

It Began to Dawn

By Mrs. Chas. E. Cowman

"It began to dawn!" (Matt. 28:15) The month of April and Easter! How precious are the Resurrection thoughts which springtime brings to us! What whispers of hope! What offers are given to our vision for grander horizons of holy service and victorious living! Easter brought to the world the dawn of a new day! Christ's Resurrection marked the beginning of earth's most wonderful morn!

At this sacred Easter season let us in all seriousness plan to have a retreat somewhere; to keep a sacred hour with our Risen Lord! Someone has rightly said: "The world is out of breath!" We have no time for quiet meditation! We are too hurried to take time to listen for the still, small Voice!

"God hath His deserts broad and brown—
A solitude, a strip of sand,
Where He doth let Heaven's curtain down,
Unknit by His almighty hand."

Could not His disciples have watched with Him one hour? Surely this garden place was the very holy of holies!—and priceless the privilege which was theirs! But they missed it! Oh, the pathos of it!

As we meditate upon this scene it is well for us now to fall on our knees and "be silent unto the Lord!" We would quietly listen to the awful words: "Father, if it be thy will, remove this cup from me!—BUT IF NOT . . ." (Ponder deeply these three words!) He surrendered Himself completely to the divine will!—an inconceivable abandonment!—and when He rose up from His prayer, was quietly ready for anything; ready for Judas' betrayal; ready for crucifixion!

Shall we walk with Him as He carries His heavy cross along the roadway leading to a hill called Calvary?—and reaching its summit, stand in the company of the calloused crowd, and listen to the jeers which were flung upon our Lord, as they cried: "Away with Him! Crucify Him!"

As we stand with Him in the shadow of His great agony, can we bear to listen to the sound of the hammer as the nails are driven through those tender, loving hands? Our hearts become fairly faint as we "survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died!"

With a prayer of forgiveness on His lips, Jesus died! Yes, JESUS DIED—with a crown of thorns upon His head! Died, that the world's redemption might be secured. Died, that you and I might never taste death.

"While it was yet dark"—very, very early in the morning, long ere the day dawn—His faithful few came to the sepulchre, sad and broken hearted, for all their earthly hopes had forever vanished! WHAT did they find at the garden tomb? The great stone had been rolled away; the seal was broken! "It began to dawn"—and the light of that glorious morning shone into their troubled hearts! How the dark road was transfigured when the sunlight of God fell upon it! Their tears were dried! Their gloom was turned to gladness! They heard the noiseless steps of the Omnipotent One! He spoke their names! And it was a stirring greeting which the Lord of Life gave to His own on that morning of the Resurrection. The kingdom of Satan had been upheaved from its foundation! All the boasted pomp of his empire had been turned upside

down! The victory was won over the devil and his angels by the triumph of Christ!

As if loathe to leave the little flock, He lingered with them upon earth forty days, and showed Himself alive, and alive forevermore. There were marvelous manifestations and revelations to them, of His presence!

Recently we found between the covers of an old book a very illuminating Easter thought, written by a brother beloved who laid down his life because of his missionary vision and missionary passion: one who deeply loved the Lord's appearing! It brought to us a renewed commission; a new heart-throb of joy, and a fresh courage to plunge into the part which we have in the fulfillment of the unfinished task: THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE WORLD, IN OUR GENERATION! We quote:

"There is only one instance recorded where Jesus appeared to His disciples 'by special appointment!'—the rest being incidental, and mostly, unexpected. But THIS appointment had been arranged for—even before His crucifixion!—as He had said to His disciples: 'After that I am risen I will go before you into Galilee'; and this had been the message of the angel to the women on the morning of His resurrection: 'Go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead, and goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: Lo, I have told you.'

"What had He to say to them on this 'special appointment' for this, His great meeting with all of His disciples? It was the first great Missionary Convention that the world had ever known! And it is most remarkable that the only appointment that Jesus made with His disciples after His resurrection was a MISSIONARY ONE! What a solemn emphasis it gives to the great commission and the glorious work of evangelizing the world, to realize fully the dignity with which Christ has invested this great occasion.

"The last hour had at length arrived! The forty days were ended. He who had lingered so tenderly on the threshold of earth, was ready now to depart upon that journey from which some day we shall see Him return! Tenderly had He chosen the sacred spot on which He took His last look upon the little home of Bethany. Tenderly, perhaps, He had said farewell to the little home circle. He had just finished His last message! The sounds are still lingering upon their ears: 'To the uttermost part of the earth!' 'To the uttermost part of the earth—ye shall be witnesses unto me!' Then, lo!—His form begins to rise, and He is gently borne upward without an effort. As He rises His hands are still extended in the benediction which He had just pronounced upon their heads. He bade them a farewell which they could never forget, and left them a message never to be forgotten! His farewell message!

"Let us realize as we dwell upon this scene, that the message was not given alone to the eleven, but to the entire company! He included all that gathered around Him and would take up His commands—even to the end of the age! It included us!—if we will meet the conditions of His promise and the responsibilities of His great command.—Missionary Standard.

IMPORTANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

"But now is Christ risen from the dead" (I. Cor. 15:20).

The whole system of Christianity rests upon the fact that "Christ is risen from the dead;" for, "if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain; ye are yet in your sins."

The divinity of Christ finds its surest proof in His resurrection, since He was "declared to be the Son with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." It would not be unreasonable to doubt His deity if He had not risen.

Moreover Christ's sovereignty depends upon His resurrection, "for to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living."

Again, our justification, that choice blessing of the covenant, is linked with Christ's triumphant victory over death and the grave; for "He was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification." Nay, more, our very regeneration is connected with His resurrection, for we are "begotten again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

And most certainly our ultimate resurrection rests here for, "if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." If Christ be not risen, then shall we not rise; but if He be risen then they who are asleep in Christ have not perished, but in their flesh shall surely behold their God. Thus, the silver thread of resurrection runs through all the believer's blessings, from his regeneration onwards to his eternal glory, and binds them together.—Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

LET'S START A CLUB

By Betty MacCallum*

This is the age in which young people are given special attention. In recent years the concern for the young has become a great burden. We find that many churches of different denominations built or are building recreational centers to hold their young people. Cities are concerned about the rising tide of juvenile delinquency and are building youth centers in an effort to stem the evils confronting our youth today. Our leaders are trying to make excellent citizens by program alone and it cannot be done. In a recent magazine, six of the thirteen special features were about youth. The youth of today makes our church members and citizens of tomorrow.

Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me." There is a definite work to be done among our children. In many cases children have been neglected spiritually until they have reached the age when they can attend young people's service. By then, a good many times, they have lost interest in the church and they have found the world attractive. We should win them while they are children, and then by the time they have reached their teens they will be established in Christ and the things of the world will not be attractive.

In Proverbs 22:6 we read, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old," (Continued on Page 8)