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The

Elim Evangel

**VOICE OF THE ELIM CHURCHES IN THE BRITISH ISLES
FUNDAMENTAL - PENTECOSTAL - EVANGELICAL**

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**THE LADY MAYORESS VISITS BRISTOL JUNIOR CRUSADERS
(see page 811)**

editorial . . .

A REWARDING VOCATION

SATISFACTION in one's daily task is one of the most important things in life. While drudgery and routine may not be altogether avoidable even in this modern age, there is particular joy in feeling a sense of vocation in life, that in some way one is helping to benefit the community, and in so doing serving God. "Whatsoever ye do," says Paul, "do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men . . . not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God."

The idea, so prevalent today, that work is merely an unavoidable evil, necessary to enable us to qualify for the wage packet at the end of the week, finds no support in the Scriptures. Labouring with His hands as a carpenter, Jesus brought a new sanctity to toil. We can be sure that the products of that lowly workshop were the best that His skilful hands could make. While the community has rightly shown its disapproval of those who refuse to work simply on the grounds that they can receive as much from unemployment benefits and national assistance as from an honest week's work, this is only the logical outcome of the philosophy that the aim is to get as much as possible for the least amount of work.

Some of our younger readers may be thinking of their future careers. A recent feature in the *ELIM EVANGEL* turned the spotlight on the nursing profession, showing how some have found a real sense of vocation in this noble service to the sick and suffering. Many have gone from our churches into the ranks of nursing, some in preparation for mis-

sionary service, but others because they feel that in this way they can serve the Lord as they minister comfort and healing.

An article in this issue of our magazine reveals another equally important avenue of service for those who are scholastically equipped for this purpose, or can strive towards this end—that is the teaching profession. The influence of the Sunday school is, sad to say, on the decline. Though our Elim Sunday schools, to their credit, have not suffered in the same proportion as others, nationally the figures for Sunday school attendance today show real cause for concern. With a growing apathy in the majority of homes towards the things of God, there is left only the day school to remedy this lack of religious training. However, as Pastor Quest's article shows, so much depends on the personal interpretation and application of the scripture lesson by the teacher. Head teachers are often at a loss to find a teacher who is willing and able to teach such a subject, and consequently there is a great opportunity for the truly Christian teacher who is suitably trained. It may well be that such a teacher can wield a far greater influence on a larger number of children than any minister, Sunday school teacher or youth worker.

There is at the present moment an urgent need of teachers to fill the new schools that are rapidly being built, as education authorities seek to reduce the number of children in the present overcrowded classes and to prepare eventually for a further increase in the school-leaving age.

Young reader, will you not prayerfully consider this challenge, and seek to know what God would have *you* to do? Let us have more Elim teachers in our schools. Here indeed is a rewarding vocation.

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THE ELIM EVANGEL

Official Organ of the Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance

Executive Council: J. Woodhead (President), J. T. Bradley, P. S. Brewster, H. Burton-Haynes, S. Gorman, H. W. Greenway, W. G. Hathaway, J. C. Kennedy, J. J. Morgan, E. J. Phillips.

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If we hate the Communistic menace which threatens our peace and security there is one thing we must admire, Communists have a vision and a policy which keep them pressing forward all the time in every possible direction, and with such enthusiasm that they can report amazing advances ! If the Pentecostal people of this country were as keen for God as these poor blinded souls are for their politics, there would soon be a mighty stir in our beloved land ! If every Elim minister and every Elim member did as much to spread the blessed Foursquare Gospel as these agents do to spread their views, we would very soon have a revival in our churches, God the Holy Spirit would so bless the energy and effort we would spend on the work that phenomenal progress would be evidenced on every hand. Communism only got going at the beginning of this century. Most of our Pentecostal movements commenced then too. How many multiplied millions of souls are to be found in their ranks

managed to get their friend to sign and become a member of the Communist Party, it was very deeply impressed, that they must at once get going and spread this Communism into the ears of one more, who in turn must do the same thing. Those who failed were exposed to the embarrassment of missing the great compliments that the successful members received at the group meetings.

We in Elim believe that Bible Christianity in all its fulness is what this world is needing. An atheist once asked a Christian: "If you really believe what you are telling me, why are you not utterly engrossed in spreading it wherever you go?" He then added: "If I believed what you say you believe, I would work day and night at every opportunity to tell the people, and continue to do so until I dropped from sheer exhaustion." If atheists and Communists take things so seriously, can you tell me why we have so many lukewarm and half-hearted Christians? I believe all such disciples are

COMMUNISM ADVOCATES THE CELL SYSTEM

(So does the Elim Evangelistic Committee, for its extension programme of 1961)

By Alexander Tee, F.R.G.S. (Elim pioneer evangelist)

today in comparison with those who are members of Pentecostal churches throughout the world.

A former Communist Party leader who is now a

RED-HOT SOUL-WINNER

explained to me how all the members in his group were told point-blank that they just had to find those whom they could so fill with doctrine that they would come right in and join their local group. They were given a set time to do this and every member who failed had to give an account of himself. How could they believe that Communism was what the world needed and yet not even find one convert to accept their views? Just as soon as the party leader found that one of his group was influencing a prospective convert he would work with the member who was doing the job and put on all the pressure he knew to win that person right over to Communism. These leaders were themselves so engrossed in this system that it became their meat and drink. They were bent on one thing and one thing only, this cell system.

Now here is the point: just as soon as they had

stumbling-blocks to starving souls. Ever since I was a teenager I have believed in being enthusiastic for God.

GOD DESERVES PRACTICAL SERVICE

with definite results. No excuses will stand for long on the day when Christ sits on His judgment seat.

With this in mind our committee is going all out to see Elim make a huge success of its extension project during 1961. Now there is one vital thing in opening up branches and extensions, etc. We must have strong "mother" churches before we can have "baby" branches. This demands that every Elim member and friend catch the vision of this cell system. If every member would go all out to find just one more member for our ranks, even though it took a whole year to do it, our movement would really be on the move! Let me impress this first and most vital step in the cell system. You are a living cell in the Elim movement. You are being asked by the Evangelistic Committee to accept this coming year as a great challenge to your Christianity. Do you really believe that if you set yourself to

much prayer and thought you could within the twelve months win *one* soul to the Lord Jesus Christ? I am convinced that at least ninety-five per cent of the people reading this article could do this. Alas, I am also almost convinced that many will have forgotten they have even read this article long before the twelve months are over. How sad! This comes to you as a most sincere appeal from the leaders of Elim for each and every member to cry out to God, and to go absolutely all out and find one convert who will become an Elim church member and yet another "cell" in this Pentecostal movement. The Communist Party leader would make much of every convert winner. How much more should we join with the angels in heaven when a soul returns to Christ. Dear reader, may I ask you for an honest answer? When did *you* last win a soul for Christ? When did you last see a man or a woman join your Elim church who came to know the Lord as a result of your efforts? This is a burning question and I pray God will burn it into every reader's soul until it grips us and drives us into soul-winning activity for the Master. Again I emphasise that the all-important step in this

MOST SUCCESSFUL CELL SYSTEM

is the first one: each cell producing another. You see, new converts have their first love and thus the second is not so hard; it is this first step that we feel needs to be impressed. The whole project is doomed to fail if we do not do more than talk and write about this matter. The extension project depends on you. Please will you close your eyes as soon as you have finished reading these lines and make your covenant with God that you will go all out to win one person to Christ and into the ranks of Elim during 1961?

Remembrance

Blessed table of remembrance,
Where one can draw aside
From earthly toils and cares, then
Let every thought just glide

Back to the hill of Cal'ry,
Where Jesus bled and died
For me, a guilty rebel,
And there was crucified.

Such love, yes, beyond measure,
To pay for my sin's debt,
'Tis when rememb'ring Him I
My earthly griefs forget.

WOMEN'S COLUMN

By Gladys Gorton

NAGGING

MY head whirled; it was as if it had been hammered a thousand times. The reason—a woman, nagging! I don't know how it happened, but she "flew off the handle" and nagged and nagged! One thing led to another and she kept it up for hours. You wouldn't believe it, but she was no different the next day—she still nagged. Said her husband to me: "I've had this for thirty years." (These two were not Christians.) Poor man. What is worse than a nagging woman? A nagging man!

Solomon in his proverbs gives favourable comments concerning women, but he obviously had experience with a nagging woman! "It is better to dwell in the wilderness than with a contentious . . . woman." "A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike" (Proverbs 21: 19; 27: 15).

The other afternoon we were having tea with some acquaintances. We talked on the matter of trusting God when there seems no answer to our prayers and when things are hard. Handing me my second cup of tea, one said: "The Devil's a nagger. He'll try to keep at it too!" How right she was. The Devil, in the form of a glamorous serpent, before it was cursed by God after the fall, enticed Eve. "Hath God said?" Of course God had said, but that nagging was Eve's downfall. Since then, in every age and generation, the daughters of Eve have listened to the nagging voice of the Devil in multi-form subtle and crafty ways: nagging doubts, nagging fears, nagging worries. Oh yes, he's a great nagger, so watch out! The Communist powers practise a form of nagging called brain-washing. The Chinese and Africans are constantly being brain-washed by Communist propaganda which is of and from the Devil.

As nagging is Satan's sin, so it is his punishment. He has a murmuring or nagging spirit; nothing pleases him; he is perpetually muttering and murmuring at persons or things. And it is his strong purpose and sole delight to bring you and me into this awful bondage. Are you afraid of the Devil or is he afraid of you?

If you heed the Word of God and rest in Christ he cannot touch or harm you. The nagging will change to singing, doubt to trust, fear to faith and worry to wealth of provision. God's Word: "He *hath* said" (Hebrews 13:5; John 14:1). Grasp these promises and have an all-conquering weapon in your hand. Doubt, fear and anxiety will all be slain by this two-edged sword. Allow God's Word to be your daily resort, let it abide richly within you, for it supplies strength for the conflict, gives joy in repose and creates comfort in trouble.

Jesus calls: "Come unto Me . . . and I will rest you." Come; that is all, with all the tormenting thoughts and doubts; with all your need. Lie still, as a little child in its mother's arms, and let Him lay His cooling, soothing, healing hand upon your soul, expeditiously drawing from it all the ache, the hurry and the fever. Forget that you are a person with big responsibilities, an important worker, or whatever you are, and come as a little child seeking comfort and love from its parent. Learn to follow Jesus and not run ahead, and cease to live for self and in self. Live in Him and for Him. The Devil cannot change such a child of God into a nagger!

THIS CHANGING WORLD

Clippings and Comments by W. G. Hathaway

Italian Pentecostals now fully recognised

The Italian government has given Pentecostals official recognition in the nation, listing the group as "Assemblies of God in Italy."

Leaders of the church had sought recognition and authorisation to own real estate since the end of World War II. They expressed deep satisfaction with the achievements.

Some 500 Pentecostal groups or communities make up Italy's newest official religious body. Baptised members number nearly 60,000. Relatives and sympathisers are said to bring the denomination's total number of adherents to around 100,000.

Excellent! It pays to press your claims and persist until you gain your objective for God.

* * *

Shorter crusades for Billy Graham

Evangelist Billy Graham said in Washington, D.C., that his crusades will be shorter in the future, lasting probably seven to eleven days. On the eve of his journey to Africa for a three-month series of engagements, Graham told reporters in New York that the health factor played a large part in his decision to shorten crusades.

Said the forty-one-year-old evangelist: "The longer crusades were taking too much out of me physically. Something went out of me in London and New York that will never be replaced."

Far better to reserve his physical strength over a longer period than to risk an early breakdown and so shorten his useful life for God. We should pray that he may be sustained.

* * *

Biblical zoo in Israel

Israel's twenty-year-old biblical zoo in Jerusalem, consisting of animals, birds and reptiles which are mentioned in the Bible, will soon expand its menagerie to include representative specimens of all countries and regions of the world,

with sections of the zoo devoted to each region.

The unique zoo, founded in 1940, is in itself an interesting study of the Bible period.

Appropriate messages on the cages of animals, birds and reptiles contain passages of Scripture and other comments relating to the wild life. On the grounds "biblical" trees and shrubs form the landscape of the zoo.

* * *

Lightning strikes crucifix

During a religious ceremony on top of the Costarossa Mountain in northern Italy, two Roman Catholic priests, a student and a ten-year-old child were killed and twenty persons injured when lightning struck a huge crucifix.

The tragedy occurred after thousands of pilgrims had climbed the 8,000-foot peak to assist at a mass to mark the inauguration of the crucifix. The forty-foot cross was erected to replace one which had been destroyed by vandals.

After the mass heavy rain began to fall and some of the worshippers took shelter near the crucifix, which minutes later was struck by lightning following a series of thunder-claps and blinding flashes.

Stretcher-bearers who carried the dead victims down the mountain slopes reported that their bodies were still smouldering when they reached the scene, and parts of the crucifix had been melted away.

David the psalmist tells how God strikes terror into ungodly men by His thunders and lightnings. God is not pleased with crucifixes or images, as can plainly be seen by this incident.

* * *

Another archæological discovery

An Israeli government inspector of antiquities has found an ancient Hebrew letter dating from the second half of the seventh century B.C. It is allegedly the oldest one ever found, and was turned up at a seaside fort near Yavneh in southern Israel.

Dr. Yosef Naveh, who made the discovery, said the letter was written on a piece of pottery by a peasant to a royal governor at the time of Jeremiah.

This letter is believed to be nearly fifty years older than the famed Lachish letters unearthed in 1935. (Lachish was Judah's chief fortress city, mentioned more than twelve times in the Old Testament.)

The recently discovered letter opens as follows: "May my Lord, the Prince, hear the word of his servant." The writer then complains that while he was harvesting near the fort his cloak was taken away. "All my brethren will witness in my behalf that I am innocent," the writer says. The words bring to mind an Exodus passage on the judgments of the law which says: "If thou at all take thy neighbour's raiment to pledge, thou shalt deliver it unto him by that the sun goeth down . . ." (Exodus 22:26).

Dr. Naveh said three other Hebrew inscriptions also were found at the fort, one of which clearly points to religious reforms during the reign of King Josiah (640-609 B.C.).

Excavations are to be continued at the site, which is located in an area near Kibbutz Palmakhim, a settlement close to Israel's atomic reactor.

Another proof of the reliability of past events as recorded in the Scriptures. The critics surely have not a leg to stand on by now.

* * *

Nicholas Bhengu in South Africa

The American magazine *Time* took two-thirds of a page to tell about the remarkable work of Nicholas Bhengu, of South Africa. The article goes on to speak of him as the "black Billy Graham," and says that his ministry is having such an impact in that nation as to be causing the conversion of many criminals. In one service, three vans of weapons and stolen goods were turned in to be hauled off to the police. In some areas where this evangelist has been the crime rate has dropped a third! Under his ministry in South Africa, the greatest revival since the days of John G. Lake is taking place. Nicholas Bhengu has built his work largely on a healing ministry which goes with the Gospel.

The ministry of Nicholas Bhengu is a tremendous power for God in South Africa. In one case local authorities were so impressed by the results of his campaign that they gave, without payment, a plot of land for the building of a church to house the converts.

THE RESULT OF TITHING

God is faithful to His Word

TITHING is an avenue through which God has promised to bless all who practise it according to Bible lines.

The following facts should induce all Christians to practise tithing.

GOD'S WORD COMMANDS YOU TO DO SO

We notice, in the following passages, that great blessings await all those who obey the Lord in this respect. In Deuteronomy 14:22 we read: "Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year." Proverbs 3:9, 10: "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase; so shall thy barns be filled with plenty."

Malachi 3:10: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

In 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 we read: "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully . . . not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

What better inducement do we want than this? The Lord surely sets His seal of approval upon all those who give liberally to His cause. In God's plan giving is a grace. If God's people will enter into that grace a twofold blessing will follow, the character will be strengthened and God's cause will also reap the benefits. God asks nothing of man except it be for His glory and man's edification. The Lord is certainly glorified through our paying tithes.

TITHING WAS GIVEN UNDER GRACE AND NOT UNDER LAW

It belongs to the Abrahamic covenant and was instituted hundreds of years before the law was given on Mount Sinai. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek and Jacob also paid tithes. God, in giving the law to Moses, did not mention it as something new, but referred to it as already existing, for He said: "The tithe is the Lord's"—not shall be, but is.

Jesus Himself commended tithing. We read in Matthew 23:23: "Ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." If it was a good thing under law it is still better under grace. To love God with all the heart, mind and strength was given under the law; but Christ reaffirms it in Matthew 22:37.

Many truths in the Old Testament are endorsed in the New Testament, and tithing is one of them. We find grace in the Old Testament and we find it also in the New Testament. Praise the Lord for it.

THE TESTIMONY OF HISTORY

The sacred historian Grotius says: "From the most ancient ages a tenth has been regarded as the portion due to God, and the evidences of this fact can be found in the religious beliefs of the ancient nations. The Arabians by law required every merchant to give one-tenth of his frankincense to the priests for their gods. The Phœnicians, following the example of Abraham, gave a tenth of the spoils of war to holy uses. The Carthaginians, the Ethiopians and Egyptians paid their tithes to their respective gods." If the heathen strictly adhered to paying tithes to their gods, how much more should Christians, who know the true God, be not only willing but anxious to comply with His demand.

The Church fathers Irenæus and Cyprian taught their followers to pay tithes to the Lord. The reformers Augustine, John Knox and Calvin practised paying tithes.

The Christians of today who pay tithes also add their testimony in favour of it and are greatly blessed in so doing.

Several years ago a certain Presbyterian church called a pastor. They were to pay him £210 salary a year, but said to him: "We are not able to raise the money and will ask the home mission board to add £65." He said: "Brethren, that is not right. If you will pay your tithes you will not need that £65 from the missionary board. I will make you a fair proposition: how many of you will join me in paying tithes for three months?" Twenty-one agreed to do so. At the end of three months they brought in their

tithes and it amounted to about £420. That year they supported two missionaries. A revival began, the church was crowded to its utmost capacity and a large number of people were converted. When the other members saw how the Lord was blessing the twenty-one who were paying their tithes, they all began to do the same. The Lord truly opened the windows of heaven and poured out blessings upon that church and great things were done through it.

A brother testified that he was in debt and no money was coming in. He was distracted, but on reading Malachi 3:10 was convicted and began to pay tithes. Before long he was out of debt and the Lord wonderfully blessed him, and today he is giving thousands towards the support of the Gospel. Remember that nine-tenths with God's blessing resting upon them will go farther than ten-tenths without God's blessing.

TO WHOM SHOULD THE TITHE BE PAID ?

The tithes should not be given for secular work, such as repairs and church buildings, but should be given towards the support of men and women who give all their time to the Lord's cause. "The tithe is holy unto the Lord." The Jews paid their tithes to the priests and when they wanted to make any repairs on the temple they took up a special offering.

Some people often give as an excuse for not paying their tithes that they are in debt. My answer is that the best way to get out of debt is to pay God what you owe Him.

Dear Christian readers, the cause of Christ is suffering because many of God's people fail Him in this respect. Missionaries are not receiving proper financial support, the heathen are denied the Gospel because there are not sufficient funds to send them missionaries. God is demanding that all His people should freely give to His cause; let us all obey Him as loyal sons and daughters.

If all Christians paid their tithes there would be plenty of funds to carry on the Lord's work in every department. Let pastors preach and practise it and let all God's people bring their tithes and offerings to the Lord, and thus have a part in the great work of evangelising the world.

As *you* do this, the Lord will do as He says He would in Malachi 3:10, How can the Christian withhold from giving his tenth when God commands him to give, promising to bless those who obey Him? How can He be deaf to the pitiful cry of the heathen: "Come over and help us"? To this end let us meet God's challenge found in Malachi 3:10. There are six facts mentioned here.

1. We are commanded to bring the tithes into the storehouse; that is the church or the minister of Christ who ministers to you.

2. Why? "That there may be meat in Mine house." It is evident that God does not want the church treasury empty. He wants His people to keep it full to carry on His work. Dear Christian, will you do your part?

3. The test of God's Word: "Prove Me now." Hundreds of thousands have taken God at His word in this respect and have always found that He did what He promised. If you have not tried Him on the money question, begin now.

4. The promise. "To open the windows." This suggests the multiplicity of blessings that God will cause to come upon those who obey Him.

5. The result. "Pour you out such a blessing." God here does the pouring, and He never stops until the vessel is full even to running over.

6. Capacity too small. "Not room to receive it." This means that the blessings will be so great and numerous that the soul will not be able to retain them, but will have to share with others.

Tithing is a practical acknowledgment of the claims of God upon us, and God expects us to meet these claims. If we do, God's blessing is ours. Remember, "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth: there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty" (Proverbs 11:24).

The Standard Bearer.

A TESTIMONY TO THE BLESSING OF TITHING

In 1934 my sister and I retired. She bought a cash-box, saying "This is to be our tithe-box." Week by week one-tenth of our old age pensions went into the box. I had to let two rooms, and this was a means of adding a little. It was strictly the Lord's money and was never touched for secular claims, however good.

On the first of every month sister would send the money where it was needed. Christmas brought unexpected gifts of foodstuffs. Sister always reckoned up the probable cost and paid tithes on it. Some letters contained notes; she promptly handed over my nine or eighteen shillings. As time went on, and tenants left, our parcels increased. Sometimes when opening them she would say: "There won't be room enough to receive it."

For more than sixty years she put God first in all things and lived as one who must one day give an account. Often we had to bear the criticisms of friends; some said we were legal-minded, others pointed out that tithing belonged to another dispensation.

We believe our God to be the God of *all* dispensations; and it works. My beloved sister went home last year, but the box remains. I commend the plan to all fellow Christians, and may the joy of the Lord be their strength as they journey onward and upward.

S. COLLETT.

YOUR CHILD AND RELIGION

By Leon C. Quest (Minister of Elim Church, Rotherham)

WHAT does it all mean? The Act of 1944 entitles every child in the country to receive a Christian training, and even if practice lags behind theory the legal rights remain. This religious training is so important that no school can shelve the responsibility of giving it. Daily worship and the teaching of religion are compulsory in all schools maintained or aided by the State, yet every teacher and every child, if his parents wish, is free to take no part in it.

May I make a confession here? Prior to the bill being accepted as an Act of Parliament in 1944, I, along with other members of the then Elim Sunday School Committee, under the fine leadership of Rev. D. B. Gray, organised a protest against the passing of this act. Thousands of signatures were submitted to our various members of Parliament; nevertheless the bill was accepted unanimously. Since that time I have been personally interested in religious education in our schools, and must now confess I feel it is a good thing and could be used to the benefit of the child and the glory of God if rightly understood and put into action. We came in against the bill not knowing two essential facts: (1) the Cowper-Temple clause of 1870 meant that all doctrine must be excluded from scripture teaching, so that all religious instruction was, therefore, empty and of little value; (2) the Act of 1944 was created by a long process, not only of drafting, but also of friendly conferences with churches, teachers, local education authorities and political parties, and it became an Act after much critical and constructive debate.

In view of the fact that seven out of ten of the boys and girls in this country are educated at secondary modern schools, most of them leaving school at the age of fifteen to plunge into the adult world of work and play, where men require much pay, little work, and the latest car and television set, we as ministers, church workers, Sunday school teachers and parents must interest ourselves in this compulsory training of our children.

SIXTEEN YEARS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN OUR SCHOOLS—AND WHAT?

The daily assembly and worship, two or three lessons a week for sixteen years—and what? It is time we did some searching into this manner of education. I suggest these questions should be sincerely asked: Do the children know more about the Holy Scriptures? Do they know more about the Christian faith and doctrine? Have they accepted the Bible as the inspired Word of God? Have morals improved? What real and lasting good is practised and enjoyed by the youth of our day? I do not intend to present a “shop window dressing” of facts and statistics regarding the immoral state of the youth who have sat for the last sixteen years under the religious instruction of certain agreed syllabuses in our schools, but let us admit that we are faced with a “couldn’t care less” attitude. Old values have gone and nothing new has taken their place, except things of no spiritual value. Is there enough professional skill in our schools? Or is there too much professional skill and not enough faith and knowledge? This is a matter for further investigation and sincere inquiry.

WHAT IS THE OBJECT OF RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION?

As one travels and inquires into this subject, one is brought face to face with its many titles. In some parts of the country it is called religious training (R.T.), in other parts it is called religious education (R.E.) or religious knowledge (R.K.), but fundamentally it is a Christian education.

Firstly, it touches upon the subject of *the approach to the Bible*. A study of the Bible as a book to be examined and analysed plays a very important part in many syllabuses. Both Old and New Testaments are examined from various angles, such as: What is the Bible? How was it written? How did we get it? Why is it important?

The subject of *Church history* is outlined and in

S EDUCATION

some cases enlarged upon, from the first pioneers of the Christian faith to the stories of ancient and modern missionaries.

Such a subject as *Christian denominations* is also dealt with, thus creating questionings and doubt in the mind of the child—questions like: Why have Christians many different churches? If Christians believe in Jesus Christ, why do they not all worship Him together in the same way? What do Roman Catholics believe? Why are Anglican churches “high” or “low”? What is the difference between the Methodist and the Baptist? All this brings us to the greater question: How are all these questions answered, and by whom? Does private interpretation come even unconsciously into the answers, professionally or otherwise?

This leads me to another subject, that of *Christian doctrine*. This subject must come into the syllabus of religious education. It is impossible to teach the New Testament without some reference to Christian doctrine. In fact it is impossible to teach the Bible without teaching “doctrine” all the time. Christian belief must come into the teaching in the secondary modern schools. In many cases the agreed syllabus makes room for this. Here is an example taken from the Hertfordshire syllabus (p. 144). Problems discussed are: the existence of God; the creation story; evil and pain; the truth of the Bible; the miracles; the future life. Christian doctrine must arise from these subjects. Who then are the teachers of such doctrines and what are their interpretations? The Cambridgeshire syllabus deals with the foundations of personal religion, under three sub-headings: (1) personal faith in God; (2) personal faith in Christ; (3) the result of personal conduct. Stress is laid on the fact of Christ’s faith in God, and what such faith means for the Christian today.

I could go on quoting from quite a number of agreed syllabuses on the subject of Christian faith and doctrine, but where does all this lead us? To *Christian ethics*: what believing means; belief in God; belief in Jesus Christ; belief in the Holy

Spirit; belief in eternal life; belief in the Christian Church. Here is the argument: all this religious training should lead to better Christian standards and a better way of life, but the ugly picture of modern youth tells us this is not so. Why? Who is to blame? Not the Act of 1944, but those who administer it and those for whom it was created—you and your children.

WHO THEN IS RESPONSIBLE?

Are you going to blame the education authorities, the heads and their staffs? What do you know about the Act? If you object to your child listening to professional modern tripe and interpretation of the Bible, you can have him removed from such education and given something more suitable or agreeable to your faith and persuasion. The Roman Catholics, Jews and the like saw to this in 1944, when the Act was passed. Under what is known as “the conscience clause” any person can take steps to have the child removed from daily assembly and religious training session, if such training is contrary to one’s faith or persuasion and suitable provision can be made for the child to have rightful religious training if needed. The 1944 Act was created not to destroy a child’s faith but to stimulate it. The Roman Catholic Church either makes provision in its own schools and churches for its children or has them withdrawn from other schools at the time of religious training to something appropriate to their faith.

We *Protestants and nonconformists* are asleep to these things and “couldn’t care less” what our children are being taught. We do not bother what agreed syllabus is being used in our schools, whether it be the Oxford or Cambridge, Sunderland or Durham, Middlesex or Surrey, London or West Riding. May I state here personally that I learned more about God the Father from the Durham syllabus than from all the many books I have read.

What about the R.I. teacher in your school? Is he or she fully trained? Is he or she a Christian? Of what denomination? Many a headmaster may not be interested in the subject of religious education; he may be a sceptic or the like, but he has a job to do for a living or a profession to uphold. Therefore he must see that daily worship and religious instruction are carried out according to programme, but he appoints a person he considers the most suitable for the job—and that person may not be a Christian. There lies the danger! Theory and private interpretation! The teacher will say: “This is what I think and believe, but you can please yourself what you believe; it is not for me to say.” The damage is done; suspicion and doubt are

planted in the mind. Who ought to see to this? Who ought to check on these things? *You and I!* The Act of 1944 makes it possible for us to inquire into the matter of religious instruction for our children. Here are two very important questions I would ask: (1) Do we understand the Act of 1944; from which syllabus our children are being taught; and what of the teachers and their persuasion? (2) What effect is this religious education having upon our children, for good or confusion?

In many cases the religious education of our secondary modern schools is an enemy of the Sunday schools, because of much questioning and confusion the teachers have to contend with. It is what the day school teacher says that counts on certain subjects and on the miracles of the Bible. The Sunday schools have the children about one hour per week and the day schools have them many hours. What can we do about it? Ought there not to be some approach, a church deputation or committee, or a parents' association, whereby contact may be made with the "heads" or the governing bodies? What do you know about it all? What do you care about it all? Your child—his or her faith!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, THE HOME, CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Parents have very little interest in this subject, the church is not so much concerned, and the Sunday schools of our beloved land are passing through one of their saddest and most critical periods. Let us admit our losses and our failings and confess them before God. Figures are shocking and appalling. The more modern form of pleasure, parental apathy and the lack of trained and consecrated teachers are to blame for much of this declension. Something must be done about the future investment of our faith in posterity, and done right soon, both locally and nationally. Can the religious education in our secondary modern schools do what the Sunday schools have done since the days of organised Sunday schools (Robert Raikes)? Can religious training in our schools impart the saving faith of God's Son, the Saviour? Having read through many agreed syllabuses, I am convinced that with proper training and teaching this manner of imparting Christian teaching could be a means of creating Christian men and women for the future.

What is wrong then? Not the Act of 1944, not the lack of agreed syllabuses, but the parents, the "heads," you and I. I pray that the religious education of our secondary modern schools may not take the place of our Sunday schools. There is a place for both—but you and I must see to it!

SUNSHINE CORNER



TOMMY'S TEMPER

Hello Sunbeams.

What an awful thing a bad temper is. I wonder if you have one. Tommy longed to be rid of his, but it seemed to get worse instead of better. "Perhaps my teacher can help," he thought. "He's a very wise man and he should know how to deal with tempers. I'll go and ask him."

"We'll soon deal with that, Tommy," said Mr. Jones. "Write out 100 times 'I must not lose my temper' and that should settle it for you."

Slowly, and with great care, Tommy began to write, but suddenly he realised what he was writing. "Must not lose my temper," he shouted. "That's just what I want to do. I don't want it any more!" That made him in a worse temper than ever.

"Dear me," said Mr. Jones, "that won't do. You'd better see the professor."

Professor Knowall was very wise indeed. "We must see what the Greek says, Tommy," he said, "or perhaps the Latin or one of the ancient languages." Soon the professor had forgotten Tommy. He was so interested in looking up the Greek and Latin for the word temper. Tommy was very cross and stormed out of the professor's room in a bad temper again.

Tommy was very disheartened, but just then he had another idea. "Doctor Potion ought to be able to cure bad tempers," said Tommy to himself. "I'll go and see him."

Doctor Potion listened carefully to all Tommy's troubles and gave him a box of little pills. He was to take one every four hours. Tommy took them for a whole week, but they didn't seem to improve his temper, and Doctor Potion decided it would be better if he were to see a psychiatrist. "He'll ask lots of questions, but he'll get to the root of the trouble," was what he told Tommy.

The psychiatrist made him lie down on a couch and asked him all sorts of funny questions until Tommy became really angry and threw a heavy book at him. Then he ran out of the building straight into the arms of a policeman, who took out his notebook and wrote down his name and address and then said, "You'd better come along with me." Soon Tommy found himself in a prison cell with a lawyer talking to him. He said he would try to get a light sentence for him, but couldn't think of anything that would improve his temper.

Then the best thing of all happened. The pastor came to see him and brought a little New Testament for him to read. He told him all about the love of Jesus and how He could change people so that they were better people for ever after. He told him that the apostle Paul once had an awful temper until Jesus came into his heart. Tommy asked Jesus to come into his heart and his awful temper disappeared. How glad he was!

Yes, sunbeams, there are many wise men in the world, but only the Lord Jesus can deal with tempers.

Goodbye for now, and God bless you all.

Lots of love,

AUNTY DOROTHY.

CHURCH NEWS FLASH

BRISTOL

"Roll, roll your burdens away." The Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Hugh Jenkins) and the Sheriff's Lady (Mrs. George Maggs), with Rev. W. Ronald Jones of the City Temple and his assistant, Rev. John Marriott, joined in hymn singing with actions with members of the Junior Crusaders at Barton Hill Settlement when they made a tour of several Bristol youth clubs. *Bristol Evening World*.

Mr. Jones also writes: "At the twelve months ending October we look back with much gratitude to God for His goodness. We have seen over 200 decisions for Christ, received in sixty new members, baptised nearly forty in water, and thirty-six have received their personal Pentecost. We have opened two new Junior Crusader branches; this now gives us six, and each week between 210 and 250 youngsters from ten to sixteen years of age come under Elim influence at the various branches."

HASTINGS

On Saturday, September 10th, we welcomed Pastor and Mrs. James Frame. Pastor J. J. Way, of Hove, conducted the induction service.

Congregations have been increasing weekly, and the midweek meetings are being particularly well attended. The Crusader branch, small at the commencement, has now increased to between twenty-five and thirty. The newly formed branch Sunday school, with a modest beginning, is increasing weekly.

At Pastor Frame's suggestion, the Sunday school brought the fruit for the harvest festival, and the church members showed their thankfulness to God by direct giving. The pastor said he was trusting God for £150 and announced that there would be a thanksgiving service immediately following. We eagerly brought our gifts and laid them on the open Bible. The scripture there was of Moses having to restrain the people from giving, for there was sufficient for the work and *too much*. The target was more than reached, and to date the gifts are still coming in. They have now reached £165.

DUNDEE

An unusual, yet solemn and moving, service of dedication took place at the Dundee church on Sunday morning, November 6th, within the children's church, a branch of the youth work in the local church.

The dedication referred to was occasioned by the young people receiving a missionary offering basket direct from their adopted missionaries, Pastor and Mrs. A. Nicolson, of Rhodesia.

The children were told how the basket had been made by the young boy Josiah—as shown by the letter and photograph. The basket, resting upon the open Bible, was given over to Mrs. A. Rodger, the mother of Mrs. Nicolson, who handed it to our own junior treasurer, Miss Sheena Findley—a young girl who has done much to further the growth of the work.

The service was closed by the singing of the hymn "Send the light," followed by a few moments of silent

re-dedication by all members. Never have I felt such closeness of the presence of God as Mrs. Rodger committed us all to God in our daily walk with Him.

And here is the letter:

Elim Mission,
Penhalonga.

Hello boys and girls.

This is just a note with the basket.

We trust that you will like it and that it will remind you of the boys and girls in other lands who do not have the same opportunities as you have to learn about Jesus.

Josiah, the boy who made the basket, is in our mission school in standard III. When I was working in the hospital at Inyanga North earlier this year, Josiah was a patient; he had fractured his leg. He stayed in hospital for many weeks, but is perfectly all right now, and able to play football again.

I am going into town this afternoon, and want to post the basket to you, so will not write any more just now.

We remember you all, and Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, in prayer, and we know that you are praying for us and the boys and girls here in Rhodesia.

All being well, we shall see you next year. We are looking forward very much to our time with the children's church.

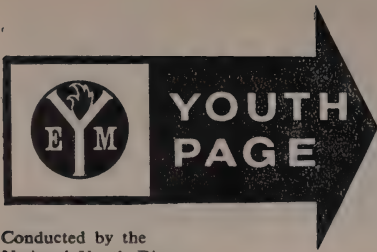
May the Lord Jesus bless each one of you, and help you to tell other boys and girls of our wonderful Saviour.

With love and prayers, from

YOUR OWN MISSIONARIES.



Here is Josiah, holding the basket.



DESIGNED JUST FOR YOU!

Conducted by the
National Youth Director

THE pathway to failure is often paved with good intentions, and you may be one of the many who have intended to read the whole of the Bible at least once in a lifetime but have as yet failed to do so. Of course, what you have missed is a system of daily readings, and it is with this thought in mind that the Elim Youth Committee recently accepted a plan devised by Peter Griffiths, now an Elim missionary in Rhodesia, which will enable you to read the Old Testament once and the New Testament twice in one year.

Next year is being celebrated as Bible year by the evangelicals, so we feel that it is an opportune time to present this booklet. We look to every Elim Crusader to purchase a copy, which costs only 6d.

This booklet is an all-Crusader job! Peter Griffiths was an Elim Crusader in our Swansea branch when he devised the Bible reading system; Michael Greenway, son of our Secretary-General and an Elim Crusader from our Clapham branch, has designed an attractive two-colour cover in modern style; and Maurice Duncan, an Elim Crusader from our Croydon branch, has handled the printing arrangements at Heath Press—so it is youth right the way through! The booklet is published by the Elim Youth Movement and designed especially for Elim Crusaders, but we will be pleased to supply copies to non-Crusaders within and without

the Elim churches; the more we sell the better we will like it. There is no greater book which any of us can read.

What this plan will do for you which will not be found in any other Bible-reading plan.

Here we quote from Peter Griffiths: "I have used Bible reading charts and I have found them defective on two main points:

"Far more is planned to be read on one day than on another. This frequently happens, although on average the same number of chapters are read, as you may read four chapters each with over fifty verses on one day, whereas on the following day your four chapters *total* only fifty verses.

"Connected chapters are not planned to be read on the same day. For example, if a plan is drawn up unscientifically Acts chapters 5 and 6 may be read on the same day when it would be more profitable to read Acts 6 and 7 on the same day.

"Bearing these two main points in mind, together with other minor ones such as reading the Acts of the Apostles after the Gospel according to Luke, I have drawn up a scientific plan with which one may read the Old Testament once and the New Testament twice in a year without spending more than twenty minutes a day actually reading.

"In order to do this I checked through every chapter in the Bible, noting which were connected,

New!

E.Y.M. BIBLE-READING PLAN

For only twenty minutes reading each day you can read the Old Testament once and the New Testament twice—in one year!

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