

Christian Youth Herald
and
Gospel Call

Volume XIII, No. 22

Salem, W. Va.

January 3, 1949



The New Year

Another year I enter,
Its history unknown;
Oh, how my feet would tremble
To tread its paths alone!
But I have heard a whisper,
I know I shall be blessed;
"My presence shall go with thee
And I will give thee rest."

What will the new year bring me?
I may not, must not know;
Will it be love and rapture,
Or loneliness and woe?
Hush; hush! I hear His whisper,
I surely shall be blest:
"My presence shall go with thee
And I will give thee rest."

—Selected.

Christian Youth Herald and Gospel Call

A weekly publication for the young people of the Church of God (7th Day).

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Entered as second class matter November 1, 1948, at the Post Office, Salem, West Virginia, under the act of March 3, 1879. Owned by the General Conference of the Church of God (7th Day), published weekly (except one issue during the Annual Campmeeting in August, and one during the last week of December) at the Church's Eastern Publishing House, Salem, West Virginia.

Subscription Rates: Single copies, \$1.50 per year; six or more to one address \$1 each per year; foreign \$2.00 per year.

We received a very encouraging letter from Sister Lillian Keim of Calgary Alberta, Canada, in which she reports the organizing of a new Y. P. O. at Acme. She was elected Overseer and Edwin Becker, Secretary-Treasurer. We congratulate these young people on their progress and trust we may hear more from them in the future. Elder Reuben Moldenhauer has been pastoring this group.

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Altho the snow is on the ground,
And frosty breezes blow,
There isn't time to loaf around;
Because our church won't grow
Without a live-wire membership,
Of which you should be part:
We challenge you to take this tip:
Get **CHURCH WORK** on your
HEART!

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WHAT SOME OF YOU ARE DOING

Lowell Hendershott of Shawnee, Okla., has been schooling with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. in Chicago. His new address will be Durant, Okla.

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Wesley Walker of Stanberry, Mo. is being inducted into Military Service with the Gentry County quota. He was formerly employed in Concord, Calif.

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Gladys Clark of Englewood, Colo. is attending school at the University of Colorado at Denver.

* * * * *

Doris Ford of Marian, Iowa is teaching at Washington, Iowa.

* * * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Odel Mooney of Boydton, Va. announce the birth of a daughter, Linda Ray, on December 21.

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Delvin O'Bannon, a student at Union College, Linclon, Nebraska is visiting Campmeeting friends in Salem this week.

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Grace Carpenter writes that a fire had a disasterous effect on her room in her home at Baldwin Park, Calif.

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Elder and Mrs. B. F. Marrs with Elder and Mrs. Marvin Lippincott and Jerry, were Salem visitors the past week end. Elder Marrs, Publishing House manager at Stanberry, Mo., spoke to the Church on Sabbath morning and Elder Lippincott, pastor of the St. Joseph, Mo. Church, spoke Friday night and to the young people on Sabbath afternoon.

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We were very sorry to hear of the death of little Wanda Faye Turner, 6 week old daughter of Elder and Mrs. Ernest Turner of Dyersburg, Tennessee. Elder Turner was in the Master's service in Ala. at the time of her passing.



Are Your Prayer Paths Growing Up ?

By K. H. Freeman

THE story is told of early missionaries to Africa winning converts to Christ, and how it was the custom of these converts to have a private place in the jungle for private prayer. In the beginning of their Christian experience, the sweet, first love of God led them often to these private meeting places with the Father. Soon paths were worn through the grass to these places. Later on, some would grow careless, and their "prayer paths" would begin to grow up with grass again. The missionaries would only have to ask them if grass was growing over his path to bring them conviction and encourage them to get back on "praying ground". "Are your prayer paths growing up?" was good preaching.

This is a good lesson for our young people especially, for by the frequent use of the prayer path, the victory is gained. When the prayer path is unused, and is growing up with the grass of neglect, the life of the Christian becomes weak, stunted, and finally cannot be recognized as that of a follower of Christ.

We preachers are usually opposed to habits of any kind but there is a habit which I admonish each young person to form, and that is the habit of praying at least three times a day. Condemn me if you will, but I say even a prayer that is read, and read sincerely, meaning every word, is better than no prayer at all. Read your prayer if you must but get in an attitude of prayer three times a day or more, and soon you will find that you almost automatically turn to your prayer corner, or go up your "prayer path" at those sacred hours.

We are told that the English troops at Waterloo fell flat on their faces for a time to let the hot fire of the French pass over them. The Lord wants His people on their faces before Him before they attempt to battle the world, and successfully meet the great events of life.

Often the complex affairs of life are too great for us, and we cannot find the answers to the puzzling and complicated questions of this old world. Abraham Lincoln said that he had been driven to his knees many times by

the overwhelming conviction that he had nowhere else to go. He said his wisdom, and that of all about him, seemed insufficient for the day. Other great men havt not been ashamed to confess their dependence on God in the hour of crisis.

Some theologians have given the rather stilted definition for prayer in this way: "Prayer is an offering up of our desires to God for all things lawful and needful, with humble confidence that we shall obtain them through the mediation of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Many young people think they cannot pray because they cannot equal in oratory some of the long prayers they have heard in the Church. Do not let this discourage you, for many of these long prayers are simply an exhibition of how much the one praying knows about world affairs, the condition of the Jews and the Holy Land, the impending world conflict, the terrific amount of juvenile delinquency, etc., etc. When you pray, feel free to put your desires and needs in simple words, and let the Lord know what is on your heart and mind. Let the Lord know too, that you are thankful for your blessings. Speak as you would to a kind, understanding Father, for that is just what He is.

If the answer to your prayer does not come immediately, keep persevering in your supplications, but at the same time keep examining your heart and your life to see if there is anything objectionable to God harbored there. If there is, prayer should be made for that first, then your attention can go back to the original plea. Remember always that prayer changes things but keep in mind also, that prayer changes PEOPLE.

Sometimes when prayers are not answered as we think they should be, it may be that the Lord wants you to go through this trial, or this test, that you may be a stronger, steadier Christian. Keep His promise close to your heart

during this period: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

How are your prayer paths, brother or sister? Are they well worn, or are they growing up through lack of use? How often do you pray? Or I might ask, how long has it been since you really prayed?

"If ye abide in me," said Jesus, "and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7.

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24.

"CHURCHES DOESN'T DIE DAT WAY"

A devout colored preacher, whose heart was aglow with missionary zeal, gave notice to his congregation that in the evening an offering would be taken for missions, and asked for liberal gifts. A selfish, well-to-do man in the congregation said to him before the service: "Yer gwine to kill this church ef yer goes on sayin' 'give!' No church can stan' it. Yer gwine ter kill it."

After the sermon the colored minister said to the people: "Brother Jones told me I was gwine to kill this church if I kep' a askin' yer to give; but, my brethren, churches doesn't die dat way. Ef anybody knows of a church that died 'cause it's been giving too much to de Lord, I'll be very much obliged ef my brother will tell me whar dat church is for I'se gwine to visit it, and I'll climb on the walls of dat church, under de light of de moon and cry, 'Blessed am de dead dat die in de Lord.'" —Selected.

Pride slays thanksgiving, but an humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grows. A proud man is seldom a graceful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves.

Should Christians "APE" Hollywood?

MANY people, some of them professed Christians, thoughtlessly imitate the modes, manners and even the morals of Hollywood. By "Hollywood" I mean the life and manners of the screen stars and of the screen itself, but particularly the examples of the film stars in their own lives. Should Christians imitate the Hollywood type of life?

The New Testament bids the Christian, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good; abstain from every form of evil" (1 Thess. 5:21-22, R. V.). Before a Christian allows Hollywood's example and influence to mold his life, he should apply the test of God's Word to it. Prove all things; put them to the test of Scripture. What stands the test as good and sound, hold fast thereto, but what appears as evil by Biblical standards, abstain therefrom.

Let us, then, consider details and apply the Christian test to Hollywood modes and morals. Beginning with matters of lesser import, we must assert that, tested by the Word of God, the modes and styles of Hollywood are far from Christian.

There is nothing wrong with the proper care of the skin and complexion, but making one's self a spectacle to be stared at—this is not cultivation of beauty, but its ruination and its prostitution. It is not Christian but pagan. It has nothing in common with the modest loveliness of Christian womanhood as exemplified in the gracious Christian women of whom we read in Scripture.

But there are matters of yet greater moment. We must insist that, judged by Scriptural standards, the conduct patterns of Hollywood are far from Christian.

Hollywood has glamorized the cigarette-smoking woman. Hollywood has

glamorized the drinking of liquor a the "smart thing" to do. Therein Hollywood has set patterns of conduct for many that have wrought grave harm in society.

But worst of all, Hollywood has defied the moral laws of God and done more to break down the sanctity of marriage and of the home than any other influence in society today. It is not wholesome family life that is glorified on the screen and in the lives of the Hollywood stars. Instead, illicit love is made glamorous, divorce is encouraged, and broken homes are the consequence.

The other day a Hollywood dispatch began thus: "Another of the film colony's so-called 'ideal marriages' hit the rocks Friday . . ." And then followed the sordid details. It has been rightly said that by Hollywood's standards unfaithful husbands and wives are no longer social outcasts but innocent, pleasure-seeking moderns.

The courts of this continent know what Hollywood's defiance of God's law of marriage is doing. Aping Hollywood, thousands have wrecked their lives and broken their homes, and the terrible curse of immorality rising to flood-tide proportions is chargeable to a very great extent to Hollywood's influence. Hollywood patterns of conduct in this regard are the very reverse of Christian.

We must declare that the standard of values and the pervading spirit of Hollywood is wholly un-Christian, in the light of God's Book.

Gold is the god which Hollywood worships. Box-office receipts rule everything. We have read of child stars who command salaries far beyond that of the President of the United States. It is no wonder that Kipling, in one of his later pieces of verse,

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poured scorn upon Hollywood and its money-worshipping magnates.

And here come youth and maids that feign to love or sin
In tones like rusty razor blades, to tunes like smitten tin,
And here is mock of faith and truth for children to behold,
And every door of ancient dirt re-opened to the old,
And every word that taints the speech and show that weakens thought,
And Israel watcheth over, and doth not watch for nought.

Kipling is not thoroughly just in singling out the Jews for condemnation in this respect, for whether Jews or Gentiles, the stars, the directors and the promoters of moviedom worship at the shrine of money.

The Bible says that the love of money is the root of all evil. Hollywood is time's greatest example of that. The Bible warns against the love of money and the sin of covetousness. Hollywood deifies money and has communicated the same spirit to millions of screen devotees.

Dr. William Evans has strikingly shown how the character values taught in the home, the school and the church are in complete contrast with those taught by Hollywood. He sets aside the adjectives we use to describe Christian character values and those used for Hollywood's character values. Describing Christian character we use such words as "courageous," "unselfish," "restrained," "poised," "patient," "thoughtful," "good" and "kind." But Hollywood's character values require such adjectives as "smart," "sophisticated," "daring," "bold," "clever," "rich," "thrilling," "exciting," "passionate" and "dazzling."

The chief idea of life imparted by Hollywood is a "whirling, rushing, confused struggle for money and things, and then for more money and more things." How can children and youth help being confused when they have

Christian character values urged upon them in the home, the school and the church while they are encouraged to attend the shows and devour the film-star magazines which present them a completely different set of character values?

Dr. P. B. Ballard of Great Britain insists that the main mischief of the commercial film in that life is pictured not as service and quiet happiness but as self-indulgence and the mad pursuit of pleasure. Certainly that is the direct opposite of the Christian evaluation of life, and if that be what Hollywood teaches we cannot imitate Hollywood and at the same time follow Jesus Christ. Its spirit and His are utterly different.

This was brought out strikingly on the occasion of the first showing of a movie film in our Lord's home village of Nazareth. Alfred L. Murray tells the story. He had just visited Nazareth and called on an old friend, an Arabian merchant of the village. The Arab was delighted that his American friend had arrived the very day that an American film was, for the first time, to be shown in their village. He insisted that his American guest accompany him to witness its showing. So they went, Murray fervently hoping, he says, that the picture would not be one of which he, as an American, would need to be ashamed.

The movie was entitled **Murder, by Whose Hand?** "One by one," says Murray, "men fell dead before the villain. The cries of dying men and women, the shots of revolvers, the roar of a train and the shout of police so gripped the Arabic audience that a strange silence came over them. When the screen was silent all was silent . . .

"With sorrow I realized that Nazareth would be different after that picture. Into that quiet little town of Palestine had come American crime and wickedness. This movie had introduced beautiful women of that sacred place to strange women who

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Daily Bible Reading

by Lois Smith (Wash.)

Each year in November the American Bible Society sends out literature to interest people in Bible reading and also prints a suggested daily Bible reading from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

Are you one who has sincerely desired to know more of the Bible, have started to read it several times but something always goes wrong? Does it seem that you never get very far before you quit? Perhaps the following simple rules may help you read the Bible and enjoy it as well.

The real secret of Bible reading is to make it a daily habit. Make it as essential a part of your daily program as eating meals, brushing the teeth or combing the hair. The amount you read is not as important as acquiring a firmly entrenched Bible-reading habit. Most young people that have grown up in Church of God homes acquired this habit quite early in life.

Have a definite time each day for reading with which you allow nothing to interfere. For some people, bed time has proved the most satisfactory. Then the urgency of the day is gone. The mind does not leap ahead to something that must be done. If nerves are tense and taut, the mind worried and the body weary, the Holy Word is soothing and restful.

Personally, I like to use the early morning minutes for reading. My mind is fresh, eager to grasp the contents of the printed page. It seems to assimilate the thought better than at a later time. Be that as it may, any time that suits the individual need the best is the best time.

Not only is it necessary to have a specific time for Bible reading but your daily program of living should allow for a definite length of time, fifteen or twenty minutes. We use

from twenty to thirty minutes three times a day for eating meals. Can we not reserve twenty minutes once a day for Spiritual food? Twenty minutes of thought, unhurried reading each day will pay big dividends mentally, and spiritually.

Have your own individual Bible. There is something about the mere possession of a Bible that gives one joy and pride in reading it. Bibles are so cheap now that anyone can afford to own one. Almost all five and ten-cent stores sell Bibles for as little as fifty cents and the New Testament can be purchased for twenty-five cents.

Do you feel that you are starting a vast and burdensome project? Do you consider the Bible too difficult and hard for the ordinary person to understand? Do you feel you are defeated before you start? Don't you believe it! That is Satan's propaganda designed to hide God's truths from the people.

Stop thinking of the Bible as one book which must be completed in a few evenings. Think of it, rather, as a whole library of books, each one a unit in itself. Suppose you owned a large case of books. Would you look on them as something you must "wade" through as rapidly as possible? Of course not: You'd regard them as friends and peculiar treasures. You'd visit with them time after time, reading because of a desire for knowledge, inspiration or spiritual growth. Just so it is with the Bible. Some parts are read and re-read as they seem to fit the individual need while others are read less often. Do not feel that you must hurry to reach the last page. In reality the Bible has no ending for it goes on and on. It is not a book to be read and laid aside with the

(Continued on page ten)



SNOW OVER CHERRYDALE

By Pearl Holloway

Delia Jeffords looked over the top of her geography. She watched Bernard Mayard sign his English paper with a flourish and open his arithmetic. There were only four in the seventh grade in the country school. It was nip and tuck to see who stood at the top.

But school was better this year anyway. Miss Shannon was the teacher, and she did a lot to help.

She even started the day differently, with Bible reading and prayer and songs. "Hymns were so beautiful it was a shame not to know them," she said. And the Bible was God speaking to people. If you looked, you could find help for the problems that came to you every hour of the day.

Delia closed her geography and glanced out of the window. The sun had been shining all morning. And at noon it had been warm enough to play running games without wearing heavy coats.

What a queer color the sky was now, though, Delia thought. The flakes of snow were whisking above the ground.

Miss Shannon called Delia to her desk. "Do you have your lessons?"

"Yes'm."

"Dont say anything to the others," the teacher went on, lowering her voice. "But get the other seventh graders to help you. Put your wraps on and bring as much wood as you can from the shed. Make sure there is plenty of water in drinking fountain, and fill those two pails on the shelf."

"It makes me feel all shivery inside," Delia told the others when all four of them were in the hall with

the door closed, "Just as if something terribly important was going to happen."

"It's sure a lot colder," Cecil remarked as they buckled their overshoes.

"And the wind's blowing like nobody's business," Bernard added.

"That wind is something fierce," Bernard shouted, lowering his head against it.

"You're not fooling," Delia gasped. A sharp gust of wind took the words out of her mouth. She struggled to reach the top step.

Time after time they made the trip from the shed to the cloakroom, piling the fuel high. The snow whipped their faces while they pumped the water. All four of them pushed against the door to close it.

"It's dark in here," first-grader Letty Brown whimpered. Her blue eyes filled with tears.

"in another month we'll have electric lights," Miss Shannon answered. "Just think how nice that will be."

"It doesn't help much now," Bill Haskins from the fifth grade, remarked. "I can't see anything."

"Suppose we have a spell-down. We don't need a light for that."

Spell-downs were always fun. Miss Shannon didn't need a book to pronounce words. The fire gave enough light to see to form two lines, tapering from the seventh grade down to the first.

Just as Beverly wavered between "i-e" and "e-i" in a long word, Jimmy Myers wailed, "I'm hungry."

"We're going to have a party in just a few minutes."

"I want to go home!" Letty's whimper changed to crying.



Talk

Delia glanced at the clock on the wall. It was past time for dismissal. But Miss Shannon hadn't said a word about stopping.

"We can't go right now," she told Letty. "See how it's snowing? It would be foolish to go out in such a storm."

"My mama wants me to come straight home," Letty sobbed.

"All of your mothers would want you to stay here until the wind goes down," Miss Shannon assured them.

It was really dark in the schoolhouse by then. The windows were gray spots where the snow piled against them. Delia could hear the wind whistle and moan outside.

"I'm afraid of the dark," Letty insisted.

"Remember, 'What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee,'" Miss Shannon said half to herself. Delia knew that this was one of the times when a Bible verse helped.

"Suppose you boys take the younger ones to the back of the room and play some games," the teacher said. "The girls and I will get ready for the party."

Delia turned the words, "What time I am afraid," over and over in her mind as she stirred the hot chocolate left over from their hot lunches that noon. "What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee." It began to sing-song itself in her brain. Having the Lord near her made all the difference in the world.

It wasn't long before Beverly rang the bell. As the boys and girls ate, the teacher said in a cheerful-sounding voice, "If any of you have anything left in your lunch boxes, you can save that for breakfast."

"For breakfast!" the boys and girls chorused.

"Aren't we going home at all?" Letty cried. "I want my own bed! I don't want to stay here!"

Delia put her arms around the little girl, drying the tears with her handkerchief.

"We could use our coats for the younger ones," Beverly suggested. "We're not cold. And we could sleep sitting up."

An hour passed before the younger ones were quiet. Delia and the other seventh graders sat by the stove, and soon Miss Shannon joined them there.

"Sing," Letty demanded suddenly. The teacher led in one after another of the favorites. There were some good school songs. But most of them were hymns—"I Must Tell Jesus," "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," "Anywhere with Jesus I Can Safely Go" and others. Gradually the little ones fell asleep.

It was funny how safe Delia felt! The wind was still howling outside, and the hard bits of snow pelted against the window panes. There was no light except the glow from the stove. The clock ticked. The children on the floor looked like mounds in the half-darkness. Delia put her head down on her desk and closed her eyes.

After a long while, she woke up. It was morning and much lighter. The wind wasn't blowing so hard. She went to the window. Drifts outside reached to the fence post tops.

Before the coats could be hung up again, there was a stamping of feet and the door opened. Mr. Brown and Mr. Meyers came in. Several others were close behind them.

(Continued)

"Your mother is worried sick," Letty's father told her. "But you seem to be all right."

"But we weren't afraid," Billy insisted. "Jesus was with us."

"Jesus?"

Sure! We sang about it. 'Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go.' Only we didn't go. We stayed."

"I see."

"School is dismissed for today," Miss Shannon said as a big bobsled pulled into the yard.

"They've learned a heap more'n they found in the books," one of the fathers declared to Miss Shannon as they started off. "A heap more. I guess some of the rest of us could learn it doesn't pay to be sacred when God is on the job." —My Counsellor.

SHOULD CHRISTIANS APE . . . HOLLYWOOD

Continued

acted worse than men. When I came from the theater my Arabic companions were silent . . . To my right was the little synagogue where Jesus is supposed to have preached . . . Finally my Arab acquaintance asked one question. It was this: 'Do you have many American cinemas like that?' What could I say in reply?"

This story sets forth vividly the contrast between the two sets of values—that which comes to us from our Lord, who grew up in Nazareth, and that which comes to us from Hollywood. In the days of His flesh, our Lord said, "No man can serve two masters . . . Ye cannot serve God and mammon." If He were here today, would He not say, "Ye cannot serve God and Hollywood?"

We cannot make Christ the Saviour and Lord of life and at the same time follow patterns, adopt the values and enter into the spirit of Hollywood. They are irreconcilable.

—Christian Digest.

feeling that you have finished with it. It is rather a book to be lived with and to be made a part of you as you read it daily. It is the roots of our spiritual growth and if cut away, your life withers.

For most people narrative writing proves to be more interesting and more easily read than exposition. To the young person just beginning Bible reading, I would recommend the stories of Jesus and His disciples, as found in the first five books of the New Testament, as a starter. Of course these are interspersed with exposition such as the Sermon on the Mount and the Parables, but after you have read a few chapters of Matthew's gospel, these become both interesting and comprehensible. Also the Old Testament stories found in Genesis, the Samuels and Kings will prove very fascinating.

Many readers of the C. Y. H. and G. C. are parents of children too young to read for themselves. To these, I would say that your influence for good is unlimited. The old custom of reading the Bible aloud is an excellent one and should be revived.

Select a time best suited to the family program, ten or fifteen minutes, and allow nothing short of an emergency to interfere. Select a chapter the whole family can understand and enjoy. This is the time when the mother and fathers show their interest in the emotional, mental and spiritual development of their children. You can't afford to let it be crowded out by trivia.

Let your actions speak louder than your words and your words be guided by the Lord.

The only way to prepare to meet God is to live with thy God so that to meet Him shall be nothing strange.



ON OUR BOOK SHELF



GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

by Basil Miller

The thrilling and up lifting story of the great Negro scientist!

The secret of his success was the application of the verse of Scripture found in Proverbs 3:6, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Dr. Carver's life was a wonderful testimony to the power of God in using an instrument yielded to Him.

He was known as "the Wizard of the peanut" when he discovered over 300 ways to make use of this product of southern farms.

Read this unusual biography of an unusual man through whom the Lord caused the knowledge of the world to be increased.

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THE RED CHAIR WAITS

by Alice Margaret Huggins

This is a delightful story of Shu-lan, a Christian Chinese girl and her fight against the ancient marriage customs of her country.

She was a well brought-up daughter and loath to humiliate her people by her disobedience of pagan customs. The struggle between her conscience and the traditions of her country makes a clean, interesting story, well worth your reading. This book is written by a missionary to China about missionary accomplishments.

* * * * *

DEEP IS THE FURROW

by Ken Anderson

Have you seen the furrows—the fur-

rows that speak of the plow, the seed, the long summer and the harvest that is to come?

To Dorothy Keester, Dick Ashby, the Horners and Dan Garber belonged the rich rustic heritage of those that make and watch the furrows.

Dorothy did not find in Dick Ashby's possessive affection the love that her sensitive soul demanded nor did she find peace in the feverish religious zeal of the Horners. Young Dan Garber, tactful, wise and a real man of God, planted the seed of God's wonderful truth in the barren hearts of those in that Mid-western community and Dorothy discovered that the plow of the Lord cuts deeply and His harvest is abundant.

This is a fight against formalism in the Church.

—Esther Duncan (Okla.)



THE TIME YOU OWN

The clock of time is wound but once,
And no man has the power,
To tell just when the hand will stop,
At late or early hour.

Now is the only time you own;
Live, love, toil with a will;
Place no faith in tomorrow, for
The clock may then be still.
—Author Unknown, Selected by Lillian Keim (Canada).



Life is only a tentative theme, tapped out with one finger on a piano. Some day you shall hear the symphony.—George A. Buttrick.

Making an Effort for God

By Zack Williams

Every day we usually make ourselves do something that we'd rather not do. All people experience this. For example, on cold mornings we hate to get out of bed and go to work but we know that we must, and therefore go ahead with it. Even though it is not our desire to do some things, we feel it is necessary in order to earn livelihood.

Experiences in Christian living are similar to our natural tendencies. It is not the nature of the fleshly body of a young Christian to want to serve the Lord as He would have us to serve Him. It takes love in our lives as furnished by the Holy Spirit to make us want to live and serve Him. As new converts we are but "babes in Christ." 1 Cor. 3:1. Being new babes in Christ, we must do as Peter said, ". . . laying aside all malice, and envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby." 1 Peter 2:1, 2. We are to cultivate that growth in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

Being babes in Christ we are to be consecrated, for Paul cautioned, "Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Romans 6:13. When we made the vow to serve God and became a Christian we were to become disciples of Jesus, and are to continue in His word, as we are told, "Present your bodies a living sacrifice holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:1-2. Christ being our example we should follow Him, as He said, "If any man serve me, let him

follow me . . . if any man serve me, him will my father honour." John 12:26. Let us serve God!

We cannot be Christians unless we are filled with the Holy Spirit, because according to Romans 8:9, we are told, "Now if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Also in Ephesians 5:18, we are admonished to be filled with the Spirit. When we repent and are baptized for the remission of our sins we then receive the Spirit that we must have if we are to render our service to God and live victorious lives. Let's be filled with the Spirit of God!

We must be trained to study the Bible. Paul said, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," 2 Timothy 2:15. He also said that the man of God would be thoroughly furnished by it. It is too dangerous for us to neglect the study of the Bible because we read in Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Surely we do not want to be destroyed because we neglected to study the Bible; then let's study God's word!

In order to be strong in the Spirit, we must pray often, for without prayer God will not supply our needs. In 1 Thess. 5:17, we are told, "Pray without ceasing." Of course we cannot be constantly on our knees, but we can go about with a prayer in our hearts. We should form a habit like Daniel of which we are told in Daniel 6:10, "He kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God." How many of us kneel even once a day? Perhaps a few. How many of us kneel three times a day? Fewer than ever, no doubt. When difficult matters come our way,

we should spend much time in prayer, casting our burdens on the Lord. Christ's life is an example of prayer that we all should follow.

Shunning worldliness is one of the greatest necessities of Christian living that we must accomplish. There must be no compromise in this. We are to "Abstain from all appearance of evil." 1 Thess. 5:22. There are things that worldly people do that might seem to be of no harm, but just because they seem that way is no proof they are right. Remember Solomon's warning in Proverbs 14:12; "There is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the way of death." If we act, talk and live like the world, how are we to let our lights shine? "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16. We are also told, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world . . ." 1 John 2:15. Instead of loving the world we are to " . . . seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." Col. 3:1-2. Let's shun worldliness even though we are severely criticized, ridiculed or perhaps ostracized.

In order to be saved, we must do His commandments as we are told in Revelation 22:14, "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Jesus also said, "He that endureth to the end the same shall be saved."

INVENTORY

by Vera Burrell (Okla.)

As we approach the new year, we like to think of starting 1949 with a new lease on better living and higher thinking. In preparation for this new lease, let's take inventory of ourselves.

First, "What have I done in the ser-

vice of the Master?" Perhaps only God and the individual can give an accurate estimate of this, however just thinking back at the opportunities to do His work that we missed will give us greater zeal for future service.

In continuing our inventory, shall we consider our "store room of thought"? From the looks of the cob webs there, we should give this room a thorough cleaning and re-arranging. By all means discard the old grudges along with all the distressing thoughts that might cause one to fall by the wayside. Polish up those things that are honest, pure, lovely, and of good report. If you find things of virtue and praise, think on these things. Read Phil. 4:8.

Habits and character traits should come in for their share of consideration. No doubt we shall find a few to throw away and many to develop. It is the desire of every Christian to cultivate lovable habits and traits that are pleasing to God. Personality has been defined as the effect one has on other people. Have you wondered what effect your habits may have on those about you? If they are not for the betterment of your associates, you may well discard them as "bad habits". Adherence to the Golden Rule should take care of any difficulty we may have had in acquiring friends.

How is your rating on optimism, enthusiasm, initiative, loyalty and vision? "Where there is no vision the people perish." Proverbs 29:18. Are you completely honest? or do you handle the truth carelessly in trying circumstances? Do you find it hard to acknowledge error and humble yourself to an apology? Can you forgive easily?

When you have finished your inventory remember that we can be but little more than the sum of our habits and character traits. Achievement of worth demands high quality of living in terms of control, service, labor and devotion.

"RENTING OUT"

By Mary Holbert

Most people hate to rent their property because so few tenants are really interested in what belongs to the other man. Two men were riding by a great farm. "That used to be one of the finest farms in the country," said one of the men, "but now it is one of the poorest."

"Why so?" asked the other.

"Because it has been in the hand of renters. They have farmed it to death. Look at that field of weeds."

Do we realize that we are renters? God has rented out a farm to us. What is our crop? Just weeds? They are not worth much. We must remember we have it on "shares". God furnishes everything—all we have to do is work it well and get the returns. God doesn't claim a half or a third; He only claims a tenth as His and remaining nine-tenths He says are ours.

Remember this, you must render an account to your Landlord. Sometimes tenants rent property so long they think they own it; then the law comes in and evicts the man. Not one single person belongs to himself! Our life is a trust and God demands His claim.

The Landlord of heaven wants the fruits of our lives. ("But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Gal. 5:22-23). Some day there will be a reckoning day for each one of us. We cannot dodge it. God wants some return on His property. He has given us on shares, health, a home, friends and opportunities.

Let us learn in the days of our youth to pay our rent to our Landlord.

This should be our viewpoint: all we have, beginning with life itself and extending through everything — home, friends, talents, education, money and our opportunities is given us as a trust fund to use in the service of the Lord. This is the fruit that God expects in every life.

The question is—are we living true to this trust? Are we taking the things that God has given us freely and using them for our own interests and enjoyment, or are we working at it so God will be benefited by the fruits of our life?

Each of us, who claims to be a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, is called to labor in His vineyard. Are you recognizing that call? Am I? Each individual must answer for himself. It is a terrible thing to hold back that which belongs to God, whether it be our tithes or our service for Him. It may mean that we will lose the fruit, lose the stewardship, and lose life itself.

Let us think of our life as a vineyard, prepared by God in the finest possible way and loaned to us. We must not wait to yield Him a part of the fruitage. Every day we can show the Lord that we acknowledge Him as our Master and let our lives bear fruit for Him.

TODAY

I know not what tomorrow may unfold,

Or where the roads, as yet untrod,
may lead;

While time and tide move onward,
ever bold,

With no cessation in their daily
speed.

The yesterdays I cannot readorn,

Or bygone years I never can relive,
And future happenings are yet un-
born,

But now is ever here with much to
give.

I have Today—a gracious gift—ornate
With our and twenty golden hours
that shine,

Reflecting joyous moments that await
Beneath the skies divine. And this
is mine

To use and cherish as I wend my way,
With thanks to God, for giving me
Today!

—Selected.

MY HAPPINESS

By Victor A. Youngs (Calif.)

I have often thought of the time when I accepted Jesus. I have not since wanted to turn or falter from the way. Before I came all the way with the Lord, how I did strive to do His commandments in my own way without success. I knew the Ten Commandments long before I was converted and I often read the Bible. And so, I would say, "Well, tomorrow I am going to try to do better."

I had no success at reforming. My life was an absolute failure when it came to my attempts to make myself presentable to God. I did have happy days now and then and thought I was really enjoying life. I would change my ways and try to live a Christian life and then would fail again at even the thought of trying to repair my torn up life.

I was in the navy for several years and did not always live up to what I knew to be right, but this constantly troubled me. And if any one would ask me a religious question or quote anything from the Bible, I was always ready to correct them in the way of righteousness. I prayed at times, but yet a Christian life seemed far away to me.

The more I tried, the more I failed. At last, the reason was plain to me. I was trying to be at the head of my life—not the Lord—but just I. I was trying to run my life as I thought I should, and I failed, for I found that if Christ isn't at the head of it the Devil is in there.

Following the war, I was baptized, but did not completely experience a full surrender until I got down on my knees and said, "Lord, I am tired of trying to be a Christian in my ways. Will you, Lord, work the change in my life and be my constant guide?" From that time on things began to change and the Christian life became an easy way. I was filled with joy and happiness, and even the smallest

things became a joy. I no longer worried over every little thing.

The Lord gave me more understanding and I no longer was ashamed to confess His name. I could get more out of sermons. I was not changed over night, nor did I get all understanding in one day, nor have I yet. But I at last received the joy and peace of a quiet spirit that I had been seeking for so long. I would not turn back now, nor would I ever again try to live my life as I see fit, God helping me.

I want more each day to submit my life to Him and let Him lead me in whatever way He sees fit. He knocks at the door of every heart, and wants you to let Him come in. But you will have to drop everything and let Him in.

If there is a person reading this who has not opened his heart, and who wants real peace and happiness, why not do this at once? You cannot live a Christian life without Christ inside. No wonder so many think there is nothing to this power when they have not unlocked the door and completely submitted without doubts. He died for you, why not die for Him? He arose again victoriously, why not you?

"Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." St. John 7:16, 17.

THANK GOD FOR CHURCHES

I love thy Church, O God;
Her walls before Thee stand,
Dear as the apple of Thine eye
And graven on thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend;
To her my cares and toils be given,
Till toils and cares shall end.

The soul would have no rainbow had
the eyes no tears.



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