

The Reformer

WORLD WIDE REFORMATION

"He That Winneth Souls Is Wise"



THE BANNER

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ALFRED DUDLEY.....Editor
MRS. L. L. JOHNSON.....Associate Editor
A. C. CHATMAN.....Contributing Editor

General Assembly Directory

Office Address.....610 W. 36th Street
Telegraphic Address.....610 W. 36th Street
Cable Address.....Adventist, Savannah, Ga.

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A SUCCESSFUL AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

We wish for all of our readers a happy and successful new year. We wish above all the years of your life, that this will be the most prosperous and happiest of all.

Notwithstanding, we are witnessing the greatest crisis the world has ever known, yet through all its tumult and trials, we still have hope. Knowing that 1934 with all of its disappointments, disadvantages as well as its blessings are all in the past, let us by Christ's grace put out of our lives all self-serving, with its baneful fruits of envy, jealousy, strife, and evil-speaking. On the altar of loving service for others, let us sacrifice our own selfishness. The joy of this service will far exceed the pleasure of self-seeking. "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

Let us eliminate from our lives all pretense, sham and hypocrisy. We can not afford to lead double lives, to profess what we are not; let us be honest with God, with our fellow men, and with ourselves. "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

We should part company with worry and anxiety. What a brood of evils are born of our fears! Worry destroys our peace of mind and our health of body.

None of these things should find place in the program of the new year. We may well throw off the pall of sorrow, and step into the sunshine of hope and faith. Let us bury the past with its mistakes and failures. And in humble submission we seek the true knowledge, which is enabling power—knowledge of God in prayer and meditation, of Christian duty of the study of the Word of God. "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Again we wish for thee, all
that can be found,
Bringing thee sunshine, all
the year round.
Also the treasure lasting
and dear,
That will insure thee a
happy New Year.

Faith that increaseth, walk-
ing in light;
Hope that aboundeth, happy
and bright;
Love that is perfect, casting
out fear,—
These will insure thee: a
happy New Year.

The Apostle John writes: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." 1 John 4:18. In many hearts the torment of fear reigns. There is a constant dread of some impending danger, some awful calamity. We often call it "anxiety," or "worry," but these are only synonyms for some form of fear. These terms do not indicate fear in such an acute form as sometimes fills the heart, but they signify fear, nevertheless. Perfect love for God, complete trust in Him, casts all this out of the heart, and brings a peace which knows no torment.

So may the Lord bless you with a happy and successful New Year.

"Those who perished in the waters of the flood had an opportunity to escape. All were urged to find refuge in the ark; but the multitudes refused to heed the warning."

"BIRTH OF CHRIST"

Learn not the way of the heathen, thus saith the Lord. For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest the work of the hands of workman with the axe, fastened with nails. They deck it with silver and gold. Jer. 10:1-4.

God, speaking through the prophet Jeremiah, anciently, to His people Israel, learn not the way of the heathen, speaks to His people modernly, through the same prophet. Jer. 10:1-4.

"Learn not the way of the heathen: It is taught that Christ was born on the 25th day of December, and that day should be observed as a memorial of his birthday. The Bible records a number of memorials, some of which are commanded. Such as, The Lord's Supper, in memory of his death and suffering. Also baptism, memorial of his burial and resurrection. Sabbath, keeping the Seventh day of the week, is the memorial of God's creation week, and the redemption of mankind, through the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but there is no Bible record of any command given by Jesus Christ or His apostles, to observe or celebrate the birth of Christ, or the 25th of December, as his birthday.

From whence came this command? It is one of the feast days of the Roman Catholic Church.

Reading from early European History by Hutton Webster, Ph. D., page 245: "The great yearly festivals of the church (the Roman), gradually took shape during the early Christian centuries. The most important anniversary to be observed was Easter; Lent, a period of fasting for forty days.

Celebrated on the fiftieth day after Easter. Christmas, the celebration of which, was finally assigned to the 25th of December. All Saints Day, Sunday, the first day of the week. Note the celebration of these days, have no divine authority. Christmas day, Sunday, Easter day, celebrations, are of heathen origin. "Learn not the way of the heathen for the customs of the people are sinful and vain."

I wish to put emphasis on the

heathen celebration of Christmas day—so-called the birthday of Christ. Let me say to you, in the fear of God, and the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that there is not a word of it true, and it is not the truth; it is a lie of the devil, from start to finish. The old lie is repeated to our little children every day in the week, for two weeks, or more, by one who pretends to be Old Santa Claus. Many of the little ones are deceived until they are larger, then they find out that it was all a lie. That there is no such man living that can visit every home in one night, and fill up stockings hanging over the fireplace. And, too, coming down chimneys, and entering locked doors through the key-hole.

We are living in an enlightened age, yet, this age of ours, is the most sinful. In the face of knowledge and understanding, those who profess to be Christians and Bible readers, will believe and practice that which is not in accord with knowledge, that is, most of us, there are a few that do not. Reading from the same history, page 29: "The 25th of December was the day of the great annual celebration, in memory of the Persian Deity. In 274 A. D. the Emperor Aurelian raised a gorgeous temple to the Sun God in the campus Martians, dedicating it on the 25th day of December, the birthday of the unconquerable Sun."

After the triumph of Christianity the day was still honored as the anniversary of the birth of Christ. The celebration of Christmas day is a survival of Mithra worship. That is, worship was conducted always under the ground. His worship, spreaded at length over the Roman Empire. Mithra was represented as a youthful hero, miraculously born from a rock at the dawn of day, the 25th of December.

Shall we, with an open Bible in our hand, believing that it contains all things necessary for our guide and practice, follow after the way of the heathen? I say NO.

The erection of a tree, fastening it to the temple floor, decorating it with gold and silver, and other gifts, was to worship Mithra. Where do we place our Christmas trees? Some in the

church, some in our front yards, in our parlors, in our store, on the public highways. "Learn not the way of the heathen." The command of Christ is, "Go ye into all the world, teaching all nations to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded, and I am with you alway even to the end of the world." Matt. 28:18-20.

We are nearing the end of this old sinful world, the second coming of Christ is at the door. Nearer than what many of us are expecting Him to be. Let us put off these unfruitful works of darkness, and put on the armor of light. Rom. 13:12.

We who are preparing to meet Christ in his second coming, can not have fellowship with the worldlings in their heathen celebrations. Ye are the light of the world, let your light also shine that the world may see your good work. Matt. 5:14-16.

Let us put off these unfruitful works of darkness, and put on the armor of light. Rom. 13:12.

What communion hath light with darkness? None whatever. Wherefore come out from among them, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. 2 Cor. 6:14-18.

Shall we worship Mithra the Mithra the heathen God, on the 25th of December or shall we worship God, the creator of the heaven and earth, in six days, and rested the seventh; shall we remember the Sabbath and keep it holy? By the world, called Saturday. Ex. 20:8-11.

No man knows the day upon which Christ was born. So why observe the 25th of December? Heathen origin.

C. G. MANNS,

A GOOD CONSCIENCE

What is conscience? The knowledge of our acts, states, or characters, as right or wrong; the faculty, power, or principle which decides on the lawfulness or unlawfulness of our actions and affections, and approves or condemns them; the moral faculty; the moral sense." Webster.

"As science means knowledge, conscience etymologically means self knowledge." The word of God studied with the intention to know more of Him, and to have more of Him, and to live

more of Him until we live all of Him will be more successful than when we first gave attention to conscience. It is alarming to listen to talks and apparently bright testimonies which proceeds from an evil conscience.

Let us attend or be reminded for a while to what the word of God says in regard to conscience. "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? Because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins." Heb. 10:1, 2.

Paul, our hero brother, before a certain council, said: "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." Acts 23:1. For this reason the apostle was able always to exercise a good conscience. Again he said: "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men. Acts 24:16.

To be void of offence toward God and man means perfection in our entire deportment, and for this attainment means to follow on to know the Lord with humble and pure heart, having been buried with Jesus and become new creatures.

A good conscience leads one to endure grief, suffering wrongfully. 1 Peter 2:19. But when one repels the Spirit of God from having his conscience quickened, the same is led to speak lies in hypocrisy having their conscience seared with a hot iron. 2 Tim. 4:2.

Knowing all this to be true, dear readers, let us cultivate a good conscience. "For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward. 2 Cor. 1:12.

Thus realizing the "end of the commandment to be charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned." 1 Tim. 1:5. With earnest prayer and Christian en-

deavour for a higher spiritual life among "Free S. D. A." and all God's people.

I am yours in the blessed Hope.

MRS. C. A. EDWARDS.

MY MISSIONARY TOUR

I am glad to say that the Lord has wonderfully blessed me on my trip from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to New York City. On my way here, I visited Chicago, Ill., Harrisburg and Red Bank, Pa., and Newark, N. J. I thank the Lord in that I found all the believers in good spirit and full of courage in the Lord, ready and willing to follow on to know the Lord.

My plans are to visit Brunswick, and Savannah, Ga., before returning West. I pray God's continued mercy upon all, and especially those fields which I will not be permitted to visit at this time. But I trust that I will be able to come to you soon.

Wishing for you many blessings from God our Father, and a Happy New Year. Yours for the Master's use.

M. L. IVORY.

GREETINGS FROM THE NEW YORK CHURCH

We, the members of the Free S. D. A. Church of New York City are glad to say that we are on the upward march. The dear brethren and sisters are strong in faith and full of courage. Working together for the up-building of the cause of Christ in the earth.

We are especially glad to have Elder M. L. Ivory, our Vice President of Milwaukee, Wis., with us for a few weeks, and we are very much impressed with the studies he is giving us. We are praying that God will bless him in the wonderful work he is doing.

Our Sabbath School has made a wonderful progress the past year, through the untiring effort of Sister Viola Williams our Superintendent, and the Sabbath School members. There is an increase both spiritually and financially. The school has taken on new life. We have reached our goal for the entire year. On the Thirteenth Sabbath a wonderful

program was rendered by the school.

Program

1. Solo, Life's Railway, Miss Clay.
2. Reading, Miss Priscilla Young.
3. Duet, Misses Henrietta Williams and Ruby Patterson.
4. The memory verses for the quarter were recited by Sister Julia Gibbs and Bro. Henry Williams.
5. Duet, by Bros. Britton and Hamilton.
6. Solo, Mrs. C. Howard.
7. The First Psalm was recited by Miss Lucille Green.
8. Solo, Mrs. Hazel Mitchell.
9. Talk, Elder King.
10. Remarks, Elder M. L. Ivory.

The Superintendent thanked the school for their hearty co-operation during the past year. Pray for us that God will continue to bless us, and that we may prove faithful until He comes.

CELESTE HOWARD.

NOTICE!

The reading in the Week of Prayer number, subject: "Are You a Self Murderer," was written by Miss Elsie Robinson of the Des Moines Church of Free S. D. A., Des Moines, Iowa. Sorry of the mistake.

GREETINGS FROM THE PANAMA CHURCH, CANAL ZONE

We, the members of the Panama church, wish to extend greetings and our best wishes to you for a Happy and Prosperous New Year. We truly thank our God for His great protection and tender care for us during the past year. Let us increase our faith and strengthen our determination to do more and live closer to the Lord this year than ever before.

We deem it a great privilege granted us in such a marked way to return thanks to God at this time for all of His benefits in the form of our annual missionary program. Our hearts were made glad and filled with joy as we noticed that so many of our Christian friends were so willing and ready to participate

and help to make this program a success.

Program

1. Opening Hymn No. 700, Christ-in-Song.
2. Scripture Reading, Psa. 25:1-14.
3. Invocation, Elder Webley.
4. Opening Address, Chairman.
5. Song No. 536, Christ-in-Song, by the congregation.
6. Miss Ernestine Gallimore, secretary of the young people's division, rendered an excellent report of the work done during the year 1934, which brought forth cheers, applause and Amens.
7. Song No. 537, Christ-in-Song, congregation.
8. Talk, Christian Willingness to Serve, Miss Gladys Jayse.
9. Solo, Miss Tongue.
10. Talk, Perfection in Bible Study, Miss Ulino Parris.
11. Talk, Miss Ernestine Gillmore.
12. Quartet, Miss Lee and others.
13. Talk, In the Lives of Brave and True-hearted Men, Master Jayse.
14. Solo, It Pays to Serve Jesus, Mrs. D. A. Dunn.
15. Talk, Liberality in the Service of God, Miss Egland Steele, our Superintendent.
16. Solo, Miss Patterson.
17. Remarks, Elder Webley, pastor of the Church of God.
18. Song No. 566, congregation.
19. Remarks, Elder of the United Sabbath S. D. A. Church.
20. Anthem, Church of God choir.
21. Remarks, Elder Yearwood, pastor Baptist church.
22. Solo, Madame E. J. Oshua.
23. Remarks, Brs. Rose of the Church of God.
24. Duet, Miss Tongue and others.
25. Talk, Miss Tongue, The Missionary Call.
26. Sermon, Elder D. A. Dunn. Subject, Missionary Work. St. John 3:16.

Report

In this report we shall endeavor to present some of the activities of our missionary work in this part of the great harvest field during the past year. Though it is very small, nevertheless, we thank the Almighty God for His goodness to us dur-

ing the year. We can safely say that He brought us out more than conqueror. The depression has indeed played its part in this country you know, as well as elsewhere, and for this reason the Young People's Missionary Society was greatly handicapped in its activities. But Elder Dunn took charge in June and revived it so that it is now making wonderful progress. We truly thank the Lord for such a dear leader and brother.

We were successful in raising funds enough to pay off all the indebtedness of our work, including sending our Elder to Costa Rica during the year.

And we are greatful to God because we have not lost one by death, and we are willing to continue in the good work. We also thank our many friends for their loyal support in putting over our program. And wish for you long life and happiness, and that your cooperation with us will continue in the spirit of perfect love to help us carry on this good work that has been started here in Panama.

Members added to the church	1
Members received on profession of faith	1
Candidate for baptism	1
Cottage meetings	20

MISS E. GALLIMORE,
Secretary.

D. A. DUNN, Elder.

The world will be convinced, not by what the pulpit teaches, but by what the church lives. The minister in the desk announces the theory of the gospel; the practical piety of the church demonstrates its power.

"Satan is an accuser of the brethren, and it is his spirit which inspires men to watch for the errors and defects of the Lord's people, and to hold them up to notice, while their good deeds are passed by without a mention."

"De thunder's always growlin'
Got one mo' cloud ter climb!"
De lightnin' don' say nuttin',
But he git dar eve'y time!"

"So lissen now, believers,
En hear dis sayin' true;
De less you talks about it,
De mo' you gwine ter do!"

"WE HAVE TOILED ALL NIGHT AND HAVE TAKEN NOTHING"

Such experience is what fishermen call "bad Luck." But Peter was too good a fisherman to sulk and complain about his "luck." He had spent similar nights before, and he knew that he would have bad nights again and again. There are times when the most experienced fisherman cannot get even a bite. He knows that there are bad days for trout and bad nights for eels. The fish are wary at times and shun the net. But the genuine fisherman does not become discouraged. He knows that the fault is not in the art of fishing, but that "it goes by favor."

There are poor "times and seasons" in every vocation of life. Even the undertaker has his poor seasons, but he knows that the tide is bound to turn. It does not always remain at ebb,—there comes the flood tide as well. The farmer does not expect every year to be fruitful, but he plants his crops just the same, trusting the favor of Providence.

The trouble with most of us is our lack of faith. If the fish refuse to bite at a fly, do not disdain the use of a worm. The crisis is with us, and not with the fish, nor with the pond.

The ocean of life is full of good fish, and the supply can never be exhausted. Go back and cast your net on the right side of the ship at the Master's command. There is no crisis with God. A fruitless night without Him may betoken a fruitful day with Him. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." Do not crouch before adversity or quail at misfortune. Face it with a stout heart and head erect. Wendell Phillips is authority for saying that "when geese enter a barn door, they duck their heads for fear of hitting the top sill."

Don't be a goose. Don't cross a bridge before you reach it.

What we need is courage and constancy to sail on, both when the tide comes in and when it goes out. Some have the constancy of the leech, which lets go when he has sucked all the blood he can contain. Selfishness is the motive power. Others

spurt like a geyser, when they ought to flow a waterfall. It is not enough to know that a man did his task today; but we wish to know whether he did it yesterday and if he will do it tomorrow. Jesus Christ is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Serving God occasionally will not do.

The servant of the Lord must be constantly striving against adverse conditions. He must not put forth the spasmodic pull of a man drawing corks from bottles, but the constant pull of gravity pouring the water over Niagara. He must be "a live wire," instead of driftwood floating down the stream. A dead fish can float with the current, but it takes a live fish to swim upstream. Without friction there can be no progress. Without trials there can be no character developed. Without tests there can be no faith. Without God there can be no life. God is our sufficiency. Through Christ we can do all things.

If you think you can care for yourself by following your own plans and desires without God, you are mistaken. If God should withdraw His sustaining power from you for a single moment, it would be like withdrawing the air from under the bird, or the water from the propeller of the ship. His "care" is over us. His eye never slumbers nor sleeps. His everlasting arms are constantly around us and beneath us. He satisfies our thirst and our hunger. Of what shall we be afraid? At His command let us go forward, fearing nothing.

NOTICE! NOTICE!

To those sending articles for the Banner, please address them to Mrs. L. L. Johnson, 610 West 36th St., Savannah, Ga., or to the Banner Publishing Association, 610 West 36th Street, Savannah, Ga.

A nation cannot rise above its women, neither can the church; rise and shine, sisters, and the church will shine with you.

FREE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS PROGRAM

Our Program Is:

1st—A deeper consecration to do service in the vineyard of the Lord.

2nd—To do our BIT in preaching the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ, in all the world, for a witness unto all nations.

3rd—As a race, maintain self-respect, and do as Our Lord has said, “Occupy until I come.”

4th—To establish among Negro Seventh-Day Adventists, Negro Conferences with Negro officers— Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Bookkeepers.

5th—To establish schools for the training of our children and for workers in our organization.

6th—To establish a publishing house in which we may furnish employment to Negro Men, Women, Boys and Girls, as we strive to preach the truth of the Third Angel’s Message through the printed page.

An invitation is extended to all “INTELLIGENT” Negro Seventh-Day Adventists, those, with a vision, with moral courage, with backbone, those who are strong in the knees, in short, just common self-respect, who have the love of God in the heart, to join with us and help to put this program over the TOP, for over the TOP it must GO.

“Of a truth, I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.” Acts 10:34. Therefore, we are determined to, “Stand fast . . . in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us Free.” Gal. 5:1.