 250.) Also, your articles in the Star are calculated to do worlds of good. You received the \$25.00 for the radio broadcast from the congregation here, didn't you? Announcement concerning your newspaper articles was made here Lord's Day. I've been reading your book, "The Church of Christ," recently and also as a reference source for material being used in a meeting I'm holding now. May God bless you in all of the things that you are trying to accomplish in his cause. The Church here is moving along in good shape. Brother E. M. Zerr did us a world of good in the Bible Reading and is scheduled to come back again next year. Brother Roy Harris's work was very effective also. A young brother and I attended the one week Bible Reading in St. Louis recently. This new style of study is excellent and simplifies the most difficult passages. Brother Carl should be used all over the brotherhood in Bible Reading work. We appreciate the M. C. immensely and want to send in a report of activities here occasionally. . . . The young people's work progresses in good shape. We are now studying in 2nd Kings. The young people are going singing soon for the sick. They are also going to be in charge of the program one Lord's Day night a month next year. Certainly are a fine group to work with here at Bloomington. We have about 75 boys in the service whom we write occasionally. If you put out any special articles for service men, we want our boys to get them.—J. Ed Uland.

(The thing in this letter which pleases the M. C. publisher most is put in bold face—that the church intends to have another Bible study next year; and we hope it continues that EVERY YEAR till Jesus comes. That, in addition to all their other study, will mean much. Of course, after a while it may have so many good teachers that they can have the study with some weak church, or can send teachers out, not so much to preach to weak places as to TEACH AND DEVELOP them. "TEACHING THEM to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you," said Jesus. "WHO SHALL BE ABLE TO TEACH OTHERS ALSO," said Paul. Now when we can get EVERY church to feel like Bloomington (Indiana Ave.) does about the Word, THEN great things are going to happen. And brethren, we are working rapidly to that end, praise the Lord.—Editor.)

University City, Mo.—During this vacation period the Manchester Avenue Church is sponsoring a singing class taught by Bro. Roy Harris. More than a dozen out-of-city students are attending and others would have come, but housing facilities were not available. I was with Topeka, Kans., congregation in two full days and nights of business sessions and plan meetings on Dec. 18, 19. Appreciated fellowship with 26th and Spruce St., Kansas City, where I spoke to a large midweek

audience, Dec. 20. I was privileged to hear the radio singers in good rehearsal under able direction of Bro. Vernor Ellis. Seven preaching brethren were present. A brief business meeting with the officers was held after the service. On the following night I was at 59th and Kenwood. Bro. Wm. Henaley is doing a commendable work in the Kansas City area, and I rejoiced to be with him, as also with Brother Wilford Landes, who starts a development program at Topeka on Feb. 1. The spirit of development work for edification of the whole body by the whole body is gaining notable impetus. For this we give humble and sincere thanks. Was at Webster Groves morning of Dec. 24, with 55 present; and at Flat River that night, with an excellent audience. Brethren L. C. Roberts and J. H. Mabery were among those present. The Flat River Church mailed checks to a number of older preachers, and to aid other worthy causes at the close of the year. They are absolutely unselfish in their wish to fellowship every faithful work. On Dec. 26 I conducted funeral services for Sister Laura Dunham at Jerseyville, Ill. This aged saint died at the advanced age of 84 years. I start the winter session of the St. Louis Reading on New Year's Day. It will be preceded by a service lasting until midnight on Sunday previous.—W. Carl Ketcherside.

(Brethren, I can't resist the temptation to put in bold face encouraging news above that the true Church is certainly moving forward now at a rapid pace toward the apostolic ACTIVITY.—Editor.)

"CLEAN CHURCHES"—Often brethren ask just how far we can go in putting out our plea on the radio. To answer this query, W. Carl Ketcherside has been delivering a series of sermons on the government and discipline of the church. The thirteen talks in the series will be published in a 50 page booklet ready about Feb. 1. The title of the book will be "CLEAN CHURCHES"—The sermons deal with necessity for withdrawal of fellowship from disorderly walkers, the scriptural method of handling personal offenses, etc. This teaching went into hundreds of homes, and the mail response on the sermons was 175 to 200 letters per month. Churches can save themselves a lot of trouble if they urge their membership to read such books and know God's plan for keeping the church clean. The price will be 35c per copy, or three books for a dollar. Since only a limited number will be printed, orders should be sent at once." (This note failed to give Bro. Carl's address, which is 7505 Trenton, University City 14, Mo. Notice our article on first page on "Let the World Go By," which tries to teach SELF-discipline and separateness from the world, and Bro. Carl's new booklet seems to show how the church should handle those who will NOT discipline themselves and NOT keep themselves unspotted from the world, to the extent that they reproach the name of Christ. The Church needs teaching on Purity, and Bro. Carl's booklet no doubt will help much.—Editor.)

Honest Confession—Now brethren, have you not been greatly encouraged by reading these many good reports? And won't weak brethren in the congregation also be encouraged? But as things now stand some can't read them. But how is it possible for them to read them? Why not, then, send theirs with yours, and thus pass on the Good Cheer in the Church News column? In other words, can you send us new names?

### Viewing Life at 87 Years

Dear Bro. Austen: I had thought I would start the New Year right by writing to you. Enclosed is one dollar. I have not had an M. C. for quite a while. It suits me fine to send some back numbers. Life is so uncertain and if I was on your mailing list, and I should die tonight, I don't know who would read it or advise you to stop it. I have been re-reading some of your kind letters to me. I wonder if I have done my best. I have tried, without desired effect. Your mother's words come to my mind about what grief it brings when our children are traveling the broad road. Matt. 7:6 comes to mind and Titus 3:10. Does it apply to such as mine? I am hungry for help. Matt. 5:6. I hope I don't tire you. I follow advice you have offered. When a young girl I had chapters memorized, now I can't remember so well. But for more than 5 years I have read my Bible every day, most of the New Testament ten times, since my sister and husband gave me the one I now have, in 1939. I like to read current events, but none satisfies as the Bible does. I'll be 87 Feb. 7, and though I can get around remarkably well, this is a hard field to work in religiously. I feel that you are too busy to expect you to write, but I sure wish I could meet you and hear you preach. Pray for me and mine, and for all for whom we should pray. Yours in hope of a better world than this. — Mrs. Arminda Gowing. (The Editor has written this old sister again, and no doubt she in her loneliness would rejoice to receive a few words from those of our readers who are disposed to write her. Let's remember our old brothers and sisters who have been faithful to the Lord. Her address, Centerville, Mo.—Ed.)

Phoenix, Ariz.—A few of us at Reedley, Calif., continue to meet each Lord's Day and to the best of our ability, conduct services to the glory of God and His Church. We have Wednesday night Bible study in our homes as we have no place of worship of our own, but rent a hall for Lord's Day morning and evening. Bro. and Sister Thomas of Hale, Mo., are living here at present and attend services. They are acquainted with Bro. W. E. Ballenger. We would be happy to have more faithful Christians locate here and help us.—Mrs. Ralph Shearer, 1137 K. St., Reedley, Calif.

Glendale, Ariz.—Visitors at services on Lord's Day morning, Dec. 24, were Sister Johnson and husband and Sister Johnson's brother, Elmo Oxley, all of Bakersfield, Calif. Sister Johnson is a bride of only a few days, as she was married here Saturday, Dec. 23. Her husband is in the army and is stationed at Luke Field here at Phoenix for the present. Sister Johnson returned for services last Lord's Day. We are happy to have these folks meet with us. My sister, Nellie Norris, has returned to Phoenix, and my mother came with her to spend the winter here.

Sister William Ketcherside, from Topeka, Kan., has been here for several weeks now, and intends to spend the winter here. Thus the congregation here has a nice start toward a progressive New Year. We hope these folks will all decide to remain permanently.—Laura B. Norris, 830 North 3rd Ave., Phoenix, Ariz.

### People Don't Like It

A nationally known food products concern with its main office in Pennsylvania has announced an advertising budget for 1945 "many times greater than for the previous year," to be devoted exclusively to newspaper campaigns. The president of the company reported that radio advertising will be discontinued for the reason that a long-time survey shows that such advertising does not, in his case, bring the desired results.

It appears that the trouble with radio advertising is that so many programs have what are supposed to be comedians, but what they put on the air disgusts more people than are attracted by the program. Most of the so-called "comedy" advertising programs on the air these days are the rankest trash — and this includes what is called "swing music" — and sponsors who are watching for results are beginning to realize that the people do not like that kind of stuff.—National Voice.

### The Bible a Bond of Sympathy

Poets like Shakespeare, Milton and Wadsworth, and many others, novelists like Scott and Hawthorne, essayists like Bacon and Addison, philosophers like Carlyle and Ruskin, and countless living authors—all draw upon the Bible as a treasury of illustrations, and use it as a book equally familiar to themselves as to their readers.

It is impossible to put too high a value upon such a universal problem, even as a mere literary possession. It forms a bond of sympathy between the most cultivated and the humblest of the people. The same book lies upon the desk of the scholar and on the table of the peasant.

And more than ever the Bible is the book for today. Of it General Eisenhower said: "While the utterances of God as recorded in the Bible are ever the need of mankind, it is in war, and particularly in the present war, with its issues of humanity and morality that their essential presence is felt. On this front, I am happy to report, this thought is foremost among our men. Fighting men cry: 'Give us more Bible!'" A New York merchandising organization sent out a questionnaire to members of the Armed Forces asking what article service men and women preferred as a gift. The result was a convincing demonstration that in the current national emergency, just as in the days when God-fearing citizens laid the foundations of the Republic, religion holds a high place in the hearts of American fighting men. Among a sample group of Navy men the survey revealed 58.3 naming the Bible as their first-choice gift. In the Army the percentage was 49.5.

Mr. L. H. Robbins, writing in the New York Times, says of the Bible: "Lonely people, despairing people, burdened people, search it for strength and courage. Anxious people seek light for judging these times of spiritual tempest and earthquake. They want to understand the foundations of the good world we are tolling and dying to save. And these foundations are the teachings of this Book that timeless, yet forever timely, hold the promise that a better world is possible."

Entitled "The Book of Books," we quote the following editorial that appeared recently in the Cincinnati Enquirer:

"For the first time in the history of the world Bibles are now rationed. This does not mean that the government has rationed them, but the demand is so great, the publishing houses which print Bibles are unable

to fill their orders. One of them has sent word to the book sellers it can accept no more orders until October. Another has its entire output spoken for six months ahead.

"One reason for the immense sale of Bibles is that pious fathers and mothers, when their boys go off to join the Armed Forces, see that a Bible is packed with their kit. Another reason is that in these trying days people find rest for their souls in reading the Scriptures; indeed, that is the great reason.

"There is no better book than the Bible. Since the art of printing was invented it always has been the best seller. It brings rest to the restless heart, peace to the unhappy, and more than that it points the way to heaven. In it God speaks to man; in it the believing heart finds a comfort that the earth cannot give; in it the sorrowing find the eternal promise—

"He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither mourning, nor crying, nor pain."—Volunteer's Gazette.

### Germany Has a Religious Revival

I hope you all read our essay in December Macedonian Call on "The Greatest Evil in the Christian World." It is the clergy, which clamps down on the people about like the Nazi party has clamped down on the German race.

A revival of Bible study is arising even in Germany, since the war has deprived the people largely of their clergy. We find the following in the Christian Beacon:

"The Confessional Church is stronger than it was a few years ago. There is much greater unity within the church than formerly, and it has great evangelistic possibilities. Great missions have recently been held which brought a response comparable to that in the best days of the church. There has been a revival of Bible study, especially by laymen. Many local churches deprived of clerical leadership have experienced a revival of lay leadership."

Now there you have it. When the clergy has to go off to war the same as others, and leaves the people to themselves, they start to read the Bible. Of course, their troubles have no doubt had something to do in making home folks religious. The "clergy" among the people of India has held those people, most of them, in degradation through thousands of years, and the Roman clergy has done somewhat the same through 1,400 years. If something would happen that about nine-tenths of the clergy would disappear, and thus that the influence of superstition and false philosophies of the theological schools and Bible colleges, would vanish—there would be a revival and reformation. Well, you see, it's not the fault of the Macedonian Call that it does not disappear!!

### From a Soldier

Ypsilanti, Mich.—It is my resolution of the New Year to have every issue of your Macedonian Call. Last year I received some through my sister, but with moving around as we do I would rather have them sent direct. Just now we are on shipment to Alabama. I really enjoy your paper and think you have a very good group of writers, though they are not in any manner chosen ones.—Chad Freeman.