



News and Notes for Young People

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Ed. Note: Dr. Storer Emmett is preparing himself for medical missionary work in our South African field. It is with real pleasure that we print a personal letter from him to all our Young People. Read it, Young People, and give it some thought.

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Dear Young People:

Some time ago Brother Lawrence Mullen asked me to write a brief article for the Young Peoples' page. I think that I will do this in the form of a letter. I recently received a note from an Organization of Christian medical students to which I belong. In this note a question was asked which caused me to stop short and take some inventory of my life. Since many of you young people, like myself, are still going to school, or have recently finished school and are starting out into your life's work, I felt that this question should have a direct relevance to us all and might prove helpful if we considered it a little together.

This was the question, "Is your life as a Christian (student) different in its daily routine from that of the non-Christian?" The note went on to state that it felt that this, indeed, should be the case "because a Christian is in the process of developing completely different attitudes toward all areas of life, which include his daily work, use of his time, and attitude toward non-Christians".

A few things were suggested to me from the note as I read it and pondered upon this question. We should perform our daily routine as an act of worship unto the Lord. In I Cor. 10:31 we read, "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God", and in Col. 3:17, "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God". Sometimes, I think, we go about our studying or laying the foundations of our life's work with the attitude of hoping to serve God because of them sometime in the future. This is, after all, a twisted perspective of life since we do not know if there will be a tomorrow. If we shall serve God tomorrow this implies that we start today. If God has called us to study or we find ourselves engaged in housework, etc., this becomes a spiritual ministry which is no less acceptable to Him than to be actively working as a pastor of a church or as a missionary in Africa. A Christian should not distinguish between the secular or drab routine of life and the sacred areas in his life (church services, etc.) as if he is living in two different worlds with two different sets of values. If we are doing God's will, whatever that may be, this makes our lives sacred each moment of the day. If we think of the three principles stated in the verses above—to His glory, in His name, giving thanks—we realize that our hours of study or work can be changed into a continuous service for Him; our study desk or work bench into a sanctuary; our books into mirrors displaying His greatness and causing us to worship; our non-Christian friends into a mission field. If we do our every day things because of Him, for Him, by Him, and unto Him, we will find that our work will take on a divine meaning and blessing.

There is one other thing which I would like to mention,

The King's Highway

We should remember to always seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness and we can expect that the other things that we need will be ours as well. (Matt. 6:33). To seek God in quietness, to be active in our churches and youth organizations and in witnessing to non-Christians, to keep one day a week as a day of rest and worship are only privileges and not stern commands. As we study or go about our daily tasks, we often find ourselves so busy that we are tempted to push into the background our time for daily devotions and to squeeze Christ out of the pre-eminent place in our lives. God honors those who honor Him. When we find ourselves so busy, we must take the step of faith and make up our minds to always seek Him first; then we will find that He is there to increase and multiply all our efforts and labors for Him.

I am afraid that I have written a longer letter than I had planned, but I hope that some of these thoughts will prove helpful to you as they have to me.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dr. Storer Emmett.

HOLDING THE ROPES

The story is told of a young couple, when bidding farewell to their home country church as they were about to leave for an African field, known as "The White Man's Grave," the husband said, "My wife and I have a strange dread in going. We feel much as if we were going into a pit. We are willing to take the risk and go if you, our home circle, will promise to hold the ropes." One and all promised. Less than two years passed when the wife and the little one God had given them succumbed to the dread fever. Soon the husband realized his days, too, were numbered. Not waiting to send word home of his coming, he started back at once and arrived at the hour of the Wednesday prayer meeting. He slipped in unnoticed, taking a back seat. At the close of the meeting he went forward. An awe came over the people for death was written on his face. He said, "I am your missionary. My wife and child are buried in Africa and I have come home to die. This evening I listened anxiously, as you prayed, for some mention of your missionary to see if you were keeping your promise, but in vain. You prayed for everything connected with yourselves and your home church, but forgot your missionary. I see now why I am a failure as a missionary. It is because you have failed to hold the ropes."

—Missionary Hidings.

SOMETHING WITHIN

I once read of a Spartan king who made a great feast for a favorite general, but on the day appointed for the feast, the general died. Being anxious not to disappoint his invited guests, the king dressed up his general in his uniform and attempted to seat him at the table. Finding it difficult to give him the semblance of life, he gave up the project, saying, "It will not do, he needs something within." That is what we need to demonstrate spirituality—something within—the life-giving power of the Spirit. Too many of us have only the semblance of the spiritual life; we need the real Spirit within.

—J. Carey Campbell.