

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4-12

EXPANSION

By Charles D. Sanders

I come to you as one who is keenly interested in the success of our Young People's work, and on the vitally important subject of Expansion I make the following suggestive remarks. I trust that each of us shall have a clarified and intensified vision of the needs and great possibilities which challenge our united advance for the spreading of the glorious Gospel of full salvation through the channels of our Young People's Societies.

1. *To the members of the Societies.* (These are the privates of the army; and remember, the privates make up the man power of an army; no privates, no army) (a) In order to help your little band to expand, it is absolutely necessary that you have a vital Christian experience. "Be filled with the Spirit". Eph. 5:18. (b) Be a booster. If a timely and helpful suggestion is made by someone in your society, vote for its success not only in word but in deed. Again: if you see where a change for the better can be made, pray over it till God gives you divine aid in presenting your proposition, and keep steadily on till the improvement is realized. (c) "In unity there is strength". Cast your influence to help secure a genuine unity. (d) Be willing to do what you can. Whether small or great, never say no to a request unless it will be for the best for all concerned. (e) Lend your brain power—really think of how your society can better succeed. If one member is faced with a problem, pray for, think for, and work to help him or her to secure a solution. This also applies to the society as a whole.

Humble private, remember that success depends very largely on your attitude. Therefore, deny self, be a true soldier of the Cross, and actually strive to extend the Kingdom of Christ.

2. *The Junior Crusaders.* Everybody lend a helping hand to this little band, for if you do so, they will in time be those to fill our places. Be a little far-sighted in this. Live for tomorrow. Who knows? some of these precious little ones may be in eternity in the near future. Feed the lambs of our Master. Stand in the gap and by your efforts help to keep this good work going.

3. *Older Church Members,* you too can help both the Senior and the Junior young people. Attend their meetings whenever possible. They appreciate your interest. Encourage your friends to send their young people to these meetings. Remember, while in the young people's meetings, that too long a prayer or testimony is a thing that makes the slightly-interested person stop coming. Make your presence a factor to encourage the young people to advance, to develop, to be fitted for the filling of the Church positions of the future. You can see how this is an investment which shall yield dividends in the days ahead. Pray for these young people, and be a real source of encouragement and God will bless your own soul.

4. And now I come to you, Officers and Leaders of this army of young, energetic, enthusiastic and optimistic Christian soldiers. (a) Your example of a living experience is one that shall make you of lasting worth in discharging your many duties. In Christian work we are building for eternity. You are the leaders—then lead in the truest sense. Humility is what will

make your example more attractive and one that will be followed. Allow the Spirit to make your life a reflection of Christ. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all things". Point souls to Him. (b) Partiality will do the opposite of enlarging your society. James 2:9, "But if you have respect to persons ye commit sin—". Use every member, make them feel welcome. This attraction is a powerful one. (c) Be long-suffering. "Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them." Be patient and charitable. (d) A leader should be able to detect the abilities of his or her members, and try to bring these into helpful use. Develop latent talents. If some teachers in the day schools made as weak an effort to help their backward scholars as some Christian leaders manifest in their weaker members, I would fear for these teachers. I believe they would be in search of another job before a great while. "Ye that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and not to please yourselves". (e) Scatter your jobs. Do not allow one to be always on the unemployment list. (f) Study your field. Pray definitely for guidance, reading James 1:5-6. Then launch an expansion program. *Use each member. Use the Juniors. Use the kind and willing older members. Realize the tremendous import of your task.* Stand for God. Stand for a full and a free salvation. Have faith in God, for "All things are possible to him that believeth".

Young people, let us sit still no longer! Other times are past and gone. We live today, we have today's problems to deal with. Other Christians have been used of God to answer the cry for help in their day, and through God we must arise and offer our all to Him to answer today's desperate call for help. "This day is a day of good tidings". Be baptised with God's Spirit and fire. Be a burning beacon light, what though it burn for a little so long as it burns brightly.

SOMEBODY ELSE

Who's somebody else? I'd like to know,
Does he live at the north or south?
Or is it a lady fair to see,
Whose name is in every mouth?
For Meg says, "Somebody else will sing",
Or, "Somebody else will play;"
And Jack says, "Please let somebody else
Do some of the errands today.

If there is a hard or unpleasant task,
Or a difficult thing to do,
'Tis always offered to somebody else—
Now isn't that very true?
But if some fruit, or a pleasant trip,
Is offered to Dick or Jess,
We hear not a word of somebody else—
Why? I will leave you to guess.

The words of cheer for the heart that is sad
This somebody else will speak;
And the poor and helpless who need a friend
Good somebody else must seek,
The cup of cold water in Jesus' name,
Somebody else will offer,
And words of love from the broken heart
Somebody else will proffer.

There are battles in life only we can fight,
And victories too, to win;

And somebody else cannot take our place
When we shall have entered in.
But if somebody else has done the work
While we for our ease have striven,
'Twill be only fair if the blest reward
To somebody else is given.

—S. S. BANNER.

"HAVING DONE ALL—STAND—GIRT"

In this sixth chapter of Ephesians the Apostle Paul gives a very beautiful picture of the triumphant Christian. Many descriptions might be found of the soul as it marches triumphant with that great throng which John saw coming up out of great tribulation, but Paul's description is of one who still wrestles, "not against flesh and blood, but "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Paul did not find his Christian path strewn with roses, but found that he had to fight his way through, and so he writes and tells us about it. To read between the lines he says, "There will be battle after battle all along the way. Be equipped and so fight that the end of each conflict will find you ready for another. Have on all the armour that God has prepared to start with, and be sure to have it all on when you come out victor".

It is one thing for a soldier to come out of a battle alive, for many a victor has died beside his enemy, but it is another thing to come out with all the armour on. Paul says that after we have fought, "having done all"; to "stand—having your loins girt about with truth", etc. It is not enough to come through alive and a victor, but we must still have on all the armour; the girdle of truth, "the breastplate of righteousness", "the gospel of peace", "the shield of faith", "the helmet of salvation", the sword of the Spirit", and then pray with all there is of us for God to help or we will be defeated next time.

Sometimes the enemy of our souls would be delighted if he could only rob us of part of our armour. Not that he wants it, but he knows how unfit we are to be a soldier of the Cross without a complete equipment. Take Truth for instance. What would be our situation if the enemy just got part of our girdle? We would be going around fighting for the Lord believing everything in the Bible but the doctrine of Holiness, and testifying to everything but Sanctification. To some that might not be very serious, but to Paul it was a calamity, and as for us, well, we are marked for certain defeat in some conflict just down the road. We must keep all the girdle of God's truth firmly about us.

Then there is the breastplate of righteousness. How can we meet the scepticism of the world without our hearts protected by the assurance and the certain knowledge that Christ dwells within? The enemy knows we cannot. The protection for the feet, the gospel of peace, keeps us seeking paths of peace, keeps us sweet and peaceable when our enemies are roaring like lions, in fact, creates an atmosphere of peace about us. No Christian can afford to lose that. Then it is always well to look at the condition of our faith. The shield of faith protects not only the person but the rest of his armour. It is by faith that we maintain the most useful.