



"But there isn't any Sunday in the summer!"

From the endless prattle of childish voices, that statement jabbed its way into my consciousness. No Sunday in the summer — whatever did she mean? Then I remembered that for this tot, Sunday School activities were suspended in summer, and with their suspension, Sunday itself ceased to have significance. My first thought, "Thank God our Sunday Schools stay open the year around," offered less comfort as I wondered, "Is it possible that Sunday for my children is nothing more than Sunday School?"

What significance should Sunday have for children? How can I, a mother, make Sunday a meaningful and welcome day for my family? To children, with their exhaustless store of energy, inactivity is unbearable. Perhaps others share the feeling of one small boy who observed one sunny Sunday morning after a week of rain, "What a waste for the sun to come out today!" In his mind, any old weather was good enough for a day when he couldn't do anything.

The issue of Sabbath observance is made the more complex by the two-fold nature of the Sabbath itself. Exodus 16 records both these statements, "For today is a Sabbath unto the Lord," and "The Lord hath given you the Sabbath." Jesus added, "The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath." We have tried to preserve its sanctity but seem to have ended up making it a day of "don't's" and "not doing's." Sunday is the Lord's day. What about the positive approach? What may I do for Him? At the same time the Sabbath is God's gift of time to man. Does that leave me free to consume it on myself with no thought of God? I think not. Knowing that the very business of living would make heavy demands on our time, God set aside the Sabbath as a day of rest and worship, a day for physical and spiritual refreshing. We serve our own good when we worship God. Sunday is my day with God.

But let's get back to the matter of my family and Sunday. I suppose we'll have to get up and go to church then . . . Groan-n-n. Have to! Maybe this attitude accounts for the children's dim view of church. Public worship is a privilege, really. What about the rest of the day? After twenty-five, most of us would rather rest, although children find it lonesome because we do. Children and young people want to do something. Can they not be directed into activities that are both glorifying to God and stimulating to them? Preparing materials for mission Sunday Schools, sharing a bit of home cooking or a book with a shut-in, enjoying a story-hour with some friends, participating in a singspiration hour and lunch with the gang before evening service.— All these possibilities are worth exploring.

The really important thing is for me to cultivate the right attitude toward Sunday, myself, so that I may, in turn, help my children to value the priceless heritage of the Sabbath.

PRAYER CALENDAR—JUNE 1963

1. Prayer of thanks for Lord's blessing during Youth Weekend in Rhodesia—continued prayer for youth work
2. Communion Sunday at Mahashini, Paulpietersburg Dist., Rev. Karl Gorman in charge
3. Prayer of thanks that the new Bore Hole at Bethesda is providing a good water supply for the needs of the mission
4. Vaal River Outpost, Ermelo Dist., that it may soon be possible to hold more services at this struggling outpost
5. Prayer of thanks that fallen preacher, Elias Nkosi, Reef Dist., is preaching and praying while serving sentence in jail
6. Continued prayer for Elias Nkosi that he may truly be a changed man by the power of God when he is released from jail
7. Prayer of thanks that a government grant will be received during the next year for each of the three upper primary grades at Bethesda, Rhodesia
8. God's guidance and direction regarding the possibility of providing a secondary school at Bethesda in the near future
9. Communion Sunday in Zululand—Rev. William Morgan in charge
10. Continued prayer that means of support for Bethesda Hospital will continue to be available both on the field and at home
11. Prayer of thanks for those at Daveyton, Reef, who are making a start to follow Jesus
12. Lord's direction in the possibility of opening a new outpost about 25 miles from Ermelo, S. Africa
13. Prayer of thanks for recent D.V.B.S. in Daveyton, Reef Dist., where 17 made a start to follow the Lord.
14. Prayer for the Reef Young People that they may get established in the faith
15. Prayer for quite a number of our Rhodesian young people who are being forced by parents to participate in heathen ceremonies
16. Communion Sunday at Daveyton, Reef—Rev. Paul Sanders in charge
17. Prayer for a mighty Holy Ghost Revival in the Reef area with its large African population
18. Prayer for Chisuma outpost, Rhodesia, where the work needs building up—presently there is only a small number of believers
19. Prayer for the services at the Rosemond Dow Memorial Church at Bethesda. This work needs revival of its membership.
20. Prayer for church at Bore Hole 83, Rhodesia, where interest and attendance needs to be increased
21. Lord's direction in the possibility of having a Laboratory Technician at Bethesda Hospital during the next year
22. Charles Sanders—Birthday
23. Communion Sunday at Emfene, Altona District—Rev. Sibiya in charge
24. Elders meeting at Ermelo, S. Africa, June 24-28
25. The direction of the Reef work during the absence of Paul and Mary Sanders
26. Prayer of thanks that the Natalspruit Church is to be built right away
27. Native Church Conference to be held at Louwsburg, S. Africa in July
28. Larry Kierstead—Birthday
29. Native Church Conference to be held at Chidobe, Rhodesia, in July
30. Communion Sunday at Ohlelo, Ermelo District, Rev. Charles Sanders in charge.