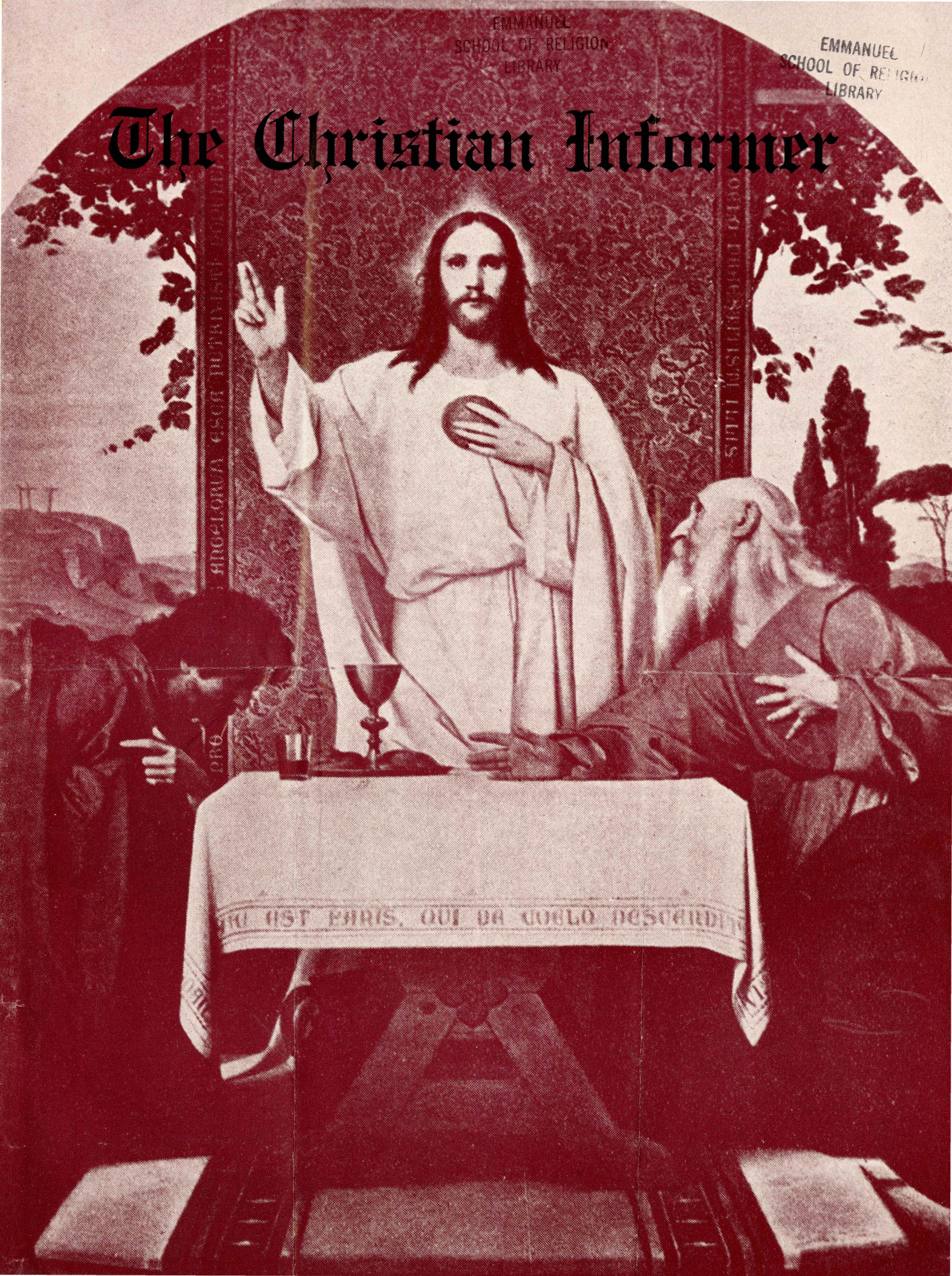


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The Christian Informer



ANGELORUM GEORGIORUM

SPIRITUS SANCTI

QUI EST CHRIS. QUI DE COELO DESCENDIT

BRACERS

"Whither thou goest I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge."—Ruth 1:16.

PASSING a certain street corner every morning for a year, I had never noticed that a great pole, planted near the edge of the walk, was neither an electric light pole nor a telephone pole. It was only a brace.

This morning, however, a workman started up the pole just as I started across the street. As I watched him go up, step by step and make himself secure, I discovered the purpose the pole really served. Its function was to lend its strength to another pole that really carried the load.

No one can guess how many of the men who seem to be doing the world's work owe their strength to some unknown individual who serves as a bracer.

Post-war biographies and memoirs are just beginning to reveal how much President Woodrow Wilson depended upon Col. E. M. House. Those nearest to Abraham Lincoln say that he drew enormous stores of strength from Joshua Speed, a homespun friend who came to the capitol frequently at Mr. Lincoln's invitation just to spend the night with his old friend, and talk over the old days and swap yarns.

One of the most pathetic incidents in all the recorded life of our Lord is that one concerning the prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, when the three chosen disciples, upon whom the Master leaned so heavily, went to sleep in the midst of a great crisis.

The story is told of a brilliant preacher who was

married to a woman considered very plain and unpromising by the people of the congregation. After her death it was discovered that it was she who had done all the research that had made those brilliant sermons possible.

Every big business man with a reputation for shrewd moves and statesmanlike management will admit, if he is honest, his deep indebtedness to some smart secretary who serves as memory, and often as brains, for him.

All strong men need the help of bracers. As we see them standing before the multitude, delivering moving orations, influencing legislatures, inaugurating reforms, or inspiring crowds, they seem so sufficient and so little in need of bracers. But when once we get back into the private office, we discover that every great piece of work represents some sort of team-work.

It is not possible for every man who is doing his duty to be a great preacher or a great editor. We cannot all lead in reforms, but we can help create a demand for the good, the pure, the splendid and the fine.

"I have never produced a single note of good music," said one man, "but I have helped, for 20 years, to create a demand for good music." It is very probable that in the estimation of God, a good brace is as highly honored as a pole that carries the load, if the brace is true to its trust.

CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

THIS IS AN affectionate term. His church is dear to Him, a thought that is often absent from our cold estimate of her place in the modern world. It is His precious possession. Peter expressed this well in these words, "the church of Jesus which he hath purchased with his own blood," and they who love the church in the spirit of Jesus have been most abundantly used of God in her behalf. How sorely she needs such love today! May God bless and encourage all who keep the church in their hearts that they may share with Jesus the joy of building her walls even when the gates of hell come up against her.

This is a proprietary term. It means "I am responsible for her. I created her. She is my life work." This is spoken of that world-wide Christian commonwealth wherein the name of Jesus is honored, but it is also spoken of your own little church where the word of God is faithfully preached. He is with you always. Here is something that is Christ's very own, and let none despise, for the institution we call the church is still the voice of Jesus to the world. So Jesus prayed for the church that God had given Him out of the world.

The word is used in a representative sense. "This is the instrument with which I must work," He

seems to say. The rock upon which His church is built is living testimony to His power and love. A church without a witness is on the road to extinction, for the church has nothing to offer mankind but its Lord. A church without a Christ is a monstrosity. His word may be but a breath in the night, but under the direction of the Holy Spirit it becomes a gale breaking down all barriers.

This term is a covenant. He will not fail His church. Her weakness is her strength, for then she is driven to Him for revival. "Silver and gold have I none," but she may have something infinitely more precious. The resources of heaven are at the command of the church. When we have had enough of ourselves we shall have more of Him. May the day soon come!

It is an explanatory term. There had been institutions like this in every land, but here was something new, startling and challenging. The world did not understand Jesus nor does it yet understand His church. Parasites would use her for their own ends but her business is plain, and the only strange thing about it all is that mankind should take so long to see the utter necessity of Jesus Christ. This same Jesus is the Lord of the church.

An Age Of Planning

WE LIVE in an age of planning. In our country we are always talking about plans—for the future, for the new world, for better housing; plans for the control of industry; all sorts of reports and blue prints. You too are looking forward to a new world which you hope will come.

Now sometimes we forget that God also has a plan and that if ours is different than the plan of God, ours is hopeless and unsafe; that is the reason why some of our plans have failed again and again.

Before our present civilization there have been many others that have grown great and powerful. These have passed away. Our modern civilization is the only one today really alive and it will pass away unless it is in accordance with the plan of God. He has a scheme for mankind; He gives us the outline in that great library of books, with God as the hero. Every book tells something about God's purpose. The Old Testament and the New Testament contain a complete political program. You can't take separate texts, points that you like, and build your picture on that. No, in the Bible we see an outline in the Old Testament and in the teaching of Christ, of what the world is meant to be.

Characteristic of God's plan for mankind is fellowship. No man lives for himself alone. It means fellowship between individuals, between classes, between nations and races. It's easy to talk about it and to pass resolutions in favor of it, but jealousy, hatred and fear prevent fellowship and break up the unity which ought to be in the human race.

The greatest task that lies in front of the Christian Church today is to promote this fellowship. We must not let it die.

People used to take pride in their splendid isolation and felt they could carry on their commonwealth of nations without the world outside. We have found it impossible to do that. The Christian has learned that it is against God's will to live for himself alone. We Christians must withstand all tendencies that break up unity. In man there is a strong impulse against fellowship and we need a stronger power to conquer these impulses. Only thus will we gain freedom in the new order that is to come.

A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life. Give me a house furnished with books rather than with furniture.—Henry Ward Beecher.

*Be Careful What You
Write On the Heart
Of a Child*



In Christ We Have

A love that can never be fathomed,
A life that can never die,
A righteousness that can never be tarnished,
A peace that can never be understood,
A rest that can never be disturbed,
A joy that can never be diminished,
A hope that can never be disappointed,
A glory that can never be darkened,
A purity that can never be defiled,
A beauty that can never be marred,
A wisdom that can never be baffled,
Resources that can never be exhausted.

The Church

THE GREATEST institution in the world is the Church of Jesus Christ. Beginning as a grain of mustard seed it has become a great tree under which the weary and heavy-laden of all nations may find rest. It is not a man-made institution. It is from God. His was the plan. He is the power. His shall be the glory forever and forever.

The greatest honor that comes to us is the privilege of becoming a part of the Church. Some people patronize the Church. They act as though they were honoring it when they unite with it. They have the wrong idea. They have failed to get earthly and heavenly things in their proper relations. Great honor may come but none like this. The Church is the body of which Christ is the head. It is the building of which He is the chief corner stone. We take pride in our association with great men. Here is an opportunity to have fellowship with the King of heaven and earth.

Just what does the Church mean to you? Is it a badge of respectability? Is it a convenient stepping stone into society? Is it eternal life insurance? Or is it one of the sweetest privileges of life? How large a place have you in the Church? There are members of Church who have not attended communion service for years. Some attend irregularly. Some attend regularly on Sabbath mornings. Some rarely miss a service. Which class most honors the Lord? To which class do you belong?

The Christian Informer

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THE CHRISTIAN INFORMER

Baltimore, Maryland

A Monthly Publication Devoted to the Restoration of Primitive Christianity, Its Doctrine, Its Ordinances and Its Fruits.



Ye should earnestly contend for the faith - Jude verse 3.

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A NATIONAL JOURNAL
Official Organ of the National Christian
Preaching Convention

If you saw it in the Christian Informer it must be true.

Editorial

Afraid of Tomorrow

Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your heart? Behold my hands and my feet. Luke 24:38-39.

Before and after the crucifixion of Jesus, the disciples were afraid of tomorrow.

They were terrified and affrighted. Luke 24:37.

The soldiers that crucified Christ were afraid of tomorrow. They "Commanded therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away. Matthew 27:64.

Judging from what we have read in the papers, seen and heard on TV and radio, it seems to me that some states and some men in high places are afraid of tomorrow. They are afraid of what my race will be tomorrow. My race does not want any more or any less than other Americans want—"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

"Behold My Hands and My Feet." Our hands and feet are scared by the chains of slavery and segregation.

Our hands have carried guns in every war for our Country. Our feet have carried us to the enemy on every battlefield. We are not bitter. We are not afraid of tomorrow. We will remain loyal to the Flag, to the Constitution, to the Supreme Court, to God and to the Church of Christ.

"The Sepulchre"

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him. Matthew 28:6-7. These words were spoken by the angel of the Lord, to certain women on that first Easter Morning.

In order to gain friendship and popularity with denominational churches, Our Open-Membership Brethren built a sepulchre somewhere in Indiana, in which to bury doctrinal preachers, and loyal to Christ churches. The seal of a certain missionary society was placed on the tomb, Field-Workers, Directors, and Uncle Toms kept "Watch."

"The Open Sepulchre"

"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and appeared unto many." Matthew 27:51-53.

At the National Christian Missionary Convention, held in Lexington, Ky., August 22, 1944. The sepulchre was opened, and out came the National Christian Preaching Convention of Churches of Christ, and the Christian Informer, and "appeared unto many"; Devoted to the Restoration of Primitive Christianity, Its Doctrine, Its Ordinances and Its Fruits.

Galilee

The angel said, "Behold, he goeth before you into Galilee." Come to Baltimore, Maryland, August 10 to 14, 1956. There you will see and hear men of the National Christian Preaching Convention, preaching the "Faith," the Open-Membership Brethren tried to destroy.

My Personal Opinion

We speak "As one having authority, and not as the scribes." Matthew 7:29.

The College of the Scriptures, Louisville, Ky., and the Winston Salem Bible College, Winston Salem, N. C., have established more new churches. Resurrected more dead church and trained more loyal to Christ preachers in their short history, among the Brethren of my race, than the United Christian Missionary Society has done, in all the years I have known it.

Let's Keep the Record Straight

The record will show, that all schools and colleges control by the U.C.M.C., for my race, have been sold, closed or merged into a college of another faith, except one.

Thirty-four churches in Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, North Carolina, Ohio, Illinois, and Washington, D.C., are served by men from the College of the Scriptures. Men trained there have started seven churches in seven states. They have revived eleven churches from the dead in Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina.

Winston Salem Bible College is not only building a fine building on its campus, but it is building fine church buildings in Tennessee and North Carolina, and they are building an outstanding Christian Service Camp for the recruiting of young men to the ministry and young people to Christian service. Preachers trained at Winston Salem Bible College are doing outstanding work wherever they are.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My wife joins me in our thanks for The Christian Informer. I returned last Friday from Monroe St. Church of Christ, Springfield, Ohio, Elder J. O. Bowles, Minister. We had a fine meeting, Elder Bundy and wife took membership, December 18th, 1955 was the beginning of my 9th year as pastor of Shady Grove, Columbia, Flatwood and Absher Christian Churches. The Lord has blessed our work.

Elder Hendrickson and family send love also your many friends. I will see you at the National Christian Preaching in Baltimore, Aug. 10-14th. Yours as ever in His service, G. E. Letton, National Evangelist, Covington, Ky.

Mrs. Nellie Wilhoit, Maryland; Mr. William Mosby, West Virginia; Mrs. Pearl Wilson, Maryland; Sergeant George Smith, Quantico, Va.; Mrs. Irine Tome, Lancaster, Pa.

Greenwood, Miss.
March 21st, 1956

Dear Bro. Taylor: This comes to bring you the news of the demise of my loving sister, Mrs. C. A. Griffin. She passed away Sunday 8:00 a.m. at the local hospital of this city. During the years of her illness she remained steadfast and unmovable in the faith of her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The funeral will be Sunday, March 25th at the Bethel Christian Church in Carroll Co., burial in Church cemetery. Bro. Taylor, I ask your prayers in this hour of sadness and grief. We keep up very well, hope you and wife are well.

Yours for the Oneness in Christ,

J. N. Keyes

Editor's note: You have our deepest sympathy.

My Dear Bro. Taylor:

Enclosed is \$1.00 for "The Christian Informer." I pray your work is progressing. Yours in Christ,
Blair T. Hunt,
Memphis, Tenn.

Editor's Note: Brother Hunt is Principal of Booker T. Washington High School, Memphis, and Pastor of the great Mississippi Blvd. Christian Church, Memphis. He served as President of the National Christian Missionary Convention with distinction. He is a free man, we met him about 1924 at the Chicago National Convention. We say of him, what Christ said of Nathanael, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile."

24 March 1956

Dear Brother Taylor:

I am working on a Ph.D. degree in Religious Education at the University of Pittsburgh and

have decided as a study for the dissertation—"A History of Secondary and Higher Education in Negro Schools Related to the Disciples of Christ."

Not long ago, I talked with Brother Tibbs Maxey, President of the College of the Scriptures and he mentioned you as a possible source for some valuable information. He also said you publish an excellent paper "The Christian Informer." Enclosed is a dollar for a subscription to it.

I am sure from what Bro. Maxey tells me, that you can make a valuable contribution to the historical knowledge of the educational work of the brotherhood.

Every best wish to you in all your undertakings and may God bless you in your work for Him.

Sincerely,

Elmer C. Lewis
Minister Squirrel Hill
Christian Church, Pittsburg, Pa.

Editor's Note: Brother Maxey is always saying good things about The Christian Informer and the Editor. Many thanks Brother Maxey.

* * *

April 3, 1956

Dear Brother Taylor:

I especially want to thank you for the help and generous amount of time you gave me. I am still enjoying the fellowship and can now read The Christian Informer with more interest. I am sure your paper must do a lot of good for many who read it and I hope it will be even more fruitful in the days ahead. I am looking forward to receiving copies of the INFORMER.

Again, many thanks for everything and all best wishes to you in your work. You are doing a great job.

Yours in Christ,
Elmer C. Lewis

Editor's Note: We enjoyed Brother Lewis' visit to The Christian Informer office. We are expecting you again soon.

THE CHRISTIAN INFORMER

I am The Christian Informer. My congregation is larger than any reached by voice from pulpit or limited by neighborhood confines. To the young I bring inspiration for their coming years; to the old comfort and stimulation. I tell the news of the Church of Christ and inspire further love for it in the hearts of my readers. I bring back erring feet into the church; I answer those whose hearts are yearning for the doctrine of the New Testament and enter the true church. I tell of hardships of His preachers and of new congregations they have established. With the world before me I gather the new of the church and bring it to your home. I speak to thousands of the things that have come to pass in the Brotherhood. My field grows larger every year, my history richer, my opportunities for good greater. Seventy-five cents a year will bring me to your home, and I repay a hundredfold for your willing sacrifice. I am an offspring of the world's greatest mother—the Church of Christ—for I am The Christian Informer.

The Upward Look

It is a good thing to look up, and to keep looking up these days. If we look around us we get depressed at the conditions prevailing in the world. If we look within we are appalled at our own coldness and indifference, and sin. It is only when we look away from self and from the world and fix our gaze on eternal things, that we can find any peace and assurance. There is no better way to begin the day than by the upward look. That is what David found. It sets the compass of our life for the day when the needle is directed to the Sun of Righteousness.

To be able to look no way but down would be a terrible affliction. And yet there are people so obsessed with the things of the earth that they seem incapable of turning their thoughts any higher or lifting their eyes to the spiritual heights of God and breathing the celestial air. In the Interpreter's House there was a room into which the pilgrims were conducted, "where was a man that could look no way but downwards, with a muckrake in his hand. There stood also one over his head with a celestial crown in his hand, and preferred to give him that crown for his muckrake; but the man did neither

look up nor regard, but raked to himself the straws, the small sticks, and dust of the floor." How true John Bunyan is to the facts of life. Again the immortal dreamer says: "He had them go into another room where was a hen and chickens, and bid them to observe awhile. So one of the chickens went to the trough to drink; and every time she drank, she lifted up her head and her eyes towards heaven. 'See,' said he, 'what this little chick doth; and learn of her to acknowledge whence your mercies come, by receiving them with looking up.'"

The upward look is always a look of thankfulness. "O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness," David sang on another occasion. To some of our people this has been a time of testing and trial. But the dark clouds have been shot through with the rainbows of the goodness of God, and over all has been His great mercy and loving kindness. Let us continue to place our faith in God.

Let us keep the upward look, the quiet, restful faith that can trust Him through all the varied experiences of life, and He will not fail to keep us safe, whatsoever the trials and tribulations may be.

FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY

SOME years ago there died in England a rich man whose will expressed a strange desire—he looked forward to death. He had inherited great wealth and houses filled with many possessions. All his life he had accumulated even more money and, being a collector, had acquired more houses and filled them with more precious contents. As he looked back on it, he realized that all his life he had been a slave to his possessions and he could see no freedom until death released him from them. He welcomed death.

So many today think that freedom is to be found in material possessions, in financial security, little realizing what enslavement both can bring.

We are all slaves in one way or another, in various degrees, to family, possessions, business, pleasure. And we long to be free. Our Lord has given us the only prescription for the malady of slavery—"If ye be my disciples, ye shall know the truth—and the truth shall make you free."

The truth can only be known through His disciples—willing to forsake all and follow Him.

He has the answer for all problems, all doubts, all uncertainties. He alone can release us from the shackles of slavery. When we care for nothing except to do His will, our lives are no longer humdrum, no longer weighted down with care. He has assumed all our burdens.

"Love God and do as you please"—this is an old saying—paradoxical seemingly—but very sound. When we love God we please to do as He pleases. Doing His will we are free. We are truly free.

All the comforts and attachments to which we have become accustomed must be surrendered to Him—to Whom all belongs. Then there will never be sorrow or unhappiness at their loss.

We should take a lesson from the widow who at the death of her husband when questioned upon her lack of tears and apparent freedom from sorrow replied, "I gave my husband to God long ago. He has freed me from despair."

Faith makes the discords of the present the harmonies of the future.



GOD and the City

You may not think about it while crossing the ferry, but God plays a mighty part in the life of a city!

A city is coldly impersonal. Its millions jostle one another in the subways and crush each other in the elevators, yet everyone is a stranger. You never get to know the fellow who has his elbow in your face or the lady on whose toe you are standing.

But under the hustle and confusion flows a stream of human and divine love. Sympathy and kindness and understanding express themselves in a million unnoticed acts. Prayer and faith unite multitudes in a bond of reverence and hope.

God is in the city! He is the One who is a stranger to no one . . . and to Whom no one is a stranger.

That's why in the city, just as in your town and mine, folks turn to the Church to satisfy that universal longing to be Known . . . and Understood . . . and Loved!

Come and Worship

This is a Church with open doors, open hearts, and welcoming hands. . . . A Church where fresh young lives may be won for the Master. A Church where men and women may discover meaning, where tempted souls may gain strength, and where wandering feet may be led to the Father's Home. Make your faith an active, daily part of your personal life. Go to Church regularly. Support your local Church. Find a way to give it more of your time and strength.

You Are Welcome!

1956 Annual Session

of the National Christian Preaching Convention of Churches of Christ will be held at Emmanuel Christian Church, Baltimore, Maryland, August 10 to 14th, 1956. Convention Theme: "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his suffering." Phil. 3:10.

A Mixed Lot

Church members are a mixed lot. They can be divided into these classes:

Futurists—who are always going to go to church soon, and wish they were not booked up every Sunday.

Specialists—who come to church only on very special occasions.

Roadsters—who work so hard they must rest on Sunday, the rest consisting of traveling far and fast all day Sunday and returning tired out.

Regulars—who always attend all church services.

All the Church Cares About

"All the church cares about is money." How many times have you heard somebody make a statement like that? But consider the following and see who it is that cares for money.

All the liquor interests care about is money. This is a true statement, but you don't hear people say it very often. Take the profit out of the liquor business, and it will fold overnight. It doesn't care about broken homes and broken lives. All it cares about is money.

All the tobacco companies care about is money.

They know it is true. You don't hear many people complain though. They don't care about damaged health and wasted family budgets. Some folks allow their children to go barefoot and in rags, but they manage for a smoke. The tobacco companies care not for these conditions. All they care about is money.

Where Is Your Membership?

There are many people in this community who hold their church membership elsewhere. They give various reasons why they will not unite with a church in the city where they live. Here are some of the reasons:

"Mother and father belonged to the old church."—Exactly so! Father and mother belonged there because they lived there. Why not be as sensible as they were and belong to the church in the city where you live?

"The Old Church Needs Me."—Perhaps it does; but it does not get you. In spite of your spasmodic efforts to go back to the old church for special services and a few other times during the church year, you are not giving the old church an honest support. Pulling a church is like pulling a wagon: the farther you get away from the load, the less you pull.

"The Burial Lot is There"—It is good for you to think of the resting place of the dead. Earth holds no more sacred spots for any of us than the places where our loved ones lie. But these departed saints will be even more sacred to those of us who enter wholeheartedly into the work of the Church of Christ in the city where we live.

"And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers."



For message of the written word,
In every clime proclaimed and heard,
And wondrous energies of thought,
By which its inner tones are caught,
Inspirer of the Holy Page
Thy church gives thanks from age to age.

But O! from vanity that swells
The foolish mind, wherein there dwells
No thirst for wisdom, save of earth,
Untouched by aught of heavenly birth,
Thou, Who of knowledge hast the key,
Hold us in listening ever free!

Rather with longing of desire,
Wherewith to Thee we shall aspire
And meek humility of heart
That knows to take the scholar's part,
O Student at the Doctor's feet,
Endow Thy learners, we entreat!

And so of utterance of Thy will,
Which Thou shalt help us to fulfil;
And glories of Thyself unveiled
By us with answering fervour hailed,
O Judge, preparing for Thy Throne,
Make us, before too late, Thine own!