

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

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

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C. Y. H. A. CONVENTION

While complete information relative to the second rally of the Canadian Youth Holiness Association is not yet available, we can give some information which may be helpful to those who wish to arrange their vacation period at the time this meeting is held. Committees have been active in laying plans for our Convention since the first of January, and are still working to make thorough preparation for a great rally. Our beautiful capital, Ottawa, is to be the location for the Convention, and the time, Aug. 28th to Sept. 1st. The opening service is scheduled for Thursday evening, Aug. 28th, and will be followed by meetings Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with all day meetings Labor Day. Rev. John Huffman, of Cambridge, Mass., is to be our guest speaker. Rev. Huffman is a well known holiness preacher and has been particularly active in young people's work in various holiness denominations. We feel fortunate in being able to secure a man like Brother Huffman and know his ministry will be highly beneficial to our Canadian holiness young people.

Details relative to entertainment are being worked out and will be announced later.

It is our hope that many of our young people will be able to take advantage of this opportunity and that we may have a good delegation in attendance at this important meeting. If further information is immediately essential to any person, your young people's editor will gladly supply the same on request.

Let us pray for the success of the Ottawa Youth Rally.

THE CONVERSION OF CHILDREN

By Thomas E. Pool

The work of the modern church has always been the most fruitful among the children and in heathen lands. The church, however, has not used her talents in the most fruitful fields, but she has spent her energies in an effort to secure the conversion of adult sinners and the children have been forgotten. Those the nearest to us and the most easily won to Christ have been neglected and allowed to drift away into sin.

Many, yea, almost all our leaders, including the parents of the children, seem to think that children cannot or need not be converted until they are past their childhood and well into their teens. They believe that children do not understand enough of spiritual things to be responsible before God. This is positively not true!

The word says, "Train up the child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it."

We interpret this to mean that the child should be taught the word of God and be kept in Sunday School under Gospel influence until it reaches maturity. This is not the meaning of this important scripture. It means, in the original language, to initiate the child into the way of life or to secure its definite conversion.

Parents, who fail to get their children converted early in life, before they reach the age when the enemy makes them ashamed to take

a stand for Christ before their schoolmates and young friends, may see them drift away into awful sin and be forever lost.

Multitudes of godly parents missed securing the early conversion of their children and are now praying in vain for their salvation.

Many children today, at the age of ten or twelve years, know more about the vilest of sins than the adult of a generation ago ever knew; therefore every effort should be made to secure the conversion of the children before they reach that age.

Our schools often are cesspools of iniquity to the children and training schools of vice. Jesus commands us to bring the children to Him, "for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Church history reveals that God never reached down into deep sin to get a leader for His work. All the great leaders of the Christian church were saved in childhood or were morally clean men and women before their conversion.

The following are some of the names of the leaders of the church and the age at which they were converted: Bishop Wm. Taylor, 6 years; Richard Baxter, 3 years; Esther Carson (missionary), 4 years; Dr. Godbey 4 years; P. P. Bliss, 12 years; J. A. Wood, 10 years; John Fletcher, 7 years; Bishop Asbury, 7 years; Adoniram Judson, 12 years; David Brainerd when a child; Bishop McCabe, 8 years; Adam Clark, 4 years; Bishop Simpson, 4 years; Matthew Henry, 10 years; Polycarp, 9 years; Jonathan Edwards, 6 years; Isaac Watts, 8 years, and Robert Moffat, about 10 years.

The Sunday School is recognized as the place where the Gospel seed is sown. The children come Sunday morning and hear the lesson taught, then most of them go home to return no more until the next Sabbath day. They do not stay for the church service, nor do many of them come to any evening services during the week.

Aggressive city churches have a large Sunday School composed mostly of children from homes where the parents are not church goers. Few of these children ever attend any other services of the church, so if they are to hear the vital message of the evangelist it must be during the hour they attend the weekly session of the Sabbath School.

We secure an evangelist to come and hold a revival, with the purpose in view that our young folks, who are beginning to smoke cigarettes and are rapidly going down into sin, and other adult sinners may be saved, often with disappointing results; but have little thought of the tender hearted children who can be won so easily, and who would be saved from the paths of sin from which few are ever rescued.

The evangelist should be given the whole Sunday School hour, minus not over fifteen minutes for class records, to preach to the children, on each Sabbath of the revival.

The evangelist when arranging his revival dates should expect the Sunday School hours, for salvation work among the children—if he desires to be his utmost for God.

The children need the evangelistic message and understand it much better than most folks think. The seed falls on virgin soil be-

fore it becomes hardened by sin or hindered by the cares of life.

We think a great victory has been won when a hardened sinner comes to God, but how much better it would have been, had that soul been converted in childhood and escaped those wasted years of sin.

Paul says of Timothy, "From a child thou has known the Holy Scriptures." The little prophet Samuel, "ministered before the Lord, being a child."

"They brought young children (Mark), (Matt. says, "little children," and Luke calls them "infants") to Him, and He blessed them."

It is a fact that should never be forgotten, that the children want to be Christians, and often wet their pillows, night after night, over their sins.

Many parents and teachers seem to be satisfied to give the young children mental instructions, hoping that at some future time the seed will spring up and bear fruit; but their immediate conversion ought to be the aim and expectation of every faithful Sunday School teacher.

If the child is capable of sinning it has the capacity of being born again. In Matt. 18 Jesus, speaking of "little children" says, "and of these little ones which believe in me" teaching that "little children" can "believe in Christ" and be converted.

Bishop Wm. Taylor, one of the greatest leaders in the Christian church since Pentecost, writing in favor of childhood conversions says, "Rev. Clark P. Hard, Presiding Elder of Madras Dist., India, a most indefatigable and successful minister of the Gospel, was converted to God when he was a child of five years."

Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, a strong advocate of the early conversion of children, says, "Our converts from among children are among the very best we have. I should judge them to be more numerously genuine than any other class, more constant, and in the long run more solid."

If given equal opportunity with adults, fewer children backslide.

Many of the great spiritual leaders of the Christian church of the past were earnest and successful believers in the early conversion of children.

Is it not strange that the leaders in the Church today are silent on the subject of childhood conversions? Why this silence? It reveals the awful drift away from the Bible and early standards.

In this day of unprecedented spiritual decline, the home life and school associations are almost universally demoralizing to the spiritual life of the child who attempts to be a Christian, but we must do our best to win all for God and to hold every child won!

If we had secured the conversion of our children in their tender years and kept them under spiritual leadership, in our yesterdays, we would not now have the many broken hearted parents weeping over their wayward young folks who were once in the Sunday School with tender receptive hearts.

If we fail here, by not believing in the con-
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