

Vol. 37

Denver, Colorado

No's 1-2

The Coming Crisis and Our Duty Today

by E. G. WHITE

THE REMNANT CHURCH will be brought into great trial and distress. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will feel the ire of the dragon and his host. Satan numbers the world as his subjects, he has gained control of the apostate churches; but there is a little company that are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of the earth to destroy the people of God. All will be required to render obedience to human edicts in violation of the divine law. Those who will be true to God and to duty will be betrayed "both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends." Luke 21:16.

God's love for His church is infinite. His care over His heritage is unceasing. He suffers no affliction to come upon the church but such as is essential for her purification, her present and eternal good. He will purify His church even as He purified the temple at the beginning and close of His ministry on earth. All that He brings upon the church in test and trial comes that His people may gain deeper piety and more strength to carry the triumphs of the cross to all parts of the world. He has a work for all to do. There must be constant enlargement and progress. The work must be extended from city to city, from country to country, and from nation to nation, moving continually onward and upward, established, strengthened, and settled.

The time is right upon us when persecutions will come to those who proclaim the truth. The outlook is not flattering; but, notwithstanding this, let us not give up our efforts to save those ready to perish, for whose ransom the Prince of heaven offered up His precious life. When one means fails, try another. Our efforts must not be dead and lifeless. As long as life is spared, let us work for God. In all ages of the church, God's appointed messengers have exposed themselves to reproach and persecution for the truth's sake. But wherever God's people may be forced to go, even though, like the beloved disciple, they are banished to desert islands, Christ will know where they are, and will strengthen and bless them, filling them with peace and joy. —*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, pp. 231, 228, 227.

The Touch of Jesus

by M. P. RINGELBERG

THREE AND one half years Jesus of Nazareth walked on this earth as the Son of Man. During this period of labor of love, the touch of His hands reaching out in compassion, marked the turning point in the lives of many people. In like manner as the sick and infirm were restored to health in the days of Jesus, so even today people may be restored. What is more, His touch will heal us from our sin. Many a sin-stricken prodigal, viewing himself in the light of love as it shines upon him from the face of Jesus has received a new lease on life.

In the gospel record Jesus is revealed as a dynamic person. Nobody could remain cold, unattached, or indifferent in His presence. They either had to love Him fervently, or turn their hearts to bitter hatred. His personality was so strong that the people who heard Him speak would ask in amazement by what authority this man spoke. Even the scribes and priests, who ordinarily were not easily intimidated, were often brought to silence by Jesus. Notwithstanding His simple mode of dress and lack of outer adornment, His penetrating eye would once flash in holy indignation, or else it would melt a heart of stone with its beams of love. This is what commanded an involuntary reverence. His majestic bearing also would demand respect. All around Him was an indescribable sphere of love, which attracted saints and sinners alike.

One day as Jesus came down from the mountain where He had spoken His mighty sermon concerning the beatitudes, great multitudes followed Him. Among them was a leper. It may be that this man had been looking a long time for an opportunity to approach Jesus. His disease made this very difficult since the law forbade him to associate with others who were clean. Now, however, he sees his chance. He falls down before Jesus and worships Him, saying, "Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean." His words testify of great faith. They do not reflect any doubt or fear, but only a deeply felt need revealed in its simplicity. He desires to be made clean. "And Jesus put forth His hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed." Matt. 8:3.

Leprosy is the most dreaded disease we know of. It has a horrible effect upon its victim and is considered incurable. The people of Israel re-

garded it as "a stroke" and the "finger of God". Everyone that happened to fall a prey to it became an outcast. No position, status, or riches could shield one from becoming separated from society.

No more fitting picture can be made of sin than such a leper. "From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment." Isa. 1:6.

It was the touch of Jesus that made the terrible marks of this dreaded disease disappear on the leper. It is only the touch of Jesus that can change the fatal results of sin in our lives. It is worthy of notice that the leper had come to Jesus in faith to request healing of Him. God wants to be asked. He wants us to express our acknowledgment of sin and our sense of dependence on Him. To such a repentent sinner He says, "Come now, and let us reason together, . . . though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isa. 1:18. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

We read about Peter's mother-in-law who was sick with fever. Jesus touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and served them.

Many people today are afflicted with a fever. This fever is wrecking their bodies and minds while they are unaware of it. Our modern society has become a treadmill to run faster and faster in feverish haste. The sins of materialism, of greed and of carnal minds have caused it to be so. "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." Just a touch of Jesus would perform a miracle in such lives; peace and harmony could take the place of hatred and strife. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Isa. 26:3.

"Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste." Isa. 28:16.

When our minds and hearts are filled with the thoughts and motives that governed the life of Jesus, we shall not run so easily after material

profit and earthly comforts. A touch of Jesus would change the world!

"And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." John 9:1-3.

The Saviour then proceeds and applies the clay from the ground, which He had made, to the eyes of the blind man. Then He commands him to go and wash it off in the pool of Siloam. The man came back seeing. The touch of Jesus did not merely restore his physical eyesight to him, but from the further account of John we see that also his spiritual vision was improved. He had never seen Jesus before, but had known Him only by name and by His touch.

When his unbelieving neighbors lead him to the Pharisees to have their doubts settled, we hear this man give a fearless, clear-cut testimony about his benefactor, Jesus. The spiteful arguments of the honored leaders of the people concerning Jesus do not alter his firm conviction. The Jews tried to discredit the miracle by pronouncing Jesus a sinner because the healing took place on a Sab-

bath day. Hypocritically they tried to persuade the man to give God the glory and not to this man Jesus.

The Jews had agreed already that if any man did confess that He was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. Yet he stands his ground and speaks of Jesus. This man was touched by Him!

The result of this undaunted testimony was that the man was cast out by his former brethren, who wanted to keep him in darkness and misery. But Jesus had heard about the incident and began to search for him. "And when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is the Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he, that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshiped him." Luke 9:35-38.

What a change the touch of Jesus had made in the life of this man! Cast out from his friends, forsaken by his beloved, separated from his brethren, he still had Jesus to sustain him.

May God grant that our lives may be touched by Him, and that greater dedication, and faith that works by love may replace our weakness and infirmity caused by sin.

Always

by DELLA ADAMS LEITNER

"I knew that Thou hearest me always"

In sorrow, in sickness and pain;

These words of the Master have helped me,

Brought comfort again and again.

"I knew that Thou hearest me always"

In moments of trembling and doubt;

When fear and temptation assailed me,

This knowledge has put them to rout.

"I knew that Thou hearest me always"

Death's anguish has never deferred

The help Christ assures as He answers

Our prayers by His health-giving word.

"Come forth" from the grave and its bondage;

Come forth, be renewed, and be free;

"I knew that Thou hearest me always";

New life is now flowing through me.

REPORT of the Californian Field Conference

HELD AT "MOUNT CRAGS CAMP", TAPIA PARK

NORTHWEST OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 21 to 24, 1961

"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works."
Psalm 195:1, 2.

"Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and like unto Gomorrah." Isaiah 1:9.



The Happy Group Assembled

A GLANCE AT the picture above will show the dear reader that the family of God is thoroughly enjoying its Christian experience. Yes, the family reunion of the little remnant church left a lasting impression with us. The setting for the conference was a pretty camp, nicely situated in the coastal mountains of Southern California. The time of year for our meetings was mid-winter when most of America is gripped by shivering cold. But here we enjoyed mild temperatures and even sunshine during the day. Here, also, we wish to express a word of commendation to dear Br. Lester McSherry for his efforts in making this Conference a complete success. The accommodations were ample, and the food prepared and served by willing hands was tasty and adequate, for which we thank those who partook in this service of love.

It was a genuine pleasure to see the many believers who came from the North and the South, and especially the dear visiting believers from Colorado; not to speak of representatives from far-away Ontario, Canada. We were also very delighted to have some of our dear believers and their children from Central America, who now reside in the States, in our midst. I am sure that none of those who came left disappointed, but rather very much rejoicing in the Lord, in spite of the sacrifice of many who had to travel such vast distances.

In the spacious meeting place, with its massive fireplace, we noticed the inscription, *"Let the Beauty of the Lord Be Upon His People,"* fastened behind and above the speakers' desk. In keeping with this motto, we chose the song, *"Let the Beauty of Jesus Be Seen in Me,"* as our theme song.

for the meetings to follow.

The Conference was opened with the reading of a number of Scripturals expressing praise and thanksgiving to the Most High for His blessings bestowed. The writer then addressed those present, inviting them from near and far to unite in the service for Christ, and using these timely words: *"Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple. . . Which stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people."* Ps.65: 4,7.

In this time and age of rapidly-moving events, when every individual is tested to his innermost soul, our fervent longing is more than ever for the courts of the Lord, our eternal home. Our hearts are overflowing with thankfulness to our heavenly Father for the blessings He has bestowed upon His cause, especially here in California. There is a goodly number of souls in the far West who are upholding the banner of true Reformation in a world that is filled with every wind of doctrine. May the truth soon reach those who are sincerely seeking for it and prepare them for the finishing work ahead. May we consecrate our lives daily and prepare our souls to be fit vessels for the receiving of the Holy Spirit in its abundance during the latter rain.

The hours that followed were filled with discourses on many topics of a spiritual, instructive, and timely nature, given by the brethren McSherry, Ringelberg, Williamson, and others. Sweet music filled the hall with special presentations, and brethren and sisters lent their talents to glorify God with special songs, which thrilled our souls. And when the whole congregation joined in singing from the precious "Gospel Gems" we have so learned to love, it seemed that Heaven was touching earth with divine blessings. How our hearts beat with joy when our young people delivered a youth program on Sabbath afternoon composed of interspersed group singing and short messages about Christ's life on earth! God bless our youth and make them strong and courageous for the battles that lie ahead, for in our youth our future is safeguarded. Our little ones also delighted us with a heart-warming, well-presented program, showing their eagerness to learn of Jesus and His divine attributes. All present were richly blessed.

Friday morning we assembled for a sacred baptismal scene in which Elder Kramer led two dear young souls into the watery grave. It was solemn indeed to behold these souls making a decision for Christ before the assembled witnesses. God grant them continued faith till the end of our earthly pilgrimage. It was a joyful occasion to welcome

these dear souls, together with another dear sister, into the fellowship of God's remnant people.

A special request highlighted the Conference as one dear sister expressed the ardent desire to have her child consecrated to the Lord. It was a touching moment when Heaven's blessing was invoked on this occasion.

The meetings on Sabbath were very inspirational to all. The Sabbath School, as well as the divine service following, brought us many timely lessons and thoughts for reflection.

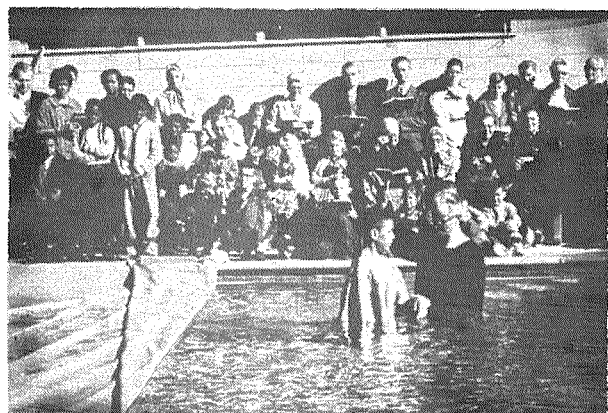
In the testimony meetings toward the close of the Conference it seemed as if every one present felt urged to praise the Lord and express his confidence in the Lord's leading hand. The Spirit of God was mightily displayed in our midst in giving us joy, happiness, and deep heartfelt love for one another. No discordant note was heard to disturb our oneness in Christ, for which we are thankful in a time of extreme general unrest.

But the clock of time brought another ending to this wonderful meeting, which again passed altogether too soon. We left with renewed courage and the firm resolution to stand unflinchingly in the coming conflicts by laying hold on the strong arm of the Lord.

As a resounding echo from the Conference, some of the believers resumed their journey northward to Sacramento to visit the group there over the weekend. Here, too, we had very blessed meetings together, and the Lord was in our midst.

Looking back upon the two blessed Conferences we were privileged to attend this last year, we must say without hesitation that God's people seem to be growing nearer the ideal of oneness, which Jesus so longingly expressed in his mediatorial prayer. May God's family continue to grow to perfection by doing the will of God, and leading a life of sanctification, until we are able to sing the song of the redeemed with our lips touched with immortality is my prayer!

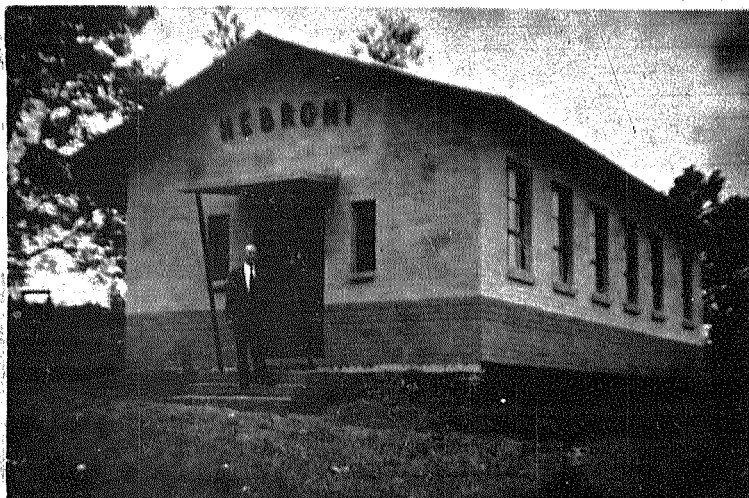
A. W. DOERSCHLER



Baptismal Scene at the Conference



Africa



A NEW HOUSE OF WORSHIP IN HLATIKULU, SWAZILAND

"... for the people had a mind to work." Neh. 4: 6.

IT IS with praise and thanksgiving in our hearts that we can publish good news regarding the progress of the work of Reformation in the mission field of South Africa. We have been privileged to see a long cherished plan materialize. For a considerable length of time we had talked about establishing a school, or mission center. With the support of the General Conference we often tried to locate a suitable piece of land, and buy it, but it always seemed that the property was either too large, or too high-priced. So we were at a standstill.

Nevertheless, events finally shaped up and we could select a piece of ground in the area of Hlatikulu in Swaziland. Since we did not want to waste any time, we acted immediately to secure the needed permission. Since every mission station in Africa has a school, we also planned to establish one. Naturally the child receives its instruction in the school, and once it has been reared in such a manner, his future is safeguarded. Rome has used the school as a powerful instrument. However it was no easy matter to secure a permit to erect such a school. Then a man of our acquaintance, after looking at our building plans, gave us some valuable counsel. "Go to it," he said. "Build a church; it needs no further asking, no consent, and no special permit; it is free. After this you may build your building, just as nice as you have planned it, and you will get a permit for a school without delay."

It might sound rather peculiar to many to first mention a school and to make it so outstandingly important, but let the Spirit of prophecy speak:

"There is a great work to be done in the world, a great work to be done in foreign lands. Schools must be established in order that youth, children, and those of mature age may be educated as rapidly as possible to enter the missionary field." —*Testimonies to Ministers*, page 43.

On November 16, 1961, we began, with the help of the Lord, to build our church. Hlatikulu is a very small settlement located on a steep mountain approximately 250 miles north-east of Johannesburg. In this small settlement only 100 white people reside—the rest are colored. The message of Reformation only recently became established in 1958. At that time there were just two members, but in two years there were 14 members. The Chief, who is the land-administrator of the King, is responsible to see that every native receives a piece of land, sufficient for his home and to raise a garden. In like manner, we were also granted a piece of property for a school and a church. This Chief, with his Committee, and also King Sabusa II are well acquainted with our Reformation. Twice we have had an opportunity to bring the message of heaven to his "Kraal". On one occasion Brother Ringelberg was present. Therefore our workers are well known to the King. Since that time the King has been favorably impressed, and is willing to help us. It was for this reason also that the Chief gave his consent for us to build a church. Nevertheless, right from the beginning we encountered some difficulties in getting the permission. One of the Committee was unwilling to grant it because he insisted that a white man was involved; and they were to watch closely that not a finger's width of ground should be granted to the whites. But the Chief said, "No, the white man is only helping us to get started." We can say to the glory of God that Satan did not succeed in his efforts to hinder our work of building, although he has always shown his anger when something is being done for king Jesus.

The beginning of the actual work on the building was also hedged up with difficulties. First of all we had no water. It had to be carried in true native style with a pail on their heads as they went down to a small river, and then to the top again. Two women were there to watch closely that there was no lack of water. The writer of this article, with three of our native brethren, undertook the construction work. One Sunday, after the foundation was laid, we poured the concrete slab. This presented the hardest work, because in these jungles there is nothing comfortable or convenient, such as a concrete mixer. Therefore, we had to hire 6 men, and our sisters with their children carried water for us all day long—and we needed much water. The older ones came with large pails on their heads, and the children with smaller vessels to fill the barrels. The heart of

the people was in the work. As a result the building grew from day to day.

When we came to the height of the steel sash, new difficulties arose. When a builder comes to build, he generally brings his lumber for a scaffold with him, but we did not have any. Nevertheless, our colored brethren are accustomed to facing difficulties when necessary items are lacking. They went into the jungles and got the needed wood. Furthermore, we had only one plank of about 6 feet length and had to be satisfied with it. After every 6 feet of building the plank had to be moved. Yet, we did all this gladly without complaining, for we were happy to be permitted to work for the Lord. Although none of us was a builder by trade, our work progressed with much satisfaction. There was a spirit like in the days of Nehemiah when they were building on the wall of Jerusalem.

After six weeks of hard labor we had the building up to the height of the eaves. Now the time arrived to put the trusses in place. The roof was built completely of steel. Our Brother Heeres of Pretoria is a steel construction craftsman and he prepared these trusses at his own home, as well as the door and window frames. As these steel trusses lay in the open, it caused serious discussions among the people. As a general rule everything is built with wood and clay in this vicinity. Now all the surrounding neighborhood knew that we were building with concrete and steel. So, one day, we were visited by a white pastor with his colored workers, all being very interested in our nice church. They were astonished, and one who belonged to the Board of Education said, "Now, this is what our people need, a 'proper building', not built only with wood and clay."

The seventh week came. It was a happy occasion when Brother Heeres, who had prepared everything at home, came to help us set up the roof. Spending their vacation, his family with Brother Zacharias came with him, and we could quickly accomplish this work. While we were engaged Sister Heeres supplied us with needed food and drink, which was rather important because of the mid-summer heat. On January 6 we spent our first Sabbath together. Many had been invited to the opening of the Sabbath, the Sabbath School and the Sabbath afternoon meeting. Though we had no chairs as yet (and many do not know such a luxury) they brought with them their customary home-made mats, seating themselves on the floor. But the most gratifying effect was how solemnly and hungrily they listened to the word of God.

Now we are awaiting with great expectation the dedication of the building. It would have taken place already, but our Committee decided to make the dedication at a time when many can be present. Our people are poor, and in order to keep our expenses down we

will, with God's help, have both the dedication and the Union Conference at the same time, April 13-16, 1962.

We are very thankful to the Lord that we have been so favored to build this church to the glory of God, and we expect it to grow and become the main mission center of the Reformation in Africa. In a few months we expect to build a house adjacent to it for Brother Tsotetsi, our native missionary.

In closing I wish to state the importance of just this kind of work. By now all believers know about it, although we did not send them a circular letter to inform them. Yet from 4 different places I have already received the request, "Brother, come now to us and build us a school and a church." These requests have come from Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia, Gwelo, Mpoma township, and even from Basoetoe Land. It is as David says, "Ethiopea stretches forth her hands to God." By means of this report I wish to rouse the missionary spirit in our believers. Let us lend a helping hand and pray for the work which Jesus Himself has commanded us saying, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." And to this He added the precious promise, "... and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen!"

Hark the voice of Jesus calling,
Who will go and work today?
Fields are white, the harvest waiting,
Who will bear the sheaves away?

Loud and long the Master calleth,
Rich reward He offers free;
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I, O Lord send me!"

Your Brother in Christ,
W. TH. BUYS

South America

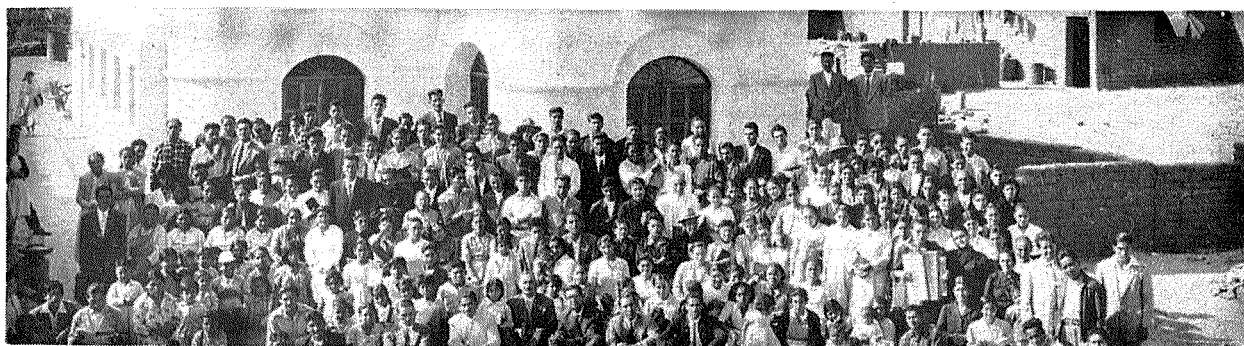
PERU

Dear Brother D . . . :

May God's peace be with you! Ps. 91.

I am sending you herewith these photos. One is taken at a Conference in a new neighborhood here in the city Trujillo in this country. It is where the Missionary Center is located. The other photo shows a few of us in a place in the mountains. It is here where our visit-

(Below: Conference Assembly, Trujillo, Peru)



ing brethren from various countries have had their conferences. In the picture you will see the brethren Angel Craviotto from Argentina, Joaquin Escobar of Chile, and Jose C.L., originally from this country, but now in Colombia.

My dear Brother, may we ask you to send us a picture for keepsake, . . . for which we would be very grateful.

Your Brother in Christ
who loves you,

NICOLAS MOSQUERA L.



The Brethren Craviotto, Escobar, and Jose, with their helpers

Europe ITALY - SICILY

(condensed Report from the "Sabbatwaechter")



Before Baptism

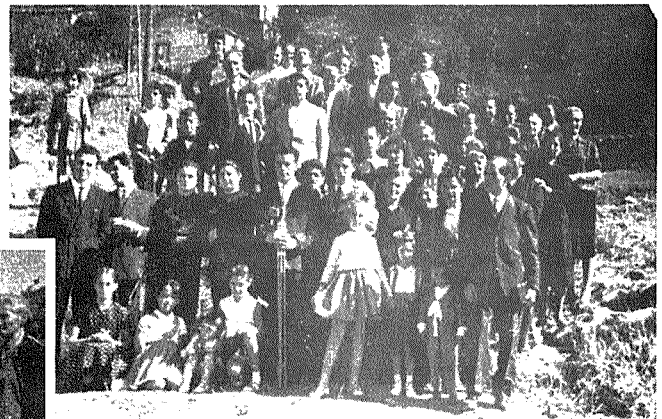
A HOUSE OF WORSHIP IN TROINA

A plan, cherished for many years, was finally realized. After 12 years of patient waiting the cause, by the grace of God and the assistance of the German Union, was able to purchase a building, part of which was converted into a meeting place. The work was also supported by the help and joyful sacrifices of several brethren, and accomplished in the first days of October of this year, 1961.

A TWO-FOLD FESTIVE OCCASION AND JOY

Sabbath, October 7, was for us a day of extraordinary joy. The new hall was fully occupied with nearly 70 persons present.

Right after the Sabbath School the solemn dedication of the meeting place was conducted, which in accordance with the experience of Jacob on his way to Haran (Gen.28:10-19) received the name Bethel or House of God. After reading these verses from the Bible, Brother Gutknecht declared that the experience of Jacob also contains a valuable lesson for us. If we feel



After Baptism

weary and lonely, there is still wonderful communion with heaven. Then, even a place once apparently forsaken and strange becomes a house of God and a gate to heaven. After this singular experience Jacob vowed a vow unto the Lord. So our own vows and our conduct should be in a manner that this house will become a blessing, a "gate to heaven", through which many souls might find an entrance into the kingdom of God.

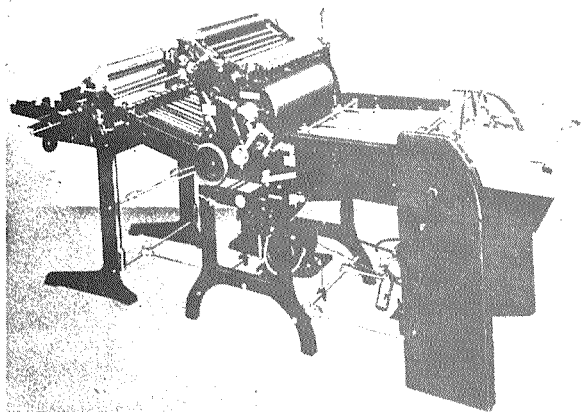
After speaking of a two-fold festive occasion and joy, we must acquaint you with the reason. After the preaching service we received seven dear souls into the church, who the day before had made a solemn covenant with the Lord by baptism. The Scripture tells that there is joy in heaven over every repentant sinner, and therefore it was for us a two-fold joy and a two-fold day to commemorate.

We shall praise and thank the Lord for His rich blessings bestowed on us, and at the same time wish the newly baptized souls (here follow their names) our heartfelt and rich blessings of the Lord for a happy pilgrim journey to our Father's home in heaven.

MICHELE MASCERA

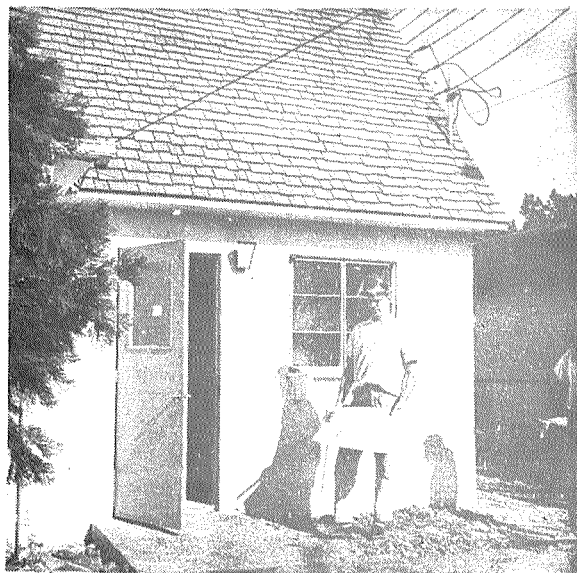
NOTICE: Lack of space does not permit the printing of our "Health and Home" column, but it will appear in the forthcoming edition.

Our New Publishing Facility in Sacramento, Calif.



Our Larger Press

"I have been repeatedly shown that our presses should now be constantly employed in publishing light and truth. This is a time of spiritual darkness in the churches of the world. Ignorance of divine things has hidden God and the truth from view. The forces of evil are gathering in strength. Satan flatters his coworkers that he will do a work that will captivate the world. While partial inactivity has come upon the church, Satan and his hosts are intensely active. The professed Christian churches are not converting the world; for they are themselves corrupted with selfishness and pride, and need to feel the conquering power of God in their midst before they can lead others to a purer or higher standard." —*Testimonies*, Vol.9, p.65.

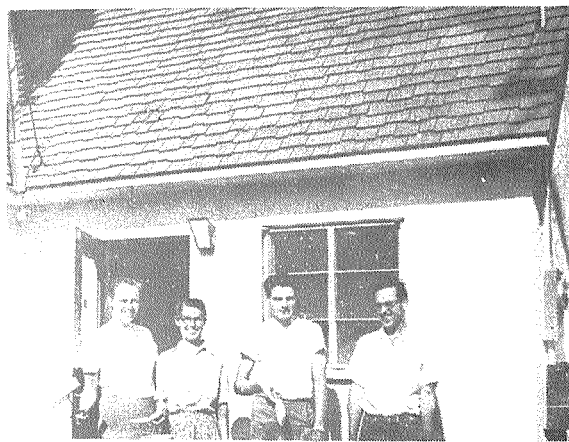


Almost Completed Publishing Annex

As can be seen in these pictures, our new publishing facilities at Sacramento, California, are nearing completion. It took much wise planning and much courage to surmount the many obstacles in the way. But through patient toiling and persistent efforts we are now able to report that this is the very first issue of the *Sabbath Watchman* which came off our larger offset press.

This annex to our present church building is composed of a Publishing Office and a Press Room downstairs, and a Supply, File, and Literature Room upstairs. We are indeed grateful to the Lord for His guiding hand in this enterprise, and it is our sincere desire that these facilities may prove to be a new mile-stone for the advancement of the cause of God in America and the English speaking fields abroad.

It behooves us to express a word of commendation to all those who by their volunteer labor made

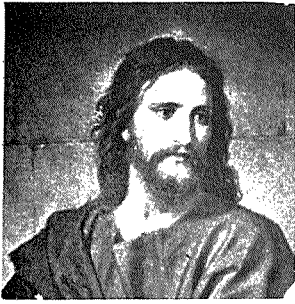


Willing Helpers Applying the Finishing Touches

this building possible, and in particular to Brother Helmut Kramer, who so unselfishly devoted all his spare time and energy to the completion of the project. May the Lord reward all those whose hearts are set to come to the aid of king Immanuel in His finishing work on earth!

THE BRETHREN

SEED THOUGHT: "Let no one run the risk of interposing himself between the people and the message of heaven. The message of God will come to the people; and if there were no voice among men to give it, the very stones would cry out." —*Review and Herald*, July 26, 1892.



In His Presence

EDITORIAL

"And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest." Mark 9:33,34.

TOUR PERFECT EXAMPLE
THE PRESENCE of Jesus subdues the carnal heart. Sin cannot rule when He is near. There is something in the very atmosphere surrounding the Master that rebukes evil and stops it short in its track. Yet it is not so much the triumphant Jesus that has such powerful influence, but much rather His aspect as a Lamb, suffering innocently untold agonies for you and I.

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." 1 Peter 2:21.

Since God expects nothing short of *perfection* of His children (Matt. 5:48), "... it became him . . . to make the captain of their salvation *perfect* through suffering." (Heb. 2:10). We have therefore a *perfect* pattern in Christ, and we can safely follow in His steps. Doing so, "... we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man *perfect* in Christ Jesus." (Col. 1:28.) And having in Jesus such a perfect pattern, by walking in His steps we influence others to follow Him also, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." (Heb. 12:2.)

"The character and disposition of Christ's followers will be like their Master's. He is the pattern, the holy and *perfect* example given for Christians to imitate." —*Testimonies*, Vol. 3, p. 58.

HIS LOVE REVEALED

"The loveliness of the character of Christ will be seen in His followers. It was His delight to do the will of God. Love to God, zeal for His glory, was the controlling power in our Saviour's life. Love beautified and enobled all His actions. Love is of God. The unconsecrated heart can not originate or produce it. It is found only in the heart where Jesus reigns. 'We love, because He first loved us.' In the heart renewed by divine grace, love is the principle of action. It modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, subdues enmity, and enobles the affections. This love, cherished in the soul, sweetens the life, and sheds a refining influence on all around."

"We should dwell upon the character of our Redeemer and Intercessor. We should meditate

upon the mission of Him who came to save His people from their sins. As we thus contemplate heavenly themes, our faith and love will grow stronger, and our prayers will be more and more mixed with faith and love. They will be intelligent and fervent. There will be more constant confidence in Jesus, and a daily, living experience in His power to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him.

"As we meditate upon the perfections of the Saviour, we shall desire to be wholly transformed, and renewed in the image of His purity. There will be a hungering and thirsting of soul to become like Him whom we adore. The more our thoughts are upon Christ, the more we shall speak of Him to others, and present Him to the world." —*Steps to Christ*, pp. 63, 64, 93, 94.

A HEAVENLY ATMOSPHERE

"By the life we live through the grace of Christ, the character is formed. The original loveliness begins to be restored to the soul. The attributes of the character of Christ are imparted, and the image of the Divine begins to shine forth. The faces of men and women who walk and work with God, express the peace of heaven. They are surrounded with the atmosphere of heaven. For these souls the kingdom of God has begun. They have the honor of being accepted for the Master's use; they are trusted to do His work in His name. . . .

"We cannot serve God with a divided heart. Bible religion is not an influence among many others; its influence is to be supreme, pervading and controlling every other. It is not to be a dash of color brushed here and there upon the canvas, but it is to pervade the whole life, as if the canvas were dipped into the color, until every thread of the fabric were dyed a deep, unfading hue." —*Desire of Ages*, p. 312.

HIS PURITY

"The nearer we live to Jesus, the more we will partake of His pure and holy character; and the more offensive sin appears to us, the more exalted and desirable will appear the purity and brightness of Christ." —*Counsels on Health*, p. 623.

"The nearer we come to Jesus, and the more clearly we discern the purity of His character, the

more clearly shall we see the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and the less shall we feel like exalting ourselves. There shall be a continual reaching out of the soul after God, a continual, earnest, heart-breaking confession of sin and humbling of the heart before Him. At every advance step in our Christian experience, our repentance will deepen. We shall know that our sufficiency is in Christ alone, and shall make the apostle's confession our own: 'I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing.' "—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 561.

CHANGED BY BEHOLDING HIM

"In constantly beholding Him, we 'are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.'

"It was thus that the early disciples gained their likeness to the dear Saviour. When those disciples heard the words of Jesus, they felt their need of Him. They sought, they found, they followed Him. They were with Him in the house, at the table, in the closet, in the field. They were with Him as pupils with a teacher, daily receiving from His lips lessons of holy truth. They looked to Him, as servants to their master, to learn their duty. Those disciples were men 'subject to like passions as we are.' They had the same battle with sin to fight. They needed the same grace, in order to live a holy life."—*Steps to Christ*, pp. 77, 78.

SUNNY, YET INTENSELY IN EARNEST

"There are many who have an erroneous idea of the life and character of Christ. They think that He was devoid of warmth and sunniness, that He was stern, severe, and joyless. In many cases the whole religious experience is colored by these gloomy views.

"It is often said that Jesus wept, but that He was never known to smile. Our Saviour was indeed a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, for He opened His heart to all the woes of men. But though His life was self-denying and shadowed with pain and care, His spirit was not crushed. His countenance did not wear an expression of grief and repining, but ever one of peaceful serenity. . .

"Our Saviour was deeply serious and intensely in earnest, but never gloomy or morose. The life of those who imitate Him will be full of earnest purpose; they will have a deep sense of personal responsibility. *Levity will be repressed*; there will be no boisterous merriment, no rude jesting; but the religion of Jesus gives peace like a river."—*Steps to Christ*, pp. 125, 126.

LEVITY, according to Webster, means "Lack of gravity in deportment and character, trifling gaiety, unseemly frivolity or jocularly."

THE DISPOSITION SOFTENED

"The religion of Jesus softens whatever is hard and rough in the temper, and smooths whatever is

rugged and sharp in the manners. It makes the words gentle and the demeanor winning."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 122.

"His love pervading the heart gives to the character those refining touches that fashion it in the semblance of His own. This education imparts a heaven-born dignity and sense of propriety. It gives a sweetness of disposition and a gentleness of manner that can never be equaled by the superficial polish of fashionable society."—*Education*, p. 241.

"Speak as He would speak, act as He would act. Constantly reveal the sweetness of His character. Reveal that wealth of love which underlies all His teachings and all His dealings with men. The humblest workers, in co-operation with Christ, may touch chords whose vibrations shall ring to the ends of the earth, and make melody throughout eternal ages."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 159.

HIS FORBEARING LOVE AND TENDERNESS

"No human being possesses sensibilities so acute or a nature so refined as does our Saviour. And what patience He manifests toward us. Year after year He bears with our weakness and ignorance, with our ingratitude and waywardness. . . And He bids us, 'Love one another as I have loved you.' John 13:34. . . My brethren, prevail by love rather than by severity."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, p. 265.

"The Saviour never suppressed the truth, but He uttered it always in love. In His intercourse with others, He exercised the greatest tact, and He was always kind and thoughtful. He was never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave unnecessary pain to a sensitive soul. He did not censure human weakness. He fearlessly denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity, but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes."—*Gospel Workers*, p. 117.

The Apostle says, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; . . Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient; but rather giving of thanks," (Eph. 5:1, 4) thus indicating that the common every-day joking, making fun, and cheap, foolish talking is neither Christlike nor beneficial.

THE VOICE BECOMES PATHETIC AND SUBDUED, LIKE MUSIC

"Those who abide in Jesus will be happy, cheerful, and joyful in God. A subdued gentleness will mark the voice, reverence for spiritual and eternal things will be expressed in the actions, and music, joyful music, will echo from the lips; for it is wafted from the throne of God. This is the mystery of godliness, not easily explained, but none the less felt and enjoyed. A stubborn and rebellious heart can close its doors to all the sweet influences of the grace of God, and all the joy in the Holy

Ghost; but the ways of wisdom are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. The more closely we are connected with Christ, the more will our words and actions show the subduing, transforming power of His grace.

"The spirit of genuine benevolence must dwell in the heart. Love imparts its possessor grace, propriety, and comeliness of deportment. Love illuminates the countenance and subdues the voice; it refines and elevates the entire man. It brings him into harmony with God; for it is a heavenly attribute." —*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, pp. 626, 559, 560.

"But if the voice is toned right, if it has solemnity, and is so modulated as to be even *pathetic*, it will produce a much better impression. This was the tone in which Christ taught His disciples. . . He impressed them with solemnity; He spoke in a pathetic manner." —*Testimonies*, Vol. 2, p. 615.

PATHETIC, according to Webster, means, "Affecting or exciting emotion, especially the tender emotions, as pity or sorrow."

"Ministers and teachers should give special attention to the cultivation of the voice. They should learn to speak, not in a nervous, hurried manner, but with a slow, distinct, clear utterance, preserving the music of the voice. The Saviour's voice was as music to the ears of those who had been accustomed to the monotonous, spiritless preaching of the scribes and Pharisees." —*Counsels to Parents and Teachers*, pp. 239, 240.

"They will put themselves under patient, efficient teachers, and learn to read in a way that will preserve the melody of the voice." —*Ibid.*, p. 248.

We are now in the sealing time when the Lord is gathering His elect, 144,000 in number, from the four corners of the earth, but we must know that — "Those who receive the seal of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble *must reflect the image of Jesus fully*." —*Early Writings*, p. 71.

NO SIN IN HIS PRESENCE

In the presence of Jesus His disciples were very much ashamed to speak out their disputes among themselves of who should be the greatest. The life of Jesus, — His perfect love and purity, the heavenly atmosphere surrounding Him, His deep earnestness, His softness of disposition, His forbearing love and tenderness, together with His sweet, loving, melodious voice, so full of emotion and tender sympathy, were too great a rebuke to their selfish and sinful desires.

A story is told of a gay dancing party in which many nominal Christians took part. In the midst of the wild revelry someone brought in a picture of the Crucified One, placing it right among them. Needless to say, the dance had an abrupt ending. The presence of a picture of the suffering Jesus was sufficient to cause serious reflection. O, that the presence of Jesus would be so vividly felt by

all of God's children that it would make them extremely conscious of any little sin they would not love to commit in His presence!

A wise mother whose child often misbehaved in saying unbecoming words, took the following course: Saying the customary prayer at the table, "Come, O Jesus, be our guest," she suggested to her child to invite Jesus visibly by setting a chair and a plate for Him also. So the chair was placed and the plate and silver laid out for Him. It was not long after that the child, forgetting the invisible presence of the heavenly Guest, used an unbecoming word again. It was then that the mother tenderly reminded him of the presence of Jesus, which had the desired effect from then on.

Are we but children in faith and in the knowledge of God? Do we feel Him near? Is our faith so securely anchored that we sense constantly the presence of invisible beings, of Jesus and the holy angels? Do we not live to please Him? Or do we try to please a world, doomed to destruction? Of Enoch it says that he walked with God, that means **IN HIS PRESENCE**, and God took him to heaven. Shall we also walk with Jesus **IN HIS PRESENCE**? It will be eternal bliss!



The Dragon's Wrath

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17.

ROBBERY OF CHILDREN SANCTIONED

MOSCOW, December 4, 1960.

With a surprising frankness the communistic organ of Kirghizia, *Sowjetskaja Kirgisija*, reports a revolting case of religious persecution in the Soviet Union.

The District Court of Talass in the middle-Asiatic Soviet Republic Kirghizia, has denied the couples Friedrich Homer, Heinrich Arndt, and Rudolf Otto, Volga Germans who, during the war, were resettled in Kirghizia the custody of their children, and the children have been turned over to "progressive Soviet parents to educate them to become valued Soviet citizens."

The reason given for this sanctioned robbery of children by the court is said to be as follows: The parents, members of the Adventist Church, had raised their children in a religious spirit, forbade them to attend school on Saturdays, and tried to shelter them from the atheistic influence of the school and the national youth organization. (Taken from the *Hersfelder Zeitung*, or Hersfeld News, of April 17, 1961.)

REFORM REVIEW

"...ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein..." Jer.6:16.

Friedensau Delegation



THIS memorable picture was taken at Friedensau, Germany, in 1920. It shows the representatives elected to appear before the S.D.A. General Conference Committee to explain the reasons which occasioned the division among Adventists.

To facilitate an easy understanding of the problems involved, only four simple questions were introduced and directed to Elder A. G. Daniells, then president and spokesman for the General Conference:

1. *How does the General Conference stand with reference to the position taken by the leaders of Germany in the year 1914 towards the fourth and sixth commandment?*

2. *What proofs are brought to us that we have not, from the beginning, taken the Biblical path?*

3. *What is the position of the General Conference toward the Testimonies of Sister White? Are they inspired? Yes or no? Is Health Reform still the right arm of the message?*

4. *Is our message and people according to Rev. 14:6-12 national or international?*

In the answer to the highly controversial question No.1, Elder Daniells became quite evasive and introduced the new teaching of an unwarranted "Liberty of Conscience" which leaves room for open transgression of God's law within the church. As he spoke of the varied attitudes taken by some

brethren in America, we quote his words, "What has been our position toward these brethren in their different conduct? We have said, we do not want to be the conscience for any other man."

To this came our reply as follows, quoted from the stenographic report: "We give everybody liberty of conscience. In Heaven is also liberty of conscience, but there is no liberty to overthrow the law of God. We find that the brethren from America have extended this liberty so much that the law of God can be transgressed."

Questions No. 2 to No. 4 were partly answered in the affirmative and partly in a misleading manner, as was the issue about the Spirit of prophecy. In this, the claim of an overall inspiration of all of Sister White's writings was discountenanced by Elder Daniells.

These questions show the great effort put forth by the faithful group to bring about a reunification with the Seventh-day Adventist mother church, but which failed because of newly risen heretic teachings which she has maintained ever since.

From the very beginning of this work of Reformation in 1914, we have witnessed the wonderful, increasing evidence that of a truth the Lord Himself is the sole Leader in this work of reform. Oppositions, lying reports, character attacks and persecutions are the weapons by which the enemy has been and is fighting against this work, but to



Elder A. G. Daniells (lower center) among the German workers at Friedensau in 1920.

no avail. Satan and all his hosts of darkness cannot overthrow the work of God. It was established upon a plan beyond his power and wisdom. The Saviour said, "Upon this Rock (Christ) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt.16:18. In the Revelation He says, "These (Satan's hosts) shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them; for He is the Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they that are with Him are called and chosen." Rev.17:14. The characteristics of this reformatory work of God are beyond question. All who once were connected with this wonderful work, but cherished doubt in their hearts, and wanted to put their own ideas into it have fallen and became separated from this blessed work. This is the shaking process as foretold in Matt.3:12.

-A. W. DOERSCHLER

Misleading Advice

UNDER the heading "Draft Calls Doubled" the *Pacific Union Recorder*, official organ of the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, brings the following advice to our draft age brethren on page 2 of the September 11, 1961, issue:

"There is a 1-O classification for complete conscientious objectors, for certain groups who do not feel they can cooperate in any form. If after filing in SSS Form No.150 you receive a 1-O classification, contact your draft board immediately and see what is wrong. Seventh-day Adventists should not be classified as 1-O."

This stand, we deem, is diagonally opposed and a flagrant violation of the divine counsel in *Testi-*

mony, Vol.1, p.361. We quote the following portion:

"I was shown that God's people, who are His peculiar treasure, cannot engage in this perplexing war, for it is opposed to every principle of their faith. In the army they cannot obey the truth and at the same time obey the requirements of their officers. There would be a continual violation of conscience. . . Those who love God's commandments will conform to every good law of the land. But if the requirements of the rulers are such as conflict with the laws of God, the only question to be settled is, Shall we obey God, or man?"

This statement depicts complete conscientious objection to any army service. The noncombatant status is, in opposition to this, an integral part of the army; and it is claimed that Seventh-day Adventist draftees CAN obey God and their officers in the army, while the inspired account, quoted above, claims that they CANNOT obey God and their superiors at the same time. It would be a constant violation of conscience. Whom shall we obey, God or man?

Furthermore, the Seventh-day Adventist Church leaves absolute liberty of conscience on the military question, which means that they consider all three positions involved as compatible with our faith,—first, the actual participation in bloodshed; second, the noncombatant cooperative army service; and third, total objection to army and war service. Why then take a stand at all? And why should Adventists be classified as 1-AO, and not as 1-O? We can neither understand nor support such an inconsistency.

-EDITORIAL

Ambition

by L. V. McSHERRY

"Be ambitious for the Master's glory, to cultivate every grace of character. In every phase of your character-building you are to please God. This you may do: for Enoch pleased Him through living in a degenerate age and there are Enochs in this our day." —Christ's Object Lessons, p.332.

THE WORD "AMBITION" does not always have a good ring in our ears. Sometimes it is used in reference to someone in a half mocking or even in a rebuking sense. When looking up the definition of the word in the dictionary we discover that all ambition is not the same. Ambition may mean the eager and inordinate desire of power for its own sake; or ambition may be interpreted to signify a worthy eagerness to achieve something great or good. Therefore, ambition is not always to be shunned; it is an essential trait of character for success.

The Bible also portrays two types of ambition. The one kind is abominable in the sight of God, but the other pleases Him. Of unhallowed ambition we can get a clear picture in the record of Lucifer, the morning star, whose unholy aspirations to become like unto God Himself were the cause of the unfolding of the saddest drama the universe has or will ever witness.

In contrast to this self-glorifying ambition we find another kind of aspiration mentioned in the Word of God. Jesus recommends this to us in the following words: "Strive ye to enter in at the strait gate, for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." The ambition here referred to is the determination to reach the high quality of character that can meet the standard of the judgment.

The first kind of ambition has devastating results. "Whenever pride and ambition are indulged, the life is marred; for pride, feeling no need, closes the heart against the infinite blessings of heaven. He who makes self-glorification his aim, will find himself destitute of the grace of God, through whose efficiency the truest riches and the most satisfying joys are won." —*Prophets and Kings*, p.60.

We are often pained to see this destructive, self-centered ambition govern the lives of professed children of God. Equally sad, however, is the fact that when some of our young people are asked what they would like to become, or what they would like to do, we receive no answer. Either they do not

know, or they have never given any serious thought to this subject. This is not pleasing to God. Every being in God's kingdom must have an aim and a purpose in life. The highest ambition of the heavenly beings, the angels, is reached in worshiping God and doing His will. It also should be the goal of every Christian man or woman to achieve something great and good to please the Lord.

"God does not bid the youth to be less aspiring. The elements of character that make a man successful and honored among men, — the irrepressible desire for some greater good, the indomitable will, the strenuous exertion, the untiring perseverance, — are not to be crushed out." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p.602.

"Dear youth, what is the aim and purpose of your life? Are your ambitions for education, that you may have a name and position in the world? Have you thoughts that you dare not express, that you may stand one day upon the summit of intellectual greatness; that you may sit in deliberative and legislative counsels, and help to enact laws for the nation? There is nothing wrong in these aspirations. You may every one of you make your mark. You should be content with no mean attainment. Aim high and spare no pains to reach the standard." —*Messages to Young People*, p.36.

"Balanced by religious principle, you may climb to any height you please. We would be glad to see you rising to the noble elevation God designs that you shall reach. Jesus loves the precious youth; and He is not pleased to see them grow up with uncultivated, undeveloped talents. They may become strong men of firm principle, fitted to be intrusted with high responsibilities and to this end they may lawfully strain every nerve." —*Ibid.*, p.37.

Sometimes the sentiment has been expressed that our children are handicapped by the truth or have limited opportunities within the church to attain to success. It is not the Spirit of God inspiring such words, but a lack of understanding born of the criticizing, dissatisfied spirit of dark-

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Editor O. Kramer

Special Contributors:

A. W. Doerschler, M. Ringelberg, L. McSherry

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AMBITION (*concluded from preceeding page*)

ness. Although it may be true that we do not possess the large churches and big institutions of learning, though few names of fame monitor our cause, it is equally true that no people has ever lived in a grander time with greater opportunities than do we at present.

"There is nothing that Christ desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His spirit and character. There is nothing the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour's love. All heaven is waiting for channels through which can be poured the holy oil to be a joy and blessing to human hearts." —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p.419.

"If the youth will consecrate their minds and hearts to God's service they will reach a high

standard of efficiency and usefulness. This is the standard that the Lord expects the youth to attain. To do less than this is to refuse to make the most of God-given opportunities. This will be looked upon as treason against God, a failure to work for the good of humanity." —*Messages to Young People*, p.41.

"You have within your reach more than finite possibilities. A man, as God applies the term, is a son of God. 'Now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.' It is your privilege to turn away from that which is cheap and inferior, and rise to a high standard, — to be respected by men and beloved by God." —*Ibid.*, p.47.

"Grave responsibilities rest upon the youth. God expects much from the young men who live in this generation of increased light and knowledge. He expects them to impart this light and knowledge. He desires to use them in dispelling the error and superstition that cloud the minds of many. They are to discipline themselves by gathering up every jot and tittle of knowledge and experience. God holds them responsible for the opportunities and privileges given them. The work before them is waiting for their earnest effort, that it may be carried forward from point to point, as the time demands." —*Ibid.*, p.41.

These are earnest appeals made to our youth. Time is running out and the climax in the plan of redemption is at hand. The fields are white, but the laborers are few. Are there not such young men and women among us who want to throw in their lot with the Lord? He is calling; who will answer, "Lord, here am I, send me"?



* * * * *

"The length and usefulness of life do not consist in the amount of earthly possessions. Those who use their wealth in doing good will see no necessity for large accumulations in this world; for the treasure which is used to advance the cause of God and which is given to the needy in Christ's name, is given to Christ, and He lays it up for us in the bank of heaven in bags which wax not old." —*Testimonies*, Vol.3, p.546.

"The pleasure of doing good to others imparts a glow to the feelings which flashes through the nerves, quickens the circulation of the blood and induces mental and physical health." —*Testimonies*, Vol.4, p.56.