

Religion and Life

By Very Rev. George C. Pigeon, D.D., L.L.D. First Moderator of the United Church of Canada (Copyright)

The following illustration is taken from an old copy of Pelouset's notes on the Sunday School Lessons:

"A tree weighing five hundred pounds was planted in two hundred pounds of dried earth placed in an earthen vessel. Everything except air and water was excluded by a perforated metallic cover and for five years nothing was added but pure water. At the end of five years the tree was taken out and weighed. It had gained 169 pounds while the soil had lost only 2 ounces. Nearly the whole growth of the tree was from the air and rain of Heaven"

Now, making all allowances for the sediment which must, in spite of their precautions, have been added with the water, the conclusion is obvious—that the chief part of the substance of the tree came from the air and moisture.

Which facts are a parable. We hear a great deal before days about the importance of environment, growth, both physical and moral, of the great English manufacturing companies built up a model town for their employees. A few years later boys and girls of this community were compared with children of the same age from underprivileged sections of Liverpool, and the difference in size and mental development made by a favorable environment was startling. It was also humiliating to think that a Christian country could have all the material conditions so unfavorable to the growth of body, mind and soul to exist among their own people.

A certain institution in Toronto providing midday meals for children, planned to supplement elements lacking in their diet for the other two meals of the day. One child was sent to them who was not able to make satisfactory progress in his school work. At the end of one term, with nourishment scientifically adjusted to his need, he was found to have gained enormously in his physique and in addition was making marked gains in his studies. Teachers whose insight is above question say that many boys whose behavior has been thoroughly unsatisfactory become well-behaved as a result of having a half pint of milk at morning and afternoon recess. If we add to this the influence of environment on moral and spiritual development we can feel the force of the appeal now being made so earnestly for the improvement of the conditions in which our people live.

And yet the conditions in which people live are not determinative. There are always resources in the human spirit which can make an individual not only independent of his circumstances but also their master. What is needed is faith to bring them out. Side by side with Gladstone, scholar-statesman of the nineteenth century, stood Lincoln the pioneer, and Grant the aristocrat we had Lloyd-George as leader in the fight for freedom. It is the pride of our new western nations that their highest positions are open to people of lowly birth, and many rise to occupy them. The claims of spiritual culture stand first among the necessities of modern life.

It is fashionable to belittle the devotion of a factor in the development of personal power, and yet experience has proven it the source of strength incalculable. What air and sunshine are to growth in nature, prayer and praise are to the soul. True prayer is not merely the offering up of our desires to God for things agreeable to His will; prayer is the opening of the soul to God.

On Dec. 27 the Y.P.U. met at the home of Marjorie Lamont. The meeting opened with a worship service led by Norma Yeo. The service opened with the hymn, "Joy to the World," followed by the Lord's Prayer in unison. A poem was read by Mrs. Sterling Yeo entitled "Peace on Earth." The hymn "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear." A reading for meditation entitled "The Christ of Bethlehem" read by Norma Yeo. The worship service closed by singing hymn "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and Benediction. Organist was Mrs. Keith Bryenton. Minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted. Roll call was answered by 11 members and two visitors. It was moved and seconded to send \$5.00 to the Missionary Maintenance Fund. Lights and decorations were brought by the Young People for decorating the church. A letter was read thanking the members for the contribution sent the United Churchmen.

Next meeting to be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Gray on Jan. 10. The following conveners were appointed for the next meeting: Convener of Worship Period, Marjorie Lamont. Convener of Study Period, Everett Gray. Convener of Recreation Period, Dean Ravenhill. Assistant Period, MacMillan and Keith Bryenton. For Study, Wallace Millett; gave a reading entitled "Avalanche." Collection amounted to \$12.20. Three paid their fees. A period of recreation in charge of Mrs. Keith Bryenton, for which lunch was served by her home.

IODIZED BLACKCURRANT PASTILLES... E-A-S-E SORRY THROATS... PLEASANTLY

God to let His Spirit in. Usually it is our earnestness that drives us to God, but if our earnestness brings us into His presence that divine Spirit will take hold of us to work in us His perfect will.

There is a story in the book of Genesis which illustrates this feature of the spiritual life. Jacob cheated Esau, his brother out of the blessing which was the right of the firstborn, and died from Esau's vengeance. When Jacob was returning home after many years, he heard that his injured brother was coming to meet him with a force of 400 men. Jacob feared the worst, and in desperation turned to God. But when he opened his soul to God for deliverance from Esau the divine Spirit raised the issue of Jacob's own meanness and never let him go until he had shaken all the old craft and deceit out of him and sent him forth as Israel a prince of God.

So it will be with people today. True prayer is always two-way—the opening of our hearts to God on any issue that drives us to Him and the Divine response to our plea. Sometimes God's answer is consent to our request; sometimes it is denial; in any case, God's spirit raises the deeper issues between us and Him and never leaves us until they are settled.

Now a life lived in close communion with God in which we take every problem to Him for His guidance, and obey Him as He enables us to understand His will is built up in strength and in the faith that moves mountains. Prayer is our vital breath; what the sunshine and air are to the tree prayer is to moral character.

Public worship adds to private devotion the sense of union with our fellow-believers. It is a matter of fact that where there is no public worship in a Canadian community there is little public spirit and less devotion and action for the public good. Christ is the social centre of humanity and without Him people fall apart. Coming together in the name of Christ and with the consciousness of His presence as we worship means that enthusiasm is generated, ideals accepted and our powers dedicated to the fulfillment of God's will for His people.

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IN MEMORIAM... In loving memory of my Mother, Mrs. B. Woodbridge, who passed away January 8th, 1950. Sweet to remember her, who once was here.

THE CENTRAL GUARDIAN

This column is reserved for news of local interest, but advertising of a new way nature may be inserted at five cents a word, strictly payable in advance. HOWARD MacINNIS FOOT-WEAR at 175 Queen Street. VALL'S, 204 Kent for Radio Repairs. BROOKFIELD annual church meeting January 9 at 2 p.m. in the church. CRASWELL for Photos. ALL DRESSES CLEARING AT 1/3 OFF at The Fashion Shoppe. SCHEDULED FLIGHTS daily to Summerside and Moncton Phone Maritime Central Airways Limited, 2061 or 540.

THE ANNUAL meeting of the P. E. I. Sheep Breeders' Association scheduled to take place on January 12th has been postponed until further notice. DOUBLE SHELL ON MEN'S EGG - Mr. Frank Wood, Cross Roads, in candling eggs laid by hens of his poultry farm found that one egg had an unusually heavy shell. On breaking it, the covering turned out to be two complete shells, one white and the other dark brown. NOTICE - Our accounts are payable monthly. All accounts over 30 days past due must be paid at once, otherwise no further credit will be allowed. LePage Shoe Co. Ltd.

FUNERAL FRIDAY - The funeral of the late Mrs. Pearl S. Howatt was held on Friday afternoon, January 5th. A short service was held at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Eric G. Bell, Hope River, followed by a service in New Glasgow United Church. Rev. George Gough and Rev. W. I. Green conducted the services. The pallbearers were: Messrs. Miller Henderson, Wm. E. Brown, Harry Brown, Davis Moffatt, Revell Dickleson and Chester Bulman. Interment in New Glasgow Cemetery.

PERSONALS Her many friends are very sorry to hear Mrs. Benjamin Moore, West Royalty, has entered the P. E. Island Hospital for treatment. Miss Flo, Thomas of Moncton, N. B. spent Christmas and New Year's holidays at her home in West Cove Head. Albert Thomas, West Covehead who motored home accompanied by Jiles Jay; Leroy MacKenzie, of Morrell, and Morris Steves, Saint John, have returned to Toronto after spending the holidays at their home.

Violent typhoons sweep across Falmouth from four to five times a year, with winds reaching up to 125 miles an hour. Keelung in the north has known years when there was 242 days of rain. The great Wall of China, 1,500 miles long, with a general average height of 22 feet. At intervals were placed towers 40 to 60 feet high. Begun in the 3rd century before Christ, parts of this gigantic wall still are in good condition.

THE FOURTH annual meeting of the Highfield United W. A. The fourth annual meeting of the Highfield United Women's Association was held on the evening of Dec. 27 at the home of Mrs. A. B. Roberts with Mrs. Harry Stern's as devotional leader.

THE OPENING hymn, "O Come All Ye Faithful," was followed by the reading in unison of the 23rd Psalm. The leader then read two inspiring poems entitled, "A Scattered Way" and "What Shall It Be?" The worship service closed with prayer.

THE PRESIDENT then took charge of the meeting. The roll was called, and reports were read and approved. It was decided to hold a cake sale at Easter, when each member is to have ready a hand-made apron to be sold.

A YEARLY report was given by Mrs. Frizell, friendship secretary, stating that seventeen calls had been made on sick and shut-ins.

IN HER report, Mrs. Gay, the treasurer, showed that a very gratifying amount of money had been made during the year. As superintendent of the Sunday School, she also reported that the \$40.00 cleared at the recently held childrens concert was being donated to the Women's Association; who, in turn, voted that it be paid on the manse debt.

THE PRESIDENT, in her address, remarked on the fellowship enjoyed and the financial progress made during the past year. She expressed the hope that 1951, with the continued cooperation of the members, would see a repetition of this good work.

THE RESULT of the election of officers was as follows: President - Mrs. Bently Creed. Vice-president - Mrs. Dennis Neal. Secretary - Mrs. John Neel. Treasurer - Mrs. Stanley Hurry. Friendship Secretary - Mrs. Roland Sellick.

THE NEXT meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. Dennis Neal on the evening of Jan. 24, when the roll call is to be answered by a suggestion for improvement of the meetings. Mrs. Stanley Hurry and Mrs. Roland Sellick will provide lunch, and Mrs. A. B. Roberts will be leader. The meeting closed with the hymn, "For Thy Mercy and Thy Grace," after which lunch was served and a social time enjoyed.

THE SCHOOL committee reported a pencil sharpener, dustpan and more blackboards needed for school. Mrs. Warren Inman and Mrs. Russel Ferguson were appointed program committee for next meeting at the home of Mrs. Gordon Villet. The date of meeting was changed to the third Monday of the month. Roll call to be answered by a donation of a cup towel for the hall.

LUNCH committee: Mrs. Donald Cameron, Mrs. George Canon and Mrs. Russel Ferguson. Meeting closed with "The King," after which Mrs. John Rogerson demonstrated needlepoint work.

THE TREAASURER reported the sum of \$33.85 realized from a lecture in the hall leaving \$15.63 clear after various expenses were paid. The annual report stated our balance on hand in the bank \$156.23. Mrs. Dunsford showed samples of the cutlery bought by the Institute.

AFTER the reading of a letter from the T.B. League requesting a donation it was moved and seconded that \$2.00 be sent. Mrs. Inman reported \$3.00 from Miller Bros. for the old hall organ. It was decided to scrub the school on Dec. 27th. The sick committee was appointed to remember the sick and shut-ins with sunshine boxes at Christmas and \$5.00 was voted for treat for children at Christmas concert.

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Girl Guide News



Mrs. Frances Dawson of Brentwood Bay, Van. Isle, B.C., makes this comment: "I recommend Sarnak highly and would not be without it, after suffering with a minor kidney disorder for five years and trying many things, Sarnak brought me quick relief."

From the Old Country I have received with much interesting news that I feel you will all want to share it with me. A beautiful calendar containing pictures of the Royal Family had, on the first page the King and Queen passing through a Guard of Honour with the Guides on one side and Scouts the other. They were the smartest ever seen standing right at attention and of course in full uniform. Guide and Guide Magazine were full of interest too. One small magazine called the "Red Rose Gazette" and issued in Blackburn, Lancashire which is in the north of England was of special interest to me and I hope that it will be to you. It described how the Scroll was delivered from N. West Lancs. Guides in a cattle truck and was passed from the Scoutmaster and through here to County or Province as we say and thence to Waddow Hall which is a Country House donated to Guiding and is a training centre and very special meeting place. At Waddow Hall a number of Overseas Guiders were staying overnight and they signed the book.

ON ITS way went the Scroll by Shooting Brake, horse-drawn Waggonettes and farm carts accompanied by writers from Pendle and Lancashire. The Scroll came into Acornby by the Roman Road, it survived the attack by Roman soldiers and was carried off but was again in a tussle on the edge of the town when two companies of Guides armed with Scout poles and ropes recaptured the precious Scroll and drove off with the Roman soldiers trussed up in a carriage. Don't you think that must have been a riot of fun? There was also a report of a Guiders conference held in Edinburgh. Its aim was "Better Guiding for All". We could well make that our slogan for 1951.

THE REPORT of the World Conference was a real gem, it must have been the most wonderful Rally ever with all the overseas Commissioners including our own Chief, Mrs. Wishart and the flags of 26 countries waving in the breeze. I am going to bring these magazines around with me on my travels as there are so many interesting little stories and Guiding hints for Brownies and Guides that I am sure you will love them and it gives us all such a wonderful idea of what other Overseas write and tell them how the Scroll was received and what we think about it. I would like to write a short note, I would be happy to type it out and willing to help.

Mrs. Holman reports that our Kensington Guides went carol singing Christmas eve and made very special efforts to bring joyous music to the sick and aged. It was a lovely thought and no doubt was appreciated.

Headquarters Accounts It is 1951 Guiders and all our outstanding accounts should be paid and we have so many. This is an old cry and one that I do hate to make but needs must. Leaders, you may mail or call but do please give it your attention.

MILLVIEW W. I. The annual meeting of Millview Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Charles MacKenzie with an attendance of eight members. Two new members joined.

With the President presiding the meeting opened with the ode followed by creed. Roll call was responded to by each member paying membership fees. The minutes of last annual and monthly meetings were read, approved and signed.

The financial statement for the year showed receipts amounting to \$838.48. Expenditures \$729.25; leaving a balance on hand of \$110.23. The sick committee reported eight visits to the sick and a bill of \$2.60 was paid for fruit.

The school committee presented a bill for \$6.90, this was paid. Election of officers followed: President - Mrs. Walter Crane. Vice President - Mrs. Robert Drake. Secretary Treasurer - Mrs. Lee Hynes. School Committee - Mrs. T. Crane, Mrs. Gordon Sheldov; Sick Committee - Mrs. Geo. MacEachern, Mrs. Jos. Smith, Directors - Mrs. Walter Crane, Mrs. Charles MacKenzie, Mrs. Robert Drake. Auditors - Mrs. C. MacKenzie, Mrs. Gordon Sheldov.

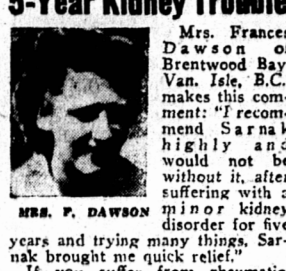
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Members decided to hold a dance in the hall in the near future. Mrs. Walter Crane and Mrs. Gordon Sheldov were appointed on dance committee.

It was decided to send Christmas parcel to a boy from the district, serving overseas. The secretary was asked to write for information regarding sewing club work also about size of quilts for the orphanages.

After a delicious lunch was served the meeting closed by singing "God Save The King"

Discovers Help For 5-Year Kidney Trouble



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SPECIAL AT GREENDAL'S January Sale

Men's SUITS, reg. to 39.50 24.50
Men's SUITS, reg. to 49.50 29.50
Men's SUITS, reg. to 59.50 34.50
The GREENDAL CO. LTD.
144 Great Geo. St.

Mrs. Seaman, Mrs. Bowman, Mrs. G. E. Smith and Mrs. Andrews were appointed to present the study book for the January meeting.

The meeting closed by singing "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and repeating the "Lord's Prayer" in unison. Refreshments were served by the committee assisted by Mrs. Andrews.

CAVENDISH W. M. S. The annual meeting of the Cavendish Auxiliary of the W. M. S. met at the home of Mrs. Alfred Moore on Wednesday evening Dec. 13th. Following a brief meeting of the Ladies Aid, the beautiful Christmas Service as given in the Missionary Monthly was led by Miss Bernice Axworthy, assisted by Mrs. George MacCoubrey and Mrs. W. A. Graham who read the portions of the story of the nativity as given in the gospel of St. Luke, the members responded by singing "Come and Worship - Worship Christ the new-born King."

The Christmas Program which helped the members to realize in a greater way that Jesus was God's best gift to men and by His coming He brought gifts of priceless worth to His followers - Joy, Love, Light, Peace, Hope. As the five readers, Mrs. Shirling Stewart, Mrs. Milton Green, Mrs. Alvah MacNeill and Mrs. Alfred Moore, expressed the meaning of each gift. The leader lighted a candle for the same. With Mrs. Lorne MacNeill at the organ appropriate hymns were sung during the service.

Owing to the absence of the Christian Stewardship Secretary, Mrs. Lewis Toombs, due to illness, the treasurer, Mrs. G. E. Stevenson read Matt. 2: 9-11, the story of the wise men bringing their gifts. Also the poem, which showed that Christians today can just as truly bring their gifts to Jesus as did the wise men of old by service to their fellow men the world over. The president closed with a prayer for peace.

The minutes of the annual and regular meetings were read and adopted. Roll call was responded to by each member giving a Christmas message. The president read a letter from the Presbyterian President, Mrs. J. D. MacFarlane reminding the members of their stewardship as W. M. S. members.

The secretary read a letter from the Presbyterian Secretary announcing dates of Presbyterian in Summerside, which now is January 23 and 24th. Miss Bernice Axworthy was the appointed delegate.

A goodly number of squares were brought in for the quilt, but others are still needed. A number of warm articles were brought in to be sent to Korea. Miss Bernice Axworthy donated a beautiful quilt. As it is hoped to send "box early in January donations will be gladly received.

Community friendship Secretary reported 15 home calls, four hospital and 17 cards sent. Mrs. Ira MacCoubrey kindly invited the January meeting, which will be held in the afternoon, to her home when Mrs. Geo. MacCoubrey will be worship leader, Mrs. Olaf Stevenson and Mrs. George Gough on the Lunch committee, and Mrs. Alfred Moore to offer prayer for a missionary.

The following are the officers for 1951: President - Mrs. George Gough. Vice president - Mrs. George MacCoubrey. Secretary - Mrs. Milton Green. Treasurer - Mrs. Olaf Stevenson. Associate members - Mrs. W. A. Graham. Community friendship - Miss Bernice Axworthy. Christian stewardship - Mrs. Ira MacCoubrey. Missionary Monthly - Mrs. Ernest MacNeill. Supply - Mrs. Alvah MacNeill. Temperance - Mrs. Alfred Moore. Organist - Mrs. Lorne MacNeill. Press - Mrs. George Gough.

UNION ROAD W. M. S. The December meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Ambrose Mallet. The meeting opened with call to worship. Scripture reading - Luke 2: (8-14) Luke 2: (15-20) read responsively. Prayer in Missionary Monthly. Different carols were sung throughout the programme. Roll call was responded to by fifteen members, and five visitors. Minutes were read and adopted and the collection for the evening amounted to \$6.50. Temperance reading - by Mrs. Mallet, entitled "The Engineer's Remedy." Christian Stewardship reading by Mrs. Maund.

The secretary-treasurer gave the annual report, also the treasurer's report. A report was given from the mission band and the Baby Band. For the programme: a duet "Silent Night," by Mrs. Ravenhill and Mrs. Newman. Reading by Mrs. Lamont. Programme committee for next meeting are: Mrs. Gray, Marjorie Lamont and Norma Yeo. Next place of meeting to be held at the home of Mrs. Brent MacMillan.

The members decided to send Mrs. Abbott chocolates and card from the society. Hymn 50, and benediction by the president, Mrs. Newman closed the meeting. After which a dainty lunch was served by the hostess, Mrs. Mallet.

The following are the election of officers for 1951: President - Mrs. Ambrose Mallet. Vice President - Mrs. Keith Bryenton. Treasurer - Miss Mary Gill. Assistant treasurer - Mrs. Albert Ravenhill. Recording secretary - Mrs. Harold Yeo. Assistant Recording Secretary - Mrs. Harry Newman. Corresponding secretary - Mrs. Earl Livingston (re-elected). Christian stewardship - Mrs. Brent MacMillan. Temperance secretary - Mrs. James Maund. Organist - Mrs. Albert Ravenhill. Assistant Organist - Mrs. Richard Holmes. Baby Band president - Mrs. Everett Gray. Mission Band president - Mrs. Richard Holmes. Leader - Mrs. Keith Bryenton. Secretary - Mildred Hardy. Treasurer - Marjorie Lamont. Organist - Mrs. Richard Holmes.

SEND A POSTAL MONEY ORDER. Don't risk losing your cash! Envelopes sometimes break or become accidentally torn in handling, money can easily slip out and be lost. Whenever you shop or send money through the mails, it's wiser... and safer... to use Postal money orders. You can get them at your nearest Post Office. Be sure ADDRESS is clear... correct and complete! CORRECT POSTAGE saves embarrassment! YOUR Post Office is your friendly servant. Ask for help with your postal problems at any time... and ask about the various services available, such as: Air Mail, Canada Air Letters, special delivery registration, Rural Directories, insurance of parcel post, C.O.D., gift parcels for overseas, international and Imperial reply coupons, and the Post Office Savings Bank.

IODIZED BLACKCURRANT PASTILLES... E-A-S-E SORRY THROATS... PLEASANTLY

You will be delighted with this fragrant tea "SALAM" ORANGE PEKOE