

*Christian Youth Herald*  
and  
*Gospel Call*

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January 1, 1951

When I Read My Bible Through

**I** supposed I knew my Bible,  
Reading piecemeal, hit or miss,  
Now a bit of John or Matthew,  
Now a snatch of Genesis;  
Certain chapters of Isaiah,  
Certain Psalms (the Twenty-third),  
Twelfth of Romans, first of Proverbs—  
Yes, I thought I knew the Word.  
But I found a thorough reading  
Was a different thing to do.  
And the way was unfamiliar  
When I read my Bible through.

You who like to play at Bible,  
Dip and dabble here and there,  
Just before you kneel a-weary  
And yawn out a hurried prayer;  
You who treat the "Crown of Writings"  
As you treat no other book—  
Just a paragraph disjointed,  
Just a crude, impatient look—  
Try a worthier procedure,  
Try a broad and steady view—  
You will kneel in very rapture  
When you read your Bible through!  
—The Brethren Missionary Herald.


# Christian Youth Herald and Gospel Call

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the Church of God (7th Day).

OFFICE EDITOR  
Blanche Benight

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## EDITORIAL

Winter is book reading time.  
Who doesn't like to curl up into  
a comfortable position with an en-  
joyable book?

But winter is also school time,  
and some of your books may not  
seem quite so enjoyable as you  
put all your thinking power to  
work trying to grasp the meaning  
of what you are reading. You  
know that you are expected to  
understand it so you *must* control  
yourself and not let your mind  
wander whenever you come to a  
particularly hard paragraph.

That is one outstanding advant-  
age of going to school to do your  
book learning. You know what  
you are *required* to do and that  
you *must* get it done. You learn  
many things that your mind  
would be to lazy to learn other-  
wise, unless you are a most ex-

ceptional individual.

Are you one of those who was  
so unfortunate that you were de-  
nied the privilege of attending  
school this year? If you are, and  
you really desired to attend, you  
had a great disappointment. You  
may be able to make up for it to  
a certain extent, if you are al-  
lowed a few hours spare time  
from your other work. You may  
even become a self-made person,  
but at least I am sure you can im-  
prove yourself.

What are you interested in?  
Find books and magazines on the  
subject and absorb all you can.  
Visit your local library. The li-  
brarian will be more than willing  
to assist you. If your nearest li-  
brary is too small for a good selec-  
tion, ask the librarian about or-  
dering other books from your  
state library. State library books  
are available to you for the cost  
of postage and books are sent at  
an extra low rate.

Now here is the hard part. It  
isn't going to do you much good  
to just skim over these books, but  
you *must study* them as hard as  
you would if a teacher were going  
to give you an examination over  
them. Oh, what a control that  
will take over minds which have  
the natural tendency to be lazy  
and to wander!

I do hope that one of your chief  
interests will be the study of  
God's Word and the history con-  
nected with it. This study will  
give you the right outlook and  
shape your life for future happi-  
ness.

For this study you will need a  
reference Bible with print large  
and bold enough for eye comfort.  
You know how you shove aside

(Continued on page 14)



# Real Prayer

By Vivian C. Hall

"Real prayer always does one of two things: It either frees us from the trouble we fear or else it gives us strength and courage to meet the trouble when it comes."—Harry Emerson Fosdick.

Our prayers show the real person—not to our fellow man perhaps, but to God. No doubt a friend has shown you a new garment recently purchased. You knew the friend expected a favorable comment. She liked the garment very much, and was sure you would, too. So to please that friend you said just what was expected of you. "Oh, how pretty!" And when speaking to someone else, you mention the new garment the other friend purchased, but you tell the truth then when you say, "I didn't like it very well, but I told her it was pretty. She would have been hurt if I hadn't said I liked it."

When that friend tries on a dress in a store and looks to you for comment, you see she is well pleased with it, so you say, "Very nice." The dress is bought and worn because you gave your ap-

proval regardless of its fit or right color for that person. Then one day, perhaps that friend will overhear someone talking. "Whatever made her buy a style like that? It's all wrong for her, and the color isn't her shade at all."

Wouldn't it be more ethical to say what you think concerning the style and color and leave it up to her to decide? She will have your opinion to compare with her own. Then if the dress is bought it won't be without the realization that someone is going to object greatly to it. If she wants it anyway, then she has no one to blame but herself.

"You've strayed from your topic," you may say. No, it's just an illustration of how insincere a person may be, but to his fellowman appear in complete harmony.

So it is with prayer. Many times I've heard club meetings opened with prayer. Were they sincere or merely said because the entertainment committee thought it would sound good, or "fill in" a space of time? We don't know, because we can't look on the heart of each individual and know his true reaction. Some of the activities that follow such an opening would leave one believing it was only "fill in."

Many homes never know pray-

er as a part of their daily lives. Other homes give prayer a place only on holidays such as Thanksgiving or Christmas and then it's a prayer, either read from a book or memorized from it, and repeated without meaning.

My memories of home included prayer at all meals, and family worship at the close of each day. When guests arrived, we welcomed them. When it came time for them to leave, we all knelt in prayer, asking God to watch over them and guide them safely home. And He never failed to do so.

Life has become such a hurry and scurry, many times we fail to talk to God. We haven't time, we think, and hurry on our way. The task we undertake seems such a drudgery, and we tire so easily. How much better if we had paused long enough to pray. Then we would either have been freed from the task or been given the strength to accomplish it without trouble. "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16.

We can't tell when we hear someone pray, whether it's real prayer or not, but God can. To Him the fancy words mean nothing if they aren't coming from the heart. The expression one puts into his speech might make us think what a sincere and good person he must be, but God knows for sure.

So let's examine ourselves. Do we mean our prayers, or are they merely for the benefit of the ones who might hear? Our Heavenly Father doesn't care about a "show off" so let us examine our hearts. If we haven't the right feeling within, then let us pray for a heart set right. Read again the

opening paragraph. If our prayer accomplishes one of those two things, then it is real. If it doesn't, then we need prayer to give us a heart of real understanding that our prayers might be real.



## THE LIBRARY

*By Josephine P. Beaty*

The harvest of the years awaits you here,  
Culled with slow toil, and heaped with bloody sweat.  
The truths that men have died to bring to light  
Are laid before you in these quiet halls.  
Upon these shelves your eager hands shall find  
The keys to open doors as yet unlocked,  
The torch to kindle new and brighter lamps,  
The chart to plot your course beyond the stars,  
The clews to all the labyrinths of thought.  
Here you shall meet the men whose names are carved  
Deep-hewn forever on the rocks of Time.  
You shall be the guests of all the greatest minds.

—Sel.



"Keep your face to the sunshine and you will not see the shadow."

—Helen Keller

# Smudge Pots

Is that someone coming, Lynn?"

"I don't know."

"Yes, it is. Hide the book."

"Why?"

"Because Auntie would see it," answered Margie.

"But what difference——"

"Sh-h, here she comes."

"Hello, girls. Are you finding anything to do up here in this dark room? We are all ready to leave for the hospital. Remember, you must be very quiet when we go in to see your mother and the new baby."

Eagerly the two girls hurried down the stairs. Their aunt, a kind, motherly person, wondered why they had looked so guilty when she came into the room. Taking a quick glance around, she noticed that from under the edge of a dusty pillow there peeked the gaudy cover of a dime-store novel. With a knowing nod she followed them down the stairs to the waiting family group. The trip to the hospital was a great success. The newest addition to the family circle was most cooperative and obliging by displaying his charms to the fullest.

Later that following evening the girls were astounded to find that there books were lying on the coffee table. When Margie looked quizzically toward them, her aunt said, "I don't want you ruining your eyes up in that dark attic, so hereafter please read down

here where there is plenty of light, dear."

"But, Auntie, everyone that comes in will see them!" exclaimed Margie.

"That's all right. We always leave the books we are reading on the coffee table where they will be handy. Surely you do not object to having them there? They are the very latest in popular reading."

The next afternoon several more books mysteriously appeared on the coffee table. As the days went by and still mother was not able to come home, Margie and Lynn sometimes found themselves without anything to do. At last in desperation for a new amusement, they started to read some of the books. At first they read them to fill in time, but to their surprise they found them every bit as exciting and interesting as their own novels. As the girls read stories of exploration in unknown lands, interesting biographies of famous people, or experiences of just plain people and their everyday problems, they were amazed.

Later that day, when Margie and her aunt were making cookies in the big red-and-white kitchen, the girl brought up the subject of her latest novel.

"Why can't I read it?" she asked as she hurried a trayful of cookies into the oven.

"Did I tell you not to read it?"

"Well, I know you don't want me to. But why, Auntie, are novels not good to read? The stories are exciting, and I'm sure I learn lots of new words."

"For one thing, dear, the language and the grammar their characters use are not always the best. Never before you started this questionable reading have I heard you tell Lynn to 'shut up' or 'mind what'cha 'er sayin', sister.' And just today I have heard you say that several times."

"But, Auntie, you have to know how other people live and talk."

"I am sure that you can readily learn enough about the ugly side of life without deliberately pursuing books that tell of it. What good does it do you to read about how criminals plan their crimes? I'm sure you have no intention of following their example. Not only do you pick up the language of the books, but you retain some of the ideas also. You can't help it. Cheap literature is like smudge pots; it soils everything it comes in contact with."

"In these modern days everybody reads the new books. It isn't like the old days when you were a teen-ager, Auntie. Things are much different now."

"Yes, I know what you mean. It is considered the smart thing nowadays to be well read in all the latest novels. But I know you wouldn't think of spending the evening with a stack of comic books for adults. There are many books published every year that are fine and outstanding. It is as Lord Francis Bacon has said, 'Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.'

Abraham Lincoln and Benjamin Franklin are just two of the world's great men who were self-educated. Can you imagine what good they would have accomplished if they had fed their minds on cheap literature?"

"How can I know what is good to read? Aren't any novels worth reading?"

"I think the question of whether or not a book is fiction is not the only factor in deciding whether that particular book is worth one's time. There are many true books which should be used only as kindling in the fireplace. But imaginative literature is a great art, and rightly used is a blessing to the world.

"It is the characters and the aim of the story by which it should be judged. Why not decide to read only those books that uphold high ideals and draw you closer to God. Since there is not time to read all the books printed, why not take the cream first?"

"Yes, but if I have read part of a book, I just have to know the end of the story."

"Why did you try to hide the book you were reading the other day?"

"Oh, I don't know; because—"

"If you want to keep it secret that you have chosen to read a book, look out, you are treading on dangerous ground."

"How about new books and new authors?"

"Sometimes the only way to judge them, if the subject matter or the book reviews can't help you, is to skim through them. Read a few pages, notice the chapter titles, and general outline.

*Continued on page fifteen*

# "I Have Heard of Thee"

By Elder L. L. Christenson

**D**O YOU know what king said these words to a certain man of God? And who was this man of God? And what was it this king had heard about this man?

None of us are living secluded lives, nor are we hiding away like monks. We come in contact with neighbors, friends and other people daily. What do they hear about us—hear others say? What impression do we make upon others? Does it make any difference?

When Belshazzar was in great trouble his wife came to his assistance, at least for a moment, by telling him about a man of God who could help him. Quickly he called for this servant of the Most High—Daniel.

You see, the queen had told this king that Daniel was a man "in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. . . Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding. . . were found in this same Daniel. . . now let Daniel be called."

When Daniel was called, Belshazzar asked, "Art thou that Daniel of the captivity. . .?" No doubt the king was glad to see him, for he was in great trouble and needed help which comes only from heaven. The king continued, "I have heard of thee. . ." What did he say he had heard? ". . . That the spirit of the gods is

in thee. . . and excellent wisdom is found in thee."

Now we know that Daniel was a prophet of the Lord and especially favored with this wisdom on high, but nevertheless we, too, can have the spirit of God in us, and we can have some of the wisdom from on high. Proverbs says, "For the Lord giveth wisdom. . ." "Incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding." The Bible also says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" and "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil. . ."

Very likely the secret of Daniel's wisdom is found in two facts. One is that he hated evil. The other is found in Psalm 119:97—"O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies. . . I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. . . Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way."

Do we hate evil as much as we should? Do we love God's Word as we should? We must intensify our desire for righteousness, and that by prayer and reading of the Word. "To be spiritually minded is life and peace." Let us seek for this divine wisdom and peace.

Be a home missionary!

# Teen



## LETTER FROM GRANDMOTHER LOIS

Dear Granddaughter,

There is a lot of fiction woven round the great and wonderful truths of the Bible. Modern writers spend many hours surrounding the direct, clear statements of our Father's word with misleading glamorous words.

I hope you will learn early in life to rightly divide the word of truth from the words of deception. Wherever you go you may meet in attractive printer's art an almost endless variety of entertaining stories. But be sure to keep a single eye as Jesus advised in His teaching, as told in Matt. 6: 22 and Lev. 11:34. This sort of an eye is an especially valuable possession.

You may think it odd that Jesus made it singular instead of dual in number, and ask,

"Why didn't He say 'single eyes' instead of 'single eye'?"

It was because He was referring to the power in our brain, back of our two eyes, where their dual vision meets, and causes us to think about what our eyes have seen, transmitting it to our conscience, to guide our actions right.

I am writing this because I have seen elderly people, who are great readers of fiction, become extremely nervous and erratic when in difficulty or trouble, and

I want you as a young girl to prepare for better things in your old age.

One convalescent woman I know is reading every day some book of sensational fiction, but she cannot bear to read true narratives of people laid up with handicaps similar to her own. Consequently she is very nervous and worried as new problems arise, and she has but little sympathy for others in trouble. To gain a confident life a person must feed upon truth, and seek after thoughts in line with the Apostle Paul's words beginning, "Whatever things are true," and ending, "Think on these things." Phil. 4:8.

There is great need for us to leave untouched many books and papers and to shut off radio programs we know are false. Then too, we can watch for, and seek into, touches of true and noble happenings about us. Because our native country is full of freedom of speech, unprincipled men and women have been over-active in giving young people quantities of untrue, unlovely reading matter. Wise men have tried to make laws against printing such base stuff, but the tempter always cries for freedom of the press. If we remember to choose the good with as much eagerness as the others choose the bad, they will never win. So much advice about your





# Talk

winter reading, from  
Grandmother Lois.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Old Testament (39 Books)

These books tell of events before the coming of Jesus. They were written originally in the Hebrew language.

Law or Pentateuch (5 books)—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

History (12 books) —Joshua Judges, Ruth, 1st Chronicles, 2nd. Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

Poetry (5 books)—Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon.

Major Prophets (5 books)—Isa. Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel.

Minor Prophets (12 books) — Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggi, Zechariah, Malachi.

New Testament (27 Books)

These books tell of The Coming of Jesus and subsequent events. They were written originally in the Greek language.

Gospels (4 books)—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.

History (1 book)—The Acts.

Epistles (21 books)—Romans, 1st. Corinthians, 2nd. Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1st. Thessalonians, 2nd.

Thessalonians, 1st. Timothy, 2nd. Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1st. Peter, 2nd. Peter, 1st. John, 2nd. John, 3rd. John. Jude.

Prophecy (1 book)—Revelation

These books were not written in the order in which they are printed in the Bible. The Epistles of Paul were probably the first to be written. —Selected

## A READING LESSON

If you would like to read about the following subjects, which Psalm would you read? If you have time to read these chapters you'll receive inspiration from them.

1. A description of a citizen of Zion.
2. David's confidence in God's grace.
3. A prayer containing a grievous complaint.
4. A Psalm of praise.
5. Profession of humility.
6. An exhortation to bless God.
7. A prayer for favour in judgment.
8. Comfort in prayer.

M. H.

## KEY TO READING LESSON

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Psalms 15. | 5. Psalm 131. |
| 2. Psalm 23.  | 6. Psalm 134. |
| 3. Psalm 88.  | 7. Psalm 143. |
| 4. Psalm 100. | 8. Psalm 142. |

Help spread the Gospel!

XX

## I RESOLVE

To keep my health, to do my  
work; to live;  
To see to it I grow and gain and  
give;  
Never to look behind me for an  
hour;  
To wait in meekness, and to walk  
in power;  
But always fronting onward to  
the light,  
Always and always facing toward  
the right.  
Robbed, starved, defeated, fallen,  
wide-astray—  
On, with what strength I have,  
back to the way.

—Selected

XX

## READING THE BIBLE THROUGH

Reading the Bible through is not the only way to study the Bible, but it is one way. If you ever had in mind that you would like to do this, and never have, the first day of 1951 would be a good time to start.

The Christian new year does not start then, but the legal new year does; consequently we must change the number of the year on that day. It will make a good starting point to keep account of your various pursuits.

You can read the entire Bible in one year, if you read three chapters every week day and five chapters every Sabbath.

It will be well to have three markers: one general marker and a marker each for Psalms and Proverbs. By doing this, you may read one Psalm or one chapter in Proverbs each day along with

your other chapters and they will do you more good than if you read them all at the same time as you come to them. To save time, jot down the number of the chapter where you should start next. Do this on all three markers and you will not become confused.

Remember—you will never accomplish anything that you do not start! B. B.

—————♦—————

## THE BOOK OF BOOKS

Books contain some potency of life, and their activity is dependent on the soul whence they spring.

That is supremely true of the Bible.

It is not only the greatest literature in the world, but above all and beyond all that it always has been, and is, in the nature of a high explosive in the world.

No living man can tell or know how that Book in its journeyings throughout the world started the individual soul in ten thousand different places into a new life, a new belief, a new conception, a new faith. —Stanley Baldwin

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## FRIENDS

My books are friends whose pages hold

What's better than the purest gold;  
I turn to them and always find  
The best of help for heart and mind.  
No matter what my need may be,  
My books provide their best for me.  
Deep in the hearts of these good  
friends

Is faithfulness that never ends.

—Selected

XX

# Books

Books come at my call and return when I desire them; they are never out of humor and they answer all my questions with readiness. Some present in review before me the events of the past ages; others reveal to me the secrets of Nature. These teach me how to live, and those how to die; these dispel my melancholy by their mirth, and amuse me by their sallies of wit. Some there are who prepare my soul to suffer anything, to desire nothing, and to become thoroughly acquainted with itself. In a word, they open the door to all the arts and sciences.

—Petrarch

\* \* \* \* \*

Better—a thousand times better—than all the material wealth the world can give is a love for the best books; such a love is an introduction to the truest kings and queens of earth, and blesses and enriches us by the sacred companionship of the choicest spirits in their supremest moments.

—Frank V. Irish

\* \* \* \* \*

Book love, my friends, is your pass to the greatest, the purest, and the most perfect pleasure that God has prepared for His creatures. It lasts when all other pleasures fade. It will support you



when all other recreations are gone. It will last you until your death. It will make your hours pleasant to you as long as you live.

—Anthony Trollope

\* \* \* \* \*

If we encounter a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he reads.

—Emerson

\* \* \* \* \*

We should make the same use of books that the bee does of a flower; he gathers sweets from it, but does not injure it.

\* \* \* \* \*

Resolve to do a little reading everyday, if it is but a single sentence. If you gain fifteen minutes a day, it will make itself felt at the end of a year.

—Horace Mann

Today is your day and mine, the only day we have, the day in which we play our part. What our part may signify in the great whole we may not understand, but we are here to play it, and now is the time.

—David Starr Jordan

# The History of Christmas

(Continued from last week.)

Inasmuch as we find no command in the Scriptures to authorize us to observe Christmas, and as the day is not mentioned in the Bible, from whence did the day come and how came we to be observing it as the birthday of Christ?

If an unabridged Webster, or Standard Dictionary, or an unabridged encyclopedia, or a good book on mythology is consulted, it will be quickly learned that the 25th day of December was celebrated by pagans centuries before the birth of Christ, and today it is observed by practically every heathen religion under heaven.

Christmas, like all the other heathen feast days still retained in the churches of our day, came from Babylon. After the flood of Noah's day, there lived a very wicked man, named Nimrod, a great-grandson of Noah, and the founder of ancient Babylon. This man was so evil that it is said he married his own mother, who bare a child to him. His mother's name was Semiramis. After Nimrod's death, Satan used his wicked mother to propagate the evil doctrine of the survival of Nimrod as a spirit being. Semiramis claimed that a full grown evergreen tree sprang overnight from a dead tree stump, which symbolized the springing forth unto new life of dead Nimrod. She also claimed that on each anniversary

of his death, Nimrod would visit the evergreen tree and leave gifts thereon. This, then, is the origin of the Christmas tree. The 25th of December is supposed to be really the birthday of Nimrod. Santa Claus is but another form of the name St. Nicholas, and reliable reference books explain that old Nick is a term for the devil.

The Chaldean mysteries founded by Semiramis have come down to us through the pagan religions into the Catholic church, and from thence into the Protestant denominations, and today many accept them without question, and observe them according to the custom of the day.

We shall now give certain references gleaned from reliable encyclopedias, which confirm our conclusions just given. First, we quote from The New Standard Encyclopedia, article, Christmas:

"Among the Romans certain practices were adopted from an older pagan feast in honor of the birth of the Sun, or Sol.

"The prejudice against Christmas observance, as too strongly tinged with the heathen traditions, was so strong in Scotland that, until recently, children in Presbyterian families had no Christmas. Even yet it is not a popular holiday in Scotland.

"The custom of making presents at Christmas time is associated with the gifts presented to Christ by the wise men of the

East; but, in reality, at least so far as English speaking people are concerned, it is derived from an old heathen usage.

"Many of the usages of the Germans and Romans were adopted from heathenism to Christianity."

From the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Edition 1910, Article, Christmas, we glean the following:

"Before the 5th century there was no general consensus of opinion as to when it should come in the calendar, whether on the 6th of January, the 25th of March, or the 25th of December.

"In Britain, the 25th of December was a festival long before the conversion to Christianity.

"The 25th day of December, the day that was observed at Rome as the day when the victorious god reappeared on earth, was held at the *Natalis invicti solis*, 'The birthday of the unconquered Sun.' Now the yule log is the dead stock of Nimrod, deified as the sun-god, but cut down by his enemies; the Christmas-tree is Nimrod redivivus—the slain god comes to life again."—Hislop, pp. 98.

"In many countries the boar was sacrificed to the god (Nimrod) for the injury a boar was fabled to have done him.

"On Christmas day the Continental Saxons offered a boar in sacrifice to the Sun." . . . "In Rome a similar observance had evidently existed; for a boar formed the great article of the feast of Satan." . . . "Hence the boar's head is still a standing dish in England at the Christmas dinner, when the reason for it is long since forgotten." —Idem, pp. 99-101.

"Even where the sun was the favorite object of worship, as in

Babylon itself and elsewhere, at this festival it was worshipped not merely as the orb of day, but as God incarnate. It was an essential principle of the Babylonian system, that the Sun or Baal was the one and only God. When, therefore, Tammuz was worshipped as God incarnate, that implied also that he was an incarnation of the Sun. In the Hindu mythology, which is admitted to be essentially Babylonian, this comes out very distinctly. There, Surya, or the Sun, is represented as being incarnate, and born for the purpose of subduing the enemies of the gods, who, without such a birth, could not have been subdued."—Idem, p. 96.

"The wassailing bowl of Christmas had its precise counterpart in the 'Drunken festival' of Babylon; and many of the other observances still kept up among ourselves at Christmas came from the very same quarter. The candles, in some parts of England, lighted on Christmas Eve, and used so long as the festive season lasts, were equally lighted by the Pagans on the eve of the festival of the Babylonian god, to do honour to him: for it was one of the distinguished peculiarities of his worship to have lighted wax candles on his altars. The Christmas tree, now so common among us, was equally common in Pagan Rome and Pagan Egypt. In Egypt that tree was the palm tree; in Rome it was the fir; the palm tree denoting the Pagan Messiah, as Baal-Tamar, the fir referring to him as Baal-Berith. The mother of Adonis, the Sun-God and a great mediatorial divinity, was mystically said to have been changed into a tree, and when in

that state to have brought forth her divine son. If the mother was a tree, the son must have been recognized as the 'Man the branch.' And this accounts entirely for the putting of the Yule Log into the fire on the Christmas Eve, and the appearance of the Christmas tree the next morning."—Idem, p. 97.

"There can be no doubt, then, that the Pagan festival at the winter solstice—in other words, Christmas—was held in honour of the birth of the Babylonian Mes-siah."—Idem, p. 102.

Thus we learn from these encyclopedias and reliable writers the facts about the 25th of December, and that it is not a Christian holy day, but, on the contrary, a pagan feast day adopted and retained by the churches to our present day. Those who follow the custom of observing Christmas, follow not the Bible, but pagan ceremonies. Of accepting and observing the manners of the heathen, the prophet of the Lord is every explicit, as he denounces the practice in words which cannot be misunderstood. We quote about the well loved Christmas tree:

"Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, . . . for the custom of the people is vain (useless, foolish): for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and gold; (or as in our day, with artificial silver and gold, or tinsel) they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not."—Jer. 10: 2.

May we quote again: "Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way

of the heathen." The propagation of Christmas, with all its heathen practices, is pagan and harmful. Those who accept and observe the ancient pagan holiday should heed the admonition of the Lord Jesus Himself, who said: ". . . But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

We trust that each truth-seeker will seek out of the Bible, not only the heathen practice of Christmas, but also other pagan rites and ceremonies and days, such as sprinkling, Easter, Sunday, etc., which have crept into the churches of today. Verify our references from the reliable books we have given, or others you may have at hand. Be among those who prove all things and hold fast to those which are good.

*This tract can be obtained from*  
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#### EDITORIAL

*(Continued from page 2.)*

other books with small print. Many people feel that way about the Bible and don't realize it is the small print that makes it unattractive to them. That type of Bible is convenient to carry to meetings, but for real home study, you will want print that appeals to your eyes.

Books such as the following will make your study more interesting and worthwhile: a complete concordance, a Bible dictionary, a New Testament interlinear (be sure to learn how to use the lexicon section), *Antiquities of the Jews* by Josephus, other ancient history books (especially early editions which have not been tampered with to make them con-

form to the teachings of men rather than tell what actually happened), *The New Bible Home Instructor, and Fox's Book of Martyrs*. Other translations of the Bible may be a help, but always be sure to compare them with the King James version as it was translated by forty-seven men and most of the others are one man versions.

Of course this merely touches the surface when it comes to helps in Bible study, but for the most part it is better to study the Bible with other histories of the world and a prayer that the true meaning will be revealed to you. Then you can compare your findings with books and tracts that have been published.

May you spend many happy hours in reading and studying this winter. B. B.

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### SMUDGE POTS

(Continued from page 6)

This will help you to decide whether the book is worth while to read.

"Then there are other ways to judge too. For instance, ask yourself whether you can honestly recommend this book to your friends? Would you give it to your father or mother to read? Will this book give you new ideas that you can use in building a stronger foundation for your life? Ask yourself these questions. If you can answer yes to them, you can be pretty sure that that book is worth while.

"All literature should have three main prerequisites: one, it should help the reader in obtaining new food for thought; two, it should give your ideals an upward

impulse; and three, it would present new and useful knowledge in an interesting way.

"But if you still have doubts about a book, lay it aside for a while. There are thousands of good books just waiting to be discovered. Choose each one as if it were to be the last one you would ever read." —*Youth's Instructor*

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### FROM MICHIGAN

Dear Readers of the Herald and Call,

I will write a few lines to tell you about the October meeting of the Jenison and Douglas young people.

We usually meet the first week of each month, in the evening after the Sabbath.

It was about 7 o'clock when we started our meeting. We began by singing a number of hymns and choruses. A visitor from Battle Creek, Michigan, read a short portion from the Bible. We stood and repeated the Lord's prayer.

This is the way we usually begin our meetings.

Then we had a short business meeting. We discussed how we should spend the money the club had on hand, where we should meet next time and when, and what we should do for entertainment.

After the business meeting we enjoyed a treasure hunt. Then we went inside and had cider and doughnuts. We played a few inside games and went home.

A member of the Michigan young people's club.

Carrie Coulson

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Whatever makes men good Christians, makes them good citizens. —Daniel Webster

*The Line's Buzzin'  
With News  
About The Annual*



# Send-To-A-Friend Campaign

This is the time of year when we always offer the "Herald and Call" at special rates to new subscribers. Have you made up your list? Have you introduced the paper to your friends? NOW IS THE TIME to get them all acquainted with your paper.

HERE ARE THE SPECIAL SEND-TO-A-FRIEND RATES:

6 months .....	\$ .50
1 year .....	1.00
Foreign Rates:	
6 months .....	\$ .75
1 year .....	1.50

(This does not apply to renewals. . . . only new subscriptions, please!)

Let's make this one of the best SEND-TO-A-FRIEND Campaigns we have ever had.

**CHRISTIAN YOUTH HERALD and GOSPEL CALL  
STANBERRY, MISSOURI**