

WELLS OF BLESSING

by Rev. B. L. Brown*

Scripture: Genesis 26: 17-25

Text: v. 18 "And Isaac digged again the wells of water which they had digged in the days of Abraham, his father."

The scripture lesson indicates that Isaac, the son of Abraham was ill-liked by the Philistines. In spite of famine, Isaac reaped a hundredfold from his crops. God blessed Isaac in numerous ways. The Philistines were envious and jealous of Isaac's prosperity. They had no flocks of their own to water at these wells and would not leave them for the use of others. In spite of opposition and contention manifested by the Philistines, Isaac remained patient. And when expelled at one site he would move to another. Many problems would be avoided if everyone practiced Isaac's religion of patient and long suffering.

After leaving the wells of Esek, meaning "Contention" and Sitnak, meaning "hatred", Isaac moved and dug another well which the Philistines left alone. Isaac proved that it is wiser to hold to peaceable principles than to dwell amidst hatred and strife. This well was called Rehoboth meaning "enlargements" or "room enough."

We, too, need to dig again some spiritual wells. They are wells our forefathers dug as they worshiped their God.

1. The Well of Worship is a well of great need today. Nothing can take the place of worship. Many people cannot get to church because of old age, sickness, or demanding responsibilities. But there are countless numbers who make no effort to get to God's house. Some excuse themselves by saying, "Oh, I listen to the radio on Sunday." Although radio is a wonderful avenue of hearing the gospel it cannot substitute for worship in God's house.

The house of God is a Sanctuary of peace. It is here where a needy, troubled soul finds refuge. It is here where he can find release for his troubles and his burdens. A glorious renewal of faith, hope, and love is offered by the Spirit of God to all who call upon his Name.

Fellowship with God's people is always a source of inspiration and joy.

II. The Well of Family Devotions is another well that too often has been filled by neglect, excuses, inconveniences and lack of time.

The story is told of a little girl who quietly climbed up on her Daddy's knee and said, "Daddy, is God dead?" "Why no," replied her father, "why do you ask?" "Because you don't talk to Him now like you used to", she exclaimed. The family altar was the center and power of Isaac's life.

Family prayer unifies and stabilizes the home. The first impressions made on the lives of small children remain with them throughout their lives.

Our children are a gift from God. Let us attend to their spiritual welfare as well as to their material needs.

III. The Scriptures state that Isaac called on the Name of the Lord. This suggests the Well of Intercession.

God has said, "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, I will hear from heaven."

Prayer is still the key that unlocks heaven.

Prayer unites the soul with God and lays hold of His provision of riches in Grace.

The unselfish prayer of Intercession brings the conviction of God to the unsaved.

The Bible says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

A heart warming story is told about a faithful Christian wife and mother, who for years faithfully served the

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The King's Highway

ALLIANCE SUPERINTENDENT TO AFRICA



Sponsored by the Young People's Association, Rev. H. R. Ingersoll will fly to Africa in March, 1964, to visit our mission fields.

—The Maritime Baptist

APPRECIATION YOUTH FOR MISSIONS

by Rev. A. D. Cann

During the past nine years of our association with the Foreign Mission Board we have felt the need of our Superintendent in particular and our ministers and laypeople in general visiting our mission field. This is essential to promotion and to get a real insight in our missionary work—the day-to-day life of our missionaries and a knowledge of the people with whom they work.

We were thrilled to have Mr. and Mrs. Storer Emmett Sr. visit our African fields this summer. Already their vision and zeal have inspired this district. This trend of interest toward the harvest field is certainly an answer to prayer both by the Board and our missionaries.

Money for such a project is the big problem. With our current needs plus the regular furloughs for our missionaries such a project seemed almost hopeless.

Imagine our delight when we were informed of our Young Peoples' Decision to send our Superintendent to Africa next Spring. A more worthy and timely project has never been undertaken by our Young People. Appreciation is due again to Merle Smith whose vision and dedication weighs heavily in the Young Peoples' Department of our work.

This is not the first missionary project of our Young People and I am sure it will not be the last. To all those who have their hearts and hands in this great missionary task we say a hearty thanks and God bless you.

"Little progress can be made by merely attempting to repress what is evil; our great hope lies in developing what is good."—Calvin Coolidge.