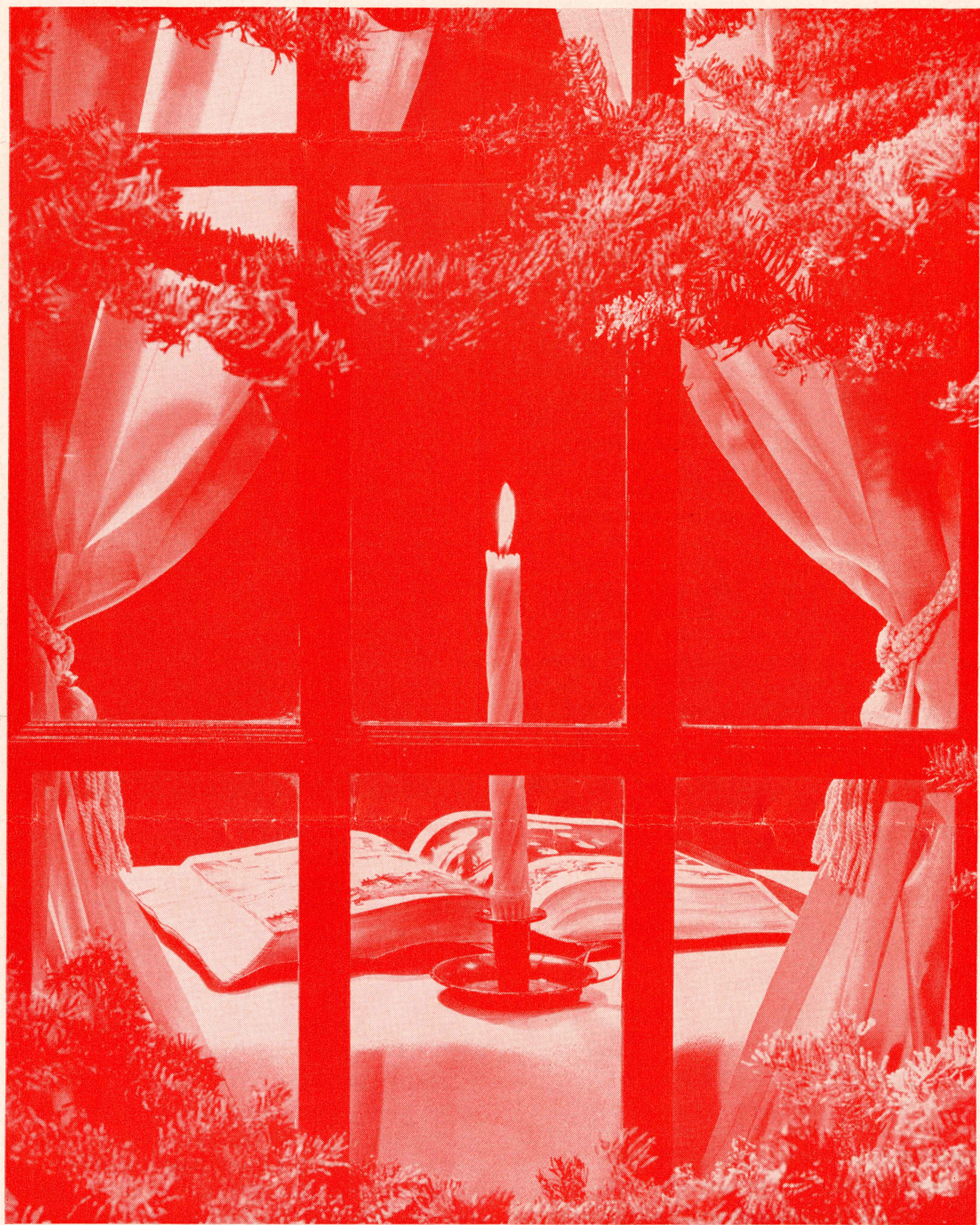


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# The Christian Informer



## Solving Personal Problems

"I'll do it just this once." Here is a remark people often make to themselves. They wish to do some particular thing, but they are a little uncertain about it. Is it wise to do it, or would it be better not to do it? Unable to reach a definite decision, they compromise by saying, "Oh, well, it doesn't matter much. I'll do it just this once."

Is this a sound way of settling personal problems? Is the "just this once" decision a happy medium or does it contain a very real danger?

Suppose the problem concerns the doing of something which runs contrary to your standards. Can you do the thing once without making a permanent impression on your character, without rendering it easier to do the questionable thing again?

In an old play Rip Van Winkle excused himself for each fresh indulgence, saying, "It won't count this time," whereupon William James, the psychologist, observed "Well, he may not count it . . . but it is being counted none the less."

The fact is that every wrong deed - no matter how little, and if done only once - leaves a permanent scar on the character.

Suppose the problem is about forming a friendship. You have received an invitation and wonder whether you should accept it. Is it well to decide "I'll go just this once"? The difficulty is that, in going out just this once with this fellow or this girl whom you feel is not a good companion, you make it very hard not to go out the second, third and fourth times, until you are involved in a relationship which may cause you unhappiness.

Experience teaches that it is easier not to take the first step toward the forming of an undesirable relationship than it is to break that relationship after it is strengthened by hours of association.

Fortunately, "just this once" decisions have a good side as well as a bad side. Every wise choice leaves the character a little finer and stronger and renders the next choice of the good and true easier to make. Excellent habits are the result of many single choices of the higher in the presence of the lower, and excellent habits are the building blocks of noble character.

Did you ever stop to think how many little things are permitted to become great troubles by simply thinking them over? Most trials and difficulties start that way.

### Solid Citizens

Church membership does not insure a man's honesty, integrity or kind-heartedness. But in every community the people who are relied upon to support the best interests of the community are usually those who are found in the church of their choice regularly on Sunday morning.



### Christmas Eve

Let us be merry this Christmas Eve,  
Loveliest night of the year!  
In these magic hours memory dwells  
On all that the heart holds dear.  
We look up in wonder at starlit skies  
Remembering one Special Star;  
We whisper a prayer that it, too, will guide us  
As it once did Three Kings from afar.

In quiet assurance of peace and goodwill  
We turn then to home and sweet things,  
The fireside circle of family and friends,  
The glow that each Yuletide brings;  
For Christmas is rapture and mystery and joy,  
Translated to happy living.  
And when it is shared with an answering heart,  
Christmas is loving and giving.

## Your Checkbook

IT WAS said by Oliver Wendell Holmes that the human mind is like a checking account. So long as you keep putting enough money into the bank, your checkbook is the most magic book in the world. All you have to do is dip your pen in the ink, make a few flourishes, and your check becomes the open sesame to your heart's desires. But just stop making ample deposits, and the magic evaporates with a curt and imperious message from the bank, "No funds."

Many persons have a corresponding mental experience. They keep drawing on their intellectual reserves, long past the time they have put anything in to draw against. Unfortunately, however, there is no bank to serve notice that they are out of mental funds. So they continue, in their conversation, in their letters, in their everyday activities, to do their mental business even though they are intellectually bankrupt.

# Christmas Bells



I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat,  
Of "Peace on earth, good will to men!"

And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song,  
Of "Peace on earth, good will to men!"

Till ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day—  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime,  
Of "Peace on earth, good will to men!"

And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong  
And mocks the song  
Of "Peace on earth, good will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead; nor doth He sleep!  
The wrong shall fail,  
The right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men!"

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## Something For Nothing

NO GREATER fallacy ever deceived the mind of man and brought him to disaster than the delusion born of envy and greed that easy living can be obtained without work.

As time has trotted along at a fast pace during the past decade, multitudes of unthinking people have tasted of exceptionally high and expensive standards of living, and thought they could afford it as a steady diet. Many who never seemed to realize that those who could afford high standards of living had for the most part earned them by long hours of work each day by budgeting their income, by saving carefully.

And so these people seemed to think they could guarantee themselves a lot of luxury unearned by toil.

## The Value of Time

TIME is one of God's greatest gifts, yet how little and how lightly it is regarded. Men devise ingenious methods to make it pass lightly and quickly and often refer to it as "killing time."

The value of time arises from:  
1. Its brevity. The time is short. "We all do fade as a leaf."  
2. Its uncertainty. "Boast not thyself of tomorrow."  
3. The fact that it is irrecoverable. The hand on the dial of time can never be turned back.  
Time is given that we may prepare for eternity. The watchword of the moment should be "now."

Faith will guide us safely through the stormy seas of life.

# The Christian Informer

Volume 13 - 14

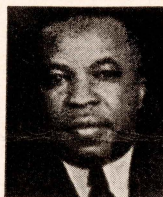
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## THE CHRISTIAN INFORMER

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.*

Subscription:

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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 . . . .

### Early and Late Disciples

**"And his disciples believed on him." John 2-11.**

The early Disciples believed what Christ said in the New Testament. They preached what he said about faith, repentance, confession, baptism, Lord's Supper, the church, the name. The late open membership Disciples believe on the U. C. M. S. They preach what the National and World Councils of Churches and Ecuminism tell them.

### Spiritual Suicide

"No new churches will be established by Disciples without the consent of their ecumenical friends. *Christianity Today* November 10, 1958, page 29.

We say to the open membership Disciples, what the Apostle Peter said to the council of his day. "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5-29.

### "New Wine In Old Bottles"

When I read the list of officers elected at the National Christian Missionary Convention of Disciples of Christ and of their "Ultimate Goal" to merge with a certain super open membership convention. I thought of what Christ said "Neither do men put new wine into old bottles; else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the

bottles perish." When these "new" officers, put their "new open membership doctrine; in the forty three year old National Christian Missionary Convention Bottle, it is going to break and all they have will run out.

### Hell Bound . . . .

Some churches do not have night service on the Lord's Day. Their members go to church in the morning and some of them go to the devil in the evening.

### Information Please

Do these officers know why Preston Taylor and others of his day, organized the National Christian Missionary Convention?

Have the leaders of the National Missionary Convention lost faith in God. Like some of the Children of Israel did at the Red Sea? Wasn't it the "Ultimate Goal" of some of Children of Israel, to return back to Egyptian slavery after they had lost faith?

### "Ultimate Goal"

The "Ultimate Goal" of the National Christian Preaching Convention of Churches of Christ is: Not to merge with some super convention; but lift up Christ and draw the super convention back to Christ.

The "Ultimate Goal" of the Christian Informer is: Not to merge or loose itself in some other paper, or just have a little space in a certain paper. Our "Ultimate Goal" is, that men and women everywhere will receive and read the Christian Informer. Which is devoted to the Restoration of Primitive Christianity, its Doctrine, its Ordinance and its Fruits.

### A Short Cut.

Should a certain National Convention, merge with a certain Super Convention, it would be taking a short cut to no-where.

### Bitter Experience

When a church or convention is dependent upon a super open membership organization, for pastor's salary and other help, that church or convention has lost its capacity for effective resistance of open-membership, and has become a slave.

### "Twenty One Oil Wells"

Why should Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins Texas, with twenty-one oil wells on its campus, be leased out?

### Don't Be A Beggar

We read in the public press, that the new president of the National Christian Missionary Convention, is calling for "complete brotherhood integration." We say to him and others: stop begging. Fill-up your own churches. Pay your own pastors. Build your own national and international conventions, so that others will want to; integrate with you, in your churches and conventions. Be independent.

### Letters To The Editor

Dear Brother Taylor:

For some time I have been intending to write you, just getting around to it. Vacation period being over, I will have more time to read. So I am sending in my subscription to the Christian Informer together with three more.

Yours in the one Faith, Thomas K. Rouse, Detroit, Mich.

\* \* \*

Dear Brother Taylor:

I must say a few words on how I enjoy reading the Christian Informer, because it has so many helpful truths and doctrine. The last issue on the New Testament Church, was very interesting. Christ said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." His church is not built on denomination, because that is of man. Christ is the Foundation, for without Him the Church would not be. Enclosed you will please find my subscription.

Yours in Christ, S. L. Rogers, Creedmore, N. C.

### Our Deepest Sympathy

We mourn with the Brethren of the National Christian Missionary Convention in the passing of Dr. J. E. Walker, founder and president of the Universal Life Insurance Co., founder and president of the Tri-State Bank of Memphis, Tenn. Co-Founder and for 42 years, Treasurer of the National Christian Missionary Convention. A devout member of the Christian Church of Memphis, Tenn.

It was our good pleasure to meet Dr. Walker near forty years ago, and we met there after, every year at the National Convention, for twenty consecutive years. When the National Convention met in Lexington, Ky., we came to the parting of way. At that meeting, the late Dr. Robert M. Hopkins, President of United Christian Missionary Society was there. His presence, and the weight of Dr. Walker's wealth and influence, over-shadowed everything we could say or do against open-membership. We never met again, but we will meet in that great convention above. Where only those who "Earnestly contend for the faith," will have any influence up there.

### New and Renewed Subscribers . . .

Mr. and Mrs. James Pickett, Maryland.  
Mr. and Mrs. Herman Turner, Michigan.  
Mrs. Minnie V. Warren, Michigan.  
Mr. Thomas K. Rouse, Michigan.  
Mr. E. W. Draughn, Maryland.

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### Same Today As It Was Yesterday

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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.

### BETTER THAN EVER

The Annual Pastor's Rally at Emanuel Christian Church, Baltimore, was better than ever.

This rally was started several years ago, by Brother Edward W. Draughn. The last Lord's Day in October is the pastor's annual rally day.

The Committee: Brother George Hamilton, Lewis White, Edwin Pinkston, John Parker, Norman Smith, Raymond Puryear, Jasper Ford, Chairman; Edward W. Draughn, Treasurer; Henderson Dunn, Secretary.

Thanks to the following members and friends, for helping us to raise upward to five hundred dollars. Mrs. Mary Parker, Mrs. Sarrah Taylor, Mr. Bernard Pritchett, Mrs. Herbert Stitch, Sr., Mrs. Pearl McIntire, Mr. Larry Lee, Miss Alease Moody, Mrs. Frances Lewis, Miss Cora Miller, Mrs. Anna Smith, Mrs. Julia Thornton,

Mrs. Arnita Ford, Mrs. Mary Sharps, Mr. James Lee, Mr. Norman Smith, Mrs. Pearl Wilson, Mr. Jasper Ford, Mrs. Mildred Brooks, W. H. Taylor, Minis\*er, A. Friend, Mrs. Dora Williams, Mr. C. Jiggs Morris, Mr. Alvin Smith, Mr. Henderson Dunn, Mr. John Parker, Miss Paulett Turner.

Miss Romain Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Puryear, Mrs. Laura, Mrs. Audrey J. Moody, Mrs. Madelyn Ray, Mr. E. Mason, Mr. George Smith, Mrs. Edmonia Foard, Mrs. Essie Carter, Mr. Luther L. Leake, Miss Carrie Dial, Miss Shirley Smith, Mrs. L. B. Butler, Mr. Lawrence Simms.

Mrs. Selma B. Draughn, Mr. Edward Draughn, Miss Dorothy Lee, Mrs. Essie I. Person, Mr. P. J. Alexander, Mr. George Hamilton and Friends, Mrs. A. M. Stern, Mrs. Irene Merritt, Mrs. Annie L. Taylor, Miss Jesse Stanly, Mrs. Emma Hunter, Mrs. Jessie White and Family, Mrs. Rebecca Trapp, Banks, Mr. Johnnie McRea, Mrs. Frances Frey, Mr. Arthur Wheeler, Mrs. Sarah Wilson Huggins, Mrs. Mary E. Parker, Mrs. Cammie Smith, Mr. Edwin Pinkston, Mrs. Ursella Rice, Mt. Olivet Christian Church, Elder C. L. Whitfield, Minister, Cannan Christian Church, Elder H. E. Fewes, Minister, Olin Mathison Boat Crew.

## Christmastide

Ring out, ye bells, at Christmastide,  
The Saviour's birth reveal.  
Stand wide, ye gates of Bethlehem,  
As we in reverence kneel.

Behold the lowly manger  
Wherein the Christ child sleeps.  
While Mary, virgin mother,  
Her loving vigil keeps.

Hushed is the cattle's lowing.  
Nought breaks the Master's rest,  
For they, though lowly born like Him,  
Are by His presence blessed.

Draw near, draw near and worship  
This Babe of Bethlehem.  
He is your King, the King of kings!  
All hail His holy name.

Star of Judea, shine above us.  
With His dear love our hearts instill,  
Till He return to dwell among us.  
Star of hope, keep shining still.



## Symbol of Love

IN JESUS' DAY the cross must have had much the same meaning as the gallows or the electric chair in our time. But now the cross is an almost universal symbol of love of God, for on this instrument of torture Christ prayed, "Father, forgive them."

Love without suffering - or without at least the risk of suffering - is not real love at all. As a neighboring pastor has pointed out, too often "I love you" means "I love myself and you are useful to me." When we really love anyone - a friend, a child, a wife or husband - we put ourselves in some degree of jeopardy. Love may put us to inconvenience, expense, worry, sacrifice, the hurt of unfaithfulness. Yet to the degree that we truly love, we do not count the cost; we have glimpsed the secret suggested in the proverb: "All other pleasures are not worth love's pains."

The cross symbolized the deepest truth we know: that we gain life by losing it in love of God and His creatures. Jesus, in the very hour of experiencing the extremity of human evil, conferred on mankind God's most priceless gift, called by one present-day Christian "the restoration of fellowship with the source of all life."

It is more blessed to give than to receive—and it's deductible.

## Strength For Today

BROKEN homes always seem to bring emotional upheaval and sometimes loneliness and discouragement. The period of adjustment through which you are passing is anything but easy. But, unfortunate experiences should not make us lose faith in God. Rather, if we are thinking clearly, these should drive us to Him. When earthly associations fail us, we have the privilege of relying more strongly upon the One who never fails. To regain your faith, set aside a little time each day to read the Bible and to pray. Your lost faith will probably not return to you overnight.

You might even find it difficult at first to read the Bible and to pray again, for perhaps perplexities and doubts will confront you. However, do not be discouraged. Each day as you channel into your soul the great words of faith contained in the Scriptures, that faith which you desire and need in these days will return. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God," says the apostle Paul. If you can, associate with people who have the faith in God that you desire. Seeing what their beliefs do for them each day will strengthen you.

It is only through labor and prayerful effort, by grim energy and resolute courage, that we move on to better things.

## CHRISTMAS CAROL



They are not wise, these three small men. They are simple in the way of children. They bear little semblance to the three Princes who came to Christ's manger to pay homage . . . save that they, too, bear gifts, offering them with a song, a Christmas carol upon their lips.

Behind them stands the Church, the home of Christ, the house that welcomes those who would visit Him. These youngsters are among His regular visitors, and for them Christmas has a very special meaning.

Though they will have a tree trimmed with shining ornaments, brightly wrapped packages, fun and laughter, they will be deeply conscious of the true meaning of this glorious season. Through their church they have learned the wonders of God's love—which endures not just at Christmas but throughout every day of every year.

### THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . . ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

| Day           | Book          | Chapter | Verses |
|---------------|---------------|---------|--------|
| Sunday . . .  | II Chronicles | 7       | 14-18  |
| Monday . . .  | Nehemiah      | 6       | 1-4    |
| Tuesday . . . | Isaiah        | 11      | 1-9    |
| Wedn's'd'y    | Isaiah        | 53      | 1-12   |
| Thursday .    | John          | 1       | 1-18   |
| Friday . . .  | Matthew       | 1       | 18-25  |
| Saturday .    | Matthew       | 2       | 1-12   |

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## When Is A Church Member Not A Church Member?

A member of the church is not a member when he is a member only in name and not in fact. There are many such. Their membership is a mere matter of record. They help to increase the number on the roll, but they add nothing to the life or to the witnessing power of the church.

Every Christian congregation has members who are pretty much in the same fix. Their only claim to membership is in the fact that they are counted in the annual census. Their lives give no indication that their names are written in heaven.

A member is not a member when unnecessary absence from the service of worship becomes habitual and attendance is no longer a matter of conscience.

When membership fails to find expression in public worship, it ceases to be membership.

The church is suffering at the hands of these members who seldom hear the call to worship and are consistently absent. Excuses for non-attendance are many. Reasons are few. There would be no church at all were it not for those of its members who, when the hour of worship arrives, feel that they have an engagement with God, an engagement that cannot be lightly ignored or whimsically broken.

A member is not a member when notwithstanding his ability he contributes little or nothing to the maintenance of the church. Every person who assumes membership in the church does so with the avowed purpose of supporting its

ordinances, as in other ways, so also with his gifts. We have observed time and again that when the covenant of membership crumbles at that point, it crumbles at every other point. It is the acid test of membership. If a man does not bring his means to the church, he cannot bring his mind. Without means or mind, membership has neither heart nor soul. It is dead. The life has gone out of it even though the corpse remains unburied and is included in the vital statistics of the church.

Two classes of persons thus lose all reality of membership. There are those whose miserly hands draw the purse strings so tight that it is impossible to extract anything but the very smallest coins. There are others whose purse strings are cut so short by extravagant hands that they have comparatively little to give even when the spirit moves. Perhaps more purse strings are cut short by extravagance than are pulled tight by penuriousness. A member of a church who buys an expensive car and gives the neat sum of \$13 (25 cents per week to his church, ought to be told frankly that his membership is in bad repair, and that unless he spends a little more on its up-keep it is apt to be junked entirely.

What kind of a member have you been the past year? Have you been traveling on the transportation provided by other church members?

—○—  
The sign on the door of opportunity reads "Push."

—○—  
The traveler who makes his own guide posts will go astray.



## When Day Is Done

I am sitting at a window that faces the west. The sun has just disappeared behind the tall hills, and the flaming colors are beginning to fade to pale blue. The silent trees are darkly outlined against the clear sky, and the crickets are chanting their drowsy evening song from the grass. A gray squirrel nimbly leaps from limb to limb in the trees, while a late bird wheels away toward the south on swift wings.

There is something fascinating about sunsets. Each one is different; each one is beautiful; each makes a magnificent climax to the bustle and activity of the day. Soon after the gorgeous colors fade into twilight, the whole world sinks to rest. Friendly lights are turned on in rambling old homes beside country lanes and in palatial residences above city streets. Birds seek their nests, children are tucked away in their soft beds for the night, and the little wild things of the forest curl up in their secret places of rest.

If we fill our days with rich living, we will have many precious sunsets, and if we have the right attitude toward life, we will always be surrounded by friends who will save us from loneliness.