

THE EYE-GATE

I remember a schoolteacher when I was but a lad who told us over and over again that it was through the "eye-gate" that most ideas and thoughts entered the mind. We know that what we see makes a vital impact upon our minds. Modern education has shown us that visual aids are powerful in teaching. But we must remember that they are just as powerful to teach that which is evil as to teach that which is beneficial.

The person who wants to keep a pure mind must take account, then, of what enters into that mind through his eyes. It is not enough to desire to keep evil thoughts out of the mind; one must desire also to guard the gate, to keep out all unwelcome intruders. And this is not an easy job. Every appeal is being made to the eyes today, by advertisers, by propagandists, by entertainers, and all. And most of that appeal is to the baser senses, to the sensuous and the unclean. The Christian has to face a constant barrage of impure ideas every day that he lives.

But the proven method of keeping these ideas from finding lodgment in the mind is to select what we see. Some things we shall have definitely and purposely to avoid. There is no sense in exposing ourselves where there is no need for such exposure. We should not feel we can look at anything that comes along and then by some miracle clean our minds from the resultant impressions. Some things we shall have to ignore. When those pictures come before us which we cannot avoid, on the billboards, on the streetcars, in advertising, etc., we must mentally pass them by. It is good to develop a habit of turning our heads or closing our eyes, absolutely refusing to allow suggestive pictures to make an imprint upon our minds.

Young people and older people as well must keep these gates of the eyes clear. We cannot hope to keep clean minds if the entrance is clogged with debris and filth. It is well to ask ourselves the question regularly, "What have I looked upon this day?" The eye is the opening to the mind and the soul. Let us guard it with our lives. — Selected.

HOLINESS: GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MAN

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who have followed His purpose clear through, and a final relationship of eternal fellowship.

We must not forget that "holiness, God's purpose for man," is only realized through hearty obedience to His call and will. All that is to be worked out in eternal purposes has its essential foundation in a personal experience of heart purity. It is inconceivable that without such a moral adjustment with a holy God one could presume to live in the presence of His eternal glory or find contentment in the presence of the Christ whose love demands our all. It was for this "holiness, God's purpose for man," that Jesus sanctified himself (that is, deliberately surrendered himself to the Cross), that we might in deed and truth be made holy and then prepared for the holy environment of His eternal purpose. This is "holiness, God's purpose for man" realized!

—Herald of Holiness.

The Value of A Daily Vacation Bible School

By Rev. Paul F. Elliott

Daily Vacation Bible Schools are rapidly increasing and many churches who never held or conducted one before are now doing so with much profit and good coming from them. It is very evident that some good purpose is being accomplished otherwise these churches would not continue holding them year after year. It leads us to inquire, What are the Vacation Bible Schools accomplishing? Why have a Daily Vacation Bible School?

My mind and heart agree perfectly with the statement that the home has the primary responsibility for religious education, and the most effective teacher of religion is the mother in the home. Indeed, there can be no real substitute for the mother-teacher of religion in the home but it is unfortunate that so few homes today afford real religious education. This being true, the church is warranted in supplementing her efforts in the wider contacts that come outside the home. The church does this through various agencies, one of which is the Daily Vacation Bible School. This is in addition to, and not a substitute for, what goes on. But another purpose of a Vacation Bible School is to make fruitful use of time that, without this school, would be wasted and even worse than wasted by the children. When the public schools close, many children, particularly in large cities and towns, have nothing to do throughout the long vacation period. The time must, of course, be used profitably or the holding of the school would not be justified. Then, too, there is the church building that could be put to good use during the week in training the youth of the community as well as bringing a blessing to a number of young people who are talented and gifted, in giving them some practical training in teaching and working with children.

Now the main objective or purpose of the Daily Vacation Bible School is to develop Christian character. If we fail to do this we have missed the real purpose. Time should be devoted to this end, buildings and equipment be dedicated to this purpose, and subject matter and activities be used for this accomplishment. All the activities of the Vacation Bible School should be made to contribute to the upbuilding of the spiritual life of the children in the community and church. This is the answer to our question, "What should the Vacation Bible School seek to do?"

Acquiring knowledge is one of the clearly defined aims of all modern education. The aim is not knowledge for its own sake but for what it will accomplish in the life of the child; not merely to know the Bible, but that by this knowing the truth, the truth shall make him free.

Therefore our true objective in the Daily Vacation Bible School should always be to bring the child into the knowledge of sins forgiven. If we fail in this, we have missed our calling and the real purpose of all religious training.

What should a Vacation Bible School seek to do? It might be said, it should seek to build Christian character, which, of course, is true.

The aims and purpose of the Vacation Bible in the home in the way of religious training.

OBITUARY

MR. BURWELL GRAHAM

The Hartland church has met with a great loss in the passing of one of its more active members, Mr. Burwell Graham. He had been in poor health for some time and passed away at the Lancaster Hospital at St. John on June 3rd. at the age of 57.

He leaves to mourn, his wife Nellie; two sons, Malcolm of Simonds and Eugene at home; four daughters, Mrs. John Gillin of Hartland, Mrs. Earl Shewrood of Stickney, Juanita and Fern at home, as well as his mother, Mrs. Hannah Graham, one brother, five sisters and eight grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at the Reformed Baptist Church and was conducted by Rev. F. A. Anderson.

Interment was in the Greenwood Cemetery, Hartland. We extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved.

Concerning gossip, let me remind you, a buzzard passes over all that is good and clean and beautiful and sinks its bill into a carcass. Why? Because that is its nature. If you are a born-again child of God you have the nature of God, and God is not a buzzard.—Dr. William Evans.

"What we think of Christ is the basis of our attitude toward Him, and this attitude will determine our eternal destiny."

HEAVENLY CITIZENSHIP

One who lives in the friendship of Christ is sure that there is an eternal world. That transcending this world of things and human affairs, there is an eternity and its plans. Some people laugh when a Christian declares that his citizenship is in heaven. But it is Christian people, living in eternity, who bring the architecture of eternity into time.

—Dr. Douglas Adam.

"When you dig another out of his trouble you find a place to bury your own."

A REAL Vacation Bible School with the above objectives and purposes is quite different from the average Vacation Bible School of today. First of all, it must be a Bible School and not a play school. A strong, well developed Christian life is impossible without a real knowledge of the Bible, and the more comprehensive that knowledge the better. Such knowledge can only be acquired by a definite, systematic study of the Book. Secondly, it must have its roots in much prayer and waiting upon the Lord; It should not be just another program "put on" by the church. "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Prayer can make the Word effective in the heart of the hearers. Thirdly, a real school must have a real pastor back of it. He must be willing to sacrifice for the benefit of the school and carry it on his heart; He should seek to promote its interests at every opportunity.

A school properly conducted and wisely administered will prove to be a blessing to the community, and it will become a feeder for the church and the Sunday school.

—American Holiness Journal.