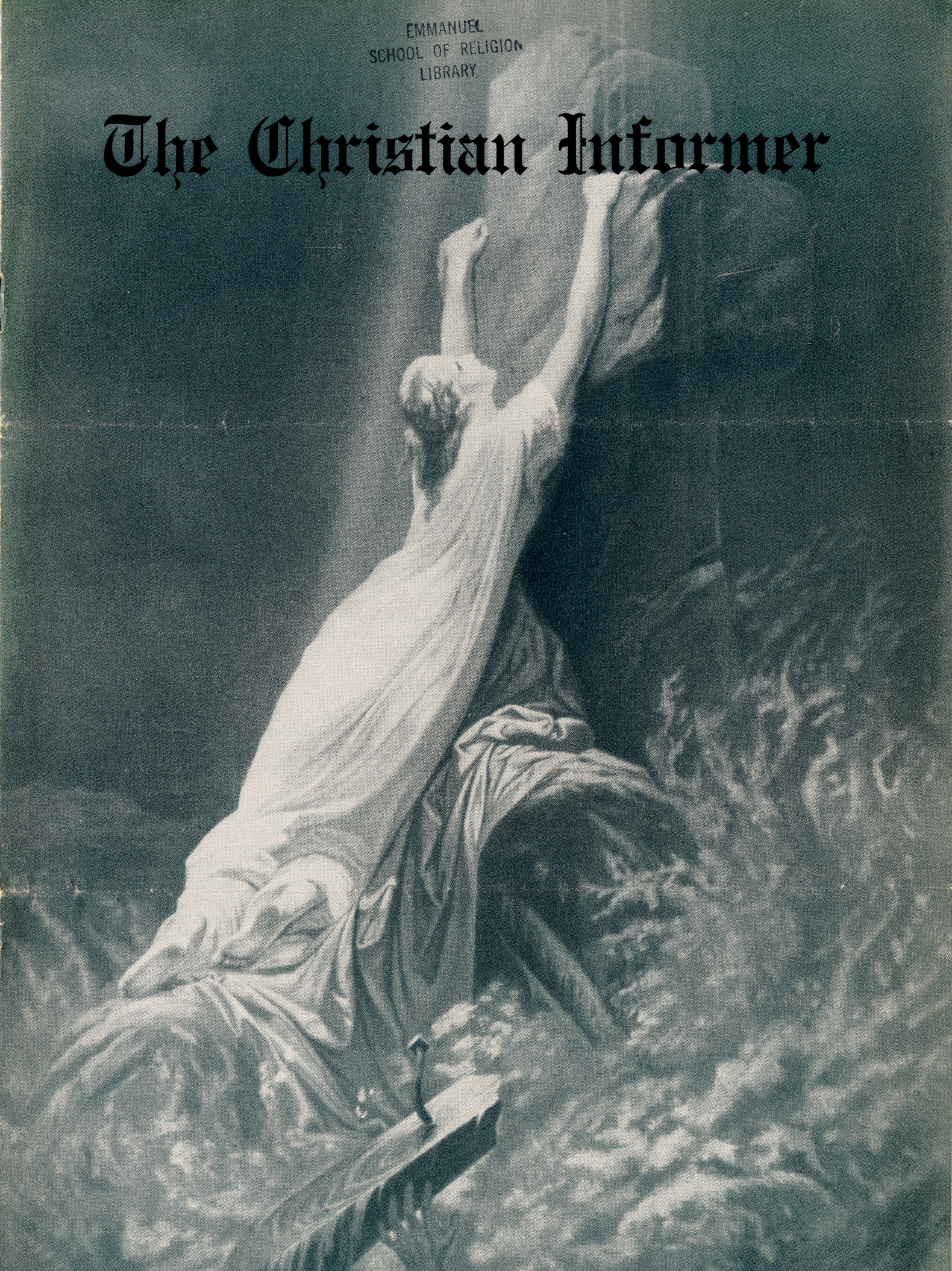


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# The Christian Informer



# UNANSWERED PRAYERS

*"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*

THERE are many promises that seem to imply that no prayer ever goes unanswered. "Call unto Me and I will answer." "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you." "All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them." "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father."

These promises and many others like them seem to warrant the belief that no prayer is ever offered in vain. But experience would seem to prove otherwise. Here for example is the Psalmist who cries out almost in despair, "O my God, I cry in the daytime, but Thou answerest not; and in the night season, and am not silent." Perhaps very few persons who have had any real experience of prayer would deny that they have sometimes cried to God when the heavens seemed like brass. They could find no answer, nor any evidence that their prayers had registered in heaven.

How shall we explain experiences that seem to contradict the plain teaching of Scripture? For one thing, a lot of prayers receive no answer because they are not prayers in any real sense. Heartless prayers, faithless prayers, meaningless prayers, stereotyped prayers, no matter how perfectly formed or beautifully phrased, have neither claim on God nor promise from God. On the other hand, are we not warranted in saying that every prayer that ascends to God from the passionate heart of a believing soul, receives an answer in some way, in

some form? Are we not wrong when we complain that our prayers are unanswered?

The answer to prayer is sometimes delayed, and we are apt to mistake a delayed answer for no answer. Many prayers are like the second petition of the Lord's prayer. For nineteen hundred years we have prayed "Thy kingdom come," and "Lo, Thy church is praying yet, a thousand years the same." Many things must transpire before the final answer can come. We do not lose faith on that account, nor do we cease praying.

The answer is sometimes negative, and we are apt to interpret a negative answer for no answer. Like any other father, our heavenly Father must sometimes refuse to grant a request. Like any other children, the children of God in their selfishness may be slow to acknowledge a refusal as an answer. And yet it would be a sorry world for us all if our unwise, criss-cross petitions were all granted in the form in which they are made.

Again, prayers are often answered indirectly, and an indirect answer may be easily overlooked. Paul's prayer for the removal of the "thorn" was answered, but the "thorn" remained. He did not get exactly what he asked for. What he did get was an added grace that enabled him to rejoice in his infirmity. Jesus had the same experience in the garden, and it has been the experience of countless others.

Let doubters and cynics laugh, and let those deny it who will, we still affirm that "the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much in its working."

## The Church Paper Reading Habit

IT IS one thing to make a good church paper; it is quite another thing to so enlist the members of the church generally in such a paper that they will look for it as regularly as they do their daily paper. For it must be borne in mind that the very best church paper that could possibly be made could not accomplish its purpose without a large proportion of regular and interested readers from among the membership of the church. And very often, unless some special effort is made to direct attention to and awaken interest in the church paper it does not find a place in the home, and is not read by those for whose information and profit it was designed.

The daily reading habit is general enough. We see evidence of it everywhere—in the home, in the office and study, on the railway and street cars, on boats, in parks and gardens, everywhere. Men feel that they have missed something of the life of the world if they have been deprived of their morning or evening paper. So fixed has the habit become that the reading of newspapers is regarded as one of the indispensable routines of life.

But why should not the church paper be as in-

dispensable to the man who is interested in the progress of the kingdom of God in the world, as is the daily paper, which deals principally with so-called secular matters, and records the passing events of the day? We believe that if church members would once form the habit of reading a church paper it would grow with the years and become the source of great pleasure as well as profit.

The initial difficulty of the publishers of church papers has generally been to awaken interest in such a periodical, and this can best be done by those who have been reading it and enjoying it, and who know its value. A commendatory word from a regular reader of the paper to his friend or neighbor, may open the way to another home for the church paper. A quotation from the church paper in the pulpit, or a reference to an article of special interest or value, as occasion offers, may lead to the formation of new connections between the church paper office and the congregation of the minister who takes this means to call the attention of people to their church paper.—Selected.

# The Christian Informer

Volume 13

Baltimore, Maryland - Dec.-Jan.-Feb.-Mar., 1958

Number 1-2-3

## 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.*

Subscription:

One year 75c; single copy, 10c.

W. H. (Baltimore) Taylor, Editor

Office - Emmanuel Building, 1702 Madison Ave., Baltimore 17, Md. Phone Madison 36340-W

A NATIONAL JOURNAL  
Official Organ of the National Christian  
Preaching Convention

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

## Editorial . . . .

### "Believe Be Baptized And Be Saved"

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:16.

- Do you believe John 3:5?
- Do you believe Acts 2:38?
- Do you believe Colossians 2:12?
- Do you believe Romans 6:3-4?
- Do you believe Acts 8:12?
- Do you believe Acts 8:38?
- Do you believe Acts 10:47?
- Do you believe Acts 16:33?
- Do you believe Acts 22:16?
- Do you believe Galatians 3:27?
- Do you believe first Peter 3:21?

"But he that believeth not shall be damned." Mark 16:16.

\* \* \*

### Integration Not Elimination

In the eleventh chapter of Luke are these words, "If a son ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?"

Several years ago, a certain national convention asked a certain super organization for bread, and they were given a stone. They asked for a fish, and they were given a serpent. They asked for an egg, and they were given a scorpion, filled with open membership and other evils.

Judging from what we have seen, read and heard, they ask this "super organization" for integration; and they were given a big dose of elimination.

All of their schools and colleges have been eliminated except one, and that one is very sick. Their eight-page paper has been eliminated. Some years ago, that "super organization" passed the word down the line to, eliminate a certain woman, who had given about twenty-five years of, sacrificial service to her people.

About a dozen years ago, that same "super organization" passed the word down the line, to eliminate a certain man from office; because he spoke out against open membership.

\* \* \*

### Old Timers Should Know Better

Should a certain national convention, merge with a certain super convention. It would be like the little goldfish, that jumped out of its beautiful fish bowl. In order to merge with a big tom cat. The little gold fish has never been seen, nor heard of since the merger. The big tom cat is still around, sleeping in the day and walking the fences at night. OLD-TIMERS should remember, that the were once the "tail end" of a certain super convention; before a certain national convention was organized.

\* \* \*

### Purse-Power-Popularity

Judging from the letters and other literature we receive, almost daily from a certain super organization, asking for gifts and offerings. We are convinced that they love the "THREE P-P-P's" Purse, Power, Popularity. In order to gain popularity, that super organization will climb upon every Interdenominational band wagon that comes along.

\* \* \*

### Why?

Why is it, that quite a few pastors leave the congregation they are pastoring, a few weeks, months or years. After they have entertained a certain national convention? I knew one pastor who was president, when he entertained a certain national convention, now deceased. He left the congregation, when the national convention left.

Could it be, that some one, or some one working for someone; sow seeds of discord among the congregation and pastor, during the time of the convention?

\* \* \*

### Helpless

If a forty year old national convention has no publication (paper), it is quite helpless; because it will know, only what the "super organization" wants it to know. Resistance to open membership and other evils, becomes very difficult, and they will be nearer to slavery.

## NEW AND RENEWED SUBSCRIBERS

Mr. John Law, Washington, D.C.  
Mr. Clarence Thunderburg, Maryland.  
Mrs. Pearl McIntire, Maryland.  
Mr. William Draughn, North Carolina.  
Mr. Ralph Henzley, Maryland.  
Mr. James Franklin, Maryland.  
Mr. J. N. Keys, Mississippi.  
Mrs. Louvenia Orr, New York.  
Mrs. Betty Kitterls, New York.  
Mrs. E. E. Webster, Kentucky.  
Mr. Facen Draughn, Washington, D.C.  
Mr. Robert Anderson, New Jersey.  
Mr. R. N. Jackson, Virginia.  
Mr. Lee Tyler, West Va.  
Mrs. Rosa V. Haskins, Florida.  
Mr. James Lawson, Ohio.  
Mr. C. N. Johnson, Pennsylvania.

## RALLY FOR OUR PASTOR

Thanks to the members and friends of Emmanuel Church of Christ, Baltimore, for making the rally a success.

Mrs. Pearl McIntire, Mrs. Alene Sanders, Mr. Isaac Green, Mrs. Sallie Sheard, Miss Shirley Smith, Mrs. Emma Hall, Mr. Jasepr Ford, Mrs. Florence Cureton, Mrs. Eula Thomas, Mrs. Mayme Queen, Mr. A. Halstead, Mrs. Edmonie Foard, Miss Frances Felder, Mr. C. L. Moris (Jiggs), Mr. Wm. Brown, Mr. R. Peryear, Mrs. Jessie White and children, Mr. Herbert Smith, Mr. and Mrs. John Parker, Mr. William Taylor, Mr. Henry Holcombe, Mr. Jessie Chappell, Mr. Ernest Smith, Mr. Melvin Green, Mr. Wimple Tucker, Mr. Elwood Minor, Mr. T. Thomas, Madison Ave., Pleasure Club, Miss Carrie Dial, Mr. Louis White, Mrs. Mary E. White, Mrs. Selma Draughn, Mr. and Mrs. William Haskins, Mrs. Mary Stith, Mrs. Bertha Jackson, Mrs. Arnita Ford, Mrs. Essie Hill, Mr. and Mrs. James Hicks, Mrs. Annie L. Taylor, Mrs. Bessie Jones, Mrs. Sarah P. Cumberland, Mrs. Sophia Stevens, Mr. George Smith, Mr. Levi Oliver, Minister, Mrs. Libbey, Mr. Peter Alexander, Mr. W. W. Clark, Minister, Mr. J. W. Taylor, Mrs. Ursella E. Rice, Mrs. Sarah Wilson, Mrs. Dora Williams, Mr. Edward Draughn, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Smith, Mrs. Emma Beverly, Mrs. C. Woodland, Mr. Luther Green, Mrs. Olivia Edmonds, Mr. W. H. Taylor, Minister, Mr. Edwin Pinkston, Mrs. Cammie Smith, Mrs. Pearl Wilson, Mrs. Pearl Watts, Mrs. M. Woodland, Mrs. Deloris Peryear, Mrs. Sopha Wanza, Mrs. Nellie Wilhoit, Mr. J. P. Purdy, Mr. Herbert J. Stith, Sr.

## ASLEEP IN JESUS

Mrs. Virginia Parker, born April 6, 1910 in Nottaway County, Va. She was the daughter of the late Samuel L. Ford and Jennie Ford and wife of John A. Parker, passed away January 27, at 1:20 P.M. She died in the full triumph of faith. She leaves to mourn her loss two daughters, Elizabeth V. Ford and Jennie L. Taylor; two stepchildren, James A. Parker, and Sarah Dabney; two sisters, Ellen Overton, of Richmond, Va., and Sallie Wright of Roanoke, Va.; four brothers, Jasper Lynn, and William of Balto, and Clarence of

Denver, Colo., and 6 grandchildren; 10 nieces and 8 nephews, and a host of relatives and friends. She was a member of Emmanuel Christian Church where she was a faithful member until death. Her last words were, "I'm walking through the valley of the shadow of death and I fear no evil."

You rocked us in our cradles,  
You taught us on your knee,  
You kissed our hurts to make them well,  
And oh, so tenderly!

And now that God has called you,  
And you said, "I come,"  
We know that you prepare a place  
To make your heaven our home.

The world may change from year to year,  
And friends from day to day  
But never will the one we loved,  
From memory pass away.

Your Beloved Family

## Letters to the Editor

Detroit, Michigan

Dear Brother Taylor:

Hope all are well. I have retired now, carried mail for thirty years. Glad to get a copy of the Christian Informer. I read it and passed it on to Brother Frank McCrea, then to Sister Turner (Elder Turner's wife) he is still in the hospital, but expecting to be home soon.

Yours in the One Faith,

T. K. Rouse

\* \* \*

Greenwood, Miss.

Dear Eld. Taylor:

I am glad to have this opportunity of saying a word before the old years close. Happy to say this leaves all in fair health. The Lord is blessing us to be up. Hope you and your companions are in the best of health. I do wish I could be able to hear some of those old Jerusalem Gospel sermons.

My wife and I have witnessed our 57th year of holy wedlock. The Lord has wonderfully blessed us. Enclosed find \$1.00 for subscription. Keep me informed with your great paper.

Merry Xmas, Love,

Yours in Christ,

Bro. J. N. Keyes

\* \* \*

Midway, Kentucky

Dear Brother Taylor:

I hope you and yours had a fine Christmas. I did not want 1957 to close before I renewed my subscription. I really enjoy reading the Christian Informer. I get lots of good things out of it; it is a good paper. I was glad to know that Brother L. L. Dickerson and Brother T. B. Flemming are visiting you, I know them well, they are great men. You will find in this letter \$1.00 for the year of 1958.

Yours in Christ,

(Mrs.) Ellen E. Webster

Los Angeles, Calif.

## IT'S CHRISTMAS

Hearts over-flow with cheer,  
This season of the year;  
It is the time of giving,  
The time of joyous living.  
Cards bringing messages of cheer,  
And best wishes for the New Year -  
From families and friends too,  
Who find such lovely things to do.

## IT'S CHRISTMAS

The highest mass of all,  
God's greatest gift -  
The Babe found in a stall,  
Came to save us all.  
Bells are ringing, angels singing,  
To Him the Wise are bringing  
A gift of gold; it is the soul,  
Most glorious to behold!

## IT'S CHRISTMAS

We give God thanks of His holy gift,  
We give our conscious soul a lift;  
The radiance of God's Holy Light,  
Always leading us aright.  
Old things have passed away,  
Thou hast given to us a New Day;  
Help us O, God, not to stray,  
But in Thy consciousness--Stay!

God Bless and Keep You Sweet.

Sincerely,

Rev. Eula M. Smith

\* \* \*

W. H. Taylor, Editor,  
The Christian Informer,  
Emanuel Bldg., 1702 Madison Ave.,  
Baltimore 17, Maryland

Dear Bro. Taylor:

This week I received a copy of the March-May 1956 issue of the Christian Informer. This reminded me that I had not been getting it lately. As you may know, I was a subscriber for some time, and I have a complete file of the paper from its beginning through 1949, and a part of 1950. The enclosed copy of the page from my Index of periodicals shows exactly what I have.

I would like very much to make my file complete, and will be glad to pay for the missing issues. What I need is those printed since the Sept. 1949-March 1950 issue, which is the latest I have except for the one mentioned above, the March-May 1956 copy.

If you can provide me with the missing issues I will then enter another subscription, so as to keep the file up to date.

Cordially yours,

A. T. DeGroot

P. S. I have a few extra copies of some old numbers, which may be of value for your files. I will be glad to trade them in for copies that I lack. They are: 1945 February; 1947 February; 1949 July-August; 1949 Sept.; 1950 March.

P.S. I was reared in Maryland, town of Riverdale, about 20 miles from Baltimore. My brother

helped install the first automatic telephones, which went into use first in Baltimore.

\* \* \*

Chugiak, Alaska

Dear Bro. Taylor:

A copy of the "Informer" has just reached my desk. It is good to learn of your work at Baltimore in restoring the simple church of the Scriptures. We have for many years worked at the same task in the territory of Alaska.

We note favorable mention of our friend, Tibbs Maxey.

Have you ever met Bro. Arthur Cross, pastor of the church at Remus, Michigan, another of my friends? I once conducted a meeting at his church.

Continued success and God's blessing as you labor on.

Sincerely,

Ali B. Jarman, Minister  
Christian Chapel

\* \* \*

Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Bro. Taylor:

It has been years since I have seen or talked with you, and I must say that I have missed you in the places where we used to see each other in former years. The convention is doing fairly well, but we do miss you more than words can say, and wish we had you back in the work as you used to be. However, we know that yours is the choice to do as you wish, and we think none the less of you for the choice that was yours to make.

Since we saw each other many things have happened. You probably know that I am not any longer with the Avalon church. On June 10 last year we started a new work.

I trust and hope that your work is progressing nicely, and that all goes well with your family. May you have the best year of your most effective ministry in the year to come because God has looked upon you as one of His anointed.

I forgot to say that we have taken in 70 members since we started, and when we are permanently located we expect many more members who will help us to do a great work for the Master. The location we have under consideration is on Figueroa Boulevard, and is in a good community, providing a splendid location for us to work. Our people are moving into the neighborhood very fast.

With every good wish for you and yours, I remain

Yours in Christ,

Baxter Carroll Duke

Editor's Note: Brother Duke is not only an outstanding minister of the Gospel, but also a successful Doctor of Chiropractic. He was founder and for years pastor of the great Avalon Blvd. Christian Church. Vice President of the National Christian Missionary Convention. A few years ago he and his congregation entertained the National Christian Missionary Convention on the West Coast for the first time. God will help Brother Duke succeed.

Elder W. H. Taylor  
1702 Madison Ave.  
Baltimore 17, Md.

New Brunswick, N.J.

Dear Brother:

We enjoyed very much being with you on the second Sunday in October. We hope this is the beginning of a great Fellowship between us, as I have begun at work in the Lord, which is doing nicely.

I am asking you, if it's possible for you to come over to preach an Installation Sermon on the second Sunday in January, 1958. The church is located at 19 Richmond Street. Please bring your choir and congregation if it's possible.

I'll discuss the situation more fully when I see you. Please inform me whether this date is convenient with you, or give me another date after the second Sunday.

Your Brother in Christ,  
Z. D. Johnson

Oh! the Church is named "Friendship Christian Church."

### Same Today As It Was Yesterday

In spite of the high cost of living and everything else, The Christian Informer is the same today as it was yesterday. Only seventy-five cents a year.

Please renew your subscription. We need your help. Put a dollar bill and your name and address in an envelope, and mail it to the Editor of The Christian Informer, 1702 Madison Ave., Baltimore 17, Md.

### Your Problem and Mine

Life is made up of so many things that we can't possibly give adequate attention to them all.

The problem you and I face each day is to put the non-essential aside and devote our time and our energies to doing the things that will be of greatest service.

People who potter have to take pot luck. This is an age of directness. Set your goal, then go to it—straight! The things in the way won't matter if you refuse to recognize them.

Necessity is not only the mother but the whole family tree of some of the things that the world gets done.



if

... you have anything kind to say, if you have any encouragement to give, if another's actions seem to you worthy of praise, then say it, and say it out loud. Too often it is criticism and fault finding that make themselves heard, while helpful words are only whispered.

### 1958

The 1958 session of the National Christian Preaching Convention will be held at Emmanuel Church of Christ, Baltimore, Maryland, Tuesday before the second Lord's Day in August, 1958.

Preaching, Praying, Singing and Shouting will be the order of the day. No board bill to pay. No room rent to pay. No reports to make. No registration fee to pay. No Laymen Fellowship to plot against the preachers. No organizations to crowd out the church.

All money raised at the Convention will be donated to the preachers doing the preaching, the Christian Informer and to the local church.

### The Editor's Visit To New York, New Jersey And North Carolina

In the month of December and January we visited the above named states, in the interest of the Christian Informer. On the second Lord's Day in January at the morning service, we preached to a large congregation at the Williamsburg Christian Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., Elder R. W. Williams, Pastor. You can feel like you have been to church, when you go to Williamsburg Christian Church.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. We visited New Brunswick, the home of Elder and Sister Z. D. Johnson. A few weeks ago Brother Johnson and a group of "Bible Loving Christians" organized a church, known as the Friendship Christian Church. They have more than twenty-five faithful members. Visit the Friendship Christian Church of New Brunswick, and you will hear a good preacher, sound in the faith. They worship at 19 Richmond Street.

The youth that is flaming is not necessarily very bright.

# GOD IN BUSINESS

**G**OD IS in the business of undoing the mischief of sin, destroying its power and freeing life from slavery to it. God is in the business of recreating human personalities in Christ Jesus and making them children of God. A Christian is a partner with God in this business.

God is in the business of seeking and saving that which is lost. This divine crusade of redemption heads up in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who became man for our salvation, purchasing eternal life for us by the sacrifice of His own sinless life. This saving operation of God in Jesus Christ is the biggest business ever done in service of mankind. The story of that act of God must be told. The telling is big business and Christians the world over are partners in the business.

God is in the business of begetting a people for Himself. His saving acts to secure this end are written in a book, the Bible. God has lodged His divine power in that book, so that instruction in it is followed by the results God intends. "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." Teaching the truth of the Word of God wherever or whenever is an effective form of preaching, and the teacher of it and doer of it is a partner with God in it.

God is in the business of establishing His rule in the hearts of men. He deems it important to begin with the child. Mighty forces of the world beat upon the susceptible nature of the child. They assail the child by way of the newspaper, the magazine, the movies, the radio and all the influences of a secularized, mechanized, godless age. Through Christian parents, pastors and teachers, God means to bring to bear upon the mind and heart of the younger generation the full impact of His saving truth. It is big business to overcome the forces which blast, with powers which redeem and bless. Fathers, mothers, pastors, teachers are partners with God in that business.

God is in the business of building the kingdom of God in this world, the kingdom which is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. Vast miseries call trumpet-tongued for social justice. Organized evils hold millions in bondage. The trail of the serpent besmirches the fairest handiwork of God. The earth is drenched with the blood of man's inhumanity to man. That blood cries to God and God answers the cry with the blood shed for our redemption. The Christian believer knows the only way out of the dark for the world. A new race is in the making in the homes and Bible schools of the land. A part of God's big business of bringing back a statelier Eden to men is the teaching of the children, indoctrinating them in God's saving truth. Whoever shares in Christian education is a partner with God in this business.

God is in the business of producing Christian character, creating moral atmosphere, environing human hearts with a climate of holiness, furnishing developing personalities with ideals and inspiration. All this is intended to be to the spirit

*God is in business in human society: every Christian is called to be a partner in the business.*



of growing childhood what sunshine and wholesome food and proper activity and needed rest are to the physical life of a child. Here a teacher functions with light and love and leading. It is God's business, because it is a work for which only God is equal; but every one who works for God is a partner with God in it.

God has erected a long battle-line against advancing forces of unrighteousness and at this and that point of the struggle between good and evil, frontal attacks are part of God's strategy. The Bible school invades the hopeful field of child nature and claims it for Jesus Christ. It undertakes to bind the will of youth to the wheel of Christ's triumphal chariot. It seeks to bring the spirit of childhood to the one qualified Savior and the one rightful King. God proposes the conquest of youth and every one active in this field is a partner with God in this business.

Partners with God means in business with God. Surely the eternal God is the senior partner. He understands the business better than anyone. He knows what's needed. His resources are mighty.

Partners with God. This lifts the lowliest Christian work to a high plane of honor, dignity, privilege, responsibility. God is in it, back of it and for it. He means to pursue it with us, to make it pay dividends in lives redeemed, built up, empowered and guided.

Partners with God. His is the kingdom, the power and the glory. We are dependent, we are at best channels of blessing, instruments, agents, witnesses, ambassadors, salt and light to a world which needs Jesus.

Partners with God. He will value it and reward it. The business done for God is the thing which will last. It is the one thing you will be glad to have associated with your name. It will prove to have been life's greatest honor.

Partners with God. We read concerning the disciples after the risen Christ sat down at the right hand of God, "And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed." The Lord of glory never forsakes those who are engaged in His business. He never leaves them to work alone. He works, too. He honors faith and devotion. He sees to results and causes us to see that our labor is not in vain in the Lord.

# WHY SHOULD PEOPLE *Go To Church?*

**I**N DISCUSSING the problem of church attendance we are considering it on a low level as long as we think merely or mainly of the means and methods of getting people to come to church. There must be some deep motive that urges them to go to church as something that is worthwhile and makes church attendance not so much a duty that should be performed, however distasteful it may be, but as a privilege that they cannot afford to neglect and a help and a joy in all their living, without which they cannot live so well.

Religion is the craving of the soul for God, and all our faculties and needs cry, "Show us the Father and it sufficeth us." This need is age-long and worldwide and is as constitutional in us as our hunger and thirst or as our social and affectional nature. The church and priest did not make it, but it made the church and priest. It is not at all a human invention or an artificial and manufactured article in our life, but it is born in us and begins to act when we begin to breathe and grows with all our growth. It acts with the spontaneity of an instinct. We do not begin its activity and we cannot stop it. It is true that we can feed and stimulate it and can also starve and wither it, but it is there and cannot be wholly suppressed or eradicated. Even those who come to deny it cannot wholly exterminate it and let surprising confessions escape from them. The most inveterate agnostic or sceptic is often discovered to be a sincere and even sad seeker after some kind of religious faith and hope. Reason did not create this constitutional need, and reason cannot kill it. It is deeper than the brain and is rooted in the heart.

Any movement of the spirit needs to be organized into an institution and implemented with means. It may be said, and some do say, that this religious nature will take care of itself and find food and expression anywhere and therefore we

need no church and ordinances and that such things rather hinder true religion by incrusting and imprisoning it in forms that constrict it to death. There is danger in this direction, but the main truth lies the other way: that religion without organization and forms of worship evaporates into sentiment and leaves only a sediment of dust. The spirit cannot live without a body and cannot move and propagate itself without hands and feet, tongue and speech. Every idea must get such means of growth and expression. There may be and is some education going on outside the schools, but self-educated men usually show how unsymmetrical and incomplete their education is. Some education can be obtained out of books, but there is something in the school that cannot be found in books, the personality of the teacher and the contagious spirit of culture. The impact of mind upon mind and of spirit upon spirit is the most vital means of education, and so is it of growth in the religious life. Religion is the most social and contagious form of our social life and so it has ever assembled people together and kindled their religious nature and needs by common ideas and aspirations and compacted them into mass movements that have swept the community and country with Pentecostal wind and fire. The reason we should go to church is of the same order and necessity as the reason why we should go to school for education and to the bakery for bread, and to the factory and store for goods. We must go where these things are prepared in the best way and are to be obtained by the best means. When this is realized people will go to church out of the practical necessity and rich reward of having an orderly and fruitful religious life, supplied with its proper food and stimulated and set on fire by the contagious worship of the church where the Spirit of God is more fully shed abroad in their hearts.