The Greatest Umbilical

Amid the general rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we sometimes lose sight of the minority who are openly skeptical of the divinity of Jesus of Nazareth.

When we do think of them, however, we usually record them with extreme disapproval, especially those of the atheistic or agnostic turn of mind. We think they are great sinners, striking a sour note in the universal harmony which otherwise prevails.

The sweetest note of all is sounded by those who say they believe in God, and yet live as if there were no God. Fifty-two weeks out of the year.

Let us remember that there is no middle ground. We cannot put on the seasons. We cannot stir Lord at all.

Stir me, Lord; I care not how, but stir my heart in passion for the world.

The sourest note of the atheistic or agnostic turn - yet the most unbelievably believable - is sounded by those who believe in God, and yet live as if there were no God. Fifty-two weeks out of the year.

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A FAITHFUL REMNANT

Christians must be deeply concerned about the future of our nation and of the world. For thoughtful people the coming of peace in Europe is an occasion of solemn thanksgiving that this world-wide war is that much closer to an end. We realize that our problems are not so much present as they are days ahead. Representatives of nations are gathered together at San Francisco to plan for a permanent organization to insure peace in the years to come. Christians are concerned that Jesus Christ be represented there, for we are the least of them represented there too much unless Christ's representatives experience and forget to consult the unfailing wisdom of God. Without God our efforts are vain.

In the days ahead man must be guided by the Spirit of God. His leading alone will insure a peaceful future. The world has been horrified by the cruel and brutal things godless men have done throughout the world. Men and women have fought and died to halt the march of the wicked men. Will our efforts be successful? Where is our hope for the future? The answer is God. Military might and violence alone, without God, can offer little hope to restore permanent order out of chaos. An international organization to insure peace will not weather the storm unless God is at the helm.

The chief instrument of God is man. The future depends upon man, God working through him. Christians are the chosen of God to carry out his program of evangelization throughout the world. Compared with those who do not put their trust in Christ our number may appear to be small. For the work yet to be done, our number is small; but there have always been small bodies, remnants, of God's people. The only remnant of the Church of Christ that has been held up through the ages is that remnant with its poisonous fangs. 

To me the greatest thanksgiving is the presence of the faithful brethren in the midst of many people as a dew from the sky. Christians are adopted sons of Abraham, would not the people of Israel have been thrilled to see him alive and back in their midst to demand the surrender of their captors? 

The program of evangelization and the Christian life is a program of thanksgiving. We have to make sure a peaceful future. The world has been spoiled for we are the only remnants of the Church of Christ through him who has remained faithful to Christ. This remnant will be a blessing throughout the world.

We live on farms. Both the figures show a very definite decrease in the number of persons living in rural areas. Pray for those struggling Christians. We have not heard from our men in business, our men in the ministry of God in Germany since the war began. Have they been exterminated, or is there a remnant left? Make it your prayer that remnant will be found there to spread the gospel and Sabbath truth.

The Sabbath Recorder

During the morning of May 9, 1945, a group of special teams in De Ruiter were to conduct a religious survey of four townships in this area: Lincklaen, Oteseic, Cuyler, and De Ruiter. The object of the survey was to learn the religious status and needs of the community and see how well our church programs were answering those needs. The ultimate end of the survey was to furnish information for a concerted effort in the future to reach the unreached in our communities.

The teams were headed by Ralph Williamson, director of rural work for New York State churches. His plan for conducting a survey is to meet the evening before the survey is to start, fellowship around the dinner table, organize for the survey, and receive instructions for the actual work of the survey. Each team was to be given a description of the population, agricultural and religious trends of the area, and a statement of the needs of the community. Whenever possible, teams are formed consisting of a layman and a visiting minister. The area to be surveyed is divided and each team assigned sections with a route assigned to each team.

The following morning the teams visited the homes of the desired information. Cards to be filled out at each home are very simple. The information received includes the name of each member of the household and the ages and school grade of children, the address, length of years lived at present residence, occupation, and the religious relationship of the family—including the name of the church and place, if members; if they are not members, the reason for this.

The team inquires about the attendance, whether it is regular, occasional, or not at all. Inquiry is also made concerning attendance at the church school.

Before mentioning some of the results and observations of the actual survey, it might be well to lay before you some figures and trends during the past fifty years. According to the 1940 census there were 3,079 people living in the area of this survey. Nearly two-thirds of the homes were homes of families of German origin. For those personally acquainted with the townships of Lincklaen and De Ruiter the number is considerably nearer. Both the figures show a very definite decrease in population since 1890, with the exception of the last decade for De Ruiter. Here are the figures: Lincklaen—1890, 726; 1900, 646; 1910, 710; 1920, 1,347; 1930, 1,410; 1940, 1,156; 1950, 1,047. For De Ruiter the figures are: 1890, 672; 1900, 646; 1910, 710; 1920, 1,347; 1930, 1,410; 1940, 1,069.
What does all this have to do with the survey? It all fits together, suggesting that the decline in church membership and attendance has a connection with the decrease in population. For one thing, it is true, we cannot account for the failure of the church to win to Christ the large number of non-Christians scattered throughout these hills.

Pagan America

One does not have to go very badly our rural communities need the Saviour until he visits the homes and sees for himself how spiritually illiterate many of these people are. The first afternoon my partner and I visited twenty-five homes and received information on four others, making a total of twenty-nine families contacted. These families represent the number only eight attended church regularly. The other teams found a similar proportion. The alarming fact is that large areas of this rural section are fast becoming pagan. As a result, the number of attendance.

The other teams found a similar proportion. Many of these reasons were given by the ministers present. One layman of the group exploded of all these reasons. The real cause, he said, was because they were not interested. They don't have an automobile, and yet they get to the village for the movie. If they want to go to the city to shop, they can get the work done in plenty of time. They do what they want to do. If they wanted to come to church, a large proportion of them could come.

How can we reach these people? Several suggestions were given. Our church programs must be co-ordinated so that we can pull together. Advertise what the churches are doing. We might furnish transportation to and from church, and see for himself how spiritual education and services and unite the various churches are the same. They are doing. We might furnish transportation to and from church, a large proportion of them could come.

Another thing we must do, the most important of all, is to show them their need. They must realize the message that they cannot afford to do without. Here is the main reason why the church has failed in its task. It has given the wrong impression of what church means. It is not the only God will save the world that life has something more for the Christian than others have. C. H. D. Whitehead makes it.

DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE?

Occasionally we hear people say, "What difference does it make what a person believes? The various denominations are the same. They are all working for the same goal, anyway. One day is as good as another for the soul." Is it not time we need to get away from our petty differences and unite on the broad principles of Christianity? We do believe that if all were united in a single church, our problems would be solved.

Does it make any difference what we believe? Jonathan Edwards, D. L. Moody, Charles G. Finney, and others thought it did. The church grew faster in their day than it has been in our own. In their day stress was placed upon the doctrines of the church. Even in our time the most bigoted sects are losing members. We are making rapid gains, while some of the more established denominations where doctrine is not so important are just holding their own or losing in losing in numbers. When one has had his own Christian experience, it does make a difference what he believes.

The important? God does not tell us to observe a Sabbath—rather, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy." Seventh Day Baptists feel that there is a difference between the God-given and the man-made sabbath. It is a part of our divine mission. We are glad to co-operate with other Christians. The TempRe of God is with the church; it is not the church that is the temple of God. The TempRe of God is with the church; it is not the church that is the temple of God.

CONFERENCE TO BE HELD

A telegram has just been received from the Conference President, Mr. P. B. Hurley, to the effect that the conference will be held at Milton, Wis., as planned. This is an answer to some of the questions which we have been receiving regarding the holding of General Conference this year.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The Temple of God

Yes, I am sometimes anxious about our attitude toward, and care of, the church building. Why try to enumerate the conditions which sometimes exist; dust and dirt, mud always in the corners either; paint marred; accumulations of paper or other refuse; wall moles, pictures, etc., hanging crooked. But those things which bother me may be overlooked by others. Some time ago it fell to my lot to try directing a church cleaning. And I say now, that after all we are not so unanimous in our standards of cleanliness as we should be. Mr. W. W. Reid

Marine Corps press correspondents have just revealed a Christmas story of 1943 from the fierce Battle of Tarawa. . . . It seems that just before Christmas, this particular group of Marines were to invade the Marshall Islands, they decided to celebrate by serenading Japanese prisoners from the Tarawa islands with Christmas carols. At first the Japanese did not understand, and thought they were being "prepared" for mass execution; but one prisoner, who said he was a Christian, stepped forward and expressed his thanks, while some others joined in shouting "Merry Christmas!" The service was attended by Lieut. George LaBarre, former Protestant Episcopal rector in Williamsburg, Va.

Semi-annual meeting

The semi-annual meeting of the northern Wisconsin and Minnesota churches will be held with the church at New America, WIS., June 15-17, 1945. Douglas North, Secretary.
CARING FOR OUR SPIRITUAL CHILDREN

Not to care for our children is considered a high offense in general and a child life in particular. This conclusion rests on the fact that children do not only need food and clothing, they are also to be cared for in their helplessness and given a fair opportunity with others. Therefore parents are culpable who bring children into the world and do not care for them, provided they are able to do so.

The same principle holds true regarding our spiritual children. A church is, or was intended to be a spiritual home. It receives its fold young people and others who need Christian nurture; but sometimes by virtue of neglect the spiritual children are left more or less in the cold to starve and die. This would seem to be a high offense in the Father's eyes, and Christ has made it plain that it is a church, whether it be large or small, which receives the Father's children into its fellowship must use the utmost diligence to care for them.

Furthermore, this principle holds regarding mission boards and denominations. Missions have reached a crisis in China and other lands, and the declining Christians might as well withdraw and leave the begotten peoples to themselves. The future of missions is as bright or dark; but however this may be, Christian denominations, having entered upon this task, cannot withdraw with impunity. They have brought into the folds of the church millions of converts in heathen lands, ten million of whom are now living and looking to the churches in America for help now needed. Christian denominations cannot ignore these followers of Christ and be blameless, whatever the future may be.

Seventh Day Baptists have established missions in foreign lands and they cannot escape their obligations to the members of their churches, though the road seems difficult. "No man having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." The Missionary Board, recognizing this truth, is setting aside a fund to aid our war-sickened churches as soon as possible and is asking the people to contribute liberally that this may be done.

W. L. B.

A LETTER FROM JAMAICA

Dear Secretary Burdick:

I had a very pleasant and profitable trip into Trelawny parish last weekend. I will write you of the Sabbath day at Wakefield. I was called at 5.45 a.m. At six o'clock we were on our way to Golden Grove Church. I was taken by the church and for baptism. Of course we walked, and the country was beautiful as we passed through the coconut grove with the banana and sugar cane patches beneath the coconuts. The "Queen of Spain Valley" seems to me the most typically tropical country I have ever seen.

As Pastor Lyons and myself wended our way down the valley, golden and the names of the people fell in behind—mostly afoot, a very few women or children riding donkeys—until the procession was strung out far behind along the road. Others were already at the pool where we were soon all gathered. It was a lovely scene in the early morning sunlight, the beautiful green of the palm leaves and other strange trees across the water, and a lovely meadow on this side. Here we gathered, the water included the sweet old hymns as two girls were buried with Christ in baptism.

I was back at the church at 8.45 a.m., with fol­lowing the minutes to wash up, shave, change clothes, and eat breakfast before Sabbath school. (I just made it.) Sabbath school followed for the day. The sermon four members were welcomed into the church. This was followed by the con­gregation of two babies. Then there was the covenant and communion service. We were dismissed at 1.45 p.m., to return at 3 p.m. for Bible study. All were back very soon af­ter 3 p.m., and then began a very earnest and very searching study and discussion of next week's Sabbath school lesson. The children also had their classes. This was followed by a good old-fashioned testimony meeting, all made ready for their Serenade, and nearly everyone had a song they wanted sung. And ("as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week,") as the sun began to sink behind the west hills, we sang that dear old hymn, "Day Is Dying in the West." Everyone agreed after the benediction that it has been a very beautiful and profitable Sabbath day.

As I sat in the soft shadows of the evening and reviewed the events of the day, do you wonder that my mind went back to America and other Sabbath? And though compar­isons are odious, I thought of those Christians who have a very full day of sacrifice, of those who would like to go to church and listen to a thirty-minute sermon. God grant that we may all get some of the "joys of the Sabbath" that these Jamaicans possess.

I pray to God He be, is very intelligently improving and that one day you may again visit this island where so many people love to talk of you and your visits here.

Yours in the cause,
Wardner Fitz Randolph.
Kingston, Jamaica.

THE UNION LENTEN SERVICES SUCCESSFUL

The Union Lenten Services held in the Milton and Milton Junction Methodist, Congregational, and Seventh Day Baptist churches are now a matter of history. Attendance from the beginning was good with an average congregation of around two hundred fifty. The final program of the series, presented each night by the high school gappella choir, which splendidly organization is directed by Kenneth A. Babcock. Each night's program included the music of the church, the university, and the high school. The last program included a moving picture in a series on the life of the Apostle Paul. These faithfully presented events from the book of Acts and were a source of inspiration for the period of our consideration of the Christian life. A short meditations was presented each night by one of the speakers. The program culminating the series was a service on Good Friday in the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. The general theme was "Following Jesus," and meditations directed the thoughts of the congregation to "Following Jesus." "In Temptation," by Rev. Wm. S. Carr; "In Prayer," by Rev. Elmo F. Randolph; "In Service," by Rev. Raymond W. Newell; and "In Suffering," by the pas­tor of this church. Each was presented in a separate period in which the inter-church choir directed by Professor L. H. Springer sang the following selection from the Lamb of God, "Handel; "Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs," "Handel; "I Waited for the Lord," "Handel; "He Is Risen," and "That Com­eth," from Moer's "Requiem."

From the interest shown in these meetings these situations can be drawn, that Chris­tian people have more interest in their faith in Christ Jesus Our Lord, and that there can be spiritual benefits as they draw together in services of united worship. Surely it has been a venture that will yield results in fur­ther co-operation among the people of the two communities.

Milton Junction Church News.

THE CHURCH IN OCCUPIED CHINA

The life of the Christian Church in occupied China has been disrupted very little by the Japanese, and interest and church attend­ance are higher than before the war. This was the opinion of Dr. T. Z. Koo, one of the secre­taries of the World's Student Christian Fed­eration, who was in Shanghai since the outbreak of the Pacific war and recently escaped to Free China.

Since the removal of foreign workers, the church has grown in much the same way as before the war. Chinese pastors are free to perform their ministries, to preach and to travel. When one speaks about Christianity there are not as many "indiscreet" in their pronouncement or anti-Japanese sentiments are they questioned by the Japanese authorities. There may have been a venture of no Christian who was in jail because he was a Christian.

A church in Shanghai are packed full. Doctor Koo reported. "There are two rea­sons for this," he said. "First, the Chinese people find in the church a circle of friends and a place for their ideas. Second, there has been a rela­tionship of community life which is safe from the invader. Second, almost everyone in oc­cupied China has been nine months in the culminating the series was a service on Good Friday in the Milton Seventh Day Baptist Church. The general theme was "Following Jesus," and meditations directed the thoughts of the congregation to "Following Jesus." "In Temptation," by Rev. Wm. S. Carr; "In Prayer," by Rev. Elmo F. Randolph; "In Service," by Rev. Raymond W. Newell; and "In Suffering," by the pas­tor of this church. Each was presented in a separate period in which the inter-church choir directed by Professor L. H. Springer sang the following selection from the Lamb of God, "Handel; "Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs," "Handel; "I Waited for the Lord," "Handel; "He Is Risen," and "That Com­eth," from Moer's "Requiem."

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break of the war it lost two-thirds of its membership through death, but, said Doctor Koo, when I left in September, 1944, we had more members than we did before the war. Many were students and other young people, he said.—Christianity and Crisis.

WOMAN'S WORK

WORSHIP PROGRAM
By Mrs. Eldred Batson

The Best We Have

Hymn: “More Love to Thee.”

As a continuation of last month’s worship program, the Board of Directors recommended that we present a series of hymns to express our love and gratitude for our deliverance from a crisis. This month we sing: "More Love to Thee." Through the calls to worship and meditation, it is our hope to express our thoughts concerning the men and women who have given their all to bring this about. What are we doing for our country and our God? Are we giving our best?

In a recent church bulletin there appeared the following poem, copied from elsewhere, and the author’s name was not given. Since the speaker expressed himself through our thought and meditation, it is reprinted here:

THE BEST WE HAVE

Christ wants the best. He in the far-off ages once claimed the forehead of the flock, the finest of the wheat; and still he asks his own with gentlest pleading to lay their highest hopes and brightest talents at his feet.

He’s not forget the feeblest service, humblest love; he only asks that of our stores to give to him.

The best we have.

Christ gives the best. He takes the hearts we offer and fills them with a glorious beauty, joy, and peace.

And in his service, as we are growing stronger, the calls to grand achievements still increase.

The richest gifts for us on earth, or in the heaven above are hid in Christ. In Jesus we receive the best we have.

And is our best too much? O friend, let us reach out how once our Lord poured out his soul for us, and in the prime of his mysterious manhood gave up his precious life upon the Cross! The Lord of lords, by whom the world was made, through bitter tears and sweat he gave his best he had!

Hymn: “Give of Your Best to the Master.” Scripture Reading: Psalm 92.

Prayer: That we are free to approach thy throne of grace, we thank thee. Make us grateful to thee for all our many blessings. Help us to give thee our best in all that we do. We thank thee for reproof for wrong-doing; we thank thee for that inward satisfaction when we do something for thee. Help us to serve thee carefully in all our walks of life. Amen.

Hymn: Jesus Is All the World to Me.

DIRECTORS’ MEETING

(Minutes of the Directors’ Meeting of the Women’s Society)

The Board of Directors of the Women’s Society of the Seventh Day Baptist denomination met in regular session May 13, 1945, in the Gym. J. M. Trainer Sabbath School Room with the following present: Mrs. J. L. Skaggs, Mrs. Oris Stutler, Mrs. M. C. Van Horn, Mrs. S. O. Bond, Mrs. Edward Davie, Mrs. Mrs. M. C. Davis, Mrs. Lotta Bond, Mrs. R. P. Seager, Mrs. Okey W. Davis, and Miss Greta F. Randolph.

Debates were conducted by Mrs. Otis Swiger; she used the theme: “Lasting Peace.” and based her remarks on Matthew 5: 3-12 and 2 Corinthians 4: 17-21. Prayers were offered by all present.

Mrs. S. O. Bond gave the treasurer’s report showing the balance in the different funds as follows: General Fund, $353; special project, $926.40; Helps’ Fund, $392.36; total, $1,418.25. Her report was accepted and placed on the record.

Mrs. M. C. Van Horn read the report of the Peace Committee. Her report was accepted and placed on file.

To the Board of Directors:

Your Peace Committee has received materials for study from several sources during the past two months. There have been passed among the members of the board many thousands of letters and other suggestions for study which will soon appear in the Sabbath Recorder.

Two leaflets, furnished free of charge by the American Association for the United Nations, will be sent by the committee to all keyworkers. The committee plans to pay an active membership fee of $2 to this organization to help in its campaign to increase the study of the United Nations, to arouse discussion, and to further other objectives of the organization.

We urge all people to study and discuss peace. Keep up with the news. Read such articles as “Is Peace My Job?” in the May issue of Christian Herald; listen to Walter Van Kirk in his radio broadcasts for study of the News,” at 6:45 p.m. each Sabbath over NBC, followed in the next half hour by “Our Foreign Policy.” Both of these broadcasts at the present time come directly from the San Francisco Convention.

This committee is in need of funds to carry on its work.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. M. C. Van Horn, Chairman,

Mrs. M. C. Davis, Miss Lotta M. Bond.

Voted that $5 be allowed the Peace Committee as a working fund.

Mrs. Oris Stutler reported for the Ways and Means Committee and read the report of Rev. L. O. Greene.

To the Board of Directors:

Your Ways and Means Committee has had one meeting of the last regular meeting of the board. At that time there was much discussion of fields waiting for the service of our evangelist. Rev. L. O. Greene.

The committee appreciate the problems which are being met by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Burns on the Iowa field and assure them of the support and the cooperation of the board. We recommend to the Board of Directors that the salary of Mr. Burns be increased $10 per month beginning April 1, 1945.

Promoter Greene has brought his work in Edinburg to a close. He is setting up in the Arkansas field.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Oris Stutler, Chairman.

Voted that car repair bill of Arthur Burns, $20, be paid.

Voted that the salary of Mr. Burns be increased $10 a month, beginning April 1, 1945.

Voted that $5 be sent Rev. L. G. Osborn on expenses in Franklin City, and that a vote of thanks be extended to him.

Voted that the Ways and Means Committee consider the matter of the budget report to the Commission.

A letter was read from Deacon Wiley of Chicago, Ill., suggesting the purchase of a trailer for the use of the promoter of evangelism. The matter was referred to the Ways and Means Committee for consideration.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR JUNE 9, 1945

The Ministry of Jesus

Scripture—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Memory Selection—John 10: 10


THE SABBATH RECORDER

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR JUNE 9, 1945

The Ministry of Jesus

Scripture—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Memory Selection—John 10: 10


THE SABBATH RECORDER

Voted to meet July 15 at 2:30.

These minutes were read and approved.

Mrs. J. L. Skaggs, President.

Greta F. Randolph, Secretary.

Salem, W. Va.,

May 13, 1945:

NOTES

By Rev. L. O. Greene

Raymond and Margaret Prati, of 921 Hege-

man Street, Shenectady, N. Y., write me they are now "out in full-time service for the Lord. They have given up all other work to follow Christ in spreading his word and teaching unsaved. They are "finding it a wonderful, satisfying experience—a real adventure in faith. We are praying for God to use us upon his request to cover all their material and spiritual needs. They are anxious for our churches to know that they are available for special evangelistic services. They have already been doing work in several of our churches, but at present are at home waiting for further calls. These two are a plus to our church by many of our people, and we hope their serv-

ices will be wanted by some of our churches immediately. I am impressed by their deep consecration and their sincerity of purpose to serve Christ in this way. I appreciate, too, the high literary and musical talent of their group, their ability to witness, and I trust they can be greatly used by our churches. Write soon and arrange for them to come and help you in evangelistic work.

Meetings have been begun at Texarkana, Tex., by the Greene’s. A hall has been rented on "College Hill." Services are held each night. There are more than a dozen Seventh Day Baptists in the city. They are anxious to get their light shine for Christ and have set up a little league committee of them. I am members of the church at Fouke.

Churches once built by the prayer and sacrifices of Christian parents are root out the faith of their children. Entire denomina-

Sabbath Recorder
denial of the divine inspiration of the Bible, our Lord's divinity, his blessed atonement and his resurrection on the third day, his return to judge the quick and the dead. We ask, as unbelief waxes bolder,

Christian Education

New Henry Putten, Alfred Putten, El. T.

DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE

Henry Snyder Gehman, professor of Old Testament literature and chairman of the department of Biblical literature of Princeton Theological Seminary, has recently revised and rewritten the "Davis Bible Dictionary." Publication date for this new book was September 18, 1944.

The "Westminster Dictionary of the Bible," has the following features which commend it very highly for use by church school teachers, ministers, or any student of the Bible:

1. Its explanation of terms is complete and is based on recent advances made in philology, history of the East, and Bible criticism. The editor has made an extensive study of scientific Biblical periodicals of many languages and of publications on Oriental research. All entries have been checked and revised, and some rewritten.

2. A set of sixteen maps, in color, so are prepared that the locating cities, towns, and nation boundaries is a simple matter.

3. In size it is about 6½ by 9½ inches. By using thin paper a complete dictionary is built in this compact style.

4. It is the only self-pronouncing Bible dictionary in existence. The diacritical marks and letters in use for phonetic transcriptions are those employed by "Webster's International Dictionary" of the English language, second edition, 1934.

5. The editor has drawn upon the best resources of our time to produce a work accurate, thorough, and authoritative in statement and content, and unsurpassed in its constructive value to all students and readers of the Bible.

The above was sent to the publishers of this book which would be a valuable aid to Bible study for anyone buying it at the price of $3.00, and the publisher is the Westminster Press, 925, Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia 7, Pa. H. S.

"Have the churches of Christ lost courage? Why is the world so much subdued, the indictment of disloyalty and treachery so gentle and muted?"—Dr. Walter A. Maier (Quoted in Christian Digest).

YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHURCH ACTIVITIES

By Shirley Davis

The most important thing that I think the church can do to help the young people keep interested in its work tries a lot in the different activities and makes them feel as though they are a part of the church. Organizations such as the missionary society can get the girls interested in their meetings by asking them to take part in their meetings and letting them do different things to help, such as bazaar and food sales. Letting them make some things for these occasions will help. The boys can be included in different activities than photographs and learning to play the drums. The church can make the young people feel as though they are helping in many ways.

I think when the church has a summer camp it should let the young people help plan it and have some important duty that will cultivate their interests and abilities. They could help plan different activities and make up games for church parties. If the church provides different activities the church can make the young people feel as though they are helping in many ways.

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"DON'T FREEZE ME IN!!"

By Caroline Cole

Every time I think about my job in church school I feel cramped. The current musical favorite seems to reflect my sentiments, "Don't be pushing out those walls, if just teaching a class on Sunday morning is not enough. Let me see now, what can the matter be?"

I can't see through my mind is this: I don't really know these children. They are pretty much for a row of faces, dress-up clothes, the look of behavior, almost bursting for want of more activity. I see them for an hour a week and once in a while I meet them on the street or at the store, but what do I really know about them? Either I'll keep plugging along as I do now, not accomplishing very much, or else I'll have to take this job so seriously that I'll make some opportunities to get better acquainted with each of them. But who has time for that? "We would not plane wall or powdering some parties; it would mean visiting in their homes! And I already have a million other things I have to do which are so important.

Still, the church can't do all the religious training of children, even if some homes think so. You don't, even at home, a Jim at school, a Jim at church school, and a Jim on the playground. You have just one Jim. You can't, even during his spare time? What kind of books does he read? What radio programs does he hear? Where is he in the family find up? — the oldest, youngest, only boy, or where? Does he get along well in school? Do his classmates like him? Or is he happier with older or younger people? Is he normally quiet? Does he naturally go off in a dream? What does he really think about God and Jesus? These are some questions I ought to know if I do what on Sunday morning is going to have any more effect with Jim than water does on a duck's back.

Yes, I still need to be prepared for the class session; I still need to use the newer methods and materials. But what good are these if they tell me nothing for Jim or the other? There just is no alternative; I must know these children.

The inevitable consequence stirs me in the face. I must visit the homes. I should have a reason for calling. The first of the year I can take my plans for the year, the beginning of Lent, or the Fourth of July, or the Bik or the Sick Day? Children's service? Can I call to check on the missing or the new girls? Why ask Betty and Miles to look up some special information for next week? I suppose if I think of this, it's the same good reason for going to see all of them.

Even if I can't call at their homes, the telephone is still "good parliamentary procedure," so to speak; and the U. S. mails are always at our service. Fifth graders love to
have their own mail, their own telephone calls; it is getting started that will be the hardest. Probably after getting acquainted with the families, girls, it can think of lots of reasons for going back. As the little girl said when she wakened from a dream, 'I feel I can do a little in a big way.' So I begin to feel new to my job of teaching. I see that I just can't fence myself in for one hour in a room with a group of strangers.

Our Letter Exchange

Dear Mrs. Greene:

I am nine years old. I have two brothers. Their names are David and Joseph. My father is a chaplain and my mother is a librarian. My Recorder girls are. Your father and mother are my friends. You'll write from her nap, don't worry. I often had goldfish in my schoolroom especially for grown-ups, but you told me I must have a little in my home. I had no idea that crawfish crawl- ing out of Freddie's pocket. I understand that Andover School does not close until June 27, so you see Andover children still have over four weeks of school. Are they lucky or are you? Sincerely your friend, Misraph S. Greene.

Mrs. Greene:

This is my first letter to you for the Children's Page. I have been here in Gentry this last winter going to school. I stay at my grandmother's house. Her name is Mrs. Dan Ricketts.

I am eight years old. I will be in the fifth grade next year.

My daddy and mother live in Tulsa, Okla. My little brother, Larry, is with them. He is five years old.

I want to go to Sabbath school. I shall miss it when I go back to Tulsa.

Sharon Ricketts.

Dear Sharon:

I am very glad you have had at last written me your first letter, and I hope you will write many more. Not only is it your first letter, but you are the only 'Sharon' who has ever written to me. It is a very pretty name, and I hope you'll tell me sometime how your parents came to call you Sharon. When I was a little girl living in Wisconsin I sometimes went to a nearby town named Sharon.

I am glad to hear that you are getting along so nicely in school. I was very glad to know that you are already ready for fourth grade when only eight years old. I'm thinking you must like school. I think it is fine that you have a chance to attend Sabbath school where you may learn more and more to love and serve Jesus. Your sincere friend, Misraph S. Greene.

Influence of Church Felt in Conference Activities

Place of Dependent Peoples Brings Warm Debate

By Cameron P. Hall

The United Nations Conference is now hard at work in small technical committees, each committee for a specific part of the proposed charter. In these meetings amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals, submitted by the delegations and taking up even hundred pages, are being sifted, debated, and acted upon, with final action eventually by the conference itself.

The Conference Committee on "Preamble, Principles and Purposes," had reached San Francisco the evening of the previous day. He had flown fifteen thousand miles from the Ukraine, whose delegation he headed. He was just now reporting on the meeting of his committee. General Sumner from South Africa had laid before the committee a draft of a "Preamble to the Charter for the United Nations." Technical Committee I had adopted this draft in its present form, and only its final wording was left to be done.
Mr. Molotov, head of the Soviet Russian delegation, met the press the day after these unanimous representations of the Big Four were announced. He voiced their warm support by his delegation. He told that in discussion on human rights he had urged that the right to work and the right to an education be mentioned. He had withdrawn this proposal only because of the general political sentiment of a list of human rights; that was to be left for the organization to reveal in later practice. There was wide agreement among his listeners that the challenge in these words of Mr. Molotov no nation dare evade.

Issue of Dependent Peoples Brings Threat to Peace
What is to be written into the charter, on dependent peoples, is being warmly debated. There may well prove to be the problem most difficult of solution which will be faced by the conference.

Here is the situation: The United States has submitted a document with its position. This is under discussion by the four countries now joined by France, together with other nations, like Australia, most concerned. The concept of trusteeship is prominent in the proposal of the United States. The issue at stake is whether this concept will receive something more than lip service. Certain positions held strongly by the United States and by Great Britain are not very reassuring at this point.

It is generally recognized that a sure threat to lasting peace lies in persons and groups, and the fears of hundreds of millions of the darker skinned peoples, the majority with no voice in this conference, is the subject of concern. With the world-wide mission and outreach of the Christian Church, the church leaders at the conference are watching for every way open to be of help.

WHENCE COME JUVENILE CASES?
We have a great many delinquent boys and girls under seventeen years of age. In most instances these boys and girls come from homes that are either broken or are not functioning. Between 80 and 85 per cent of our juvenile cases come from homes where liquor or drunkenness was a primary cause or contributing factor.—Judge Frankland W. L. Miles, Boston.

Absolute Values
One of the hymns our junior choir sings includes these lines:

"Like thy rocks of towering grandeur, Make me strong and sure."

More lasting than rocks—which give way under the impact of earthquakes and erosion alike—more lasting than anything except God himself are the absolute values which stem from his attributes, his memory, if you will. "No honor of a man, brotherhood, prayer, purity of thought, devotion to a high cause—these are the stuff of eternity. Jesus said of anyone who intentionally harms a little child that it would be better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and he be cast into the sea than that he should encounter God's memory. No father grown old before his years by honest toil, no mother broken by responsibility, no soldier in any man's army is forgotten by God. Mention L. T. Crandall. John has been presented to the Boy Scouts of America, some years ago, a large tract of land and a substantial check saying, as he did so, some of the people here have not been taught to think in dollars and cents. I congratulate you, the leaders of scouting, upon your opportunity to think in terms of personal interests and to give a living tribute to one of God's absolute values.

There is a warning here. God's memory blocks the misuse of eternal good. No young couple may make animals of themselves but God remembers. No man may go mad over what he dreams of to be his success but God remembers. No nation can give itself to imperialism which is the exploitation of resources not its own but God remembers. God remembers what we might above all things like to forget. He pursues us like a "hounding of heaven" until we repent or take the consequences of every evil way.

Immateriality
The Christian doctrine most closely related to Memorial Day is that of immortality. Some of us base our belief in the immortality of the human soul not so much upon the gospel story of the resurrection of Jesus as upon the Bible testimony concerning the nature of God. The resurrection is valid to us not because a small group of Jesus' closest friends claimed they saw him alive, but because almost every character in the whole Bible knew that God is dependable and provident. The former Jesus would be. If proved to be only mortal, then God would have been shown to be false and fickle. "The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone" because God remembers. "A thousand ages in his sight are but as a watch in the night, and there is none other which taketh so long a view or keep so steady a hand on the things which ought not to be shaken. Far ahead he sees for each one of us, his children, the character of our lives and whether we will be in this life, then in the next our spirits may grow and mature into something worthy.

How satisfying is this for us as we think of those of us who have "lived long since smote off their heads". In the words of another, they have "gone adventuring out ahead of us. We can imagine ourselves saying to us, 'We are possessed. I am busy in a great service. The old frustrations are gone. We do great things here. Where are we can see better how God is working his purpose out. It means a great price and we have paid a little of it, and you are paying some of it, but it is marvelously worth while.'"

The bright, new countries not only belong to us because they will be there ahead of us.

When We Forget
Perhaps our hearts would break if we did not forget some things. It is certainly not best not to forget any things that hurt—great or small. But God can be relied upon to remember more clearly than any historian can record the lessons which experience should teach. I talked with the wife of a man who spent long months in the Libby prison of Civil War days. She told me that one blanket had to suffice for eight men and that all eight had to roll over together when one was forced to ease his position. Memorial Day commemorated, first of the things, made the supreme sacrifice in that war between the states. That was also a war in part between the isolationists and those who believed in the world. I think God would or us to remember that, too. God remembers the wasted estates of the South, the belittled Negroes, the desolate widows and orphans, and "Bloody Manassas" and what General Sherman said war was. And, God will not soon forget the bankrupt cities by which we have purchased our present, priceless opportunity to build a just and durable peace.

A child presses his nose flat against a misty window pane watching the world. One by one, drops form on the radio antenna and as they fuse and run down the wire they fall to the spongoid sod beneath. In some such way God gathers together the countless impressions of joy and sorrow, love and hate, frustration and peace. Like a potent distiller he draws off from the accumulations of the ages those things which conform to his purpose for man. God is at his anvil beating out a kinder, freer, finer world. He remembers.

"We all separate from the love of Christ? shall . . nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."

Alfred Station, N. Y.

"Righteousness begins at the center of one's being and works outward to the circumference."
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION
The Central Association will be held at Verona, N. Y., June 8-10, 1945. The theme will be: Faith for the Future. The tentative program is as follows:

Beginning at 2:30 Friday afternoon, Rev. E. H. Bottoms will conduct the devotions. Business will follow; then the woman's hour in charge of Mrs. H. L. Polan. In the evening there will be devotions by Mrs. Jennie Seamos, a sermon by Rev. Harmon Dickinson, and a prayer and conference meeting, led by Rev. J. W. Crofoot.

The Sabbath morning service will be in charge of Rev. H. L. Polan. An ordination sermon will be preached by Rev. Lester G. Osborn. An ordination service will be held in the afternoon. In the evening an anniversary program by the Verona Church will be given.

Sunday forenoon there will be devotions by the De Ruyter young people; business; children's group, led by Mrs. Sylvia Carr; junior group, led by Mrs. Ida Davis; an address by Rev. Harley Sutton. Sunday afternoon unfinished business will be taken care of. Then will follow a sermon by Rev. John Fitz Randolph and a consecration service by the Leonardsville young people.

Bernice D. Rogers,
Corresponding Secretary.

NEWS IN THE WORLD OF RELIGION
By W. W. Reid

There are twelve "musts" that the Christian is required to observe if America and the world are to be freed from race and color discrimination and a better world built, according to the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. Says the council: "We must realize that we have moral obligations to all men; demonstrate in practice our belief in the intrinsic worth and dignity of every human being; recognize that lines of division based upon color alone are unjust and tyrannical; substitute pride in the human race for racial pride; break away from the prejudices of convention and caste; make sure that every public measure to improve the quality of life of our people shall apply equally to all citizens; insure equal opportunity in every kind of useful work for all persons of equal skill and energy; make sure that the life of a person, his standing in the community and ability to meet his needs, is not made to depend upon race or color but only upon character and willingness to contribute his best; oppose all charlatans and demagogues; support with counsel, service, and material resources all constructive efforts for equal justice and opportunity for all; sponsor study groups, forums, fellowship in worship, and other interracial means through which men learn cooperation; make sure that in our churches those of every race and people shall be welcome to full membership and fellowship."

"Death rides the highway when Drink takes the wheel."

RECORDER WANT ADVERTISEMENTS

For Sale, Help Wanted, and advertisements of a local nature, will be run in this column at one cent per word for each insertion, minimum one cent.
Cash must accompany each advertisement.

TYPIWRITER SERVICE—Let us Maculize your partice. A special complete typewriter job $10.00. Cheaper than factory rebuilding; no expensive hewer­ing, but a thorough mechanical rebuilding—better than an overhaul. The complete process handled by skilled workmen with pride in their work and capable of producing fine work.

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TO ALL SEVENTH DAY BAPTISTS—To any of you who feel that the name "Baptist" does not suit you, I wish to offer you an opportunity to express your purpose. At present the name "Baptist" seems to me to be a stumbling block to the progress of the church. It is time we should express our purpose in a way that will help us in our work and enable us to give our fellow man a message that will help him. Let us call upon the Lord's name and be baptized by immersion. Let us give our fellow man the truth and the love of Christ. Let us call upon the Lord's name and be baptized by immersion.

CHILD LETTERS

Written by
Dr. Ross W. Palmberg
Seventh Day Baptist Medical Missionary to China, 1894 - 1940

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