



A Sunday School Diploma of Excellence

is offered to Sunday Schools of all
Denominations on the conditions below.

BELOW are detailed fourteen points which set the minimum standard for an efficient Sunday School. The Diploma is awarded in two grades to any Sunday School applying for it and securing the necessary marks.

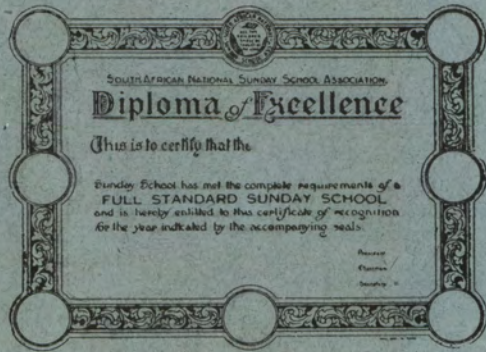
GRADE ONE

A **Full Standard** Diploma to schools which during 1946 attained all the fourteen points.

GRADE TWO

A **Forward S.S.** Diploma to schools which during 1946 attained any ten of the fourteen points.

1. School open at least fifty Sundays during the year.
2. A clear record in Attendance Register(s) of the attendance of every scholar and teacher.
3. Average attendance of 75% of members on the roll, counting only the 45 Sundays with best attendance. (Membership includes officers and teachers as well as enrolled pupils).
4. A Cradle Roll in operation.
5. Separate department or class for Primaries (pupils under nine).
6. Annual Offering for Missions.
7. Observance of a special Sunday when an appeal for decision for Christ's made.
8. Observance of Temperance Sunday.
9. Observance of National Sunday School Day.
10. Not less than eleven monthly Teachers' Meetings during the year for prayer, conference, or fellowship where there are more than two teachers and officers.
11. Some plan in operation to secure morning Church service attendance.
12. Daily Bible Reading Plan in operation. (I.B.R.A., Scripture Union, or other such plan).
13. Some Scholars sitting for the denominational Scripture Examination (if there is one).
14. Affiliation with local Sunday School Union or with the National Sunday School Association.



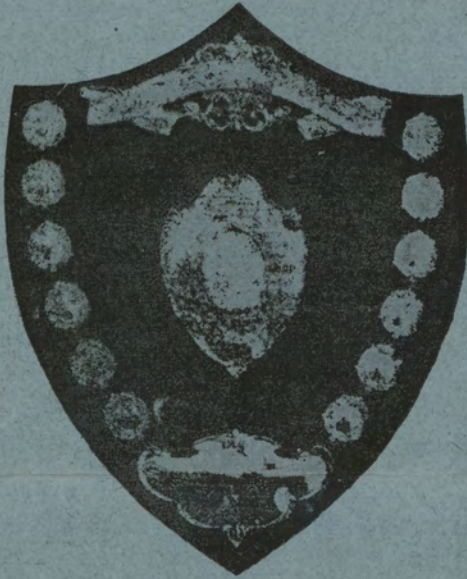
The Committee will give special consideration to cases where the circumstances of a Sunday School make achievement of a particular point quite impossible, if full particulars are submitted.

FOR CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION SEE OTHER SIDE.

The National Sunday School Trophy

accompanied by Five Guineas in cash is offered by the S.A. National Sunday School Association to Sunday Schools of all denominations.

The Ingle Challenge Shield



THIS beautiful Challenge Shield, accompanied by a cash award of £5 5s. 0d., is offered on records for the year ended December 31st, 1946. The conditions are:—

- (1) The attainment of a Full Standard Diploma as detailed overleaf, and for
- (2) The largest gross increase in average attendance and the largest percentage increase in average attendance of teachers, Officers and pupils, collectively during the year ended December 31st, 1946. This provision enables all schools, large and small, to compete.

The name of the winning school will be engraved on the Shield and an award of Five Guineas, to be spent on school equipment, will be presented with it. The school will retain the shield for one year when it will again be available for competition. It is at present held by the Boksburg Baptist Sunday School.

Application for Shield or Diploma

accompanied by ONE SHILLING registration fee must reach the Association on the prescribed form not later than February 28th, 1947. A copy of the prescribed form will be mailed you later.

S. A. National Sunday School Association

SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE,

Grace Street.

(P.O. Box 17)

Port Elizabeth.

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SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL
SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
(BANTU SECTION)

THE
SEVENTH NATIONAL
BANTU
SUNDAY SCHOOL
CONVENTION

will be held in the

Methodist African Institute
DURBAN

at the invitation of the
DURBAN and DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL
UNION

DECEMBER 14th to 18th,
1946

The Convention is open to Registered
Delegates (Africans only) of all
Denominations

Full particulars from
S.A. NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE,
(P.O. Box 17) Grace Street, Port Elizabeth

Days of Prayer for Sunday Schools.

Saturday, Sunday and
Monday.

October 19th, 20th
and 21st, 1946.

*"If ye shall ask anything in My Name
I will do it."*



Our National President, Rev. W. Edmunds, in the course of his presidential address said, "Need faces us on every hand; need of enlightenment, need of publicity, need of co-operation, need—need—need, but the greatest need of Sunday School workers today is for a spiritual enduement of power for the gigantic, but worthwhile, task we face.

May every Sunday School teacher realise this and seek it from the liberal hand of our great God for Christ's sake."

**S.A. NATIONAL
SUNDAY SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION.**

**Grace Street, P.O. Box 17,
Port Elizabeth.**

A message from the Hon. Director of the Fellowship of Prayer.

Mr. J. MacLachlan

The Trinity of Prayer.

"Ask — Seek — Knock."—Matt. 7 : 7.

GOD has been pleased to reveal Himself to us as a Triune Being, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Perhaps this corresponds with the fact that man is a threefold being, namely, spirit, soul and body (1 Thessalonians 5 : 23). And therefore it seems necessary that the way of real communion with God should be threefold: Asking, Seeking, and Knocking.

As we approach Special Days of Prayer let us briefly meditate on this Trinity of Prayer because here we will find the secret of success for Decision Day, that day when we especially bring the claims of the Lord Jesus Christ before our scholars, and when we would seek to lead them into acknowledgment of Him as their Lord and Saviour. There ought to be nothing haphazard about our Decision Day arrangements, every detail should be carefully planned, and every step ought to be steeped in prayer.

1. "**ASK.**" Let us ask for it. If we would have a blessing, the least we can do is to ask for it. "Ask and ye shall receive." Before we can have an ingathering of souls, the Lord's people must be aroused to an earnest spirit of prayer and supplication. Doubtless we might experience another pentecostal blessing in answer to another pentecostal season of earnest prayer. Prayer is God's appointed means of obtaining. Prayer is the channel through which our blessings come. Often our churches are like some inland city in the winter on the banks of a frozen river. We are the dwellers in that city, hungering and starving for food. Scores of richly laden vessels are lying in the stream a few miles below, anxiously waiting to reach our wharves. But why the delay? It is because the channel is closed by the ice. So it is often in regard to God's blessings for His people. He is not only willing but waiting to bestow them upon us. Why then do they not come? The reason is plain. Our prayers are the channel, the appointed channel, through which every good must come, but the channel is not open. Oh, how often do we fail to keep the channel clear. How often are we in want and miss the blessing because the stream is frozen and God does not come through the ice of our indifference. Let us **ASK**, and we shall **RECEIVE**.

2. "**SEEK.**" Not only are we to ask, but we must also seek the blessing, that is, expect it. This means faith. Faith is the hand that takes the blessing. One reason we do not receive more is because we do not expect more. Have you asked God to save those boys and girls in your class? You answer, "Yes." Well, and now are you expecting them to surrender their young lives to the Lord? Think what poor feeble faith we have. How often we are like those Christians praying for Peter. Recall the scene. The disciples were gathered together praying for Peter's release from prison. While they were praying he knocked at the door. But they would not believe it was Peter. He continued knocking. When they opened the door and saw that it was indeed he, they were astonished. Think of it! The



Church praying—God answering—and the people "**ASTONISHED.**" But how often it is so still. Think of our poor, weak faith. Often it is that Christ, consistently with His own character, cannot do many mighty works in our midst because of our unbelief. Instead we ought to ask great things and **EXPECT** great things from His hand. He says, "According to your faith be it unto you." It is as if a very rich man were to hand us a blank cheque with his name signed and say, "Now, fill it in yourself, write in the amount you would draw, and according to your faith in me be it unto you." We might hesitate to make too large a draft upon an earthly friend, but there is no need to draw lightly upon God,

"For His grace and power are such,
None can ever ask too much."

God is far more willing to bless us than we think He is. If we really want an ingathering of souls in our schools, let us ask for it and expect it, and get all our teachers expecting it. God will honour our prayers and our faith.

3. "**KNOCK.**" Not only must we **ASK**, and then **SEEK** (or **EXPECT**), but we have our part to do as well, we must **KNOCK**, and that means some human activity, something **WE** must do about it, and I would suggest that we **WORK** for it. Living faith is a practical faith and goes to work. "Faith without works is dead." But a living faith is a working faith. It believes there is a human side as well as a divine side in God's plan for the accomplishment of His will. Faith never says: "Lord, put grain in my barn." Faith ploughs and sows and prays: "Lord, bless the effort." So when we have a part given us to do, that is useless prayer, which does not try to answer itself as far as possible. True faith is practical, and practical faith unites prayer and effort. Do you want to see your scholars saved, and grow in grace? Do you wish to see the Gospel of Christ win a mighty victory in the hearts of our boys and girls? Then pray, **ASK** for it. Then expect it to happen, **SEEK** for it. Do not contradict your faith by not expecting the answer. God never said: "Ask to see whether I will give." But He does say, "Ask and ye **SHALL** receive." And then we must **KNOCK**, that is do our part. Sow the seed, speak the word in season, live the life that will bring conviction. If we use the means and do our duty it is as sure as God is God and His word is truth, that we shall never be disappointed. "If thou canst believe all things are possible to him that believeth."

May the Lord give us grace to ask, faith to receive, and power to fulfil the conditions, in order that we might have an abundant harvest of young lives for His kingdom.

"According to your need He'll give,
He hears the 'aven's cry,—
And if in faith you ask aright,
He'll every want supply."

Let us pray.

- (1) for all children everywhere that they may come to an early knowledge of the Heavenly Father.
- (2) for Sunday School officers, teachers and scholars.
- (3) for Native and Coloured Sunday Schools.
- (4) for the S.A. National S.S. Association and its Auxiliary Unions.
- (5) for the World's Sunday School Association.
- (6) for the King and Queen, our Country and its Leaders.

JOIN THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER.

P.O. Box 17, PORT ELIZABETH.

Hon. Director: Mr J. MacLachlan.

THIS certifies that

.....
was enrolled as a Member on

MEMBER'S PLEDGE

"I promise to unite in private prayer for the work of Sunday Schools every Sunday morning as opportunity offers for a quiet time with God."

CONDITIONS FOR PREVAILING PRAYER.

"Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies outside the will of God."

Seven conditions which must be met if our prayers are to be answered:

1. A right motive James 4 : 3.
2. According to God's will ... 1 John 5 : 14, 15.
3. In the name of Christ John 14 : 13.
4. With thanksgiving Philippians 4 : 6.
5. With perseverance Luke 18 : 1-7.
6. In the Holy Ghost Jude 20.
7. In faith Mark 11 : 22-24.

**Additional copies of this circular
may be had on application.**

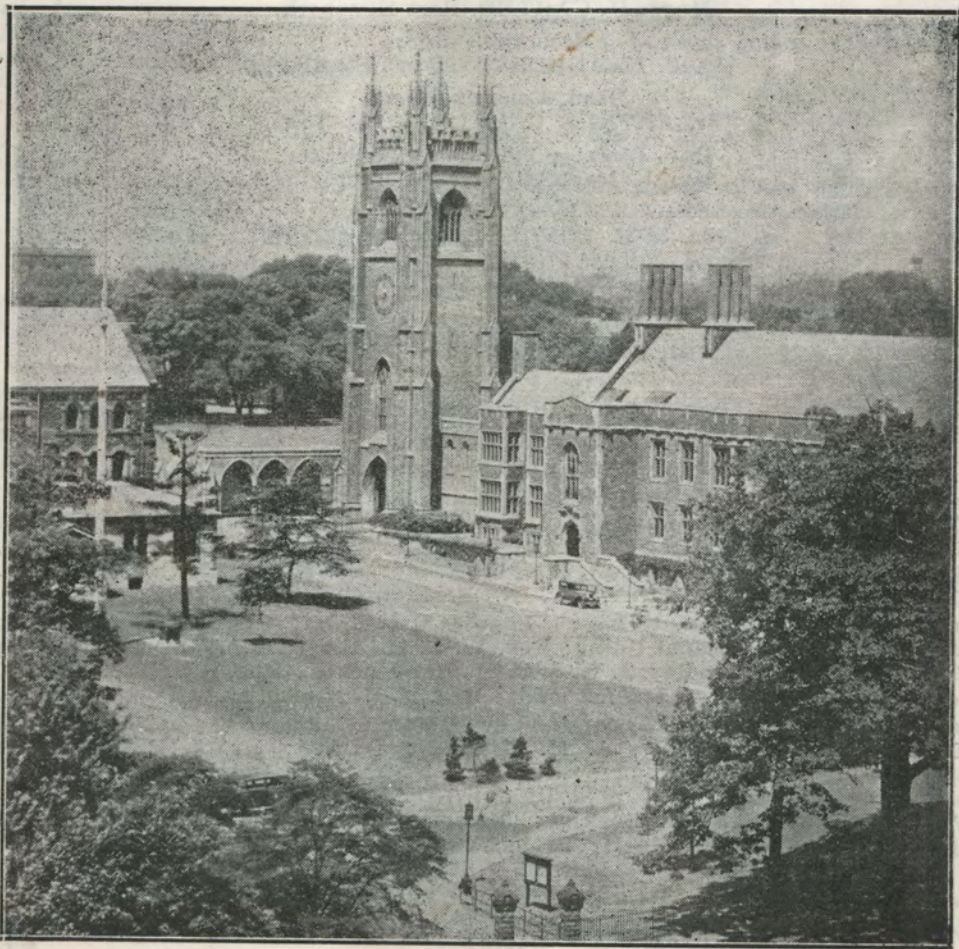
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JANUARY, 1950.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVANCER

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National Sunday School Association.

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S.A. NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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Denominational Representatives: Baptist Union, Mr. Kenneth Foster, Port Elizabeth; Congregational Union: Rev. W. G. M. Abbott, B.A., B.D., Uitenhage; Methodist Conference: Rev. J. W. Watson, Rondebosch, Cape, Rev. R. J. Letcher, Port Elizabeth; Presbyterian Assembly: Rev. H. H. Munro, M.A., Port Elizabeth.

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Representatives on Lesson Committee: Mr. J. H. Carter, Mr. Arnold Matthews.

Representatives on Christian Council: Rev. G. B. Molefe, M.A., Mr. Arnold Matthews.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVANCER

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Editor:

DERRICK CUTHBERT, B.A., B.D.
Published at: Grace Street
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JANUARY, 1950

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HEADQUARTERS NOTES

IT is announced with pleasure that the Rev. W. G. M. Abbott, B.A., B.D., Chairman of the Congregational Union of South Africa, Dr. C. M. Doke, President of the Baptist Union of South Africa, the Rt. Rev. Ian McDonald, M.A., Moderator of the Presbyterian Assembly of South Africa have accepted office as Honorary Vice-Presidents of the Association during their term of office in their denominations.

* * *

The Sunday School Calendar for 1950 giving the syllabus of the South Africa Lessons Course for the year, and indicating special events of interest in Sunday School life (including the subjects set for the Thirteenth National Bantu Scripture Knowledge Examination) has been published by the Association and may be had free on application.

There has been a steady demand for the Association's literature for Sunday Schools, "How to Start a Sunday School" and "How to Organise a Sunday School", but the Association would like to see Unions, Mission Stations and Institutions take advantage of this helpful literature. A parcel of this literature has gone as far afield as Syria!!

* * *

Heartiest congratulations are extended to the Rev. W. I. C. Shipley, of Maritzburg, in his appointment as the new secretary of the Methodist Youth Department.

* * *

The first Methodist Coloured Sunday School Teachers' Conference was held at the Central Hall, Johannesburg over a week-end in October when teachers from different parts of the country attended. The venue of the next Conference is to be Kimberley and the date October, 1950.

* * *

As we go to press arrangements are being made at Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban to meet the Rt. Hon. Lord Macintosh, president of the World Council of Christian Education, who is paying a short holiday visit to this country during December.

* * *

We were glad to see visitors during the month and those who signed our visitors book include: Rev. A. Sandilands, L.M.S., Kanye, Bechuanaland Protectorate; Misses J. and Doreen Owens, Rosettenville, Johannesburg; Miss. M. Logan, Rosettenville, Johannesburg; Mr. Philip Gammon, C.S.S.M., Cape Town; Mr. A. X. Davis, Mowbray,

THE PICTURE ON THE COVER

Our cover photograph shows the Headquarters of the 1950 World Convention of the World Council of Christian Education, Hart House, University of Toronto, Canada. Details of the Convention are given on page 4 of this issue.

(Photo by courtesy of The Toronto Convention and Tourist Association, Toronto.)

World Convention, Toronto, August, 1950

"JESUS CHRIST — TEACHER AND LORD"

IT will be of interest to our readers to know that to date three delegates have registered to represent South Africa at the forthcoming Convention. This country has been allocated forty delegates and Headquarters would like to know as early as possible of others who are giving the matter their consideration.

FELLOWSHIP DELEGATES

An invitation is extended to all to have a share in the Convention by enrolling as a Fellowship Delegate or Intercessory member on payment of fee of one dollar (7/3). Fellowship delegates are recognised as prayer partners and as such will receive a pictorial report of the Convention. It is intended that the roll of Fellowship Delegates in each country will be presented to the Convention in the opening session as a great demonstration of world-wide unity in Christian education.

WORLD INSTITUTE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

It has been felt advisable by the Committee of the W.C.C.E. to call together a limited number of individually invited persons to comprise the Institute on Christian Education who would meet for three weeks prior to the Convention in conference to discuss in more specific detail the many aspects of Christian education throughout the World.

It will be recognised that members of the Institute will be those with wide experience and knowledge in their own country, and who by sharing and pooling their information of practices and problems in Christian education will be able to render valuable service in advancing Christian education generally.

THE MEETING PLACE

The picture on the cover page of this number shows the Headquarters of the Convention. In addition to the Campus of the University of Toronto, the Convention will have the use of a number of churches in the vicinity. For the plenary sessions the Colliseum at the

Canadian National Exhibition Grounds, which seats 6,500, has been reserved. Then for the proposed mass session the Stadium, Maple Leaf Gardens, seating 17,000, will be used.

PROGRAMME

The programme is being crystallized and in general there will be divisional meetings in the mornings and afternoons and plenary sessions in the evenings. Speakers and other programme participants will include leaders in Christian education from Europe, the Near East, Africa, Asia, the South Pacific, Latin America and North America. The exhibits of curriculum and other materials and audio-visual aids will be an integral part of the programme.

For further information apply to the South African Unit of the W.C.C.E., the S.A. National Sunday School Association, P.O. Box 17, Port Elizabeth.

H.Q. NOTES (Continued)

Cape; Mr. D. J. Beveridge, Highlands North, Johannesburg; Mr. J. McLachlan, Vereeniging.

* * *

Miss Edith Blake has been collecting for the Association at Kroonstad, Vereeniging, Pretoria and the East Rand centres during November and December.

* * *

Rev. Derrick Cuthbert and Miss Edith Blake represented Headquarters, and Rev. E. S. H. Skosana and Miss Violet Hillary the Bantu Advisory Committee, at the Tenth National Bantu Sunday School Convention at Johannesburg during December.

* * *

The Witwatersrand African S. S. Board has been constituted and its office bearers will be elected at its first general meeting to be held in Johannesburg this month.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL UNIONS

BLOEMFONTEIN: Rev. Edwin Jones addressed the Union meeting on the 17th October on the topic, "How to teach the Abiding Message of the Old Testament". Opportunity was taken at the November Union meeting of bidding farewell to the Rev. Mr. Jones who was leaving for Rhodes College for further training. There was an excellent attendance at this meeting to hear the National President, the Rev. C. E. Wilkinson, M.Sc., deliver an address on "Presenting Christ to the Youth of Today".

CAPE TOWN: The annual Green and Sea Point Rally took place on the 20th November at which Mr. Arthur C. Ingle was the speaker. The Union paid a visit to Worcester on the 13th November. A sub-committee was appointed to prepare the programme for Sunday School Week and the Annual Meeting.

DURBAN: Mr. J. P. Hackland has been appointed secretary and treasurer of the Union to succeed the late Dr. Harland Wilson. The Union had purchased the library of the late Dr. Wilson and also his share of projector. The half yearly African Sunday School Convention was held on November 5th when there was a record attendance of about three hundred teachers and friends present. Speakers included Miss Nordquest of Adams Mission Station, Chief A. J. Lutuli, and Dr. J. L. Rice.

EAST LONDON: Mrs. Booty was the speaker at the Union meeting on the 17th October and her subject was "Temperance Teaching in the Sunday School". The Union had undertaken responsibility for the Hill Sunday School in the way of finding speakers.

JOHANNESBURG: The Extension Committee were undertaking the preparation of a new map of the city and suburbs indicating the position of Sunday Schools. This Committee reported that the Holy Trinity Church had opened a branch school at Crowthorne. The quarterly meeting of the Union was

held on the 28th November when the Port Elizabeth Wayside film was shown.

KINGWILLIAMSTOWN: The Union is planning to hold a local Convention in June next. A president's Bible has been purchased by the Union. Mr. A. L. Gill, B.A., principal of the local School of Industries, was the speaker at the Union meeting on the 31st October and his topic was "Youth and God".

PIETERMARITZBURG: The Executive Committee in their capacity as the Convention Committee are making preliminary arrangements for the 1950 Easter Convention. Sub-committees had been appointed and the theme and badge design agreed upon.

PRETORIA: The Union was highly gratified at the success of their effort "Anniversary Echoes" which was staged on 28th October. This was the first occasion on which the Union had attempted anything along these lines.

PORT ELIZABETH: A sub-committee has been appointed to make arrangements for the holding of a Sunday School Eisteddfod this year. "Anniversary Echoes", in which most of the Union's schools participated was presented on November 4th. The programme was considered to be an experiment on that of last year. The Rev. Derrick Cuthbert delivered the second portion of his address—the practical aspects of Expression Work—to the Union meeting on the 24th November.

SCHOOL INFORMATION REPORTS

All School secretaries and correspondents are reminded to give their attention to the Report Forms which will either reach them through their local Union or direct from the Association.

When the Report is returned you will receive your School Membership Certificate for the year and a copy of the latest Teacher's Code for each member of your staff.

A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Presenting Christ to the Youth of To-day

(Extracts from an Address by Rev. C. Edgar Wilkinson to the Bloemfontein and District Sunday School Union, 21st November, 1949.)

DO we ever pause and ask what are the major influences on the lives of adolescents? Their homes, their education, their sport, their pleasure — chiefly the cinema, and touching all these: their friends. For their friends come to their homes, sit in the same classroom at school,

play in the same team, and go to the same "pictures". I have deliberately left out the influence of the Sunday School or Church—because, alas! it is a major influence on only a small proportion of the youth of today.

The effect of this wide-spread omission of Christian influence on the youth of today is all too obvious. The famous Duke of Wellington said, "If you teach your children the three R's and leave out the great R of Religion you will produce a fourth R — Rascaldom — and you will get a nation of cunning devils." And yet the future of civilization may well depend on the leadership of the younger generation in the critical years ahead.

How vital then is the work of youth leaders, and not least of Sunday School workers in these days! For we must find a way of implanting in youth a living Faith, without which they will not succeed in their great task of making a better South Africa and a better world. We must find an effective way of offering them Christ.

FRIENDSHIP

I stated a moment back that touching all the major influences on their



lives were their friends. Friendship is something they can readily understand. And so it is clear that friendship must be the clue to any presentation of Christ we may offer them. They must find friendship in our Sunday Schools and week-day youth activities of a quality no less attractive than the friendship they find through the major secular influences on their lives.

All this indicates, too, that there must be a quality of friendliness about our own leadership. Through our friendship we must whet their appetites, as it were, for the friendship of other young Christians, but chiefly for the friendship of Christ.

This brings us to the heart of this address. Surely the way of presenting Christ to the youth of today that is likely to be most effective is to present Him as the Great Friend of Youth. This surely too was the way of Jesus Himself. He did not start by insisting that His hearers accept certain creeds, but by offering them His friendship. Among His great sayings bequeathed to His followers of all time on the eve of His Crucifixion were these:

"This is my commandment, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you. No longer do I call you servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends . . . (John 15, 12-15. R.V.)

How then shall we offer the friendship of Christ to the youth of today?

THE FRIENDSHIP OF JESUS

Imagine my great delight when I rang up a young man the other day and he told me, quite unsolicited, that the greatest gift in the world was the

friendship of Jesus. That is what Christianity really is, the gift of the friendship of Jesus, God's greatest gift, the gift of the Son of His love. "If thou knewest", said Jesus, speaking about Himself, "if thou knewest the gift of God."

There are about fifty passages scattered throughout the New Testament in which the new life which comes through the friendship of Jesus is spoken of as a gift, the gift of God. This is the very beginning, yes, and also the end, the very essence of Christianity: God's gift, God's free offer of friendship, of communion with Him, through Jesus Christ. This is the heart of the gospel, the good news of God's love.

Let me try to correct an impression you may share with many others about what Christianity really is. Many people seem to think that Christianity is a way of life based on the teachings of Christ as summarized in the Sermon on the Mount. This is considered by the man in the street as the heart of the Christian Gospel. Is this true? The word 'gospel' means good news. Is it good news to set a man an ideal of human conduct and exhort him to live up to it? I should call that bad news! Because I know how often I have tried in my own strength to live up to high ideals, and failed again and again and failed miserably.

How often have we resolved to try again, try harder this time, to be a better man, a better woman. So we try and try and try, and in the end we are forced to give up. The struggle is too great. Our weakness mocks at our good resolutions. Such a religion becomes a crushing burden instead of what it ought to be, in Sam Rutherford's lovely phrase, "the kind of burden sails are to a ship, wings are to a bird." Instead of our religion carrying us we find ourselves trying to carry it.

Thank God, that is not Christianity! The Christian religion is not the Gospel of "try harder next time". It is the offer of a gift, the gift of the greatest friendship in the world, the friendship of Jesus Christ, a friendship which embraces everything else that we rightly associate with Christianity, as I shall attempt to show you in a moment.

A PRESENT FRIENDSHIP

Meanwhile I want to stress the real possibility of this friendship in the world of to-day. It was not just a friendship offered only to the men and women He mixed with in the days of His flesh. It was an abiding friendship. "Lo, I am with you alway," He promised, "even unto the end of the world."

Perhaps some who are older will say to me, "Ah, that's all very well, but where do repentance and forgiveness and faith and character and conduct and good works—the service of one's fellows — Salvation and sanctification come into all this?" Let me try to show you.

Take repentance first. When you and I begin to experience the friendship of Jesus, how do we feel? When we come into the presence of Jesus, the purest of the pure, the fairest among ten thousand, the altogether lovely, how do we feel? Do we not feel like Peter and want to cry out, "Depart from me, O Lord, for I am a sinful man"? Do we not feel like Leight Hunt who once said to his fellow writers like Hazlitt and Charles Lamb, "If Shakespeare came into the room we would rise to meet him; if Jesus Christ came, we would all fall down and try to kiss the hem of His garment!"

Yes, when you come to know the friendship of Jesus, the first thing you will feel will be penitence and humility.

Take forgiveness. Surely the very offer of His friendship is the offer of forgiveness. For forgiveness means the restoration of fellowship, of friendship, as if the sin which prevented it had never existed. Forgiveness is love in action in personal relationships. "What man worthy of the name has ever felt he was good enough to deserve the love of a true woman? It is of the very nature of love to give and to receive without regard to worthiness. So it is with the love of God." Unworthy though we be of so divine a Friend, He freely offers us His friendship, which includes His forgiveness, His love.

So too in His friendship our characters will become transformed, our conduct more and more Christlike. Just because we are His friends we shall want to do the things which please Him, not because He commands us but

because we love Him. "If ye love me," He said, "ye will keep my commandments . . . Henceforth I call you not servants: but I have called you friends . . . Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you."

GOD'S GIFT

So you see that to teach that Christianity is first and foremost a way of living which puts into practice the Sermon on the Mount, is to put the cart before the horse. It is that: living out the Sermon on the Mount. But it is that only secondarily. Primarily it is the good news of God's free offer of His friendship, and all that it implies, in and through His Son, Jesus Christ. Christianity is not first and foremost a code of ethics, though it has the highest code of ethics in the world. It is first and foremost the gospel of the friendship of Jesus Christ, and without the inspiration of this friendship it would be humanly impossible to live up to the teaching of this Friend, especially the Sermon on the Mount. Only as we love God can we love our neighbour as ourselves.

FAITH

You will notice that so far I have carefully avoided saying anything about the place of faith in the idea of Christianity being in essence the friendship of Jesus Christ. I have purposely left it until last because it is the most vital and yet perhaps the hardest part of all, for some people at any rate.

"If thou knewest the gift of God," said Jesus to the woman of Samaria. It was comparatively easy for her to accept His friendship, a friendship offered despite the barrier of racial hatred between his race and hers. He was there, talking with her, helping her to see her true self, making her realise her need of a friend who could save her from herself and from her sin, offering her new life, new hope; in a word, offering her Himself as Christ her Saviour.

But you and I cannot see Him near, or hear His voice, or feel the warm glow of His friendship, as she did. And yet He has promised, "Lo, I am with you alway." This is where faith comes in. It takes faith to believe that. It takes faith to receive the friendship of a Friend we have never seen. It takes

faith to believe that we have only to think of Him and He is standing at our side.

But look a little more closely at what Jesus said to the woman of Samaria. "If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is . . . thou wouldst have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water." There is the secret. Ask! "Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find."

YOUTH'S PART

When I have said that, I can take youth no further. The rest depends on youth. I can suggest that youth make this great venture of faith, that youth rely upon the promises of Jesus which have never been broken, that youth ask God for the greatest gift in the world—the friendship of Jesus, that youth begin to live as if they were already experiencing His Presence, that youth receive His friendship, by way of imagination at first perhaps, until imagination grows into faith, and faith into experience. But that is as far as I can take youth. The rest depends on youth and Him. I know He will not fail youth. May we be sure that youth will not fail Him? I am sure we can, if it is such a Friendship we offer. For it is a Friendship which saves. And it is a Friendship which sanctifies.

PIETERMARITZBURG CONVENTION (continued)

offered to ASSOCIATE DELEGATES if same is available after 24th March.

Registrations: Application for registration should be made on the prescribed form and should reach the Hospitality Convener, Mr. W. L. Schroenn, 393, Burger Street, Maritzburg before the 24th March.

INTERCESSORY MEMBERS: Interested persons unable to attend may enrol as Intercessory Members. They will receive a copy of the Convention programme and can thus follow each day's events with their prayers and join in the fellowship of intercession each morning. They will also receive a copy of any newspaper or other reports of the Convention that may be published.

An Invitation is extended to you to attend the...

35th NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

at Pietermaritzburg, Easter, 1950

THOSE teachers and officers who attended the 21st National Sunday School Convention will be keenly interested to learn that the 1950 Easter Convention is returning to Maritzburg.

It is certain that many happy memories will be treasured of that 1936 Convention and the Maritzburg S. S. Union are sparing no pains to make the Convention an outstanding success.

Maritzburg is well known as an educational centre and is set among the lovely hills of Natal.

The Convention Dates:

The Convention opens on Good Friday, the 7th April at 9 a.m. concluding on Monday afternoon, 10th April, at 5 p.m.

Sessions: The Convention is being housed in the Metropolitan Church Hall, Chapel Street, and all meetings are open to the public.

The Programme: The theme selected for the Convention is THIS JESUS—LORD AND CHRIST and the programme will be built around this theme. Conferences, lectures and demonstrations embracing many aspects of Sunday School work today will feature on the programme.

Book Stall: The latest in Sunday School equipment will be on view and also helpful literature that will appeal to Sunday School workers will be available.

THE DELEGATES. There are two classes of Delegates, namely, OFFICIAL and ASSOCIATE.



OFFICIAL DELEGATES consist of:

- (a) Members of the Executive Committee of the Association;
- (b) Appointed representatives of affiliated Unions to the number of one for every school affiliated to each Union; and, in addition, the President, General Secretary and the Treasurer of the Union;
- (c) One appointed representative from each school affiliated direct with the National Association. Headquarters having the same privileges as Unions in that it may appoint repre-

sentatives to the number of schools affiliated.

- (d) The appointed representative from the General Assembly of each Evangelical Church.

ASSOCIATE DELEGATES consist of:

- (a) Personal members of the Association;
- (b) Appointed representatives from unaffiliated schools, Unions or other Christian institutions. Official Delegates only, are allowed to vote at business sessions, but Associate delegates may take part in discussions.

Hospitality: Free hospitality will be extended to all OFFICIAL DELEGATES from Thursday, 6th April to Tuesday, 11th April. Hospitality will also be

(Continued on page 8)

RALLY DAY

RALLY DAY is an institution unknown, at least by name, in Britain, but the Sunday Schools there face the same problems of reawakening the interest of the children and getting a flying start to the School year when the holidays are over. We think therefore, that the following article, reprinted from "The Sunday School Chronicle", will suggest several useful ideas to South African Teachers.

THE NEW LOOK!

Will Your Sunday School Have It After The Holidays?

By *CHRIS WILLIAMSON*

There comes one Sunday when most people have returned from their holidays and the Leader feels the new term has really begun. At day school any new term brings its meed of thrill and excitement, and we do well if we can bring something of this special feeling into our Department on this Sunday. It needs thought and preparation as does all our work, but it pays rich dividends in interest and renewed fellowship.

The Room

Yours may be the perfect room to which everyone returns with joy, or it may suffer from comparison with other Schools which have been visited. Therefore look at it carefully and see if re-arrangement of seating can make a change. There is not always a need to face in the same direction, perhaps with the eyes of the children focussed on a sign at the top a glass door, TUO YAW. (For years one small boy looked at these letters with awe, taking them for some mysterious religious symbol.)

The Furnishings

If you have curtains see that these are fresh and clean. They may even be dyed or dipped a new or deeper or different shade, or a band of coloured material sewn to the bottom, or stencilled or appliqued flowers arranged in the corners.

Seating

If you have tables for each class, see if the teachers care to bring different tablecloths. This might provide the holiday fancy-work for girl teachers or

older scholars. Arrange the classes differently and try to find a small vase of flowers for the centre of each table. Someone may have brought back some heather, which would provide interest. If your department does not have tables, then still arrange the classes in a different way and certainly in semi-circles and not in straight rows.

Pictures

Remove pictures which are unseasonable and hang up one large picture which speaks of holiday joy, sea, mountains, fields or city. If you live in the country, the highlight of holidays may be a visit to the city and a picture of some well known building may be just what you need. You may be able to borrow for this one Sunday a picture from a friend.

Holiday Postcards

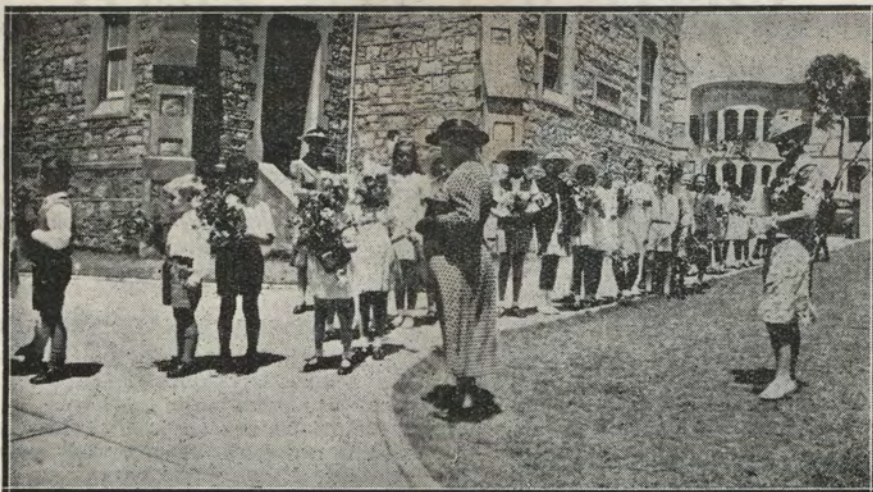
Have a board on which can be pinned postcards of places visited. These may have been sent to other boys and girls during the holiday, and if they are told about the board they will be glad to lend them.

Holiday Trophies

On a table make a collection of holiday trophies, from shells and pieces of sea-weed to the pre-historic flints found by the budding geologist. Encourage everyone to bring back something and do not concentrate on the most unusual to the exclusion of the more ordinary.

The Service

This will need careful preparation and a good deal of knowledge of where



Pearson Street Congregation Sunday School, Port Elizabeth

the children have been and research into service material on the part of the Leader. A glance through a book on hymns will perhaps tell you that one place visited was the home of a famous hymn-writer, or the place where one of his hymns was written, and therefore one of his hymns can be included. Associations with poets or authors can be linked up by using short extracts from their works. Be ready also with Bible passages, which so often tell the same story. Short verses from Psalms, Proverbs and the Wisdom Literature which are apt to the occasion, can be printed and hung up and mentioned at the appropriate time.

News-Time

This is a day for news-time from the Beginners' Department to the Young People's, whose travels may have led them far afield on school tours abroad, to harvest camps, or exchange holidays with young people in other countries. It should be a real fellowship of shared experiences and not just "listening to the children's news." Correlate and arrange the various things told and then make use of the hymn or Bible

passage which helps to link everything together with God the Father and Creator. Beginning the service well means that everything is linked in the children's minds with worship. Perhaps a verse from the first chapter of Genesis can be read as a call to worship and then all the thoughts and experiences can be gathered together by ending with "And the Lord saw all that He had made and behold it was very good." The *Benedicite Omnia Opera* can be sung or read antiphonally.

Such a service is well worth arranging and preparing for. Our real job as teacher is not only to tell stories and give lessons, but help our scholars to link all life to worship of the God Who gave that life, and all enjoyment and new experience to the Creator Whose bountiful hand provided all things. The closer fellowship between scholars and teachers and with each other which such a sharing brings will be remembered long after the sea-weed has been thrown away, the postcards lost and memories of bathing and mountain climbs are things of the dim past, and "coming back after the holidays" will remain a treasured Sunday.

Discuss this article at the next Teacher's Meeting and make your plans for an outstanding Rally Day. Write and tell us of how you observed the Day!!

VISITS TO THE FIELD

By *The Rev. DERRICK CUTHBERT B.A., B.D.*

IT is our joy at the headquarters of the Association to keep in touch with Sunday school workers in the field as much as we can. A good deal of this has to be done by correspondence, but whenever possible we like to meet our fellow-workers face to face that we may share experiences and problems and take heart together for this great work in which we are engaged. There is so much office work to be done that the opportunity for such visits to the field is restricted for most of us. We are glad that Miss Edith Blake, in her capacity as Official Collector for the Association, has during the past six months visited many Sunday schools and made contact with very many Sunday school workers, in the course of her extended tours. This is a valuable service which is greatly appreciated.

It was a great joy to me personally, within a week or two of the anniversary of my arrival in the country, to be able to say that I had paid a visit to all the affiliated Unions throughout the country. Now that we are beginning to know one another I am sure that future visits will be even happier and more fruitful.

Among the recent "field contacts" which it has been possible for me to make it is a pleasure to report briefly on the following.

GRAHAMSTOWN

Near the beginning of October I paid a flying visit to Grahamstown in order to give three lectures on Sunday School teaching to Union members. The attendance was rather small, owing to a holiday week-end which had taken a number of students out of the city, but what the audience lacked in numbers it more than made up in keenness of interest and in future influence, for a number of those present are shortly to become ministers of churches in different parts of the country. Any help we can give them now, during their period of training, to see the immense possibilities of Sunday School work will pay rich dividends in the years to come. My thought as I drove home that Saturday night, was how much can be crowded

into a few hours when one has a keen group to lecture to, and, of course, the transport to take one to and from the scene of action. It was a great pleasure on this visit to enjoy the hospitality of the Warden of Livingstone House and his wife, the Rev. and Mrs. Leslie Hewson.

CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Another flying visit was to the Congregational Assembly, meeting this year at Uitenhage. It was a great pleasure to see so many keen Sunday school workers among the delegates, friends whom I had met on earlier journeys and visits. It was a pleasure too, to see in the chair the Rev. Basil M. Brown, B.A., who was one of the first to greet us upon our arrival in the country, and who has rendered great service to the Sunday School cause in Cape Town and elsewhere. The incoming Chairman, the Rev. W. G. M. Abbott, B.A., B.D., has very close links with the Association, being a member of the Executive Committee and also of the Lessons Committee. And the designated chairman for 1950/51 is none other than Mr. B. K. Anderson, Treasurer of the Association these many years past. The cordial reception given to me as the Association's representative to the Assembly was a heart-warming token of the interest and support which our Congregational friends give us in so many ways, and it was a pleasure to tell the Assembly just a little of our work and future plans. Among the African and Coloured members the literature which I had popped into the boot of the car aroused a great deal of interest. This leads me to say that readers of the ADVANCER will be doing us a great service if they will kindly draw the attention of African and Coloured friends to the various publications which are available. We have no funds for an extensive advertising campaign, and we rely upon our constituents to help us to make our publications known.

PRESBYTERIAN TEACHERS

It has been a privilege, during October and November, to deliver four

lectures on the place of the Bible in the Sunday School to the members of the Port Elizabeth Presbyterian Teachers' Fellowship. This is a meeting which was begun largely as a result of a visit paid by the late Dr. Harland Wilson, and one has been glad to have some small share in maintaining the work. The gatherings were small, but in our work the effectiveness of what we do depends more upon the depth of interest we can arouse in one teacher than upon raising a fitful enthusiasm among the many. One really trained teacher can revolutionise the teaching in a School. Thus to speak to one group four times, however small the group, will, in the long run, achieve far more than addressing a thousand once only. Not that I underrate the value of rallies and such gatherings, but there is no substitute for sustained interest and teaching. The two methods are complementary. The one provides the inspiration: the other furnishes the training to which that inspiration should lead.

QUEENSTOWN

In November I paid my second visit to Queenstown, and a right royal reception was given us. I say "us" because, this time I had the family with me. Rather a tall order one would think, of four to arrive instead of one, but the good folk of Queenstown seemed to take it in their stride. Certainly the Cuthbert family cannot speak too highly of the kind way they were taken to their hearts.

Sunday morning November 6th found me visiting, and speaking to the Baptist Sunday School, an enjoyable experience which gave a flying start to a busy day. There was just time for a welcome cup of tea with the Sunday School staff and then on to the Methodist Church a little further down the road to conduct morning worship. It was an inspiration to see so many pupils of the Queenstown schools in the congregation and a joy to speak to them.

On Sunday afternoon we held a rally of Coloured Sunday School children at the St. John's Methodist Church, with which the revered name of the Rev. W. Hodges will always be associated. Mr. Jack Day, ex-President of the Queenstown Union, was in the chair and, in addition to the crowd of pupils, many

**RETIREMENT OF
Mr. A. C. SCOTT**



His many friends will join with us in wishing Mr. A. C. Scott many years of leisured enjoyment upon his retirement from business life, which takes effect this month. Mr. Scott has been a pillar of the National Sunday School Association since its earliest days. He served as National President in 1936, when the Annual Convention was held at Pietermaritzburg, and was for some years Chairman of the Executive. He is at present Honorary Trustee of the Association and keenly interested in all its activities.

teachers and a few parents were also present. The behaviour of the children was excellent and their singing most hearty and impressive.

It was a great pleasure after the Rally to visit Mrs. Hodges, now in her eighty-first year (she celebrated her eightieth birthday the previous Sunday) and to find her in such good health and as alert in mind, and as up-to-date in her reading, as ever. Sunday school workers in this country owe a great deal to her and to her husband for their interest in and support of Union and Association activities. It was a pleasure too, to have a chat with Miss Minnie Hodges (whose address on Primary work was one of the high-lights of the Bloemfontein Convention) on matters affecting the preparation of our new Primary Teachers' Lesson Guide.

The hour of evening worship found me in the pulpit of the Queenstown Presbyterian Church, where once again it was a delight to find so many young

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- January 29—Rally Day.
- April 2—Palm Sunday.
- April 7-10—
National Sunday School Con-
vention, Pietermaritzburg.
- April 9—Easter Day.
- May 28—Whit Sunday.
- August 27—
National Sunday School Day.
- September 24—
Bantu Scripture Examination.
- October 14-16—
Days of Prayer for Sunday
Schools.
- October 15—Decision Day.
- November 19—
Temperance Sunday.
- November 26—Bible Sunday.
- December 15-17—
Bantu Sunday School Con-
vention.
- December 25—Christmas Day.

working Secretary, Miss Stella Spann, had dared to hope; the interest was keen, and the contributions from the "floor" at the conclusion of the address were most helpful. It was a great pleasure to find over a dozen Coloured teachers in the gathering. We are hoping that some lectures may be arranged for them during my next visit to Queenstown.

The one disappointment of this visit was the impossibility of arranging an African meeting. Mr. R. J. W. Paxton did his utmost, but the idea was not taken up. It seems a great pity, when the Association is trying to serve the African Sunday schools as much as its resources permit, that there should in this case seem to be so little enthusiasm on the part of the Africans themselves. If this paragraph is read by any of our African friends in Queenstown I trust that it will be taken as a word to the wise!

On Tuesday we journeyed home-wards, pausing for a moment at Alice to greet the Rev. and Mrs. Owen Lloyd of the Bible School, Lovedale, and reaching Port Elizabeth just as darkness had fallen. It was a most enjoyable and helpful visit, and I am looking forward to my next contact with our friends of Queenstown.

people in the congregation. The Rev. J. Gardiner, Minister of the church, is President of the Sunday School Union this year and we enjoyed our fellowship with him and his gracious wife after the service. Having arrived in the country within a fortnight of each other we had many impressions to compare!

UNION MEETINGS

On Monday evening I met the Union Executive to talk over plans for a proposed Teacher-training course. The idea, which was mooted on my first visit to Queenstown, had evidently aroused a good deal of interest and we were glad to get down to a discussion of ways and means. Since my visit the plans have gone forward and the course has been arranged to take place during the last week in January.

From the Executive meeting we went straight to a meeting of the Union. And what a splendid meeting it was! The attendance was excellent, even better than the enthusiastic and hard-

To the good folk who entertained us so generously I would like to express my thanks — Mr. and Mrs. Hilton Russell, and Mrs. Fletcher. Hospitality of this kind just makes all the difference, especially to a family so far away from their own kith and kin. And I would like to say to Miss Spann and her helpers how much all their willing and enthusiastic service means to us here at Headquarters.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

A Long Service Diploma for fifty years service in the Stamford Hill Methodist Sunday Schol, Durban, has been awarded to W. C. Voysey, to whom heartiest congratulations are extended.

SOUTH AFRICAN LESSONS COURSE

New Lesson Notes and Pupils' Material

AT the time of writing we are pleased to be able to report that the response to our new Sunday School publications is very encouraging. Sunday School staffs are unfortunately very slow in sending in their orders for the first quarter's supplies every year. Apparently many of them do not give the matter a thought until the holidays are nearly over and Rally Day is rapidly approaching! This year has been no exception to the general rule and it has been exceedingly difficult to gauge what the extent of the demand will be when all orders are to hand. We fear that late-comers will suffer disappointment. It is not too early to send in your order for the second quarter's material if you have not already done so, in fact the sooner your order is received the better able are we to deal with it. By way of reminder may we list again the supplies that are available.

HELPS FOR THE TEACHER AND PUPIL

Published by the S.A. National Sunday School Association.

Edited by Derrick Cuthbert, B.A., B.D.

For the Teacher:

Primary Guide (Quarterly 1/3.)

Containing Notes on the Scripture and Background, Lesson Aim, Method, The Lesson for Beginners, Worship Suggestions, The Lesson for Primary, Memory Text, Pupils' Activity: for teachers of children up to seven years.

Upper School Guide (Quarterly 1/3.)

Containing Lesson Theme, Notes on Scripture and Background, Lesson Aim, Worship Suggestions, The Lesson for Juniors with Memory Text and Pupil's Activity, Lesson Outlines for Seniors and Young People: for teachers of children eight years and upwards.

Home Daily Bible Readings (Quarterly 6d.)

The Biblical Background of each Lesson arranged in daily portions, with comments and suggestions for devotions. Useful for Senior Pupils also.

For the Pupil:

Lesson Leaflets (Quarterly Set 7d.)

Four page leaflets, containing lesson picture in full colour, lesson outline, memory text, things to do, etc. Available in two grades: PRIMARY and JUNIOR. Help the pupil to grasp the lesson: a link between the School and the Home: promote regular attendance.

Primary Handwork Leaflets (Quarterly set 2d.)

Expression work for each Lesson; Pictures and Texts to colour; Models to make, etc.

Picture Stamp Card (Quarterly set 3d.)

Thirteen gummed picture-stamps to illustrate each Lesson, together with title-stamp and merit-stamp and an attractive card to receive them. Encourage regular attendance.

From your Church Bookroom or
from

Sunday School Supplies, Ltd.,
P.O. Box 17, Port Elizabeth.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN LESSONS CALENDAR

Copies of the Lessons Calendar, giving titles of the year's lessons and important dates in the Sunday school year are available on application to the Director of Christian Education, P.O. Box 17, Port Elizabeth. The Calendar also lists helps available in presenting the lessons.

BOOK NOTE

Enjoy Your Bible, by G. R. Harding Wood, M.A. (Walter, 3/-). This is a very useful book to put into the hands of a young Christian; and older Christians, too, will find their understanding of the Word deepened under Mr. Wood's guidance.

BANTU SECTION

ESSAY COMPETITION FOR BANTU SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Prize-winners and Adjudicator's
Report

WE are greatly indebted to Mrs. S. Perold for her kindness in once again marking the entries in the Bantu Teachers' Essay Competition. Not only has she marked the papers with her accustomed thoroughness, she has also prepared an analysis of the points raised by competitors which will be of service to the Association in its Bantu work. To her and to all the entrants we tender our sincere thanks—Editor.

ADJUDICATOR'S REPORT

The number of entrants for the above Competition were fewer than last year, only 11 in 1949 as against 59 in 1948. This is disappointing and one hopes that the number will increase considerably next year.

Some of these essays showed much careful thought, while others revealed a lack of understanding as far as the title was concerned: "How to improve the relations between the Sunday School, the Church and the Home". In some cases the work of the three institutions was described with no thought of linking them at all; that was a pity. Perhaps the writers should be warned to keep to the title, but straying from the matter in hand is a common fault among essayists.

We hope these will all try again next year.

The prizes are awarded as follows:

First Prize

Mr. Clifford Maloka Morojele, Fort Hare, P.O. Alice.

Second Prize

Mr. Captain Dodd Love Mbele Mondini, Mount Frere.

Third Prize

Mr. Agrippa V. Moyo, Bulawayo.

MESSAGE FROM THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

British Committee,
to the

Bantu Sunday School Convention,
Johannesburg.

From the Revd. James Turnbull, M.A., Ed.B., General Secretary, W.C.C.E., the following message was received shortly before the opening of the Bantu Sunday School Convention at Johannesburg:—

"At a recent meeting of the Executive of the British Administrative Committee, we had the news that the next Bantu Sunday School Convention is due to meet at the Jan Hofmeyr School of Social Work at Johannesburg from the 15th to the 17th of December. On behalf of the British Administrative Committee of the World Council of Christian Education, we should like to send to the assembled delegates our most cordial greetings and our prayers that this Convention may be one rich in spiritual experience and blessing for all those who attend.

"We are conscious, in these days of change, of the ties that bind us to a common Lord, and in this fellowship of service we seek to express our united response to our Master's command 'Feed my Lambs'.

"We shall await with interest news of your gathering and meantime wish you God's richest blessing in all your deliberations."

It was a great encouragement to the delegates to have this further token of the interest of our friends in Britain.

During the Convention leaflets issued by the World Council of Christian Education were issued to the delegates. These described Sunday School work in three spheres in which the British Committee is specially interested: India, Africa and Europe. An excellent photograph of the 1948 Bantu Sunday School Convention at East London was a feature of the leaflet, and aroused much interest.

HOW TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL, THE CHURCH AND THE HOME

By *CLIFFORD MALOKA MOROJELE,*

South African Native College, Fort Hare.

MANY people do not realise the importance of relations between the Sunday School, the church and the home, and they fail to make constructive improvements in this connection, which is so vital to the well-being of the Sunday School and the children.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AND THE CHURCH

Since the Sunday School is a progeny of the church, it should live side by side with the church, deriving mutual benefit from it. It is therefore essential that the Sunday schools are as close to the church as possible, or that the Sunday schools are held in church. "Out of sight out of mind." How likely it is for the mother, the church to forget the daughter, the Sunday School, if it is lodged at a remote distance from it! Relations can only be improved, if from time to time, the congregation keeps an educative eye on the Sunday School children, and upon the teachers, who may be inclined to conduct the schools in the way the church would not like them to do.

The time factor, as to when these schools should be opened, is important. The Sunday School should commence immediately after the morning service, when all the children are present and their parents watching them so that there is no likelihood of late comers or inattendance by the pupils or the teacher. The Sunday School will thus continue to flourish side by side with the church.

The church ministers and elders also play an important part in connecting the two bodies. They are a "go between" the children and the congregation, and have to pass kind words and messages of encouragement from the church to the Sunday School. These interested persons should make it a point to attend the Sunday School

regularly so that they will not only be able to report to the church how well the school is working, but also tell the little children what the big relative, the church, would like them to do. The congregation should advise school teachers on how to explain the Bible to the young, and make it interesting to them. This mandate granted to the church will strengthen every connection with the Sunday School and will keep the church awake and open-minded to every step that the Sunday School takes.

To make the church more keen in school affairs, it should be made to contribute money for the Sunday School, which will buy books, writing material and pictures for the little children. With the care and love exercised by the church and with the gratitude with which these offerings are received, the existing relations are bound to improve.

The children should be made to pay this debt of gratitude to the church, by seeing to the tidyness of the church premises. They should sweep the church floor and walls, bring flowers to the church, issue hymn books and arrange the church furniture before services, so that they realise that they have a close relationship with the church.

Above all, this harmony can be permanently kept by instilling into the minds of the church and the school a great deal of understanding and interest as to what the Sunday School is, its aims and objects, and most important, its use. Most people are of opinion that the Sunday School is a school held on a Sunday and nothing more. Are these not the people who sever relations between the Sunday School and the church? They should be made to understand in church that the Sunday School is a church and school

for the young children, who, though hearing the Bible lesson read in church, fail to appreciate the immediate application of its facts in real life, more so because of the abstractions of the powerful preachers, who tend to live in a world of their own. It is in these schools that the children have the Bible explained. The teachers should therefore pass the same sermon to the children and clarify by illustrative pictures short stories and links with everyday life happenings.

"Wasn't Pharaoh of Egypt as hard-hearted as Hitler? Is it not natural that sons of one man hate the last-born as Jacob's sons hated Joseph?" etc., etc. These opportunities will also allow them questions, and leave them with a proper understanding of the word of God.

On arriving home they will have heard an equal understanding of the Bible with their parents, and will thus be able to hold discussions with them.

As has already been mentioned the children should prepare songs to be sung in church (just as the church choir does), should produce Scripture passages in church, and have their competition prizes given in church. When coming home, the children will show their parents all that they have been given, only making the parents more concerned with the Sunday School. The parents will persuade their children to study the Bible thoroughly. This work which is done hand in hand by the Sunday School and the church will only help to create a permanent treaty between the schools and the church. Moreover if the prizes are bought with the congregation's money there is little possibility of the latter neglecting the Sunday Schools.

Should the minister be inactive, the congregation should select a committee of three men and three women which will be called the Sunday School Advisory Board. From this committee the teachers may take all improvements it advises for the welfare of the school. The Advisory Board should be given power to write to the Sunday School Association on matters that confront them in their local Sunday School and church. These men and women will therefore spread the name of the Sunday School in villages and homes.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AND THE HOME

It is needless to mention the good results that can be produced by the children of the Sunday School if everything they learn in these schools is practised or kept at home. The relation between the school and the home is very important, because if the home has no co-operation with the Sunday School, the existence of these schools will just be at stake.

At home there are many children who do not attend the Sunday School, either because they think they are too old or too young for the Sunday School and also because they don't see the good works of the Sunday School at home and in their families.

It is essential therefore to take literally and practically the Sunday School into villages and homes so that people get to know it better than they do. How can this be done?

The Sunday School should stage concerts in homes where plays studied in the school will be performed. It goes without saying that Joseph's story on the stage can interest both the non-attenders and the elderly people who will then join hand-in-hand for the support of the Sunday School. The people will also be able to follow such dramatic scenes as the story of Job and the Devil, Abraham and Isaac. They should also be allowed to write journals, short stories, riddles and compete in solos, making of clay models and toys. All these things when done at home will bring about closer connection between the school and the home.

The money realised in these Sunday School concerts will not only help to increase the Sunday School work locally, but will also encourage everybody (including the illiterate) to join the Home Sunday School with the realisation of the fact that he or she is entitled to the Sunday School and misses great privileges by staying outside the school.

To make the name of the Sunday School prominent at home the children should not only speak of it but "see" it. The walls of their rooms should be covered with S.A.N.S.S.A. pictures taken either locally or generally for the children to see themselves at work, at play and also at prayer. The

calendars should belong to the Sunday School. They should see their uniform and badges kept at home and should read song books, story books, prayer books issued by the Sunday School Association. Thus the Association which deals with children's daily life will be highly respected in the homes and villages.

The Sunday School pioneers at home, namely the teachers, should set an example in the villages to show the children that after all what they learn in the Sunday School is practicable and essential. They should be Sunday School teachers even at home and continue to remind the children to do their work, obey their parents and try to live as far as possible like our Lord Jesus Christ. This will clarify the point that Sunday School does not only exist in church on Sundays but exists everywhere at all times.

The introduction of the Sunday School home work will also help to help the forgetful child to keep his or her work up-to-date. This "Home Work" may be in the form of educative riddles on Hygiene and Geography; and the parents may also help their children in solving these home work problems. The home work should include little hand-work articles (possibly somehow connected with the week's text) which the children will take to the Sunday School. These may be, as I have said, clay models, flowers, etc, etc.

The teachers may remind the people to observe the Sunday School days, such as the National Sunday School Day, the examination day and the Sunday that is set aside for the Sunday School work everywhere. Such "anniversaries" will remain in the minds of many as indelible marks signifying the days of their children's liberation from sin and ignorance. On these days Sunday School flags should be hoisted and floats organised to carry the children round and round their homes celebrating this important day.

In conclusion, I may say the nature of the relationship between the Sunday School, the church and the home is determined first by the efficiency or inefficiency of the school teachers, secondly by the policy of the church authorities, thirdly by the congregation itself and lastly, though not always, by the little numbers of the Sunday School.

The National Sunday School Association should advise church delegates and officials to see carefully whom they employ as a Sunday School master, since this person plays such an important part in the Sunday School progress. He should be a religious young person, with love and sympathy for the children. He should obey instructions given by the Association through the minister and the congregation. The teacher being a grown-up child" of the home as well as a church member, will be able to connect these three bodies into one solid body that struggles forward to a better living here and in life to come; by a general understanding of the Word of God in school, in church and at home.

WAYSIDE NEWS

We appeal to Wayside Workers to send in items of Wayside News for publication in the next issue of the SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVANCER.

CHISHONA LESSONS

First copies of the Chishona Lessons Guide, January-March, 1950, issued by the Old Umtali Mission, have just come to hand. These lessons, which have been edited by Mrs. M. J. Murphree, are largely based upon a version of the South African Lessons specially prepared for translation by the Association's Director of Christian Education. Missionaries working in the Chishona language area are invited to get into touch with Mrs. Murphree or with the Director of Christian Education if they would like further details. Mrs. Murphree has very kindly offered to print extra copies of future issues of the Guide if these are required, but it is essential that requests should reach her without delay. The advantage of using this Chishona Guide is that it follows the South African Lessons Course, so that English speaking teachers are able to use the English lesson helps and other material issued by the Association and yet follow the same course of lessons as is used in the vernacular Lessons Guide.

NEW YEAR REQUISITES

for the SUNDAY SCHOOL

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Price 3/6d. per annum.

**METROPOLITAN METHODIST CHURCH,
PIETERMARITZBURG**



Venue of the National Sunday School Convention,
Easter, 1950.

S.A. NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

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Denominational Representatives: Baptist Union, Mr. Kenneth Foster, Port Elizabeth; Congregational Union, Rev. W. G. M. Abbott, B.A., B.D., Uitenhage; Methodist Conference, Rev. W. I. C. Shipley, Pietermaritzburg, Rev. A. J. T. Cook, M.A., B.D., Port Elizabeth; Presbyterian Assembly, Rev. H. H. Munro, M.A., Port Elizabeth.

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Representatives on Lesson Committee: Mr. J. H. Carter, Mr. Arnold Matthews.

Representatives on Christian Council: Rev. G. B. Molefe, M.A., Mr. Arnold Matthews.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ADVANCER

is issued every two months by the S.A. NATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION. A copy is sent free to affiliated schools and personal members. Others may obtain it on payment of 3/6d. per annum.

Editor:

DERRICK CUTHBERT, B.A., B.D.
Published at: Grace Street
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FEBRUARY, 1950

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HEADQUARTERS NOTES

THE staff at Headquarters thank those schools and friends who so kindly conveyed greetings at Christmas and New Year.

* * *

Membership Certificates for 1950 are being sent to all schools who are renewing their affiliation for the current year. A new Teacher's Code for each member of an affiliated school is also being distributed.

* * *

Rev. Derrick Cuthbert, Association's Director of Christian Education, conducted a Training Class for the teachers of the Queenstown Sunday School Union from the 23rd to 29th January. The subject of the class was "Child Study."

The registrations of three delegates have up to the present been received at Headquarters for the Convention of the World Council of Christian Education being held at Toronto, Canada, during August of this year. There is still time for interested workers to register. Please write to Headquarters for further particulars.

* * *

An invitation to workers to register as FELLOWSHIP DELEGATES for the World Convention is extended to all our readers. A FELLOWSHIP DELEGATE is not unlike our Convention Intercessory Member, that is one who is a prayer-partner in the Convention. Each Fellowship Delegate will receive a brief pictorial report of the Convention. The fee is one dollar, or 7/3d. South African currency, and those interested are requested to remit to Headquarters.

* * *

The annual supper meeting of the National Executive and Bantu Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday evening, 31st January, at the Institute. Rev. F. W. Schwarz, of the Victoria Park Baptist Church, was the speaker on this occasion.

* * *

Recent visitors to the Institute included Lord Harold and Lady Mackintosh, of the United Kingdom; Mr. Victor J. Silvertsen, Boksburg; Mrs. I. Wassman, Bloemfontein; Mr. J. de Lacey, Claremont, Cape; Pastor Donald Macpherson, Rosettenville, Johannesburg; Rev. Leonard Matthews, Maritzburg; Rev. E. Bingham, Sudan Interior Mission, Nigeria.

* * *

The South African Institute of Race Relations held a Summer School on Race Relations at the University of Cape Town, from 23rd to 28th January.

* * *

The Universal Week of Prayer, organised by the World's Evangelical Alliance, was observed from the 1st to 8th January, 1950.

* * *

Mr. Arnold Matthews conducted the weekly Preparation Class for the African Sunday School teachers of the Port Elizabeth Assembly of God Sunday Schools during the month of January.

* * *

When on the Rand during December Miss Edith Blake addressed meetings of

Sunday School workers both at Boksburg and at Springs.

* * *

On his way to Johannesburg by road for the Tenth Bantu Sunday School Convention, the Rev. Derrick Cuthbert broke his journey at Colesberg and Kroonstad in order to confer with Sunday School workers on the field. The meeting at Kroonstad was particularly encouraging: a fine spirit of co-operation prevails between the denominations and may perhaps lead to the formation of a local S.S. Union at some future date. Mr. Cuthbert and the Association are grateful to the friends who provided hospitality—Rev. and Mrs. J. J. E. Barrow, of Colesberg, and Mr. and Mrs. Saunders, of Kroonstad.

SOMETHING NEW

SHAW'S PICTURE ROLLS for each quarter of 1950, containing thirteen beautifully-coloured pictures, size 28in. x 20in., illustrating the lessons, Primary and Junior, in the S.A. Teacher's Lesson Guide.

Should be a valuable acquisition for the school. Price 12/6d., postage extra.

BOOKS RECEIVED

From Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd.:

The Bible in Britain, by Canon F. Harrison. In some two hundred pages the author surveys the various translations of the Bible that have appeared in Britain from the earliest times down to Mgr. Ronald Knox's translation of the New Testament. There is also an introductory chapter describing the beginnings of the Bible. A feature of the book is the quotations from historical manuscripts and from the translations themselves. There are also twelve full page illustrations which are of considerable interest. A very compact and useful volume.

Introduction to Scripture Teaching, by J. W. D. Smith. Mr. Smith is Principal Lecturer in Religious Education at the Glasgow Training Centre, and in this volume he has given us the fruit of much study, and a considerable wealth of experience. His book is aimed at the day-school teacher, who

probably stands in need of more help in the teaching of Scripture than in any other subject and he deals very directly with many of the difficulties that have to be faced.

From Marshall Morgan & Scott Ltd.:

Black Radiance, by Ivor Powell. Many will welcome this book, which tells of the author's experiences during his recent evangelistic campaign in this country.

TEACHER TRAINING

A course of lessons on "Child Study" will be conducted by the Director of Christian Education, the Rev. Derrick Cuthbert, B.A., B.D., commencing 6th March, 1950. There will be three ways of following the course:—

1. By attending the course of lectures given by the Director at the Institute, Port Elizabeth.
2. By enrolling as a private correspondence student. In this case study-notes on the text book will be sent by post, together with weekly exercises.
3. By enrolling as a member of a local study group. The suggestion is that some older teacher should gather a group together to work through the course in weekly meetings. In this case tutorial notes will be sent to the leader only, together with hints on conducting the group studies.

Registration Fees will be as follows: Personal enrolments (either for the Institute lectures or Correspondence Course) 2s. 6d. Group enrolments, 5s. 0d. per group.

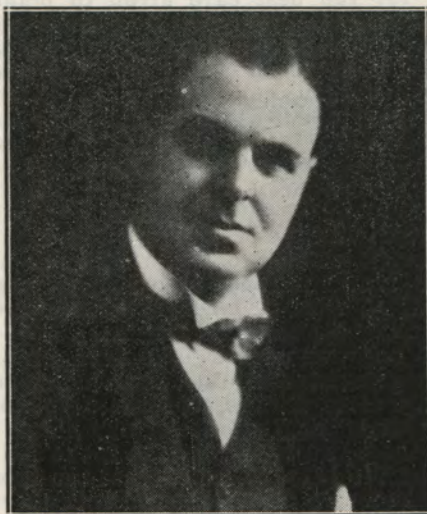
Enrolments for the Correspondence Course under (2) above will be limited to the first 25 applicants.

The Text Book will be "A Study of Childhood and Youth," by Mildred Neville (5s. 9d., post paid from Sunday School Supplies Ltd.)

VISIT OF LORD MACKINTOSH

President of the World Council of Christian Education

SUNDAY SCHOOL workers in South Africa will be interested to have news of the recent visit of Lord Mackintosh to the Union. Lord Mackintosh found time to make contact with Union and Association officers and friends at Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban.



AT DURBAN

On the occasion of the visit of Lord and Lady Mackintosh to Durban, they were the guests of the Durban and District Sunday School Union at an informal gathering of office-bearers and a few friends.

An appropriate programme was arranged, which all present thoroughly enjoyed. Small choirs from three affiliated Sunday Schools rendered musical items. These were an African, an Indian and a Coloured group—the African male choir being especially pleasing in a Zulu action song.

Lord Mackintosh is the President of the World Council of Christian Education (formerly known as the World's Sunday School Association).

After the distinguished guests had been warmly welcomed by the Chairman, Rev. John Poorter, B.A., the Secretary, Mr. J. P. Hackland, described the various activities of the Sunday

School Union, particularly in relation to the African Section, mentioning the various Zulu publications.

Miss Gelling, Leader of the Wayside Work, gave an interesting account of the love and devotion of the little band of Wayside members who, after teaching in their various schools on Sunday morning, gather the non-European children around them later in the day to hear the "Stories of Jesus."

Both Mr. Hackland and Miss Gelling quoted special instances showing the great value of Sunday School work.

Rev. C. A. Majola followed, testifying to the appreciation of the Sunday School Union by the Africans, remarking on the help derived from the African Conventions.

Lord Mackintosh expressed his own pleasure and that of Lady Mackintosh in being present, and referred to his connection with the World's Sunday School Association for many years, and agreed with what had been said about Sunday School work being well "worth while."

He hoped that as many as possible from South Africa would attend the World's Sunday School Convention at Toronto in August, 1950.

A happy evening was brought to a close by the Benediction pronounced by Rev. Howard Young, after which refreshments were served by ladies of the Manning Road Methodist Church. The same ladies had decorated the hall with beautiful hydrangeas.

J.P.H.

AT PORT ELIZABETH

Lord and Lady Mackintosh were met at the docks by the Hon. Treasurer of the Association, Mr. B. K. Anderson, the Secretary, and the Director. After a brief visit to Humewood and Happy

Valley, where the visitors were delighted with the flowers, the party went to the Sunday School Institute, where an informal reception and morning tea party was held. The brief visit of our visitors, and the fact that it took place at the height of the holiday season, made a public meeting impracticable. Members of the Executive and representatives of the Bantu Advisory Committee gathered at 10.30 a.m. to greet Lord and Lady Mackintosh.

After tea the welcome of the Association was expressed by the Chairman of the Executive, Mr. J. H. Carter, who referred to the fact that South Africa had been transferred from the American to the British Administrative Committee of the World Council of Christian Education. The association had proved a very happy one, and Sunday School workers in South Africa had been touched by many evidences of interest, not least by a grant of £250 for our African work. Mr. Carter asked Lord Mackintosh to convey our thanks and greetings to the British Committee. He hoped that our visitors' stay in this country would prove to be a very happy one.

In his reply Lord Mackintosh thanked the Chairman for his welcome, and spoke of the great interest taken by the British Committee in the work in South Africa. The choice and appointment of a Director of Christian Education had been a heavy responsibility and it had not been easy to secure Mr. Cuthbert's release from the Methodist Conference of Great Britain. It was a pleasure to see him installed in his post.

Lord Mackintosh briefly described the present situation in the Sunday Schools of Britain. There was evidence that the corner had been turned and the work was again on the up-grade. New equipment was available and coming into general use, with great benefit to the Sunday School cause.

Turning to the future, Lord Mackintosh hoped that there would be an adequate representation from South Africa at the forthcoming World Convention in Toronto. The British Administrative Committee would be glad to give all the help they could in the coming days for the furtherance of the work in South Africa.

The meeting ended with prayer by the Rev. Derrick Cuthbert.

D.C.

At the time of going to press, news has not reached us of Lord Mackintosh's visit to Cape Town. This will be included in our next issue.—Editor.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

YEARS ago, at a children's contest for the best care given to plants, the first prize was won by a little girl, living in an attic room with just one small window in a narrow and dark alley. When called upon to receive her prize she was asked how she had managed to make her geranium bear such lovely flowers. She answered she had always been on the look-out for the sun, whether it shone through the narrow window or through the chinks and rifts of the roof and walls of her attic and she had carried her plant about so that it might intercept even the slightest ray of sunshine.

If only we would take care of our hearts as this girl did of her plant, and in the utter darkness of our days were constantly looking out for any chink or rift through which He, who is the Light of the World, might enter into the depth of our soul! Then it would bring forth flowers of gratitude, even as this plant. And we would find the ineradicable Peace, no storm can dislodge.

When I give this testimony, I know I do not stand alone. "We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses," who have confirmed this truth through the centuries. They testify to the unity and communion, the brotherhood of all people in and through Christ, "looking upon Him as author and finisher of our faith."

It is an encouraging sign that there is a longing, an increasing longing, for more spiritual unity and for the removal of all that keeps us divided. This shows that there is an awakening consciousness as to what Christ demands of us and a turning towards Him, not in outward forms only, or in words, but with the fullness of our personalities. Through the power that is given to us by absolute self-sacrifice we are enabled to do this in full commitment.

—From a Christmas message from H.R.H. Princess Wilhelmina of the Netherlands.

ARE YOU COMING TO THE CONVENTION?

WHERE?

— at MARITZBURG

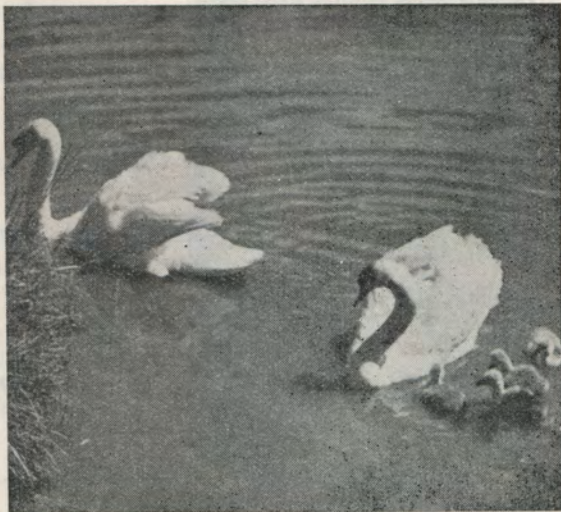
WHEN?

— during EASTER,
7th to 10th April,
1950.

TO WHOM

DO I APPLY?

Your Union Secretary or
Secretary of the S.A.
National S.S. Association,
P.O. Box 17, Port Elizabeth.



A "shot" at the Bird Sanctuary, Maritzburg.

It was at Johannesburg in 1935 that the writer enjoyed his first experience of a National Sunday School Convention—an experience not easily forgotten. At that Convention he received his vision of Sunday School work and also made friends with teachers from other centres throughout the Union. Others, too, can vouch for similar experiences, so that it is with the greatest confidence that an invitation is extended to our readers to attend the Convention.

WHAT IS DONE

Addresses are delivered on different aspects of Sunday School work, discussions ensue on matters relating to the Sunday School, and Sunday School demonstrations are given by experts in their particular sphere.

A feature of the Convention will be "Tools for the Teacher," an exhibition

of Sunday School materials and literature.

THOSE WHO COME

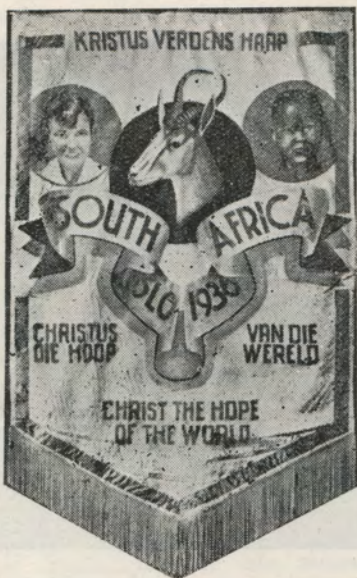
One meets workers of different denominations from many centres of the Union, and the sense of "Oneness in Christ" is very evident. There is a strong bond of unity at Sunday School Conventions and the fellowship is very happy.

HOSPITALITY

Free hospitality is extended to all OFFICIAL delegates from Thursday, 6th April, to Tuesday, 11th April. Hospitality is also offered to ASSOCIATE Delegates if same is available after 24th March.

You are advised to register early with the Hospitality Convener, Mr. W. L. Schroenn, 393 Burger Street, Maritzburg, from whom the requisite forms may be secured.—A.M.

WORLD CONVENTION TORONTO, AUGUST, 1950



A picture of the banner that was taken by the South African delegation to the last World Convention held at Oslo, Norway, in 1936.

*WILL YOU BE ONE OF THE
1950 DELEGATION?*

REVIEWS

PUZZLETIME No. 2 (Pickering and Inglis) is a book of Scripture picture-puzzles, very attractively produced, and just the thing for a young invalid. There are instructions for making simple toys as well.

SEEDS OF KINDNESS RECITER (Pickering and Inglis Ltd.; 3/-). This is a useful collection of recitations, dialogues and demonstrations for Sunday School use. It contains many items suitable for Anniversaries.

God In Our Work, by Sir Stafford Cripps. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is widely known as an earnest Christian layman and in this volume we have a round dozen addresses which he has delivered at various gatherings and services since May 1947.

The book is published by Thos. Nelson and Sons Ltd., Edinburgh.

NEW BOOKS AND NEW EDITIONS

The Craft of Sermon Construction, by W. E. Sangster, M.A., Ph.D. (Epworth Press, 9/-). A most helpful book for the preacher by one who is himself an acknowledged master of the craft. Different types of sermon are analysed, and most useful directions are given. No preacher, however experienced, could fail to glean something from these pages.

Let Me Commend, by W. E. Sangster, M.A., Ph.D. (Hodder and Stoughton, 5/-). This book consists of six lectures on evangelism, delivered by the author at one of the American Universities early in 1948. After dealing with the relevance of evangelism and the substance of the message, Dr. Sangster goes on to speak of the three main types of evangelist—the pulpit evangelist; the team evangelist; the personal evangelist.

PLAYS FOR PASSIONTIDE

MORE and more Sunday Schools and Youth Groups are finding in religious drama a useful method of instructing young people concerning the Faith and also an effective way of presenting Christian truth to people outside the Church. Easter is a favourite time for such performances, and we trust the information given below will be of service to producers. All the plays mentioned may be obtained from Sunday School Supplies Ltd., but please be sure to order early.

GIVER OF LIGHT, by FRANK CUMBERS (Epworth Press); 7d., postage paid.

A short play in three acts, with parts for five female performers, which tells the story of the healing of a blind girl by our Lord. A very suitable play for a Senior Girls' Class.

PASSOVER IN JERUSALEM, by DONALD DUGARD (Epworth Press); 1/2d., postage extra.

A representation of the Passion as seen through the eyes of two Roman soldiers. There are five scenes, with parts for eleven men, three women and a choir. Curtains and a few properties are all the scenery required.

THE PASCHAL LAMB, by CYRIL FOWLER (Epworth Press); 1/2d., postage extra.

This play emphasises the effect of the Crucifixion upon the disciples of Jesus—at first in shattering their hopes of an earthly kingdom, and then in conveying to them the grace of God in the self-giving of Christ. There are ten scenes, four main parts for men, thirteen minor male parts and four female parts.

AMOR CHRISTI, by G. R. MYERS, B.D. (Epworth Press); 1/3d., postage extra.

An unusual play, partly verse, partly prose, now in its fourth impression. Eleven scenes with prologue and epilogue. Parts for thirty-one performers and crowds, etc.

REMINDER— LICENSE TO PRODUCE PLAYS

We have received advice from the Epworth Press, London, that any of their plays may be produced in South Africa without payment of the usual performing fee. The notices regarding "application for permission to perform", printed in the opening pages of the plays, may therefore be disregarded. We are sure that many would-be producers will be glad to have this information.

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS, by MARJORIE BERNARD (Religious Education Press), 6d., postage extra.

An Easter play in four scenes for five characters and a narrator. Easy to produce. A simple play suitable for senior scholars.

I AM THE RESURRECTION, by FRED STAFFORD (Religious Education Press); 9d., postage extra.

A dramatisation suitable for production in Church. An order of service is given. Seven scenes. Speaking parts for ten male and six female performers.

THE VILLAGE CROSS, by ALICE TREGILGAS (Religious Education Press); 9d., postage extra.

A simple setting—no front curtains necessary. Parts for eight male and seven female performers. Tells the meaning of the Resurrection in a modern setting.