

# Macedonian Call

"Come Over into Macedonia and Help Us."—(Acts 16:9.)

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## We Fathers and Mothers



### A Confession

A father who was a farmer-preacher once stood before an audience of Christians on Lord's day morning, and said: "When my children were little, they would often come to me at the close of my day's work on the farm, and say, 'Papa, won't you tell us a story; papa, won't you read to us?' I would turn them away with the excuse, 'Oh, I'm too tired tonight, I'm too busy; wait till some other time.' When their repeated requests were turned continually aside, they ceased to come, their hungry minds were not filled with the good lessons of life I might have taught them, and they turned to other avenues to satisfy their desire to know. Today I would love to read to them out of the great Book of Life and tell them some of the wonderful stories there of right and wrong, but they are not interested. I lost a golden opportunity of doing good, for they turned to other fields of information and their minds have become filled with worldly things, and they are a grief of mind to their mother and me." And his eyes moistened as he confessed his parental neglect.

If you would ask me what is the matter with the world? what is the matter with the Church?—I would answer that this farmer-preacher has explained these questions to us. Parental neglect in training the child in Divine truth—neglect especially in early years—this is the cause of most of the evil of the world.

### The Nature of the Child

For many years the child learns practically all he knows from his elders. He learns to talk by imitation, he learns to walk by imitation, he learns to sow to the spirit by imitation, and he learns to sow to the flesh by imitation. A professor in criminology in New York recently said, after investigating more than three thousand criminals, that the period between the age of three and six is the most impressionable age in the life of a person. The Roman Catholic priest

knows that, and that is the reason he says, "Give me a child till he is seven years old, and you may have him." In early life he can so impress the religious rites of that denomination on its mind that they will never be effaced. That same professor of criminology found that two out of three delinquents come in contact with no religious influence at all; and I venture to say that the training of the third is very superficial. A poet has said, "The way the twig is bent, the tree's inclined." And yet, notwithstanding these facts, which nearly all parents know to a certain extent, there are very few even professed Christian homes where they have any religious training. Timothy had a good mother and grandmother, and they evidently planted their faith in him; and Paul says, "Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." So the responsibility for this delinquency of the young people falls nearly altogether on the parents, so far as the Lord is concerned at least. If the state wishes to raise up good citizens it should spend time trying to train the young people in morals, a thing which the state is not seriously doing now; and if Christians wish to save souls, they should begin at home.

There is another period in the life of every boy and girl which is very critical. It lies generally in the teens. It is the age when a boy thinks he is a man long before he is, and when a girl thinks she is a woman before she is. It is a time when they know more, in their own estimation, than their fathers and mothers, or any one else. It is the smart aleck age. Some one has called the child's behavior through this period—Going over Fool Hill; and I think the expression is appropriate. Some children, of course, go up the Hill farther than others. They know nothing about this dangerous Hill only as they are taught; but think they have suddenly gained by their superior efforts, a wonderful point of view! It is the duty of parents to warn the children of this Hill before they get to it, and they should try, at least, to keep them near the base. If the children reach the top of this Hill and pick out the broad road that leads downward through forbidden and dangerous fields, then parents are often to blame for not instructing them in early life on the distorted view from the summit of this Hill.

But just here some parents will say, "I tried to get my child to do right, but he would not; I tried to keep him off Fool Hill, but he disregarded my word." But mother, father, **how much** did you try, and **how soon** did you begin the great work? How much time did you spend with the boy or girl in that impressionable age between three and six?—how much moral and religious instruction did you give him then? To begin at thirteen is generally too

# MACEDONIAN CALL

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late. The foundation stone of teachability has not been laid, and they will not listen.

Young man, young woman, keep off Fool Hill. The view from the top reveals only the flowers and green herbage over a road of briars and thorns, which finally leads to a dread abyss. Consider well the words of advice and warning spoken by those who too have stood upon the same Hill and have started out on the delusive path. The son of the wisest man that ever lived once stood upon that Hill. His father's kingdom fell into his hands, and when the people demanded lighter taxes he took the advice of the young men instead of the old wise counsellors of his father; and he lost a good part of his kingdom. (See 1 Kings 12.) By following the advice of the young instead of the experienced, you will not lose a kingdom, but you may lose a soul—your soul. "Stop, look and listen."

### Apologizing for Immorality Among the Young

It is astonishing to know that there are some who apologize for the looseness in morals among young people today. They say, "Oh, the young people are not as bad as you think they are; there has always been immorality; it is only a new freedom into which they have come, and they will soon learn how to use it." Go with me to that dance hall where the young men and women are swinging about the room in passionate motions. Go with me to that sequestered nook where boys and girls are talking of their sexual relations as two of the same sex would talk. Attend the bathing beaches and see with your own eyes the near-nude familiarities there. Peek into that automobile parked along the road side and see what is going on. Do you tell me now that all is well with the young? Don't say that boys and girls used to sit close together in buggies. It is true that there has always been immorality; but in years gone by it was mostly in the world, but now it is in the church; then it was the exception, now it is the rule. When I see a man or woman today who says that the world is not worse morally than it was twenty-five years ago, I say to myself, "Poor deluded soul! you too are drifting!" Judge Lindsay, formerly of the juvenile court in Denver, Colo., to whom many of the young people confided their sins, said that more than half of the young people are sexually impure. Is my boy or girl one of that half? should be the serious question of every parent.

### God's Plan of Training the Boys and Girls

But we need to enter more into the details of Jehovah's plan of making good citizens and righteous men and

women out of the young people. We have tried man's plan, and it seems to have utterly failed. We have formed Sunday schools, Bible schools and colleges; we have formed organization after organization to better the condition of the young, and these have largely failed, it seems. Why not try God's plan a while. It has never been seriously tried, except by a few. In the first place, God proposes that youth shall reverence age. The young may go to school and learn many things which their parents never had the privilege of learning, but there is one thing which the parents have which the children do not have—they have experience. They have seen moral seed planted, grow and bring forth fruit, and thus they are qualified to speak with some authority on such; but the children have not seen that, and that is the reason they often say, "I don't see why I can't do this or that, or why I can't go with this person or that person." Evidently because of this the Lord intended for the older people to guide the younger. Therefore he said, "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God." (Lev. 19:32.) Such respect for age and experience would help the young along the way that is safe. But if children are not taught this respect, who is to blame?

In America today there is little respect for fathers and mothers. With the falling down of parental authority the nation goes down, for no nation is stronger than its family. Say what you please about China and India and their heathenism, but they respect their parents there, and they have continued for thousands of years. With the home broken up as it is being broken up in America today, I do not believe we shall continue fifty years without some great calamity.

God proposed to get rid of rebellion among children thus: "Every one that curseth his father or his mother shall surely be put to death." (Lev. 20:9.) Do you say that way was cruel? But remember that only a young man now and then would have had to be put to death before there would have been order, instead of such chaos as we have among our young men today. If a child talks back to his parents now or even fights back, and we think it is "cute" in the little darlings, we should not pucker up our mouths when in after years we taste the bitter fruit of their cursings and revilings.

And when a father had a stubborn and rebellious son, who was a glutton and a drunkard, and he could do nothing with him, he was to take him to the elders of the city, and "all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die; so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear." (Deut. 21:18-21.) It is because there is not a stronger hand brought down on them that we have so much crime among the young. In any great American city there are more murders than in all England, and the reason is that the offenders are not punished as they should be. But these young men are simply going the way they are permitted to go.

Here is what Solomon, that many of many children, said: "He that spareth the rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." (Prov. 13:24.) "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction will drive it far from him." (Prov. 22:15.) "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6.) But we live in a molly-coddle age. We are so good and kind to our children that we will not punish them, no matter what they do. In the first place, we have only

one or two, and we seek to satisfy their every whim. If the teacher punishes our child at school, we rise up in arms, believe everything the child tells us rather than the teacher, and raise a rumpus—helping our child very much in his onward road to hell. And when the church tries to clean itself up, and shows that it is necessary to exercise discipline on our child, we rise again, and tell the elders that if they exclude our sons they can take our names off too. We love son and daughter more than we love Christ, and you know that Christ says that such are not worthy of him. And thus again we help our wayward child on to his eternal ruin.

But here is God's remedy for many of the ills which now confront our land. "These words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Deut. 6:6, 7.) "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4.) These two passages, one from the Old Testament and one from the New, present one of the most helpful of doctrines to mankind, and most of our ills is because we have thrown it to the winds. There must be a standard of morality, or else we descend to the level of the brutes; and if the Bible is not the inspired Word of God, then there is no such thing as morality, and there is nothing to hinder us from becoming as the dogs and cats in moral things. As the Bible comes to be obeyed less, and the theory of Evolution comes to be believed more, we can see that men are descending in morals to the level of the animals from whom they say they came. But how can we expect much from the young people when so many of us are like the farmer-preacher—are too busy or too tired to teach the children as God commands?

But I would not have you believe that no children properly taught will never go astray. Sometimes in the age of passion they may wander off. But the things they learned at father's and mother's knee will never be forgotten; and when the passions have subsided they may turn back to the truths they learned in youth. So father and mother, never grow weary in well doing, for God has said that his word will not return unto him void. Continue to sow the seed, especially in early life, and back it up with righteous living in yourself.

### The Sinful Neglect of Christian Parents

We are deeply interested in the food which our children eat, and see that none of it is harmful; yet there is poison which they are absorbing which is a thousand times worse, to which we given little attention. The things which our children see and read are food for their minds. There never was a time when there was more filth thrown out in the form of literature. Some of it is not permitted in the mails, yet it is found at the news stands. Boys and girls are devouring that filth and we sleep on and on. The motion picture is throwing sex appeal after sex appeal upon the screen, and most of this is poison to the mind, for youth tries to carry out the things it sees there.

Parents wish their children to shine in personal dress and appearance, but give little attention to their behavior. Mothers will work hard that their daughters may have beautiful clothes to wear, but toil not at all that they may be clothed in righteousness. They spend much time in making ornaments for dresses, yet have no time to

help dress them with modesty. Many mothers seem never to have read what Peter says: "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." (1 Pet. 3:3, 4.) They seem not to know that Paul has said that "Women adorn themselves in modest apparel," for they neither dress modestly themselves nor dress their daughters modestly. They thus open the way to break down what modesty their girls have had. But the children are simply going the way they are permitted to go. The sin lies with the parents.

We never go to sleep at night till we see that the children have fresh air coming into their bedrooms; but we give little attention to their moral atmosphere which is poisoning their souls. The associates which our children have, constitute their moral atmosphere. "Evil companionships corrupt good morals," says Paul. Many foolish mothers push their twelve or thirteen-year-old girls out into society rather than try to hold them close to themselves till they know something about life. Parents let their children run loose all hours of the day and night. The children come home from school on time or not, and nothing is said. They come and go as they please, and associate with whom they please. They are given an automobile with which they can travel the downward road "on high." And—parents are to blame.

How interested we are in the children's school work! We plan that they shall go through high school, and then on to college. Possibly we have already selected the college to which we expect to send them. The boys play basket ball and football, and both boys and girls belong to college societies. We wish them to shine. And yet perhaps in all their lives we have never had them memorize two dozen verses from God's Word. We have been too busy to teach them the great lessons of right and wrong found in the Bible. When as little children they came to us and wanted us to tell them stories or to read to them, like the farmer-preacher we turned them aside because we were too tired or too busy, and they have now gone into life with practically no knowledge of God's Word. Possibly we did send them to Bible school Sunday morning, but the child ought to receive every day as much instruction in morals and religion as he gets in a modern Sunday school once a week. No wonder the child comes out of college an infidel. He has simply gone the way his parents permitted—yea, encouraged—him to go. Don't tell me that such parents are Christians. They may be church members, but they are not Christians.

Many a man and woman say, "I don't wish my boy to have to work as I had to work," and so they strive to send their child out into the world with money. But after all, dear friend, did hard work hurt you? Perhaps it was the making of you. Jeremiah says, "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." What the rising generation needs is more work and less play. They are trying to play their way through life. The boy sees the struggle for money in your life, and he hears such talk all his days at home. He gathers from you that the getting of money is the great purpose of life. So he throws himself into the fray. You are concerned about his success here, but not hereafter. You help him to get a home here, but do not seriously help him to get a home

beyond. You are anxious for him to lay up treasures on earth, but help him not to lay up treasures in heaven. The cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches have kept you from guiding the children's minds to higher and better things. To speak plainly: you are covetous; and Paul says that covetousness is idolatry, and that no idolator hath any inheritance in the kingdom of God and Christ.

And our children must shine in music. We spend many dollars on their lessons, and will ding-dong on them to get them to practice every day—yet possibly we will not work with them an hour in a month to have them memorize the soul-music in the Word of God. One entertains, the other instructs; one has to do with this life only, the other with the life to come. Yet the great mass of professed Christian parents is ten times more interested in this harmony of sounds than in the harmony of the soul with God and man.

### The End of It All

Don't think, dear brother, that I have overdrawn this picture of parental neglect. Keep your eyes open and see what is going on in the world. I believe this neglect is undermining the Church, the state, and all society. I believe we have only begun to reap the harvest we have been sowing to the flesh. Do you ask me why I so think; I answer: Because the fundamentals of a sound civilization and healthy church have been cast aside. And one of those fundamentals which have been cast aside is—the teaching of children by parents in the home. As we have seen, the most impressionable age in the life of a person is between three and six, and that is the time when the parents alone have charge of the child. But, and I say it with sadness, there is in that time almost an utter neglect of the moral and religious training of the child. And not only then, but all through the course of the child's life, we show the traits of our farmer-preacher who was too busy or too tired to do **the most important work in all the world**—guide a soul toward heaven. And in later years we shall find, as did he, that when we are anxious to teach our children in divine things, they have no inclination at all. And as we sit alone in our grief over a sinful son or a wayward daughter, the tears will roll down our cheeks too as we realize that the summer of our seed-sowing and seed-tending is past, that the harvest of our precious fruit is ended, and that the souls of our sons and daughters are not saved.—D. A. Sommer.

### "Perilous Times"

In 2 Tim. 3:1 we are told that "in the last days perilous times shall come." But what will bring them? Abstaining from all appearance of evil will not bring them. To shun evil, to keep ourselves "unspotted from the world" will not bring them. Then what? Let Paul tell us. In this same chapter, verses 2-6, he tells us that "lovers of their own selves" is one of the many things. When we get to thinking more of self than of the Lord and His Church, we are worldly-minded and will assist in bringing about these "perilous times" in the Church. Then he says "covetous", "boasters", "proud" (which is of the Devil, the Book says), "blasphemers", "disobedient to parents", "unthankful", "unholy", "trucebreakers", "false accusers", "incontinent", "despisers of those that

are good", "traitors", "heady", "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God" (worldliness), "having a form of godliness" . . . "from such turn away".

All of these are worldly, fleshly and bring on the "perilous times" in the Church. Such worldliness is, perhaps, hurting the church today more than anything else.

Let us notice the meaning of some of these words. What is meant by "false accusers"? Marginal reading is "Makebates," and a make-bate is a make-strife; or a mischievous, contentious person. Devil himself has his name (Diabolos) from this word, because he is an accuser of the brethren.

You begin card playing, going to questionable places, then when the elders visit you, you become angry and contend that there is no harm in a "decent dance", a "civil game of cards", etc. You are a make-strife; or a mischievous, contentious person and cause much trouble in the Church. You are helping to bring on the "perilous times" in the Church.

Then "incontinent" means "uncontrolled; indulging unlawful lust; lewd." You allow the flesh to give way to the temptations of life, begin doing things you know are wrong; indulge in unlawful lust, and it may be a lust after entertainment at a picture show, at a dance, etc., and thus you cause disturbance in the Church because you love worldliness more than you love righteousness. You may go so far as to indulge lewdness and try to keep it hid from the better class of persons, but "behold your sins will find you out", and you will meet them in the judgment.

Then "heady" means "wilful; rash. Apt to affect the head; intoxicating." You have become so DRUNK on worldly pleasures that you really don't care for disturbing the Church and hindering its growth. In 2 Tim. 2:26, we have the same idea when Paul says, "recover themselves", etc. The Greek really means to awake from a deep sleep—such as may be the consequence of intoxication; refers to fowlers who scatter seeds steeped in intoxicating drugs, intended to stupefy the birds, so they may be easy to catch. Such a fowler is Satan.

Many brethren become so intoxicated with worldliness that they wish to have the world, or part of the world, in the Church rather than the Church in the world. Their drunkenness on worldliness stupefies them to such an extent they do not care for hindering the growth of the Church, or for dividing the Church. It was that kind of drunkenness that caused that "Rough Draft" to be written, and many other worldly things to hinder the Lord's work.

"Form" means "External appearance; mold; pattern; model." Too many brethren have a "form of godliness"; that is, an EXTERNAL appearance of righteousness, but within they have a card table, a dance, or some other worldly thing which offends some of the brethren who wish to "shun the appearance of evil", and Paul says, "But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye SIN AGAINST CHRIST." (1 Cor. 8:12.)

Are you, my brother, guilty of sinning against Christ, because you are doing worldly things that wound the conscience of some of the brethren? Worldliness is damaging the growth of the Church today more, I fear, than any other one thing. Some brethren have become too worldly-minded.

But often they tell us there is nothing forbidding dancing. Let us see if there isn't. Turn to 1 Cor. 10:7, and read this: "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them, as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play". Now turn back to where it is written (Exo. 32:19) and learn that what Paul called "play" was DANCING; and Paul says it was IDOLATRY and forbids us doing it. He says for us NOT TO DANCE, so when you dance you transgress this Scripture, and John says the "transgression of law is sin" (1 John 3:4), so you sin every time you dance. So, brother, never again say the Book doesn't forbid dancing and refer to David dancing to "prove" there is no harm in it. Just as well refer to David's adultery, to "prove" there is no harm in that; or to David's murder to "prove" it is not wrong to murder; or to David's plurality of wives to "prove" polygamy is right, etc.

Space forbids me quoting Gal. 5:19-21, but you turn and read it again and then ask yourselves if it is right to go to Lord's day ball games where they are yelling, cursing, often drinking and often fighting and thus encouraging that reveling. Going to the Lord's day bathing beaches, or going on the Lord's day, where there is much more worldliness than Godliness, if any godliness at all. Do you think doing such things on the Lord's day will help the Church any? Do you not transgress the above Scriptures? I don't wish to die at a card table, for I fear it is not a very good place to start from to go to heaven; I do not care to die at a picture show, at a dance, at a ball game on the Lord's day, for I fear they are not very good places to start from to go to heaven.

Parents playing cards are sowing the seed which may cause them to reap a crop of gamblers. Allowing their children to dance may be sowing the seed which will cause them to reap a crop of immoral children which will bring disgrace upon your own name as well as upon the Church. Stay away from questionable places, cease to do questionable things and stay on what you KNOW is the safe side of all questions. Some seem to think the Lord's day is THEIR day, but not so; it belongs to the Lord and it is a day for us to rejoice and be glad in, and not a day for reveling. See Ps. 118:24. Let us keep ourselves unspotted from the world, as James advises us to do.—W. G. Roberts, Hammond, Illinois.

### **The "Get-to-Worksburg" Address**

On November 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln delivered the famous "Gettysburg Address." On November 19, 1940, seventy-seven years from that memorial event, I submit the

#### **Get-to-Worksburg Address**

Ninety-five score and seven years ago our Saviour brought forth to this world a new kingdom, conceived in love, and dedicated to the proposition that Jew and Gentile are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great religious strife, testing whether that kingdom, so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are here on the battlefield of that war. We are writing to pay tribute and to dedicate a portion of this paper in remembrance of that one who gave his life, that that kingdom might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this deed. The Prince of

Peace, who died and now lives, who suffered here, has consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what he did here. Now it is for us the remaining, rather to be dedicated here to the untarnished work which he who died here has thus so far advanced. It is for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from this honored death we take increased devotion to that cause for which he gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here highly resolve that that Saviour shall not have died in vain, that this kingdom, under God, shall have a new burst of zeal, that that kingdom of God's people, by the work of God's people, for God's people, shall not perish from the earth.—Harold Shasteen, Shelbyville, Ill.

### **Protracted Bible Readings**

#### **Vacation Bible Reading**

Many who are engaged in various types of work have written me suggesting that a Bible reading should be held in the summer time, thus providing vacationists an opportunity to improve their time by a study of the volume of Truth. I presented this matter to the elders of the congregation at New Castle, Indiana, with the suggestion that they arrange for a complete Reading to be conducted by Brother E. M. Zerr. They immediately weighed the matter from all angles and officially decided to sponsor such a course of study, to begin next June 1, thus providing a chance to attend for those who are in school or otherwise engaged in the winter months. I believe this to be one of the most forward steps we have yet taken, and commend the New Castle brethren for their brotherhood love, and sense of responsibility. It is planned to invite all who can to attend from every part of the United States, and those who have a vacation of two weeks, may drop in and know just what part of the book they will study. The only cost will be room and board, and brethren will attempt to arrange this in advance for all who make reservations and hold the cost for you to a minimum. The church at New Castle is willing to sacrifice and be sacrificed for the good of the brotherhood, and we should take advantage of this great opportunity to study under a great teacher. Publicity for this Reading will be handled by Tilden Lawson, 1914 South 14th Street, New Castle, Indiana. Address a letter of inquiry to him at once if you are interested in further details.—W. Carl Ketcherside.

#### **St. Louis Bible Reading**

Starts Monday morning, January 6, 1941, at 9:00 a. m. The sessions will be held daily except Saturday and Sunday for eleven weeks. Study hours will be from 9:00 a. m. until 2:30 p. m. with an hour off at noon.

Each afternoon from 2:30 until 3:30 o'clock, development classes will be taught, with special emphasis upon various items of public work in the church.

A two-hour session of Bible Study will be held each Wednesday night. Special lectures will be presented every Thursday night, and on Friday night a prayer meeting service will be held with the students from various states having charge of the program.

A two-hour training period in rudiments of vocal music and training for song leadership will be conducted every Tuesday night. . . .

Arrangements are being made to have Brother W. G. Roberts appear before the students upon three afternoons, for the purpose of discussing the methods to be employed in refuting the claims of denominationalism. He will also deliver a speech at night to the churches of the territory assembled together.

A lecture will also be given at the Art Museum in the Egyptian Room, with a printed copy of the same given to all who attend. The class will attend a service at the Temple Israel, where an address by Rabbi Isserman will be featured, and a chance will be given to observe the worship of modern Jews.

No tuition for any of the above. The only charge is for room and board while in the city. For information write at once to: Robert Morrow, 7117 Manchester Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

### A Week to Make You Strong

Have you ever sighed for help in planning your lessons to suit the needs of the various age-groups attending your congregation? Do you want to do more to advertise the church in your locality? Are you interested in gathering youngsters around you during vacation and teaching them the precepts of God's holy will? Do you want to know how to accomplish all of this?

In bygone years W. Carl Ketcherside has given one night per week in his Bible Readings to discussing these matters, and those students attending have received inestimable benefit and gone forth to teach the Word with amazing success. But everyone cannot attend for ten weeks in order to get instruction of this practical nature one night per week. Therefore, for the good of the brotherhood, and as a contribution to the growth of the church in this whole land, the schedule for 1941 has been arranged along a different line. No special teaching on above mentioned subjects will be given, except incidentally during the Bible Reading. All of it will be concentrated into one week of intensive drill prepared especially for the elders, leaders and preachers who are desirous of making the most out of their time.

Sessions will be held five days, from March 24 to 28, inclusive, and from 9:00 a. m. to 3:00 p. m. each day. Subjects to be considered among other things are: Teacher Training, Church Advertising, Meeting Publicity, Vacation Bible Studies, Personal Work and How To Do It. Included also will be suggestions on systematizing the work of the church to achieve the greatest good. Plain, practical and pointed as these lessons will be, we urge all to take advantage of the chance to receive the benefits from the teaching of Brother Ketcherside. Save that week! It will mean a lot to you! For further information write: Robert Morrow, 7117 Manchester Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

### "Home Defense"

Midst the turbulent scenes of a world at war, and vast sums of money being appropriated for the defense of our nation, we catch a glimpse of the church of Christ being tossed to and fro as a ship on the angry billows of a storm swept sea. Hitler tells the world he is going to establish a "new order" among the nations, and one by one, the weak and defenseless nations have been taken under his "protection." The cry of alarm is heard from shore to shore; factories are working overtime and the sound of marching feet is heard once more, with the pur-

pose in view of perfecting a great defense program. God forbid that the youth of our land be sacrificed on the altar to the "god of war", as in the first World War.

But while thousands in many lands are being sacrificed to the "god of war", millions in our own land are being sacrificed to the "god of this world." "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (2 Cor. 4:3.)

Much of Hitler's success is due to fifth columnists who work under cover, and have accomplished many things which his soldiers in uniform could never have done. The devil well knows that one of the most effective places to attack is the Home. Back behind the lines, in the homes of his enemies, he goes to work. His agents are everywhere, working overtime. His purpose is to destroy the sacredness of home life. This is a very vital point. No nation can rise higher than its home life. The church may gain in numbers, build meeting houses, become rich and increase with goods, like Laodicea, Rev. 3:17, and yet be reduced to poverty because of the home life of its members.

No one knows this better than the devil, and he is getting in his deadly blows right in our homes, and the church is suffering because of this very thing. What we need to do is to strengthen the lines of defense for the church of Christ. What the Lord needs in his work is more mothers and grandmothers like Timothy's (2 Tim. 1:5). Because he was thus blessed "from a child, he had known the holy scriptures" (2 Tim. 3:15).

The devil would have had a hard time doing any of his "fifth column" work in that home.

The writer will always be thankful for a companion who, during his absence, has gone to meeting and taken the children. Children will grow to manhood and womanhood and look back to the lessons from their parents. Father, mother who read these lines, what kind of a picture would you rather leave on the memory wall of your children? If you have been faithful, your children, though some day when away from home their feet may go astray, your faithfulness may serve as a guiding star, guiding them back to the paths of rectitude and right.

"And ye fathers . . . bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4). This is just as binding today as when it was written.

Among warring nations a great deal of harm has been done the enemy by dropping propaganda in the form of leaflets instead of bombs from the air. The reading material in the average home becomes a great problem. In many respects a great deal of it is but propaganda of the enemy of the souls of men. Too often it is in the form of cheap, trashy stories. A great deal of it is wholly unfit to be read at all.

One steps into many homes and there you will see a lot of magazines and story books and in some instances you have to institute a search for the Bible! Then we wonder what's wrong! In many places the enemy has dropped so many "leaflets" behind the line that the line of defense has begun to crumble.

The radio furnishes another problem in the home life of the members of the church. Many good things and many more that are bad, come over the air. One does not have to listen long until he hears some announcer urging you to try some special brand of cigarettes, or some "extra good beer or whiskey!"

Program after program through the day and up into the late hours of the night demand the attention of young and old. It would be sad to know how many altars of prayer in the home have been destroyed by the "Barn Dancers" in the "Old Hay Loft". How many chapters of the Bible have never been read which would have been read! How many husbands and wives have betrayed their companions because of some love program over the air!

Let us build high and strong the walls of defense round our homes by living pure, holy lives. Then from these homes will go out strong, faithful men and women, whose lives will be a mighty bulwark for the church of the Living Good.—Lloyd Riggins, 393 Cooper St., Charleston, Ill.

## Our Debt To the Next Generation

Do we owe the next generation anything or shall we go on and live today as if there is nothing to leave for the next generation, our boys and girls we have brought into the world. We believe there is a future life after we have lived here and that our Saviour is "Jesus Christ" and that he is the "author of eternal salvation to all that obey him." The general trend of religious teachers today is to disregard the Saviour's law of salvation and to substitute their own ways and plans to do the work of the Church.

We are alarmed about the future of our government and say we are leaving a national debt that the next generation won't be able to pay. But what about the spiritual debt that is being imposed on the oncoming generations by the religious teachers of today who are not satisfied with our Saviour's law and plan to save mankind by worshipping and glorifying God in the place where he has told us to meet him, which is the church governed by the New Testament law. When Jesus was on trial before Pontius Pilate (Matt. 27:11-25) and asked what to do with Jesus the Jews said "Crucify him; let his blood be on us and our children." Because they thus rejected God's way and plan they not only condemned themselves but by a false teaching caused millions of their race to reject God's way in his law and substituted their own way and are guilty of the blood of Christ for which they are not held guiltless before their God, and are unprepared to meet him in peace. For had they believed Christ's teaching they would have believed him to be the Son of God.

The religious teachers of today claim to believe Jesus is the Son of God but are not satisfied with his blood bought law and plan, for when they go beyond the teaching of his law in the New Testament and add human laws and institutions such as creeds, colleges, homes and, as some suggested to this list hospitals and old age pensions, to be supported by the members of the church, are they not doing and saying as did the Jews, "Let his blood be upon us and our children?" They are denying Christ's authority as law-giver and ruler and are making laws to please themselves, and are making man-made traditions that will lead those that follow in the wrong way.

Brethren let's "Speak where the law of Christ speaks" and "learn not to go beyond the things which are written" (1 Cor. 4:6 R. V.), and be satisfied to worship God in the Church purchased with Christ's own blood. I believe our debt to the oncoming generation is to leave them the Church pure from innovations and doctrines of men.—E. G. Johnson, Rt. 1, Box 212, Colton, Calif.

## "Vacational Bible School"

Some of the denominational churches about us have what they call "Vacational Bible Schools". We must be always ready to receive any truth or good from any one, if indeed it is harmony with the Word of God. In the summer months, for several weeks they meet at their church houses and professedly teach the Bible to the children. So long as there is no extra organization formed and they do indeed teach the Bible, there can be no scriptural objection to such. We condemn the **organized** Sunday school yet can find no scriptural objections to Bible classes before the hour of worship under the supervision of the church. The trouble among the sects with their vacational Bible school is that they teach children how to play, cook, sew, etc., but little of the Bible. The true Church of Christ can teach the Bible.

Cleon Lyles in the Firm Foundation tells of such a school he has led at his home church:

"This teaching is the obligation of every Christian. The churches in Muskogee have learned that one of the best methods of reaching children is through the Daily Vacation Bible School. A school conducted in the proper manner is worth as much as any effort. Just how many have been baptized as a direct result of the school no one would be able to say. We had our first school more than three years ago, and just recently closed our fourth effort of this kind. The first year almost two hundred children gathered. Nearly half of them were from homes not members of the church. The second year we had more, the third more, and the school recently conducted proved to be our very best. Three hundred eighty-two children gathered each day for instructions. **OUR TEXT BOOK WAS THE BOOK OF ACTS. Thus each child learned how to become a Christian.** The Sunday following the school two of the students were baptized. **More than one hundred of these children came from homes not members of the New Testament church.** Every human institution in Muskogee was represented, even to the Catholic. Children were interested, teachers were trained, lessons were presented, and who will be able to measure the good. . . . It takes much planning and work but is worth more than we can realize. We advertised the school as we would a gospel meeting. **The elders and other members of the church worked as they would in a meeting.** . . . We are convinced the school is worth much. The Sunday during the time the school was in progress our Bible School reached an all time record and **many of the parents of the children are visiting our services.** We saw that the children who came from denominational homes had tracts to take home to their parents and that they learned the plan of salvation. We announced on the radio that we would not spend time teaching children how to play and cook but teach them the Bible. Did this keep denominational parents from sending their children? Certainly not, it caused them to send them, and we even had pupils from the denominational schools then in progress. The cause will reap the harvest in the future. Each morning we gathered at nine and used five minutes for a song, reading and prayer. Then we used forty minutes for a class period, twenty minutes for assembly period, then another forty minute class period. The students did not become tired but seemed to be more interested as the days went by."

## Church News

"The meanest man in all the world is the one who severely criticizes you for giving him some good advice, and then sneaks off and takes it."—Abe Martin.

The publisher of the M. C. and many others think they know how to sympathize with Abe in his wise observation which no doubt came from his own experience. Many people came out boldly against us when we fought the Rough Draft, and said: "It's a paper fight," "A preacher fight," "A family fight"—but now they are turning away from the Rough Drafters yet have not sufficient humility to come out and make a statement that they were wrong.

Brookport, Ill.—We had good attendance yesterday at church. Several from here go out to the new congregation at New Liberty that we established every Sunday morning, and then another lot goes out on Sunday night to help them.—A. T. Kerr.

Walnut Bottom, Pa.—Meeting is getting along fine here at Shippensburg. Good material is showing itself for the church to work on after the meeting closes. Will start a meeting at Snow Shoe, Pa., on December 2.—Harold Shasteen.

Kansas City, Mo.—Just closed a meeting at "Old Scotland", near Jameson, Mo., with five added. The drafting and the election held the minds of the people quite a bit, yet we had a good meeting. Had largest crowds they have had for a long time. That is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, congregation in the State of Missouri. It is 85 years old, I believe they told me. It has always been one of the largest too. I always enjoy working with them. I began my work with them about 37 or 38 years ago. Have held eleven protracted meetings for them and have held two debates in that vicinity. Am now in a good meeting at the 26th and Spruce St. Church, Kansas City, Mo.—W. G. Roberts.

Peck's Mill, W. Va.—Am doing evangelistic work in country districts with small success. Hope to be able (financially) to do more next year. Will make my reports through the M. C. Am with you in the fight for all that's right, with all my might, both day and night, 'till the end of life.—Melvin White.

Shelbyville, Ill.—I think we have been having some fine numbers of late. I am among the aged, in my eightieth year, but will do what I can and will try to keep in the bounds of Revelations, believing 2nd Peter 1:3, that all things necessary for our salvation were given before the death of the last apostle. Ephesians 5:4, 5 says: "Whereby when ye read ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ, which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the spirit."—F. A. Ditrick.

Michigan—We like the M. C. very much, but many are doing nothing to save men from their sins. We all need to do more for the Lord's cause.—Ella G. Sutterfield. (And she orders quite a number of the Missionary Number to hand out or send to people.)

Brixey, Mo.—After laboring at Ava, Mo., in September and October, eighteen were banded together there on October 27th. The meeting should have continued as interest was aroused, and more visible results would have been evident. Several visited and assisted: Roy Harris, of Brixey; James and others, from Almartha; Brother Buttram, from Springfield, and Boyd, of Ozark. In a good meeting here. I began the Almartha Bible reading on November 11th. Hope to do good. Beautiful Ozarks, some good people, enjoyable work, may it continue.—R. O. Webb., Secor, Ill.

Lamine, Mo.—The Church at Old Lamine is still alive with the "faithful few" still holding fast to those principles recorded in the New Testament. I am sorry to say that we meet only on Lord's day morning, having discontinued evening meetings owing to inability to arouse interest. We hold our weekly Bible lesson, and if no preaching brother is present one of the home boys attempts to give a short talk. Brother Robert Brumbach still visits us and does much to hold us together.—D. Talmage Weekley.

Armel, Colo.—The meeting here at Armel continues and may go on next week and then I go to Akron, Colo.—E. G. Johnson, Rt. 1, Box 212, Colton, Calif.

New Castle, Ind.—We are pleased to announce that the elders here have secured Bro. E. M. Zerr for a Bible reading of the entire Bible, to begin the first of June, 1941. This is an opportunity no one can afford to miss. New Castle is Brother Zerr's home, and we are always glad to have him home for a few days. But have long looked forward to the time we could once more study the entire Bible with him. We recommend him to the brotherhood as a teacher of all time. And we invite all interested to come and enjoy this spiritual feast with us. Further details will follow each month. Be sure and read Bro. Carl Ketcherside's comments in this issue of this reading. For any information write Tilden Lawson, 1914 South 14th St., New Castle, Ind.

Almartha, Mo.—Closed at Brixey school house (Missouri) November 10th. Attendance and interest excellent. A lady, mother of several children, was baptized; other good done. Began Bible reading here yesterday, with attendance of thirty-three. Subjects assigned to six young men for Friday night. Everything seems set for a profitable season together. Two more have been added to the group of eighteen at Ava, Mo.—R. O. Webb.

St. Louis, Mo.—Just closed two very interesting as well as profitable meetings in St. Louis—one lasting three weeks—at our new congregation at Webster Groves, and we are well pleased with the interest and attendance. Had ten additions, five baptisms. Just finished the repairing of the house before the meeting and now they have a very comfortable house to worship in and prospects are looking favorable. We held two weeks at Manchester congregation with fifteen additions and six baptisms, with splendid attendance, and the best outside attendance we have ever had in a meeting. The Lillian Avenue congregation is growing until they recently had to enlarge their seating capacity to accommodate the crowds. We are pressing on, endeavoring to enlarge the kingdom all we can.—Robert Morrow.

I am enclosing some money for a few copies of the last three numbers of the M. C. (if you have any left). I think they are getting better and would like to give others a chance to read them.—Carrie Heideracheld. (If ALL our readers would do that—and some are—we would soon "fill Jerusalem with the doctrine". Why not do it REGULARLY, especially with every Missionary Number each January, April, July and October?—Publisher.

Charleston, Ill.—Closed a three weeks meeting at Braymer October 27th. Several congregations were represented during the meeting and the attendance was good most every evening. It has been a long time since I enjoyed a meeting more than I enjoyed this one. Thirteen were added during the meeting, nine of whom were heads of families. We feel the Braymer brethren have been fortunate in getting some good talent. We are trying to assist them in a program that will put every member to doing something. I am now in the second week of the meeting with the Liberty congregation, near Norborne, Mo. After which I begin my second meeting with the Eureka congregation, near Meadville and Wheeling, Mo. It was my first meeting with the Braymer brethren. I am to be with them, if the Lord wills, in 1943, as brother Johnny Rhodes is to be with them in 1941 and 1942. He is held in high esteem by the Braymer brethren. I have promised the Liberty brethren to be with them in another meeting next fall.—Lloyd Riffin, 393 Cooper St.

Carrollton, Mo.—I returned last week from the Ozarks where I was assisting in meetings at Flat Rock and Hartshorn. Was helped much at both places by attendance and cooperation of the Summeraville brethren. Brother Clarence Cochran, who attended the Bible reading last winter at St. Louis, has recently been given endorsement of the Summerville Church to do the work of an evangelist. Although he is teaching school this winter, he is available for the Lord's work over Lord's days and through the summer months. I am quite sure that any congregation calling him will not be disappointed in his Christian character and ability. I filled appointment last Lord's day with Bethel Congregation near Milan, Mo. Although few in number, they are satisfied with the old path. Bro. Will Fraser (elder) will not compromise with the college crowd or rough drafters. According to recent arrangements, I will spend the year of 1941 laboring with the churches in and around New Castle, Ind. Since this is not far from Indianapolis, of course, I hope to see you quite often. The M. C. together with your personal coun-

sel will be of much help in carrying out our plans to reach the masses with the gospel and build up the churches in that section of your great state.—Ben Huddleston, 410 North Folger St.

Almartha, Mo.—Bible reading here progressing fine—in third week now. Interest and attendance is good in spite of the cold and rainy weather. There were twelve different speakers on the last two Friday nights and a few more new ones for this Friday. It is wonderful how the young school boys handle their subjects in their first efforts before the audience. We'll be in the New Testament next week. I've enjoyed teaching this class very much. Yes, Brother Sommer, I heartily agree with you about more Bible readings, and I'm preparing for more. I hear talk of another next year. The congregations little realize the strength they receive from a study like this.—R. O. Webb.

Unionville, Mo.—Began work here after closing mission work in Southern Illinois. The Brookport, Ill., congregation secured Bro. Roy Harris, of Brixey, Mo., and myself to do work at a mission point, New Liberty, Ill., about twelve miles east of Brookport. The brethren had been planning to do some mission work in that sector for some time, but had never seemed to attempt it until this year. Brother Harris, who led song service and did a grand job, and I went into the community where the gospel in its truth and simplicity had never been preached before. We didn't know what could be done, but were determined to give it a try. The attendance was well above our expectations, due to the fact that the Brookport brethren secured the services of two school buses which ran on a regular schedule bringing the people to service. For the two weeks the attendance averaged above 125 per session. We considered this good, due to the fact that most were non-members. At the close of the meeting we were able to establish the cause at New Liberty with five charter members representing three families. I feel confident that they, with the aid of the Brookport brethren, (who will send their talent each service to help these new born babes in Christ grow) will stand firm, proving to the world that the gospel still is a powerful weapon. Let us remember this example that these faithful brethren have set. God grant that others may follow.—Bill Hensley.

Charleston, Ill.—Just closed a two weeks' meeting with the Liberty congregation. This was my first meeting with those brethren and I enjoyed it very much. I am to be with them in October of 1941 for a meeting at that time. Three young men were buried with their Lord in baptism the last Lord's day of the meeting, and we pray they will live to do much and lasting good in the cause of the Lord. Brethren attended from 26th and Spruce, East Antioch, Richmond, Rockhill, Bethlehem and Braymer congregations. Brother Jewell Gorham, of the Braymer congregation, led the singing through the meeting. At this writing I am with the Eureka congregation, in my second meeting with them. The bad weather has greatly hindered us thus far. Expect to continue through next week and then begin with the Green Mound congregation, near Beloit, Kan., on Monday evening, November 25th. I am looking forward to being with the Anderson, Ind., brethren over the third Lord's day in December and with the New Castle brethren over the fourth Lord's day, after which time I am planning to start for the state of Washington to begin a meeting with the brethren at Spokane. The Lord willing, I shall work with the brethren on the western coast for the first six months of next year. I am doing all I can to develop and put members to work everywhere I go. The more I come in contact with the various congregations the more I am convinced that the lack of development has brought on a great many of the ills of the church today.—Lloyd Riggins.

Riverside, Calif.—Bro. Leslie Grow departed this life at 9:00 a. m. Tuesday, October 15, 1940—55 years old. He had been a faithful and active member of the Church of Christ meeting at Eleventh and Lemon streets for more than fifteen years, serving as a leader much of that time. While he had not been in the best of health for a few months, his death was sudden and unexpected. His bereaved wife ordered an autopsy. The report was death caused by coronary thrombosis, arterial sclerosis of coronary arteries due to hyper tension. The doctor told Sister Grow that this trouble had been working on him for five years and he could not understand how he had outlived it as long as he did. He leaves a wife, Sister Grow, and son, Raymond, and his wife, and a brother to mourn his loss, besides a host of brethren and friends—L. H. Sorey.

Ludlow, Mo.—On November 10th I enjoyed a visit with the congregation of disciples in Sedalia, Mo., where Brother J. Oscar Paisley is in a good work in a mission field. I spoke for them at both assemblies on that day, and the attendance numbered nineteen at each assembly. They invited my return at any time opportunity presented itself, and I assure you that I will do just that. You know, I believe the promise of God which teaches that "all things work together for good to them that love God." This has truly been made manifest to me the past six months. I am now in the Bible reading at Chillicothe and am taking advantage of the able instruction of Bro. E. M. Zerr as far as ability permits. I believe sincerely that this will be a most profitable study for all who participate. "All things" have indeed worked together for good to me, by presenting to me this opportunity.—Kenneth Morgan.

A young mission-minded sister writes: "Send me a dollar's worth of the January Missionary number. Three persons have made special mention of 'Christian War Bulletin' to me [and it is through her missionary efforts that these three are reading the M. C.]. The November issue seemed mighty good to me. All the writers sounded wide awake and working. I am glad you advertise 'A Virtuous Woman', Brother Sommer. I believe it is the first book my mother ever read through, and others have read my copy, too." Just a Christian, country girl, yet a broadcaster for Christ! Does the reader know that the progress of the Church in the first few centuries was advanced MUCH through servant girls who converted their mistresses who in turn converted their husbands? "Ye ought to be teachers." (Heb. 5:12.)

Dentonia, Kan.—In a two weeks' meeting, Bro. J. A. Freed, of Topeka, was with us. Dentonia recently gained knowledge and strength. Brother Freed said that he found this community like the one in which he homesteaded in his early days. Yes, we are materially poor, but we are thankful that we have some of the spiritual blessings that often go with material poverty. Some walked to meeting, others did chores and put children to bed after midnight in order to hear the gospel preached. This community is partly made up of people who one might say are not "made up"—they in their natural simplicity are glad to listen to the gospel in its natural simplicity. Brotherly love, hospitality and friendship (virtues which we all associate with Brother Freed) prevailed throughout the meeting. Brethren from Red Cloud, Sweet Hill, Green Mound and Agra were with us. These congregations are each about fifty miles from Dentonia. Starting at Red Cloud on the north and moving clockwise in the order named they are in the four directions from Dentonia. Since this is true, no one living in a radius of seventy-five miles of Dentonia is much more than twenty-five miles from a meeting place of The Church of Christ. I hope that some day, through the united efforts of brethren in these parts, the people living in this radius will be contacted and the gospel presented wherever it will be received. Bro. Bill Hensley will be at Sweet Hill, and Bro. Lloyd Riggins at Green Mound and at Dentonia the last of this month and the first of next. We hope and pray that through these meetings these churches may be strengthened and that the light may shine out into the world about them.—H. B. Van de Rilt.

Gallatin, Mo.—Bro. Harold J. Hays, of St. Joseph, Mo., spoke here last Lord's day (November 17th) on the subject "The Three Baptisms of the New Testament". He presented it in a most interesting and edifying manner, equal to that of many experienced evangelists. We were made glad that one young man obeyed the gospel at the close of the morning service and was baptized that afternoon in the river nearby. This was the fourth gospel message delivered here by Brother Hays during the past few months, and he expects to speak here again the third Lord's day in December. Many favorable expressions are heard regarding the work if this promising young brother which is proving very helpful to this congregation. May he be spared to continue in His steps throughout a long life. Should any loyal brethren contemplate a change of location, we feel that Gallatin (a county seat town) and the surrounding country have splendid opportunities to offer, and we would be glad to reply to any inquiries.—D. Patterson, Box 383, Gallatin, Mo.

When a person sits down at a table laden with good things and piles up his plate and eats and says, "Isn't that good", yet never passes anything around to others, you say he is ill-mannered and selfish. When a person sits down to the good things of the brethren in the M. C. and fills his mind with them and

says, "Isn't that fine", yet never passes the paper around nor sees that MANY poorly-nourished brethren in the church and many on the outside who are starving for such good things receive the papers applicable for them—what would you call that?

Sedalia, Mo.—I do believe the M. C. gets better every month, combats the errors that are such untold hurt to the cause of pure Christianity today, in such a strong, convincing way. The November issue was a power. "The Octopus of the Church" was a masterpiece. Yes, and I would love to clasp Brother Zerr's hand on his "Home Training" article with a great big "AMEN." That has been dealt with too lightly too long, both in home and pulpit and the press. It seems to me we should wake up to the fact that what we let be developed in the minds and lives of the young today will not only likely shape their destiny in eternity, but will also shape the Church of tomorrow. Why are parents so loose and careless toward their children's good is beyond my conception. Such parents want to claim Prov. 22:6 to be untrue, but I believe it to be true with all my heart and preach it with all my power, yet I see them let the denominations and the world with all their fancies, teach their children. The Church here is yet alive and working and the interest seems yet on the increase. No additions of late, but we have hopes of some prospects we have in attendance. We are enjoying two splendid lessons Sunday morning and Sunday night, November 10th, by our young promising Bro. Kenneth Morgan, of Davenport, Okla., who stopped off with us on his way to Chillicothe, Mo., to enter a Bible reading under Bro. E. M. Zerr, to begin Monday evening, the 11th. His plans and intentions are after that reading closes to go to St. Louis, Mo., to enter a reading under Bro. Carl Ketcherside, to begin January, 6, 1941. Brethren, give him a call to your congregation. You will love him if you have him in your homes and hear him in the proclamations of the truth of God.—J. Oscar Paisley, 501 N. Prospect.

St. Louis, Mo.—Since we last wrote you boasting our progress at 5344 Lillian Avenue, we have continued to progress. At a business meeting held on November 4th the church was set in order with Brother W. Carl Ketcherside officiating. Brothers W. J. Topping, Leonard Bilyeu and C. B. Thompson being ordained Elders and Brothers E. Scott, T. Ratliff, C. Jones, A. Harris, W. Thompson and your correspondent appointed to the deaconship. We had one addition, she transferring her membership from the Baptist church. The new seats which we spoke of last month have been installed and have proven beneficial in expediting services with a minimum of confusion. The young men of the congregation in a speaking class use as our motto Proverbs 15:10, "Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way; and he that hateth reproof shall die." We criticize the errors in pronunciation, phraseology and organization, all for edification.—Jess Parks.

The issues of January, April, July and October are prepared expressly for non-members of the Church, and these four MISSIONARY NUMBERS will be sent to six people for a year each for one dollar. Or, 20c a dozen; \$1.50 for 100 copies.

Our book, Meditations in Bible Lands, is now out of print, yet we receive calls for it. A sister who recently read it for the first time said many portions she read and re-read, and that certain parts she had read at least twenty times. It is largely a devotional book. This coming year we hope to reprint a number of those meditations in the M. C. We have MANY other good features for coming months. The trouble is that we do not have as many readers as we should have to help keep up the twelve pages each week. Can't you help by sending a list of new names at fifty cents each a year? When we get the twelve pages going safely we shall look forward to sixteen pages if—

The months of January, February and March are "off" months for the preachers, as few churches try to have protracted meetings in that period. But the preacher's expenses go on just the same. Why not have one come and help your church for a week or two, at least, in Bible study and development? Protracted Bible readings always have accomplished good, and the more emphasis placed on development the more good is done

to the church. I remember twenty-five years ago that fifteen or twenty Bible readings were going on in the brotherhood one winter. Good was done, but most of those preachers helped have drifted into the pastor system or drifted in some other way. There was not the emphasis placed on development of faithful men who shall be able to teach others, so that the benefit would reach to elders and ALL faithful men in the church. A Bible reading which just feeds the students but does not develop them so that they can develop others will soon die in its effect. That was the defect of those Bible readings. To develop preachers who simply look for a place to preach once a month without developing the members for their work is to weaken the church in the long run. Past history means much. Such preachers soon preached twice a month, then all the time, and now many who were faithful twenty years ago are preacher-pastors doing the work of the elders. The best farmer-father is not the one who hands bread continually to his boy but the one who shows him how to farm and raise wheat for his bread himself. The best school teacher is not the one who does all the explaining and teaching himself, but shows the student how to proceed and to develop his own thought. The best elder is not the one who does it all himself, but the one who puts others to work and shows them how to feed themselves. The best preacher is not the one who preaches to Christians but the one who shows them how to edify themselves, who commits his Bible knowledge in such a way to faithful men that they may be able to teach others. I believe that the development of talent, no matter how, has done much toward the rising tide of interest among faithful brethren, and I certainly shall not boost to the skies those leaders who take little interest in such development work, for my boasting would hinder the advancement of the cause. So if churches would use these winter months in having some preacher come who will develop the members for greater usefulness in the church, they will help the tide of enthusiasm to rise still higher and possibly save souls from drifting away from God.

Let the Truth Be Known—The heading often appeared over the writings of the late D. S., father of Brother D. A. S. Unfortunately, all the sons of Brother D. S. were not as faithful to the principles of apostolic Christianity as D. A., and this especially applies to those members of the family who are publishers of the A. R. With a malice in their hearts that will cause them to stoop to any degree to overthrow scriptural work they have recently been propagandizing the State of Missouri, attempting to work up sentiment against the publisher of the \_\_\_\_\_ by implying that D. A. did not help bear his father's funeral expenses. They might go unchallenged in Indiana and some of our eastern states, but that kind of stuff will not go in Missouri. While we hesitate to mention such things in this paper, and while we regret that it ever becomes necessary to refer to unscrupulous brethren, or to mention their underhanded tactics, yet we believe that this one time the effort is so brazen that we must "Let the Truth Be Known."

Walter Williamson, an elder of the church at Long Run, near Central Station, W. Va., opened his home to D. S. and his wife in her last sickness. She died there and is buried in a family burial ground on Brother Williamson's farm. Recently he received a letter from Allen S. with this barbed shaft contained: "It would be interesting as he (D. A. S.) disposes of the D. S. special, to inform the readers how much he helped (?) on the expense of his father's sickness and death." To this Brother Williamson replied in part: "I note what you have to say about your father's funeral. I don't think that is any of my business. YOUR STEPMOTHER SAID IN THE PRESENCE OF MY WIFE AND ME THAT SHE WAS LEAVING THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000) FOR HIS BENEFIT. That was told without us asking for it . . ."

D. A. S. says that his father received \$500 from an estate in Ohio three or four years ago. D. S. continued active to within nine months of his death, and received ample remuneration from brethren without any expense to himself. Those who buried him took charge of all his personal belongings! It is a well known fact that the aged brother turned over to the folk in the A. R. office all that he received over and above the necessary amount required for carfare and meager personal needs. As soon as he died, an appeal went out to the brotherhood to aid in expenses connected with his death and burial, and money was sent in to do that. We protest against these men in the R. office stooping to sordid methods to make it appear that their

faithful brother has been ungrateful as a son; we protest against them sending out false statements concerning the matter, and then profiting financially over a father's death. What Brother D. did with what he received from the brotherhood is none of our business; and the fact that the A. R. force received all of his personal effects does not concern us, but when they will deliberately attempt in Missouri to build up by clever fabrication an idea against a faithful brother in the Lord, and use their father's death as an excuse to smear and besmirch clean character and reputation, then we will come out of our corner with gloves up and ready to let the truth be known!

D. A. S. told his father through many years (especially when he received the \$500) that he should lay his gifts and remuneration aside to help someone take care of him when he became helpless and died. That was good advice, we are sure! To the managers of the R. office we say, "Cut the monkey business out!" They should know that Missouri folk don't swallow hook, bait and sinker every juicy morsel of gossip tossed their way! We investigate! And we are from Missouri—you've got to show us!—Missouri Christian Messenger.

Ever "read the dictionary"? Well, you will wish to do that very thing with Smith's Bible Dictionary. It is very interesting to sit down and thumb through the pages and stop at places and countries and men you have thought you would like to know more about. The book is beautifully bound, and the print is large and clear, and the paper good. Besides, it has a very valuable history of every book in the Bible, has a concordance as good as any outside of Cruden's Complete Concordance, and Four Thousand Questions and Answers on the entire Bible except the Epistles and Revelation. These Questions will help the teacher in arranging his own questions. To read the Old Testament and then read these questions will help one get the history straight in his mind. Only two dollars at the M. C. office. The publisher of the M. C. considers this a very valuable work.

Miscellaneous.—Lying in church letters is as bad as lying in any other respect. Sometimes leaders, in order to get rid of a troublesome character are willing to stretch the truth and give a letter of recommendation, and thus impose him on some other church. Leaders might give such an one a letter of dismissal, stating the case just as it is. Of course, such a letter would do the person no good, and you might get rid of him. But you can't recommend a bad character. . . . Some are sending for maps of Paul's Missionary Journals, price \$1.50. It will help you in your study. . . . Brother Ketcherside booked the M. C. publisher for three lectures in his Bible reading, which were to be on Christian Evidences, etc., but he will not have time to go over the many books he has read on that subject to gather up the points he wishes to. So he has scratched out that part of the announcement of the St. Louis Bible reading in this issue. . . . Notice the announcement of the meeting for elders and preachers in March. We believe all leaders will be benefitted by attending this meeting. . . . We again thank the brethren for their many commendations of the M. C. Had I not known that it was not so, I would have thought that the way our readers used the word "wonderful" regarding the October issue, indicated they had been coached. . . . When telling us what your new address is be sure to tell WHERE you came from, so that we will not continue to send the paper to your old address. Also, it will save us time if you will always mark "new" and "old" when you send in names, and be sure to renew under the same name as before else two papers will be going to the same person under slightly different names. . . . Preachers, we believe you will be helping your work by putting the M. C. into the homes of as many brethren as possible. . . . "I just finished reading the M. C. Allow me to add my favorable comment to those that no doubt you will receive on the issue. I believe the brotherhood in general is just now beginning to appreciate the paper as they should."—Harold Shasteen.

Des Moines, Ia.—Bro. C. R. Turner is now with the congregation at 59th and University in a series of meetings. Not the attendance from non-members that we had hoped for, but that is not the fault of Brother Turner, for we believe that if they would but get out once to hear him that they would want to come back. December 30th is the date for the first session of

the Bible reading here under the instruction of Bro. E. M. Zerr. We anticipate great good to result from it, as many of the brethren state their intention to attend all that they can. If any one from near-by congregations is interested in attending we will be glad to cooperate with him in making it possible. Let us do all the good that we can while the days are going by.—Eugene Suddeth.

Hammond, Ill., Dec. 3, 1940.

Nov. 24th I closed a good meeting with the 26th and Spruce congregation in Kansas City, Mo. Had largest crowds, they said, they had had for several years, and had more outsiders attend than ever before. This was result of the advertising they did before I got there. Then, too, they had real good singing which helped to keep people coming. Their advertising and their singing helped to bring and hold the crowds. There were nine additions altogether. 59th and Kenwood congregation was good to attend, and Spruce brethren appreciated their attendance and assistance. While there I officiated at the wedding of Miss Boyce and Mr. Harris, who were united in marriage in the home of Brother and Sister Boyce. I never saw more nice presents in my life than those two youngsters received. Had one room almost filled with them. I have known the Boyce family a long time and know them to be fine people. Their only child is also a good, Christian girl. I have known her almost from her babyhood. She has, I think, a good husband and we wish them well.—W. G. Roberts.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 2.—Since last report I was with New Castle, Ind., church. Fair crowds attended, and 22 were added and restored. I addressed a number of High School assemblies in surrounding towns, and spoke on one Lord's Day afternoon at Middletown, and the following Sunday at Anderson. At a called business meeting of the three churches a systematic development work was outlined for 1941. I was next occupied with 5 weeks evangelism in the St. Louis area, with the time divided between Webster Groves and Manchester Ave. churches. This provided largest attendance from outside in history of St. Louis work. 25 were added. Manchester was set in order with appointment of 2 elders and 4 deacons; Lillian Avenue church selected 3 elders and 6 deacons. The prospects in St. Louis are brightest ever, with consistently large audiences at most services. I closed last night at Hammond, Ill., with crowded house. Was assisted by Roy Harris, of Brixey, Mo., who preceded me a week to do personal work and teach a singing class. He did a fine job as song director, and much as a result of his labors, 24 were added, several of them quite aged. The Hammond church is in fine shape. In a business meeting called for the purpose, I helped adjust a minor difficulty. We arranged for a six weeks' Bible Reading, by Bro. W. G. Roberts, to begin at once as a means of teaching those who were added. He will teach regular study sessions each Wednesday and Thursday night, and conduct a development class each Friday night. An exchange of talent program, covering three months, was planned with Sullivan congregation. Each place will send brethren twice per month on Sunday nights, to the other, to aid in edification. A two-weeks' vocal music and leadership training class is planned for spring, with Brother Harris in charge. He should be kept busy in this and the preaching field. Roy and I are in Springfield for two nights, then he goes to Peoria for a two weeks' singing class, and I go to Hartford for two weeks of special instruction to the church. Remember us in your prayers.—W. Carl Ketcherside.

Seven reasons why I believe dancing is wrong—(1) It is a work of the flesh and not a fruit of the spirit of God (Gal. 5:19-23). (2) It is classed as a work among the unrighteous (I Cor. 6:9 and 10). (3) It is believed wrong and therefore offensive to many church members. Read what Paul says in I Cor. 8:11-13, also Rom. 15:1-4! (4) Paul tells us to be spiritually minded—for to be carnally minded is death (Rom. 8:5 and 6). (5) A Christian is not to make provision for the lust of the flesh (Rom. 13:14). (6) It is leading a bad example to weaker members (Rom. 14:15 to end of chapter). (7) It is not of faith, therefore sin, for Paul says (Rom. 14:23) " whatsoever is not of faith is sin," and also he says in Rom. 14:23, "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Nowhere in the Bible do we find dancing mentioned as a good work, practiced by early Christians, or a command of God, therefore, since it is not of faith, it can only be sin.—Ray O. Webb.

**LITTLE THINGS**

Little drops of water,  
 Little grains of sand,  
 Make the mighty ocean  
 And the pleasant land.  
 And the little minutes,  
 Humble though they be,  
 Make the mighty ages  
 Of eternity.  
 So our little errors  
 Lead the soul away  
 From the path of virtue,  
 Oft in sin to stray.  
 Little deeds of kindness,  
 Little words of love,  
 Make our earth an Eden  
 Like the heaven above.

—Brewer.

Again we exhort the brethren that if you are doing anything scriptural in your congregation which is creating interest, tell the M. C. readers about it, for we are all disciples, learners, and wish to know how we can save more souls. I am sure the readers will not think that you are boasting. Paul says: "Let us consider one another to provoke (call forth, stir, stimulate) unto love and good works." (Heb. 10:24.) And seven hundred years before Paul wrote, Homer, the blind Grecian poet, wrote in the *Iliad*:

By mutual confidence and mutual aid,  
 Great deeds are done and great discoveries made;  
 The wise new prudence from the wise acquire,  
 And one brave hero fans another's fire.

**Giants**—The new atheism is not the classical free thought of the seventeenth century, in any sense of the word. It is a far more subtle and dangerous thing, and already claims over seventeen million members, placed in sixty-four countries of the world, working, as so many atheists have told me personally, "night and day," to bring about revolution. Our pulpits, our schools, our homes, our offices, are the target and have been for many years.—Maude Howe in *Moody Monthly*.

Now when we add to these atheists the sectarians and worldly-minded Christians, we have indeed Giants to meet. But if, like Caleb and Joshua, we trust in the Lord we shall overcome them all. I believe with all my heart that the Sword of the Spirit is the weapon to destroy all this evil, and if we continue to train the soldiers in its use, we are bound to break through their lines. Are you willing to do what YOU can?

The publisher has two mimeograph letters which he sends to his subscribers—one for time just expired, the other for several months arrears. If you received the latter when it should have been the former, consider that I got them mixed.—Pub.

**MORE CONVENIENT AND CHEAPER**

Complaint has been made to the publisher of the M. C. that non-members of the Church are not interested in the Church News in the Missionary Numbers, and I agree but have been doing the best I could with our limited means. But January Missionary Number will have pages half the size as now, yet as the type will be the same size as Church News type, and as this News will be pushed forward two weeks till the next issue, it will contain almost as much matter for the non-member. It will easily fold in ordinary envelopes (which you can buy cheap at a Dime Store), and can be sent through the mails for one cent, unsealed and without writing. It can also be easily folded to fit your vest pocket to carry to a friend at work.

The January Number will be a good tract on the two ordinances of the Church, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, by Luther, Calvin and Wesley, which ought to have some weight with the followers of these men. It will also contain a pointed article for the skeptic, the sectarian and worldlyman, and will have scriptures on the main

characteristics of the New Testament Church. We believe you will like this new arrangement in size, etc.

The price of this improved size is 20c a dozen; \$1.00 for 15 copies each quarter through the year; \$1.50 for 100 copies. Thus it is only a cent and a half a copy. It costs more in proportion to give you this more convenient size at this price, yet we hope to even it up in your enlarged and **REGULAR** orders. The October Missionary Number was by far the largest yet.

Will you not write us **NOW**, saying how many copies you will take **REGULARLY** each quarter this coming year—12, 50, 100, 300?

**A Spiritual Transfusion**

In Deut. 12:23 God says, "The blood is the life thereof". When a man gets sick the first thing a good doctor does is to find the cause. A blood transfusion is prescribed. It has saved the life of many a person.

When we look at a lot of churches over the land they look like they need a spiritual transfusion. When the church gets sick and pale let us call in the eight **GOSPEL** doctors, working by inspiration under the head doctor, Jesus Christ, who said in John 12:48, "He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words hath one that judgeth him. The word that I have spoken the same shall judge him in the last day." The first thing is to find the cause. If the church is found to be suffering from the common disease, **THE PASTOR SYSTEM**, if the cause has come from this source we cannot commend to them "The Pastor" for relief. For as a man who needs blood, it takes the right kind, the right type for the transfusion; so it is with the spiritual transfusion for the church—it must be the right type or the church will never get on its feet again, but will only slip deeper into the slough of despond. Most churches are bled to death by paying a hot bed **PASTOR** a fat salary while the congregation sits like a Punch and Judy, nod their heads when he nods his. They need a spiritual transfusion and don't know it. Why not take the Physician Luke's tools and cut off the infected part, the **PASTOR**, and apply Doctor Paul's spiritual transfusion? It is the right type. (2 Tim. 2:2) "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also." Philip 2:12: "By working out your own salvation with fear and trembling." 2 Tim. 2:15: "By studying to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth." 7 Cor. 15: 58: "By being steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." Doctor James says in James 1: 25, "Be a doer of the work."

If it is the **OPEN DOOR** policy, let us take the Saviour's spiritual cord which Doctor John welded in 2 John 10:11: "If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine receive him not into your house neither bid him God speed." 1 John 4:1: "Beloved, believe not every spirit but try the spirits whether they are of God." The Church of Ephesus tried them and found them liars. (Rev. 2:2).

Christ said in Matt. 7:15, 16, that we should try them for they might be wolves in sheep's clothing. We should try them by the fruit they bear in other places.—Harold L. Ottwell, 327 Broadway, E. Alton, Ill.