

WHERE IS HAPPINESS?

Not in unbelief.—Voltaire was an infidel of the most pronounced type. He wrote: I wish I had never been born."

Not in pleasure.—Lord Byron lived a life of pleasure, if any one did. He wrote: "The worm, the canker, and the grief are mine alone."

Not in money.—Jay Gould, the American millionaire, had plenty of that. When dying, he said: "I suppose I am the most miserable man on earth."

Not in position and fame.—Lord Beaconsfield enjoyed more than his share of both. He wrote: "Youth is a mistake, manhood a struggle; old age a regret."

Not in military glory.—Alexander the Great conquered the known world in his day. Having done so, he wept in his tent, because, he said, "There are no more worlds to conquer."

Where, then, is happiness found? The answer is simple: "In Christ alone." He said, "I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice and your joy no man taketh from you." (John 16:22).—Clarence Edward Macartney.

It is true that some men will never be great preachers, no matter how hard they try. It is also true that most preachers, whether they can do great preaching or not, can do pastoral work if they will. Then it is safe to go a step farther, saying that hardly one preacher in five makes the most of this gracious opportunity for contact with the people.

How easy it is to slip into easy going habits! One can tinker with the automobile, build a shed, go to town, read the newspaper, help with the washing, care for the children—part or all of which may be his responsibility—and find that he has not done the calling that he should. He has let incidental things so consume his time that a main obligation has been crowded out.

A pastor should make from fifteen to forty calls a week, not in a perfunctory and formal way so that he can report at district conferences that he has made so many calls, but conscientiously as under the eye of the Lord. If he will do this there will be blessed returns to the work by it:

Pastor, are you attending to this part of your work? The Lord is not interested in your excuses. And the work will not grow on your excuses. Are you doing your calling?—Free Methodist.

A SIMPLE PRAYER

One night, after an evening of excitement among worldly people, my eye fell on this sentence: "Every soul not already won to Jesus is already lost." It was an arrow of conviction to my soul. An overwhelming sense of my lost and hopeless condition fell upon me, and my soul was hanging over the abyss. I had absolutely no plea but for mercy. Daily I had said my prayers since childhood, but that night, like Saul of Tarsus, I really prayed. The blessed Saviour placed upon my lips: "God be merciful to me a sinner!" In my agony I uttered it with my face upon the floor. And God heard it. He always hears that prayer. That night He lifted me out of the miry clay and planted me upon a rock. He put a new song in my mouth, which I have been singing ever since, even salvation unto my God.—Dr. James Gray, late Dean of the Moody Bible Institute.

THIS CHANGING WORLD

From day to day the reports of the Jews in Germany suffering under the oppression of the government of Hitler reveal some new, important development, the latest at this writing being a proposition by the joint assistance of England and America to provide the means for a mass migration of the half million German Jews to other countries willing to receive them and give them permanent residence. The countries where these refugees may be placed, together with other important features of the proposed migration have not as yet been reported. Mobs of Germans by the consent of the police and other officers burned scores of synagogues, broke in store windows and looted the contents, and the officers arrested and imprisoned thousands of Jews. The occasion for the latest pogrom was the shooting of a German diplomatic official in Paris by a Polish Jew seventeen years of age as an ill advised protest against the injustices suffered by his people.

We have been impressed on the other hand by the earnest desire of Christians to see justice done to the Jewish people, and to be united in prayer for their deliverance, as well as for the deliverance of other millions who are being oppressed and slaughtered by the armies of Japan. As we come once again into the season of the year when we celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world, who was born of a Jewish mother and lived His earthly life in the little land of Palestine, let us be more than ever diligent in the labor of intercessory prayer for this people. The world's debt in this connection is well described by Dr. Samuel McCrea Calvert who addressed to the Jewish people on their last New Year's Day the following acknowledgment.

"We Christians have inherited the ethical and religious insights of Israel, and hold them in common with you. We hold them with a difference, it is true—at one point with a momentous difference—but we always remember that the historic roots of our faith are in the Hebrew people. From Israel we inherit the Ten Commandments, which are still the basic moral standards of Christendom. From Israel we inherit the priceless treasure of the Psalms, which are an essential part of Christian worship around the world. From Israel we inherit the vision of social justice which has come to us through Amos and Isaiah and Micah. From Israel we inherit even our own unique Christian classic, the New Testament, which from the Gospel of St. Matthew through the Epistles of St. Paul to the Revelation of St. John was written by Jews."—Wesleyan Methodist.

The New York Herald Tribune says: "The Last Lutheran Church in Moscow was closed August 7th. Members of the Church of Peter and Paul thought a final farewell service would be permitted this morning, but when the worshippers arrived they found the doors locked. While they waited in the courtyard, government trucks arrived to cart away the altar and other fixtures, presumably to a museum. The church has been carrying on without a pastor for eighteen months. The congregation, nevertheless, had assembled faithfully each Sunday."

TWENTY-SEVEN MILLION

There are 27,000,000 nominally Protestant children and young people in America who are not enrolled in any church assembly or Sunday school. Add to this the Roman Catholic and Jewish children and youth, and you have a total of 36,000,000 who are out from under the influence of church, synagogue and Sunday school.

At the same time, it is estimated that 700,000 young people are living criminal lives. Mrs. O'Grady, a deputy police commissioner in New York, recently said, "Seventeen years ago, when I first came to this work, it was the exceptional thing to see a girl of twelve to sixteen immoral, ruined. Now it is the rule. Do you know the reason? It is the moving pictures. Children are thinking lust all the time, and they get it from moving pictures."

The above two paragraphs have special significance in the light of the fact that Judge Fawcett, of Brooklyn, New York, has said, "More than 4,000 out of the 8,000 prisoners sentenced by me in thirty years on the bench were under twenty-one years of age, but only three of these were members of Sunday schools at the time they committed their crimes."

The answer is obvious. Get the boys and girls of our nation into Sunday school. They have little or nothing in their homes to help them. Let's have a recruiting division in every Sunday school, and let's go out persistently and prayerfully to get them in. Then we must put them in the hands of godly Bible teachers who shall be able to lead them to Christ and prepare them for this life as well as the life to come.—Moody Monthly.

FORTIETH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

The fortieth wedding anniversary of Rev. P. J. and Mrs. Trafton, of Fredericton, N. B., was celebrated Tuesday evening, Nov. 29th, when, despite the stormy weather, about fifty members of the Reformed Baptist congregation and other friends met at their home to do them honor. The evening was spent in conversation and singing of hymns, a programme of music and readings was also carried out, following which Mr. and Mrs. Trafton were presented with an address, accompanied by a generous sum of money, the presentation being made by Mr. O. R. Estey.

Mr. and Mrs. Trafton were married at Lynn, Mass., on November 29th, 1898, by Rev. Milton D. Pratt, pastor of the Boston Street Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. Trafton was formerly Miss Myra B. Hamilton, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hamilton.

Mr. and Mrs. Trafton responded to the address and presentation and congratulations of their friends in a fitting manner. It was a very pleasant evening spent by all, refreshments of ice cream and cake were served by the ladies. A beautiful four tier bride's cake adorned the dining table which was suitably decorated for the occasion.

Miss Emma R. Trafton, R. N., was the only one of their five children present, the others sending gifts and congratulations. After singing, "Blest be the Tie that Binds," and prayer by Mr. Trafton, the company dispersed, wishing Mr. and Mrs. Trafton many more years of happiness.

The smallest number, with God and truth on their side, are weightier than thousands.—C. Simmons.