



Free Advent Banner

"He that Wineth Souls is Wise"

VOL. I.

SAVANNAH, GA., DECEMBER, 1920

NUMBER 2



OUR BRUNSWICK MISSION SCHOOL

The Magnolia Mission School of Brunswick, Georgia was established in October 1919. Sister Celeste Williams as teacher. She stands in the center in the top row. The school opened this term with a full enrollment of nearly fifty pupils. This school is under the management of our Executive Committee. It was first conducted

in our large tent. But soon transferred from there to one of the Halls in the city. At this writing it is being taught in our own building near the corner of Howe Street, on Albany.

The teacher is planning a school concert which will be conducted sometime during the month of February, 1921. We wish to thank our Brunswick friends for the loyal support they have already given this worthy enterprise which we

have established in their city.

S. J. AIKENS,
Pastor Brunswick Church.

STAND FOR PRINCIPLE AND RIGHT

Every citizen has a part to act in the civil government in which he lives; the Christian has a double obligation, for he is the light of the world. The apostle Paul sets forth our moral obligation as follows: "I ex-
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FREE ADVENT BANNER

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Salutatory Continued

It is not the mission of the Banner to wage war upon any church. Nevertheless it is but fair that we make known our position, as well as giving reasons for such position.

While we feel that we have the rights to enjoy the same religious freedom which it enjoyed by our white brethren, we do not agree with the spirit of striving against, and fighting one another.

Our father Abraham said to Lot; "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; is not the whole land before thee? Separate thyself, I pray thee, from me. If thou wilt take the left hand then I will go to the right or if thou depart to the right, then I will go to the left." — Gen. 13:8-9.

It will be clearly seen, that in order for freedom to be enjoyed, by both Abraham and Lot, a separation was necessary. And further, Abraham, God's chosen did the suggesting, while it fell to brother Lot to do the separating. Now which of the two men was the most guilty? Which of the two did God cast off forever? Did God reprove Abraham for the suggestion which he made? Did He condemn Lot for separating, which was done for

the peace and welfare of all concerned. Did God not care for, and bless Abraham, 'tho, Abraham thought a separating between he and Lot was for the best? And did not He continue His blessings upon Lot, 'tho he separated? Certainly He did. Abraham did not forget God, neither did Lot forsake His commandments. 'Tho they disagreed on the policy of caring for the flocks they were in harmony concerning the doctrines and commandments of God. Abraham loved Lot, and Lot had the greater respect for Abraham. Our father Abraham would not allow hatred to reign in his heart just because, Lot chose to separate and go where he might enjoy greater freedom. Neither should our white brethren become envious at us because we want more freedom and liberty in our religious worship.

Lot loved the Lord and obeyed His voice and when the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah invited the wrath of God upon them, God would not permit it to fall until Lot was safely outside of its walls.

Again Luke wrote of the great apostle Paul and his helpers: "Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. And some days after, Paul said unto Barnabas, let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do. And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. But Paul thought not good to take him with them who departed from them from Pamphylia and went not with them to the work. And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other; and so Barnabas took Mark and sailed unto Cyprus." Acts 15:35-41

While it was never God's plan that such things should exist, nevertheless, they do, but we need not allow them to separate us from God. We regret very much to see these walls of prejudice. We remember about twenty-five years ago, when we were all one. We al-

so know when our brethren commenced using the mortar, with which they built these walls.

Sister White says: "These walls of prejudice will tumble down of themselves as did the walls of Jericho, when Christians obey the word of God which enjoined on them supreme love to their Maker and impartial love to their neighbors." Testimonies, S. W. page 54 Our white brethren have done just what the Testimonies forbid. Listen again at what God says through sister White, "we, (the white people) should be careful not to strengthen prejudices that ought to have died just as soon as Christ redeemed the soul from the bondage of sin." Id. 12. And again God speaks through sister White to our white brethren, "We have no time to build up walls of distinction between the white and black races. The white people who embrace the truth in the Southern field, if CONVERTED TO GOD, will discern the fact that the plan of redemption embraces every soul that God has created. The walls of sectarianism and caste and race will fall down when the TRUE MISSIONARY SPIRIT ENTERS THE HEARTS OF MEN. Prejudice is melted away by the love of God." Id. page 76.

Brethren, is this not a wall? Listen, "Opportunities are continually presenting themselves in the Southern States, and many WISE CHRISTIAN COLORED MEN WILL BE CALLED TO THE WORK. BUT FOR SEVERAL REASONS WHITE MEN MUST BE CHOSEN AS LEADERS. Colored people MUST not urge that they be placed on an equal basis with white people."

Pray, let me ask, why is it that these walls of prejudice are so high, and still growing higher, in the North, South, East and West? And at the same time, so many Seventh-day Adventists professing the religion of Jesus Christ, and claim to be walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord?

In Jesus Christ we should all be one, enjoying the same privileges in our religious services,

with the middle wall of partition broken down between us.

—J. W. M.

(Concluded in next issue)

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EDITORIALS

"WHOSOEVER hateth his brother is a murderer; and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." 1 John 3:15. Thus you can see, the murderer does not have eternal life abiding in him, so says the foregoing text of Scripture; and how good it is to know that murder and hatred will have no place in Heaven! It is God's decree that these evils shall everlastinglly be destroyed from His universe, so that love, kindness and peace may reign supreme.

—x—

A PROFESSOR with a doctor's degree, according to one of the Sunday papers, thinks he has discovered a natural determining cause for the throwing down of the walls of Jericho by the armies of Israel in the days of Joshua. He thinks that the blowing of the trumpets and the shouting produced an earthquake that threw them down.

One of the favorite occupations of many men of today seems to be that of trying to find some "natural cause" for every miracle recorded in the Bible. But why not accept the simple, but true, Bible story? God is the author of the Bible. The apostle Paul says: "All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God." God is infinite. He has an innumerable company of angels continually waiting upon Him, and all the power in the universe is His. When men learn to know Him, they learn to enjoy these displays of His mighty power, and do not find any occasion for accounting for them through the ordinary processes of nature.

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Do you find it difficult to keep the Sabbath holy?—More than likely, for Satan is very busy these days. Make these words, then your Sabbath motto: "Shut the gates." Nehemiah 13:19. Shut the ear gate and the eye gate and all the other gates of your body to every worldly idea. Exclude

from your mind every thought of business and the activities of the everyday life. Ascend the heights of God. Think loftily. Climb into the bosom of the Divine, and rest peacefully there from every earthly worry. Shut the gates.

—x—

The apostle Paul says: "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accused from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh." Romans 9:1-3. There are many Christians who pray that prayer. I do not know that any of us can. Paul loved his brethren, his kinsmen—loved those who were stoning him, hunting him from place to place—so much that he said he could wish himself accursed for their sake. He is willing to be lost to give up eternal life, if, in doing so, he might save his brethren! When that Spirit is in the heart of each one, to the extent that he can truthfully say, Lord, I would yield, if necessary, my crown of glory, that my brother might be saved in the kingdom of God—that is religion. This love can only be begotten in the heart by the power of the Spirit of God, bringing into our souls the love which he had.

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During the convention and institute of the North American Negro Department, of Seventh-day Adventists, April 7-14, 1920, at Nashville, Tenn., recommendations were passed, asking for certain changes in the Negro mission. The Negro delegation was told that such changes would have to be effected by the General Conference. At the recent meeting of the General Conference committee held at Indianapolis, Ind., every department of the denomination received due consideration but the Negro department. From the Review and Herald of Nov. 25, we read "W. H. Green, Secretary of the Negro Department, presented a report showing the splendid growth in membership during

recent years. Action relating to missions (raising money) was taken as follows:

Voted, That we accept with appreciation the proposition of our colored brethren, as expressed in an action of THEIR convention at Nashville, that the colored constituency aim at making fifty cents a week per member their goal in mission gifts for 1921.

Further recommendations by the Negro Department involved institutional enterprises, and suggested changes in field work, ALL OF WHICH MATTERS were referred to committees for further study."

That means, the Negro recommendations are placed on the table, and will very likely be under the table, and forgotten, at the next meeting. We are sure it has been his way during the past.

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The truest enjoyment is the glory of this achievement. Natural, then, the truism that "work is more fun than play," just as the achievement of work is greater than that of play. Concerning the gospel worker, Christ said, "He that receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal." Not the receiving of wages—that is mentioned merely as incidental—but the gathering of fruit to life eternal, the achievement, is the great glory. As this pursuit is the producer of the greatest achievement, so is it the most pleasurable and satisfying occupation on earth.

—x—

All men desire to be FREE. yet the majority of the world are slaves. Satan is a hard master, and holds his servants all who do not yield themselves to God. It is but right for the creature to obey the Creator. The will of God is expressed in the Bible and those who obey it become the children of God. Jesus said "If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31-32. It is certainly better to be God's own free men and women in Christ Jesus than to be servants of the devil.

Hearts that have been the battle ground of the conflict with Satan, and that have been rescued by the power of love, are more precious to the Redeemer than those who have never fallen.

—Mrs. E. G. White.

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Send in your subscription to the "Free Advent Banner." Price one dollar per year.

Address all communications and make all checks or P. O. money orders payable to the "Free Advent Banner," 610 West 36th Street, Savannah, Georgia.

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An individual may so come in contact with the Bible, that he not merely believes it as the word of God, but he actually knows, from a living, vital experience, that the sacred book is infallible, inspired truth. This knowledge does not come through argument or research, but it is the result of the action of the Spirit of God working upon the individual soul through the inspired word.

A personal study of God's divine book, His Spirit so operates upon minds and hearts, that we know our heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ as our most personal, intimate friends, and we know Them just as really as any friend upon earth. This living experience, this soul-satisfying personal knowledge, is the one thing above everything else that each individual needs.

x

The first five verses of the third chapter of 2nd Timothy indicate that the last days will not be cursed because of a lack of religion, but rather the difficulty will be brought about through too much of a certain kind of religion. Those who have "a form of godliness" but who deny "the power thereof" are the ones, who, according to the prophetic warning of the apostle, will make the last days perilous.

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Comments.

I think the "Free Advent Banner" is a fine little paper. My prayer is, for its success. You will find enclosed "the one dollar bill" for Missions. I will

keep the "eleven cents" for lace.

—Robert Johnson.

Editor of the "Free Advent Banner," I have received the paper and read it with joy. I did not stop until I had read every page. I found myself looking for more to read. You are doing what I think more Negroes of the Seventh-day Adventists church should do. This is a Negro Adventists paper with a Negro editor. Praise the Lord. Find enclosed \$1.00

—Mrs. Mary L. Rodgers

x
I am delighted with the "Free Advent Banner." May God bless it, and may it gain a wide circulation is my prayer. I enclose one dollar.

—R. E. Mims.

The Savannah Journal, one of the state's best weekly papers with Prof. E. W. Sherman, as editor, makes the following comment of the "Free Advent Banner":

It should be gratifying to the public to be advised of the fact that there is a new star in the firmament of newspaperdom, bearing the title of the "Free Advent Banner" and is edited by Rev. J. W. Manns.

The paper is a clean sheet, filled with interesting articles from the trenchant pen of Dr. Manns and many of the members of his denomination. The articles bearing on his church and creed thereof will attract many readers and serve toward bringing the news paper into public notice.

The little journal will circulate largely wherever there is an Advent church. And this means that it will go into every state in the Union and will reach not only the members of the church that it represents, but the friends of these members. The Journal feels proud of the entry of this little paper into the newspaper arena, because it feels that it is a kind of parent of the nifty little sheet. We, therefore, recommend the paper to both advertisers and readers as a medium through which to obtain immediate results.

LET US HAVE FAITH

Let us have faith in God. Let us put our trust in Him. He understands all about the situation in which we are placed, and He will work in our behalf. He is honored when we trust in Him, bringing to Him all our perplexities.

"Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name," Christ says, "that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." John 14:13. God's appointments and grants in our behalf are without limit. The throne of grace itself is occupied by One who permits us to call Him Father.

"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Jehovah did not deem the plan of salvation complete while invested only with His love. He placed at His altar an advocate clothed in our nature. As our intercessor, Christ's office work is to introduce us to God as His sons and daughters. He intercedes in behalf of those who receive Him. With His own blood He has paid their ransom. By virtue of His merits, He gives them power to become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King. And the Father demonstrates His infinite love for Christ by receiving and welcoming Christ's friends as His friends. He is satisfied with the atonement made. He is glorified by the incarnation, the life, death, and meditation of His Son.

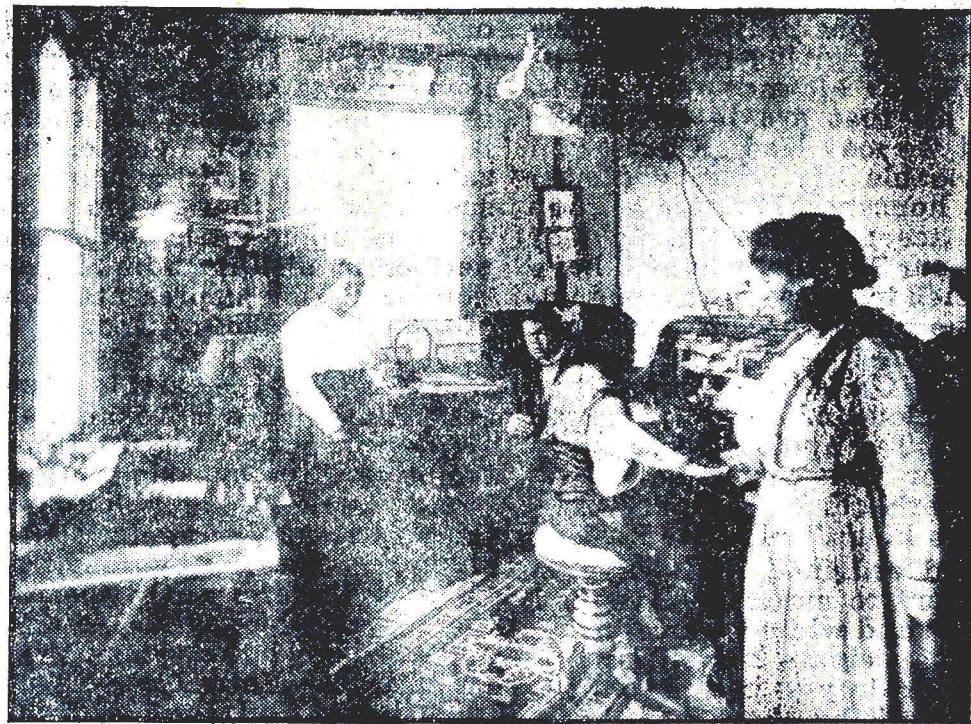
In Christ's name our petitions ascend to the Father. He intercedes in our behalf and the Father lays open all the treasures of His grace for our appropriation; for us to enjoy and impart to others. "Ask in My name," Christ says. "I do not say that I will pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loveth you. Make use of My name. This will give your prayers efficiency, and the Father will give you the riches of His grace. Wherefore, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

Christ is the connecting link between God and man. He has promised His personal intercession. He places the whole virtue of His righteousness on the side of the suppliant. He pleads for man, and man, in need of divine help, pleads for himself in the presence of God, using the influence of the One who gave His life for the life of the world. As we acknowledge before God our appreciation of Christ's merits, fragrance is given to our intercessions. As we approach God through the virtue of the Redeemer's merits, Christ places us close by His side, encircling us with His human arm, while with His divine arm He grasps the throne of the Infinite. He puts His merits, as sweet incense in the censor of our hands, in order to encourage our petition. He promises to hear and answer our supplications.

Yes; Christ has become the medium of prayer between man and God. He has also become the medium of blessing between God and man. He has united divinity with humanity. Men are to cooperate with Him for the salvation of their souls, and then make earnest persevering efforts to save those who are ready to die.

We must all work now, while the day lasts; for the night cometh in which no man can work. There are times when I am shown distinctly that there exists in our churches a state of things that will not help but hinder souls. Then I have hours, and sometimes days of intense anguish. Many of those who have a knowledge of the truth do not obey the words of God. Their influence is no better than the influence of worldlings. They talk like the world and act like the world. O, how my heart aches as I think of how the Saviour is put to shame by their un-Christ-like behavior. But after the agony is past, I feel like working harder than ever to restore the poor souls, that they may reveal the image of God.

By Mrs. E. G. White.



OFFICE AND STAFF

The office and staff workers of Free Seventh-day Adventists 610 West 36th Savannah,

Nearly five years ago our office was located in the home of Mrs. L. L. Johnson, our Secy. and Treas. After two years it was moved into the home of Elder Manns. Later it was transferred to one of our school rooms used for class work. When our school grew so large that we could no longer use this room, we built our present office on the rear of the church. We will soon have to seek larger quarters. God is blessing our effort for good.

Notice

The annual meeting of the Assembly will be held at our church in Savannah, Jan. 15 to 23, 1921. Let all of our brethren plan to attend this meeting. Our Sabbath School and Young Peoples Convention will be conducted at this time. It is expected that Elder Thomas DeFreeze of Texas will be here. There will be special preaching every night. All should come to the first meeting. A cordial invitation is extended to all our friends.

—J. W. Manns.

Elder J. W. Manns spent a few days in Gainesville, Florida visiting our company there. Sister A. B. Brown is there doing Bible work. We hope that her stay there will prove a real blessing to the believers.

X
The attention of all the members of our Sabbath Schools is called to the 13th Sabbath Offering. Let this be the best offering in our history. Our Sabbath Schools are doing a good part in helping to carry on our Missionary work. Let the good work continue.

X
We cordially invite all our readers to contribute articles on Bible subjects and Christian experience. If suitable they will appear as often as space will permit.

X
Pray, yes, pray with unshaken faith and trust. The angel of the Covenant, even our Lord Jesus Christ, is the Mediator who secures the acceptance of the prayers of His believing ones.

Mrs. E. L. White.

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hort therefore, that, first of all, supplications prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men; for kings, for that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved to come unto the kingdom of truth." I Tim. 2:1-4.

This Christianity, when the dark cloud of persecution was rising. The apostle Peter wrote "Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the kings." I Peter 2:17.

God ordained the civil government to maintain law and order; and while we are Christians participate in its blessings, it is our duty to pay proper respect to it by obeying its laws, as far as they do not conflict with the laws of God. Every soul should be subject unto higher powers, for there is no power but of God. "For the rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same. For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain; for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil." Rom. 13:1-4.

None shall try to evade the requirements of the government, thinking that it has no right to control them. The Spirit of God says, "They (the governments) are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render, therefore, to all their dues, tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor." Rom. 13:6-7.

This is the teaching of the Scriptures for the people of God in every nation or kingdom upon the face of the earth. Were it not civil government there would be no safety or freedom in any part of the globe! The greater the light and freedom in any land, the greater respect should be shown to the government in

that land.

There is but one government or kingdom that is higher and better than the best earthly governments and that is God's everlasting kingdom. As there is no perfect man upon earth, save our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, so there is no government upon earth which is perfect in all its administration. But the representatives of the government of God, both by precept and example, should respect the earthly powers. Christ is our example; When the Jews came to Him, tempting Him by asking Him if they should pay tribute to Caesar, Jesus recognized the claims of Caesar by saying, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's. Matt 22:16-22.

The law of God, the Ten Commandments stands supreme above every human law; this is a law of love. The essential point in God's government is manifest in the saving of souls.

When human laws have the example of the three worthies cast into the furnace of fire, and of Daniel in the lions' den. No individual can afford to sell his soul by being untrue to principle. If the One who could command twelve legions of angels, to protect Him from the angry mob, submitted to shameful death on the cross, His followers can bear humiliation and shame, if required rather than violate their conscience in sinning against their divine Lord and Master.

—J. W. Manns.

WHAT FREE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS BELIEVE

Seventh-day Adventists have no written creed except the Bible; but they hold to well defined points of faith, for which they feel prepared to give a reason "to every man that asketh" them. I Peter 3:15. The following brief propositions may be taken as a summary of the principal points of their faith, upon which there is, so far as we know, very general agreement through the body.

They believe:

1. That "God the Father" is a personal spiritual being. I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:4; Dan. 7:9,

13; Heb. 1:3; John 4:24; 10:30; 1 Cor. 10:1-4.

2. That Christ existed with the Father from "the days of eternity." Micah 5:2 (marg); Matt. 2:5,6; Prov. 8:22-31; John 1:1-14.

3. That "there are three living persons of the heavenly trio; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." Study Gen. 1:1-3, 26, 27; Job. 26:13; Isa. 48:16, R. V.; 1 John 5:7; Matt. 29:19; 2 Cor. 13:14.

4. That Jesus, the Son of both God and man, is the "Master Workman" by whom the Father created all things. Matt 3:17; 8:20; Prov. 8:30, R. V.; John 1:1-14; Eph. 3:19 Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2.

(Continued in next issue)

X CHRISTMAS SERMON

(By Evangelist J. W. Manns.)

Christmas is an illegitimate child, born of the wrong parents. It had its origin long before the Christian era, and was a festival celebrated among the heathen, at that precise time of the year, in honor of the birth of the son of Babylon queen of heaven. This was an effort to meet paganism half way by professed Christians at comparatively an early date. "In Egypt, the son of Isis, the Egyptian title for the queen of heaven, was born at this very time, about the time of the winter solstice. The very name by which Christmas is known among ourselves—Yule-day, proves at once its pagan and Babylonian origin. Yule is the Chaldean name for an infant, and as the 25th of December was called by our Pagan Anglo-Saxon ancestors, Yule-day, or Child's day, and the night that proceeded it, Mother's night, long before they came in contact with Christianity, that sufficiently proves its real character. "The moon was the male and the sun the female divinity. The Arabines also worshipped the moon on the 24th of December. It was celebrated in Rome by Pagans by a feast of revelry and debauch.

(Continued in next issue)

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The person who is ashamed of his religion, and is afraid to stand by it at all costs, has none.