

THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

J. F. JOHNSON.....Editor & Publisher
 MISS EMMA P. JOHNSON.....News Reporter
 L. A. WISE.....Staff Photographer

Make all checks payable to and mail to:

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 trans-

THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**OBSERVING CHRISTMAS IN CHRISTIAN WAYS****Beginning Where You Are**

What is the meaning of the Incarnation? What does it tell us about God, about life, about ourselves? Such questions may have inspired Robert Frost to write this poem:

"But God's own descent
 Into flesh was meant
 As a demonstration
 That the supreme merit
 Lay in risking spirit
 In substantiation.
 Spirit enters flesh
 And for all it's worth
 Charges into earth
 In birth after birth
 Ever fresh and fresh.
 We may take the view
 That its derring-do
 Thought of in the large
 Is one mighty charge
 On our human part
 Of the soul's ethereal
 Into the material."

What do you think the poet was trying to say? If you read the poem thoughtfully several times, you may find that his phrases stimulate your thinking to move beyond his ideas to new insights of your own.

Searching The Scriptures

The Scripture for this lesson is John 1:1-18. Selected verses are printed below.

John 1:9-18

9 That true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. 11 He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. 15 (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") 16 And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the

law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

Memory Selection: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

—John 1:14

Exploring The Questions

Our major concern with the Scripture in this lesson must be the "what" question. What was the writer trying to get across to his readers in these opening verses? In what way are these words the key to understanding his entire Gospel?

Once we dig out the original message, then we must ask: What does it mean that God became flesh? And what about my life can be different because he did come to earth as a man?

Finally, we must take a painful look at what this message means in terms of our celebration of Christmas. Must we simply bemoan once again the fact that Christmas has become too commercialized, or can we find some more creative ways of dealing with this situation?

Finding Help**With Your Questions**

Ernest Saunders has written:

"As many an author can testify . . . a book can be made or broken by its opening. Here his point of view and the plans he expects to follow are set before the reader, for better or for worse. Often enough it is the last thing he does, and perhaps with most worry and care.

"In the case of the Gospel according to St. John, it was a stroke of sheer inspiration that fashioned these first paragraphs (eighteen verses) and set them as the heading for the story to be told."

The opening verses in John, known as "the Prologue," give us a capsule view of the author's theology. As Saunders suggests, John had to choose his words well, for on them rests the rationale for his approach throughout the entire book.

The Scripture printed with this lesson must be seen in rela-

tion to the verses that precede it. Read verses 1-18 as a whole. As you come to verse 9, then, you will know that the writer is talking about Jesus. In the opening verses of the chapter, the writer is talking about Jesus' relationship with God from the beginning of time. Beginning with Verse 9, he will focus on Jesus' nature and mission.

The Uniqueness of Christ

We are told that the light that has been in the world from the very beginning has now come in a new way in Christ. The writer of John acknowledges the fact that not all men have accepted Jesus. Some men prefer to remain in darkness. But at least it is possible for every man to know himself and his obligation before God.

"Children of God" is the term John uses in verse 12. He distinguishes here between a natural, physical birth and a heavenly birth. The heavenly birth is entirely a matter of God's grace. One writer notes that the whole Gospel of John centers around the theme of becoming a child of God, whereby man discovers his origin and purpose in life.

Verse 14 is perhaps the key verse to the whole Bible. At least it is the key verse for Christmas. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, . . . the only Son from the Father." The author is carefully making a double emphasis here because he has a dual truth to protect. He wants to make sure we understand that Jesus was fully human and lived a real human life. He also wants to maintain the idea of Jesus' divinity, his uniqueness.

A refreshing little story told by John Warwick Montgomery relates to this point. It goes like this:

"There is an old joke about an argument between a Jewish and a Roman Catholic boy. The Roman Catholic boy boasted that he could enter the priesthood — and some day might even become pope. When his Jewish friend was unimpressed, the Catholic boy said: 'Well, what do you want? You want me to become Jesus Christ?' The Jewish boy replied smugly: 'One of our fellows made it.'"

Then Montgomery records his reaction to the story:

"This is exactly what I don't believe about Jesus Christ: that He was just an ordinary person who climbed up to Godhead. Jesus was not the ideal boy scout who spent a three-year ministry helping little old ladies across the Sea of Galilee. He was absolutely unique, for He was no less than God in the flesh, come to earth to die for the sins of the world."

The problem, of course, is to

(Continued on Page 12)

ported 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 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.