

# 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

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## You Can Influence Nearly Two Million People for Good in 300 Years

PERHAPS YOU SMILE at such a "rash" statement, but let us see. God intended for every Christian to try to save others. The early Christians when they were scattered, "went everywhere preaching the word," Acts 8. Those twelve apostles through their efforts influenced millions of people by the end of 150 years after Pentecost. If we, today, will take Jesus with us everywhere we go, and live Him and talk Him (using judgment of course), we can repeat very much the great work of the early Christians.

Beginning at your mature years, suppose you spend about a generation of about 35 years, of some of your spare time in talking of Jesus (and living Him, of course)—what will the result be? No doubt, you will in that time influence very much for Christ at least *five* people, and maybe *many more*, and perhaps you are responsible for their entire conversion. Don't say it can't be done. I know a brother with not a full common grade education, who started out in the Christian life at about the age of 35, and he is now 75 years old. He farmed, and talked Christ Jesus as well as lived it. *I have helped him establish THREE congregations*, though he did nearly all of it. He is not a "preacher" but just a Christian worker. He never received any remuneration for his work for Christ. I know there are many people who have been brought into Christ as a result of his labors, and many of them are still faithful.

Now suppose that into the *five* we convert who remain faithful, we can instill the same spirit of advancement and devotion which we have shown, and *out of their lives of one generation, they each are able to convert five who remain faithful*. That makes 25 people saved through your efforts, and theirs. *The best place to start is in the home.*

Then suppose each one in these 25, in a generation of 35 years is able to convert *five* others who remain faithful. (One will probably convert many who will slip away, but possibly five or more will remain)—that makes 125 people saved in about 100 years, or at least influenced for very much good. Then keep multiplying the results by *five*, three times in a century; and at the end of three centuries, one will have converted to Christ *nearly TWO million souls*. Exactly 1,890,625. *Why not begin NOW—right in YOUR HOME?*

Think of it, reader! Ponder it long and seriously. *And if our lives have been bad, or even careless, we will have influenced FOR EVIL, that same two million souls!*

"Only the truth that in life we have spoken,  
Only the seed that on earth we have sown,  
These shall pass on when we are forgotten,  
Fruits of the harvest and what we have done,  
Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling  
Only remembered by what we have done."

### Nearer, My God, To Thee

Many people consider this aspiring hymn to be the finest ever written by a woman. Its author was Sarah Flower Adams, the daughter of a brilliant and fearless English journalist, Benjamin Flower. As a young man Flower had published some articles expressing sympathy with the French Revolution of 1798, at the same time criticising the political conduct of a prominent Bishop. So offended was the Bishop that Flower found himself sentenced by the British Government to Newgate Prison for six months. Here he was visited with the other prisoners by a young philanthropist, Miss Eliza Gould, who shortly after Flower's release became his wife. Sarah Flower was one of their daughters, born in 1805. Early she showed dramatic talent and made several successful appearances, first as Lady Macbeth. Before her marriage to William Bridges Adams in 1831, she had considered the stage as a career, but ill health forced her to give up this ambition, and she turned her artistic talents to writing. Her poems and essays appeared in various periodicals, winning the praise of young Robert Browning and of Leigh Hunt, who called her "a mistress of thought and tears." It was near the close of her life, however, that she wrote the hymn-poem for which she is remembered today—"Nearer, My God, to Thee"—sung by religious peoples the world over, in nearly every language.

The hymn is based on the story of Jacob as told in Genesis 28:11-17. Jacob, in his flight from Esau's wrath, rested upon a lonely hillside at Luz, his head on a stone for a pillow. He dreamed of a ladder reaching from earth to Heaven with angels ascending and descending upon it, and Jehovah standing above, blessing him. In the morning Jacob awoke refreshed, and named the place "Bethel," or "the House of God." The many references to this story may be noted in the hymn given here in full.

"Nearer, My God, To Thee" expresses the faith that even in darkness and trouble, the human heart may rise up, nearer to God. Sarah herself fought a life-long battle against ill health, suffering with her devoted sister Eliza from the same chronic disease which had taken their mother years before. The sisters exhausted themselves in caring for each other through long illnesses, Eliza dying first, and Sarah following in two years (1848). It was during this trying period in her life that Sarah wrote this hymn of prayer and trust, an expression of her own faith, and a source of strength to many others in meeting great crises in human life. It was the acknowledged favorite of President McKinley, who was heard by his physician singing the hymn as he lay dying from an assassin's wound: "Nearer, My God, to Thee. Even though it be a Cross," adding "This has been my constant prayer." So often is this hymn associated with sorrow and disaster

that we tend to overlook the climax of joy and exultation in the last stanza; in times of gladness as well as sorrow, the heart may fly upward in song, to be "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

The tune to which we sing this hymn in America is curiously misnamed "Bethany," whereas "Bethel" would be a more appropriate title. It was composed in 1856 by Lowell Mason, the same gifted composer who wrote "Olivet" for Ray Palmer's poem, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee."

—D. M. K.

\* \* \* \*

Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!  
 E'en tho' it be a cross That raiseth me;  
 Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to Thee,  
 Nearer to Thee!

Tho' like a wanderer, The sun gone down,  
 Darkness be over me, My rest a stone;  
 Yet in my dreams I'd be Nearer, my God, to Thee,  
 Nearer to Thee!

There let the way appear Steps unto Heav'n;  
 All that Thou sendest me, In mercy giv'n;  
 Angels to beckon me Nearer, my God, to Thee,  
 Nearer to Thee!

Then, with my waking thoughts Bright with Thy praise,  
 Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise:  
 So by my woes to be Nearer, my God, to Thee,  
 Nearer to Thee!

Or, if on joyful wing, Cleaving the sky,  
 Sun, moon, and stars forgot, Upward I fly:  
 Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to Thee,  
 Nearer to Thee!

—Sarah Flower Adams.

## Too Much TV is Bad Influence on Child

Many of you have received television sets for Christmas. In your zeal to see and hear everything television provides in the way of entertainment, you will probably keep it "on" all the waking hours day and night.

If your children are to learn discrimination in their choice of entertainment they must learn it from you.

You show them that you do not look and listen to everything, regardless of merit, but pick and choose the type of entertainment to which you wish to devote your leisure time.

Don't forget that your baby will be attracted to the light, sound and motion before him. This is not a good thing for the baby. It focuses his eyes upon one bright spot in the room instead of leaving them free to wander where it is dark, where it is motionless and to examine and acquaint himself with the world in which he lives, not an artificial world on a screen.

Constant noise is bad for the baby's nerves. There should be periods of quiet which will balance those periods of noise which are common to all living. When the balance is off and all is noise, the nerves pay the bill.

As for the older children who have a real interest in the programs, there should be hours for television looking and hours which should be devoted to active, self-initiated play alone and with companions.

One kind of entertainment, however educational or ingratiating, is not all that the child needs. It is far too easy for a child to become completely passive and sit by the hour looking or listening to these ready-made entertainments. This, too, is unbalanced, and the child pays in loss of initiative, loss of the experience of group play and the wholesome, physical activity which is his right.

Television is one of the most enormous influences which has ever been brought into the home. It has to be used with discretion and judgment. It can't be turned on day and night and become an escape from the meeting of real situations.

Children must think, read, plan, act, if they are to become aggressive, self-reliant individuals and television should be used to promote the ends of good living and not be made a substitute for living itself.

—Myrtle Meyer Eldred in Daily Paper.

## Nebuchadnezzar Has a Dream

In the fourth chapter of the prophet Daniel, we read that king Nebuchadnezzar dreamed a dream that was of such a nature that he was afraid, and his thoughts troubled him exceedingly.

As he was an idolatrous man and believed in all sorts of magic and astrology, he called in all of the magicians, astrologers, soothsayers, and wise men of the Chaldeans, and demanded that they show him the interpretation of the dream. But they could not tell him what it meant.

Finally Daniel was brought before the king, and the king said to Daniel, O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof.

Then the king told Daniel that he saw in the dream a great tree, the height reached unto heaven and the sight of it to the ends of the earth. The leaves were fair and the fruit thereof much and in it was meat for all; the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.

Then in his visions he saw a watcher and an holy one come down from heaven; and he cried, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit; let the beasts get away from beneath it, and the fowls from his branches. Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field, and let it be wet with the dew of heaven and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth: and let seven times pass over him. This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

Then Daniel was astonished for one hour and his thoughts troubled him. And why wouldn't they trouble him? He knew that this dream was against the king, and as a man he might have been afraid of what the reaction of the king might be. The king might be very wroth and have Daniel slain.

But Daniel knew that God was making the meaning of the dream known through him and that it was his duty before God to speak the truth to the king no matter what might happen to himself. He said, My Lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.

The tree that thou sawest is thou O king, and whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one come down from heaven saying, Hew down the tree, and destroy it, this is the interpretation, O king, this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my Lord the king: They shall drive thee from men and they shall make thee eat grass as oxen, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men and giveth it to whomsoever he will. And thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness,

and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor: if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquility.

All this happened to Nebuchadnezzar; in just twelve months as he walked in the palace, he said, Is not this great Babylon that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power and for the honour of my majesty?

While the words were still in his mouth, he heard a voice from heaven saying, The kingdom is departed from thee and they shall drive thee from men till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

What is the lesson in all this for us?

One is that we should not be lifted up with pride over our accomplishments, but should give God the glory and honor for making it possible for us to accomplish our aims by giving us ability and strength.

Another lesson is, that as God extended his mercy for one year to Nebuchadnezzar to allow him to follow the counsel of Daniel, so he is extending his mercy to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to life. Therefore let us take the lesson from Nebuchadnezzar, and not trifle with God's mercy, but repent of our sins and accept his offer of pardon by being baptized as he has commanded.

There is also much comfort to the Christian in these troublesome times in the knowledge that it is as true today as it was then, that the most High rules in the kingdom of men and giveth it to whomsoever he will and setteth up over it the basest of men.

When we consider the terrible destruction of life and property foretold in Revelations, it seems necessary that the basest of men should be in authority in order to fulfill that prophecy.

God no doubt is raising or will raise them up at the proper time, as he did Pharaoh in order to show forth his power in them.

While we view with great concern the advancement that the communists are making, and that there are some in high places who appear to be playing the part of traitors, yet through it all God's guiding the destiny of the world to fulfill his purpose. While we cannot see his purpose in it, yet we can rest in full assurance that the Most High still rules in the kingdom of men.

We may not be able to change the course of events, but as individuals we can make sure of our own safety, not by building bomb proof shelters, but by making our peace with God, by believing on him whom he has sent, repenting of our sins, being buried with him in baptism, and arising to walk a new life, acceptable unto him who has died to save us. Why delay! as it is said, Today if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. We know not what the morrow may have in store for us.

—Fred D. Weed.

## The New Testament Church

In order to be the church Christ established we must be right in doctrine as well as in other respects. Many people seem to think it is not important what we believe or teach as long as we are honest and sincere in it. But what saith the scriptures? "But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matt. 15:9. The word "vain" means "empty." So we learn from this that teaching a wrong doctrine (the commandments of men) constitutes vain or empty worship. Certainly that kind of worship is not acceptable with God.

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." Eph. 4:14. Here we are warned against being carried about by every wind of doctrine that comes

along. Do the teachers of these doctrines know better? Well, if they don't they are not qualified to preach the gospel. But most of them do. How do I know? Because Paul speaks of their teaching as being by the sleight of men and CUNNING CRAFTINESS, whereby they lie in wait to DECEIVE. How can I tell the "windy doctrine" from the genuine? By coming to the Bible and see what it teaches.

In naming some of the things the N.T. teaches, let us say that in order for us to become a Christian we are taught that it is necessary that we believe or have faith. For "without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. II:6. What is faith? "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Heb. II:1.

The next step is repentance. Just as man must believe in Christ so must he repent of his sins. "God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Pet. 3:9. "Except ye repent ye shall likewise perish." Luke 13:3. This makes repentance imperative. And this applies to many church members too. Many people who have their names on a church record need repentance as much as an alien sinner. Repentance is a reformation of life. Any one who is guilty of sin needs to repent or reform.

We must confess him before men. "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in Heaven." Matt. 10:32. We have a splendid example of confession in the conversion of the eunuch. "And Phillip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Acts 8:37. That confession was certainly acceptable, because upon it Phillip baptized him.

Last but not least we must be baptized. I know many people say this is not necessary. But we are only interested in what the Bible says about it. Let God be true but every man a liar. God said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mk. 16:16. The apostles understood the Lord to mean it just that way, for when the question was asked on the day of Pentecost, Peter's answer was, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." Acts 2:38. What did he tell them to be baptized for? For the remission of sins. Isn't that plain enough? But says one, Salvation is in Christ: it is not the water. Amen. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." How do we get into Christ where salvation is? We are baptized into Christ. So says Paul. Can you tell me any other way the Bible says we get into Christ?

Yours for a pure doctrine,

—J. A. Collins.

## Summary of "The Balanced Message"

(A Sermon Delivered by Howard Marsh—Included in Living Messages, 1948—Summary by F. S. Graham)

The spiritual needs a balanced diet as well as the physical. The whole counsel of God is needed. Results of an unbalanced message are tragic. Because they are "fed up" with the messages they have been receiving some grow indifferent to the work of the Lord. An example is the case of an elder who always seemed to delight in talking about church troubles to any newcomer to the community. This elder's son, although now past fifty has never obeyed the gospel. The kind of food he got made him sick.

(The speaker gave his idea of a well balanced message under ten headings:)

# SPIRITUAL CALL

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- (1) The main subject matter should be Jesus Christ and him crucified.
  - (2) It should be filled with the word of God.
  - (3) It should point people to Christ instead of to the preacher.
  - (4) The well-balanced message should picture God's hatred of sin and His love for sinners.
  - (5) It should prepare our people for days of trial, temptation, and Satanic influences.
  - (6) It should be the kind of message that will cultivate an appetite for God and His word above everything else.
  - (7) This message should have the substance and quality to supply the needed strength for growth and development.
  - (8) It should be seasoned with love.
  - (9) It should be garnished with meekness, sincerity, and holy living.
  - (10) Finally, the well-balanced message should hold forth That Blessed Hope.
- Conclusion: "Now may we depart from this great and inspiring meeting, purposing in our hearts with Paul that we will shrink not from declaring the whole counsel of God. *This and this only can rightly be termed The Balanced Message.*"

## Reach Fifty "Sinners" with Hundreds of Appeals, for Twenty-five Dollars

The greatest and probably best way to reach sinners is by the individual personal touch. Then we have "evangelistic meetings" to preach the gospel publicly to all whom we can persuade to come, but in these days it is so hard to get them there. Americans have become great readers and perhaps we can reach them that way. If a religious paper comes regularly into the home, perhaps some one at least, among the several people there, will read it some time, and possibly more than one read it more than once. Many evangelistic meetings result in no conversions to Christ, and we should not be discouraged if we do not learn of any conversion, soon at least, from such effort; but I am hearing of a number of such cases where readers have become deeply interested. This paper reveals that. If we could send a religious paper with many lively, evangelistic, comforting, short articles, every month to fifty families for the small sum of twenty-five dollars, we would be bound to do much good, if we will select the families. For one-fourth what an evangelistic meeting would cost, we might be able to do far more good, in these days when people do not attend such meetings much. Let us try it again and again. We are to carry on the work of Jesus and "He came to *Seek and save these who are lost.*" One soul saved is worth more than all this world combined, for "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul, or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

## "Not Growing Old"

They say that I am growing old,  
I've heard them tell it times untold,  
In language plain and bold—  
But I'm not growing old.

This frail shell in which I dwell  
Is growing old, I know full well—  
But I am not the shell.

What if my hair is turning grey?  
Grey hairs are honorable, they say,  
What if my eyesight's growing dim?  
I still can see to follow Him  
Who sacrificed His life for me  
Upon the Cross of Calvary.

What should I care if time's old plow  
Has left its furrows on my brow?  
Another house, not made with hand,  
Awaits me in the Glory Land.

What tho I falter in my walk?  
What tho my tongue refuse to talk?  
I still can tread the Narrow Way,  
I still can watch, and praise and pray.

My hearing may not be as keen  
As in the past it may have been,  
Still, I can hear my Saviour say  
In whispers soft, "This is the way."

The outward man, do what I can  
To lengthen out his life's short span,  
Shall perish, and return to dust,  
As everything in nature must.

The inward man, the Scriptures say,  
Is growing stronger every day,  
Then how can I be growing old  
When safe within my Saviour's fold?

E're long my soul shall fly away,  
And leave this tenement of clay,  
This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise  
To seize the "everlasting prize,"—  
I'll meet you on the Streets of Gold,  
And prove to you I'm not growing old.

—John E. Roberts.

## Human Tradition Annuls the Law of God

"Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition." Matt. 15:6. The first nine verses of this chapter set forth one of the most striking examples of God's attitude toward human tradition, as adopted in matters of religion. "The tradition of the elders" was taken as mandatory in the very smallest matters, as for example, the washing of one's hands before eating, while the plain commands of God were set aside by human interpretation. "For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and he that curseth father or mother, let him die the death," verse 4. God had commanded, and human interpretation was not only irreverent but resulted in altering the divine injunction. The Saviour quotes their interpretation, and then declares, "Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition." Are we not in a similar position when we adopt, as mandatory, the doctrines of men, while the plain commands of the Lord are annulled by human philosophy? See Col. 2:8.

—Fred W. Fenton.

## Knowledge and Obedience

In order to be a true Christian, these two, knowledge and obedience, are inseparable necessities. Inseparable because knowledge does no good without obedience, and one cannot obey without knowledge of what to obey. In many cases men will seemingly gain a lot of knowledge and yet fail to obey the simple commands of God. In which case their knowledge is not the knowledge defined in the Bible, but only a "make believe." Whenever we obey as we know, we can expect to move forward; but when we know and don't obey, we can run into trouble, but quick.

It seems to me that one of our greatest needs is knowledge. Colossians 3:16 says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom." How are we to let the word dwell in us richly if we don't know it? And how can the word dwell in us richly if we don't obey it? There are so many things that we all need to know, not just the preachers, that I cannot name a fraction of them in this space. The command to Timothy to study that he might show himself approved to God, II Tim. 2:15, certainly applies to us, shows that we are expected to know enough Truth that we can stand on our own two feet and not be carried about with every wind of doctrine. With all the doctrines and creeds present with us, and new ones being added, we certainly need to know the Truth so we can be made free. John 8:32.

When we become obedient to God's word it helps us to a more and better understanding of the same. One cannot know fully God's will until he has begun to live it. Some are ignorant of God's righteousness and try to establish their own, but it's all in vain. See Rom. 10:23.

Some will say that we cannot understand the Bible alike and that we should worship God in our own way. The real question is not that of understanding the Bible alike, it's a question of understanding the Bible. "Let God be true, but every man a liar." Rom. 3:4. If we don't understand his will its out own fault.

It can all be summed up in the words of James. James 1:22. "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." It's one thing to hear and know the word of God, another thing to believe and obey. Together they can save your soul.

—Lyle Carlton.

## Some Questions for the New Year

I. Am I determined to read the precious Word of God more eagerly? (Job 23:12; Jer. 15:16).

II. Am I resolved to attempt to commit more Scripture verses to memory? (Ps. 119:11; Col. 3:16).

III. Am I purposing in my heart to put into practice what I learn from the Holy Scriptures? (John 13:17; Jas. 1:22).

IV. Am I going to improve, if possible, my record of attendance at services? (Matt. 18:20; Heb. 10:25).

V. Am I going to do more than usual in the important matter of spreading the gospel of Christ by using a larger number of tracts? (Ps. 126:6; Eccles. 11:6).

VI. Am I going to be more faithful in the exercise of the stewardship of my time, money, talents, and influence? (Luke 16:10; II Cor. 9:6-8).

VII. Am I going to be a better witness for the Lord Jesus Christ? (Acts 1:8; Rev. 2:13).

VIII. Am I determined to be a more fruitful winner of souls for Him who saved me by His grace, and who is soon coming to take me to Himself? (Matt. 4:19; I Cor. 9:19-23).

IX. Am I resolving to be more helpful to the household of faith by commending more and condemning less, by giving

more and expecting less, by working more and shirking less, by remembering more and forgetting less, and by loving more and despising less? (Eph. 4:31, 32; I Pet. 1:22; I John 3:16).

X. Am I going to learn more about freedom from worrying by taking everything in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to God and making my requests known unto Him? (Phil. 4:6; I Pet. 5:7; Luke 18:1).

—Taken from Now.

## 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.)

IF YOU HAVE NOT READ the passage in Malachi, quoted above, I hope you do right now. Judaism was then in hands of unscriptural men, just as so many churches now are. But those who "feared the Lord" got together and kept the flame of love to Him alive, and God blessed them. That is what we are trying to do in the "Spiritual Call," even though we may be hundreds of miles apart. Let us draw as many as possible into this communion with God and with one another, and strive earnestly to "keep ourselves unspotted from the world." We invite our readers, thus minded, to write a short letter of encouragement or warning for its columns, and to get us as many readers as possible by handing your paper to others.—Editor, S. C.

### STILL HAVE HOPE

So long as there are homes to which men turn at close of day;  
So long as there are homes where children are, where women stay;  
If love and loyalty and faith be found across these sills,  
A stricken nation can recover from its ills.

So long as there are homes where fires burn and there is bread,  
So long as there are homes where lamps are lit and prayers are said,  
Although a people falter through the dark, and nations grope,  
With God himself back of these little homes,—we still have hope.  
—Unknown.

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO. The Spiritual Call is still getting better all the time, and I hope you may live many years to continue to send it out to help accomplish the great work of the Lord you are so earnestly engaged in; and I hope and pray every day and night that you may hold out faithful to the end, for the devil is at work on every hand. I'm sending a small donation to help a little. \* \* \*

MISSOURI—Please renew my subscription to the S.C. It would be difficult to express just how much spiritual good we have derived from your paper; however, I think the fact that we really look forward to it, and read every word, speaks for itself. Let's hope and pray God allows you many more years to continue working for Him. \* \* \*

NEBRASKA—Have been waiting to send a little donation for the Lord's work. We were so glad to read in the Spiritual Call that your health has been restored. And may God bless you and Sister Sommer for the wonderful work you are doing. I only wish we could help more. \* \* \* (We intend to acknowledge all such letters personally; if so, we failed to so mark this one. Thanks, Publisher.)

MISSOURI—I received the December issue of Spiritual Call, and enjoyed it very much. There are many good articles appearing in the columns in every issue, and I am confident many God-fearing persons will get much comfort from reading it. I am enclosing money order and several names; start them with the New Year if possible. Whatever is left over, apply as you wish. \* \* \*

JUST RECEIVED the December issue of Spiritual Call, and find it very good. Have wished for a long time that there would be an awakening to the necessity of parents' duties to their families. But how far will the voice of this one professor reach in the nation, or how many publications will join in a crusade for more home training? California . . . I HAVE READ the spiritual publications printed by your father and mother and yourself. I enclose five dollars for a year's subscription to Spiritual Call, and I would like also a copy of Simplified New Testament, with as bold and as clear a type as you have; also, if you have them, send some of the poems on "Mr. World and Miss Church Member." We

have a good working congregation here in Unionville. Had five additions by transfer a week ago. All are willing to take part and help.—Missouri . . . THANKS for the November issue which I had failed to receive, but which you supplied again. The article on the front page is encouraging, "Yes, Jesus Is Coming Again." We often feel much as old Elijah did when he went into the cave. I am enclosing \$ in currency to apply on these extra copies for myself and others, and shall remember to repeat this donation as we proceed along, and do better when possible, as it is a pleasure we enjoy because of "the truth you do publish so beautifully." Sincerely—Colorado. . . .

ENCLOSED find \$6 for books as follows: . . . I would love to be able to send you help on the fine paper you publish but we are not in a position to do it. The Spiritual Call means so much to me, as there is no true church here in this community. Your good father baptized my father many years ago at Flat River, Mo. I am so glad your health is improving.—Ohio. . . . MISSOURI—They want to stop you and your paper. But I think the spiritual goodness that is obtained by that paper helps to bind us closer together, and helps keep us informed as to what is going on in the brotherhood. And I hope and pray the Christians will see to it that it keeps coming. The Lord has braced us for these trying times by warning us that they who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecutions. There are too many in the church, as in the world, whose God is their belly. As long as they are satisfied they can not see any one else. You can see that demonstrated on your programs on mid-week meetings. So let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. . . . IN THIS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR I write unto you with prayers and hope that the work of the Lord may continue. Was very sorry indeed to learn of your ill health last year. Enjoy reading the Spiritual Call very much. May it continue to send its lessons for many years. Enclosed are \$33, for which send me seven copies of Simplified New Testament, and the Spiritual Call to the following names, etc.—Missouri. (This brother has sent a good list of names each year for many years; also, sent for many of the testaments.)

#### FROM THE NEAR-WAR ZONE

BANGKOK, SIAM, Dec. 15, 1950.—Dear Father: The international situation certainly doesn't look good. In fact, it is just now that I have begun to feel for the first time that it looks almost hopeless. Perhaps that is after last night's paper telling about Mao's statements that they will stay in Korea until all the U N forces are driven out, and about the Russians threatening the East Germans they must profess their Red faith or die, etc. Some one wrote the other day that Russia and China combined are the most dangerous combination the world has ever known, and our only hope is to have China become detached from Russia's communism, more like Yugoslavia. However, that doesn't seem likely at this time, and plenty of destruction can be done in the meantime.

Some churches advocate a Day of Prayer and Week of Prayer, but why don't you cable Truman suggesting that on New Year's Eve he announce 1951 as a **Year of Prayer**, and calling on all Americans—and all Christians everywhere—to earnestly pray every day for China and Russia that they will have a change of heart. . . . It isn't that I am jittery, but it is certainly going to take something more than human talk and reasoning to bring China and Russia to a sane attitude toward the rest of the world and to their own people, don't you think. And it looks as if God alone will be able to do it. Love, Mary (Sommer). (A letter just received from an aged sister said she had one grandson in the army in Germany and two grandsons in Korea. Let us all pray continually for the Christian boys in the armies that they may be true to God, as they fight for the freedom of the world, and that all the rest of America and the world not in the armies of men nor the army of the Lord, or not faithful, may bow in entire submission to the God of the universe. And let us pray, too, that truth and righteousness and freedom, may prevail in the world.—Editor.)

GLENDAL, ARIZ., (Church house, N. E., 6th and C Aves.)—Dear Bro. Sommer: Amidst turbulent times and enemies of the church, we continue to grow in the Lord, not only in the grace and knowledge of the Lord, but in numbers constantly. We always endeavor to hold forth the gospel of Christ in its purity and simplicity, vigorously, then we have the mighty comfort given in Rom. 8:31. If God be for us who can be against us. No one successfully. We most earnestly invite and welcome loyal brethren coming out here to meet and worship with us. C. A. Sanderson, Phone 64962, Phoenix.

DEAR BROTHER SOMMER: I have read with great interest the December number of the Spiritual Call. Each article was very instructive. I, too, believe we should have more articles on the

things you mentioned, especially on Mercy, Justice and Faith. If Christian parents had faith in what the Bible teaches and would teach their children to believe and act according to their faith, then we could have more influence for good in this present wicked world. Here is what I mean to say: We know faith comes by hearing God's Word. The home is included in God's great plan for redemption, for we hear the word as it speaks on this subject: saying the man is head of this God-given institution. The woman is subject to him, and their children are commanded to obey them, the father and mother. Supposing the father and mother are Christians then we hear the word say, "Having food and raiment be content." "Godliness with contentment is great gain."

Now for a few moments, dear reader, let's think of the home, for instance, as a fountain; or as the source from where all people originate. We all know what the word "home" means to us. It is a quiet resting place. It is where we feel free. It is a place where we always find a welcome, a place of frequent prayer—of forgiving one another, a spot supremely blest. Until parents are no longer there, it is a place of home gathering of the family that may be living in different localities. We believe it is a foretaste of heaven. For—

"Home is not merely four square walls,  
Though with pictures hung and gilded.  
Home is where affection calls,  
Where its shrine the heart has builded."

This home is the place that is never forgotten by any member of it, for there is where they all learned about God, and what His word taught. This teaching is in the hearts of all who were blessed with a godly home.

Fathers, are you head of the household? Do you command your children like Abraham did? Gen. 18:19. Mothers, are you keepers at home? Are you a good helpmate for your husband? Children, do you obey them according to Eph. 6:1-2-3. Parents, do you teach Bible lessons to your children, or do you listen with them to the radio, television—stuff of the lost world? Do you discipline your children, or do they tell you what to do?

Has it come to the time that the sons and daughters of God (II Cor. 6:17-18) are entertained (their mind pleasantly occupied) by the sons and daughters of Belial?

We need to humble ourselves, for when the calamity comes, it is too late. The alarm says, Awake! Watch! Pray!  
(An older mother)

#### SAVIOUR, TEACH ME DAY BY DAY

Saviour, teach me day by day,  
Love's sweet lesson to obey;  
Sweeter lesson cannot be,  
Loving Him who first loved me.

With a childlike heart of love,  
At Thy bidding may I move;  
Prompt to serve and follow Thee,  
Loving Him who first loved me.

Thus may I rejoice to show  
That I feel the love I owe;  
Singing, till Thy face I see,  
Of His love who first loved me.  
—Unknown.

#### HOW MUCH DO YOU PRIZE YOUR CROWN OF LIFE?

I fear the average Christian does not appreciate one-half as much as they should what that heavenly reward means to them when attained in gaining the heavenly abode. It should mean vastly more than anything else to us in the wide world, as portrayed to us in the twenty-first chapter of Revelations.

Now then, how are we to get that soul security? Our all-wise Creator has not left us to grope in darkness, but has provided us with chart and compass for Divine guidance, and we are to be diligent and study that chart, II Timothy 2:15, and grow (II Peter 3:18 and 1:5-11) in order to make our calling and election sure. And so we are to put on the whole armor of God in order to be able to stand according to Eph. 6:10-17. So let us fight the good fight of faith that we may lay hold on eternal life, I Timothy 6:12. For our Lord will come quickly with our rewards according to our works, Rev. 22:12.

Now, brethren, let us take heed that we may not fall from our own steadfastness, II Pet. 3:12. Many temptations will beset our pathways but if we have put on the whole armour of God, according to Eph. 6:10-17, we can stand for God's armour is perfect for complete protection against the wiles of the devil, I Cor. 10:13. And can fully protect us for time and eternity if we keep it on.

So my last warning is, when we are confronted with vile contemptible things, most distasteful to us, let us not forget our

Christian profession, and show the Spirit of Christ with meekness and fear, knowing that great is our reward in heaven. So, blessed is the man that endureth temptation for when he had been approved he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him, Jas. 1:12. With greatest love for my brethren, C. A. Sanderson, 8809 N. 11th Ave., Phoenix, Ariz.

"LORD, help us to live from day to day  
In such a self forgetful way  
That even when we kneel to pray  
Our prayers will be for others.

Help us in all the work we do  
To ever be sincere and true  
And know that all we do for you  
Must needs be done for others.

Let 'self' be crucified and slain  
And buried deep; and all in vain  
May efforts be made to rise again  
Unless to live for others.

And when our work on earth is done,  
And our new work in heaven's begun,  
May we forget the crown we've won  
While thinking still of others.

Others, Lord, yes others!  
Let this our motto be.  
Help us to live for others.  
That we may live like thee."

WHAT SOME THINK

The SPIRITUAL CALL was sent me through a good sister. It helped me so very much that I want to send it to others. Here are five dollars and the ten donated names.—Penn. . . WE APPRECIATE your Call.—E. L. Jorgenson, compiler of the hymn book, "Great Songs of the Church," which the editor of SC has said before, he considers the best hymn book he has ever seen . . . DR. TOREY, a great evangelist of two generations ago said, "Revivals start with individuals and little groups, not great meetings." (Let us multiply a hundred fold the "little meetings" we may have in homes, halls, church buildings, etc.) . . . THANKS for the copies of Spiritual Call. I am enclosing subscription. My husband likes the SC very much. We had not seen a copy of it before.—Colorado. (See how truth spreads when we send a few copies of the SC.) . . . Last year many donated ten subscriptions to friends, wishing them to receive all the numbers on "Jesus Is Coming Again." We sent back numbers through more than half the year; hence, names you sent up to July are probably expired now. So you would do well, if you wish to continue to help these people spiritually, to renew for them again NOW, which you can do at the same price as at first; all donated subs in clubs of ten are fifty cents each. . . I THINK your article on Communism is very good. I am sending \$\$ to help you out in the work. I would like to see the SC continue as it is, and will help as much as I can. I will try to get another list of names. I would like to have a few copies on Communism to hand out.—Lyle Carleton. . . SOME ONE SENT me the Spiritual Call, and my time has expired. Find enclosed five dollars for which send me a Simplified New Testament and SC for a year. Glad you recovered from your sickness, and may the good Lord see fit to bless you and all the faithful in Christ.—Missouri. . . DEAR BROTHER IN CHRIST: Some one has sent me the little paper edited by you, and I think it is a wonderful little paper; so I am sending \$5 to have it sent to TEN people. Below are names and addresses.—Pa. (This surely is the right spirit, and we hope many who are receiving this little paper through the love of some one else, will, if they think it teaches the truth, have the same spirit of God who SENT his Son into the world to save all of us.) . . . I ENJOYED READING the papers you sent. I think you are placing the emphasis where it belongs. Thank you for them.—Ohio. . . A SISTER whose husband came out of Babylon into the simple New Testament church, writes, "He likes your paper, and finds much strength from it. Pray that we may uphold the truth in this place." (Here is a sister who by life and example has brought her husband to the truth, and she says of the SC, he "finds much strength from it." Reader, can you see that no doubt your honest, unprejudiced friends will, too, "derive strength from reading its pages?" Why not send it to ten or more? . . . I THINK AND PRAY for you people. I truly hope all will be well some day; but when, I am not able to see. Some I am quite sure are fighting for truth. I am sending you our con-

tribution. It is small but hope you know where to put it to do the most good.—Missouri. (It will help buy black ink instead of red, for the typesetting and printing of the SC. Thanks much. Quite a number have sent donations to help, too, and we appreciate them all; but it will take a continuance of such to keep down the red ink. All donations sent in are used altogether to pay the printer's and other such bills.—Publisher.) . . . IT SEEMS that the Christmas rush in the mails has left some copies of the Spiritual Call off in some corners somewhere in the postoffices; so those who have missed any numbers of the SC, let us know at once and we will duplicate your copy.

The So-Called Lord's Prayer

Is it scriptural for us to use it today? Jesus taught his disciples to pray "thy kingdom come," Matt. 6:10.

"Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel." Mark. 1:14-15; Matt. 4:17.

We find in the Book of Daniel that "God would set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed." Dan. 2:4.

Jesus also told his disciples that some of them would not taste of death, till they had seen the Kingdom come with power. Mark 9:1; Luke 9:27; Matt. 16:28.

Jesus said, "The law and the prophets were until John; since that time the Kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." Luke 16:16.

Jesus said "Except a man be born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." John 3:3-5.

The kingdom came with power on the day of Pentecost when they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, Acts 2:1-4.

Jesus had said He would build His Church. Matt. 16:18.

When Peter guided by the Holy Ghost preached and convinced the people of their sins, they asked, What shall we do? Peter said unto them "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." Acts 2:37-38.

"Then they that gladly received his Word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." Acts 2:41.

"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47.

Paul said, "We have been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of his (God's) dear Son." Col. 1:13. John was in the kingdom about A. D. 96. Rev. 9:1.

Should we pray for something (the kingdom) to come that came over nineteen hundred years ago?—M. M. Mitchell.

"But the Fearful (Cowardly, R.S.V.) . . . Shall Have Their Part in the Lake"

(13th in a Series on "Jesus is Coming Again")

This is one of the most saddening scriptures in the New Testament (Rev. 21:9); for when Jesus comes to judge the world, it will disillusion many nice, polite, morally good, Christian (?) people, who are cowardly and will not stand for the truth lest they should be unpopular. They shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, whatever God means by that.

The fight against Satan and sin has been going on since the beginning of time, and people must stand on one side or another; there is no neutral ground. True, Jesus commands us to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. We must use wisdom in trying to win others to the Cross of Christ; but we are not to be so wise and harmless that we never do

anything. We are exhorted by Jude to "contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered unto the saints," Revised Version. And when evils arise among Christians and we find that we can do nothing, because of the perverseness of leaders, we are commanded to "Come out from among them and be separate, and touch not the unclean thing," and to "turn away from such."

Modernism has seized control of the denominational churches, and is trying to make a social club out of the church, and to form it into a great ecclesiasticism with a few men at the top controlling it all, much as the pope controls the Roman Church. Their latest announcement is that the "bishops" will simply be "advisors." And millions of Protestant people are lying down and doing nothing because they fear they will be put out of the synagogue, and be persecuted. Such people are "fearful," cowardly, and Judge Jesus tells us what he will do with such people when he comes.

Even in "the Church of Christ," so-called, efforts have been put forth to centralize churches into an ecclesiasticism, while denying it all the time (as the modernists are doing), and make little popes out of elders, bishops, whom they can control, etc., etc.; and many see where the thing is going and dissent in their minds, but are too cowardly to stand up and contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints. But Jesus says clearly that the cowardly shall have their part in the lake of fire. How saddening!

There were such people in Jesus' day. "Howbeit no man spake openly of Him for fear of the Jews," John 7:13. Think of those today who will not stand out openly for the truth "for fear" of those who are entrenched in religious authority!

But there is something lacking in the characters of such people, as John shows in the following: "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed in him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue, for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." (John 12:42, 43.)

I think this verse describes the greater part of the professed Christian people today. They don't wish to be excommunicated from the synagogue, the church, even though they should know that a man stands before God according to what GOD says and does and not man. *God alone can excommunicate from His Church*, though ambitious, jealous men may excommunicate from their churches. "We ought to obey God rather than men," Acts 5.

Yes, these religious "cowards" "love the praise of men more than the praise of God." That's the secret of it all. Such people are not fully converted to Christ, they do not love the Lord with *all* their heart, soul and mind, but love themselves and the praise of men MORE than the praise of God.

Too bad! too bad! It will be such a glorious time when Jesus comes—to the faithful, who stand firm, who abound in the work of the Lord, who are *not* fearful, cowardly, but are willing to endure persecution for the name of Christ. But oh, what a dark picture before those who have their eyes on themselves and the grandstand, and who quail before the finger of scorn pointed at them for faith and courage in Christ!

Say, reader, we have prayed for health, and life, and for the conversion of the world, etc., etc., but did we ever pray for COURAGE, BOLDNESS, to go forward in the work of the Lord? When Peter and John had been cast into prison, and then brought forth and commanded not to preach any more in the name of Jesus, they replied, "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye: for we can not but speak the things which we have seen and heard," Acts 5:19, 20. Then when they went to

their own company, the leaders lifted their voices and prayed. "Lord, behold their threatenings; and grant unto thy servants that with all BOLDNESS they may speak thy word." Verse 29.

Oh God, we pray thee to give courage, boldness, today unto all those who know truth and yet have not the faith to stand out squarely for it. We pray that they may now see the fate of themselves when Jesus comes, if they waver now. "If any man draw back, MY SOUL SHALL HAVE NO PLEASURE IN HIM," (Heb. 10:38). And again—"The fearful, [cowardly], shall have their part in the lake of fire."

### LOYALTY

Every one is loyal!  
Every one holds dear  
Some association  
Based on love, or fear.

But should one be faithful  
To a sinking ship?  
Smaller boats may bring lives  
On the homeward trip.

What a ghastly folly  
To forget one's goal,  
Prizing institutions  
More than human soul!

From a church titanic  
Wiser ones withdrew  
When the craft was taken  
By a pirate crew.

Loyal to the Saviour,  
They have made the choice,  
Fearing not the tempest,  
Heeding but His voice.

"Come out from among them;  
Be ye separate;  
Ye shall be My children,  
Homing to My gate."

Small the band of pilgrims,  
But their Refuge sure;  
In the raging waters  
They have peace secure.

So we learn the meaning  
Of true loyalty,  
Faithful to our Captain,  
Heaven's Royalty.

—By Laura S. F. Woodruff in  
Christian Beacon.

(These words mean much more when one knows that the Beacon has made a strong fight for the inspiration of the Bible against the modernists, and they call on the faithful to "come out" of an unfaithful church.—Editor S. C.)

KANSAS CITY, KANS.—Work here is doing well. Interest is increasing; and while we are still few, and bearing some heavy burdens, we meet and worship in peace and according to God's Word. We hope that you are still improving in health and that general conditions are pointing upward for you. My address after February 1 will be, 1720 Orville Ave., Kansas City, Kans.

—F. W. Fenton