

International Sunday School Lesson
—for—
MARCH 9, 1958

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THE CHURCH CONFRONTS SOCIETY

Memory Selection: "Let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful." — Titus 3:14.

Lesson Text: Matthew 5:13-16; Acts 19:21-41; Thessalonians 5:4-8; James 2:14-17.

In today's lesson we study the ways in which the church can most effectively serve and influence society and the people who need its help.

As Christians, we are all agreed that the church fulfills man's spiritual needs as nothing else can. The deepest need of human life is to seek after and find God. This is one of the fundamentals in life. A church provides a place of worship and a program that brings man and God together in fellowship and service, church abets and encourages the nurture of our souls. It offers us a place to worship, a sanctuary to which we can go and commune with God in times of great trouble and adversity, where we can humbly ask God to give us strength to bear our burdens, or a place where we can offer our thanks to Him for our many blessings. (One of the most moving passages in the scriptures is the verse: "Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.") Perhaps England, where congregational attendance has not always been what it should be, came close to the true meaning of what the church stood for when, at the cessation of hostilities with the German nation in World War II, she found her churches crowded to overflowing when people from all walks of life turned with one tremendous and reassuring spontaneity to the House of God, giving thanks for their deliverance from skies that rained death day and night for so many long years, and remembering, in all reverence and humility of spirit, her brave

men who had sacrificed their lives for their country and their innate belief in the rights and freedoms of mankind. This was using the church as it should be used — a place to worship, a place in which to seek help for a wounded and bleeding spirit; a place in which to offer thanks for the bounties which God has bestowed upon us. This is the spiritual function which the church fulfills.

The church also has a duty to the community in which it stands. A church simply cannot live in isolation from the community if it is to fulfill its God-appointed function. "Enter to worship; go forth to serve," should be the guiding principle of all Christians who take an active part in the profession of their faith. How can they do this? By sharing the miracles of God's grace with those outside the church.

In the early centuries the church established hospitals and schools for the welfare of the needy. Up until the present century, charitable institutions were largely financed and directed by the church. These activities were all excellent expressions of the love of God at work in Christians, and today, as civilization has advanced, the opportunities to do good unto our fellow-men have increased ten-fold.

There are basic needs that the Christian Church can and must supply in our modern society. Study the text of James 2:14-17. "What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? . . . If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?"

The motivating force behind community interest is love for others, sympathy and compassion for the needs of men, wherever they may be. Jesus teaches us this concept in his telling of the story of the Good Samaritan to the lawyer who had asked him "Who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:27-37). Jesus, himself, believed in a practical application of religion, and, as Christians, believing in Him, we can do no less than follow his teachings.

We must remember that a church is a healthy relationship with the community by practicing a practical christianity among those in our community who are in need, even if they are not

Here Comes The Bookmobile

Well, here we are again, Bookie Too and me, just a-sittin' in the sun at Mr. Peggs' Service Station in Maaburn Gap. Mrs. Wade Hudy has come an gone. We are getting so hot, we must stop writing this column to open Bookie Too's door, and shed our coat.

Bookie Too is sound asleep, so we don't think we will disturb her. Poor dear, we put her through the paces last week; and she behaved like a veteran of many winters. We came to several mud holes that we thought we had better not try to pull through; but Bookie Too called us a sissy, and told us if we would cooperate with her, she would show us how to pull right on through those old mud holes without battin' an eye. Well, we argued around a few seconds, and before we knew it, we found we were agreeing to try. Oh yes, we did it — went right on through those ominous looking mudholes, and we batted our eyes several times.

Come Wednesday, March 5 — day after tomorrow, we are going to take Bookie Too up Spring Creek and introduce her to all our good friends up that way. Yes, it is hard to believe, but she has never been beyond Ted Russell's store, though she has been on the route since the first week in December. We feel real sorry to think that we have had to treat our Spring Creek and Meadow Fork readers that way, but honest we just couldn't help it. Oh well, we know they understand that we would have come if we had thought it was at all safe; and we also know that they have told us many times never to risk our neck to bring them books when the roads are slick and dangerous. We are more than thankful that we live and work in a county where folks are so kind and considerate. That statement comes from the very bottom of my heart. Thanks, friends, thanks a lot for being so glad to see us when we do come, and so kind and patient when the weather keeps us off the route as it has so much this winter. Yes, we always say, "Kind hearts are more than coronets."

members of our particular church, and by doing it unobtrusively and with humility, in a service to Christ.

Mars Hill News

MRS. J. W. HUFF, Correspondent

Mrs. Corcia Spinks was returned from Memphis, Tenn., where she was hospitalized for several weeks for treatment for an old hip injury.

Mrs. Essie Edwards seems to be recovering nicely at home from a slight stroke suffered last Friday.

Misses Nancy and Gladys Johnson and their mother went to Shelby Saturday for an overnight visit to their brother Charles and family, including a new baby daughter. Mrs. Anderson is staying this week with her son and family.

Miss Rowena Briggs, of Richmond, spent Thursday to Sunday with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Briggs, and other relatives.

We're sorry to report the move of the George Roberts family to Marshall.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Caldwell

visited relatives at Granite Falls last week-end.

Mr. Brown Ammons expects to come home this week-end from St. Joseph's Hospital where he has been recuperating from an emergency appendectomy.

Rev. John McGee seems about fully recovered from recent surgery and expects to resume his speaking engagements this week-end. Mrs. McGee's sister-in-law has been their guest for the past few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Edwards, of Weaverville visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Edwards and Mr. and Mrs. Arles Edwards, over the week-end.

Mrs. E. C. Coates is in Hendersonville again after spending a week at her home here. She expects to visit a cousin in Atlanta over the week-end and then go with her on a trip to Florida for two or three weeks.

Today's MEDITATION
from
The World's Most Widely Used Devotional Guide



The Upper Room
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He guides me by true paths, as he himself is true. (Psalm 23:3. Moffatt.) Read Psalm 23 or Matthew 10:16-22.

Three women missionaries, the Gobi Trio, were retiring to England. On their way out, they were our guests in the manse at Tientsin in 1937. Ten years before the Chinese government had forbidden religious teaching in the schools. Yet for ten years, in constant danger, these missionaries on the barren wastes of the Gobi Desert had borne witness to Christ to the nomads who had never before heard the Gospel.

What sustained these women? They said that each morning after the camel train was formed, the Chinese help would form a circle, and the missionaries take their places in the center. All would then life their voices in a hymn-

Homer M. Caldwell Passes On Sunday; Funeral Tuesday

Homer M. Caldwell, 72, of Hot Springs RFD 1, died of a heart attack at his home Sunday afternoon, March 2, 1958.

He was a native of Madison County, was a farmer and cattle raiser and was a son of the late Reuben Caldwell and Nannie Woody Caldwell of Madison County.

Services were held in the Zion Baptist Church at Bluff Tuesday at 2:30 p. m.

The Rev. Lawrence Parker, the Rev. Jack Fullbright and the Rev. Jess Stagle officiated and burial was in the church cemetery. Pallbearers were Baney Lusk, B. K. Meadows, Edward Wyatt, Clifford Fowler, Sam and Troy Kirkpatrick, Tom Finley and Jack Caldwell.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Charlotte Fullbright Caldwell; two daughters, Mrs. Calvin Cogdill and Mrs. Harry Fleming of Hot Springs RFD 1; a son, Jerry Caldwell of Swannanoa; four brothers, George and Wallace of Spring Creek, B. C. of Del Rio, Tenn., and Will of Bridgeton, N. J.; a sister, Mrs. Maggie Chambers of Weaverville; and two grandchildren.

CP&L WORKERS REJECT UNION

Carolina Power & Light Company employees voted 505-130 last week against union representation.

Those voting represented full-time employees in the company's central service area. This includes all the territory in North Carolina and South Carolina served by the company except an area around Asheville and the old Tide Water section around Wilmington.

The election on the proposition of union representation was ordered by the National Labor Relations Board at the request of the Utility Workers Union of America.

The balloting was conducted by NLRB representatives under the direction of Lewis Wolfberg of Winston-Salem, field examiner for NLRB. Mr. Wolfberg certified the results following an official count.

In view of the severe weather, the near-unanimous participation by employees eligible to vote was considered exceptional for such an election.

"It is gratifying to realize that

prayer to the Father of all. "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, Plunge through this barren land." By the fire in the manse, the missionaries said quietly, "God needed us for a witness to the Gospel where the door is now closed." For them God's guidance was not something to argue about; it was something to experience.

PRAYER
Eternal Father, Thou hast promised to lead Thy people in what is right, and to cause Thy Holy Spirit to shine forth upon the righteous. Grant us grace this day to submit ourselves to Thy guiding hand and eye. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

There are some service stations where your car's battery will be treated like a stepchild. The attendant forgets all about it.

But not at Phillips 66 Stations! Among the first things we look at when you drive in is that very important little character—your battery. We check the water, inspect the terminals, give it loving care. After all, if it goes dead . . . so does your car.

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Seeing is Believing

MANY MOTORISTS HAVE MURDER IN THEIR EYES!

AGE	PER CENT OF DRIVERS WITH VISUAL TROUBLES
30	30%
40	48%
50	71%
60	80%

MOST OF THE MOTORISTS WITH FAULTY VISION COULD SEE ADEQUATELY WITH THE HELP OF INDIVIDUALLY PRESCRIBED GLASSES.

BUT A LARGE PERCENTAGE DON'T EVEN KNOW THEIR SIGHT IS SUBSTANDARD, SAYS THE BETTER VISION INSTITUTE.

Singing Convention
The regular second Saturday night singing convention will be held at the Laurel Fork Free Will Baptist Church on March 8, at 7:30 p. m. All singers and listeners are cordially invited to attend.

Hamburger Supper To Be Held At Shutin Saturday
It was announced here this week that a Hot Dog-Hamburger Supper will be held Saturday, March 8, at 6:30 o'clock at the home of Mr. Youth Gowans of Shutin. The Youth Sunday School Class of the Shutin Church of God is sponsoring the supper. The Gowans home is the first house above the church.

Some cars have fluid drive others just have a drip at the wheel.

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