

THERE IS NO BACK FENCE

J. B. Chapman

All true Christians are evangelists by virtue of their obedience to the Great Commission of our Lord, found in the 28th chapter of Matthew. No matter how limited his activities, the true Christian possesses the spirit of evangelism, and the spirit of evangelism is the spirit of missions. Christians are the lamps through which the light of the gospel is destined to shine, and it is impossible to dim the light so that it does not shine abroad without also dimming its shining close at hand. The same spirit that makes one neighbor to the man across the street makes him neighbor also to the man across the sea.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is an unlimited message, and is adapted to men of every age and race and clime and station and condition in life. Its doctrines are adapted to man's intellect. Its ethics appeal to the conscience. Its atoning blood of infinite worth meets man's sense of insufficiency by offering him efficacy or merit which is adequate. The Holy Spirit is an efficient agent, and answers the requirements of man's heart by purifying it from all sin. The gospel's condition is faith, and faith is a condition that all men can meet. The assurances of the gospel are satisfying to man's innate demand for present and permanent safety. The hope of the gospel is the fullest and brightest possible and reaches out beyond all limits of space and time unto unbounded and unmeasured immortality.

Without the gospel men are without Christ, and without Christ men are lost. In and through the gospel all men may be saved, and there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby any can be saved. And since the hopes of all are wrapped up in the gospel, and since the gospel is the heritage and responsibility of the Church, therefore the salvation of all men is laid in the lap of those who have themselves been made partakers of this priceless boon.

If some men are harder to reach, that is their responsibility—it is still our task to give them the gospel and reach them and bring them to Christ. If it is more expensive of men and money to reach some than others, then we must pay that larger price, for we must give the gospel to men. Christ's field is the whole round world, and on such a world there is no back fence. Let us place the gospel trumpet to our lips and sound forth so that all may hear the universal call, "Whosoever will, let him come and take of the water of life freely."

PRAYING MOTHERS

By S. D. Gordon

A good while ago in smoky, foggy, lovely London there was a fully surrendered, consecrated woman—gray haired, bent back (she spent many hours a day over the washtub and the ironing board—that was her social standing). She had a boy. He ran away to sea in his teens and for years she did not know where her boy was. And she prayed, of course. These praying mothers! And prayer never slips! Many a time the dew of her eyes mingled with the suds as she prayed for John on the high seas, she knew not where. And the prayer was answered, of course. No real, simple prayer ever slipped yet. It can not. And John came to Jesus. And then he began telling others about Jesus, and he became known as "the sailor preacher" of London. And John New-

ton, London's sailor preacher, was the means of turning men—I will use a big word thoughtfully—by the THOUSANDS to Jesus.

Among the many that John Newton touched, there was one man, Thomas Scott—cultured, scholarly, moral, "didn't need a Saviour." He walked in as he was (he thought), but Newton touched Scott, and Scott came to Jesus. And then Scott, as many of you know, by tongue and by pen—again I will use that big word—swayed THOUSANDS for Jesus.

Among the many that Scott touched, there was one man, the very reverse of Scott—young, dyspeptic, melancholy, "too bad" for God to save. But Scott touched Cowper, and Cowper found out about a fountain filled with blood. And he was cleansed in the flood of blood. He wrote down his hymn, "A Fountain Filled with Blood." Some folks do not like that hymn today. Some of the new hymn-book makers are leaving it out. But the old hymn was sung, and saved people by the THOUSANDS.

And Cowper touched a man among the many: Wilberforce—clever, a Christian statesman, who was a lay preacher of the old school. And Wilberforce touched THOUSANDS of the great middle class (as they say yonder) of England and inspired the Empire to free its slaves.

And Wilberforce, among the many, touched one man, a vicar of the Church of England, in the Channel Isles; namely, Richmond. He was changed. And Richmond knew the story of the daughter of a milkman in an adjoining parish. She had had an unusual touch of the power of God. He wrote down her story. He called the little bit of a book, "The Dairyman's Daughter." And "The Dairyman's Daughter" went into forty odd foreign translations (a remarkable thing in that day). The little bit of a book went into peasants' huts and kings' palaces and all between and everywhere burning like a soft, intense flame. And untold THOUSANDS of lives were touched and changed.

The center of the whole thing, an old woman—gray haired, bent back, stubby fingers—bending over the washing and ironing as she prayed for her boy, John. And praying until John came... I am very clear about this, the Man on the throne yonder, who came from the throne to the cross and back. He would say: "This woman, she was my friend. Through her prayer I could loosen out the power that touched untold thousands."

WHY ABRAHAM LINCOLN REFUSED TO DRINK OR SMOKE

One day Lincoln was riding in a stage coach, as they rode in those days, in company with a Kentucky colonel. After riding a number of miles together the colonel took a bottle of whisky out of his pocket and said, "Mr. Lincoln, won't you take a drink with me?"

"No, Colonel, thank you," replied Mr. Lincoln. "I never drink whisky."

They rode along together for a number of miles more, visiting very pleasantly, when the gentleman from Kentucky reached into his pocket and brought out some cigars, saying: "Now, Mr. Lincoln, if you won't take a drink with me, won't you take a smoke with me? For here are some of Kentucky's finest cigars."

"Now Colonel," said Mr. Lincoln, "you are such a fine, agreeable man to travel with, maybe I ought to take a smoke with you. But

before I do so, let me tell you a story, an experience I had when a boy."

"My mother called me to her bed one day when I was about nine years old. She was sick—very sick—and she said to me: 'Abey, the doctor tells me I am not going to get well. I want you to promise me before I go that you will never use whisky nor tobacco as long as you live.' And I promised my mother I never would. And up to this hour, Colonel, I have kept that promise. Now would you advise me to break that promise to my angel mother and take a smoke with you?"

The Colonel put his hand gently on Mr. Lincoln's shoulder and said with a voice trembling with emotion: "No, Mr. Lincoln, I wouldn't have you do it for the world. It was one of the best promises you ever made. I would give a thousand dollars today if I had made my mother a promise like that and had kept it as you have done."

There is scarcely a man or woman in this country today but what believes that Abraham Lincoln's keeping his promise to his mother helped to make him the great and good and loved man that he was.—Selected.

WHO SAID "PROHIBITION FAILED"?

1. The 18th Amendment closed every brewery, distillery, and winery in the nation.
2. It closed the doors of 177,790 saloons in the nation.
3. It brought an end to all liquor advertisements through all avenues.
4. It stopped the shipment of booze.
5. It made the liquor business an outlaw like the kidnapper, the thief, and the murderer.
6. It eliminated the need of the Keeley Cure for drunkards.
7. It contributed to every legitimate business. Deposits in the banks increased in many places more than 400 per cent.
8. It made a big contribution to education. From 1920 to 1930, high school and college attendance increased more than 50 per cent.
9. It greatly reduced crime—many jails were empty during this period.
10. It reduced highway accidents.
11. Insanity was greatly reduced in the nation.
12. It cut down the list of dependent people in our country.
13. It greatly reduced disease—especially those diseases caused by alcohol.
14. It lifted the moral standard of living.
15. It brought comfort to thousands of homes which had been cursed by booze.
16. It contributed to the work of the Church of God.
17. It greatly reduced drunkenness among all classes.
18. It was the answer to the prayers of the best people of America.
19. It increased the self-respect of all decent people of the nation.
20. It lifted this nation in the good esteem of the best people of other nations.
21. It conformed to the teachings of the Word of God.
22. It threw a wall of protection around our homes.
23. It drove the bootleggers to their hiding places.
24. It saved the nation a \$3,000,000,000 liquor bill.
25. WHO SAID "PROHIBITION FAILED?"—Ethel Hubler.