



GOD'S MISSIONARY STANDARD

Official Publication of God's Missionary Church, Inc.
Penns Creek, Pa.

"The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." Psalms 68:11.

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No. 10

THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE

M. D. Ormston

from Free Methodist

The patriarch Job was materially prosperous in his generation — one who at the same time was "perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." Like other men, he was subject to the attacks of Satan, but only so far as God would allow. With protection withdrawn, the enemy swept away his possessions, taking the camels by which he carried on commerce, his cattle which were his livelihood, and by means of a tempest, destroying his children. In spite of it all, the Lord said to Satan:

"Still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movest me against him to destroy him without a cause."

Satan answered: "All that a man hath will he give for his life . . . touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face."

Whereupon, the Lord permitted the enemy further to harass the man, and he "smote him with sore boils, from the sole of his foot to his crown." Suffering with such sore afflictions, his wife turned against him, urging him to "curse God and die." His friends also proved "sorry" comforters indeed.

In the midst of his losses and afflictions, he meditated on the brevity of life, saying, "Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh up like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as

a shadow, and continueth not. . . There is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant. But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost and where is he? . . . If a man die, shall he live again?"

The question is a natural one, and one that deserves an answer. It is a question which has troubled the minds of men across the centuries, and one to which various answers have been given. The finding of the right answer can be the source of great comfort to mourning hearts, and peace to the minds of those who believe.

There are those who would have us believe that there is no future life — that death ends all. Others who believe in the indestructibility of matter answer vaguely, "Perhaps." Still others say the hope in a human heart for life after death may be a prophecy of future existence. One of the great poets tells us:

"Life is real, life is earnest,
And the grave is not its goal.
'Dust thou art, to dust returnest,'
Was not spoken of the soul."

Out of his affliction and suffering, Job proceeds to answer his own question. Long before Christ's day, he looked ahead with prophetic vision and saw his Redeemer, and confidently declared:

"I **know** that my redeemer liveth."

"He **shall** stand at the latter day upon the earth."

"After my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh **shall** I see God."

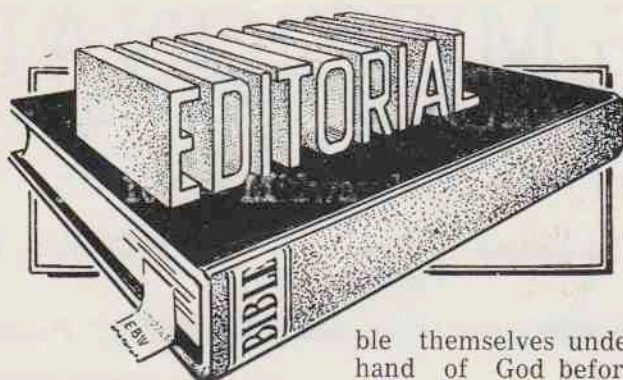
"I **shall** see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another."

The centuries pass, and the Redeemer comes. With the voice of authority, He answers once and for all the great question, saying, "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." Again He says, "All that are in the graves shall hear his voice; and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." What hope for the believer! What warning to the unsaved!

St. Paul further enlightens us by saying: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

More centuries pass. His coming seems delayed, but His promise is sure, and the saints may exultingly say with Peter:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."



DARE WE FACE REALITY?

Never, in all the history of the Church, have men faced such tremendous pressures and circumstances as we of this present day. The enemy of men's souls has encumbered the people of God with problems almost too great to overcome. The days are evil, most of the people in our society are evil-minded, and evil seems to be in the driver's seat of almost all activity. However, in spite of all the opposing forces, Christ is still supreme over all. We are not a defeated Church, but we are the body of Christ, and we shall never go down in defeat. Our plans and wishes may fall by the wayside, but the gates of hell shall never prevail against the Church of God.

Financially, as a group of people, we have never known more difficult circumstances than we are now experiencing. It seems that in proportion, there is not as much money being given to the cause of God now as there was back in the days when it was hard to earn enough money to barely live. When folk have little, they tend to give much; and when they have much, they seem to withhold much of the Lord's portion. It seems the more prosperous people become, the more miserly they tend to be toward the cause of God. At least, it can be plainly noticed that although the times are rather prosperous, the cause of God is suffering.

Every step that has been taken in each department of the work of God has been the result of much prayer and seeking the guidance of the Almighty. No one individual can claim any personal gain in any project; and in every phase, the only desire has been to glorify the Christ of Calvary. But, for some reason, we are experiencing some heavy burdens. Christ is not the author of defeat; however, it is realized, in studying history, that men have had to hum-

ble themselves under the mighty hand of God before victory has come. Now, we are made to feel that the time has come for us as a group of people to go down before Christ and confess our faults one to another and take the humble route, and recognize that without the help of God, man stands little chance. God is our only source of strength, both physically and spiritually.

There is a great need at the present time for us to unite our forces and pull together, for the truth is before us: "United we stand — divided we fall." We must forget the thoughts of one department of the work being ahead of the other. If one member suffers, the whole body suffers with it. We cannot afford to lose any branch or department of the work at this stage of us to drag our feet. We have Christ to magnify, a lost world to win, and a message to proclaim. Revival is the answer to our crying need! When the Spirit of God comes into our midst, then all the financial needs will be met, hearts will receive the needed strength for the battle, and the enemy will have to turn heel and run for his life. May we each take this pressing situation upon our heart and turn our face toward the throne of God and claim our promises for victory.

Satan would love to see this corner of God's great vineyard suffer defeat. The world would stand by and laugh at the fall. Gainsayers would use the defeat to promote their ungodly practices. But such shall not be! The Master has promised to help us in time of need, if we will humble ourselves under His mighty hand, and then obey His command. We know that many areas are needing attention. For instance, many worldly fashions are being allowed that really bring reproach on the name of Christ. Gossiping is going on in many homes across the constituency, which destroys confidence, and this results

in ill feeling. Worldly recreation is being participated in, and in some cases, even encouraged by those who know better. In some instances, folk who do not profess an experience of grace are voted into office to serve in the local church.

Brethren, we must do our part, before the Master will come to our rescue. We must first do all we can to clean our own doorstep, and rid ourselves of those things we know to be displeasing to our Lord. Then we can be sure that the Christ of Calvary will incline an ear in our direction, and will come with all His forces necessary to supply the need.

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Holiness Teachings

Compiled by

Rev. Allen C. Russell

TOPIC — POSITIVE HOLINESS

(Continued from previous month)

Lesson — John 15:1-8

TEXT — Blessed are the pure in heart — Matt. 5:8.

Holiness by way of Comparison

In this lesson our Lord teaches holiness by comparison. The similarity of the Christian life to the vine and the branches. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." John 15:2. Here is the **second** blessing. The branch is not dead, nor unfruitful, but needs purging in order to greater productiveness.

This beautiful figure presents the true relation of entire sanctification to all preceding grace. It is not the cleansing of a soul utterly dead and depraved, but the perfective purification of a nature already pure in a degree. The work is not initial but crowning. The true object of complete holiness is also revealed in this passage. It is not for display or any selfish end, but that the fruit-bearing branch "may bring forth more fruit."

It is not enough that a Christian do some good works; he must do all possible good, run at full speed, stretch every nerve, and be every moment at his best. "Herein is my father glorified that ye bear **much** fruit. John 15:8. Any service is pleasing to God, but great productiveness glorifies Him. His honor is involved in great achievements, and

none else can harmonize with His plan and grace. Accordingly God demands the contribution of all man's powers and possibilities. The little "turtle-doves or two young pigeons" will not be despised; but the Divine requirement is not fully met until the Christian makes a whole burnt-offering. The widow's mite was not acceptable because it was a mite, but because it was all she had.

The doctrine taught by way of the vine and the branches is that all our capabilities must be fully and constantly appropriated in order to glorify God in the largest degree. And this necessitates the removal of all unproductive branches. Here comes in the doctrine of holiness of salvation from all sin. "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away." The teaching is that whatever hinders fruitfulness must be taken away. As the remains of sin necessarily limits our usefulness, Christ declares His purpose to take it away; and we must suppose He means all, unless we adopt the absurd conclusion that some sin will not damage character, hinder Christian growth and benevolent activities. If Christians, and Christian ministers would only be instructed by this simile, we should have bloom and clusters of fruit where now we have barrenness and "nothing but leaves."

But the principal taught by this lesson is the absolute necessity of continued abiding in Christ, and the equal necessity of having His Word to abide always in us.

The points made are these:

1. Christ stands related to believers as the vine does to the branches. By this we are taught that spiritual Christians enjoy a union with

Jesus as real and vital as that subsisting between the vine and the branches in vegetation. Accordingly any severance in this union destroys life and fruitfulness, as certainly and quickly as decay follows the cutting off a branch from the vine.

2. To abide in Christ and to have Christ in us is to insure great usefulness. "He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit." John 15:5. The spiritual branch may not be eloquent, or strong, or popular; but he will be productive. He may not always have sweeping revivals or great congregations; but the work of personal salvation will progress and prosper in his hands and charge, if he be a minister; and if a layman, he is sure to act upon society as the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Brilliant talents and great learning are powerful auxiliaries to efficiency, but they are often found in conjunction with a barren ministry and a dead church.

How to Control Omnipotence

But the most interesting feature in the passage respects the secret of successful prayer. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." That is, if the abode of the believer becomes fixed in Christ, and Christ finds a permanent lodgment in the heart and is cherished there, then the promise must be verified. The conditions being met, the Saviour finds Himself put under self-assumed obligations to answer the prayer. And "faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

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CHURCH NEWS

Missionary Crusaders Report

by

Rev. Herman Noll

The final youth rally of the year was held Friday night, May 9, at the Weaversville church where Bro. Tom Ramsey and people assembled welcome us with open arms and a warm spirit: what a service we enjoyed! Bro. Ramsey opened the service and the Youth President presided. The song service was immediately blessed as we sang Draw Me Nearer, a precious song indeed. The blessing of the Lord came again and again in these songs. A very fine orchestra numbering 8 persons added greatly to the service. This was one service where every phase of the meeting seemed to be blessed and easy to enter into. The Singing Youngs sang 2 numbers for us. Both were received well and blessed the folks. The 1st song sung was God has Bridged the Gap and a new song for this writer but a wonderful song and we rejoiced as we listened to it. Their 2nd song slips my memory but we appreciate their fine and wonderful contribution to the service. Sister Young also served as the pianist. The Hevelows also sang 2 numbers being "I Want to See the One I Love the Best" and "I Don't Regret A Mile." Both of these songs proved to be a real blessing indeed. The services was punctuated with expressions of joy and praise, Amens, Praise the Lords and Hallelujahs. Chorus numbers and testimony were part of this fine spiritual service. Praise the Lord as the memory still lingers. A trumpet quartet also played. The attendance was fine including several from other churches and of course the Coopersburg and Weaversville churches were both greatly represented showing a bond of fellowship and cooperation. Bro. S. Hicks, youth president from Milesburg church brought the sermon of the evening. Bro. Hicks is one or is the youngest minister in our movement and his messages are from the Lord and inspiring. Here are some of his thoughts: In this cooling off day,

we need young people that are satisfied; It is an honor for a Christian to bear the Cross for Christ; The gain that a man will have if he loses his soul is a world that will burn; What is the thing in our lives that keeps us from God; What ever stands between us and God will seem mighty small at the judgment bar; We need young people with a vision; God needs young people but young people need God more; Young people cannot evade satan's traps without the aide of the Holy Spirit; Some pitfalls and dangers may be side stepped but satan will eventually trip them; Things learned as a youth are now formed into manhood and we must now make our own decisions; Souls like the other things in life have lost their value as they are being sold for nothing, sold for the cheap things of this world; The longer we delay the answer to God's call, the farther out we will go; Satan is a good artist and paints a very pretty picture even around hell; As blessed as it is for the saint to make Heaven so bad it will be for the sinner to miss Heaven.

Bro. Hicks delivered a great message, stirred the hearts of the hearers and was in a true sense a Message for the Youth. So we were able to leave but with a heavy heart as the Spirit of the Lord was dealing in the altar service but no one yielded. This was truly a wonderful service and you who read this have failed tremendously in not attending the service. Thanks again to Weaversville for letting us come and for all who attended, sang and participated. We look to the future for more of these gatherings in His Name. Pray for our project as it is not progressing as fast as we would like and need in order for it to be a success.

EVANGELISTS' SLATE

Rev. and Mrs. William Tillis
(Evangelist, Singers with house trailer)

Box 2, Beavertown, Pa. — 17813
July 10-20, 1969; Frankfort, Ind.
Camp
July 31 - Aug. 10; Woodward, Okla.
Camp

Foreign Missions Report

The Foreign Missionary Board again was on the prowl on behalf of Missions the week of May 5. The 8th found us at the Seven Stars church where we received a hearty and gracious welcome. Both pastor and people made us feel welcome and the spirit of the meeting that prevailed will be something to remember for some time to come, thank the Lord. Bro. Halter opened the service extending greetings and then turned the remaining part of the service over to our Missionary Superintendent, Bro. Wise. After a fine song service and prayer time, Bro. Clarence Beckwith, one of the parishioners shared with us how God marvelously touched one of his grandsons who is in the mountains of South America and had mistakenly ate rat poison but God touched him and he is well. We are rejoiced with the Beckwiths in this report and Praise the Lord for His helping hand when needed. After prayer Bro. Crock gave a varied report of statistics pertaining to spending in Ameica for various items and compared them to what is spent for Missions. My how America is standing in the place of judgment on this very item. He challenged us to do all we can for Missions showing us that the Catholics have gained 290 million compared to 24 million in 54 years. So we as the people of God have our work to do. This writer then gave a report on the Spanish work of the conference. Sister Walk, a Missionary to Haiti was also present and she gave a sparkling testimony to the grace of God and His mighty works with in the hearts of men. We were glad to have her with us. She and Sister Lehman sang for us and all present enjoyed the number presented. Then Bro. Wm. Rachau presented the message of the evening. Here are some of his statements: It is startling to see the dark night of sin settling on America. We are paying the price for spiritual negligence; Compromise is not needed as the same pure glorious unadulterated Gospel is able to redeem; How much grain has been lost because of our negligence; We are only as strong on the Foreign field as we are on the home field; Christians are not made, they are born; Best investment ever made is made

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RUMOR

Selected

In the long ago and far away a rumor began to rumble — "Jesus loves sinners." It passed from ship to ship on the Sea of Galilee and sounded in the halls of Herod and echoed through the chambers of Caesar — "Jesus loves sinners." It was sung by an infamous duet — Mary of Magdala and Zaccheus of Jericho — "Jesus loves sinners." A dying thief heard it on the cross and a scarlet woman picked it up in the house of Simon the Pharisee — "Jesus loves sinners." Paul heard it on the Damascus turnpike and shouted from Nero's jail block: "I the chief of sinners am — but Jesus loves sinners." Three thousand learned the lyrics at Pentecost and fifty thousand chanted it on their way to death in the Roman Coliseum — "Jesus loves sinners." And that rumor rolled on and on all over a weary world — "Jesus loves sinners."

In Dallas, Texas, a few years ago, the telephone rang in the home of that great gospel preacher, Dr. George W. Truett, it was between three and four o'clock in the morning. The voice on the other end of the line said: "I am down in the City's Reservation. I am speaking for a woman in the next room — she is dying. We have learned down here that you love sinners. Would you come down and talk to this dying woman?" And the pastor of the First Baptist Church replied: "I will be down there as quickly as I can come." Whatever rumors fly today through the streets and shops of Dallas, whatever shadows are cast by an assassin's smoking rifle, whatever blotch where splashed the blood of John F. Kennedy — once the rumor was "there is a man in this town who loves sinners." And that rumor was passed around from man to woman and from woman to man — it was heard in the steeped houses where people gathered to worship, and it was whispered in stinking lazarettoes where the doomed wait to die — "George Truett loves sinners." What a rumor to spread among sinners on the Gold Coast or down on Skid Row. What a thrill to have men say: "We have learned down here that you love sinners."

Has anybody circulated this rumor about you — or me? Whatever

else they may say about us, nothing could more closely identify us with Jesus than this: "He loves sinners." It won't matter much in whatever other way we are like the Son of God if we are unlike Him in this. Forbid it God that we should leave this world until we have written our obituary on the hearts of lost men: "He loved sinners."

SIN — A Voice That Cannot Be Stifled

Selected

"A man is incapable of sin." In fact, "there is no sin." This is what the Christian Scientist tells us. Sin, he says, is all a mistake, an error, a matter of incorrect thinking.

Others than cultists, however, are saying much the same. Teachers in the main stream of church life speak of "situation ethics." Rejecting any divine sanction for specific laws or regulations, they tell us that nothing of itself can be labeled as wrong.

Commonly accepted theories of psychology would have us believe that conscience causes much of the mental and emotional difficulty of our time. To cure guilt feelings, they suggest, destroy the ideals by which conscience judges.

Numerous sociologists insist that personal moral collapse results from unlikely environment or from an unfortunate personal maladjustment; and that for such situations society, not the individual, is in some strange way responsible. The offending person is considered a poor, innocent victim.

WITH THIS REMOVAL of personal responsibility in so many areas, we need not be surprised that individual lawlessness inundates our social order. We need not be surprised that the selfish demands of corrupt power groups would destroy us. Having opened the gates of personal restraint, we make it possible for rebel waters to rampage through; and we are flooded.

A popular secular newspaper columnist writes of this: "The great watershed of our times or civilization, I am convinced, is not the staggering impact of the split atom, with its threat of world destruction by hydrogen blast.

"Man, in my lifetime, has been deprived — 'relieved' is the popu-

lar word — of moral responsibility to and for himself and his neighbors. . . . Undoubtedly, the abolition of individual sin and guilt is a triumph of the 20th century. But is it not a great and terrible price to pay for the loss of man's moral stature?"

TO IGNORE SIN or to call it by any other name does not, however, do away with it. Refusing to take note of sin is like the blind man refusing to acknowledge that he walks in the dark. To call sin by any other name is like the leper referring to his decaying flesh as simply a temporary rash.

Sin remains a perverted disposition or state of man's being. It shows itself in transgressing the moral law. The moral law of the universe being the law of God, an expression of His very nature, sin becomes an affront to God himself.

And man in his most serious moments must acknowledge this. As W. T. Purkiser has written: "The deepest instincts of our nature proclaim the fact that the moral law is as basic in human life as the principles of cause and effect in nature. It can no more be repealed by human consensus than the truths of the multiplication table. . . . Evil is not evil only because it has had results. Its bad results come from the fact that it goes against the very grain of the universe itself.

"Chastity in sex," for example, "is right because it is in harmony with the laws written deep in human nature, not because fornication and adultery have consequences that are distasteful. The principles of the moral life are embedded in the very structure of reality. They do not change with every passing fad of man."

ONE OF THE MOST vivid portrayals of the lasting effects of sin to be found anywhere is recorded in God's dealing with the self-willed, angered Cain. He said to him, "If you do not do well, sin crouches at your door; and its desire is for you" (Gen. 4:7, AOT). Or as the Anchor Bible puts it: "Sin is the demon at the door whose urge is toward you."

God is saying that sin does not just go away. Once given place, like a hungry beast it waits outside the door to pounce upon his prey. Anger was even then in Cain's heart, but murder lay just beyond.

A PAGE FOR YOUTH

Every Boy's Chance

Selected

Every boy who thinks that he "has no chance" on account of the handicap of poverty should be encouraged by the following examples of eminent Americans — all poor boys — who became prominent in different lines:

Jay Gould was a poverty-stricken surveyor.

George W. Childs was a book seller's errand boy at a salary of \$4 a month.

John Wanamaker started in business on a salary of \$1.25 a week.

Andrew Carnegie began life on a weekly salary of \$3.

Abraham Lincoln was a poor farmer's son.

Andrew Johnson was a tailor's apprentice boy, and learned to read after he was married.

James A. Garfield was a poor widow's son, and as a barefooted boy, drove mules on a towpath of an Ohio canal.

Opportunities present themselves every day, and the boy or man who is wide-awake and takes advantage of them is bound to succeed.

Bunyan found opportunities in the Bedford jail to write the greatest allegory of the world, on the untwisted paper which had been used to cork his bottles of milk.

Michaelangelo once found a piece of discarded Carrara marble among waste rubbish, beside a street in Florence, which some unskilled workman had cut, hacked, spoiled, and thrown away. No doubt many artists had noticed the fine quality of the marble and regretted that it should have been spoiled. But Michaelangelo saw an angel in the ruin, and with his chisel and mallet he carved out from it one of the finest pieces of statuary in Italy, his young David.

An observing barber in Newark, New Jersey, who thought he could make an improvement in shears for

cutting hair, invented clippers, and became rich.

A Maine man was called in from the hayfield to wash clothes for his invalid wife. He had never realized what it was to wash clothes before. Finding the method slow and laborious, he invented the washing machine and made a fortune.

SEQUOYAH

Selected

Ah-yo-ka sat quietly in the doorway of a small cabin, solemnly watching Sequoyah, her father, cut odd designs from the bark of trees. Finally he handed her one, and pointing to it, said: "Ah." He gave her another and said: "Yo." And yet a third one "Ka." "These three pieces stand for your name, Ah-yo-ka," he said. The next day Ah-yo-ka picked out of a jumble of other designs, the three that spelled her name.

Her father was delighted, and taught her other words. The six-year-old child learned rapidly, and in a short time had memorized the sounds which each piece of bark denoted. Then Sequoyah thought the time was right to explain to the old men of the tribe what he had been doing. They thought he was crazy, and burned his cabin to the ground.

Discouraged, Sequoyah went west to visit other Cherokee Indians. They were more receptive to his ideas. He explained that white men are not smarter than Indians, but only seem to be because of the "talking leaves" they had. He had worked for twelve years trying to find a method of putting Cherokee words into print, and had finally hit on the idea of making a design for each of the eighty-five sounds in the language. Some of these designs were similar to those in the white man's alphabet; others were entirely original.

He took messages from the Cherokees in the west to their relatives and friends in the east. Chief Agi-li angrily told Sequoyah that the letter he said came from his son was

black magic, and tore it from his hands. Ah-yo-ka, who was with her father, picked up the letter and began to read it, commencing where Sequoyah had left off. She read some things that only Agi-li and his son knew about, and the old chief was finally convinced that "talking leaves" for Indians might be all right.

He consulted with the old men of the tribe, and they reluctantly consented to let Sequoyah teach some of the young men. To spur their interest, Sequoyah told the young men that if a little girl could learn to read and write, certainly they could.

The young men learned rapidly, and were subjected to severe tests until the old men were satisfied. With Sequoyah out of the room, they told the young men what to write. When Sequoyah read what they wrote, the old men were satisfied, and allowed Sequoyah to do as he wished.

Within three months he had taught the entire Cherokee nation to read and write. This was something never before accomplished. The Cherokees became the most literate tribe of Indians in the United States.

In February 1828, the first issue of the "Cherokee Phoenix" was published. It was a four page weekly, printed half in English and half in Cherokee. It was an immediate success. The New Testament was soon translated and printed in Cherokee; also sermons and tracts.

From a lame, "no-account" Indian, Sequoyah became one of the leading men of the Cherokee. He represented the Tribe in Washington, and was influential in intertribal affairs.

When the States were allowed to have a statue of a representative citizen in Statuary Hall in our capitol in Washington, Oklahoma's choice was Sequoyah. His profile is also on one of the big bronze doors of the Annex of the Congressional Library because he was one of the twelve men in all history to work out an alphabet. When the name of an outstanding man was desired for the big trees in California, Sequoyah's name (Sequoia) was given them as the name of one who stood out and above all others.

BUILDING THE WALL

by

A. L. Dockum

"So built we the wall; . . . for the people had a mind to work" (Neh. 4:6).

For many years I have been a strong believer in, and an advocate of, visitation work by all of the church. Although it seems that I have not succeeded in impressing very many, or in stirring them to action, I am convinced more than ever before of the importance of visitation work by the church — both laymen and ministers.

In many areas, it is generally believed that most, if not all, visiting done in the interest of the church and souls should be done by the pastor. A very common statement or alibi by the people of the church is: "I have no special gift or calling." Or, some will flatly tell you that they "just can't visit."

The above text is taken from Nehemiah 4:6. Anyone who will carefully read the Book of Nehemiah will discover that Nehemiah was neither called of God, nor by the king, nor elected by the people. In the estimation of some, he was only a slave. He was a servant — the king's cup-bearer. But when he became aware of conditions and of the great need of his people, **he involved himself**, and did a mighty work.

In fairness to all, and to make it as easy as possible on our good church folk, perhaps we should consider some of the reasons for this sadly-neglected ministry of visitation.

First, we preachers ourselves may have failed to properly evaluate and emphasize the importance of visitation.

Second, the devil does all he can to intimidate the church folk and cause them to have an inferiority complex, which will defeat many who otherwise would have been used of God to win souls and build up the church.

Unless we all — preachers and

laymen — become awakened and alarmed, and rally to the need by involving ourselves in the "building of the wall," our days are numbered!

Please note the following, which is an excerpt from a letter just received from United Church Directories, P. O. Box 507, Millsboro Road, Galion, Ohio:

Dear Pastor:

Why do people choose? Why do people choose the church they attend?

A recent poll indicated that 9 percent chose because of the architectural beauty of the church building. **Some 3 percent chose because the minister came to visit them.** Another 32 percent chose because of the denominational ties, or convenience to their home. **AT LEAST 56 PERCENT** chose because of the **DIRECT or INDIRECT PERSONAL WITNESS or INVITATION of a MEMBER** of the congregation. So it becomes apparent that the responsibility or outreach and evangelism lies primarily with the members of your church.

Perhaps one of the greatest hindrances to visitation work is the fact that most people have allowed themselves to become so involved in the affairs of this life that they have little time or energy left for things of eternal value.

Jesus said: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Luke 18: 25) — but, in spite of this, about 99 percent are after riches — to get all they can!

Again, Jesus said: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." The wise man said: "He that winneth souls is wise" — but to the one who was over-involved and over-concerned about the gain of earthly goods, the Lord said: "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee; . . ."

When the people heard the treaty of Nehemiah, and saw his bold determination, they said, "Let us rise up and build."

Most of our congregations are very badly in need of a lot of building, so far as attendance is concerned. **WILL THEY WITNESS and VISIT?**

It is visit — or dwindle!

LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL

Ernest W. Shurtleff

Lead on, O King Eternal.

We follow, not with fears;

For gladness breaks like morning

Wher-e'er Thy face appears.

Thy cross is lifted o'er us;

We journey in its light.

The crown awaits the conquest;

Lead on, O God of might.

LINGER NOT!

By Horatius Bonar

The time is short!

If thou would'st work for God it must be now;

If thou would'st win the garland for thy brow,

Redeem the time!

Shake off earth's sloth!

Go forth with staff in hand while yet 'tis day,

Set out with girded loins upon the way;

Up! linger not!

Fold not thy hands!

What has the pilgrim of the cross and crown

To do with luxury or couch of down?

On! pilgrim, on!

With His reward

He comes; He tarries not; His day is near;

When men least look for Him will He be here.

Prepare for Him!

Let not the flood

Sweep thy firm feet from the eternal rock;

Face calmly, solemnly, the billows' shock,

Nor fear the storm.

Withstand the foe!

Die daily, that thou mayest forever live,

Be faithful unto death; thy Lord will give

The crown of life.

CHURCH NEWS

Missionary Crusaders Report

by

Rev. Herman Noll

The final youth rally of the year was held Friday night, May 9, at the Weaversville church where Bro. Tom Ramsey and people assembled welcome us with open arms and a warm spirit: what a service we enjoyed! Bro. Ramsey opened the service and the Youth President presided. The song service was immediately blessed as we sang Draw Me Nearer, a precious song indeed. The blessing of the Lord came again and again in these songs. A very fine orchestra numbering 8 persons added greatly to the service. This was one service where every phase of the meeting seemed to be blessed and easy to enter into. The Singing Youngs sang 2 numbers for us. Both were received well and blessed the folks. The 1st song sung was God has Bridged the Gap and a new song for this writer but a wonderful song and we rejoiced as we listened to it. Their 2nd song slips my memory but we appreciate their fine and wonderful contribution to the service. Sister Young also served as the pianist. The Hevelows also sang 2 numbers being "I Want to See the One I Love the Best" and "I Don't Regret A Mile." Both of these songs proved to be a real blessing indeed. The services was punctuated with expressions of joy and praise, Amens, Praise the Lords and Hallelujahs. Chorus numbers and testimony were part of this fine spiritual service. Praise the Lord as the memory still lingers. A trumpet quartet also played. The attendance was fine including several from other churches and of course the Coopersburg and Weaversville churches were both greatly represented showing a bond of fellowship and cooperation. Bro. S. Hicks, youth president from Milesburg church brought the sermon of the evening. Bro. Hicks is one or is the youngest minister in our movement and his messages are from the Lord and inspiring. Here are some of his thoughts: In this cooling off day,

we need young people that are satisfied; It is an honor for a Christian to bear the Cross for Christ; The gain that a man will have if he loses his soul is a world that will burn; What is the thing in our lives that keeps us from God; What ever stands between us and God will seem mighty small at the judgment bar; We need young people with a vision; God needs young people but young people need God more; Young people cannot evade satan's traps without the aide of the Holy Spirit; Some pitfalls and dangers may be side stepped but satan will eventually trip them; Things learned as a youth are now formed into manhood and we must now make our own decisions; Souls like the other things in life have lost their value as they are being sold for nothing, sold for the cheap things of this world; The longer we delay the answer to God's call, the farther out we will go; Satan is a good artist and paints a very pretty picture even around hell; As blessed as it is for the saint to make Heaven so bad it will be for the sinner to miss Heaven.

Bro. Hicks delivered a great message, stirred the hearts of the hearers and was in a true sense a Message for the Youth. So we were able to leave but with a heavy heart as the Spirit of the Lord was dealing in the altar service but no one yielded. This was truly a wonderful service and you who read this have failed tremendously in not attending the service. Thanks again to Weaversville for letting us come and for all who attended, sang and participated. We look to the future for more of these gatherings in His Name. Pray for our project as it is not progressing as fast as we would like and need in order for it to be a success.

EVANGELISTS' SLATE

Rev. and Mrs. William Tillis
(Evangelist, Singers with house trailer)

Box 2, Beavertown, Pa. — 17813
July 10-20, 1969; Frankfort, Ind.

Camp
July 31 - Aug. 10; Woodward, Okla.
Camp

Foreign Missions Report

The Foreign Missionary Board again was on the prowl on behalf of Missions the week of May 5. The 8th found us at the Seven Stars church where we received a hearty and gracious welcome. Both pastor and people made us feel welcome and the spirit of the meeting that prevailed will be something to remember for some time to come, thank the Lord. Bro. Halter opened the service extending greetings and then turned the remaining part of the service over to our Missionary Superintendent, Bro. Wise. After a fine song service and prayer time, Bro. Clarence Beckwith, one of the parishioners shared with us how God marvelously touched one of his grandsons who is in the mountains of South America and had mistakenly ate rat poison but God touched him and he is well. We are rejoiced with the Beckwiths in this report and Praise the Lord for His helping hand when needed. After prayer Bro. Crock gave a varied report of statistics pertaining to spending in Ameica for various items and compared them to what is spent for Missions. My how America is standing in the place of judgment on this very item. He challenged us to do all we can for Missions showing us that the Catholics have gained 290 million compared to 24 million in 54 years. So we as the people of God have our work to do. This writer then gave a report on the Spanish work of the conference. Sister Walk, a Missionary to Haiti was also present and she gave a sparkling testimony to the grace of God and His mighty works with in the hearts of men. We were glad to have her with us. She and Sister Lehman sang for us and all present enjoyed the number presented. Then Bro. Wm. Rachau presented the message of the evening. Here are some of his statements: It is startling to see the dark night of sin settling on America. We are paying the price for spiritual negligence; Compromise is not needed as the same pure glorious unadulterated Gospel is able to redeem; How much grain has been lost because of our negligence; We are only as strong on the Foreign field as we are on the home field; Christians are not made, they are born; Best investment ever made is made

(Continued on Page 10)

REVIVAL

Revival will come—

When the thorn tree of strife is rooted from the heart.

When apologies are made for unkind, nasty words, and grievances are adjusted in a manner pleasing to God.

When the dead atmosphere of indifference, indolence, and lukewarmness is dispelled by a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit.

When there are long vigils of prayer in which the soul is laid bare before God in humiliation and contrition.

When the killing frost of smug complacency is confessed and renounced (Amos 6:1-7; Rev. 3:14-22).

When fasting is practiced for self-discipline, and self is forgotten in service.

When faith takes hold of God's promises and resists every attack and accusation of Satan.

When personal testimony is warm and buttressed by a holy life.

When we attempt great things for God and expect great things from God.

When holy people are willing to face opposition, ridicule, persecution, hate, suffering, and shame for Jesus' sake—rather than compromise their convictions or soften their witness against sin.

THEN the revival will come—in supernatural power.

—Selected

The Healing Power of Forgiveness

Selected

In the mid-twenties a lady of our acquaintance was gathering cucumbers in her garden. She pricked a finger on a tiny little thorn on a cucumber, less than one fourth inch long. It stuck in her finger. A few days later the finger became infected, blood-poisoning developed. Her doctor was unable to check the infection, the finger was amputated but the infection continued to spread. In a desperate effort to save her life, her arm was amputated at the shoulder, but to no avail. From the little thorn had come an infection that took her life.

We cannot expect to get through life without some pricks, cuts,

bumps, and bruises. They usually heal quickly and are soon forgotten. How many times have you pulled a splinter or thorn from your flesh without any ill effects? That is the usual outcome if the person is in normal health. There is within the body an ability to overcome and dispel infection and disease, if a foreign substance that enters the flesh is removed. If it is not removed serious infection may develop.

If something like the case above happens today, at the first signs of infection the doctor would administer penicillin or other more powerful anti-biotics to aid nature to combat and destroy the infection. These modern drugs were unknown at that time. Sixteen years ago, after recovering from a serious case of pneumonia my doctor told my wife that if it had happened a few years earlier, before the discovery of certain anti-biotic that he gave me, they could have done nothing, but stand by and watch me expire. How grateful I am that when my body was so weak, and unable to fight off these germs I had some outside help to restore my health.

Our minds and spirits are often pricked and cut, bruised and bumped. Such wounds are as real as a wound in the flesh. The mind and heart suffers. Many of the little incidents we handle quite successfully. The incident is soon forgotten and no malice or infection of our attitude or spirit remains. This is as it should be.

But what if the wound doesn't heal? What if the spirit becomes inflamed with a fever? What if the wound only heals over on the outside, but deep within the heart the hurt remains? It may become serious and deadly. This calls for prayer and divine love. The Great Physician prescribes, "Forgive." It is not an easy prescription to take but it is effective. When we forgive those who hurt and wound us, the heart is cleansed, the wound is cleansed and heals. Forgiveness does more for the one who forgives, than the one forgiven.

The remedy is provided but you must take it according to instructions. "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you." This prescription is signed—Jesus. It works, if

you practice it as directed. You may say, "I don't feel like loving my enemy," or, "I can't love my enemy." Do the next three things: "bless him, say something good about him; do good to him, find an opportunity to do him a good turn; pray for him, ask God to bless and prosper him. You can do these three things if you will to do them, in spite of wrong feelings. If you do them sincerely, love will win. God will give you love and grace. You will feel differently, and the wound will heal.

We can triumph over all the stabs and wounds, bumps and bruises, sorrows and disappointments of life if we forgive and forget. If we engage in self-pity, and retaliation or harbor a root of bitterness the end will be disastrous.

David prayed, "Blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" (Ps. 51:9, 10). He overcame when he turned to the great Physician for help.

BLESSED ASSURANCE

by George Decker

They say my Lord was not divine,
But walked as all men walk;
Was bound by sin as all men are
And talked as all men talk.

They say He's not the Prince of Peace,
And peace cannot impart.
But He has placed a settled peace
In this poor fainting heart.

They say He could not raise the dead,
And give them life and make them whole.

But, say! He's wrought a work in me,
And put His life within my soul!

They say He could not bring a calm
Upon a stormy sea.

But, friend, He calmed the storm of life

That nearly shipwrecked me.

They say He could not cause the blind
To see the sun's pure ray.

But He has opened my blind eyes,
And changed my night to day.

They say He fed no multitude
On the fishes and the bread.

But there was hunger in my soul,
And that hunger has been fed.

They say He could not cause a rock
To become a living spring.

But He has changed my burning thirst
Relief this world could never bring!

Foreign Missions Report

(Continued from Page 4)

in the souls of men; We are living in a crucial time and are divided; As wicked as this old world is they still sit up and take notice to a new convert; We need the help of the Lord to see and see clearly. This was a good message presented by our Brother. We thank the Seven Stars church for allowing us to come and for the fine reception as stated above and also for the wonderful offering putting our larger churches to shame. My challenge at this time is to our larger churches to get behind the projects and to carry the load as much as lieth with in us. We left encouraged and looking for the time when we can again return to this people and worship together. So Seven Stars, thanks again for a fine evening.

Saturday evening found the Superintendent and this writer traveling to our church at Carroll for another service. Again we were able to dwell together in Heavenly places for the entire service time. The Lord came in the song service and lingered throughout the service's entirety. Bro. Sassaman extended greetings and turned the service over to Bro. Wise. This writer then reported, encouraging the folks to continue again in their support for our Mission. Several reports were given pertaining to various ones being saved and tried to show how that the cause is worth the effect in maintaining our station there among the Spanish people. We at this point thank the Shueys for their encouraging reports of victory and that the work is going on. We should always remember them as they labor there for the Lord, and believe us who have been there, they really do labor. At this point in the service Bro. Wise preached to us and what a marvelous message indeed as only Bro. Wise can. Here are some of his thoughts and comments: As we advance educationally, we must advance spiritually; It is our responsibility to be effective; The Captain of our salvation knows no boundary nor length; Yes, we have services but, God's presence never lingers as it used to; Our sleep and appetites are not taken as in the old days; The neighbors do not know we ever have service.

Bro. Wise challenged us to be

closer and in the spirit; all present enjoyed this meeting. Bro. Wise being our oldest conference member, recalled some of the earlier days of Carroll recalling how the crowds would come and God would visit, telling us the same is possible today. Bro. Sassaman again took the service commenting that the answer to today's calamity is that men have changed. Our thanks to Carroll and again for fine and wonderful fellowship but also for another very fine offering given to the Mission cause. Our hearts do magnify the Lord and thank Him for these smaller churches who have caught and maintained the vision over the years and even now. Thanks again.

— Reporter

Holiness Teachings

(Continued from Page 3)

But we must not make a mistake by supposing that this pledge covers foolish requests and selfish ends. The reference is to those good things which come within the range and purposes of redeeming grace. God cannot answer an unwise, absurd, or wicked prayer. And we must not forget that our asking is limited to those things which are not inconsistent with abiding in Christ and perfect obedience to His words.

The moment we take ourselves out of Christ, or disregard His words, we are shorn of our strength and the promise becomes a dead letter to us. But being in Christ, and impregnated with His Word, it comes to pass that a believer is supreme in the kingdom of privilege. His will is law, his prayer irresistible. He is not omnipotent, but he is the next thing to it. He is one with Christ, who has "all power in heaven and earth." For Christ, therefore, to deny anyone who meets these terms, is to deny himself, because he has been pleased to enter into an alliance offensive and defensive with those who dwell in Him, and govern themselves according to His words.

The passage, however, that connects this truth with personal holiness is this: "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you". Here is a clear recognition of the sanctifying office of the Gospel. The same idea is ad-

vanced in the seventeenth chapter of John's gospel: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." It is not, therefore, a chosen national sacredness, or ceremonial cleansing, or official sanctity, but individual sanctification. It is being made clean from sin — a holy spoken Gospel producing a holy people, and that, too, at the present time: "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." Thank God! "Now is the day of salvation."

(Possibilities of Grace by Rev. A. Lowrey).

SIGHTING THE GATES

Anna Howe Langley

Sighting the gates of the Beautiful City,
Soon to cast anchor on Heaven's bright shore,
Soon will the perilous journey be ended,
Safe from the voyage, I'll rest evermore.

Often did storm-clouds o'er cast my horizon,
Often the billows tossed wildly and high,
But o'er the dim and the roar of the waters
Came the assurance — "Fear not, it is I."

Never a cloud but His face shone above it,
Never a grief that His heart did not feel,
Bidding me look to the skies, and assuring,
"Earth hath no sorrow that Heaven can't heal."

Testings and trials increased my affections,
Deepened my love for the Savior Who died,
Tenderly taught me to lean on His promise,
Keeping me close to His dear, wounded side.

Deeper and sweeter and richer and fuller
Ever my peace like a river doth flow;
Wells of salvation in joyfulness springing
While Jesus keeps me "washed whiter than snow."

Onward I journey, my faith mounting higher,
Finding in Jesus my needs all supplied;
Safe in the cleft of the Rock that was riven,
Hiding my life in the Blest Crucified.

IS YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL WORSHIPFUL

Sel.

Not long ago when a six-year-old was asked what she did in Sunday school she replied glibly: "We color, and after a while we color some more." Investigation proved that the child was not far from right. The coloring was not part of a planned and instructive program, but rather a form of amusement to keep her quiet throughout the hour. Yet the Sunday school to which she belonged prided itself upon being an up-and-coming organization. Vim and vigor marked its singing; its program for increasing attendance was excellent; its friendliness and spirit of cooperation were outstanding. All these are fine in any Sunday school. Animation in worship can be a powerfully stimulating and joyous thing. But these alone are not enough.

One thing needs to be remembered. It is an easy thing to let aliveness and zest in a Sunday school degenerate into noise and confusion. When that happens, reverence for that which is holy and worshipful goes out the door. Never can a Sunday school forsake a high plane of worship without doing itself irreparable harm. How, then, can a school maintain its zest, its zeal, and at the same time offer experiences that are deeply worshipful?

In the first place, there must be a consecrated effort on the part of those in charge to hew a straight line toward making the Sunday school what it was primarily intended to be — a church school. The Sunday school does not exist for itself alone. Originally, it was an offshoot of the church in general, and now is the feeder of that institution. By the very nature of its origin and purpose, it needs to be worshipful.

A rich and reverent Sunday school program is not a haphazard thing. To be wholly adequate, it needs to be worked out by those men and women who are mentally and spiritually equipped to perform the task. Godly minded officers and teachers are also essential to the

carrying out of the program, once it has been formulated. One thing is certain; no school is stronger than its leaders. Since this is true, thought and care must be exercised in choosing those leaders. Consecrated, willing workers are always needed. In every Sunday school there are potential leaders and teachers who would serve gladly if only they felt capable of doing so. To such individuals the Sunday school needs to extend teacher training courses. Such courses are not too difficult nor time-consuming; neither are they prohibitive in cost. Yet they make a world of difference in final results. Many a teacher, struggling along with a class, would welcome the opportunity to better her teaching methods and her understanding of children. Such knowledge gives one confidence and courage for the task at hand. It goes without saying, too, that the Sunday school should furnish adequate lesson helps — books, maps, inspirational magazines that instruct and encourage. Other workers have need of the tools of their trade. The needs of the Sunday school worker are just as real.

A worshipful program within the Sunday school will include singing — much of it! There must be songs that praise God and exalt Him; there must be songs that recognize blessings; there must be songs that voice thanksgiving. There must also be some effort made so that the children understand that which they sing. If this is done, songs like, *This is My Father's House*, will take on new meaning, with holiness and reverence as the basis.

A Sunday school program that is worshipful will see to it that there is time and opportunity for instruction in prayer. Little children can and should be taught to pray simply and reverently in their own words. They need to learn that prayer is not all asking, but that praise and gratitude are also present in the prayers of a Christian. If this type of instruction were given in Sunday school, we would have fewer tongue-tied Christians today. Talking with God can become a simple and natural thing. It is a beautiful and touching experience to see and hear a child thank God humbly for His many blessings.

A worshipful Sunday school will

put great stress on the lessons that are a part of its instructional program. Those lessons will be based on scripture and they will be faithfully taught. All too often, especially in youth groups, the lesson is barely touched upon and then discarded while the lesson hour becomes a dumping ground for hodgepodge ideas concerning current events, modern trends, sports, and the like, which have no direct bearing upon the lesson. Young people need to get acquainted with the Bible as the Word of God. They need to learn how all-embracing it is in its scope, how ever-new and helpful it can be even in modern living. They need to learn to appreciate it as a great Book, rich in promises and sustaining power.

Smaller children, too, should have their lessons founded in God's Word. There are many activities for the younger groups that can be fascinating, informative, and scriptural. In a midwestern Sunday school one such group followed through a series of lessons based on old Palestine. The sand tables furnished the background, with mountains and cities and dusty roads. Homes, like those of Bible times, were fashioned of cardboard, as were the temples, the wells, and the vineyards. Such knowledge is basic, important, valuable, and a far cry from the type of aimless program under which children "color and color some more."

Does it take real effort to have a Sunday school that is worshipful? It does, indeed. It takes all the heads and hands and hearts of earnest and consecrated officers and teachers alike to put such a program into effect. Once it is under way, there is bound to be, in time, a steady growth toward deepened spiritual strength. Worshipful singing, emphasis on prayer and thanksgiving, constant attention to lessons that focus Christian living will pay off in a school that is deeply reverent and devoutly worshipful.

Is your Sunday school worshipful?

Those who are too lazy to read the Scriptures will be too tired to travel the highway of holiness.

If an admission were charged to enter heaven: many money-lovers would refuse to enter.

PENNS CREEK CAMP

Rt. 104 — Midway between Middleburg and Mifflinburg, Pa.

July 24 - Aug. 3, 1969



Evangelist

Rev. L. W. Barbee

SOUL-STIRRING MESSAGES

ANOINTED SINGING

GOOD MEALS

Any person who is saved and conforms to our standards is welcome to bring his musical instrument with him and play in the camp orchestra.

Rev. Herman Noll, Choir and Orchestra director.

Evangelist

REV.

D. P. DENTON



Singers and Musicians
Fred and Viola Wagner

ORDER OF SERVICE

- 7:00 a.m. — Rising bell
7:30 a.m. — Breakfast
8:30 a.m. — Prayer Meeting
10:00 a.m. — Preaching
12:00 Noon — Dinner
2:30 p.m. — Bible Study
5:30 p.m. — Supper
6:30 p.m. — Children and Young People's service
7:30 p.m. — Preaching Service
(This schedule subject to change)

BOARD AND LODGING

- (Rates based on two persons to a room)
Lodging for entire camp \$ 6.00
Rental of tent for camp 3.00
Large room: 2 beds (4 persons) .. 10.00
For use of hot plate (flat rate) .. 1.00
For use of Current (trailer) 1.50

(Each camper must bring bedding)

Ministers and their families entertained at half rates. Children 6 to 12 years, half price. Dining hall will be operated on a free-will offering basis.

The camp has a pure water system that is tested and approved by the health department. A large cafeteria and dormitory are ready to serve campers. A large auditorium.

For further information write the secretary:

Rev. Earl Deetz, Jr.
768 Bear Valley Ave.,
Shamokin, Pa.

MAILING ADDRESS

Penns Creek Camp, Penns Creek, Pa.

Home Missionary Day

July 26

Foreign Missionary Day

Aug. 2

Penn View Bible Institute

Aug. 3 — 2:30 p.m.