

So when you ask me to write for your magazine you have afforded me a distinct pleasure and honor far beyond that which you could hope to gain in the bargain. My sincere best wishes to you all.

William F. Eaker,
Chaplain 564th Air Service Gp.

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"SERMONETTE"

By
Chaplain William F. Eaker

The Light Of The Years

"To every man there openeth
A Way, and Ways, and a Way.
And the High Soul climbs the High Way,
And the Low Soul gropes the Low,
And in between, on the misty flats,
The rest drift to and fro.
But to every man there openeth
A High Way, and a Low.
And every man decideth
The way his soul shall go." (John Oxenham)



There was once a bishop who told a story of his childhood. He used to be employed to drive a team hauling coal cars in a mine. The man formerly holding the position had been seriously injured because of a collision at a spot where two tracks crossed. When he crossed that particular spot the first night he was extremely worried. But as he drew near he saw a light and as he drew closer he was able to discern a man standing there holding a lantern. It was his father. Knowing that the boy would be afraid as he reached the crossing the father stood with a light so his son could go his way without fear.

Consider this a true picture of the fatherhood of God. When we cross the intersections and are afraid of what is waiting there, we often make a satisfying discovery that a light is waiting "on the misty flats" and that it shines out when we need it most. A ship can be sailed out on an open sea without entering a harbor. To deliver its cargo that ship must drop anchor. You can drift as the wind pushes you but you will never accomplish your mission. There are only two classes of people: 1) Those who are in the world to live, 2) Those who are in the world to minister. They have heard a golden voice and they have a mission to fulfill. You may be tempted to throw your mind into neutral and say because I must wear a uniform, follow a prescribed course of training and learn to fit into a military pattern, I will drift with the wind. But the world is still yours. You will meet men of low ideals but you can keep yours high. You will hear vulgarity, but you can arm yourself with noble dreams. Someone has already said that what life does to us depends on what life finds in us. "So when all the passions are gone and the mind is still, your spiritual eye can trace some delicate motion of the soul, some thought which stirs like a leaf in the unseen air and tells us that God is there." It is not the stillness, nor the unseen breath, nor the thought alone that stirred but God in us and with us to all the ends of the world. This then is the Light Of The Years and it will light us down through time and through the Valley Of The Shadow. Pray that you may see this light "which lighteth up the path of every man that cometh into the world."

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Miss Carrie Lee Weaver, the regular contributor of "Church News and Activities" is away on vacation - therefore her column is "on vacation" too. Sorry, but she'll be back next month.