

bers from the wrong perspective. How often people say in reference to inactive members, "They took a vow," "They understand their obligations," "They are of age," "They know what they ought to do," "If they don't do it, let's exercise disciplinary action."

The truth of the matter is, every inactive member of a Church has committed, or is in the process of committing, spiritual suicide. The Light has gone out—alas, the darkness of blinded eyes! The Love has waned—how tragic is the emptiness of a Love-less soul! The Life is expiring—once again it is becoming a "body of death."

The problem of inactive members is not primarily that of law and discipline, but it is one of love and evangelism. God is giving us the opportunity of participating in a spiritual renewal that will make possible the inactive becoming active again.

II.

Moreover, I would suggest that God is giving us an opportunity for **THE ACTIVE TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE**. Let's face honestly an extremely personal question: how many of us are as active for Jesus Christ and His Church as we should be and could be?

Let me mention hurriedly three areas in which the active Christian should become more active. First of all, there is the realm of Christian Stewardship. Do we really believe that all that we are, all that we have, all that we are capable of becoming or having, are a trust from God? Do we use what we are and what we have for the glory of God, for the service of our fellow-men, for the edification of ourselves? Do we really live as those who are conscious that some day we will give an accounting to the Master for what we did with what we are and what we have?

The second area is that of Churchmanship. We need the Church. Also, the Church needs us. Are we permitting the Church to utilize our abilities, our talents, our time, our treasure?

The other area is that of Witnessing. Are we active witnesses for Christ? Are you witnessing daily concerning the Saviour to those on the outside?

Let's be honest. Even though we are active, should we not become more active? And remember, God is giving us an opportunity for such intensified spiritual activity.

III.

Likewise, God is giving us an opportunity for **THE MORE ACTIVE TO BE MORE THAN ACTIVE**. As we have already noted, increased activity that is consecrated is absolutely essential for the progress of the Christian Church. But this increased activity cannot be consecrated and effective unless it is undergirded by a personal spiritual devotion and Christian discipline. A healthy form of quietism is the real source of a radiant activism in the life of the Church.

What are some of the essential elements in a wholesome quietism? There should be the daily Quiet Time—the period for introspection, meditation, Bible study, devotional reading, prayer. There should be the Holy Life—the discipline of soul and the concentration of mind that result in righteousness of character. And there should be the continuing Christian Influence — the daily Quiet Time and the constant Holy Life manifesting themselves in an influence which is pronounced upon all those being contacted in the various relationships of life.

God is truly giving us an opportunity—for the inactive to become active, for the active to become more active, for the more active to be more than active.

But Jesus not only reminds us of the contemporary reality of spiritual opportunities; He also reinforces the Christian stewardship of opportunity. Christians must take advantage of their opportunities. Hear

Christ as He speaks to His disciples: "You have a saving, have you not, 'Four months yet, then harvest?'" (It was a saying of procrastination.) But Jesus continues: "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields: for they are white already to harvest."

Opportunities must be seized at once, for they pass so quickly. "Now is the acceptable time." An artist solicited permission to paint a portrait of Queen Victoria of England. The favor was granted. A place and time were arranged. At the fixed place and time the Queen was present, but the artist was late in arriving. When he did arrive the Queen had left, leaving a message that she would not return.

An interesting epigram survives a statue which once stood in a Greek city. It is in the form of a conversation between a traveler and the statue:

"What is thy name, O statue?"

"I am called Opportunity."

"Who made thee?"

"Lysippus."

"Why art thou on thy toes?"

"To show how quickly I pass by."

"But why is thy hair so long on thy forehead?"

"That men may seize me when they meet me."

"Why, then, is thy head so bald behind?"

"To show that, when I have once passed, I cannot be caught."

Now is the acceptable time to begin daily devotions. Now is the acceptable time to establish the family altar. Now is the acceptable time to be personally disciplined. Now is the acceptable time to practice Christian Stewardship. Now is the acceptable time to observe the spiritual law of tithing. Now is the acceptable time to begin the habit of regular attendance at the public worship services of the Church. Now is the acceptable time to volunteer to teach a Sunday School Class. Now is the acceptable time to begin witnessing to those about you.

Alas for those who fail to take advantage of spiritual opportunities! The writer of the Proverbs declares: "He that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame." Let this be paraphrased aptly: "He that sleepeth in the presence of spiritual opportunity is a professing Christian of whom God is ashamed."

Up until the time it was accomplished, the climbing of Mt. Everest was constantly an intriguing hope. When George Leigh-Mallory, the one man who may have reached the top of this highest mountain in the world a quarter of a century ago, though we will never be sure, was asked the question, "Why do you want to climb Mt. Everest?" he replied, "Because it is there."

"Unfinished adventures" always beckon spiritually-minded and courageous individuals to their accomplishment. Today we think not of "unfinished adventures" in the realm of the material or of the physical universe, but of the challenges in the realm of spiritual experience and in the life and activity of the Church. Let us accept the spiritual challenges of the inactive becoming active, of the active becoming more active, of the more active becoming more than active—"because they are there."

Let us dedicate ourselves to the Living God, and let us appropriate fully the Grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, so that these inescapable challenges will be met and so that we will seize the opportunities that God is giving us.

NOTICE

The Beulah Room's Registrar this year is Rev. K. G. Gorvette, Black's Harbour, N. B.

BORN: To Rev. and Mrs. Karl E. Gorman, Yarmouth, N. S. A daughter, Cora Lee, April 16, 1967.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN FIELD

Submitted by G. F. D. Kierstead

District Meetings: Three of our Districts held their annual meeting over the Easter season. A very fine spirit existed in all the meetings, and a good number received Spiritual help. In the Hartland meeting there were 12 baptized and taken into Church membership. The Altona area also held a baptism when 4 were baptized. On the Reef District Rev. Ron Madden spoke in the closing service, and God met us in a wonderful way. The meeting closed with testimonies of victory! To God be the Glory!

Paulpietersburg: We at the Field Office enjoyed a weeks visit from Rev. and Mrs. Ron Madden and family. The Maddens are in S. A. doing evangelistic work, and God has been blessing their ministry with the salvation of souls. We are looking forward to having them in some of our Churches soon. Pray that God will really use them for this Glory.

It was also our joy to have a visit from Rev. O. Lehman, Field Superintendent, and Rev. P. Reynolds, Principal of Immanuel Bible College. Both these men are from the Pilgrim Holiness work here in South Africa. We are looking forward to closer ties with this sister church here in S. A.

Vryheid: Rev. Glendon Kierstead was elected Vice-President of the Vryheid Ministers Fraternal in a meeting held last month. Rev. Eric Haywood is also a member of the Fraternal.

In a business meeting of our Vryheid European Church Rev. Glendon Kierstead was asked to continue as pastor for the coming year with Rev. Haywood acting as assistant pastor.

Attendance has been on the increase in the Vryheid Church. For four Sundays we have had a full house, and there have been some new people attending regular. Please pray with us for this work, that we will see a real revival. We are also praying for a full time pastor.

Altona: Our Bible School Evangelical Holiness Bible School is in full swing for the new year. There are 13 full time students, and Principal W. Morgan reports a fine spirit in the School. This is a vital part of our Missionary program, and should be on your prayer list.

APPECIATION FOR SUPPORT IN FOREIGN MISSIONS

Through the years our people have given good support to foreign missions. Some churches broke records in the recent Easter offering. This is encouraging. Our missionary program is now completely merged with the Department of World Missions of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. As a Conference we want to accept our share of responsibility in this new relationship. To do so we will need to keep our missionary giving to the highest level.

There may come the temptation to relax in our giving because of our expanded membership. This is wrong. On the contrary we should give a maximum to world missions. Our missionary outreach now touches the whole world.

By the time this reaches the reader all Easter offerings should have reached our treasurer. At the moment we are short of our goal. We have less than a month to bring our missionary giving to the level needed this year. Let us everyone give liberally to missions between now and May 31st. Please send money for World Missions to Rev. Fred Whittey, Box 195, Perth, N. B. Thank you and God bless you.