

**THE FUTURE OUTLOOK**

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## Dreams Are For Having

What do you dream about?

In musing about things to come — that might come — do you hanker for a second home — a cabin by a lake? Or a sportscar no one else in the family will drive? A trip abroad — to the one country you really would like to see? Or maybe just lazy-time, for fishing in Colorado, or beach-basking in Florida? Or maybe you're more practical and just dream about a little more recognition and money from the boss?

We need dreams. They add color to our lives and keep our shoulders to the wheel. And some of them could come true.

And yet, right now, near us, there are other dreams going on. Dreams of real people, just as alive, as filled with longing, as deserving as we are.

The small half-dreams of the infant nobody wants.

The dreams of a child with a cleft palate, a damaged brain, a hearing loss.

The dreams of a youngster of any race or creed (or no creed), living in a rat-infested tenement.

The dreams of mothers and fathers trying to maintain themselves and their children in the face of unending poverty.

The dreams of the teenage boy or girl, searching for a way to "belong." A place to go. A group to be with.

The dreams of the old person without love or purpose or the feeling of being needed. Even wanted.

The dreams of the mentally ill, groping for the lost road back to reality. It was there once.

The dreams of the "hopeless" derelict on skid row, nurturing, almost despite himself, one obstinate spark of hope.

Many dreams are being dreamed all around us. Won't you help at least some of them to be realized, through your United Fund?

Your dreams can be, perhaps will be, fulfilled by the future. But only you can make theirs come true.

## People Need People

Unless it has happened to you, you can't know what it means to suffer a personal disaster . . . to yourself or to your family . . . and not have anyone to share your burden.

Unless it has happened to you, you can't know the feeling of hope that is born when a quiet voice says: "Let us be of help."

It is the voice of a neighbor, speaking for the thousands of persons in the Greater Greensboro Area who believe in the idea of people helping people in time of need.

This voice is symbolized by the United Fund and its member agencies . . . an organization dedicated to that idea.

Yes, unless it has happened to you, you can't know the feeling of getting a start again when out of a sad and frightening experience, a shattered life begins anew.

But whether it has happened to you or not, you can help . . . you can show you care . . . with a Fair Share Gift through the United Fund.

There are some 2,000 United Fund volunteers soliciting Fair Share pledges throughout our area, seeking to raise the minimum amount necessary for United Fund member agencies to sustain services at present levels.

Won't you help? Your one Fair Share Gift will work many wonders for children, for the handicapped, for distressed families, for the sick and the aged. For those who need hope. And "Hope Is In Your Hands."

## This Week's Sunday School Lesson

### Christian Witness Continues

#### WHAT IS OUR CONCERN?

The apostle Paul made the front cover of "Time" on April 18, 1960. This issue of Time featured a picture story on "Christian Missionaries: From St. Paul to 1960." The picture on the front of Time reproduced a painting of Paul that was probably the work of Lippo Memmi in the fourteenth century.

The Time article reported that the number of Christian missionaries in the world was at an all-time high—38,606 Protestant missionaries; 51,000 Roman Catholic missionaries.

The article suggested that Christian missions face greater dangers and greater opportunities than ever before in their long history since Paul's day. Too much of the mission work of the churches has been identified with Western culture. More of it needs to be done by native Christians instead of foreign missionaries.

However, the work is still there to do, and it is being carried on in a variety of ways, as the pictures in this issue suggest. One picture shows a Hong Kong missionary in a boat on the Tai-O Canal, evangelizing Chinese children standing on the bank. The evangelization was unusual. It consisted of playing the trumpet, giving puppet shows, and telling Bible stories in Cantonese. This Oriental Boat Mission has a fleet of five boats and ten ministers.

Another picture shows Harry Haines, a Methodist mission leader in Malaya, ladling out milk to slum children in Kuala Lumpur. Still another picture shows Samuel Moffett, a teacher in the Presbyterian seminary in Seoul, Korea, as he visits a new congregation where the bricks are all assembled for the building of a new edifice.

Another picture shows a priest in the Philippines visiting with dock workers in a combined dress shop and bar on the Manila waterfront. Another picture shows Japanese teen-agers at a school for girls sitting in a circle around a stone on which are inscribed the words "God Is Love."

Other pictures show children in Borneo getting reading lessons, missionaries in Peru translating the Bible into a native Indian dialect, a medical missionary standing before his hospital in the Congo, and a shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes built by Roman Catholic Eskimos on Parry Peninsula, two hundred miles above the Arctic Circle.

The article concludes that a new sense of urgency is evident among Paul's successors who are laboring in the mission fields around the world. The dramatic witness begun by Paul in the Book of Acts has been and must always be a continuing witness.

#### BEFORE YOU READ THE SCRIPTURE

The Book of Acts reaches a fitting climax in Chapter 28 with Paul's arrival in Rome. Paul's ambition to preach the gospel at the center of the civilized world was finally realized. (Paul hoped eventually to go on as far as Spain.)

Paul began his ministry at Rome, as he had everywhere else, by offering the gospel to

the Jews. Because he was fearful that his Jewish opponents had preceded him with false accusations, Paul made a personal defense of his life and preaching. Apparently such a defense was unnecessary, since the Jewish leaders in Rome had received no reports from their Judean compatriots. In contrast to Jewish leaders elsewhere, the leaders in Rome were eager to hear the visiting rabbi. (Acts 28:22)

The Book of Acts ends with a typical summary (verses 30-31): (1) Paul had a two-year ministry in Rome; (2) he was financially self-supporting; (3) though he was a prisoner, many came to hear him preach; (4) he preached the great themes of the gospel — the Kingdom and the Lord Jesus Christ; (5) there was no formidable opposition or hindrance to his preaching.

#### WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

The Scripture for today is Acts 28:17-31. Selected verses are printed below.

#### Acts 28:23-31

23 When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in great numbers. And he expounded the matter to them from morning till evening, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the law of Moses and from the prophets. 24 And some were convinced by what he said, while others disbelieved. 25 So, as they disagreed among themselves, they departed, after Paul had made one statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers, through Isaiah the prophet:

26 'Go to this people, and say, You shall indeed hear but never understand, and you shall indeed see but never perceive. 27 For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are heavy of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should perceive with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and turn for me to heal them.'

28 Let it be known to you then that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen."

30 And he lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, 31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ quite openly and unhindered.

**Memory Selection:** I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish; so I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

—Romans 1:14-15

#### HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURE

"And when we came into Rome" (Acts 28:16)—thus we come to the climax of a great life and a great book. Paul could never have considered the mission to the gentiles complete without this opportunity to preach in Rome. The author of the Book of Acts, likewise, could not have considered his account of the spread of Christianity

complete unless he had followed the story from the birthplace of Christianity in Jerusalem to that far outpost to the gospel, the capital city of the Roman Empire.

#### A Pioneering Prisoner

A shadow hovers over the climax of the Book of Acts. The book does not have a Horatio Alger ending. Paul reached Rome, to be sure; but he reached Rome as a prisoner. Paul arrived in Rome wearing not the shining regalia of a military man or the finery of a merchantman but the symbols of the lowly and the oppressed—chains.

Though a prisoner, Paul was still a pioneer. He had gifts suitable for one who aspired to be a pastor, an administrator, a teacher, or a counselor. But he was by endowment and calling an evangelist; he was at heart a pioneer. His eyes were always on the distant frontier that was waiting for the good news of Christ.

Writing to the Romans on the eve of his departure for Jerusalem, Paul told how he wanted to move westward. He had "been hindered," he said, but now he planned his trip to Rome "since I no longer have any room for work in these regions." (Romans 15:22-23) What could Paul possibly mean by the statement "no . . . room for work"? He was speaking of a territory of some three hundred thousand square miles. There would seem to be plenty of room for work.

We can understand these words only when we realize that Paul did not conceive his job to be that of staying in one place for a long period or domesticating the gospel for a local situation. He conceived his job to be that of pushing on to new frontiers. So he hoped to go beyond Rome, possibly even to Spain. (Romans 15:24) Though this last dream was never realized in person, Paul's words have gone to the farthest corners of the earth as his letters have been read and studied in many languages.

#### A Preaching Prisoner

Though Paul was a prisoner, he was the most active and eloquent prisoner Rome had witnessed for some time. Paul had not been in Rome three days before he called to him the local leaders of the Jews.

We might have supposed that Paul would have given up all hope of converting the Jews by this time. However, at heart Paul was a Jew; and he could never quite give up the hope that the Jews would acknowledge the Messiah for whom they longed. He expounded the gospel to his Jewish friends "from morning till evening, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the law of Moses and from the prophets." (Acts 28:23)

Some of the Jews were convinced, while others disbelieved. Because most of the Jews refused to accept Jesus as the Messiah, Paul declared once more that God had opened the way of salvation to the gentiles. "Let it be known to you then that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen." (Verse 28)

We have indications that Paul not only preached and testified

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