

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

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

Beals, Maine,
Jan. 23, 1936.

Editor of Young People's Page,
King's Highway, Moncton, N. B.:

We feel led again to report victory in our Young People's Services. During the last six weeks a number of our young people have found Jesus as their Saviour for which we say, Praise the Lord.

Our service was led January 5, by Sister Gertrude Cochrane. We thank God for sending Sister Gertrude and her brothers to us. They were a real blessing and inspiration to the Church. May the Lord bless them as they work in other places for Him.

We are planning a Special Program for Missionary Sunday, January 25.

We're glad this morning Jesus is real and in our heart there is a peace that passeth understanding and joy the world can never give.

Praise His Name,

BLANCHE ALLEY, Reporter.

THE MANGER AND THE CROSS

The manger was an humble thing,
It seemed not fit to hold a King;
But it was glorified that day,
Because the Saviour in it lay.

The cross! It was a gruesome thing.
Who thought it e'er would hold a King?
But down its sides there flowed a stream
That makes the vilest sinner clean.

My heart was black, a loathsome thing.
But now it cradles Christ the King.
For at the cross those sins of mine
Were washed away by power divine.
—H. J. S. B.

"THAT THE GENERATION TO COME MIGHT KNOW"

(By Rev. F. A. Dunlop)

(Continued from last issue)

I suggest a few things that offer to us strong possibilities of even yet discharging our duties and thus save ourselves from the shame of a failure, the effects of which will strike back through the ages and ahead to the day of judgment.

First: We can take courage in the fact that what has been done can be done again. I see a little band of people gathered for prayer in an upper room in Jerusalem. A hostile world lay without. Their job was to take from that world the philosophies and religions of four thousand years and replace them with the message of Calvary. Jerusalem had closed its doors against them; Asia wanted not their message; in fact the whole Roman Empire conspired to stamp them out of existence. And yet before one generation had passed they had filled Jerusalem with their doctrines, placed Churches all over Asia, and had converts in the very household of Caesar. Wherever they went men cried, "Those who have turned the world upside down have come here also." Surely their task was as great as ours, and their qualifications no greater.

Second: There is hope in the fact that God is the author of Salvation and knew the nature of man when He planned it. Stanley Jones says in one of his books, "Man is fundamentally

man, and therefore has one fundamental need—God." That leads me to say that God's message delivered in its simplicity and purity will find response in the hearts of men as long as man lives on this earth. The woman at the well will cry out, "Give me this water that I thirst not". The Ethiopian will say, "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" And Saul of Tarsus, broken and overpowered by its glorious light, will cry out to Christ Jesus, "What wilt thou have me to do?" Yes, so long as man is man, the message of an uttermost salvation will find a response in his heart.

And then there is hope in the Church's ever-present Pentecost. Pentecost, apart from the transient manifestations that accompanied it at the beginning, presents to the Christian two abiding elements, namely: purity and power. I dare to say that if the Church today (with her educated ministry, her membership that rises into the millions, and her present facilities for propagating the gospel) was enjoying her pentecostal blessing of purity and power as she might be, she would rescue the faith of the rising generation from the hand of the Destroyer, and write a chapter in her history, the glories of which have never been surpassed.

To quote Stanley Jones again, "The coming of the Spirit brings purification to the heart and power to witness effectively for Jesus Christ. The one is to supply my own need, the other to supply the needs of others. One is for Christian culture and the other is for Christian conquest. One goes to the innermost heart and the other goes to the outermost world."

I suggest to you two things that have lost to the Church her grip on the rising generation; first: a manifest uncertainty; and second: a moral cowardice. Our lack of an unwavering faith in the teachings of Jesus Christ has crippled us and disappointed the world. We quote the Sermon on the Mount from the church platform, but consider it impractical when applied to everyday life. I heard a man say one day that he would never follow Jesus for His teachings were not practical. Many of us will shudder at a statement like that, but I fear our practices many times declare quite as much. My friends, the world is still looking for men who have convictions that they would die for. And if our convictions are worthy to be called Christian, they mean just that much to us.

As Christians we make a fatal mistake when we think that the world can be won to Christ by a mincing and a mixing of our beliefs. Christ to the Christian is everything that the New Testament claims Him to be, or He is nothing. His teachings are final and eternal authority or they are worthless. But the shame of it is when the world, disappointed and afraid in the midst of a collapsing order of things, turns to the Christian Church for something permanent to fasten her falling hopes to, is met with a labyrinth of doubt and uncertainty that offers nothing of worth.

I was in a chain store a few days ago, and in passing a counter saw a box of compasses. I was not a little amused to notice that nearly every compass in the box was pointing in a different direction. A clerk came hurrying up, and in her pleasant manner asked if she could serve me. I answered, "Yes, please tell me which one of those compasses is right". I think the world many times may be asking the same ques-

tion. We will not all see alike on many subjects, but I am sure that every one of us as professed Christians should be pointing unerringly to an inspired Bible, a blood atonement, and a heart-cleansing, life-empowering Pentecost.

Someone has said: "The difference between a river and a swamp is that one has banks and the other has none. The swamp is ever gracious and kind. It spreads over everything, hence it is a swamp. Some of us are moral and spiritual swamps. We are so broad and liberal that we take in everything from the shady to the sacred. Hence, we are swamps. A river has banks—it confines itself to its central purpose. The civilizations of the world organize themselves, not around swamps, but around rivers. There are those who refuse to tolerate anything that cuts across their central Christian purpose. They decide their's must be the utmost for the highest. They cease from the divided will, become the pure in heart, and thus see God. Around such lives, the lives of groups, of cities, of nations, begin to organize themselves. They become centres of power."

Our task is great, but it can be met by the challenging offers of Pentecost. As I address this message to the young people of our Churches, I pray that you may realize one and all that to meet the call of God in this our day we will need more than organizations, more than a noble purpose—we will need the power that comes from a Spirit-baptized life. To meet the challenge with less is to fail. God is waiting even now for us to consecrate our all to Him who will take our consecrated lives and use them as material for the welding of one more link in the great chain of his salvation plan, to the end "that the generation to come might set their hope in God", and that we, the people of this present generation, may rejoice in the ages to come, that we were true to our Saviour, to our fore-fathers, and to the generations that follow.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND MISSIONS

As we look into the history of missions, we are made to believe that if there is any one phase of Christian work which must call upon the young people in order to guarantee success, it is this self-same cause of missions. The men and women who have made missionary history began their work in the foreign field at a surprisingly early age, and many of them laid down their lives before they had reached middle life. The fact is that the task of converting the heathen demands the reckless courage and the dauntless optimism of youth. More than that, it usually takes a youthful body, and a strong one at that to stand all that is required of the missionary. Missionaries grow old fast. There is the ever present need of fresh material, not so much right now of new recruits, but certainly the need of new life, fresh enthusiasm, rekindled interest, and the real spirit of sacrifice, which of all things is so easy to lose.

Young people, here is a challenge for us. We can supply a lot of what is needed right now. Let us be the harbingers of a new awakening to the great task of missions. We are doing splendidly with our Self-Denial Fund, (Are you keeping this year's pledge up-to-date?) but we must expect to make some advancement each year or we are courting defeat. We should show a lively interest in the Mission Society of