

# Macedonian Call

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

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## Here They Come The No. 1 Trouble Makers of the World

**H**ERE they come! Marching down the universe. The No. 1 Trouble-Makers of the world! The traits and traitors of the human race! They have different names at different times and occasions, but Trouble is their stock of trade for impressive human beings on all occasions and at all times. Written on their faces and demeanor are these words:

Pride, Ambition, Self-conceit, Haughtiness, Egotism, Envy, Insolence, Stubbornness.

Notice that I say these contentious folks are marching down the "universe." I mean that very thing, for they have not confined their labors to this globe of ours, alone. Before the worlds were brought into existence, Satan gave birth to them in his rebellion against God, for which he was cast out of heaven; and when this earth of ours was peopled with human beings, he tried to make it the home of his children. And it seems he has well nigh accomplished his satanic purpose.

They came to Adam and Eve in the garden when they were on trial, and persuaded Eve that she



would become wise as God, knowing good and evil, if only she would eat of the forbidden tree. She ate and "brought death into the world and all our woe."

These same traitors of mankind came marching to the post-diluvians and persuaded them that they, too, would become great if they would turn from God to other worship, and so these descendants of Noah, "professing themselves to be wise, became fools and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like unto corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things." (Romans 1.)

They come to Korak, Dathan and Abiram, to Aaron and Miriam, and also to Nadab and Abihu. They come to Saul till the prophet told him clearly who was at the bottom of his troubles; Saul had failed to destroy all the wicked Amalekites and their sheep and oxen as commanded, but had saved the latter for sacrifice to God; and the prophet warned, "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt

offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and *stubbornness* [In persisting in saying you have obeyed the Lord when you have not] is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king." (1 Samuel 15: 22, 23.)

And these Trouble-Makers found a welcome reception in the days of the kings of Israel. Read how many times the prophets used the word "stiff-necked" against the Jews and you can see. And that word "stiff-neck" is a very appropriate word. Watch a man when he becomes rebellious to the right, and determined to do as he pleases regardless of God or man, and see how his neck swells out. He has lost all reason and humility.

Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost and to persuade them to close the door to these Factionists of the world. But James and John unwittingly let them in, and came to the Savior and asked that they might sit one on His right hand and the other on the left when He came in His glory. Then did our Savior express one of the most far-reaching, yet neglected, principles of his kingdom:

"Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them; *but so shall it NOT be among you*; but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister; and *whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all*. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered to, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mark 10: 35-45.) So Greatness in Christ's kingdom is through SERVICE not earthly glory.

The leaders of the Gentiles, the nations, seek Glory, not service as in the kingdom of Christ. Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon, Hitler, Mussolini (who has been indeed a second Caesar as he wished and has just tumbled from his throne on his "ides of March"), all opened their arms widely to receive these Trouble-Makers of the ages. France lies prostrate and bleeding because Ambition and all his progeny went there to dwell. And Washington is filled with bickerings, and contentions between men who desire to be greatest of all.

"*But so shall it NOT be among you*," said our Savior to His disciples. You, who are the first preachers of the gospel. You, who become the elders, or bishops, of the churches. You, who become the disciples in general. You are not to seek earthly glory, but heavenly; and the one who would become chiefest, "let him be servant of all."

Oh, that I could draw a veil over the wrangling

among Christians through the past nineteen hundred years, and could fancy that they all had obeyed this vital teaching! Jesus knew the weakness of man, and so established His kingdom that the greatest office one can occupy is that of being one of two or more elders, called also bishops (because they were to oversee), in *ONE local church*. There is no distinction of clergy and laity in the New Testament, but all Christians are to be preachers and teachers of the truth, and go "preaching the Word" (Acts 8: 4), wherever they go. And the edification of the saints when "the whole church was gathered together", was done by *several* of the brethren, not simply one man. (See 1 Cor. 14:26.)

This marvelous wisdom of God in showing the Christians how to keep the No. 1 Trouble-Makers out of his kingdom, *overawes* me; and it accomplishes the desired results where men are willing to obey. But the Papal system with its bishops, archbishops, cardinals, and popes, with their contentions through the centuries as to who should be greatest, is just the antithesis, the opposite, of what Jesus taught. And the wranglings in conferences and associations and general assemblies and conventions of Protestants, with efforts put forth to push the doctrines and commandments of men, and to usurp the chiefest positions for self—show that the so-called children of God are like the nations and seek glory rather than service.

Here they come down through the centuries, these No. 1 Enemies of the peace of Zion and of the world, and many preachers of the gospel entertain them in their heart. Inspired Paul commands these preachers to develop teachers in the church who should be able to teach others also (see 2 Tim. 2:2), so that they can then have elders who can "feed the flock" as God commands; but where is there a "pastor" in the denominational world who is seeking earnestly to obey Paul on that? They know there are men in their churches who are just as brainy as themselves, and if such were inspired with devotion and would become scriptural elders, able to feed and rule the flock and convince the gainsayers, they themselves might lose a little of their prestige over the flock. Not "service" but glory these pastors are seeking. This is manifested, too, when many in a church desire a change of pastors and the present hireling balks at a change. Hundreds of churches are divided each year by these men ambitious for power and wealth.

How foolish some elders are, and how innocent of history! They say, "We will hire a man to preach every Sunday morning and night and take charge of the mid-week meeting, but we will continue to rule! Let the preachers preach and the elders rule." Fine slogan of Satan, for that is all it is. *Whoever does the teaching will soon do ALL the ruling*. That

is a truth of History. When Mussolini did all the teaching of Italian youth, he soon did all the ruling and made Fascism strong—to their sorrow. When Hitler did all the teaching of youth, he soon made Nazism strong for Germany—to their sorrow. And when the pastor does all the teaching of the church, he makes the clergy system strong—to the sorrow of the church in the end. Reader, can't you see that? The world goes the way it is taught, and whoever does the teaching guides the world. Elders, break the shackles of these ambitious ones before it is too late.

In the original Church of the New Testament, there was an equality among the elders, but the No. 1 Enemies of the Church entered the fold and exalted the most eloquent and most influential elder to a new position, and called him "the bishop" and continued the name "elder" for the rest of them. This was the first step toward Roman Catholicism in the history of Christianity. And even in churches today which do not have such distinction, there is often a rivalry among elders as to who shall be greatest. How far such men have fallen from the teaching of the Master to His apostles. "Servant of all!"

And now we see them milling around within the local Church—those Trouble-Makers of the ages. When the Church tries to establish a mutual teaching among the brethren as they had in apostolic days, some man who has only ordinary ability wishes to show his superiority by making a hobby of some special point. He can not distinguish himself by keeping close to the Word, and so must exalt himself by making himself different from others and a nuisance to the Church. He does not care whether he makes God contradict Himself when he settles on one passage of scripture, and he does not try to harmonize or modify it with other passages which are just as much inspired. Instead of riding a hobby, after a time the hobby rides him. After many years with such men, I have decided that Self-conceit is an outstanding trait of a hobbyist, and Solomon says there is more hope of a fool than of him.

Stubbornness is only another dress of these Public Enemies of the world. When men find they are wrong, they have not sufficient humility to come out frankly and say so. They are too proud. It might cause others to lose confidence in them. And so they will continue in their animosity toward others because they are too stubborn to make their wrongs right. They stir up families, communities, churches and nations. Did any one ever hear of the diplomats of one nation acknowledging that they had made a mistake in their dealings toward another nation? There can never be peace among nations until there is the spirit of fairness among the leaders of those nations, and there will not be such spirit among

our leaders till the spirit of Christ melts their stubborn hearts.

We pass from nations to our own little communities, and find that the talebearer, busy-body and slanderer have all opened their arms wide, for these Trouble-Makers; and they certainly have created Trouble in many a congregation, home and community. Analyze these characters, if you will, and see if desire to be **first** in peddling a scandal is not at the root of the evil tree. And that spirit is Ambition for preeminence.

The Family is the foundation of all states, and yet the Family is being broken to pieces because the man or woman or both have entertained these Trouble-Makers of the Ages. One tries to force his ideas on the other, when it is not necessary at all. Sometimes a man becomes a little Hitler and hardly realizes it; but in these days of Amazons (look that word up in your dictionary) and loose divorce courts, he doesn't last long. Oftentimes a woman measures the whole world by her kitchen rules; husband and children must conform to these rules in the most careful way; to deviate from them is almost as bad as the sin against the Holy Ghost; children, hence, find greater pleasure in the streets, and the husband in the lodge or tavern, to escape the everlasting contention. More homes are wrecked by nagging than by fornication. We can't make every one in this life conform to our little ideas, so we should confine ourselves to great moral issues and the commandments of God and things of far-reaching importance, and overlook the little things. With many women housekeeping is an end in view rather than a means toward an end—happiness and peace.

The motto of husbands and wives should be: Liberty in Little Things; Agreement in Great Things; and Charity in All Things. The affairs of human conduct can not be worked out like mathematics. If there is no principle of right and wrong involved, and no great amount of money, let the other person learn by experience rather than by your dictum. Some people have no sense of values, which is the euphonious way of saying they have no common sense, for they magnify a very incidental thing to a place of the gravest importance. Their determination to have their way in such incidentals and trifles, ruins the home.

Stubbornness plays its part, too, in furthering religious sectarianism. People are taught certain things in early life, and they will consider nothing against that as long as they live. Even if the Word of God is brought to their attention, they will not listen. They are prejudiced. And oftentimes when they see they are wrong, they will not turn lest they be put out of the synagogue and lose some of their friends. Are such people really honest? Think you

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that such people will be saved? "Stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."

I tell you, dear reader, that so long as we entertain these Trouble Makers of the Ages, we shall have little prospect of peace and salvation. Solomon says there are six things the Lord hates, and that seven are an abomination, and the first one he mentions is "a proud look." Throughout the Bible, it is said that "God resisteth the proud but giveth grace unto the humble." And our Master says, "Come unto me and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly of heart." He was spoken of in prophecy as the "Prince of Peace", and it is only by following his teaching and example on humility that peace can come to the world.

Don't worry, then, ye who have resisted these No. 1 Enemies of the human race and have given yourselves to the service of Christ. What if the world does *not* notice the good you do? What if the world *even hates* you for doing it? What if your friends *do not consider* your sacrifices for them? What if you are without honor in your own country and among *your own* kindred? We are not seeking glory from men, we are not craving praise from mortals like ourselves. We are seeking only the approval of the Eternal God and his glorified Son. That alone counts in the Great Beyond. God sees all that we do, and if we are otherwise faithful we shall receive a reward at the judgment seat of Christ, regardless of man's indifference toward us.

Oh, what a different world we should have, what a different Church, if only we could root out of the hearts of professed Christians Pride, Ambition, Self-conceit, Haughtiness, Envy and Stubbornness! These are the fuerhrers and the fascists and the dictators and the despots who existed long before Hitler and Mussolini, and will still be with us when they will have been forgotten.

Oh, that we could burn into our hearts Christ's remedy for much of the world's ills when he said to his disciples: "So shall it **not** be among you. . . .

And whosoever of you will be chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

## Scriptural Elders

In order to qualify for the office of a bishop, one must be a married man. This is plainly set forth in I Timothy 3:2 as the second requirement on the part of those who desire this office. There has long been a discussion as to the import and extent of the statement, "The husband of one wife." Some there are who urge that it simply means one should not be ordained who is a bigamist or polygamist. In support of this theory it is contended that many of those who came into such congregations as Ephesus, where Timothy was working, would be former idolatrous Gentiles and would have more than one wife. It is further argued that there was no express command that one who before hearing the gospel had taken several wives should put any of them away on the obeying of the gospel, and thus in the apostolic days there would be disciples living in polygamy, but such would not be considered for the eldership. The whole tenor of the New Testament however is against such an idea, and besides, there is little proof extant that polygamy was at that time a widespread practice in the Gentile world. We admit freely that fornication was an all too frequent way of worshipping at the thrones of the various idols but Paul declares that those who formerly indulged in such loose practices were "washed, sanctified and justified." (I Cor. 6:11.)

On the basis of the above reasoning, it is often suggested that celibacy is not a sin in itself, and thus a man not married is qualified for the office of elder. Good brethren have affirmed in days of yore that Paul does not teach that a man must have a wife. We have no way of knowing what Paul meant except by what he said. He here plainly says that one **MUST** be the husband of one wife. If a man is not married at all he is not a husband. He does not fulfill this requirement of those set forth in verses 4 and 5. There it is definitely declared that such an one must rule his own house (family) having his children in subjection with all gravity. If he has neither wife, children or family he cannot meet these requirements. We admit that celibacy is not a sin or a crime. But that has nothing to do with the point at issue.

Lack of ability to teach may not be a crime, but it certainly is a bar to the office of an elder. Being a novice is not a sin, but still it acts as a bar to the office. So not having a wife is no crime. Neither is not having a family. It certainly would not be a sin for an unmarried man **NOT** to have children. But still he could not qualify for office even if he is not guilty of sin in these respects.

Elders are to rule, govern and oversee the flock. Before they can be placed in office they must first be proved, that is tried and tested. In the matter of ability to rule, God has assigned the home and family as the testing ground. It is the divine laboratory in which a man's fitness in relation to government is determined. So the record demands that before an elder be appointed he must show ability to rule his own house having his children in subjection. Then the question is aptly asked "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the house of God?" I would like to offer another question just here, "If a man have no house to rule, how can he rule them and demonstrate that he

can take care of the house of God?" I do not anticipate an answer to that query.

The sectarian world has about as much conception of the qualifications of a bishop, as the average Kansas jackrabbit would have of the importance of the first day of the week in Christian worship. And some of our brethren are not far behind either the sectarian or the rabbit. It is apparent to even the casual thinker that when an office exists, there must be an officer. Where there is an officer there must be qualifications by which he demonstrates his fitness. If we ignore one qualification, we can by the same right ignore them all. This would destroy not only the authority which gave them but also do away with the office, by making the position accessible to all whether they had any qualifications or not. It is unscriptural to place a bachelor or unmarried man in this high office, not because he sins in being an unmarried man, but because by not having a wife and family he does not meet the specifications for the office.

Titus was left at Crete to set in order the things that were lacking in the churches and to ordain elders in every city as the apostle had appointed him to do. Paul describes the kind of men that may be put in office by saying, "If any be blameless, the husband of one wife. . .". Now if one can set aside the second qualification, he can also do away with the first. The same "if" applies to both and one can justifiably read, "If any be blameless and IF ANY BE THE HUSBAND of one wife." It does no injury to the passage and destroys not the sacred logic employed.

Attention to the details of church government would have saved the religious world a great deal of turmoil and strife. Rome today put men into their bishoprics who have never married, and calls those fathers, who have neither wife or children. Catholicism quotes "Whose experience is wider and more varied than the priest who is trusted as no other living man with the secrets of all in the sacred tribunal of the sacrament of penance? To say that a priest ought to marry the better to understand how to teach men well is about as sensible as to tell a physician to taste his every medicine in order to prescribe for his patients." In spite of this my Bible still reads "A bishop MUST be blameless, the husband of one wife." I accept it at face value and in spite of the arguments of men against it.—W. Carl Ketcherside.

## Bought and Paid for—But Not Delivered

"Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men." (1 Cor. 7:23.)

We may obtain an idea of the value placed upon an article by the price one is willing to give for it. What was the value God placed upon your soul? "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot." (1 Pet. 1:18, 19.)

Gold, silver or wealth of the world could not buy man's redemption. Man had wandered from his God, and had become so enmeshed in sin and so helpless in the clutches of Satan that only the grace of God in sending His only son to die in our stead could save man from the consequences of his own waywardness. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." (Rom. 5:6.) Speaking of Christ again, Paul says: (1 Tim. 2:6) "Who gave himself a ransom for all." Thus

we are led to believe there is efficacy in the blood of Jesus to atone for all the sins of the world.

But does it necessarily follow that all men will be saved? I fear not, since it is true our Lord has provided the ransom price for our souls, to redeem us from a life of sin, too many have never delivered the purchased possession to God. In other words, while Jesus gave His blood to buy our souls, before we will be benefited we must deliver (yield) our lives to Him. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Rom. 6:16.)

The mere fact that the blood of Christ is available to all does not prove all men are free from sin because this same apostle tells us: "ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." (See Rom. 6:17, 18; also verses 3-5.)

Remember, the one way you can express your appreciation for the great sacrifice He has made to purchase your soul, is by yielding your heart and life completely to His control.

Here is a two-fold transaction: God has provided the price which you could never have paid for the redemption of your soul. On the other hand, your part of the bargain is to deliver to God that for which "Jesus paid it all." Have you been true to your trust? Or have you withheld a portion of what belongs to your God? Have you, even while pretending to live a Christian life, like Ananias and Sapphira held back part while claiming to have laid your all upon the altar?

Your members are not your own, they belong to God! No longer can your feet run riot through this world, you must use them to walk only where God would have them go. No more must your hands be employed to handle ill-gotten wealth or to do things that will bring reproach upon Jesus Christ. Your eyes can not feast upon evil scenes if they belong to God. That tongue of yours will not be allowed to spew forth worldly filth, but will speak as the oracles of God direct.

Otherwise you could not be a Christian, since the members of our body are to serve Him as well as our spirit. "Yield ye ur members servants to righteousness unto holiness." (Rom. 6:19.)

It is impossible to degrade our bodies and still glorify Our Lord in spirit since both have been purchased by the blood of Christ. "For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Cor. 6:20.)

Is the way in which you use the members of your body glorifying to God? Not long ago, an old brother said: "I feel I can go to the wood-lot and cut wood, or hoe in my garden, to the glory of God; but I can not go up town and play cards with the loafers in the park and do that to the glory of God." There's something to that, brethren! And how much honor does He receive when you attend the theater, pool hall or beer tavern? Perhaps there are other things you can think of if you try.

Your Lord has purchased the service of your members. Have you failed to deliver? Have they been bought and paid for—but not delivered? He gave His life for you—what have you given for Him?—Ray Harris.

## "Stubborn Resistance"

The word "resist" carries with it the idea of fighting against anything, and trying to fortify one's self against

some onslaught. That is just exactly the Christian's job. James says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (Jas. 4:7.)

A general won't send his forces against the enemy without first being sure they are trained and instructed in the methods of warfare. Nor does our General expect us to fight against Satan without knowing how! "His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness." (2 Pet. 1:3.) That verse means he has given us plans, instructions, and examples that make for Christian living under any circumstances. No doubt many sincere souls have stumbled and fallen before the darts of Satan for lack of knowledge in combating them.

If you were warned that a man was going to attempt to break into your house would you fortify against him by opening all the doors and windows, and then lounge in the easy chair? Sounds foolish, doesn't it? And yet, that's just the way some people "resist the devil"! Instead of fighting him they are paving the way for him, and then in "sympathy desiring" tones they cry, "I can't overcome the temptations of life." At that rate they never will!

First of all let us remember that before a person will habitually do that which is wrong, he must be interested in it. So that is Satan's first step, trying to interest people in his wares. He paints enticing scenes for you and me to gaze upon, hoping to ensnare some. He knows full well that by sight and meditation the lust and desire of man is inflamed. No wonder Paul said, "Flee youthful lusts."

Now I know that no one can live in this world without seeing a certain degree of vice, lewdness and lasciviousness, but he does NOT have to go out of his way and hunt for it! Instead he should discharge it from his mind as soon as possible and think on things that are High and Holy. "Shun all appearance of evil." Resist the devil by refusing to take interest in the things of this world that are contrary to the Bible. Study the fourth chapter of Matthew and see how the Savior overcame, and that recipe is good today.

Don't think for one minute that all the power the "Evil one" has is in the things that we can see. Mark 4:24 records "Take heed what you hear." Many lives have been hopelessly ruined by listening to the voice of evil. The voice of sin with its great persuasiveness is heard at every turn of the road, desiring an entrance to the citadel of our lives, for the Wicked One. Eve was deceived by what she heard. (2 Cor. 11:3.) And we are subject to the same thing. Curiosity developed from hearing leads multitudes downward. Resist the devil by carefully considering whether it be good or evil, whether its source be from truth or error, and what effect it will have upon you in the future.

Demas relinquished his claim on Christianity, because of the love of this present world. (2 Tim. 4:10.) If we will "set our affections on things above, not on things on the earth" our fortification will be impregnable. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom RESIST steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." (1 Pet. 5:8, 9.)—Winford Lee.

### The Precious Book of Truth

About ten years ago I did not know the Bible to be that. To me, it was just a book, usually bound in black leather,

with an individuality which somehow set it apart from all other books, and which people in general had come to avoid as though it held within its covers the contagion of some dreadful disease. At least, I got the idea that not many people risked getting caught reading it in those days. But I did know that great men that I read about in my school books had not seemed at all wary of reading it. It seemed that they read few books, but read them over and over, and the Bible was usually listed as one of them. I don't know why I did not choose to follow their example rather than to be influenced by the modern attitude. Even when I became seriously interested in learning the truth in matters of religion, it seems I did not dare suppose that the Bible was fully capable of informing me as to "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth!" I believed there must surely be just one right and acceptable way to worship God, but where or how did I expect to learn it? Sometimes I think people now are slow to understand what the Bible should mean to them, but I should remember that I, too, was once slow to comprehend the same.

Many times my thoughts go back to the evening of my confession of faith in the Savior, about seven years ago. The preacher who took my confession kept me standing before the congregation for what seemed to me like eons, but I have many times since been thankful for those words that were spoken, for they were in no sense superfluous. I cannot say how soon or how late I might otherwise have learned that I would need to study the scriptures DAILY, but I count myself very fortunate that Bro. H. took advantage of that very serious moment to impress that fact upon my mind. I will say that I had not counted on doing quite such a thing. Even though I was accepting the Savior I was not altogether free of the modern attitude toward the Bible.

I can say now that I do know the Bible to be "The Precious Book of Truth which God has given." "Our guiding star that leads from earth to heaven." I have not advanced in my study of it quite as rapidly as I should, but I have been rewarded according to the diligence of my efforts. It took time to get started. Breaking down my former attitude was not accomplished in a day. Or maybe it was mostly the attitude of several other people that I reckoned with. I was so surprised that the Scriptures spoke so plainly, and so delighted with all the truths I was learning that people in general seemed not to have learned, that every time I wrote a friend my new learning in this respect managed to consume most of the space. And that gave me the opportunity to feel as the apostle Paul must have felt when Festus accused him of being beside himself with learning. If I understand what Festus meant, it runs about parallel with that which several people began to speak concerning me and my learning. One poor uncomprehending soul advised me to try reading in my Bible just every other day. I explained to her what a task that would be, and how that it is a great deal easier to read some every day. Then she said, "But don't you think there are some things in the Bible that might not have a very good effect upon the mind if one should dwell on them?" But I looked to another's judgment: "The Bible has furnished truths and they have trained the mind; it has put man's mind into right relations with the world, with the Maker of the world, and with the people of the world, and that has set the mind to working normally." . . . "it has prompted to all the forms of intellectual research and to the founding of all the institutions for the training of the mind. There can be no complete training of the mind apart from the Bible."

That was pretty good judgment to match against that of my friend, for she believed in training of the mind, being a school teacher.

I have never forsaken the advice given me to the effect that I would NEED to study the scriptures DAILY. I can better understand now, what reasons there are that I should need to do that. It is a most sure antidote to keep down unbelief, the danger of which the Scriptures are very careful to warn us, and to protect us from the wiles of the Evil One, who is ever watching for the opportunity to get in a strike at the most unsuspecting moment. And in addition to those and other reasons that might be given, I have a special reason for reading the Bible: "I LOVE the precious Book of Truth which God has given."—Ragene Sims.

### Meditatin'

"These things we write unto you, that your joy may be full." I am tempted to place an exclamation point after these words of the Holy Spirit, found in I John 1. The scriptures do not say in vain ". . . that your joy may be full!" God is the great planner of human happiness.

Nearly six thousand years of human experience testify on behalf of this truth. Six thousand years mingled with the "blood, and sweat and tears" of disappointed and wretched human beings, who have been blinded and deceived by their own desires, robbed of happiness by their own greed, tossed in the storms of their own passions, and consumed by their own unbridled lusts; who "when they knew God, glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but . . . professing themselves to be wise . . . became fools . . ." Yea, six thousand years of wandering into unmarked detours, and "short cuts", and on careless excursions into the countryside . . . into ways that seem right unto man . . . only to find the treacherous, poorly kept roadways filled with obstructions and dangers which the unwary traveler approaches unwarned, almost too narrow for turning about, leading to destruction and "dead end". Six thousand years of serving the creature . . . a too long six thousand years in which man has abandoned himself to his own folly.

God first expressed his love for man, created in His image, commanded to fill, subdue, and have dominion over the earth, when he planted the garden in the East and called it Eden (or, Delight). He made to grow in this paradise every tree pleasant to the sight and good for food. Our Creator had regard, not only to our welfare, but also to our happiness . . . planting trees pleasant to the sight.

In this happy garden life God for the first time gives man a warning, and places upon him a restriction. We learn the lesson . . . God speaks not to rob man of the pleasure, but to protect him from the folly of unrestrained desire. But how easily we can be deceived! What price "pleasure"!

Eve did not fully comprehend the great choice she was making. God always left the choice to mankind: "Behold, I set before you a blessing and a curse; a blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God . . . and a curse, if you will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God." She saw that the tree was good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and much to be desired to make one wise. "What harm in eating here? Foolish restriction!" Like some of us, she did not know that God plans true and lasting happiness for his children, she

could not see the wisdom of His warning, nor could she foresee the suffering of the race that she conceived.

Moses said, "And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, and to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive . . ." One of the fruits of the Spirit that Paul enumerates is "joy". Can you believe!!!! Can you with confidence lay aside your love of this world and its pleasures, set your affections on things above, and walk with the people of the Lord, in the assurance that there is joy for the spiritual minded, and happiness in Christian fellowship? Moses believed, and chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he had respect unto the recompense of reward." I would that we could always see, that to us is left the choice, of a blessing or a curse. Too often, this world with its gilded splendor, works its evil deception. If we only knew it, "all that glitters is not gold."

It was not some frightening vision of a disordered imagination that prompted Solomon to write these words to the youth: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when THOU SHALT say, I have no pleasure in them . . ." It was the handwriting of experience. His own aching heart had said in retrospect, "I have no pleasure in them . . . those years of folly and blindness."

One of those older friends of mine, whose life is almost all behind him, was paying a visit to a kinsman, who had moved into a community where there was no congregation of disciples, with consequent neglect of Christian fellowship and worship, and eventually some degree of indifference. They were discussing this circumstance, and my elderly friend remarked, "Whatever possessed you, that you should move into such a place? Why, you are MISSING OUT ON THE ONLY THING THERE IS IN THIS LIFE FOR YOU!" Age had brought such whole hearted appreciation of blessings which youth might have despised. Somehow that last sentence of my friend's kept bobbing up in my memory, and as my thoughts fed on it, I said to myself, Perhaps others might be nourished by it too.

This is the fourth in a series written to fortify the Christian heart against temptation . . . next month we turn to something else. In retrospect, we have dealt with dangerous lust, overcoming and outwitting lust, living worthy of our calling, and now, there is joy in Christian living. Why sell your soul upon the bargain counter for a "mess of pottage?" It is a priceless thing, so, Think! What will you give in exchange for it!

I would like to tell you some of the joys of a Christian life, and of Christian fellowship. Let me only say: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace . . ." Can you believe!!! Then, "seek, and you shall find!"—Kenneth Morgan.

### The Faith That Doesn't Count

Christ tells all that faith is essential to their salvation. (Mk. 16:16.) Paul lets all know that they can not please God unless they possess it. (Heb. 11:6.) It is one of simplicity and not of complication. (Eph. 4:5.) Yet with all this evidence, isn't it true that many various ideas regarding faith exist today? Let mankind find that "one faith" that counts with God and he will stand above the haze and maze of man made doctrines on this subject.

James, chapter two, gives the reader a genuine view of the faith that counts, as well as the faith that doesn't count. Please read the whole chapter and meditate upon the inspired words of the writer. In the 14th verse James asks, "Can faith save him?" The Revised Version here reads, "Can that faith save him?" What does James mean by "that faith." He means the faith that lacks works. He follows in verses 15, 16, 17 by saying, "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, 'Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled', notwithstanding you give them not those things needful to the body; what does it profit? **EVEN SO FAITH, IF IT HATH NOT WORKS, IS DEAD, BEING ALONE.**"

Again, in the 19th verse, "The devils even believe and tremble." They have faith which knows not obedience. They know there is a God, yet fail to obey him. Their faith is the kind that does not count in God's sight.

Language could be no more emphatic than this. With God's words in mind let us shun the devil's faith and cling to the faith by our works.—William Hensley.

### The Manifold Blessings of God

There are two types of blessings that have been granted to the Children of men. First there are the temporal blessings and secondly the spiritual, and were it not for the spiritual blessings these temporal ones would mean nothing to us. The temporal blessings relieve us of the needs of this life, while the spiritual blessings give unto us those things that are essential in the growth and welfare of our spiritual lives. In our article last month we mentioned some of the temporal blessings of which all men partake. And for these blessings alone we should be more than willing to serve God, if for no other reason than as an act of gratitude for the things that we have received of him.

The spiritual blessings are even of greater value to us, for they are those that will endure throughout eternity, and deal with our lives beyond the grave. There was at one time in the history of men a period in which men had no knowledge of right or wrong. He was in a sinless condition. But because of his desire to listen to words of Satan and do them rather than the commands of God, he brought upon himself the great curse of sin. The Lord, realizing that man was helpless to free himself from the bondage of sin, and manifesting his love for man, was willing to sacrifice his only begotten son (Jn. 3:16) who overthrew our oppressor by overcoming sin, death and the grave and gave us an access to the freedom of our sins. How true are the words of the Apostle Peter as he says, "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12.) The sending of his son is a spiritual blessing of God.

During the earthly ministry of Christ he gave unto us the promise that he would build a Church to which all men would have the privilege of coming. (Matt. 16:18.) This Church was purchased by the blood of Christ. (Acts 20:28.) This is the Institution that was started by his Apostles (Acts 2), the Church that is known as the body of Christ. (Eph. 1:22, 23.) This Church was erected so that all men could enter therein and thus become members of the family of God. The Church is the place of safety into which we can enter and thus be out of reach of the tentacles of destruction used by Satan to overcome us.

The Church then is another of the spiritual blessings of God.

If God had left to man the responsibility of revealing his plan of salvation and the terms upon which we must comply, the record would be incomplete and unreliable. But God because of his desire to see that all men know the way of truth, chose devout men and dictated unto them his Holy Word. (2 Pet. 1:21.) We have then his word that reveals the fall of man, God's plan of restoring him, and the terms to be met by man for his salvation. The truth of Paul's statement in Rom. 1:16 is realized as he says, "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation, unto everyone that believeth, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." The Bible then is another spiritual blessing of God.

In his word we have the promise that if we remain faithful unto the end we will receive a crown of life. (Rev. 2:10.) And again he says, "Blessed are they that do his commandment that they may have right to the tree of Life and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22:14.) We see then if we obey his commands we will have access to the portals of Heaven and the privilege of dwelling forever with him. Eternal life then is another spiritual blessing from God.

In conclusion we ask what has man done to deserve any of these blessings? We know that we have done nothing to merit any of his blessings, but because of his own goodness and mercy have we received these blessings. And there should be enough gratitude on our part to be happy to worship him as he has asked us to. We should be ashamed to even ask, Do I have to go to Church; or, do I have to do this or that or give this thing up or that thing? We should be willing to sacrifice all for the sake of our heavenly Father and his Son. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the Children of Men!"—Wilbur Storm.

### Where the Bombs Are Dropping—No. 3

There was one thing in common between Paul and ourselves—part of his journey to Rome was in a ship of Alexandria, and ours was too. But he was shipwrecked, and we were not. As another ship carried him and the other prisoners along the east coast of Sicily, past Syracuse and through the strait of Messina, he obtained a fine view of Mt. Aetna, two miles high, as they sailed along, and finally came to Puteoli, modern Naples, or Napoli as the Italians call it.

But from Messina our journey, as we have said, was down past Taormina and Catania (which our soldiers will probably have taken from the enemy when you read this), on through the island, about 150 miles, to Palermo, the largest city of the island. There we took our great ship for our return to the United States, though it must sail to Naples first.

And, like Paul "the next day we came to Puteoli."

We visited these countries on our way down to Palestine and Egypt, but now we are re-visiting them. It was hot the first time. As we sat in one of the parks in Naples, we noticed printed on the window of the casino in English the words, "Ice Cream", along with Italian words. We pointed to the words and after a good while, the waiter brought out a couple of glasses of whiskey (I think)! He probably thought that all Americans drink it. We shook our heads, and pointed again to "Ice Cream", and he seemed to understand this time, but

finally brought out a couple of glasses of gin (I think), probably gathering that he was mistaken and that we were English. But we shook our heads again and persisted in pointing to the words "Ice Cream". He was again gone his accustomed long time, and seeing that we were wasting our time, since he evidently needed a good deal of "brushing up" on his English, we got up and left. I have always wondered what he brought the third try!—whether pop or mashed potatoes!

As Paul sailed into Puteoli (Naples), he could look across the bay to Mt. Vesuvius, perhaps the most noted volcano in the world, towering 4000 feet. Perhaps, too, he could get a glimpse of the city of Pompeii, one of the cities which was destroyed by this volcano fifteen or twenty years after Paul traveled along.

The mountain has been sending forth its lava and ashes for many hundreds of years, devastating the country, destroying lives, and terrorizing the people who were not killed. The most noted eruption was in the year 79 A. D., (Paul passed along about 63 A. D.) when Pompeii, Herculaneum, Stabiae and other cities of this beautiful district were entirely covered with the ashes. For about 1600 years these cities were entirely lost sight of, but within the past two hundred years excavations have been made which have unearthed these cities just as they were when destroyed. The ancient city of Pompeii which has been awakened out of the ashes, is one of the most interesting spots in the world, for it gives one a better idea of the ancient Roman cities than anything else which has come down to us.

Although the weight of the ashes in the destruction of the city broke down the buildings somewhat, still everything else is just as it was when the frightened people fled from the place. The fountains in some of the atria, or open courts, of the buildings have been put into operation again, and play as lively as when the Roman soldier ruled the world.

There we can see the houses just as they were in the year 79 when the ashes covered the city. There are the narrow stone streets with the ruts made in the stones by the wagons, or carts, just as they were in the first century. The theater has been preserved almost whole, where the populace gathered to witness the plays and contests of two thousand years ago. The temple, too, where the religious people worshipped their gods is as conspicuous as a church building today. Tombs and monuments are scattered along some of the roads in the suburbs of the city. Some watering troughs for the beasts of burden are at the intersections of some of the streets, and drinking fountains for the people are scattered here and there. The mosaics are upon the walls and floors just as they were when the city was covered, telling of the artistic ability and licentious taste of the immoral inhabitants of the place.

Since the writer visited this city, excavators have found so many licentious signs and images on the outside of buildings they were excavating, that they covered them with sheets to keep the workmen from being corrupted by them. Relics formerly dug out, were in the museum at Naples, and only scholars and special students were permitted to see them; and as we wished to see what the moral status of these people was, we obtained passes, and found that the most corrupt "Christian" city in the world would not tolerate in public what flaunted in their streets. That is what Christ has done for the world, even when the Church has become corrupted herself.

As one passes along these streets, looking into these

temples and theaters and private buildings, he can imagine as perhaps nowhere else on the earth, that he is living in the ancient world. It was into cities like this that the Apostle Paul went to tell the story of Jesus and to convert the people from their evil ways.

But we can not leave this country without taking a trip to the top of Mt. Vesuvius. As we passed along in our trip, we saw every indication of fertility. When we reached the bottom of the mountain, we took a wire-rope railway to within a few hundred feet of the top. But we are now at the place where lava is coming red hot from the bowels of the earth. We look into a fissure in the mountain side as into a great furnace. The guide has to restrain continually our curiosity, lest we go too close and burn our shoes as we walk over the hot lava.

Finally, we make the last move for the top. Through ashes we wearily wade and climb, until we reach the crater, more than 4000 feet above the sea. About once a minute there is an explosion in which rocks are hurled out of the crater to a great height; and it is between the explosions that we run up and peep down for a few seconds into the great opening. All we can see is smoke and steam rising; and on the other side of the crater at the lowest point we can see cones of ashes, perhaps a hundred feet high. When one sees these effects of a mighty power in the earth so superior to man's, he realizes his own weakness.

When one views this volcano from the water at night, as we did in our great ship, it presents an awe-inspiring appearance. The smoke and steam are continually rolling from it as from a furnace, and the explosions at regular intervals lighten the clouds which may be passing by, giving them the appearance of fire; and this furnace in the heavens, reflected in the waters beneath, present a picture never to be forgotten.

Perhaps this volcano was as restless in Paul's time, when he sailed across the Bay of Naples with the mountain in full view, and cast anchor in the port of Puteoli.

## Church News

(Let the reader notice the real Bible work and development which is going on among these groups reporting. Is your congregation doing such?)

Granite City, Ill.—The church here is going good at this time.—J. B. Montgomery.

Unionville, Mo., July 9, 1943—Putnam and Sullivan county churches are looking forward to meetings to be held this fall. Bro. Wm. Hensley will work with the Unionville, East Concord and Holiday congregations; Bro. Roy Harris at Martinatown, Bro. Webb at Worthington and Bro. Winifred Lee at Lemons, West Concord, Pollock and Bethel.—Charles and Crystal Buck-allow.

Anselmo, Nebraska—I baptized two at Cookville in June. July finds me part time in a school house near Broken Bow, teaching and encouraging the faithful few. The month of August I am to be conducting Old Testament Study at Agra, Kansas. In this western mission work the harvest is great, laborers few. Like the woman may it be said of us we did what we could.—R. O. Webb, Secor, Ill.

West Virginia.—Thanks to the Almighty we have such a paper as the Macedonian Call. May its publisher live long to continue the good work.—E. R. Hayes (an old preacher, and he sends several names).

One old sister sends the M. C. for one year to five different people whom she thinks needs it, sends for 30 copies of The Fight of Faith to distribute; sends for four copies of The Drama of World Empires, concluding with the words, "Remember us in your prayers,"—while hundreds of members who are better able financially do nothing to scatter the seed of the kingdom. What did the Lord say about those who hide their talent and do not use to the glory of the Lord of the Vineyard?

Red Cloud, Neb.—Since last report I have been working in Kansas and Nebraska. My work with the Green Mound congregation was hindered much by rain. However, we had a study each day for children and were only rained out of night meetings two nights. Two added by baptism. At Agra I worked in conjunction with Bill Hensley in preaching and Vacation Bible study. Our Bible study was well attended with an enrollment of 73. Bro. Hensley and I each preached one week. There were eight baptisms. We are now doing the same kind of work at Red Cloud, Neb. From here I am to go to Neosho, Mo.—Roy Harris.

Hartford, Ill.—We just closed our annual Vacation Bible Study here at Hartford, with an enrollment of 159, an average of 100 daily attended these studies. Two-thirds of the enrollment were children from other religious bodies. I wonder how many Churches of Christ are taking the opportunity to teach such children the truth in their communities? Many of their parents told me their churches had discontinued their studies due to the war. I wonder how many of our brethren have let up in the Lord's work, and are using the present situation for an excuse to slack up in their duty and obligation to the Master? I go next to Granite City to assist them in their Vacation Bible Study.—Herahel Ottwell.

Ethel, Mo.—Just concluded a series of work with the congregation at Martinville, Ind. A Vacation Bible Study was conducted for two weeks and development sessions nightly for three weeks. Those brethren are a 100% cooperate in the Lord's work, and are fully aware of the future needs of the church. Bro. C. R. Turner has done a fine work there.—Winford Lee.

Look, sisters—a good receipt for "Canning":

"Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can."

Miscellaneous.—The booklet "What's Wrong With the Movies," has been raised in price by the publishers to 50c a copy. . . . If you were writing a letter to a friend who is a non-member of the Church, of a column or a column and a half of our paper in length, to show him in as concise a way as you can, what the true Church is, or stands for—what would you say? We need just such an article for each issue of the paper, and wish our many good writers would furnish us one. We will publish them in the order in which we receive them. It might be several months before yours appears, but send it. We are trying to make each issue cover as many subjects as possible. After all, brethren, are there not simply two groups of professed Christians in the world—the true Church of the New Testament, and others are all Babylon, confusion? If we write in this way, will it not simplify the subject of religion in the mind of the reader?

Bloomington, Ind.—The July issue was exceptional and the illustrations are quite a welcomed addition. We are still working at R. C. A. and preaching on Lord's Day. At two of our appointments we have afternoon meetings consisting of development work and studies. Yesterday a very profitable day was spent in the Lord's work at Middletown. Bro. Carl Painter is there during the summer months and is a big help to the brethren. Keep up the good work and may God bless you and yours. Pray for us in our feeble efforts to tell the old, old story.—Ed Uland.

Some addresses of groups of Disciples in the West:

California—Balboa, 109 6th St. . . . Bakersfield, 2621 California St. . . . Exeter, C and Chestnut Sts. . . . Home Gardens, Blair and Magnolia Ave. . . . Long Beach, Masonic Hall, 835 Locust Ave. . . . Modesto, Thompson Hall, 12th and Needham Sts. . . . Compton, Pathfinder Clubhouse, 601 E. Palmer. . . . Pomona, 1006 So. Garey (10th and Garey) . . . Oakland, 5433 Shattuck (at 55th St.) . . . Reedley, 1230 11th St. . . . Riverside, 11th and Lemon Sts. . . . (West) Riverside, Nakoma and Mollina Way . . . (East) Sacramento, Fair Oaks Blvd. and California St. Carmichael . . . (East) Stockton, Windsor Ave., off Linden Road . . . San Jose, 538 Vendome.

Arizona—Glendale, American Legion Hall.

Colorado—Kirk, "Fairview church" c/o Faye Crist, Vona . . . La Junta, 8th St. and Grace Ave. . . . Denver, 3822 W. 39th Ave. . . . Colorado Springs, Cedar and Cemarron . . . Pueblo, c/o Ashley H. Elson, 1709 E. 7th.

Oregon—Estacada, 6th and Main Sts., west of Grade School . . . Klamath Falls, K. C. Hall, 413½ Main St.

Washington—Seattle, Gowan Hotel, 2nd and Stewart . . . Spokane, W. 2002 Boone Ave.

Send this to soldiers on the west coast who are members of the church; or to defense workers away from home.

An officer in the army writes to the editor thus in a private letter: "I would like to say that trying to live as a Christian in the army is one of the hardest things I have tried to do, and I know sometimes I have failed; but God willing, I shall improve myself. The Macedonian Call is a real help, and I think it should be sent to as many as possible in the service. [He sends two dollars. Are you sending to your boys or acquaintances.—Ed.] Frequently one doesn't realize he has been drifting until he reads some article which points out the deficiency so clearly that a blind man could almost see his error. I think the book you sent on history and prophecy [The Drama of World Empires] is very good, though I haven't yet had time to read each of the references you mention in connection with the text."

On July the second we completed the Vacation Bible Study in West Riverside, and we feel that the Lord has blessed us greatly in this undertaking. Our average attendance was 61 which was considered excellent, this being the first time ever tried in this locality. We feel this has meant much to the future growth of the Church. At present we are in Oakland, Calif. We plan to stay here for at least three months. Our work will consist of advertising the Church by passing out hand bills, calling on prospects and new members for the purpose of making the way of Truth more plain to them, also development instructions will be given so the congregation will be more capable of being edified through itself in love. Pray for us that we may do more for the cause of Christ.—Wilbur Storm.

#### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Topeka, Kans.—Dear Bro. Sommer: The July Macedonian Call is excellent, well worthy of a place in any good library which is open for the public. And oh, if it could be read carefully by the whole family in more homes! The different writers give so much food for thought, directing the mind to strive for something more than things that perish with the using, inspiring with that hope which we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that which the veil; whither for us Jesus had entered. (Heb. 6:18, 20) "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." (9:24.) I hope many thousands in defense works and training camps, etc., may receive and read this encouraging literature to cheer them on the way. Enclosed find check to help in the good work, and let us press on in the fight of faith to the end.—Emily Baker. (She sends \$25, which will send the paper to 25 public libraries. A family in Ohio sends \$50 for the work, and we are using that to send to 50 more libraries, into which many people are slipping who are thinking more seriously now than ever before. And they may think more seriously yet as they receive those unwelcome telegrams from the government. Into how many of these libraries are you willing to send the truth?—Editor.)

Decatur, Ill.—The Edward St. Church of Christ, 983 N. Edward St., Decatur, Ill., invites all brethren near and far who come through this city on vacation to worship with us. Services each Lord's day, Bible Study at 10 a. m. and Worship at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. At 7 p. m. each Lord's day we have music instruction by Bro. Don Button. Bro. Don has given us some good instruction in music and there seems a good improvement. Come and worship with us. Last Lord's day, July 4, 1943, Bro. Harold Shaeten preached for us both morning and evening.—Roland Borchert, 1061 E. Eldorado.

Berkeley, Calif.—Concluded a Vacation Bible Study July 9, 1943, in Oakland, Calif. We put in two weeks of advertising prior to our three weeks of study. We were more than pleased with the results as it opened the homes of several families to the church. Although our attendance would be small in comparison to other places it was good in relation to previous figures. One pupil walked a mile every day for three weeks, he is 9 years old. At the present time I am with the Sacramento congregation. We are planning a Development program for the last of this week and the first of next! All the male members take part at every service and as a result the congregation is growing in strength. Monday, July 12, I baptized a young man in Oakland and Sunday, July 18, I baptized a young lady here at Sacramento. I shall be with the Modesto congregation July 28

to August 1, then back to Oakland to work with Bro. Wilbur Storm for a while.—F. Wilford Landes, 2223 Union St.

Hammond, Illinois—Just back from Cedar Rapids and Center Point Iowa. Preached ten times in Cedar Rapids and had pleasant visit in homes of Bro. Pryor and many others. Made headquarters at my niece and nephew's house while there. Church is getting along very well, but not large in numbers. A faction favoring "Bible colleges" are now in a meeting there which they are holding in the meeting house owned by Negroes as they have no house of their own. We have a lovely, neat and clean meeting house there and brethren appreciate it, too. John H. Bills is doing the preaching for the "Bible college" faction and S. W. Baker, of Burlington, Iowa, is doing the song leading for them. Bills is from San Diego, Calif. Baker has had some deceived thinking he would be all right if he was influenced more by us brethren, but he is not. The two have their pictures on bills scattered over the city and Baker has tried to do much harm there. That man Pryor could not be fooled and "worked" by Baker though.—W. G. Roberts.

Red Cloud, Nebr.—Bro. Roy Harris and I have just concluded work at Agra, Kansas, and Red Cloud, Nebraska, and I wish to announce that the future looks bright at both locations. The Agra congregation had its second vacation Bible study in as many years with 73 enrolled. Red Cloud brethren sponsored their fifth in as many years with 50 enrolled. Bro. Harris and I each talked a week while at Agra in night meetings. Eight were added by baptism and one confessed wrongs. At Red Cloud we delivered lectures from Acts. No additions, but these studies attracted several non-members and were encouraging to the membership. Why not plan more of these evening studies in Acts and other books? We gave each an individual copy of the book, and they studied with us. All were given the opportunity to ask questions at the close of each lecture.—Bill Hensley, Box 322, Red Cloud, Nebr.

Martinville, Ind.—In brief, there is much we can do if we work with a will, no time to be wasted. In the past few weeks it has proven beyond any doubt, development is the answer to growth. Bro. Winford Lee was recently with us aiding in our Vacation Bible Study, with development sessions Monday and Tuesday evenings, Midweek Service on Wednesday evening. Then Thursday and Friday evenings with more development work. If we want to know more of God's wonderful plan, "Let's have more Study." We enjoyed having Bro. Lee at Martinville and may the Lord richly bless him and all the others, both young and old brethren who are giving their time in the service of the Master of all things, is our humble prayer.—Harry Powell.

Is This a "Walk-in" Invitation?—The libraries in Indianapolis announce that fewer books are being read but that those read are much more substantial than before the war. This shows that people are thinking. Bro. Carl Ketcherside recently said that in the main library in his city, he found the Macedonian Call, and that it had the appearance of being read a considerable. Now if some people are reading more solid literature in two cities, may we not infer that in all probability they are doing it in many, perhaps all? So, why not see that the Main Public Library in your city, has this missionary journal for its patrons. Why not see that EVERY public library which has a reading room in your county has this opportunity? The very name of our paper is "Macedonian Call," to instill as much of the spirit as possible, to heed the call, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." Shall we heed this silent Macedonian

**IMPORTANT**—September issue for relatives and friends of soldiers—Many parents are disconsolate because their sons have been taken into the army. We believe that the September issue will help console them. The picture is already drawn, and is striking. Many fathers and mothers of our readers may wish to say a few words to other parents, or to the boys. Those who are only friends of soldiers may wish to say something to encourage. Write it NOW, and send AT ONCE. Don't make it over 200 words. And along with this will go much teaching concerning the plan of salvation as found in the New Testament. All parents now are interested in almost anything about soldiers, and would they not be interested in this paper, IF YOU WOULD SEND IT TO THEM? So why not get the name and address of all blue-star parents in your community (if in rural localities, especially), and send them this copy which will be so suited for them? They are three cents a copy in bundles of ten or more. Or, better, send to three names for six months, for one dollar.

But order AT ONCE, please.

call? We hope to make every issue just as interesting as the July issue, for which we are receiving so many commendations from many states.

Saint Louis (July 22)—I've been working day and night attempting to take care of routine affairs here and at the same time be of assistance to the general brotherhood. I think that in all of my experience with the Churches of Christ, I have never seen a more favorable outlook for the Cause. Already three new congregations have been solidly established in this state in 1948 and another is on the way in north Missouri. The work being done with our soldiers is bearing fruit also. Bob Johnson was home on furlough and assisted greatly in the Saint Louis work. One of our boys from this area is making effective use of the Macedonian Call in camp. Two others are in deep discussion with representatives of the college church in their sector, not without promise of future results. One boy writes in from Alaska that he is coming home soon to obey the gospel. Another whom we could not effectively reach before he went away, sends word that he will be immersed at the first opportunity. Still another says he received a copy of "Fight of Faith" which I forwarded and it has opened his eyes, as well as those of several camp buddies. I'll take the afternoon plane, July 30, to have a long discussion with brethren in Des Moines about effective mission work in Iowa for a year. Plans are already drawn, waiting the final arrangement as to evangelist and time selected. Most of the work will center around development of talent, so that there will be local men prepared to take over and the preacher can go on to a new field. I will stop at Davenport, Iowa, next afternoon for a talk over mission work problems in the Tri-City area, go next morning to Galesburg, Ill., to determine further needs of a little band, which the Saint Louis churches helped to equip for services. Bro. Emery Smith of this city has worked untiringly with them in counsel, advice and otherwise. That night, I hope to go on to Peoria, Ill., for a talk with L. E. Ketcherside and others concerning development work and general church growth in central Illinois.—

An urgent appeal has been made for mission work in the northwestern area of the United States; covering Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. This has been on my desk for virtually a year, during which I have worked on the problem. We did not want to do anything until we were sure we could promise results. The time has now come to strike. We are arranging to send Kenneth Morgan to that area for one year, and the principal part of his support must come from the middle section of the United States. I'm preparing a bulletin fully covering all details of the work. In the meantime, if you brethren who see this, will fellowship this work each month for one year let me know. If you can contribute five dollars, ten dollars, or more or less each month to this great and worthy endeavor, be sure to write me immediately. Here's a chance for some congregations which have not been doing regular mission work to get in on the ground floor. The first ones to write in will be tied in with this work until ample has been promised to take care of it each month, then we will not accept more for this field. There are other places that will need it later. The money after the plan has been completed will be sent directly to the field of action. Will you help us?

Vacation Bible Study at the newest congregation in the Saint Louis metropolitan area, Granite City, is drawing to a close. It has been supervised by Brother Hershel Ottwell, who has done a fine job. I was with the classes, teaching two days. May all of us realize that the salvation of souls depends upon our energy manifested, and may all of us love each other a little more intensely, and pray for the brotherhood daily, while it is called today. It's hard not to be interested in something you pray for regularly!—W. Carl Ketcherside, 7505 Trenton Ave., University City, Mo.

Some one sowed this seed.—Some one gave a brother who has fought all human organizations, including the Bible college, to do work of the Church; also opposed the pastor system.—a copy of the Macedonian Call of September, 1941 on those subjects. He wrote us and we sent some other copies, then he wrote this letter: "My Dear Brother Sommer,—It is with a deep feeling of brotherly love and respect that I address you as brother this afternoon. I have never met you, but I assure you that the term 'brother' with which I address you this afternoon carries with it a deeper, tenderer meaning than it did last week when I wrote you. Just why a few words from your pen and a few articles from your paper commands such respect and admiration I do not pretend to understand unless it is because you have the courage to stand for the Truth and for the good of the One Body which you and I love better than we love

our lives. With no wish to overpraise, but with a desire to encourage, I want to say that I have never seen, outside the Bible itself, so many truths set forth in so short an article as you have done in your issue on 'A FORGOTTEN SCRIPTURE'."

Sullivan, Ill.—This is the third week of my work in Sullivan, Illinois. The first two weeks were spent in Vacation Bible Study, which is reported in another place. I believe the church at Sullivan sees the future of such work, and it is to the future of it that we must look. VBS work is out a planting, we must cultivate, and patiently await the harvest, and the harvest will depend on our diligent cultivation. Everywhere the church should see the value of this work, and work it into the regular program of work. We must not neglect the children, and every congregation should plan their program with a place in it for the "little ones." Almost every house in town was reached in the distribution of blotters advertising the meeting. The blotters carried this sentence: "THIS will only dry the ink spots on your letters, but the GOSPEL removes sin spots from the soul." Our attendance is encouraging, but not satisfactory. It has grown during the first week. To date, there has been one acknowledgment of wrong. The theme of the lessons for this first week is "The Kingdom of Heaven." During the first two weeks we studied on Wednesday and Friday evenings in the Hebrew letter. The four nights of study enabled us to cover nearly six chapters. Fair attendance, and good interest in the study made it a profitable investment of time. Stress has been placed on the regular Lord's Day Bible study in the introductory chapters of the Roman letter. I go next to Neosho, Missouri, for a two weeks meeting, also conducting a Vacation Bible Study. This work begins August 8.—Kenneth Morgan, Route 1, Tahlequah, Okla.

Sullivan, Ill.—The Sullivan Progress published this report of our Vacation Bible Study and we were certainly grateful for that favor, perhaps it will be interesting to readers of the M.C.: "The Church of Christ had the happy feeling as it brought to a close its first Vacation Bible Study, that the endeavor had been a very worthwhile one. . . . The students were placed in two groups. Brother Kenneth Morgan, evangelist who planned the lessons, and directed the study, taught the older children. Sister Helen Turner, school teacher in the county, and member of the congregation, was an able assistant, teaching the smaller children. There were three aims in particular for the Study, namely, to familiarize the children with the Bible, to create and strengthen faith in God, and to build character. The course of study included incidents from the lives of eight Biblical characters. Among them were Joseph, Daniel, Ruth, Esther, David, and Jesus, bringing out character lessons such as Daniel's purity of life, Esther's willingly living for others, Ruth's true friendship, David's faith in God, and Jesus' exemplary obedience of earthly parents. In addition to these particular studies, there were many drills in general knowledge of the Bible. The mothers were invited the last day. Through various exercises they were shown some of the accomplishments in the study. The mothers provided a picnic lunch for the group and the teachers at Wyman Park. Our sincere thanks to the mothers, and all others who assisted and encouraged in any way this effort to help the children to better living.—K. Morgan.

**NOTICE! SAINT LOUIS BIBLE READING PLANS!**—After numerous requests for a summer session of the Bible Reading held annually in our city, we have decided that in 1944, we will have split sessions of the Study, to enable all possible to take advantage of the consideration of the Bible under direction of Brother W. Carl Ketcherside. We, in Saint Louis, believe that the first law of spiritual life, is the proper development of the entire Body to function in the way for which each part was adapted. It is only when each member has a definite sense of responsibility toward the soul of his fellowman, and is willing and equipped to talk to him about the matter, that the church can truly be said to be a strong church. Any organization which depends upon one man or a small group for its existence can last only so long as that man, or the group of men, last. We have had some degree of success in our city in developing talent of our membership, but only the same success that could be achieved everywhere that the Lord's plan is given a chance to work. But we want all to share in our work and the benefits we receive from it.

Accordingly we have instructed Brother Ketcherside, that in 1944 he will teach six weeks of Bible Study in the winter and six weeks in the summer. The winter course will consist of the New Testament and the summer of the Old Testament. The latter will be based on a simpler plan, and will especially appeal to all of High School age or over. Parents interested in having

their children attend, in the summer of 1944, may be assured that we shall do all within our power to assist them while here. However, we are restricting the age limit to those who are in the ninth grade or above in their public school work. Further announcement will be made later, but we should like to hear from all prospective attendants at either session in 1944. Write to Robert Morrow, 7117 Manchester Ave., Saint Louis, Mo.—Elders of the Saint Louis Churches.

**Have You Tried It?—What?** Some method to get the gospel before the people. You know, we have "protracted meetings" to preach the gospel to people, and yet I do not have any idea that is the exact way they put the gospel out in the beginning. Paul went into market places, and it is possible that he went there about the same time every day. Or maybe not. They had no singing in new fields, that we read about. I don't suppose they had "invitation songs" like we have today. Anywhere, everywhere they could get an opportunity, they told the story of the cross. Jesus said, "Go and teach all nations," make disciples of them. Men and women alike can do this, privately at least. We might write articles and publish in our village paper. It seems that it is hard now to get non-members present to preach to them. And while the gas rationing is on, perhaps churches can have a preacher go from house to house and distribute literature and talk to people; and then one night in the week, and on Sunday and night they might have public preaching services. About as much might be accomplished this way as any. Some churches are having Vacation Bible Studies week-days, and getting the children of non-members as well as members to come every day. Considerable interest is stirred in this way. Whether the children continue to come, and whether we can get the parents interested, remains to be seen. Anyway, it creates a favorable impression for the church. Yet, the Home must stand behind children to accomplish much, and even then, it seems hard in these days to do them the lasting good that should be done. The distribution of appropriate literature, personally or through the mails, may help. Sending the M. C. to public libraries may help. But nothing will take the place of the personal solicitation by the wholehearted Christian, and then you may have to search a long while for an honest soul. Yet they are in the world. Anyway, every way, that does not violate any Scripture or principle of the gospel, should be used. "Teach all nations." But we must not transgress any Scripture in this work—must not form any human organization.

Bertram, Mo.—The church here at Antioch is expecting Bro. C. R. Turner to hold a meeting in September. Bro. C. C. Teghtmeyer, of Kansas City, preaches here the first Lord's Day of each month. He has also been doing some fine development work here.—Mrs. Harold White.

Sullivan, Ill.—After my work with Brookport, Ill., congregation, which has been reported, I again resumed my work at Anderson, Ind., June 1st. I worked three weeks making personal calls, preaching from house-to-house. Two weeks in Vacation Bible Study, which was a success. We had an average of about 60 children, closed with a program, showing the parents what they had learned. All seemed well pleased. Following we had a three weeks tent meeting in North Anderson (a new territory). Visible results, one baptism. During this period of time I made over 200 personal calls and conducted a development class which I believe will prove beneficial to the congregation. I closed the tent meeting night of July 25, and began here in Henderson, Ky., July 28. This is my first effort in this city. After this meeting I shall return to Anderson for about four weeks of development and personal work. The harvest is great and laborers are few. Let us pray that more laborers (the right kind) may be sent into the harvest. Yours for the simplicity of the gospel.—C. R. Turner.

A sister in Missouri sends fifty dollars to send the Macedonian Call, Drama of World Empires and The Fight of Faith booklets to libraries, soldiers and others. All of this literature is dealing with present-day problems in the light of the Bible, and all give faith and hope in God's way in these trying times. What are YOU doing to sow the seed of the Kingdom in your community or among those you know? Concerning the man with one talent who refused to use it, Jesus said, "Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness."

I thought the July issue the best yet. I like the picture front and the complete spiritual trend.—William Hensley. (From north, east and west come the same sentiment. Thanks, brethren, very much. By grace of God, we hope to continue the fight against Sin in all its forms. But we need more readers.—Ed.)