

THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

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THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

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Hospital Visitors

One should be aware of how and when to visit hospital patients, especially at the L. Richardson Memorial Hospital.

The L. Richardson Hospital is more or less an emergency center. It is not large enough and it does not have all the facilities that a complete hospital should have. Therefore, the visitors cannot compare it with the Moses H. Cone or the Wesley Long Community Hospitals.

When a person is carried to the L. Richardson Hospital, the primary purpose is for treatment rather than rest. Therefore, the hospital will have to maintain special visiting hours.

All of the attendants, nurses, and doctors have to work on round to round schedules. The doctors prescribe medicines for patients according to the illnesses including their food diet. Also the time these medications should be given. Attendants cannot render services to the patient with a room full of visitors after visiting hours.

It is much better for visitors to visit the home of a hospitalized person and offer services than to go to the hospital.

On many occasions friends of certain patients visit in groups because the patient may be a member of their society or social group.

Please do not carry food or any home remedy to a hospital patient.

Hospital visitors should always be neat and clean unless they are called to rush to the hospital due to an emergency.

There are some emergencies which require surgery and the presence of some member of the family until recuperation. But the member present should get complete instructions from the nurse to render service for the patient.

A patient should consider what the word "patient" means. Please do not become irritable with the attendants or the nurses because they do not drop everything they are doing and rush to you for every little pain.

By-standers should not crowd the emergency room every time they hear the ambulance bring an emergency case into the hospital.

Visitors should never ask patients about their illnesses. If they want you to know they will tell you. In many cases, the doctor or nurse does not tell the patient the illness or the cause of it. They tell the patient what he should or should not do.

Patients and visitors should not criticize the doctor, nurses, attendants or facilities. If a person sees that there should be some improvement at the hospital, they should discuss the matter with social clubs or other organizations to arrange improvements or to buy facilities needed.

There are many improvements that could be made at L. Richardson Memorial Hospital by clubs and other organizations, former patients or citizens at large.

Just visit the hospital and talk with the administrative staff as to what help may be given to improve the working facilities and give suggestions as to what improvements the club could make.

Some member of every family should know first aid, but remember, "First aid is the immediate and temporary care given the victim of an accident or illness until the services of a physician can be obtained." and therefore is not intended to take the place of a doctor's expert care and advice. First Aid can be of immense help in cases where a person is far from a hospital and must be transported by make-shift means, it also helps to know what should and should not be done in making a patient comfortable.

Visitors, please do not make a nuisance of yourself at the hospital. One should not visit a patient any longer than 15 minutes, especially if they are not members of the immediate family. Please excuse yourself when the visiting hours are announced over.

Remember, the bed is for the patient, not for visitors. Clothes may carry germs and a person sitting on the bed

This Week's Sunday School Lesson

THE CHURCH'S LIFE AS WITNESS**Beginning Where You Are**

How do people judge the church? Obviously, a considerable number of our contemporaries are either indifferent or hostile to the church. We often take satisfaction that two thirds of the American people are members of some organized religious group. But what of the one third who are not members? And what of that half of the members who are absent from worship or church school on any given Sunday? Added together, the nonmembers and the inactives make up a majority of the nation. How did these people decide that the church is either unimportant or contrary to their interests?

Those who love the church find in it a way of life that gives meaning to existence, fellowship that supports them in difficulty and temptation, and a creative outlet for their desire to make a better world. Those outside the church, however, often see it as a club for comfortable, affluent people, as a non-essential organization whose program does not concern them. Others seem to feel that the church exists to sanctify and support the privileges and power of "the Establishment." Presumably, those who belong to the church but never get involved in its program regard the church as being good for the community but as having no real claim upon them.

Once more, then, we shall try to answer the question, What is the church? Last week we looked at its origin to understand the conditions that brought it into being. This week we shall look more closely at life within the New Testament church to learn what made it effective.

Searching The Scriptures

The Scripture for this lesson is Acts 2:43 through 6:7. Selected verses are printed below. Acts 2:43-47

43 And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 and they sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they partook of food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 4:13-22

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men they wondered; and they recognized that they had been with Jesus. 14 But seeing the man that had been healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. 15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out

of the council, they conferred with one another, 16 saying, "What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is manifest to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. 17 But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to any one in this name" 18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." 21 And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people; for all men praised God for what had happened. 22 For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

Memory Selection: We are witnesses to these things, and so is the holy spirit whom God has given to those who obey him—Acts 5:32

Exploring the Questions

The passage assigned for study this week is Acts 2:43 thru 6:7. The section begins with a description of the daily life of the Christians. It was a life of both worship and fellowship. Their sense of new life under God brought them closer to one another.

The warm and fulfilling life within the group led the Christians to share their experience with others. We find Peter healing a lame beggar at the Temple gate and telling of the meaning of the miracle.

The authorities were naturally unhappy about what Peter was saying. Therefore Peter and John were arrested. The next day they were brought before the rulers. This hearing gave Peter an opportunity to witness again to the Resurrection.

When Peter and John were released, they returned to their friends and reported what had happened. The group joined in a prayer for courage, and a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurred.

At this point Luke gives us another picture of life within the Christian community. The Christians felt so responsible for one another that many of them sold property and shared the proceeds with the poor.

The story now returns to the Temple, where the Christians joined in the services of prayer and taught their new faith publicly in one of the porticos or colonnades around the Temple area. The apostles were again arrested; they were miraculously released; and they returned to their public teaching. Again they were brought before the Sanhedrin to make their defense.

Some of the elders wanted to execute them, but a wise rabbi,

Gamaliel, counseled that they be released. If the apostles' work was not of God, Gamaliel argued, it would collapse of itself. If it was of God, the Sanhedrin dare not oppose it.

Our lesson passage closes with the election of seven Greek-speaking Christians to take over the distribution of alms.

These chapters raise many questions for modern readers. If the authorities regarded Jesus' followers as a serious threat to public order, why did they not ruthlessly suppress the new sect?

How are we to think of the miraculous elements in the account? If we had all the facts, would we be able to explain the miracles? Should we expect a vital, Spirit-led church to work miracles today?

What should be our attitude toward property? Is today's church really using its resources effectively for the relief of human distress? Do we need to develop a new attitude toward property, regarding it as something to be used to secure humane ends?

Can we gain a realistic understanding of what went on in the early church? What was the nature of its worship? What was the source of the impulse to share one another's burdens? Where did the Christians get the courage to defy the men of power? Does the Holy Spirit act only in times of crisis, or should his presence be expected in everyday situations by every Christians?

We cannot deal with all these questions in the limited space of this one lesson. The major question raised by these chapters is the nature of life within the early church, and we shall turn our attention to this question.

Finding Help With Your Questions

Last week we saw that the church continues the work of Christ and that it is a witnessing community and an obedient community. This week's incidents give us some additional clues about the life of the early church.

1. **A life of worship.** The first Christians did not separate themselves from the Temple and the synagogue. Their faith rested upon the faithfulness of God as shown by his mighty acts. They took part in this worship along with all other Jews.

But the Christians also observed distinctive worship practices among themselves. Chief among these was the custom of "breaking bread in their homes, partaking of food with glad and generous hearts." On first reading, this verse seems to refer to family or fellowship groups sharing a common meal, and it does. But this meal was something more.

In the early church the Lord's Supper seems to have been combined with an actual meal. Jesus began the Sacrament at a meal in the Upper Room. It was still associated with a meal when Paul wrote I Corinthians 11:17-34.

2. **A life of fellowship.** For this "First Church of Jerusalem,"

(Continued on Page 3)

may jar or shake a patient so as to add to his discomfort.

Do not carry children, talk loudly and tell jokes especially to patients who are recovering from surgery. Remember these pointers when visiting the hospital and remember also that FLOWERS and CARDS are ALWAYS WELCOME.