

REBUILDING A BROKEN LIFE

(Continued from Page One)

couldn't get rid of the strong inner urge that God's call for her was to be a missionary in China. The young man couldn't see it. They decided temporarily to get a good job, make big money, and save. During these months they became insatiated with a desire to build a new home, furnish it well and live happily as normal human creatures. Gradually they permitted themselves to become careless about spiritual things. It wasn't long until they were too busy to pray in their home or to study their Bible. God gave them a beautiful little girl, soon they were all absorbed in her. They became acquainted with other young couples of the neighbourhood and started attending places and doing things they would never have dreamed of a few years before. They couldn't go to church with a baby. You know just about how things turned out.

They lost the joy of their Christian experience. They soon forgot God altogether. They turned their backs on all their past light and experience. Now, it was all for self, worldliness, and sin. Later, two more children came to bless their home.

But listen, here is the story as it is now. That beautiful little girl God gave them died in her early teens. The husband was killed in a tragic accident. Several months ago, one of the boys was "killed in action" during this last war. The other boy is very worldly and sinful with his mind on nothing but making money. This lady has married again. She married too hastily, and the man with whom she is living is lazy and careless with no ambition in life.

This lady with tears flowing down her cheeks said, "Oh, Mr. Boyd, is there any hope for me? Can I be saved again? Is it possible now to carry out God's will and be a missionary?" Then she wanted to know if I thought she could get a divorce. She thought maybe that would help her to straighten out her life to be a Christian again and carry out God's will.

Of course I told her that she had no excuse whatsoever for a divorce. By the way, the divorce curse is one of the greatest curses that ever struck America. If we continue at our present rate it won't be too long until we will have more broken homes than homes united in love. We will have millions of orphans on our hands instead of thousands. Marriage is too important and sacred to treat it lightly as so many do. Divorce was not what this lady needed.

I also had to tell her that it was now too late for her to go as a missionary. Her opportunity was lost. At forty years of age is no time to plan to go out as a missionary.

I did have something of hope to give her. I pulled out my Bible and read this story from Jeremiah. "The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord saying, Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so, he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it. Then the word of the Lord came to me saying, O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? said the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in my hand, O house of Israel." Here is the heart of that story: "And the vessel He made out of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he

made it again another vessel." All around Jeremiah were people whose lives were marred by mistakes, faults, failures, weaknesses, and sins. He beholds the lapses, delinquencies, failures, moral breakdowns and is thus broken-hearted. But he had a message for them for God had told him that He would remake their lives. God does give men another chance. He does want to make them over. God gave Jacob another chance. Jonah had his second choice, and he took advantage of it. (I don't blame him). Samson had his second chance. Peter failed but God gave him a chance again. The story of the prodigal son proves that any one can start over. There is only one way to come back, however.

We must confess our sins and failures. If we do, God is "faithful and just to forgive." One must forsake any and every thing that contributed to his downfall. That is, he must forsake all sin and drop all worldliness. He must also take up his cross and carry it endeavouring to do all the good he can for God. The time he spent in sin he now owes to Christ; the talent he used for the world must now be directed in the channels of service for Jesus; the money he used to enjoy sin he now uses to promote God's Kingdom; the influence he wielded for Satan he now gives to God and righteousness. It is impossible to go back and regain health that was ruined in sin. It is impossible to go back and be what one could have been had one been faithful to God from the beginning. It costs something and takes much out of life to backslide and to waste years.

But, oh, how happy I am to tell you that God will forgive to the uttermost. He will cleanse to the uttermost. He will co-operate to the limit in helping one to rebuild his life to make it a channel of blessing. In fact, it will surprise one to know what the Lord can and will do for him if he'll give God a chance. Backslider, disappointed soul, maybe you have failed, but won't you just now come back to Jesus?—American Holiness Journal.

THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE

Mollie Norton

We are certainly at a very low ebb here in the work of the Spirit. All seek their own— increase in numbers, cash, popularity, knowledge, and so forth. I think that the Lord is very lonely these days. Better it is to hear His voice in rebuke, than not at all. Yet, once in a rut, it is very difficult to get out, and a rut is only a grave with the ends knocked out."

While this observation came from another land, we know that it also applies to us America. The vast majority of those who bear His precious Name, love superficial and careless lives. How true it must be that the Lord is lonely! He longs for our love, our fellowship, our companionship. There are plenty of people to do things for Jesus these days, but oh so few who really know Him, and His inner secrets! But this way costs and all too few are willing to pay the price. Yet how great is our loss! There are many things of the Spirit that most of us will never know simply by serving Him—these things are only learned in the secret closet and by the one who obeys, for "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him."

Most of us live such frantic lives. It is the spirit of the age. And as the days close in it seems that the Enemy of our soul, who perhaps cannot trip us up in other ways, does everything in his power to keep us occupied,

RALLY DAY MEANS OPPORTUNITY

By Rev. Paul F. Elliott

Here are some things that a Rally Day should accomplish:

1. It puts the work and interests of the church before the community. This is especially true for any new families who have moved into the community.
2. Rally Day makes new contacts for the pastor and ought to lead new members to the church.
3. It gives an opportunity for young people to use their talents in a special Rally Day program.
4. It affords an opportunity to offset any losses due to the summer slump.
5. Rally Day says to the community that the church is active, alert, and wide-awake. The purpose of Rally Day is to bring your Sunday school into high gear. FINDING PEOPLE IS ESSENTIAL TO WINNING THEM.

What a revival means to a church, a Sunday school rally can be to a Sunday school.

There are four steps which are necessary in order to have a successful Sunday school rally.

1. Intercessory prayer. If the Sunday school is to advance it must begin on its knees.

2. Organize your forces. Jesus said, "I have chosen you that ye should go and bring forth fruit." There are many methods which may be used to reach the unsaved, but none has been so effective as lay visitation. This was the method used by the early church and today it will have the same effect and produce lasting results when it is Spirit-directed and Spirit-filled.

3. Have a profitable Rally Day service. This service should be well planned weeks ahead of the Rally Day. It should be saturated with the spirit of worship. The most effective Rally Day service is one that is God honored and Spirit anointed.

4. The follow-up. The follow-up is more important than the build-up. Names and addresses of all visitors should be secured and they should be systematically contacted again and again. It takes time, patience and perseverance to make prospects into regulars. It is a serious thing to contact new people and then not be faithful to their souls. By following up these new contacts with fervent and effectual prayer and frequent visitation in the home many of them can be won to the Lord Jesus. Make your Rally Day pay big dividends in soul-winning.—Pilgrim Holiness Advocate.

"The person who feels his unfitness is often the most worthy."

well occupied with just living. Those who take time to really walk with God, close to His Heart, are the very few. Those who daily experience a sweet sense of His rest, His strengthening and quickening life flowing through as they walk in quietness of spirit throughout the day with hearts deeply attached to His, are in the minority. And while we are dashing hither and yon, in this business of living, in the unexpectedness of some quiet hour, He will come!

Yes, the Lord, the Saviour, the King of kings, is lonely—very lonely, longing with unutterable yearning that you and I might close our ears to the things of time that clamor about so noisily, and listen, just listen to Him.—World Conquest.