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Elen Grangel

Voice of the Elim Churches in the British Isles

Fundamental, Pentecostal, Evangelical

Vol. XXXIX. No. 49

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DECEMBER 6th, 1958

Tests for your Prayer Life.

Are you willing to let the Holy Spirit deal with you in regard to the actual condition of your prayer life as it now is? Will you through the power of His Divine enabling determine what it shall be?

Has my prayer life been powerless because of some besetting sin?

Has my prayer life been hindered by haste, irregularity, indefiniteness, insufficient preparation, unbelief, neglect of Bible study?

Has my prayer life been fruitless?

Have I had such power with God that I have had power with people? Have I had definite answers to prayer week by week?

Has my prayer life been restricted merely to short, stated seasons of prayer or have I come to know what it is to "pray without ceasing"?

Has my prayer life been limited to prayer for myself? My family? My work? My church? My mission? Or have I taken the world into my heart and into my prayers?

Has my prayer life been joyless?

Do I love to pray? Or is praying more of a duty than a delight?

Has my prayer life been growing?

Do I daily know more of the meaning and power of prayer?

Has my prayer life been starved?

Or have I devoted time to the study of God's Word about prayer? Do I know His precepts and promises?

Has my prayer life been sacrificial? Has it cost me anything in time, strength, vitality, love?

—The Great Commission Prayer League.

Lord Teach Us To Pray!

The Supreme King

IN the Old Testament is chronicled the history of certain kings who because of special attributes of character, and certain wonderful achievements in warfare and ruling, stood out from among all other kings.

The Lord Jesus, who is coming as a king to reign over the whole earth, stands out even from among these great kings as pre-eminent and supreme, He alone being worthy of the title "King of kings and Lord of lords."

We have chosen three of the most prominent of these Old Testament kings, and will endeavour to show by contrast how Jesus is greater than they.

1. Christ greater than Melchisedec

We are aware that there are many differences of opinion regarding the identity of Melchisedec, some believing him to be an angel, others Christ Himself, while some assert he was a man. We accept the last view mentioned for the following reasons. True manhood is essential to priesthood (Hebrews 5:1); therefore Melchisedec could not have been an angel; and if he were Christ, then Jesus assumed manhood before His incarnation. Again, we read he was "made like unto the Son of God" (Hebrews 7:3). If he was made like Him, it is evident he could not be Jesus Himself; and the Saviour was begotten, not made. The omissions of Scripture regarding his genealogy, birth and departure from the earth have no doubt been allowed by the Holy Spirit so that Melchisedec might more strikingly foreshadow the Lord Jesus. Though he so wonderfully resembled our Lord as priest-king, Christ was greater than Melchisedec in many ways, but we will eonsider here only two of these.

(i) Greater in the extent of His kingdom

It is recorded that Melchisedec was king of Salem, the meaning of the name Melchisedec being "righteousness" and that of Salem "peace." From

this we gather that Melchisedec reigned in righteousness and peace over Salem. This happy reign of peace was evidently confined to Salem, for at the time of Melchisedec's meetings with Abraham a great number of nations were at war (Genesis 14). The Lord Jesus Christ, according to God's Word, is one day to reign in righteousness and peace, not over a single nation but over all peoples and every nation of the world. "Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment, . . . The work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever" (Isaiah 32:1-17).

(ii) Greater in His Divine requirements

Melchisedec in desiring the payment of tithes from Abraham not only tithed him, but also all humanity. It was the privilege of the sons of Levi to take tithes of the people according to the law; yet they paid tithes to Melchisedec, for they were yet in the loins of Abraham when he tithed to him (Hebrews 7:5, 9, 10). Jesus Christ has a certain requirement of all humanity, but not merely the paying of tithes. He desires that men and women should give themselves unreservedly to Him. This is His Divine right, for they are His by purchase.

2. Christ greater than David

(i) Greater in grace

The reign of David was characterised by grace. After he became king it was in his power to preserve or take life, yet one of his first actions was to seek out Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, and show grace and favour to him for Jonathan's sake. He spared the life of Shimei, who had grievously cursed him, and overlooked Joab's sin of shedding the blood of war in peace time. Throughout his reign he tolerated these last two men; they were allowed to live, and grace was shown to them. But on his deathbed David charged Solomon to slay them, for no further mercy was to be shown to them. David's

conduct on the throne of Israel was certainly characterised by grace, but the grace and forgiveness he extended were not always lasting and permanent. How much greater in grace is Christ, for when He extends forgiveness and mercy to a sinner it is abiding; and though the recipient of His grace may constantly fail and grieve Him His foregiveness is still extended, and His attitude unchanged, while a permanent throne of grace ever abides where mercy may ever be obtained.

(ii) Greater as a conqueror

David was known as the warrior king. He continued warring after his coronation, and one of his first victories as king of Judah was to take Jerusalem from his enemies and make it his chief city. He continued to conquer and subdue nation after nation, for God was with him. David's throne is to be occupied by a greater conqueror than he, none other than the Lord Jesus, for did not the angel prophesy to Mary concerning Him, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:32, 33)? When this greater warrior King shall ride forth to war upon a white



horse, clothed in a vesture dipped in blood, accompanied by the armies of heaven, Jerusalem will be surrounded by the armies of Antichrist, but the Son of God will smite them and overcome them all, and will set up His earthly throne. Then on a far wider scale than David shall the true King of Israel rule all the nations of the earth.

3. Christ greater than Solomon

(i) Greater in wisdom

The God-given wisdom of Solomon excelled that of all other men. His fame spread to the uttermost parts of the earth, and there came of all people to hear him.

Jesus Christ on one occasion, speaking of the sad character and condition of unbelief of His own generation, startled the company of scribes and Pharisees before Him with the words, "The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it; for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold a greater than Solomon is here" (Matthew 12:42). What a stupendous claim this was, yet how true. Solomon was but a wise man, but Christ was wisdom itself, for in Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. The queen of Sheba travelled from a far country merely to hear the wisdom of Solomon. He could not impart to her any of this God-given gift, but Jesus, the greater than Solomon, will give wisdom to those who come to Him, and will actually be made wisdom unto them.

(ii) Greater as a Builder

The great achievement of Solomon's reign was the building of the temple. It was the costliest and most magnificent building this world has ever known. Thousands of men were employed in noiselessly erecting it, and its cost must have been millions of pounds.

But the Saviour-King is accomplishing a greater task than that performed by Solomon in the erection of the temple—it is the building of an eternal house. Did He not say to Peter, "I will build" (Matthew 16:18)? But His is a building not made with hands, a spiritual house of living stones. The enormous cost of this building was the sacrifice of Himself on the cross. Solomon's temple has long since crumbled to the dust, but this temple will stand for ever, being built upon Christ Himself, the impregnable Rock.

(iii) Greater in glory

A graphic account of the glory of Solomon is given in the tenth chapter of 1 Kings, the effect of the sight of such magnificence upon the queen of Sheba being that there was no more spirit left in her, and the testimony of her mouth concerning it was, "Behold, the half was not told me; thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard" (1 Kings 10:7).

The three disciples who accompanied the Master up the mount of transfiguration were privileged to catch a glimpse of His glory and royal splendour, which for a time He had laid aside but in which He will appear again. Solomon ruled in glory over Israel only, and when he left his kingdom it was full of schism, and from the time of his death commenced its decay, being rent in twain within a few years. Christ will reign in glory over all the world: "When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory" (Matthew 25:31), and "of His kingdom there shall be no end." for He is King of kings and Lord of lords!

ISID) W OIR WA

GET AMONG THEM

T should be the aim of Christians to endeavour by every legitimate means possible to promote the spiritual, moral and social well-being of the community in which they live. They should get among men and women primarily to influence them to an acceptance of the wonderful salvation God offers them. In this respect they will be emulating the Master Himself. He spent His life in wholehearted, unstinted and willing service among men of all classes in the interests of the kingdom of God and a better and nobler society. He singled out a publican and went with him to a feast in his house, in spite of the angry remonstrances of the people. He refused to hold Himself aloof from the poor and the outcasts. He helped them continually and for this was criticised severely. It was because of His association with the people that the Pharisees called Him a glutton and a winebibber, and spoke sarcastically of Him as the friend of publicans and sinners. Yet Jesus mixed with them and sought to change them into true men of God, upright citizens, and better members of society.

The spiritual need of the vast majority of men and women is so great that it does not allow for any spirit of isolationism or let-up in Christian activity on the part of all those who profess to be true followers of the Lord Jesus. Many holy men, especially of the Middle Ages, considered that to gain and retain a deep and intimate knowledge of God it was incumbent upon them to cut themselves off from a free life among their fellow citizens. Believing this to be the accurate conception of a holy and devout life, they withdrew from the everyday affairs and activities of society, and in secluded places, such as cells, caves and cloisters, endeavoured to live holy and God-fearing lives.

While acknowledging the saintly lives of some of the men who did this, it must be stated that it was a misconception of true Christian discipleship. The disciple, like his Master, must not live as a recluse.

Jesus was not a recluse who sought to lose Himself altogether in mystical raptures in some secluded place. The incarnation meant to Jesus not only His entrance into human likeness but into the life of mankind in all its varied aspects and vicissitudes. Christians must so live and serve among mankind that they will be made to realise that Christianity is practicable and workable in every sphere of the everyday life.

Happy Reunion at **World Conference**

A group of former Elim Crusaders from the Bournemouth district and Rev. F. C. Packer rejoiced when they met together at the World Pentecostal Conference in Toronto, Canada.

Although separated by many miles, all are serving the Lord in full-time ministry in Canada and the U.S.A.

Rev. and Mrs. H. Ingram, formerly of the Springbourne Church, and their son Paul are ministering in Durham, Ontario, for the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Rev. and Mrs. Sandy Johnson (Christchurch) are pastoring at Stettler, Alberta, while Rev. and Mrs. Dan Priest are missionaries in Hudson Bay to Canadian Indians.

Rev. F. C. Packer ministers in New Jersey, U.S.A. OLIVE E. INGRAM.



F. C. Packer, extreme right.

THE ELIM EVANGEL

Official Organ of the Elim Foursquare Gospel Alliance

Executive Council: J. Craig Kennedy (President), P. S. Brewster, J. T. Bradley, J. Dyke, S. Gorman, H. W. Greenway, W. G. Hathaway, J. J. Morgan, E. J. Phillips, J. Smith.

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STORIES OF OUR GREAT HYMNS AND THEIR TUNES



By Douglas B. Gray, F.R.S.A. (Director of Music)

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CHRISTMAS carols are messages of good news, of hope and salvation, borne on wings of song from hearts and voices of almost every nation. The season of Advent never tires. It stirs year by year the hearts of millions of people. Despite the trend of modern times to turn this joyous season into something less than its true meaning and purpose, there still remains the spirit of Christmas and the devotion and adoration of millions of Christ's followers.

During the next week or so we, too, will be joining in the great stanzas of praise and worship so wonderfully expressed in many a carol. The Redemption Hymnal is limited in its content of carols, but does include at least some of the finest ever penned. Charles Wesley's master-carol, so wonderfully joined with Mendelssohn's majestic music, surely ranks as one of the greatest ever expressions of worship. It is void of valueless sentiment and full of eternal truth. "Glory to God in the Highest."

Briefly we will review one or two other carols which will surely be sung in our homes or heard in many a radio programme. We feel that many of our friends will be pleased to know that a new E.P. 45 r.p.m. gramophone record, containing four carols sung by the London Crusader Choir, will be available for Christmas. May we share part of your Christmas with you in your home? This record includes the carol "O little town of Bethlehem," a great favourite composed by Bishop Phillips Brooks, who was described in his day as a "prince among American preachers!" This carol was the outcome of a visit to Palestine. The day before Christmas he rode on horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem and not only visited the usual sights in the village but went eastward down to the traditional "Field of the Shepherds." This visit made an indelible impression on the heart and mind of this great preacher, and as a result this carol came into being. The original tune for this carol (known as "Bethlehem") was composed by Mr. Redner, organist of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia, Of recent years, however, in this country the tune "Christmas Carol," composed by the late Sir Henry Walford Davies, Master of the King's Music, has become closely associated

with this carol. It is to this latter tune that the Crusader Choir sings "O little town of Bethlehem."

Another seasonable hymn in this record is "Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy heavenly crown" (Redemption Hymnal No. 147). It is the composition of a clergyman's daughter. Emily E. Steele Elliott, who died in 1897. She had great interests in Sunday school work. Many other hymns followed, including those specially written for people in hospitals and sick at home. The hymn terminates with the wonderful theme, "If there was no room on earth for Him, yet there is room in my heart and in heaven."

The third number included in this gramophone recording is called "Child of Mary!" The words are quite a recent composition by a leading Salvation Army officer, Commissioner A. R. Wiggins. The music is by Eric Ball, and the more one listens to this modern Christmas song the more one is captivated by the oldest story ever, Listen to the words in the closing stanza, set to most moving music:

"Chief of shepherds. King of kings,
Guide us in our wanderings
O'er the desert plain of life,
Through the calm and 'midst the strife,
Till at last our eyes shall see
What by faith we've known of Thee."

Our fourth and final carol on this new E.P. 45 r.p.m. record is Rev. B. R. Hanby's composition of "Who is He in yonder stall, at whose feet the shepherds fall?" Little is known of the composer, but many know and thrill at the sound of the carol in question. At this Christmas of 1958 let us echo forth the closing majestic stanza of this old-time message as it says:

Who is He who from the grave
Comes to succour, help, and save?
Who is He who from the throne
Rules through all the worlds alone?
TIS THE YORD! Oh, wondrous story,
'TIS THE LORD, the King of glory!
At His feet we humbly fall—
Crown Him, crown Him Lord of all.

And so may these melodies with the eternal message mean more to you this year than ever before. Should you wish to have this latest recording by the London Crusader Choir in your home this Christmastide let us know and we will see to its safe arrival.



Women's

Column

By Gladys Gorton

"MY RIGHTS"

A STORY I have culled from an American periodical tells of a housewife who went into a store and ordered a pound of nutmegs. We would never require such an amount of nutmegs, and I wondered why she would ever need such a large quantity. When she arrived home and opened the bag she found that only half were nutmegs—the rest were walnuts! She was furious and stormed back into the shop and demanded her rights. "I asked for a pound of nutmegs and you have filled the bag mostly with walnuts. What do you mean by it?"

The grocer was a placid man, and he sighed mildly, emptied the contents on to the counter, then placed all the nutmegs in the scale. They weighed slightly more than a pound. "I just thought your family might enjoy a few walnuts, so I put them in as a present," he said quietly.

This strange story shows that sometimes we can be awfully wrong about *our rights*. "My rights" fills one with indignation and a desire for self-vindication and justification. So often when we "spill over" or "unload" to someone in confidence she immediately says, "What about *me*? Think what *I* have done; think how *I've* been treated," and goes into such a rigmarole that we can't get a word in.

Jesus knew so well the human heart. See how He brings this thought out in the parable of the prodigal son. The elder brother demanded his rights. "He was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him." See the attitude of the elder son as he answers his father. "Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment; and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: but . . . thou hast killed for him the fatted calf" (Luke 15:28-30).

Some folk want what they call their "rights" without any effort on their part, when they should study, plan, fight and endure. This comes out in the story of Manasseh and Ephraim. Because they knew that they were a great people they demanded their

"rights" from Joshua. He as good as said, "Well, if you want more, go and possess this mountain. It shall be yours if you do so." Read Joshua 17:14-18.

THOUGHT: "It is not who is right but what is right that is important."

Farewell Services at Silverdale

Pastor leaves to become a missionary

RECENTLY we held our farewell services to Pastor and Mrs. D. L. Norton, who have now left our country to take up missionary work in Africa.

These services brought to a close Mr. Norton's three and a half years of very successful ministry among the people here in Silverdale. We praise God that as he laboured for the Master he became a real friend and inspiration to all who knew him.

The Saturday evening service was well attended by people of the village, including members of the Silverdale Sunday School Union, with whom Mr. Norton and our Sunday school staff have enjoyed rich fellowship during the past twelve months. Mr. H. Jones and Mr. A. Bloomfield of the Congregational Church paid warm tributes to the work done by Mr. Norton, and Mr. W. Taylor bade him farewell on behalf of the Methodists. A timely message was given by Pastor Coleman, of Longton.

The Sunday evening service was also well attended. Pastor Norton thanked the deacons and church members for their loyal support.

A camera was bought as a parting gift to Mr. Norton by members and friends, and this was presented to him by Mrs. Morley, the local missionary secretary. A sum of money was given to Mrs. Norton, and with it she decided to purchase a watch.

Again we praise God for the great work that has been accomplished by them in Silverdale. We shall continue to pray for our brother and sister that God will mightily bless and use them in South Africa.

A. MADDOX.

ELIM EVENTIDE HOME (Eastbourne)

We now have a vacancy in a double bedroom. Please write for particulars to the Secretary, 363 Norton Way South, Letchworth, Herts,

London Crusader Choir visits Leeds

A FTER a hreak of four years the London Crusader Choir is welcomed back to the city of Leeds. The week-end so typical of the choir's usual programme was a full one. The Town Hall was crowded to welcome the Crusader Choir as the guest choir of the Yorkshire Festivals of Male Voice Praise. A chorus of 100 men formed a great witness in testimony and song and included several brethren from the Elim churches of Leeds, Hull, Bradford, York, etc.

The festival was ably convened by Pastor O. G. Miles. The welcome given to Pastor Douglas B. Gray (conductor-in-chief of the London Festivals of Male Voice Praise) and the Crusader Choir was warm and in true Yorkshire fashion, and their contributions to this gathering once again displayed the highest in spiritual and musical finesse. Sunday afternoon found the choir in the great Armley prison in Leeds. It is well known that this centre is not one of the easiest in which to present music with a message, yet the hundreds of men present received enthusiastically, respectfully and appreciatively the music and songs rendered.

Pastor D. B. Gray's approach, style of presentation and timely message gained great attention. As guests, the ladies' trio from the Leeds Foursquare Church also took part with great acceptance. The Sunday morning and evening meetings were of high

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spiritual tone and musical standard. In all some 3,000 people shared the blessings of this grand weekend with the ministers and members of the virile Leeds Foursquare Church. Thank you Leeds, once more, for such fellowship in the Gospel. By 9 p.m. we were London bound, rejoicing in the Lord for such a time of fellowship. By 3.15 a.m. we were unloading instruments (and others) outside the Elim Bible College. Tired? Yes, a little, but thankful to God for the privilege of serving Him and many others.

IBRA RADIO

Radio Africa, Tangier

Listen to "This is Life," presented by the Elim Church on this station

SHORT WAVE: 20.2, 26.1, 32.3 metres

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 1958 Speaker: Alexander Tec (Motherwell) Subject: "A purpose-filled life."

Music and singing by The Couriers Male Voice Quartet P. Van Woerden at the electronic organ

SATURDAY (each week) at 6.45 a.m.
Programme presented by the Elim Missionary Society for Spanish listeners on 321 metres.

Programme produced by DOUGLAS B. GRAY (Director of Music) from the Elim Studio, London.

Please remember these world-wide broadcasts in your prayers and in your kind giving. Kindly address all correspondence towards the Elim radio work to the Radio and Music Department, 20 Clarence Avenue, London, S.W.4.

KNOWING! DOING!

Give me understanding, and I shall keep Thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of Thy commandments; for therein do I delight (Psalm 119: 34, 35).

Mark Twain once said: "Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they cannot understand; but as for me. I have always noticed that the passages in Scripture which trouble me most are those which I do understand."

If children bothered about such a simple passage as "Honour thy father and thy mother"; and parents bothered about "Train up a child in the way he should go"; and we all "bothered" about "Render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and unto God the things that are God's "—how much better off the world would be!

THESE sobering, powerful words, straight from the lips of the living God, bring many thoughts crowding and rushing into my own mind. These words have a desperate sense of urgency and crisis about them. In the many years I have preached the Gospel, few texts have ever arrested my attention, stirred my soul and gripped my heart like these words, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man."

One phase of this text is so Divinely frightful that one instinctively draws back in unnamed horror, for here we have the length and breadth, the height and depth of unspeakable, indescribable awfulness, while the other phase of this text is as full of hope, consolation and inspiration as the ocean is full of water.

One truth expressed by these solemn yet wonderful words must make the angels weep, while the other truth must make them shout and sing for joy!

The negative side of this truth is darker than the darkest night and more fearful than the blackest of filack pits, while the positive, inspiring side of this text is brighter than the brightest noonday sun and shines with the very brilliance of Jesus who is the Light of the world,

The positive, inspiring, hope-filled part of this text is the wonderful truth that the living God does strive with the hearts of men and women. God's main, fundamental, never-wavering plan and purpose on earth is to save men and women out of the swamps, the slimepits, the quicksands of personal and universal sin and give them a vital, living hope, that reaches beyond the grave!

Yes, the central truth of the Bible, the very heart, the soul, the kernel, the bloodstream, the very essence of God's plan of redemption is that Jesus, the very Divine Son of God, came into this world for the specific, uncompromising, never-changing, basic, fundamental purpose of seeking and saving lost singers.

And tonight! Wherever this glorious, marvellous, powerful, potent, God-anointed Gospel is being preached, the Spirit of God is drawing back His mighty bow and driving the golden arrow of Divine truth and conviction into men's hearts, revealing to them that

"There is a fountain filled with blood, Drawn from Immanuel's veins, And sinners plunged beneath that flood Lose all their guilty stains."

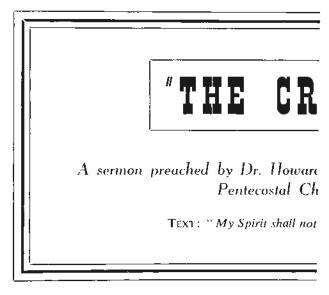
Oh, my friends, God the Father wants to save men; Jesus came to save men; the Holy Ghost strives to save men; the holy Trinity does save men, now, at this hour, in this day!

The manner, the methods, the places, the circumstances under which the Holy Spirit strives with the

souls of men is nothing short of astonishing, for God uses any and all methods necessary to rescue men and women from the wreckage of sin.

Travelling by train to fulfil a speaking engagement in the state of Montana a number of years ago, I was met by a cattleman who also drove a school bus as a sideline, and who was to drive me to my preaching engagement. He was a big, broadshouldered, barrel-chested fellow, In talking with him, I asked him how his conversion was brought about.

He told me an amazing and astounding story. He had been attending a revival meeting with his wife and family, but he would not surrender his life to Christ. His wife became so burdened for him that she called the minister and several other Christians



together after one of the services and asked them to agree in prayer with her for her unsaved husband. Her prayers and request were certainly direct and could be called rather violent. She prayed with the others agreeing with her that the Lord would either save her husband or let him die immediately!

I will never forget how that giant of a man looked at me in the midst of his story and said, "Brother Courtney, wasn't that an awful way to pray about me?" He almost looked haggard and harassed just in telling me.

The next day this man started driving the children to school in his bus. After the children had been delivered at their destination, this man turned the bus around and started for home. He had gone only a short distance when God began to answer his wife's prayer. He suddenly hecame so weak that he realised he was going to pass out. He managed to pull the bus over to the side of the road and pull on the emergency brake. By the time the bus had completely stopped he was down on the floorboards, completely blind, practically unconscious and a few seconds from death.

In those fleeting seconds, God spoke to his heart and said, "Now or never," In his innermost heart, for by this time he was too weak to speak audibly, he cried, "God save me for Jesus' sake!"

Immediately he was regenerated; he was converted; he was born again! At once his eyesight and strength returned. He picked himself off the floor-boards of the bus, dusted off his clothes, and

S HOUR"

artney at the World Conference of Toronto, Canada

rive with man" (Genesis 6:3).

although still startled by this harrowing experience went on his way rejoicing.

Oh, how God strives with men! How mightily He strives with their eternal souls! How He labours, contends and struggles with man! How He agonises over him, with bloody sweat, and drains dry His royal arteries, striving, ever striving to turn his wayward steps from the gates of eternal destruction.

May God be praised! Ob, may God be praised for His earnest, awesome, inspiring, supernatural, persistent, never-sleeping, gloriously successful efforts on behalf of sin-stained, perdition-bound men, for otherwise multitudes now saved would be in hell or on the certain road to eternal damnation, while every

sinner would be just as doomed as if he were already in the lake of fire and brimstone.

The sober, negative side of my text is so Divinely awful that the bravest, strongest-hearted might well turn pale with nameless horror in contemplating its solemn warning. "My Spirit shall not always strive with man."

This text in its full, negative scope and meaning is sufficient to make your skin crawl, your flesh creep, your blood curdle and your soul freeze with pure, unmitigated horror. These powerful, weighty words, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." mean that there is a fatal line beyond which if a man ventures there is no mercy, no compassion, no help to be had; there is no returning for another chance.

These words, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man," in their negative form mean that never again will they have an opportunity to make their peace with God! Never again will they have the opportunity of repenting of their sins!

It means there is a place of neglect and resistance where even God's matchless love is exhausted. It means there is a definite limit to God's striving with the hearts and souls of men.

It means there is a time when the last chime, the last bell, has rung, the last clock struck, the last sermon has been preached, the last invitation given, and when God's Spirit strives with the heart for the last and final time.

This text means the last food has been eaten, the last glass of water drunk, the last night's rest enjoyed, the last conversation carried on with friends! It means that the last book has been closed, the final accounts have been balanced, the time of payment has expired, that a human soul has been weighed in the balance and found eternally wanting.

It means the door of hope and remedy and mercy and grace is irretrievably gone; it means the sun of hope is set behind the mountains of eternal despair never to reappear. It means the doors of everlasting life have been closed for ever and locked eternally; it means the drawbridge across the chasm of destruction has been withdrawn never to be put in place again.

Oh, how pitiful, how heart-rending, how tragic, for this is the language of despair, yes, total, complete, absolute, final, soul-killing, mind-searing, heart-chilling, spirit-crushing despair, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man."

If the urgent message of my text means anything, it means if you ever intend to be saved, be saved now. If you ever intend to live for Christ, do it now,

(Continued on page 779)

OVERSEAS MISSIONS



Miss O. M. Jarvis (Bihar, India)

Miss Jarvis, our newest Elim missionary to India, arrived in that country to encounter the extreme heat and myriads of flies and mosquitoes. Describing her experiences Miss Jarvis writes: "My impressions are many and varied. I suppose one conjures up all kinds of ideas and imaginations beforehand, only to find things quite different when one sees them as they really are. It has been hot, though not as hot as when we passed through the Suez and the Red Sea. We have had several good showers of rain. It is humid and sticky before the rain comes, but cooler afterwards. Everything is a lovely green just now; there are lovely bright red flowering trees nearby, and already I have seen a blue jay with its gorgeous blue colouring. Not all life in India is so beautiful. There seems an ahundance of flies and other creatures, especially at night, including mosquitoes. The latter have taken a liking to me.

"A dinner was given to welcome me, attended by the pastor and his family, the Bible-women and teachers. We sat on the floor in Indian fashion and ate the food and Indian curry. I am afraid I was not too keen on the Indian food, but enjoyed the fellowship even though language was a barrier. The school also gave me a welcome, and Miss Wriglesworth, Miss Beardwell and myseff were decorated with beautifully made garlands of white flowers. The children recited in Bengali and the girls particularly looked gay in their brightly coloured saris. It was all very interesting and enjoyable.

"The dispensary is very busy just now and work is going on in premises all too small to accommodate the crowds that come. The people look very poor and there is much that could be done from a humanitarian point of view, but how much more these needy folk need the Gospel, which can give life and light and bealth to those who believe. Daily our Bible-women give the Word of God to these people. I feel I cannot learn the language quickly enough so that I can be a real help in the work here. I have already commenced language study. I will always remember my first Indian Sunday service. There was a nice company present and a real sense of God's presence in the meeting.

"It is a real privilege and joy to be here, and I pray that in the days to come I may be used in some small way in this corner of the Master's vine-yard."

Pastor and Mrs. R. A. Gull (Tanganyika)

Our missionaries Pastor and Mrs. R. A. Gull are now in this country on furlough, and the following report was written a short time before they left Tanganyika, Mr. Gull wrote: "I have been glad to find further openings and freedom in proclaiming the Gospel at the local market, despite the fact that it is held on the Islamic weekly day of prayer. At the cattle market the interest in our message has been most heartening, as well as at a new open air meeting we have started recently. The latter is in an area that we long thought to be dominated by Islam, but which I found recently to be quite open to our message. My wife and I were out on a midwifery ease recently to the north-west, and in an hour's walk from where we left the truck we passed into an area that is a real challenge with its untouched pagan majority. I must mention too the Kondoa Show. This was the first event of its sort ever held and was a great success, no more so than from our point of view. We had a stall on which we were able to display the various aspects of our work and practically to demonstrate it by a bookstall and gramophone records. We sold about 30/- worth of evangelical books and were able to hand out many hundreds of tracts. The gramophone was going almost constantly and we were swamped with interested listeners. I was pleased to be able to give the Gospel to Roman Catholics and Muslims alike, to some African nuns and a Catholic father as well as to an African sheikh. Kondoa has always been closed, but the door opened for a day. Praise God for the contacts and opportunity."

Mr. and Mrs. T. Johnston (Kenya)

From Kenya, our honorary missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Johnston write: "We had a grand meeting

last Tuesday night at the Postal School, when we had over 100 present for a spiritual film service. I believe the presence of the Lord was there to save, although we did not know if anyone personally accepted Christ as Saviour, but it is a work of the Holy Spirit and we felt that conviction was indeed brought to many of the students present. We rejoice to say that the work at Kabete on Sunday afternoons has increased not only in numbers but in a very deep spiritual way. Last Sunday I decided to give the service over to testimonies, and what a blessed time we had listening to those who had come out of deepest sin testifying that they had not only found salvation, but also desired to walk in holiness and separation. One testified to the Lord's dealing with him before he would take Christ as his Saviour. He was ill and so near to death that his old mother told him afterwards that the breath had left his body, and she being a godly old African prayed to the Lord to restore her son and give him another opportunity to hear the Gospel. The Lord graciously heard her prayer and her son was wonderfully restored in body, but above all in soul as well. He certainly had a wonderful story to tell. There were so many who wanted to testify that I had reluctantly to call a halt as I had to attend to another service."

Gifts for our missionary work should be sent to the Missionary Secretary, 20 Clarence Avenue, Clapham Park, London, S.W.4

The Crisis Hour (continued)

If you ever intend to surrender all for Christ, this is the hour.

Oh man, woman, you are a child of destiny. God not only cares for you, but centres His loving effort in striving, striving, ever striving to rescue you from your spiritual bankruptcy and spiritual insolvency. You may not have heard the Spirit of God as He stepped to your side tonight; you may not have heard the rustling of His robes or the breath of His presence, but He is here to strive and persuade you to take Christ as your Saviour and King.

You may easily keep the minister or worker out of your home or presence, but no door can shut out the blessed Holy Spirit. No dark night can make Him lose His way; no distance is too great to travel; no place too humble or no place too elegant. He comes to you tonight, whispering softly but urgently, saying: "Immortal man, child of time, never-dying soul, are you ready? Have you made your peace with God?"



Conducted by Bernard H. Norris

Hello again!

Welcome to December, the month when we think of Christmas, snow and sleigh bells, crackers and stockings full of presents, cards and gifts, and good-will—and sometimes forget the real meaning of it all. You will put Jesus first in your Christmas, won't you? Make sure the Christmas cards you send are scripture ones (and they are as cheap as any others), and remember that you can get good Christmas tracts to put in with your gifts, explaining that God gave His Son and that is why we give gifts.

Yes, let's make this a real CHRISTmas.

But I promised you a competition, didn't I? Well, here it is, and for the first three correct answers we receive there is a grand copy of the Gospel of Mark, with six pictures in it. Now here is the competition.

Mark chapter 1. What did the voice from heaven say?

Mark chapter 2. Which verses speak of new and old bottles and cloths?

Mark chapter 7. Whose crumbs did the dogs eat?

Mark chapter 9. Which three disciples saw Jesus transfigured?

Mark chapter 10. Which verse shows Jesus' love for children?

Mark chapter 11. What animal did Jesus ride on? Mark chapter 12. Is God the God of the living or dead?

Mark chapter 13. Name the four disciples on the Mount of Olives with Jesus.

Mark chapter 15. Give the interpretation of the words Jesus spoke at the ninth hour.

Mark chapter 16. Who will be saved?

There are the questions. Now just write out the answers, and be sure to give the verse numbers, and send your answers to me at 20 Clarence Avenue, London, S.W.4. And there are three Gospels ready for the first three correct answers. Be sure to put your name and address on your entry.

Next week I have another competition for you, so make sure you bag the EVANGEL first again!

Cheerio for now, and God bless you,

BERNARD.

ILLITERACY OF YOUNG ADULTS

Eight Out of Every Ten Men From 18 to 28 read comics BAPTIST CHAPLAIN'S STARTLING SURVEY

By Rev. E. Garfield Evans

I questioned 1,000 young men, asking, "Do you still read comics (apart from the comic strips or cartoons in the daily and Sunday papers)? If so, what are they called? "And thus I was plunged into one of the most fascinating studies I have ever undertaken. I can only hope that no one will enter my office as I write this article, for my desk is so strewn with comics of all sorts that I am bound to give the impression I am a comics fanatic of the deepest dye.

To start with, I must confess to being staggered at the extent of comics reading among young men. Eight out of ten declared they regularly read children's comics. And here a significant feature quickly emerged. If a boy had stayed in his grammar school until after the age of fifteen he very rarely read comics as an adult. Most of the young men who had come through our secondary modern schools read comics, and even when they had gone on studying to the age of seventeen or eighteen at, say, a technical college, they still read comics to the same extent.

The grave question must be asked: "Are the two streams of education—grammar and secondary modern—problems of mentality, attitude, maturity of feeling and thought rather than mere problems of taking different subjects to more advanced levels?" It looks like this. It is not so much that a grammar school boy has just studied a little more, but that his whole outlook is different. I trust that this observation will not be regarded as any kind of mental snobbery on my part, for most young men for whom I am spiritually responsible are from our secondary modern schools and I love serving them. Nevertheless, this problem of mentality is a harsh fact that must be faced.

The next question is concerned with the number of comics an individual reads a week. It is very rarely that a man reads one comic. The average is three per week, and many men read as many as eight every week. A pretty hefty diet of this sort of easy passive, pictorial reading, to be sure.

Types of Comic

Comics, I further discovered, go in families on the principle of "birds of a feather." Thus, if a man read Dandy, he almost invariably read Beano as well, while a man who took Wizard would go in for its three other kinsmen-Rover, Adventure, Hotspur, A close study of English comics will show that this grouping is based on the same treatment of characters, stories and even picture styles, so that a man who feels at home with Hotspur would turn to the other three of the family with a feeling of homely security. Some men make western comics their specialities and read every available comic based on the life and activities of a single hero, such as the Lone Rider, Buck Jones and all the other colourful characters that flicker across the pages of the comics named after them. Then there is a group of comics based on some kind of superhuman figure who has enormous physical strength, but whose brain would rattle inside a pea-nut. Such comics are numerous— Superman, Superman's Son, Superman's Bride, Marvelman. Indeed, it is possible to buy anything up to thirty comics a week, catering for the reader who likes "talking" animals to tough guys like Dan Dare, from a dialogue (in pictures of course) between a couple of rabbits to a situation where Superman can throw planets together just as you and I would play with cricket balls.

We must now make some assessment of comics reading, always remembering that we are concerned with the *adult* reading of comics. As for the children, bless their little hearts, that is a matter for school

teachers and parents. What are the items that stand, respectively, on the credit and debit sides of this extensive habit of reading comics among grown-ups?

Not Vicious

First of all, the credit side of the account. We must, to start with, be grateful that there is nothing vicious in our English comics. If anything, our comics almost err on the side of morality, making the problems of good and evil much too sweet and simple, and always coming down on the side of goodness, even if the goodness is rather childishly portrayed. Only one out of 100 men declared they read "horror comics." But as these are now almost

This inquiry into the reading of "comics" among adults was sparked off by a discussion with a group of young men between the ages of 18 and 28 on the problem of literacy and leisure. One of them said with a sense of proud achievement, "I finished with comics at the age of 17." Most of the others regarded this as exceptional, not because the young man had gone on reading comics until he was 17, but that he stopped reading them so soon!

impossible to procure in our country it is probable that many more young men would buy them if they were openly on the sales counter. The comics imported from Canada and the United States are strictly vetted before arrival and bear the caption on the right-hand cover-corner, "Approved by the comics code authority." The monogram CA is a sign that the comic contains no vicious matter, and for this we are thankful. All our comics are pretty clean and there is nothing in them to corrupt.

Again, many comics carry an educational feature, such as the life of a famous person, a make-and-do page for some useful object. There are comics like the *Eagle*, which have a definitely "enlightening" objective and add enormously to one's general knowledge.

A further good feature of our comics is their sense of adventure. True enough, the adventures are never in the realm of serious, adult situations, but they do stir the blood in a boyish sort of way, and perhaps there is enough of the boy left in most of us to respond to these robust deeds of daring and gallantry.

Moral Dope

But what of the debit side? For adult minds to feed on comics is nothing less than a moral dope. No man who soaks bis mind in this sort of reading is prepared in any way to meet a genuinely adult moral and emotional situation. It is like asking us to read Enid Blyton's children's stories and expect to be prepared for real life. Many of the comics portray grown-up men and women, but it is only in the size of their bodies that they are fully grown.

An adult, moreover, who never gets beyond the comics stage of leisure reading is not only morally doped but is even more tragically a victim of mental dope. I am perfectly sure that the so-called illiteracy among adults is largely due to comics reading. There are innumerable young men whose vocabulary is now even inferior to their stock of words at the age of ten. Indeed, I have come across young men who have actually forgotten how to read and write since leaving school.

Back to Hieroglyphics?

This is a grave problem for preachers. The ability to listen to words unaccompanied by pictorial symbols is fast diminishing. Nowadays, vast numbers of people are quite incapable of concentrating on the written and spoken word unless there is a picture to go with it. I can foresee a time when we shall abolish our Latin style alphabet and go back to something like Egyptian hicroglyphics in order to cater for a generation of readers that cannot visualise an idea without a picture.

Added to all the comics dope are such media of communications as television, films and the near-comics like the *Daily Mirror* and the *Daily Sketch*. I believe visual aids have gone too far in our day and Sunday schools. We are creating a generation of passive spectators. As aids to teaching, yes. But they are no more aids. They are props. We must keep a balance between eye-gate and ear-gate, otherwise we shall have people who cannot listen unless they can look.

(Continued on next page, right column)





THE FAMILY ALTAR and

ELIM PRAYER CIRCLE

Scripture Union Portions. Notes by F. F. L. Frost
(Minister of Elim Church, Clacton-on-Sca)

Sunday, December 7th. Amos 7: 1-17.

"I will not again pass by them any more" (v. 8).

The prayers of Amos had three times brought a reprieve to sinning Israel, but their attitude towards God was unchanged. He thereupon set a plumb-line in the midst of them to show where they were crooked. God's patience would not always favour them; if they continued in their sin they would not be spared and reprieved as in the past. The mercy of God is offered to all who are sinners, and it cannot be disregarded, but to the sinners' peril. "My Spirit shall not always strive with man" (Genesis 6:3). The unbelief of man cannot make the word of God of none effect. Israel must pay for her sins (v. 17). Likewise shall all who reject the mercy of God in this age.

Monday, December 8th. Amos 8: 1-14.

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land . . . of hearing the word of the Lord" (v. 11).

The nation had suffered famine of bread, but now a worse pronouncement is made: they will be forsaken of God and become destitute of spiritual food, and Divine counsel. The vision of a basket of summer fruit (v. 1) is symbolic of Israel's end. Verse 12 shows their sad plight, their seeking, but being unable to find. Many never know the worth of mercies till they feel their want of them. Isaiah exhorts us, "Seek ye the Lord, while He may be found."

Tuesday, December 9th. Amos 9:1-15.

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord . . . they shall no more be pulled out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God" (vv. 14, 15). The promise of restoration is here given that at the time when the Jews are gathered to their own land the Lord will so prosper and bless them that "the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed" (v. 13). The abundance shall be such that the harvest and vintage can hardly be gathered before the time of preparing for the next crops. Instead of the greater part of the year being spent in war, the whole will be spent in sowing and reaping the fruits of the earth. Israel will not be forsaken, God's original choice of them as His will be fulfilled in the day of their restoration.

Wednesday, December 10th. Psalm 81: 1-16.

"Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it" (v. 10).

So often this phrase is taken completely out of its setting, and quoted as a promise of God that if we open our mouth to speak for Him He will fill it with the necessary words—a get-out for lazy preachers. It means nothing of the sort, but something better and more profitable. The picture is taken from the gaping mouths of young ravens in the nest being filled by the parent birds. It is our duty to enlarge our desires toward God. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6). God has promised: "I will fill thy mouth with good things" (Psalm 103:5). There is enough in God to fill our treasures (Proverbs 8:21), to replenish every

hungry soul (Jeremiah 31:25) and to supply our every need (Philippians 4:19). "Ask, and it shall be given you" (Matthew 7:7).

Thursday, December 11th. Psalm 84: 1-12.

"My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth, for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God" (v. 2).

The psalmist seems to be restrained from public ordinances and waiting upon God in public. This brings him to a greater conviction than ever of the worth of them. The desire he had to return to the worship of God was entire—body, soul and spirit were involved in his cry. He longed and fainted for the courts of the Lord, but much more for the living God Ilimself. Oh for such longing and desires to be expressed among the children of God in this declining age. Ordinances and churches are empty things if we meet not God in them.

Friday, December 12th. Psalm 85: 1-13.

"I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for He will

speak peace unto His people" (v. 8).

It is the general opinion that this psalm was penned after the return of the Jews from their Babylonian captivity, and while they still remained under some tokens of God's displeasure. Here the psalmist prays for the removal of these things. After stilling his passions, and talking to God in humble prayer, the writer is soon aware of an answer of peace. The backslider need not be fearful when once he has decided to return to the Lord; he will find an answer of peace. To remember former mercies will put any apostate into a frame to "return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55: 7). Failing Christians will find grace and favour in their offended God, if only they return in contrition to Him.

Saturday, December 13th, Psalm 86: 1-17.

"Teach me Thy way, O Lord" (v. 11).

Such a prayer we all need to pray. God has appointed the way in which we should walk, and how shall we know it unless we are taught? David was well schooled in the things of God, yet he realised he needed further instruction, and many a time he could not trust in his own judgment. We cannot walk in God's way unless He teaches us, and if we expect Him to teach us we must resolve to be governed by His teaching. "Unite my heart to fear Thy name." Make me sincere in my religion. The hypocrite has a double heart, James tells us, "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways" (1:8). The heart taught by God is single, not divided between Him and the world, not struggling from Him but ever close to Him. Let us then couple with this prayer those familiar words "Thy will be done."

Youth Page (continued)

The problem is an acute one, especially for us in the Free Churches, where the form of worship demands a great deal of concentration and when no visual symbol is present as an aid to thinking about God and His mighty acts in Christ, except perhaps the empty Communion table on most Sundays. But preachers and teachers must be aware of the fact that many people in the congregation find it hard to listen, which means that sermons and prayers and readings must be made as alive as possible and free from the paralysing abstractions still so much loved by most of our preachers.

Reprinted by courtesy of The Baptist Times.

COMING EVENTS =

(Please pray for these services)

BRIXTON HILL. December 5. Elim Church, Milstead Street, Fact and Faith film. "The Stones Cry Out" (note change of date). 8 p.m., Also December 20, "Voice of the Deep."

SCARBOROUGH. December 25-27. Elim Church, Murray Street, Londesborough Road. Special Christmas services. Speaker: David G. Hathaway (Harrogate). Christmas Day 10.30, Dec. 27 at 7, Sun. (28) 10.30 and 6.30.

WOOD GREEN. December 14. Elim Church, Russell Road, Palmers Green. Special visit of E. C. W. and Mrs. Boulton, at 6.30.

SUNNY BLUNDELL TOUR

December 6, 7, Hereford; 13-18, Lurgan; 27—January 1, Blackpool; 3-8, High Wycombe; 10-15, Swansea; 17-22, Tumble; 24-29, Mountain Ash; 31—February 5, Erdington.

MR. F. B. PHILLIPS'S TOUR

December 9, Thornton Heath.

MISSIONARY TOUR

Miss C. Picken, Elim Missionary to Belgian Congo, will visit the following churches: December 7, Worthing; 8, Hove; 9, Preston Park; 11, Eastbourne; 12, Hastings.

LONDON CRUSADER CHOIR

Director of Music: Douglas B. Gray, F.R.S.A.

December 7, Holloway prison; 13, Tunbridge Wells; 14, Maidstone; 16, West End (Carol Festival); 20, Esher, 21, Wormwood Scrubs prison; 28, Brixton prison; January 4, Maidstone prison; January 6, Hackney (Rally); 11, Broadmoor Institution; 17, Kingston-on-Thames (Rally); 25, Holloway prison; February 21, 22, Hastings; March 7, 8, Ipswich; 21, 22, Bradford.

BRITISH PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP

John Carter having tendered his resignation as the secretary of the British Pentecostal Fellowship, a new secretary was appointed at the recent Annual General Meeting. He is George Stormont, 4 Ray Close, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

Have you read this book?

"To walk in the Spirit and be filled with the Spirit we must continually derive our life and power from Him. Just as the tree is fed by the sap rising from the roots. Just as the flame in the eastern lamps was fed by the other end of the wick being immersed (yes, baptised if you like) in the small bath of oil in the vessel of the lamp. I like the expression of the psalmist: 'Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over' (Psalm 23:5). There is something delightful in that word 'anointest.' It is in the present tense. It is always up to date. Not 'hast anointed' or 'will anoint,' but 'anointest'-something being done now, tomorrow, the next day, every day. That should be our experience. Anointed with fresh oil for every day. All our prayer, our service, our worship, must be actuated by the Spirit. It must be all Spirit-breathed. We must seek, and receive, a fresh anointing with the Holy Spirit for every fresh service for God we undertake. The haptism of the Spirit is not the end of the Spirit-filled life; it is but the beginning, a doorway into an anointed fellowship and communion with Christ."

This is just an extract from one of the chapters in the book "A Sound from Heaven" by W. G. Hathaway.

If you have not read this book you should get a copy now, from the Elim Publishing Co. Ltd. at 2/6 per copy (postage 4d.).

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

All advertisements should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager, Elim Publishing Co. Ltd., Clapham Crescent, London, S.W.4. and should arrive MONDAY morning for issue a week the following Saturday.

30 words (minimum) 5s. per insertion and 2d. for every additional words (monimum) 5s. per insertion extra; also allow for 6 words to be added to your advertisement. Series discounts: 5 per cent for 6 insertions, 10 per cent for 13 insertions. Classified advertisements MUST be prepaid.

BOARD-RESIDENCE, ETC.

Eastbourne. The Elim Guest House is open all the year round; one minute from sea, with views of both sea and Downs; spiritual fellowship and home comforts; hot water and gas fires in bedrooms; special off-season rates. Residents also received. Illustrated brochure from Miss Phillips, Lascelles Private Hotel, Lascelles Terrace. Phone 633.

Ilfracombe, Devon. Maranatha Christian Guest House, Torrs Park. Home from home; happy Christian fellowship. Please write for our illustrated brochure. Mr. and Mrs. Puddicombe. C.623

NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANS. Robert Clarke. Demy 8vo., 174 pages, cloth boards, 10/6 net (by post 11/4).

This is a companion volume to the author's previous work, *The Christ of God*. It is a detailed study of the position, privileges and responsibilities of Christians as set forth in the New Testament.

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