

Spiritual Call

*To be carnally minded is death, but to be
SPIRITUALLY minded is life and peace.*
—Romans 8:6

*Walk worthy of the vocation (calling)
wherewith ye are CALLED.*
—Ephesians 4:1

Volume 24

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, DECEMBER, 1950

Number 12

“The School and Church Are Helpless” — University Professor

WE HAVE MADE A FAILURE IN DEVELOPING CHARACTER IN OUR CHILDREN.

And why? It was not a “religious crank” like the editor of the *Spiritual Call* (!) who made that statement, but “Dr. A. A. Smith, a Purdue University sociology professor speaking to 500 parents and teachers” at Purdue University. Here is the newspaper account:

LAFAYETTE, Ind., Nov. 15—Too much responsibility for character-building in children has been shoved onto the school and church, a Purdue University sociology professor told 500 parents and teachers here today.

“Unless the home supplies some basis for religion and character building,” Dr. A. A. Smith declared, “the school and church are helpless. It is time to revive a trend in the home.”

Now that statement sounds very strange, after all the boasted progress we have thought we were making with our own ways of training children and saving the world and making it better. The Sunday School has been eulogized to the sky, yet this professor says in substance that that has failed. As long as the home went along with the S. S., it seemed the human organization was doing good, but now since parents have ceased teaching their children, we can see how helpless that humanism is. *It has been used as a substitute for God's plan of teaching children in the home, and has failed.*

Now we are trying to teach morals and religion, in special ways, in the day schools, *and that too, has failed.* The Roman Catholics do that in their parochial schools, and it has held their people a considerable, to their religio-political organization; but as a whole even their schools have failed, they seem to think. There is a great movement among the Romanists to resurrect training in their religion in *their* homes by the mothers. Two or three weeks ago, Romanists met in Indianapolis in a great meeting of about 50,000 to talk about such and urge the mothers to resurrect such home training. (Of course, the “Assumption of Mary” was also celebrated that same day). The mayor of Indianapolis was making a speech a few days later, to a crowd of Catholic women in a hotel, exhorting to greater teaching of their children, and sat down with a heart attack and died. So with their millions of dollars spent in parochial schools to train their children, they practically admit, that is not the best way.

Notice again, that the Purdue professor says that parents have “shoved onto the school and church,” *work which THEY should do*; and that unless the home does it, “the school and church are helpless. *It is time to revive a trend in the home.*”

Well, well, well, here is a confession that the wisdom of this world has failed, and that we must go back to the wisdom of God which we have been spurning and possibly ridiculing for decades.

Paul said in Ephesians 6: “Ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” And Moses said in Deuteronomy 6 (notice that both are in *sixth* chapters) concerning the commandments of God: “Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, when thou risest up, and when thou liest down, and when thy sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way.” The book “Story of the Bible” by Foster, and his “First Steps for Little Feet”, are two books which should be in every home where there are children. They help bring out the lesson of warning and hope in the Bible.

The history of the Old Testament is very much a story of *how the children of Israel did NOT teach their children, and how the children did not honor their fathers and mothers, and how the nation time and again was brought into evils because of this neglect.*

The last book in the Old Testament, and the last chapter, and the last verses in that chapter, tell how that under the gospel conditions would be different, **for a while at least**; how John the Baptist would come and restore the people to the condition which God intended, and what would happen if the people rejected it. Here is what Malachi said of the preparatory work of John the Baptist, as he announced the coming of Christ:

“Behold I send you Elijah the prophet [John the Baptist] before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord [the proclamation of the gospel and the destruction of Jerusalem to those who would not heed]. *And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*”

As we have said, their calamities came because the hearts of the fathers were not toward their children, for they did not teach them the statutes of the Lord, and of course the children could not turn to the commands, because they did not know them.

Now a most serious question comes to mind, *HOW did John turn the hearts of the fathers to their children?* Go to the gospel records and see. John thundered to the scribes and Pharisees and hypocrites who came out to hear him, **“REPENT YE, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”** Repent, repent, repent—that was the way he did it. If the people would really repent of their sins, they would be so enthused that they would tell their children all about it, and try to get them to walk in the right way so that they would be saved from the curse which would come, as Malachi said. John's baptism was called “the baptism of **REPENTANCE** for the remission of sins.”

Now let us sum up these thoughts. We are trying to solve the problem of child delinquency. The day school has failed, the parochial school has failed, the Protestant efforts in connection with the secular schools have failed, the Sunday

School has failed—and now this professor tells the parent teachers organization that they would better try the home, must arouse it, as both the church and school are helpless. *Thus does the wisdom of the world fade away into thin air, and the wisdom of God shine forth.*

Now the problem is, HOW are we going to get the parents to do this training in the home? I suppose we will flounder around on that like we have on other questions connected with this problem. Why not be wise right NOW, and listen to Holy Writ.

We have already seen that God's way to turn the hearts of parents to their children, is to preach **REPENTANCE**. That is the way John the Baptist did it.

The way to solve all the other problems of Christians today, is to do the same thing—preach Repentance.

If men and women are really converted they will be glad to learn what God wishes them to do to be saved, and about all we should need to do is to point them to the Scriptures.

That is the reason, we believe, that we should have many articles on rewards, punishments, uncertainty of life and sureness of death, the suddenness of departure from this life, responsibilities, "justice, mercy, faith," and "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." Repentance needs to be handled from every angle. *We believe that if Christians will repent of their sins, other matters will adjust themselves.*

Let us do something and do it now, lest the Lord come and smite the earth with a curse. Maybe it will help if you hand, or send, this article to some friend.

"Ye Know That Your Labor Is Not In Vain In the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58)

We may spend a life-time in building a fortune, or perhaps seeking and receiving honor of men, or in fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind. Then when we come to the end of the way, what have we to show for all our labor? Nothing. Our greatness is gone forever and forgotten, our pleasures are past, and we can take nothing of this world's goods with us when we pass over the river of death. All our life has been in vain.

But how much different the lot of those who have spent their years in preparing for life beyond the tomb, in building the character of the righteous, by obedience to Christ. He came to this earth to show us how to live, to teach us that the things of this earth are transient and vain, that the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy and peace, goodness, faith, longsuffering, meekness and temperance are the things that count in this life and fit us for the life to come.

"Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another" for "whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption, but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting, and let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

There is much consolation in the promise that if we sow to the Spirit we shall reap life everlasting.

All the heartaches that come to us in this life will soon be forgotten if we faint not, and are steadfast always abounding in the work of the Lord.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good to all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. For as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Let us work while it is day for the night cometh when no man can work.

Let us put our faith and trust in the Lord and lean not upon our own understanding.

Brotherly,
C. D. McCay.

A Peep at the Angels Who'll Gather Us Home

(11th in a Series on "Jesus Is Coming Again")

IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

An angel appeared to Zacharias and announced the birth of John the Baptist; and one appeared to Mary and told of the birth of Jesus. After Jesus' temptation, an angel ministered to him—possibly giving him food after his long fast.

Some think we have, each of us, a "guarding angel", intimated in Matt. 18:10—"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, *That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father, which is in heaven.*" While we may not be justified in preaching that each one of us has an angel which keeps watch over us, it is a comforting thought which may help us along the way. And any one who despises us, when we are doing right, will be condemned in heaven.

Again, we are told in Luke 15:10, that there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. What a happy thought for the one who turns away from his sin, whether an alien sinner, or a backsliding Christian! And it certainly should help keep us from sinning, to know that in all probability if there is joy when a sinner returns, *there is sorrow among the angels in the presence of God, when a Christian sins.* Oh, brother, sister, let us keep that joy in the presence of God.

And, if angels carried Lazarus into Abraham's bosom, will not angels carry us into rest, if we die before Jesus comes? Something nice to think about, whether the Lord meant it just that way or not!

When Our Savior was almost overcome in the garden, an angel finally came and strengthened him. When the women appeared at the empty tomb the angel had a face like lightning and raiment as white as snow; that will be a most wonderful sight, when such-appearing beings come to gather us home from the four winds of the earth.

Not every one who has been a citizen in the kingdom of God, or has his name on a church record, will be saved, for the church, the kingdom, reign, of heaven, has many hypocrites who *seem* to be faithful citizens in it. Some of these are fifth columnists, often wrecking the unity and righteousness of the people of God. But their time will come. "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather *OUT* of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity, and shall cast them into a furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth, **THEN SHALL THE RIGHTEOUS SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN IN THE KINGDOM OF THE FATHER.**" (Matt. 13:41-43.) Something saddening, yet gladdening, to think about, if we are living right! The righteous may not "shine" much in this world, but they "shall shine forth in the kingdom of the Father."

The apostles were thrown into prison because they taught the Word of God, but an angel of the Lord, delivered them and told them to go preach in the temple all the words of life. They were taken again before the council and commanded not to preach any more in the name of Christ. It was not simply one that answered what they would do, for it says, "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, *We ought to obey God rather than men.*" (Acts 5:29.) Now I don't know how they all did that, whether it was by the others by assent, or did each one of them say something about like this, "Yes, we must obey God rather than you fellows." Anyway, it comes with strong commendation; when religious questions come up, we must do what GOD says rather than what man says.

Herod beheaded James the brother of John, with a sword, and when he saw it pleased the Jews, he put Peter in prison. Sixteen soldiers guarded him. What an array for one man! But one man and God make a majority, we have often heard; and God sent an *angel* who delivered him. We may be surrounded by the enemy as was Peter, and though God does not say he will deliver us just as he did Peter, he does say that the angels will come some time and deliver us from all them that do iniquity.

An angel stood by Paul when the great storm was on, and told him that God would deliver him and all those in the ship with him.

Of course, we will not think so much of the angels that we will worship them, as some seem to have been in danger of doing in Paul's day, so that he felt constrained to warn against that. Col. 2:18. Rather, we shall judge the fallen angels, 1 Cor. 6:3, for if we live right and are saved, our acts will show that the fallen angels could have lived right and still been in favor with God, if they had really wished to: we shall judge them much as Noah judged the ancient world, and condemned it, Heb. 11:7.

Too, we must be on our guard, for some evil doers transform themselves into *angels* of light, 2 Cor. 11:14. They talk and act so nice, and so good, and so wise, that we are taken off guard, and think they are true preachers of Jesus. By good words and fair speeches, they deceive the hearts of the simple, when in fact at the same time they are bringing their followers into captivity to *themselves* rather than God. "Watch your step," beloved. "Though we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you, than that we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Gal. 1.

How saddening it will be for the wicked, "when the Lord shall be revealed from heaven *with his mighty angels*, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ," Gal. 1. But what a glorious time it will be "when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe in that day." Gal. 1.

"The Great Physician"

He was a man of sorrows, despised and rejected of men, and suffered for the sins of others. See Isa. 53. "His own received him not," John 1:11, and even those of his own house did not believe in him, See John 7:5. Calling sinners to repentance is likened to the work of a Physician, by this great healer, and his medicine is "The water of life." See Luke 5:31-32, John 4:14, Rev. 22:17. He administers his medicine through his word, and we partake by doing his will. Read all of John 6.

Taking the medicine of "The Great Physician" is serious business. Paul warned certain brethren three years, night and day, with tears, to prepare them for dangers ahead. See Acts 20:28-32. Jesus chided three of his disciples because they did not "watch with him one hour." See Matt. 26:36-46. "Let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." 1 Thess. 5:6. "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.

The pathway to heaven is marked by "The Man of Sorrows" and it cannot be traveled, except in a true spirit of devotion. Many are falling short of the piety that we should cultivate, as we strive to prepare to meet the "thorn-crowned king," in judgment. Let's think it over, folks.

Yours in hope and prayer, FRED W. FENTON.

Fanning Revival Fires

It has ever pleased God to use the humble gospel tract in the accomplishment of His great purpose of drawing men to Himself. Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission, was brought to Christ when, as a boy, he read a tract. John Scudder, pioneer missionary to India, was led to that country after reading a tract telling of the needs of the people of India. George Mueller, founder of the famed Bristol orphanages, found time to circulate millions of gospel tracts. Canon J. C. Ryle wrote a gospel tract that was translated into Spanish causing 63,000 persons to renounce Romanism. John Wesley organized 160 tract distributors in 1757, whose printed messages literally reformed the Lord's Day habits of the entire city of London. . . .

Almost every mission field in the world was opened by missionaries who first used tracts to win the heathen to Christ Jesus. Every phase of the great Protestant Reformation in Europe was preceded by an immense tract effort that "turned the world upside down." Almost every large religious publishing house in America today, denominational or independent, was founded on the groundwork of a former tract depot or conscientious leaflet evangelist. A single gospel tract has been traced as the source of all the Bible societies in Russia, Sweden, and the neighboring countries. Another tract, enclosed in a letter in 1897, has been multiplied 585 million times, using almost 1,000 tons of paper.

It is almost impossible today to locate a family that is not being reached more or less regularly with printed matter setting forth the doctrine of the rationalists, ritualists, spiritualists, socialists, Millennial Dawnists, and a dozen other "ists" and "isms." These unsound teachings, with their bold doctrines of skepticism, free love, infidelity, and materialism, are slowly eating their way into the very bloodstream of our American people. Cunning propagators of these untruths are utilizing the services of tract distributors to place their literature in the hands of the common people.

What a challenge this presents to Christians who have in their keeping the only solution to the world's needs! Today, more than ever before, we should be telling forth the good news—Jesus saves! Such vignettes of tract history should drive us to even greater effort in our leaflet evangelism. God *did*, God *does*, God *will* use gospel tracts to accomplish His purpose. Let us purpose in our hearts not to fail Him!

—Chas. T. Lampman in Moody Monthly.

Two Hundred Lives

A few years before the war, a humble villager in eastern Poland received a Bible from a colporteur who visited his small hamlet. He read it, was converted, and passed the book on to others. Through that one Bible two hundred more became believers. When the colporteur, Michael Billester, revisited the town in the summer of 1940, the group gathered to worship and listen to his preaching. Billester suggested that instead of giving the customary testimonies they all recite verses of Scripture.

Thereupon a man arose and asked, "Perhaps we have misunderstood. Did you mean verses or chapters?"

"Do you mean to say there are people here who can recite chapters of the Bible?" asked Mr. Billester in astonishment.

That was precisely the case. Those villagers had memorized, not only chapters, but whole books of the Bible. Thirteen knew Matthew and Luke and half of Genesis. One had committed all the Psalms to memory. Together, the two hundred knew virtually the entire Bible. Passed around from family to family and brought to the gathering on Sundays, the old Book had become so worn with use that its pages were hardly legible.

SPIRITUAL CALL

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

Subscription Rate

1 New subscription for a year, \$1.00 each—Old, \$1.25 each.
5 New subscriptions, 75c each—\$3.75
5 Old subscriptions or more, \$1.00 each—\$5.00
10 New subscriptions, 50c each—\$5.00
25 copies to ONE address for a year—\$10.00

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

God's Promise Will Not Fail

Jesus in explaining the future events of the destruction of the temple, and of the end of the world, to his disciples, said, Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away, Matt. 24:35.

I have heard it said, the Bible contains twenty thousand promises to the obedient. Many of those promises were to Abraham and his descendants. Paul said, Abraham staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that what he (God) had promised, he was able also to perform, Rom. 4:20, 21.

God fulfilled his sentence to Adam and Eve, he fulfilled his promise to Noah in destruction of the world by the flood. God has kept his promises to Noah in regard to the bow in the sky. God made special promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and fulfilled them. God said Abraham's Seed would be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and they would afflict them four hundred years. God promised to bring them out of afflictions into their own land, he gave them a law, assured them if they would keep his law they would be the greatest nation of earth, and be the head and not the tail; but if they disobeyed his law they would be scattered into the nations of the earth and become a hiss and a byword.

And more, because of their sins, rebellion and disobedience, God said mothers would eat their own children. We had the promise Christ would be born of a virgin, a promise the Lord's house would be established in the last days, and that the God of heaven would set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed. We have promises or prophecies of Christ's tragic death and suffering.

We also have a statement in Old Testament, The wicked will be turned into hell and all nations that forget God. Many people say, God is too good, too merciful, too loving, to send people to hell if they are wicked. God did not create man for the purpose of disobeying him. But to obey. He set life and death before Adam and Eve, also before the children of Israel, with the command, Choose life and live. God through Christ sounded the emphatic declaration, *Repent or Perish*. I believe God is too good to lie, go back on his word.

In view of all the declarations and promises of God that have been fulfilled to the very letter, we may be fully assured that just as sure as he ascended to heaven in a cloud that he will return again in the same manner as he went into heaven, Acts 1:11, John 14:3, Rev. 1:7. And behold I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. Note three times it is stated in last chapter of God's book, he is coming quickly. So don't worry, his promises are sure. Amen.—J. D. Powers.

God's Spiritual Feast

A sister describes in a private letter her visit to a little group of disciples which had the breaking of bread, singing, praying, exhorting giving, all in a spiritual way:

"I remember well the gathering for the morning worship. How solemn! And the singing! Precious memories! How they linger! How they ever flood my soul! Praise His holy name, for the inspiration we receive from Holy Writ. He is the bread of life. It is when we are yielded to the full measure of His Word, that the fullness of his love comes in. That's our happy condition. There are three of us that worship on the first day in our own home."

As the editor of this paper read that, he thought, "Oh, that we had thousands upon thousands of such groups, worshipping thus—it would make such an impression on the young that they would never forget. A real communing with God! No show, no bustle, no loud talking and laughing before and after the services, no funny things said at any time, no harangue for money, no announcements of meetings of countless societies and performances, simplicity all! eating the spiritual flesh and drinking the spiritual blood of Him who died for them!"

"Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand th' eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God;
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heaven;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is passed and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou are here—
Nearer than ever—still my Shield and Sun.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by;
Yet, passing, points to the glad feast above—
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love."

"How Long, O Lord"—Rev. 6:10

We see men and women in every walk of life crying—How Long, O Lord, How Long,—from the battlefields, from the sick room, to the prison cells. Even those in politics are crying against each other. And for this very cause there is strife and diversion and turmoil in every thing man has set to his seal to do.

But when we read in Rev. 6:10 where the saints were crying, How Long O Lord Holy and True dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth,—we have only to look not on the sectarian world but we can look at the bruised and mangled body of Christ and see the same condition that has gotten this old world so rocking to and fro in a sea of doubt and discouragement. Because some are only willing to sit and cry, How long, O Lord.

You hear people say today I am so disgusted I don't know what to do. This is going on, and that is going on, everything the Church does is wrong to them. But when the Church has set a night to discuss the business of the Church they are never there, they are only Church politicking crying, How long, O Lord, how long.

We know that the old Church will have enough trouble in any community with those who are trying to push in their

philosophy, and those who sit on the sidelines and cry about everything that is done. We today don't want to minister, but we want to be ministered unto, and we are not always careful as to who does the ministering. And as long as this condition exists we will be like Israel of old, crying for a King. We have a king, King Jesus. But ambitious men have pushed themselves in front of him and are wielding their own scepter, have caused misery, and tears to flow, because the body is torn. And men and women just sit and cry, How long, O Lord, instead of throwing off the shackles that have been placed around them by authority-seekers, and money hogs. And still the congregations wring their hands and cry, I just don't know what to do.

What the Church needs more today are those who are willing to study the Blessed Way and throw off the shackles of men, throw them out of authority and let Christ rule. But that old scare comes haunting them again. Where will you go, you can't get a preacher. Peter said, Lord to whom shall we go, thou hast the words of eternal life, Jno. 6:68. And again we forget that God said to his people concerning Babylon, Rev. 18:4, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins.

And again in Corinthians 6:17, 18, wherefore come out from amongst them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you and will be a father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters saith the Lord Almighty.

How long, O Lord how long, before people get their eyes open and see all the heresy and false teaching, the philosophies of men, that are causing the Old Church to drift away from the simplicity of Christ. We need more prayers and less cryers in the Church today. Let us be doers and not hearers only, that Christ may look upon his Bride and say, well done.—Harold L. Ottwell.

Sentiments of Some "that Fear the Lord"

Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.—Malachi 3:13-18. (Read the whole connection and mark in your Bibles, to have its importance permanent.—Editor.)

Dear Brother Sommer: The brethren have been greatly cheered this month by a visit from our beloved brother in Christ, J. D. Powers. He brings us good news of friends' progress in several places. We are all truly thankful to God for the news of your health improving. We hope and pray you will enjoy many useful years yet in God's service. We are enclosing \$5.00 to pay for six months subscription for 25 copies of the Spiritual Call to be sent to the Church of Christ, 214 South Walker Lane, Stockton, Calif. We want these to give out to friends. All the friends here send greetings. Your brother and sister in Christ.—Willis and Eunice Owens.

COLORADO—Dear Bro. Sommer: A few lines this beautiful autumn morning to let you know I am still here praying and thinking of you and your work, and way, hoping your health and strength may hold out for years to come to carry out the good work that the good Lord has called you to do for the master's cause. The S. C. seems to be improving all the time and more are taking an interest and coming to the front, regardless of what man may say or do. I always admired a man that stood firm for his convictions until he was convinced he was wrong, and to always stand for the right regardless of opposition. It has been my lot for years to be on the minority side, but have never one time given in from the teaching of the good old Book. Pray for me that I may hold faithful to the end, for it won't be long, as I pray for you every day and night. I am sending small donation to help. With Brotherly love to you and Sister Sommer.

(This old brother is now about 85, I think, served for years as an elder, and is still standing firm, like one of those sequoia trees in California 3,000 years old. "Steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.")

LONG BEACH, CALIF.—Dear Brother Sommer: The last three Lord's Days I was with the little band at Stockton, Calif. Spoke five times while there. My son, W. A. Powers spoke once. All seemed to be pleased that we had returned from the East. I was 80 years old last L. D., Oct. 22, and spoke morning and night to attentive audiences. Several were present. I spoke in morning on Second Coming of Christ. My children and others prepared a dinner supposedly in honor of my birthday. After services we went to W. A. Powers' home—J. D. Powers.

"HAPPY NEW YEAR!"—Many of our readers, possibly all, will mail cards soon with those words on them. We wish the recipient health, prosperity, etc., etc., but do we express to them specifically that we wish them soul prosperity? Really, a few words written from the heart I think mean more than a beautiful formal card without a really personal message. If we really wish them true happiness we wish them soul-salvation. Are the friends Christians, Bible Christians, whole-hearted Christians? If not, may not the Spiritual Call help bring them that eternal happiness which Christ alone can give? Why not send Christian literature to your friends? We may not be able to see definite fruit from what we do, but God says his Word will not return unto him void. It is OUR business to sow the seed, and leave the results with God. "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand, for who can tell whether will prosper either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

WHAT SOME THINK—We recently wrote a brother that now we were emphasizing the spiritual and devotional above the formal doctrinal, emphasizing the "justice, mercy and faith" duties above the "mint, anise and Cummin." He replied: "I am glad to hear you believe as you say, about the doctrinal and spiritual. Many, many times I have read Matt. 23:23, 24, 25, etc., and wondered. Here is \$10 more for the work—Illinois . . . I am so glad you are better. We need the good teaching from the faithful brethren. The Spiritual Call is sure good. August was such a good one—Colorado. (We still have a few left of that issue on "Is God Chastening Christians through Communism?") We sent a copy to General Douglas MacArthur with a letter! And to many others! Have you sent its message to others yet? The sun is setting!—Editor) . . . I really enjoy S. C., and get much good, from them.—Missouri . . . I brought my bundle of papers up here (hospital) as there are sick people here from every state; and while talking to them I asked them to read your paper. One lady told me how much she enjoyed it and liked it very much.—(Sister in a Missouri hospital) . . . Received the Spiritual Call this afternoon. Certainly enjoy the good lessons. Hope your health still improves and you can continue these grand and inspiring lessons. We enjoyed Bro. Carlton's lessons very much, and feel strengthened by his being with us. I am sending you a check for you to send the paper to the following names.—Missouri . . . Be sure to send the Spiritual Call to your boy in the army—it may do him much good. But do not send us his subscription, for he is changing so much that the paper from here would never reach him. Better have two papers come to YOUR address, and then you send it on to him, since you keep in close touch with his address. . . . CAN'T YOU GET YOUR FRIENDS TO "GO TO CHURCH"? Well, then take "church" to them. Send them the Spiritual Call for a year; or, if you have done that, renew at once for them, so that they will not miss an issue. Ten new or donated names, for only fifty cents each. Maybe you can save even one soul before the winter of death comes upon them, and one soul is more important than all this world. . . . PLEASE send me 2 copies each of September and October issues of the Spiritual Call. The front page article "We Do Show the Lord's Death Till He Come," is fine for leaflet, and if you make any, please send me 6. I feel it my duty to send the truth to others, and enjoy it, though I don't see fruit.—Colorado . . . Please send me more copies of the S. C. I want to give them out. I never realized before that the angels had such a great work to do. I want to work till the last beam fadeth.—(An old sister in Missouri.)

"SAFE, RELIABLE, COURTEOUS"—That is the sign on the bus I ride into town, the company assuring you of the virtues of the driver. I thought that the same should be said of the true Christian. But is it? "Safe"—The driver is supposed to be very careful so that you will reach your destination; is the Christian a real student of God's Word, so that in all his exhortations to others concerning salvation, he will be safe, and the one who listens will be led safely to the destination of the redeemed? "Reliable"—You can depend on what the driver says and does, in general at least; he is trained and knows his business; are we Christians reliable so that we can be depended on? do we always

tell the truth, and live what we tell! "Courteous"—The driver of a bus is to act like they do in "courts," politely; Paul says to Christians, "Be courteous," are we considerate to all to whom we talk or act? especially the weak? Or, do we, even in getting on a bus, selfishly crowd in front of some one else, contrary to our turn? The transit company gains patrons by its workers being "safe, reliable, courteous"; the Lord of the great Transit Company to Heaven gains passengers by its helpers being the same. And, reader, let me exhort—"Don't miss the bus to heaven!"

SIMPLIFIED NEW TESTAMENT, \$3.50 each; five copies, \$3.00 each . . . GUIDE THROUGH BIBLE HISTORY, 35 cents each; 12 copies, 30 cents each. FOSTER'S STORY OF THE BIBLE, \$2.50 each . . . FIRST STEPS FOR LITTLE FEET, \$1.50 each. . . . STORY OF THE GOSPEL, \$1.50 each . . . CHURCH OF CHRIST, \$1.00 each, 237 pages . . . DRAMA OF WORLD EMPIRES, 50 cents each . . . THE FIGHT OF FAITH, 10 cents each. . . . JAMIESON, FAUSSETT AND BROWN COMMENTARY, \$7.00 each . . . GREAT SONGS, \$1.00 each . . . BIBLES—Here is a good one. Clear-face type, pronouncing, King James Version, references in the verse (no more searching from verse to column), combined dictionary-concordance, size 5¼x7½, French Morocco leather, divinity circuit, gold edges, \$5.75.

Send orders to D. A. Sommer, 918 Congress Ave., Indianapolis, Ind. Don't delay till last minute.

UNIONVILLE, MO.—We have read your Spiritual Call from cover to cover, and enjoy it all. We took Brother and Sister Fowler and Brother Hedges to Brookfield, Oct. 29th, and enjoyed a good lesson from Bro. Ralph Aeree, and meeting the brethren there again. We are having good attendance at our meetings at Unionville three times a week. We hope you are still improving in health.—Mary and Ora Robinson . . . FIND ENCLOSED Check for Spiritual Call. I am a new reader of your paper. They seem to speak nothing but the truth. **My daddy sent me a bundle of them—I like them.** (We need more "daddies" and others who are interested in the souls of others—Editor)—Missouri.

PHOENIX, ARIZ.—Dear Brother Sommer: Our Spiritual Call was received one day last week. I immediately read your article on Ministering Angels and Christ's second coming; it was indeed a spiritual uplift. May the good Lord spare you to write many more encouraging articles, for we need them in these trying times. We at the Church of Christ, at 6th and C Ave. in Glendale have much to rejoice over, the Church is working in perfect harmony, each one doing their part, and our numbers are steadily on the increase. Last Lord's Day Bro. and Sister Barnhart from Missouri placed membership with us; their daughter, Mrs. Ruth Hubeeb had previously placed her membership with us. Sister Margaret Johnson of Tennessee also placed membership here, and a week ago, four young people were baptized and another sister placed membership. So you see we feel quite encouraged, nine new members in the past few weeks; the Lord is truly blessing us, and if we follow the teaching in God's we need never fear what man can do unto us. Let us all be steadfast in the work of the Lord for

There is a great day coming for those who love the Lord,

When he calls us to that Heavenly Home he has promised in his word.

Let us ever trust his promises, to guide us day by day,

And ever walk beside him in the straight and narrow way.

Then when we hear him calling, our joy will be complete.

We will go to him rejoicing, the Heavenly host to meet.

Mrs. C. A. Sanderson.

WARNING—In the early days of the Church in Jerusalem, its members were eager to tell good news. "At that time there was a great persecution of the church which was at Jerusalem, and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. They therefore that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word." They were all preachers, they waited not to be "sent", they went, so did the Christians in the restoration efforts.

The primitive church was less than 60 years old when schisms began to appear. Paul's letter to the church in Thessalonica written A.D. 51 was to correct erroneous ideas of the immediate advent of Christ, telling them why. (2 Thess. 2:3) To the Colossians A.D. 62 Paul said "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit."

And in Corinthians Paul censures Christians for party names. Also some doubted, if not denied, the resurrection of the dead. John's first epistle was to warn the evil doers, and teachers of error. Some had denied that Christ had come in the flesh. The falling away came to the primitive church by the teachings of AMBI-

TIOUS men, men who valued popularity and love of cash more than they did the approval of God. The tendencies of the present, can and will, if not checked, lead to the same end.—A. T. KERR.

"YOUR DOLLAR IS WORTH ONLY ABOUT FIFTY CENTS"

You have heard that often, but the saddening thing is that it is true compared with ten or twelve years ago. Inflation is growing worse day by day. Strikes demand greater wages, and then the companies raise their prices, and charge the public more. The Steel Companies have just raised salaries, and raised their prices to the public, too, which includes so many things we use. But with your patience I wish to whisper to you what it all has meant to the publisher of the Spiritual Call. You are receiving the paper at practically the same price as a dozen years ago, yet the publishing of the paper has arisen with everything else. We have been loathe to raise the price of the paper. Our subscription list is small; we need many more readers, and to obtain these have been giving you the privilege of sending the paper a year to ten people for only fifty cents each. **We wish to do all the good we can.** A religious paper is not going to be popular which, as this one has done, fights for purity of life, justice, simplicity, humility, devotion, etc. Many non-Christians are receiving the paper, and there is evidence we are doing much good, and that we can do more. But we are going into the red and have through the summer months, even with your "offerings". We may find it necessary for a few months, till inflation deflates itself, and it necessary to print only four pages. But much depends on the lists of names and offerings you send real soon. How many renewals of donated names, or new donated names, or how much do you think you can donate to the publishing of the paper this year of 1951? One interested person in a group can often get up a club of old subscriptions. We shall be glad to hear soon. We thank the many who have helped in this in times past, and remind all that your help puts the good news into the homes of many who need it and may be saved.

Catholic Persecution Condemned

"If the Roman Catholic Church wishes to enjoy freedom to propagate its views in Communist-controlled Hungary, it should be willing to grant Protestants and others equal rights in countries under Roman Catholic domination." This is the view of the American Council of Christian Churches recently expressed as part of a formal statement in condemning the treatment accorded Cardinal Mindszenty by the Communist-dominated Hungary government.

In its statement, the Council called attention to what it called the "glaring inconsistency" of the Roman Catholic Church in failing to grant religious liberty and equal rights before the courts to Protestants in countries which are predominately Roman Catholic.

Citing countries where persecution is most severe, the Council said:

"In Italy under the Concordat which the Pope signed with Mussolini, and which is still in force, Protestants are constantly discriminated against, and are not given equal legal and marital status with Roman Catholics. Converts to Protestantism are often shamefully mistreated and, in the instance of priests who leave the church are practically barred from public employment.

"In Spain Protestants are looked upon as outcasts. Full religious liberty is unknown, and it is a crime to give out religious tracts and Scriptures. Protestants are discriminated against when seeking employment. They are also denied the right of opening new meeting places or of gathering in private homes for worship. Their places of worship have frequently been violated."

The statement also pointed out that in Mexico and certain South American countries infuriated mobs led by Roman Catholic leaders have on occasion stormed Protestant churches and missions, and have done violence to workers, converts, and the buildings.

"By such practices, the Roman Catholic Church has weakened the front that might have been presented against Communism," the Council asserts.—Moody Monthly

"A Crown ... to All That Love His Appearing"

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (Paul in 2 Tim. 4: 7, 8.)

Notice that EVERY ONE can receive this crown, and not Paul only. But there is a condition—that we love his appearing. How do we love his appearing? We surely do it by thinking about it and preparing for it, and anxiously awaiting it *every day and every hour*. But many professed followers of Jesus are not anxiously looking for the second coming of the Lord. They are too busy looking after their business affairs, their pleasurable pursuits, their occasions of personal glory.

The hundreds of professed Christians who were at the automobile races here in Indianapolis Memorial Day, when betting and carousing were engaged in, were they "looking for his coming"? Would that have been a good place for a take-off for heaven?

The millions of nominal Christians who attend the degrading picture shows each week—are they "looking for the appearing of Christ"?

The untold numbers of church members who are falling over each other in their mad rush for the Almighty Dollar—are they "looking for the appearance of the Lord and Savior," and do they "love this appearance"?

The shepherds in Israel who are scrambling for power over their brethren—are they loving his appearing, or loving their own appearance?

It is only those who sigh and cry over the abominations done in Jerusalem, and do what they can to snatch a few out of the fire, that will have the mark put on their foreheads that they may be saved when Jesus comes.

Reader, if you are not anxiously *loving* the appearing of the Lord to judge the world and save the righteous, you would better change your life. The "crown of righteousness" will only be given to those who in heart and life "love his appearing."

"Not Why, But What"

Searching out the reason for our trials is not usually so profitable as asking what we may learn from them. God does not always explain His actions to us; but, "Who teacheth like him?" (Job 36:22).

Miss Ruth Paxson tells of a Christian woman whom she met in Finland who was undaunted by great trial. In a letter to the editor, Miss Paxson briefly outlines the story of this brave woman:

"Her name is Karen Strohle. She was a missionary in India and was ill with lung trouble. The doctors sent her back to Finland to die. She bought a little farm and began to farm it herself. One day in running one of her farming machines, her right hand was cut off. A friend told me that when she was taken to the hospital she went in singing and praising the Lord, and the doctors and nurses said they had never known of anyone entering the hospital like that before.

"She has a rest home now on this farm, and people go there for spiritual and physical rest. There is the daily teaching of the Word of God, and she felt the need of spiritual refreshment for herself, so she came to Helsinki for the days we were there for the meetings.

"She boarded the train about halfway to Helsinki and came into the compartment where we were. She was carrying an immense suitcase filled with clothing she had gathered for the needy people of Germany, and also her own baggage. Her right hand was a steel crook. She could not help but see that we noticed it, and very soon, as we entered into conversation, she told her story. With a very radiant face she said, 'When that hand was cut off, I immediately said, "Lord, not why, but what? Now that You have allowed this to happen, what work now do You have for me to do?"' And the Lord is using her in a very precious and beautiful way as she ministers to the physical and spiritual need of those who come to her little farm for rest and refreshment."

Miss Strohle's question, "Lord, not why, but what?" might well serve as a prayer for many of us, as we face trials that are not so great as hers have been. She could say from the heart, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causes us to triumph in Christ"; and as she is being made a blessing to many, she makes "manifest the savor of his knowledge . . . in every place" (II Cor. 2:14).—*Sunday School Times*.

Has Christianity Failed?

We hear a good deal nowadays about the "failure" of Christianity. "Has Christianity Failed?" is a frequent title for newspaper articles. What few persons seem to realize is that Christianity has very rarely been tried. For one person who puts into practice the tenets of the Christian faith, there are hundreds and thousands who call themselves Christians, but have none of the real spirit of Christianity.

Read the Gospels, and you cannot fail to be struck and deeply moved by the examples of personal service in the life of Christ. He was of humble position, poorest of the poor; but His personal service was the keynote of His life and His teaching.

His compassion for the weak, for the sinner, His loyalty to His friends, His anger against injustice and hypocrisy, His constant championship of the downtrodden, His forbearance with His enemies, are as shining examples now as ever they were; only we tend to forget them, to keep the Scriptures for Sabbath use only, and to neglect those passages which are not read from the pulpit.

If we do this, we cannot in justice call ourselves Christians. You could not call yourself a Democrat or a Republican if you knew nothing of the tenets of those parties; you couldn't say you were a mathematician if you had forgotten everything but the multiplication table and were a bit shaky on that.

There are millions of men and women today who call themselves Christians, but there are few who really carry out to the letter the teaching of Christ. Probably there are few who have a sufficient first-hand acquaintance with the Gospels to know exactly what that teaching is. They may know roughly that Christ said, "But I say unto you, Love your enemies . . . pray for them which despitefully use you." Even then, how many of us do it? How many of us know that Christ commanded that if a man steals your cloak, you must give him your coat also? How many of us remember to seek first the kingdom of God, as He commanded? Or to remove the beam from our own eye before attempting to take the mote from our brother's eye? How many of us are, in every act, Christians in the real sense of the word?

If we are Christians, we must, as far as possible, try to act as Christ acted; as we know He would have us act. We, too, must serve, not only the deserving, but the outcast. And we must remember that to recognize the obligation is not enough; we must be active about our ideals, bringing them into our daily lives.

"Infiltration" Behind the Devil's Lines

Right now as we write, MacArthur has let down several thousand paratroopers behind the enemies' lines, to cut them off, and end the war. Early in this war, the North Koreans infiltrated behind the American and South Korean lines, and worked havoc by blowing up bridges, cutting supply lines, spying, etc. MacArthur's secret landing behind the enemies' lines with thousands of troops, helped that phase of the campaign.

Let's infiltrate behind the enemy's lines. It seems very hard to stand up in a frontal attack upon him, for he is so strong. The devil offered Christ the kingdoms of the world, if Christ would fall down and worship him—he seemed to think the kingdoms belong to him, and it seems now that he surely has control of them. Everything seems to be in the hands of the devil, in part at least. Let's get behind their lines. Good tracts and books, handed to those stalled in unsuspecting evils, or loaned to them, may do much good. A good religious paper slips in through the mails; and though the recipient may cast it aside, here it comes next month. This time, perhaps, they let it lie on the table and some one picks it up. The next time, some even dare to read it; perhaps a heading catches their eyes, before it lands in the waste basket, and they read.

Jehovah's witnesses have no church houses of their own, nor other such means, to attract people, but they do scatter literature. They have scattered *hundreds of millions of pieces of literature* in their day. And they evidently have hundreds of thousands of followers. They must think it pays, else they would not keep it up. The children of error are wiser in their generation than the children of light.

Let's infiltrate behind the devil's lines, and blow up Satan's bridges, cut his lines of communication with God's people, and propagandize his enslaved followers.

Don't Worry—Man Can't Put You Out of the Church

It is *the Lord*, not man, that added to the Church daily; and hence it would be *the Lord*, not man, that would put them out of the Church if that was necessary, regardless of what man did. When man works in harmony with the Lord, God regards it; but when he does NOT, God does NOT regard it.

"The Lord knoweth them that are his."

Do you know that the expression "church membership" is not in the Bible? True, the elders had flocks, and hence there was supposed to be some outlines to a flock, but that is a mere incidental. We baptize people sometimes, and "take them into the church," when the Lord does not, for he knows their hearts and that they were not really converted. On the other hand, elders may throw people out of the church as reprobates when the Lord holds them in HIS church because he KNOWS they ARE converted to HIM not MAN.

Also, bishops generally hold many people "in the church" when the Lord long ago had cast them out. Maybe he has cast the elders themselves out of HIS church because they have not kept it pure and have not put away from among themselves that wicked person. "Because thou art lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth," says Jesus himself, though elders may retain those same lukewarm and even ungodly ones in the church for years.

In our book, Guide Through Bible History, written many years ago, we used the story of Korah's and Miriam's rebellion against Moses, and drew the lesson that we should obey, "scriptural elders." We did not say nor intimate that one should obey "elders" right or wrong—it is not in the office at all, but in the commands of God in that office. Three times

in that connection, we always brought in the word "scriptural" in our application of the story.

If we refuse to obey "scriptural" elders or churches who give "scriptural" commands, *we will be damned*. And, if we OBEY UNscriptural elders or churches, who give UNscriptural teaching and commands, *we will be damned if we do*. "We ought to obey God rather than man."

When the pope sent Martin Luther an anathema of excommunication because he taught the word of God, *Luther took it out in the church yard, or public square, and burned it before all the people*, and thus showed his utter contempt for man's anathemas. *Every Christian today should have that spirit of Luther*. But sad to say so few have that devotion to God and his Word.

One reads in the secular papers about this church and that church making drives "to get church members." What a human idea. They ought to be trying to make Christians. When one obeys the gospel he becomes a Christian and hence a member of the church, but that refers to the Church in general but not any particular local group with their human organization and laws, etc. There will be no bishops and deacons and local church members as such in heaven—all that will have passed away.

Let us spend our time and money trying to make Christians, disciples of Christ, not mere church members.

Screw Your Religious Light Bulb Tight

Recently a brother, who was presiding at the Lord's Table used this illustration: an electric light bulb is useless unless it is screwed firmly into the light socket, so that there is solid contact between it and the supply of power. He then made the application that unless we keep in close contact with Jesus our Lord and Savior, we lose our usefulness in shedding forth the light of the love of God for man, in that he gave his only begotten son to die for us.

Christ and God have prepared this table containing these emblems of the body and blood of Jesus Christ, that we by coming together upon the first day of every week and partaking of them, will be kept in close contact with the source of our spiritual life; and Paul writes, that as often as we do this we show the Lord's death till he come. We cannot show the Lord's death to any one when we are absent from the Lord's table, and no one will know that we have any desire to honor him, no matter if we may be thinking of it, (which is unlikely if we are absent in pursuit of our pleasure or worldly affairs). The world will see no difference between us and it; our light will cease to shine in this dark old world the same as a loose light bulb which either gives forth no light at all, or at best a dull and flickering light which is an aggravation to all those who behold it.

Jesus said, He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. John 6:54, Jesus said, when he instituted this memorial, speaking of the bread, "This is my body," and of the cup, "This is my blood". We are taught that the life of an animal is in the blood, hence in partaking of the cup which he says is his blood, we partake of his life which is eternal life.

Therefore brethren, let us keep a firm, constant contact with the source of our spiritual life, that we may keep it well fed and nourished, the same as we would feed and care for our physical life; by so doing our life will shine forth as a well grounded light bulb, a light in a dark place to all who behold it.

Then when Jesus comes he will raise us up to be forever with him. Let us ever remain faithful and true to him who has suffered so much for us.—Fred D. Weed.