

Macedonian Call

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

Volume 17

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., JANUARY, 1948

Number 1

The Great Napoleon said,

"CHRIST IS NOT A MAN!"

Napoleon Bonaparte was one of the most brilliant carnal soldiers that ever lived. More than a hundred years ago, at the head of French armies, he conquered much of Europe. But failed to subdue England. With 500,000 men he pushed into Russia, intending to winter in Moscow; but the Russians burned the city, and Napoleon retreated to France in the dead of winter. He had less than 100,000 men when the remnants reached France. Gathering another army, he fought the English and Prussians at Waterloo in 1815; was defeated in that historic battle; was banished by the English to the south Atlantic island of St. Helena, where he died in 1821; two or three of his generals sharing his imprisonment with him. In 1840 his body was brought back to Paris where it now rests in a beautiful sarcophagus specially prepared for it, in the "Dome Des Invalides". The publisher of this paper had the privilege, many years ago, of walking over much of the battlefield of Waterloo, and later, of looking down on this sarcophagus containing all that remains of the great Napoleon, and of meditating to himself, "The paths of glory lead but to the grave." The following clippings from Bonaparte's conversation with one of his generals in exile, concerning Christ, are part of his complete conversation as circulated generally in our country shortly after his death.—Editor M. C.

"I know men, and I tell you that Jesus Christ is not a man. Superficial minds see a resemblance between Christ and the founder of empires, and the gods of other religions. That resemblance does not exist. There is between Christianity and whatever other religion the distance of infinity. We can say to the authors of every other religion, 'You are neither Gods nor the agents of the Deity. You are but missionaries of falsehood, moulded from the same clay with the rest of mortals. You are made with all the passions and vices inseparable from them. Your temples and your priests proclaim your origin.' Such will be the judgment, the cry of conscience, of whoever examines the gods and the temples of Paganism.

"Paganism was never accepted, as truth, by the wise men of Greece; neither by Socrates, Pythagoras, Plato, Anaxagoras, nor Pericles. On the other side, the loftiest intellects, since the advent of Christianity, have had faith, a living faith, a practical faith, in the mysteries and doctrines of the gospel; not only Bossuet and Fenelon, who were preachers, but Descartes and Newton, Leibnitz

and Pascal, Corneille and Racine, Charlemagne and Louis XIV.

"I see in Lycurgus, Numa, and Mohammed, only legislators, who, having the first rank in the state, have sought the best solution of the social problem; but I see nothing there which reveals divinity. They themselves have never raised their pretensions so high. As for me, I recognize the gods and these great men as beings like myself. They have performed a lofty part in their times as I have done. Nothing announces them divine. On the contrary, there are numerous resemblances between them and myself; foibles and errors which ally them to me and to humanity.

"It is not so with Christ. Everything in him astonishes me. His spirit over-awes me, and his will confounds me. Between him and whoever else in the world, there is no possible term of comparison. He is truly a being by himself. His ideas and his sentiments, the truths which he announces, his manner of convincing, are not explained either by human organization or by the nature of things. * * *

Macedonian Call

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

Published Monthly by
D. A SOMMER,
918 Congress Avenue,
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

Subscription Price, \$1.00 a Year
New names in any number, 50c each
Old names in clubs of five or more,
75c each

NOTE—The issues of the Macedonian Call for January, April, July and October are Missionary Numbers, and 15 copies of each issue as published will be sent to one address for a year—or one copy of each of the four Missionary Numbers will be sent to five addresses for one dollar a year—or, in quantities of ten or more, a cent and a half a copy, to one address.

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

"You speak of Caesar, of Alexander; of their conquests, and of the enthusiasm which they enkindled in the hearts of their soldiers. But can you conceive of a dead man making conquests, with an army faithful and entirely devoted to his memory. My armies have forgotten me, even while living, as the Carthaginian army forgot Hannibal. Such is our power! A single battle lost crushes us, and adversity scatters our friends.

"Can you conceive of Caesar as the eternal Emperor of the Roman senate, and from the depths of his mausoleum governing the empire, watching over the destinies of Rome? Such is the history of the invasion of the world by Christianity. Such is the power of the God of the Christians; and such is the perpetual miracle of the progress of the faith and of the government of his church. Nations pass away, thrones crumble, but the church remains. What is then the power which has protected this church, thus assailed by the furious billows of rage, and the hostility of ages? Whose is the arm which, for eighteen hundred years, has protected the church from so many storms which have threatened to engulf it?

"Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself, founded empires. But upon what

did we rest the creations of our genius?—upon force. Jesus Christ alone founded his empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for him! * * * The founders of other religions never conceived of this mystical love, which is the essence of Christianity, and is beautifully called charity. In every attempt to effect this thing, namely, to make himself beloved, man deeply feels his own impotence. So that Christ's greatest miracle undoubtedly is, the reign of charity.

"I have so inspired multitudes that they would die for me. God forbid that I should form any comparison between the enthusiasm of a soldier and Christian charity, which are as unlike as their cause.

"But after all, my presence was necessary; the lightning of my eye, my voice, a word from me, then the sacred fire was kindled in their hearts. I do indeed possess the secret of this magical power, which lifts the soul, but I could never impart it to any one. None of my generals ever learned it from me. Nor have I the means of perpetuating my name and love for me, in the hearts of my men, and to effect these things without physical means.

"Now that I am at St. Helena; now that I am alone, chained upon this rock, who fights and wins empires for me? Who are the courtiers of my misfortune? Who thinks of me? Who makes efforts for me in Europe? Where are my friends? Yes, two or three, whom your fidelity immortalizes, you share, you console my exile.

[Here the voice of the Emperor (it is said) trembled with emotion, and for a moment he was silent. He then drew a mournful picture of his fate and that of other great men, concluding his reflections as follows.]

"Behold the destiny, near at hand, of him whom the world called the Great Napoleon.—What an abyss between my deep misery and the eternal reign of Christ, which is proclaimed, loved, adored; and which is extending over all the earth. Is this to die? Is it not rather to live? The death of Christ! It is the death of God!"

For a moment the Emperor was silent. As General Bertrand made no reply, he solemnly added. "If you do not perceive that Jesus Christ is God, very well, then I did wrong in making you a General."—Millennial Harbinger, Vol. 2, Fifth Series, 1859, pages 167-171.

LETTERS TO SOLDIERS

Altoona, Pa., R. 3.—To my son in Camp Pickett, Va.

In God be thy trust. Underneath are the everlasting arms.—Lovingly, Mother.

* * *

River Rouge, Mich.—May we all pray earnestly for our dear boys in the service, and also pray that this terrible war will soon be over, if it is God's will. And may we all do all we can in the Lord's vineyard, is my sincere prayer.—Mrs. Ella Sutterfield.

* * *

Altoona, Pa., 2012 Hudson Ave.—Would you please put a notice in your paper asking parents who have sons attending U. S. Government War Dept. School Detachment, Keystone Schools, Inc., Hollidaysburg, Pa., to please get in touch with us at the above address.—B. E. Yearick.

* * *

Greetings to our Boys in the U. S. Service and Beyond the Seas, Bob, Donovan and Marvin:

We are alright at home, and hope you are too, wherever you are. We may be very far away, but our hearts are very near you in your work, and prayers both night and day ascend that God will protect you and the war will soon be over and the victory won and He will bring you home in body and spirit.

* * *

My message to Paul, Harvey and Truman:

"I have a Savior, he's pleading in glory,
A dear, loving Savior, though earth-friends be few;

And now he is watching in tenderness o'er me,

And, O, that my Savior were your Savior, too!

For you I am praying,

I'm praying for you."

With Christian love, Aunt Margaret.

* * *

My message to Glenn and Alvin, and Bro. Paul McCloskey:

"My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;

When darkness veils his lovely face,

I rest on His unchanging grace;

In ev'ry high and stormy gale,

My anchor holds within the veil.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand,

All other ground is sinking sand."

With Christian love, Your sister in Christ, Aunt Margaret.

To P. F. C. Carson Warren, now in armed service of U. S. in foreign lands:

Dear Bro. Carson—Just a line to assure you that you are often in our thoughts, and that your fine letters are a great inspiration to us back home in your home congregation at 2907 Dean, Des Moines, Iowa. Our prayers often are given for God's watchful care to be over you, as well as other of our Christian boys, as we thank God for your firm determination to be a good soldier in the Lord's army, as well as for Uncle Sam. We note with pleasure what you say about what you expect to do when you get back with us, and we are looking forward with much pleasure to that time when we can clasp your hand again, and have you with us regularly in church services. We are trying to keep the church alive and active and pure that you may find it that way when you get back. May you ever be faithful in all things is our humble prayer. From your Uncle Gene.

* * *

A Good Example

Des Moines, Iowa.—Dear Bro. Sommer: We have three of the girls in the congregation taking notes of the meetings, and the programs carried out and they are sending them to seventeen boys in the service. Part of them members here, and others that we have hope to get interested; and the replies from these boys seem to indicate that they all appreciate this very much. Your plans for the January number of M. C. sounds very good to me, and should mean much in keeping the boys in line.

The work in the churches here is looking up. The development work of Carl and Roy Harris did much for us.

I am sending a dollar bill for which please send me 25 copies of the January number. Best wishes to you in the good work for 1943.—Eugene Suddeth, 3616 Vandalia Rd.

* * *

Independence, Mo.—To our boys in the service:

"For the Duration" is a phrase we hear very much these days. We are taking the best care possible of our cars, driving them less, to save rubber, and being as conservative as possible in every way to promote the war effort, and give our boys and the United Nations the weapons to fight with. This is all to win a war, but as Christians let us say, "For the duration of life itself" we will keep ourselves unspotted from the

world. (Jas. 1:27.) Fight the good fight of Faith. (I. Tim. 6:12.) And remember Jas. 4:14! "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time and then vanishes away." We know our boys are far from home, and subject to many temptations, but again the LORD admonishes, "Yield not to temptation," (Rom. 6:13) and, "Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season, we shall reap, if we faint not." (Gal. 6:9.) We are working for you, praying for you, ever loving you and looking for you (Home) in a new and **VICTORIOUS TOMORROW.** — George Kreeger.

* * *

Attention, Pvt. H. J. S.:

I am glad you have been permitted to begin your training in the Rio Grande Valley. Your letters and the pictures you sent convince us that you are surrounded by much beautiful and fruitful scenery. While you are admiring it don't forget to offer your praise to Him who provided such blessings,—the fruit of your lips giving thanks to his name, as Paul advised. But whatever your surroundings and circumstances may be while you are in service that we may continue to possess our beautiful and blessed country with freedom of worship, etc., remember Him in all things and it will help. Make it reach to the other boys as much as you can. We cast an influence as surely as we cast a shadow when there is sufficient light, so I know you can help some.—Your sister in the flesh and in Christ, Gene.

* * *

To Ted, Clyde, Herbert, Ralph, Jerald, Lee, Hoise and all of you other cousins who will soon be in training:

Dear Cousins—To each one I wish to send a message from these hills of old Missouri, likened to ocean's rolling waves. The home of your singing soldier grandfather and mine, Daniel Cook, who brightened the corner where he was teaching vocal music along with Bible classes in school houses. Under a tree he has gathered the people about him to learn more about God. Death came early in life, in the fifties, but already he had fought a good fight for God and was ready to lay hold on eternal life and meet his God in peace and rejoicing. For he worked, as it is called today, and his praises are still voiced among the oldest settlers. His voice comes ringing down the years to you and to me, a

"challenge" to us to fight the good fight of faith. Be faithful unto death and "I will give thee a crown of life," says God. "Give first," not last, was his aim, as shown by his work. To you each one and to me he has thrown a torch to hold high, a lamp for your feet to march nobly by. He offered his all for two years for his country and the greater part of his life soldiering for God, holding high the blood stained banner of the King of Kings, Christ Jesus. Let us, too, from this day forward never let it drag in the dust—we his blood kin. While on the march for his country, no doubt there were always songs and prayers filling his thoughts.

"Dear Lord, this time of pain and strife,
Though it be all we see of life—

We who are young,

We have no choice for what we see

But we 'will' keep our faith in Thee—

And 'Thy songs' be sung."

—Thelma Cook.

Pleasant Hill, Mo.—Dear William Marvin: We received your picture today, this first anniversary of Pearl Harbor; and as I sit here comparing your picture today as a flying cadet with the one a year ago as a private in the Medical Division, I think how close you came to being sent over with the great number that was rushed to the west coast to sail to foreign lands. This year's careful and practical training as a soldier for man's army has left you quite grown up and very alert looking. Just as God wants his soldiers of the cross to be well trained in his Word, his service and always alert against our worst enemy, Sin. Knowing well your aim to be always one of the best in all you undertake, there is just one little sentence with a mighty meaning I would like to add as a kind reminder: "Never forget to pray" as you take off among the clouds, the stars and all of God's handiwork of the heavens, as you go into battle or out of it. As we look back on the really great worthwhile people that have made past history, we see they were praying people of God. I will close with a few lines of verse that might express better what I would like to say:

"We're sending a wish for your service.

A wish and a hope and a prayer.

A wish that a new birth of truth and love

Be felt in all hearts—everywhere.

A hope that hate may be vanished,

And all battle flags be furled,

And a prayer that the blessings of peace
and joy
May spread o'er all the world."
—Mother Robertson.

A message to dear ones who are serving our country in the present world conflict, or soon will be: I think of nephews, William and Herbert Baker; Caleb, Ceell, Thomas, Nelson, Herbert Noyes; and among other dear friends, Bill and Clifford, Royal, Floyd, Robert.

Then I think of many "soldiers of the cross" who are keeping the home fires burning. Some of them enlisted in the army of the Lord many years ago, and are still contending for truth and righteousness to prevail, in order that "our America" may not become so deeply engulfed in sin and wickedness that she "will be turned into hell with all the nations that forget God." (Psa. 5:15, 17.)

Let us not become discouraged when we are under "intensive training" that so many of us are now passing through, but buckle on the armor and keep in close touch with Christ, the Captain of our salvation. None of us will suffer more hardships, persecutions, fiery trials than did that faithful soldier of the cross, the Apostle Paul, who was faithful even unto death. He said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Let us be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might; in the strenuous efforts we are putting forth "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places; let us put on the whole armour of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (See Eph. 6:10, 20.)

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled." (2 Cor. 10:3, 5.)

Sometimes young people forget their duties and responsibilities to our kind and loving Heavenly Father, when they realize they are entirely removed from environments to which they have been accustomed, and thoughtlessly do things that are wrong. But he watches over us and sees all that we do and hears all that we say, and is able to deliver us out of temptation when we put our trust in

him and do our very best to "keep ourselves in his loving favor." "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man. But God is faithful, and will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Cor. 10:12, 13.)

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a forward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left; remove thy foot from evil." (Prov. 4:23, 27.)

Many centuries ago the gospel of Christ was preached to Grecians at Antioch "and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord." Barnabas, a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith, came to them from Jerusalem. "He exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord." (See Acts 11:20, 24.)

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phillip. 4:6, 7.)

—Emily Baker, Topeka, Kans.

(Sister Baker for many years conducted a page for young people in the Apostolic Review—Editor.)

"Army against army," 1 Sam. 17:21.—Boys, David was a soldier, perhaps not so old as many of you, but he whipped the army of the Philistines by killing their champion fighter, a giant, heavily armed, whose name was Goliath.

Goliath made fun of David, treated him with contempt, and told him what he'd do for him. Then David said, "You come to meet me with a sword and with a spear and a shield, but I come to you in the name of the Lord." And told him what he'd do to him. David told him "that all this assembly, the Philistine army, shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear." David's armor was in the name of the Lord, with a sling and a small stone from the brook. Read the 17th chapter of 1st Samuel.

David was one of the Lord's army because he was a descendant of Abraham, of whom the Israelites (the army of the Lord) were descendants. Christ was a descendant of David, an ancestor of Joseph, the husband of Mary, who was the mother of Jesus. (Matt. 1:16.) To be one of the Lord's army today it is necessary to be a spiritual child of God through Christ, a descendant of the Israelites of the tribe of Judah. He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh to the Father but by me." (John, 14:6.) * * *

Soldier boys, remember that the folks at home are praying that you may be protected and your lives spared that you may, if you are not already, become a soldier of the Lord's army, a part of the spiritual house of God that it may, and will, be preserved, for God has promised through Dan. 2:44 that his kingdom shall never be destroyed. The faithful ones of the Israelites of whom David was one, were kept alive to the time of Christ's kingdom and how can it be otherwise today? The young people of today will be the perpetuation of the church which Christ built. The church will be preserved on earth while time lasts and throughout eternity.

Soldier boys, you can meet Satan's army in the name of the Lord, when you believe repent, confess Christ and are baptized for the remission of sins; born into the house, or family of God. And this is the confidence we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will He heareth us. (1 John 5:14, 15.) God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9.) So the folks at home are praying for you, soldier boys.—Mrs. Laura W. Goodin, grandmother of two soldier boys.

"A Soldier's Farewell," 2 Tim. 4:7.—The last words of great men are the most impressive. The Apostle Paul was a great soldier of the cross, and could well say when departing this life: "I have fought a good fight." First, because he had enlisted in a righteous cause. He told Timothy to, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life." (1 Tim. 6:12.) Second, he had recognized Christ as his captain, and had diligently followed him. "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." (1 Cor. 11:1.) Third, he had armed himself with the weapons recom-

mended by the Holy Spirit. He had worn the girdle of "truth," the "breastplate of righteousness," and the "helmet of salvation," and had carried "the shield of faith" and "the sword of the spirit." (Eph. 6:16-17.) Last of all, "he had pleased him who had chosen him to be a soldier" by not "entangling himself with the affairs of this life," and had willingly endured "hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (2 Tim. 2:3-4.) Thus with one purpose in mind he had been able to wage an all-out war against the enemy, "holding the beginning of our (his) confidence steadfast to the end." (Heb. 3:14.)

Paul further said: "I have finished the course." He accomplished this by: "laying aside every weight—", and running "with patience." (Heb. 12:1.) By "forgetting those things which are behind," (1 Phil. 3:14), and being "temperate in all things" as he "striveth for the mastery." (1 Cor. 9:25.)

He last said: "I have kept the faith." He was able to do this in humility. "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." (1 Cor. 9:27.) By "praying always with all prayer and supplication—", (Eph. 6:18), and looking forward with that abiding hope which "we have as an anchor of the soul." (Heb. 6:19.)—L. C. Roberts, Lyons, Ind.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

1. It is called "Church of Christ" because Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my Church" (Matt. 16:18); and because they were called "churches of Christ". (Rom. 16:16.) We have also the name, "Church of God". (1 Cor. 1:2.)

2. Each congregation was ruled by the inspired apostles' teaching as applied by its elders, called also bishops or overseers. It had also deacons as servants of the church. It had no one-man preacher-pastor doing the work of the elders, and sapping up all the resources of the church. (1 Tim. 3; Titus 1; Acts 20:17-35.)

3. "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch." (Acts 11:26; see also 1 Peter 4:16.)

4. Those who entered Christ in New Testament times believed, confessed Christ, repented and were baptized into him. Baptism was the last step which

brought them into him. (Gal. 3:27; Acts 2:38, 22:16.)

5. The apostolic church had no societies attached to it, but did its aid-work as individuals (Acts 9:36-42; Gal. 6:10); and as congregations (Acts 11:27-30). The early Christians had no missionary societies, but did that kind of work through the Church. (Phil. 4:15, 16.) They had no human religious organizations of any kind sapping the life out of Christ's body, the Church, for they knew that "by the church the manifold wisdom of God" should be made known. (Eph. 3:10, 21.)

6. The worship of Christ's Church was simple. The early disciples "came together to break bread" "upon the first day of the week." (Acts 20:7.) They "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers." (Acts 2:42.) They had no musical instruments in their worship, but taught and admonished "one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in their hearts to the Lord." (Col. 3:16.) They did not raise money by shows, festivals, raffles, etc., but gave as they had been prospered. (1 Cor. 16:1, 2.)

7. The Life—"Add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance (self-control); and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity (love)." (2 Peter 1:5-11.)

FUTURE ISSUES OF THE MACEDONIAN CALL

These are times which try men's souls. Many of our Christian boys are in the army, separated, some of them, from home and church influences by thousands of miles. Parents and wives and sweet-hearts at home feel blue because of their absence. Many husbands are away, working in defense plants, separated from their families. Many are working long hours and every day in plants near home. Children may be turned loose on the streets.

Churches may be short on teaching ability. Dust may accumulate on our Bibles and our lives. The cares of this world may overwhelm many when such cares should bring them to the feet of Jesus. The deceitfulness of riches from the war plants may choke the Word in some of our lives. But if we will work as

we should, this world catastrophe may turn out for good.

What Christians now need is character, character, CHARACTER, to fight the good fight of faith. And it is for this reason that the publisher of the M. C. has decided to try to make EVERY issue of the paper from January to June, inclusive, applicable to the building of character. Each issue will be good for our soldiers, as well as others, in or out of the Church. Specific doctrinal matter on the Church will be given a secondary place, except what is necessary to be saved from past sins.

We ask the brethren to condense their reports. If you are having development work, tell our readers. If members are taking a part well, that knowledge may stimulate others to do the same. If you are holding interesting mid-week Bible services, write it to us. Also, write on subjects that will make better soldiers of the cross, such as: Faithfulness, Repentance, Reatitution, Trials, Hope, Steadfastness, Watchfulness, Courage, Temptations, Lukewarmness, Selfishness, Patience, Nagging, Backsliding, Meddling, Faint-heartedness, Hatred, Anger, Drunkenness, Revelling, Home Training, Envy, Reading the Bible, Ingratitude. Read "the works of the flesh" and "fruit of the spirit," in Gal. 5. Any page of an epistle will have a dozen good subjects. Give an illustration in your article if you can. You might describe some one whom you consider a noble, Christian character.

Twenty-sixth and Spruce Church in Kansas City, Mo., sends for 50 copies of each issue for six months, to send to her soldiers or hand out to others.

It is better for YOU to send the papers to the soldiers since you have their latest address, than for the publisher. Future issues will be regular size. Get a package of large envelopes and fold the paper twice across the page, and send first class. What you don't send to soldiers will be helpful to your neighbors. "In the morning sow thy seed," etc.

COURAGE

It requires courage to go into the army and face death. The apostles and many of the early disciples faced death in taking up the cross of Christ, but not many of us suffer physical persecution in serving our Lord Jesus today. If we should have to face death, probably

there would be fewer cowards than there are when the worst we have to face is ridicule, the opinion of the people, and unpopularity. As it is said, "It requires a great deal of courage to live one's life, not as men, but as God wants it lived." Opinion is a powerful influence and holds most people in bondage. I've an idea that most of us would live much more simple and honest lives but for what others might think of us. Their opinion rules us more than we think. We are blessed with sufficient good judgment to know what is the right thing to do many, many times that we are simply too weak to stand up for it, and so we bow the knee with the rest of the worshippers of, shall we say, popular opinion? I have not found many young people who dare to give up patronizing the theater. I say dare, for some of them know they could be just as happy if all theater doors were to be closed forever. It is the fact that others are going which makes it difficult for them to stay away. When a group of young people get together, two or three or more, first thing you know they wind up at the theater.

Now, I want to say that we don't have to go to the battle front to show what courage we possess. There is plenty of opportunity right at home. I think it is well said that if one woman in society would pluck up courage and do what she judged to be right that she would find a dozen in her circle to follow in her steps. "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you (popular opinion) more than unto God, judge ye."—Ragene Sims.

"THE CHURCH BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD"



Perhaps it was at a little church by the side of the road, where you first learned more fully, besides at mother's knee, of the higher and better life. Or, perhaps, it was at a little place of worship on Main Street in a village, or a

side street in a city. Or, as in apostolic days, it may have been at a church in an "upper room", or a "church in thy house". (The church is the people, not the house.)

Anyway, the place comes floating back to your mind now, since you are far away, perhaps in a foreign land, and can no longer attend its humble services. When your father and mother took you there as a child, you may have chafed under the restraint. Now, as you see the world on fire, you discern in the idealism of that little church, the only hope of the world.

True, many of the members may not have been what you think they should have been, and it may be they did not show sufficient interest in putting you into the work; but on the whole their effort was to lift to a better life. You know it now, since you have seen more of the wickedness of the world. Though you became a member, you did not remain faithful, even though you are still young in years.

But, on the other hand, you may now be in middle life; and as your mind runs out and across the years to the songs and prayers and exhortations made in the little church in the wildwood, you see that you have lost much by your backslidings. And much more so now, as you realize that "the great adventure" may be near at hand.

Return to your Savior now, return to the Shepherd and Bishop of your soul. Confess to Him your heart-wanderings, and ask strength for the future. If you have never enlisted for Him, enlist now, as He has commanded.

In the world you've failed to find,
Aught of peace for troubled mind,
Come to Christ, on Him believe,
Peace and joy you shall receive.

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray in Jesus' name for all the soldiers of thy Army of Righteousness, in the service of our government. We pray that they may have courage in all the temptations of life. That they may be willing to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. That they may be faithful unto the end. And we pray that through their efforts, and the efforts of us who are left at home, there may arise a new world with greater Justice, Truth, Righteousness, Earnestness, Mercy and Peace, and that in greater power "thy Kingdom may come and thy will be done, on earth as it is done in heaven." Amen.