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SPRING 1969



CHILDREN'S HOME
& MISSION

EDITORIAL

Dear Prayer Partners,

A missionary, recently returning to England after 5 years away, was asked to give her impressions. "It seems to me," she said "That you can now do what you like, say what you like and wear what you like. All barriers are down!"

Without doubt this was a sad but apt summing up of a very serious situation. There is increasing evidence of a steep moral decline. The television is taking its toll—the constant lowering of standards in this sphere as in so many others, is seeping into the church and sapping its spiritual energy.

Is it not time that we who are christians considered our ways, for much of our christianity could be merely ceremonial and lacking in love and sincerity. Are we snugly sheltering under our denominational umbrella, apparently content to jog along in a rut of routine and sleep upon a pillow of complacency?

For some of us the answer seems to be in frantic christian activity, as if this were the hall-mark of spirituality—activity has become our priority. In effect, God is left out and consequently at a time of crisis, when the direct challenge, 'Thus saith the Lord', is needed, the church is confused and its voice unheard. In fact, nothing counts before relationship with God. If our vertical approach is sound, our horizontal activity can be directed and blessed of the Lord. Instead of new gimmicks, God must have 'new' men and women, filled with the Holy Spirit and yielded to Him in every department of life. This must be our priority!

We are conscious of our need here to do battle against the evil of the day. God has been speaking to us as a Family through His Word. We have been reminded that wrong IS wrong and right IS right in His sight—there is no compromise with Him. A close and intimate relationship with God is the only answer to the steady unyielding encroachment of the 'world'. There is a standard and a code of life for His people.

Please continue earnestly in prayer for us here. Young lives are precious to Him. Thank you for your love and interest.

The Lord bless you,

Sincerely yours in Him,

VICTOR J. WHITE

THE CHILDREN'S

FOUNDED

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HOME & MISSION

1899

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**ABRIDGE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH,
London Road, Abridge, Near Romford, Essex**

Pastor and Mrs. CYRIL DAVEY

“ OUR DAY ”

4th May, 1968

The Thanksgiving service commenced with Anita reciting:—

“FAITH”

by Helen Steiner Rice

“Jesus loves ME this I know, for the Bible tells ME so”.
Little children ask no more, for love is ALL they're
looking for
And in a small child's **shining** eyes
The FAITH of all the ages lies—
And TINY hands and TOUSLED heads
That kneel in prayer by little beds
Are closer to the dear Lord's heart
And of His Kingdom more a part
Than we; who search and never find
The answers to **OUR** questioning mind—
For FAITH in things we cannot see
Requires a child's simplicity,
For, lost in life's complexities
We drift upon uncharted seas,
And slowly FAITH disintegrates
While wealth and power accumulates,
And the more man learns, the less he knows
And the more involved his thinking grows
And, in his arrogance and pride
No longer is man satisfied
To place his confidence and love,
With **CHILDLIKE FAITH**, in God above.
O, Father, grant once more to men
A simple childlike FAITH again,
And with a small child's trusting eyes,
May all men come to realise
That FAITH alone, can save man's soul
And lead him to a HIGHER GOAL.

The Family not only sang, but gave recitations, including Bibles verses which were introduced by Keith:—

“You know that two thousand years ago there were two men walking along a road from Jerusalem and they were pretty sad because all that they had often dreamed about, all that they had ever hoped for, had suddenly received a crushing blow. Their Saviour the MESSIAH was dead and there seemed no hope for them, and their faces were surely turned towards the ground, but as they travelled



“What's in your book?”

along, a third man joined them. This third man of course was Jesus Christ Himself, He was risen from the dead, and Jesus Himself did not go up to them and then just start chatting in a friendly way about Himself, letting words flow as we do in conversation, He turned to the scriptures to tell them about Himself. We read, He expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Is not that notable, that God's own Son should choose to turn to the Bible in teaching about Himself, to tell others of His love, and of course the Bible is the key to "Our Day" really, because of the promises there, we are here. Because my grandfather had faith in the promises of the Bible, we are here, and we believe that the Bible is relevant to every possible facet of our lives. There are many people here today, all different kinds, different intelligences, different physiques, different mentalities, different temperaments, but the Bible is relevant to us all in our different occupations, at different times of the day, and here we bring eight passages from the Bible to show how relevant it is to all of us".

Mr. Victor White. "My dear Friends; how kind of you to come and share 'Our Day' with us—may it prove to be a time of rich blessing to us all.

Yesterday we received a letter from Dr. David Bidari and his wife, working at the Mission Hospital, Pandharpur, Western India:—"I do hope this letter reaches you in time for 'Our Day', the occasion for rejoicing and thanksgiving. Whilst you look back over the past year with grateful heart, I am sure your concern for the big and growing family is equally great as you stand on the verge of the great unknown. Who can tell what the future holds for us, what new experiences, what changes there will be and what new needs will arise? To meet these, my wife and I wish to send you a cheering, most comforting and gladdening message from our Heavenly Father. "A Land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are upon it from the beginning of the year, even unto the end of the year". Please convey our warmest greetings to all gathered on this Special Day and particularly to every member of your family'.

How true—we do look back and praise God. Our hearts are full as we recall His constant love and provision, yet as we view the 'Storm Clouds overhead'—clouds of spiritual apathy—compromise—shallowness in Christian

living and much more besides, we are concerned indeed. How thrilling to know that our Father, God, cares. Our trust then shall be in Him.

I do not intend to give much in the way of facts and figures—there are other times for these. However you might like to know that as a Family we number 52 all told. We range in age from Nursery School to University, or more correctly, to Grandma who is in her 84th year. She has known and loved this Family right from the beginning of 1899 and continues to be such a keen prayer warrior.

Our health has been good. A little bit of this and that, nothing to worry about apart from Tina, who thought she would like to test the National health scheme. She developed an acute appendicitis, there were complications necessitating a further operation. However, she is well enough to be with us today. We thank God for answered prayer.

During the year we have valued the help of Dr. Baker, Mr. Hole (optician), and Mr. Roberts (Chiropodist). You are wondering about Dr. David Smith? Well he is retiring next July. Dr. Martin Flegg was our first honorary medical officer and when he reached retirement, Dr. Smith offered his services thus greatly encouraging my father and mother and Miss Hutchin. We have appreciated Dr. Smith's long association with us both as Doctor and also as a Trustee."

Dr. D. H. Smith. "When I saw the steward in the aisle I hoped he had an urgent call for me, but unfortunately he hadn't . . . apparently! Well, first of all I must say a very big "thank you". I am quite taken by surprise at this wonderful gift from the family. Mr. and Mrs. White, it is very, very kind of you to think of this and also every boy and girl and staff too, I am sure you have all taken part in it. I am coming to see you shortly with my stethoscope for the annual check up, so I will thank you properly then, but thank you so much today, it is very very kind of you indeed.

As to coming to Frinton, well I am quite sure you can come any time and any day; my wife is here and she will agree I am sure, any time, any day we shall be very pleased to see any of you if you are down that way. Do come and see us, we shall love to see you. We are on the borders of Frinton and Walton, quite near the sea, so you will soon find us.

Now I would just like to read part of a verse which the Apostle Paul wrote to the elders of Ephesus, "remember the words of the Lord Jesus how He said "It is more blessed to give than to receive".

Strange enough in my life this text does not seem to have been true; that is to say I have experienced rather the reverse, I have always received more than I have given. When I was a baby I received everything, didn't I? So did you, and we gave nothing back; and in my boyhood days I received a great deal from my parents, a great deal, and gave very little back. Then of course I started practice and got married and a lady at tea with us today, who lived in our home for several years said, of course you Dr. Smith always were spoiled, so you see even my wife gave me more than I gave her! "As to the family, well I have always felt that I have received more than I have given. It was a wonderful experience to come to Crescent Road and meet Mr. White senior; he would say to me "My boy, sit down", and then he would chat and tell me some of his experiences at Tower Hill or some of the things that happen at home and the way God had provided for the needs of the family. Although I was often very busy and could hardly spare the time, I always enjoyed and felt it worth while to sit down for twenty minutes and listen to "Father White", and I am sure that Victor and his wife have always been the same. They have always given me far more, and so has the family, than I have ever given them, and I am very grateful for it.

Once a year we have a Trustees meeting, which starts at 2 o'clock and goes on until, I am not sure when, but I usually have to leave just before the end, because I have some more work to do. I am looking forward to the time, when I shall be able next year, God willing, to come and sit right to the end, and hear the last word, because there is no day, or afternoon, I enjoy more, as my wife will tell you, than this Trustees meeting, to hear the inside story of what goes on at Crescent Road day by day. It is a great privilege, Rev. W. J. C. White will agree with me I am sure, to be a Trustee and to hear the details of what is happening day by day in the Family. As a Trustee I am sure I receive far more than I give, and yet you know this text **is true**, is it not, the Lord Jesus said "It is more blessed to give than to receive". We are not told that Jesus ever said these words in the Gospels, but I am sure He did say them. It is not recorded that He did, but I am sure the Apostle Paul was right, because if He did not say them with his words He said them with his deeds. "It is more blessed to give than to receive", and I trust that we shall ever remember the words and the life of the Lord Jesus who exemplifies this text in every detail of His life and His death. "IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE."

Mr. White continued:—

"Another familiar name has been omitted, that of Mr.

Stephen Smith, our dental surgeon. We do still have teeth, at least he has left some! There must be something in the air just now, for Mr. Smith (Dr. Smith's brother) is also leaving the district, or more accurately, has already left. One of our little ones, when going to Church recently on a very blustery day, suddenly said, "My, isn't it luberly—the wind smells just like shampoo!"

Mr. Stephen Smith. "I don't want to talk to these people, I am shy of them, there are too many of them, I just want to talk to my family, and I am so glad to see you again. It seems a long time since I saw you last, I have missed you ever so much you know. I don't know whether you have missed me! I expect you have thought to yourselves—well we are ever so glad our wicked old uncle dentist has gone so far away, and he has left us to the tender care of somebody much younger and much nicer and much more gentle. Have you said that, I wonder? Of course it is a long time that I have been seeing the family. I remember starting in 1934, thirty three years ago, before most of you here were born, of course. That is when I began to shed innocent blood in the "White family", and began to knock you all about a little bit. I can remember some of the things you used to do to me, including some of the fingers that I had bitten, on a few occasions!

I do remember I promised you that I was going to get my own back on you one day, and here's my chance. I have written a little poem about you, and this is it:

Oh lovely child within the dental chair
With all my heart I'm glad you're not still there,
Your ruby lips and teeth of pearly white
Are not in my regard a charming sight.
Your limped eyes besprinkled with star dust
Looked into mine with many an angry thrust

AND IF I MAY BREAK INTO THE POEM HERE A MOMENT, that exactly describes Irene, "Beresford", that's right, is it not? Over 20 years ago your limped eyes besprinkled with star dust looked into mine with many an angry thrust.

Your silvery voice made music when you speak
Or rends the air with an appalling shriek (sometimes)
And with your little feet you precious lamb
You did your best to kick my diaphragm.
Your winsome frolics I did not adore
As when you threw my tumblers on the floor.
But now in flower decked meadows I am free
It is well for you, but better still for me!

Well now a lot of people say I have retired, but I have not retired at all really. I am still working. I had a family

here of over forty, but I have got four thousand now; but still, I am not the only one to look after so many. I have some colleagues as well. But I have noticed this amongst the children where I am now, they haven't teeth anything like your lovely teeth. Really! They have not got clean wholesome mouths. I don't know what Mr. White does, I can only say this, that when the Heavenly Father sends along the food He sends good stuff, nourishing stuff, wholesome stuff. He doesn't send you Candy Floss and all these other things, the tuck-shop sells, which are such a headache to us at home. There is a great campaign against it in the schools. So I must say that your teeth are really very wonderful and you have not given me many troubles, and it just shows how good wholesome diet and a happy home, and clean manners produces healthy mouths. It is very important to keep the mouth healthy. After all it is the very gateway of the whole body. What goes in can affect your whole body. It either does you harm or good, and so we have to be very careful, do we not, about the mouth? I have been reading a most lovely book. I have read it twice before, it is by John Bunyan. It is not Pilgrim's Progress, it is a better book than that I think. It is called "The Holy War" and there it talks about "Mouth Gate" and how Satan hates the mouth. "Because", he says, "through Mouthgate the pilgrims of God are able to send special messages to their Heavenly Prince Emmanuel, and also out of Mouthgate they can send some terrible shouts and words which wound me, and I don't like it." And so the devil decides that he would try to shut up Mouthgate with a lot of dirt. That is how Bunyan puts it, and how successful Satan has been in doing that in these modern days. Let your mouths be clean and wholesome. "Let your speech be always with Grace" writes the Apostle Paul

There is a lesson in that, is there not? We need to pray as the Psalmist prayed "Set a watch oh Lord upon my mouth, that my lips may not sin against thee".

Well now it just remains for me to say one word of grateful thanks for this most unexpected gift; I am longing to open it and see what is inside. It is kind of you to think of doing this. It will be a permanent memorial of all the wonderful years that I have known this family and still hope to know it for many years to come.

You will come and visit us sometimes won't you? We hope you will. You can put a marquee up and we will give you something to eat, some of that good wholesome food that keeps your teeth nice! And not only that you will hear some pigs, and you'll have perhaps a few heifers come round the table; and boys, do please bring your knives with

you, your really good strong knives which you carry on your belt, because there are ever so many lions about, real "Dandies" they are! And so, Cheerio for now until the next "Our Day" when I hope to be with you."

Mr. White continued:— "I am so sorry you were held up and not able to get here at the opening of our service for Anita recited the lovely poem you sent to us, entitled Faith, by Helen Steiner Rice.

We have had happy associations over the past years and to say "thank you" seems inadequate, but we do mean it you know. What a wonderful way you had with the kiddies, so much so, that a visit to the dentist was quite a pleasant experience and a nice way of getting out of some lesson or other!

We are pleased with the happy way our young folk participate in school activities, and we are most encouraged with the good understanding of the teachers.

As my father so often used to say. 'In the last analysis it's character that counts.' To this end we read the Bible each day, that we might find out more about God—about ourselves—and the pathway He would have us tread. We attend God's House, particularly on His Day, to hear more about the Lord Jesus Christ, Who came to this earth for the express purpose of bringing us into full fellowship with His Father, God. (John 14 v 6). Covenanters, Jucos, Girls Brigade, Lifeboys, Sunday School, Family Prayers, are all helpful in the building up of good character. It is thrilling to know of one and another of the family becoming christians. This vital step not only changes the life concerned, but brings new joy and helpfulness within the Family Circle. Pray for young christians that they may grow in the things of God and in their turn become men and women of God, stalwarts of the Faith in His true Church. Young christians here today, don't go chasing round for pleasing spiritual experiences—seek Jesus—study the Bible—witness boldly. 'Put ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.' The world attracts, but all is not gold that glitters. So much is veneer. Dwell Deep!

Our Sunday evening Sing Songs have been great times. We have averaged over 100 and have found real blessing at the close of His day, as we have sung together, shared in testimony and enjoyed happy fellowship. We are in closer touch with our neighbours these days and it is good to see some of you here this evening.

We do feel in a very special way, a complete and utter indebtedness to God for the provision made for all our needs. Our third aim, which has remained exactly the same since the commencement of the Family in 1899, is to

prove God by asking Him alone to meet all needs. Let me share this incident with you:—following an evening service which I had conducted, I stayed on to share with interested friends some of the family experiences. It proved to be a very challenging time. I was journeying home with my daughter, when suddenly she said 'You know dad, I've realised in a new way this evening that ALL I enjoy, ALL that I have, is absolutely from God. Isn't that a humbling thought.' I am sure she really spoke for us all.

In our latest Links the accounts show an Income for 1967 of over £13,000—equalling the record of 1966. There are no government grants apart from local rate relief—no appeals. 12 per cent. of this Income came in repayments and 88 per cent in answer to prayer. Isn't He wonderful?!

There have been harvest goods from 94 different places, and a tremendous variety of other gifts throughout the year.—“No good thing has He withheld.” We haven't had to buy sugar, tinned fruit, soups, tea, porridge, cocoa or tinned fish since the Autumn. Maintenance of the property has been kept up and we believe that this is not only beneficial to us as a family, but glorifying to God. Our Summer holidays are booked and our friends Mr. & Mrs. Webb from Goodmayes have offered to help us again.

“God is dead!” What utter nonsense. My dear friends, He is very much alive and we are here to prove it!

What of the ever growing family spread throughout the World? How good it is to see a number here today. One of the highlights of the year was the Golden Wedding celebration of Mr. and Mrs. Cowling—Will and Edie. They are here now. On Saturday 16th March, just on 80 of their friends came along to Crescent Road to share in this unique occasion. It really was a happy affair. Mr. Cowling joined the family in 1907. We do wish them both God's richest blessing in the days ahead.

We are so pleased to welcome Irene Stander, née Beresford and her family here today. They have just arrived from South Africa.”

Irene. “I am more nervous than I thought I would be, and I must say how wonderful it is to be here this evening. Mr. White spoke to me after lunch, (this is my payment for lunch) and asked me if I would be prepared to say a few words to you this afternoon. I cannot tell you how wonderful it is to be back at an Annual Meeting after fourteen years, and I know that there are many people here that I have not had a chance to speak to. I have made enquiries and I know that people I have specially asked about are here, and if I can possibly get a chance to speak to you after this service, please don't run away, I am sitting right down in

the second row here, and I would love to say 'Hallo' to you, because, for all I know, it may be another fourteen years before I can get back for another annual meeting!

It is lovely to be here with my children, who are thrilled at the thought of coming to see where Mummy grew up. Not in a Church of course, I mean at home. I bring loving greetings to you from my husband, who unfortunately is not able to be here at this time. He is coming over later on in the year, in about the middle of June, and from Violet Walton (née Hutchinson) who many of you will remember, now living in South Africa. I see Evelyn here, and she will be very pleased to know that Violet sends her very special greetings, and anybody else who she remembers. She was quite heart sore, I think, when she realized that I would be at an Annual meeting, and she would not be. Also my sister Margaret asked me to pass on her greetings. She is of course living in America, and is also unable to be here at this time, although we are planning a reunion, here in England in June of this year. The Annual has always been a very special day. When I was in the home it was perhaps even more exciting than Christmas, if that is possible, and I can sense the same excitement in the air today.

Those of you who have been there, perhaps at the home today, may have felt it as well. This excitement of seeing who would be there at the meeting. I met someone this afternoon who was on the staff whilst I was a child in the home, and I commented on the fact, if she will excuse me, (I am not mentioning her name), that she looked much younger now than when I remembered her when I was little. To which she replied, that she could think of a very good reason for that. I declined to make further enquiries! I must say too that the singing is as sweet as when we were here. I cannot be disloyal to the old times and say that it is better, but it is as good, and I know how much practice has gone into today's singing and items. I must congratulate everybody concerned. I know it is a lot of work, but it is worth it. Finally, (I have only been given five minutes, of which I think I have had six), I would like to say thank you to God who so arranged my life that he brought me into contact with this family such a long time ago, where I learned to love Him and to serve Him as my all and in all. I am sure that there are many others here who would love to join me in saying “How good is the God we adore”.

Mr. White—“Thank you Irene. Irene's sister is here and her twin sister Margaret, husband and children, we hope, will be leaving America soon for a flying visit. What a reunion this will be. All three girls came to know the Lord Jesus as Saviour whilst in the Family. The twins had a double wedding in 1955.

As one browses through the diary it is quite astounding to realise how varied are the calls for help and advice. Do continue with us in prayer, that the blessing and power of the Holy Spirit may be brought to bear upon many difficult and seemingly impossible situations. The wonderful truth is that God does care and is able to keep those who are committed to Him.

Here I must pause for a moment and express to our staff, Mrs. Gilbert, Miss Baker, Miss Rifkin and Miss Pignot our deep appreciation and thanks for another year of unstinted service. On behalf of my wife and Trustees I would assure you that we do realise how much is done, in His Name. Of this we are certain, that the One you serve, looks on and is pleased. I am not unmindful of the help given by my brother, and in the office, Miss Brown tackles all that comes to hand. Never a dull moment. Mrs. **Green** telephones asking if that is Mrs. **White** speaking, to be told it is Miss **Brown!** (Enough to make her see red.) Mrs. Wombwell comes regularly on Wednesdays to help, and has kept this up for nearly 9 years—thank you so much. Mr. and Mrs. P. Reeves and their two children are with us now. They offered to start off the senior house, No. 8—you will have seen the 'new' accommodation as you looked around.

Well, I must stop—looking back over the past we are humbled to see so clearly how the dear Lord has undertaken. There is so much for which to thank Him. Surely we should be overflowing with love for Him and burning with desire to spread abroad His wonderful name. But are we? Somehow we seem to be held in a vice-like grip—aware of His love and yet unable to respond in any measure that is satisfying to ourselves, let alone pleasing to Him.

The World, our Land, our neighbourhood is in desperate need of Him. We know Him, we have proved Him, He showers His love upon us and yet. . . .

Mr. James Stokes, beloved friend and trustee of the family for many years has written from Canada in time for Our Day. "May God bless you—kind remembrances to all friends with whom it has been our privilege to have fellowship over the years". He continues, "Since receiving your letter, Moffatt's translation of Romans 12 v 11 has been much in my mind. Here it is—'Never let your zeal flag, maintain the spiritual glow, serve the Lord'."

Thank you one and all for sharing this Day with us—for your prayers—your support in many ways. To my family, of whom I am very proud, thank you for another happy year. To my wife, Keith and Anita—your love and full support have meant so much to me. Pray on—do pray on, that our zeal may not flag, that we may maintain the

spiritual glow, that we may serve Him. May we all run this race, looking unto Jesus. He alone, dwelling within by His Holy Spirit, can keep us alive!

Let us rise together and sing our Family Anthem—

How good is the God we adore
Our faithful, unchangeable Friend!
Whose love is as great as His power
And knows neither measure nor end!

'Tis Jesus the First and the Last,
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
We'll praise Him for all that is past,
And trust Him for all that's to come.

The Revd. Derek Prime:—"I would like you to turn with me to the first book of Kings, Chapter three, and verse nine.

I want to bring to you the words of Solomon. Solomon said to the Lord, "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad; for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?"

As I thought of this work, and of this home, I remembered that life is full of choices. Every stage of life brings its own particular decisions. The very youngest children, as they go to school for the first time, choose their first school friends. The choices of youth, the choices that young men and women make when they are at school, determine the course of their whole life often; and we would want to say to the children and young people present here this evening: choose wisely. We are all faced with daily moral choices. Shall we give in to the temptation to take the easy way out? We have our spiritual choices too. Are we going to concern ourselves with our Souls in a materialistic world? Is God going to figure in our thinking or are we going to leave Him out? There are choices to be made when we are on new thresholds, such as school, employment, marriage, and parenthood. Every day from the youngest to the oldest we make choices, and every choice we make affects other people. Anyone who knows anything of life knows that sorrow comes mainly through wrong choices. The tragedy is that we have to live often with our sorrow.

Now, here was Solomon, and he was on the threshold of kingship, and God reminded him of the importance of choice, and in verse five of this chapter we are told, "In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, Ask what I shall give thee". Now I wonder what we would have asked? Remember who gave the invi-

tation? God Almighty, the Maker of the universe, was saying to one man, "Ask of Me what you want". Now some would ask for long life. Medical science gives time to studying means for perpetuating life, whether by medical or surgical means (and the whole world is interested and excited at the thought of heart and kidney transplants at this time.) Long life, that is what many people want. There are others who would want riches. Thousands of people feverishly check their footpool pools, all in the hope of gaining riches, money and possessions.

Now Solomon in making his choice was influenced by three things. In verse six he tells us that **he was influenced by the example of his father.**

He says to the Lord, "Thou hast showed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee." It is a wonderful thing when a child, a son or a daughter, can give a warm testimonial to a father's character, and in this meeting we have heard of Mr. White's father, and we have seen his grandson taking part, and everyone would testify to the goodness of God in the lives of those who have gone before. Who can estimate the value of a godly home, and a home such as this in which we rejoice tonight? And then Solomon was **influenced by his awareness of his own inadequacy.** In verse seven he says to the Lord, "I am but a little child, I know not how to go out or how to come in". A sense of our own inadequacy before God befits us. In verse eight he shows that **he was influenced by a sense of his responsibility.** He knew he could not live the kingship to himself; he was going to affect the lives of others. Thus in verse nine his choice was wisdom—the one thing Solomon asked God for was wisdom. He declared that he wanted wisdom so that he might make wise judgment. He asked for wisdom that he might be able to discern between good and bad. Is not this what you and I, indeed all here from the youngest to the oldest, need every day? Wisdom is that which I believe God would have us ask for first of all from Him. That ability in life to weigh things up, and then to make right judgments, to work out what is good and what is bad. You and I are faced tonight with this same question. God would say to you and to me: "What do you want most of all in life? Do you want long life? Are you concerned merely for self-preservation? Is it wealth that you want? Are you preoccupied with things? Or is it that you want the wisdom of God Himself, the understanding which your maker alone can give you?"

Our Lord Jesus warned us of the folly of making long life our objective. You remember Him saying, "Which of you by taking thought can add a cubit to his stature?" And

in the margin of your Bible you will find that it is "a cubit to his age". Not one of you, said Jesus, by giving thought to it can increase his life span. The Lord Jesus warned against making possessions the goal of our life, of being worried about material things, and many of us, although we pretend otherwise perhaps, think a great deal about material things. The Lord Jesus urged men to seek first and foremost the well-being of their souls, by being reconciled to God. "The life is more than meat", the Lord Jesus said, "and the body is more than raiment". Our greatest need, and the greatest need of every child is a right relationship with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus came that, through His saving work, our souls might be reconciled to God, so that knowing God our Maker, the source of all wisdom, we might live our lives to His praise and honour and glory. When we are reconciled to God through the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord Jesus Himself is made to us wisdom, and in the Lord Jesus Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. When someone becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom indwells that person as the Counsellor. Solomon asked for wisdom, and I have to ask myself, "Is this what I would ask God for if God appeared to me in a dream and said, 'Ask what I shall give thee?'"

The final thing I want you to notice is THE REWARD THAT GOD GAVE TO SOLOMON. We are told in verse ten that God was **pleased** with Solomon's choice, and this is a reminder that God who is so great, and infinite, is concerned about every finite creature whom He has made; and an application of His infinity is that He is able to give all the attention in the world to one individual, as if that individual were the only one who existed. God is concerned about the decisions of our hearts, and the desires we have. God was concerned about Solomon's choice and we are told in verse twelve that God gave Solomon wisdom. Now it was a wisdom independent of Solomon's education or intelligence. God is able to give to a man or a woman, young or old, a wisdom that is absolutely independent of human understanding—the very wisdom of God. We are told that God gave Solomon wisdom in judgment. We have in 1 Kings 3, and verses 16-28 the story of the two mothers, and adults will remember it. For the sake of the children, I wonder if I may illustrate it. In our family one day there was a squabble over a rubber, and it was a new rubber. Two of the children were saying, "It is mine". I said to them, "Alright, I will cut it in half", and one of them said "No don't do that". The other said, "That's fine; cut it in half". Who do you think I gave it to? Yes, I gave it to the one who said 'No' ".

God gave to Solomon wisdom to make judgment, to discern what was right. Oh, how one covets that!

We are told that God gave Solomon wisdom in his speech. At the end of chapter four there is a catalogue of Solomon's proverbs and the things that he spoke about, and God clearly gave him wisdom in his words. Is it not in our words that we sin most? Isn't it our words in the home that sometimes create an unhelpful atmosphere? Isn't it our words where we fall down most? God gave Solomon wisdom in judgment and in his words. He gave him wisdom in **his relationships too**. In chapter five we are told about Solomon's relationship with Hiram the king of Tyre, and of how he lived in peace with Hiram. All happiness depends upon relationships. Material possessions mean nothing in life if you haven't the right relationships. What value is a long life through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ that enables us to make right judgments, to speak the right words and to live happily with others, as God wants us to do. God gave Solomon such wisdom in all his affairs that when his life was inspected, the wisdom was even greater than imagined. The Queen of Sheba came and inspected Solomon's domain, and we are told that when she had finished her inspection—not simply of the material possessions that Solomon had, through the right use of wisdom—but as she examined his wisdom through speaking with him, she said, "The half has not been told me". Solomon knew that the wisdom was not his but God's.

But notice this, finally, that **God gave to Solomon more than he asked**. Solomon asked for wisdom, but God gave him wisdom, **and** riches, and honour. God knew the wealth that Solomon would need to fulfil his status in life; and when you and I ask God for wisdom He knows what we need financially, and He adds all we need if we ask Him for the right things, out of the right motives. God knew also the honour that Solomon would need as a king, and so He gave him honour; and furthermore, He promised to lengthen his days. Isn't this what the Lord Jesus said and what we have been reminded of this evening? "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." The family here in Woodford is a testimony to that fact. The very foundation of this home is the fear of the Lord—that is a loving regard and reverence for the Lord as He has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ; and that foundation is the beginning of wisdom. When there's that foundation, God adds everything else.

Yes, life is full of choices; it's a fact we cannot escape. I believe that the Lord would afresh bring to you and to me His question, first addressed to Solomon. If God said to you tonight, "What do you want most of all?" What

would you say? Are you living for yourself, or do you want to live entirely for God and for His Son Jesus Christ? Does your life display the superior wisdom of God? It may be that it can't because you haven't been reconciled to God, and you know nothing of Jesus Christ, His Son, who came to save sinners and to bring them back to God that they might know God, and then know His wisdom. If this is the case, I urge you to be reconciled to God. But if you have been reconciled to God, what are you seeking? Earthly things?—they will vanish away. Long life? No one can give you assurance concerning that. God gives an invitation through His Word. "Ask of me what I shall give you"; and if, like Solomon, you will say "Lord give me the wisdom that only Thou canst give, that I might live to please Thee", God will give it and exceedingly abundantly above all you can ask or think. The more we know of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the more we shall know of God's wisdom."

Continued from Page 21.

The celebration had been planned in secret by their daughters, Edna and Eunice. Edie looked back on the wedding day (Will couldn't remember a thing about it, so he said!) and recalled the "carriage and pair" and how pa had taken a group of the children over to the Round Chapel in Hackney for the ceremony.

50 years later they received congratulatory cards and delightful presents which surprised and pleased them. They were the tangible expressions of gratitude from those who have been privileged to know and love them down the years, and who have felt loved by them.

At the golden wedding breakfast there was heartfelt praise to God for his goodness to Will and Edie and their family, for their consistent fellowship with the C.H. & M. since Will's childhood days in the Family, and they were confidently committed to His care and love for the years to come.



16th March, 1918.



Will and Edie 16th March, 1968

“... for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health.” In **all** these experiences Will and Edie have lived and worked together, bringing up their family in a home which has been enriched by being open to hospitality. The depth and quality of their marriage was radiated on 16th March, 1968 when their family, relations and friends met together at Woodford.

Continued on Page 19.

SAND-CASTLES AT JAYWICK



Dick, an "old" boy, married on 23rd March, 1968. He and his wife Hazel have set up home again for his four children, who spent 18 months in the family here, after their mother died.

During the morning of Saturday 24th August, Crescent Road saw the annual departure of the C.H. & M. for two weeks holiday. A coach arrived, and soon a quiet, deserted street became a sea of activity. Cases appeared from the Hall in awesome numbers, then buckets and spades, footballs, cricket bats, walking sticks, and countless other unlikely objects. Finally bunches of excited children emerged, eagerly discussing the respective merits of different seats on the coach. Somehow all the cases were crammed into the back of the vehicle and all the children in the front. A roar of the engine and Holiday '68 had begun.

Jaywick is a relatively small seaside town, especially when compared to its neighbour, Clacton. It only takes about two minutes to drive right through it in a car. The main street is less than a stone's throw from the sea, and provides all the shops one could possibly require while on holiday at the seaside. Our family stayed in three separate bungalows and two flats between the sea and the main street. The two flats adjoined the sea wall.

We ate and slept in our own accommodation, but met on the beach during the daytime and at church on Sundays! One of the interesting facets of the holiday was the element of competition among the groups. Nothing was exempt—an enterprising buy at the shops would quickly be noticed by others, and the same was true of a tasty meal, an unusual trip to some nearby attraction, and so on.

But what of an average day? It would start at a time most suited to the sleeping habits, energy and physical condition of each group. After breakfast and prayers there would be potatoes to peel, cleaning to be done and trips to the nearby shops to be made. By 9:30, the most go-ahead of the groups would begin to make their presence felt on the beach. A few would have a swim in the freezing water; others would be content with paddling, or building sand castles, or flying kites, or asking Mr. White (sitting in a deck-chair reading the cricket news in the 'Telegraph') how to fly a kite, or playing various forms of football and cricket, or shrimping with Mr. Webb's enormous net, or catching crabs and jellyfish, or eating ice-creams, or bouncing up and down on three nearby trampolines, or rowing, or sleeping, or asking if anybody had seen Derek (no one ever had!), or doing so many other things that I should need two weeks to put them all down!

Then came lunch—sometimes indoors, but often on the beach itself. (The beach, by the way is basically sandy,

but tends towards mud the further you go out to sea.) Two groups hired rowing boats one day, and had their lunches at sea—fortunately it was a calm day!

After lunch the catalogue continued unabated, and usually with renewed variety and ingenuity. Several went to see Dr. Smith at Frinton—they reported that his wife fed them well, and once the news got round, it was not easy to avert a general stampede in the Frinton direction! Others went to test their skills on a go-kart track. Mr. White was judged to be the fastest, but it was Alaine who provided the most hair-raising moments.

In the evening, after dinner (or tea, depending on how you'd eaten earlier) some would walk along the sea wall and chat, or play 'he'; others would play quiet games in their bungalows. Draughts was popular with us, although one or two in our group continually requested that we play 'Cheat'—they showed alarming skill in the game, too!

But no group missed an outing or two to Clacton Pier. The Dodg'ems were very popular, especially if a member of staff ventured her hand at the wheel; Several braved the Ghost Train, though reports were rather varied as to what they had actually encountered inside! The Maze of Mirrors baffled one or two, and Richard had two king-size bruises to prove he'd been trying to get out a little too quickly! But star-attraction for most, was the Big Dipper—we even have a cine film to help us recall each turn, drop and bump.

If asked what was the most memorable time on the holiday, many of the older ones would talk about the midnight swim. (Though the younger ones in our group would probably decide on the midnight feast that followed!) The sea was calm, remarkably calm, and the sky was clear. The rays of the moon lay on the black water like a silver silk ribbon. It was quiet . . . it was beautiful . . . it was memorable.

If you asked the same question of those we met each day on or near the beach, they might have talked of the time one of our kites upset their evening's viewing by getting caught on the mast of their T.V. aerial, or of the time one of our family swam out to retrieve their ball or lilo. But some would talk of the smiling faces they saw every day, of the laughter, and the constant action we provided. One or two might link all this to the text we wrote in huge letters on the sand, 'God is love', and on reflection, add that if He provided such a holiday, then there was truth in the text. That's what I felt anyway.

K.J.W.



Helping with the chores.



In the garden.

ANONYMOUS

Often gifts are sent to us anonymously and these are listed below so that the donors may be assured their money has been safely received. We thank these givers and commend them to the Lord for His blessing.

	Amount			Receipt No.
	£	s.	d.	
1968				
January 3rd—St. Albans	5	18	0	5638
January 4th—Waltham Cross	1	0	0	5651
January 8th	200	0	0	5669
January 22nd—Harold Hill	1	0	0	5728
January 22nd—Barnet	1	0	0	5729
January 23rd—"A Well-wisher", Brixton	1	0	0	5740
January 30th—Romford	1	0	0	5761
February 5th—Woodford Green	10	0	0	5773
February 6th—Ilford	1	0	0	5779
February 14th	3	0	0	5800
February 21st—Taunton	5	0	0	5815
March 19th	50	0	0	5890
March 27th	2	0	0	5910
April 2nd—"A Friend"	15	0	0	5925
April 8th	1	0	0	5944
April 11th—"For Easter"	1	0	0	5973
April 16th—"A little Easter gift", E.17.	1	0	0	5987
April 19th—"A Well-wisher"	1	0	0	6012
May 2nd	8	0	0	6066
May 2nd	2	0	0	6067
May 3rd—"A Praying Friend"	2	0	0	6077
May 10th	2	0	0	6218
May 14th—"B.J.M."	2	0	0	6237
May 14th	1	0	0	6239
May 20th—Harlow	1	0	0	6246
May 27th	3	0	0	6274
June 11th	1	10	0	6317
June 11th—Earls Colne	1	0	0	6318
June 13th	1	10	0	6325
June 20th—Boreham Wood	1	0	0	6356
June 26th—"Towards the children's holiday", Waltham Cross	2	0	0	6370
June 28th—Hainault	1	5	0	6375
July 1st—Loughton	1	0	0	6380
July 4th—Romford	2	0	0	6399
July 16th	3	0	0	6419
July 17th—N.1.	3	0	0	6421
July 31st	1	0	0	6459
August 27th—"A Well-wisher", Brixton	1	0	0	6543
September 13th—E.C.3.	1	15	0	6563
September 17th—Ilford	1	10	0	6578
September 18th—Romford	1	0	0	6580
September 18th—Stratford	10	0	0	6581
September 23rd—Boreham Wood	1	0	0	6590
September 25th—Chelmsford	1	0	0	6592
September 27th—Stockwell	8	6	0	6600
October 2nd	2	0	0	6623
October 3rd—Canvey Island	2	0	0	6627
October 4th	10	0	0	6631
October 10th	2	6	0	6644
October 14th—Walthamstow	1	0	0	6656
October 14th	1	0	0	6658
October 22nd—N.19.	2	0	0	6689
October 22nd—Leytonstone	3	0	0	6691
October 31st—Romford	1	0	0	6711

November 4th	- - - - -	15	0	6724
November 12th—Manchester	- - - - -	1	0	6757
November 14th—Epping	- - - - -	5	0	6768
November 26th—Ilford	- - - - -	2	0	6805
December 4th—"For the children", S.E.1.	- - - - -	10	0	6845
December 6th—"A Well-wisher"	- - - - -	1	0	6857
December 6th—Romford	- - - - -	1	0	6864
December 9th—Shepway	- - - - -	3	0	6871
December 9th—Shepway	- - - - -	2	0	6872
December 10th—"A Well-wisher", Leigh	- - - - -	1	0	6899
December 13th—St. Neots	- - - - -	1	0	6952
December 13th—"Two of God's children"	- - - - -	2	0	6957
December 16th	- - - - -	2	0	6971
December 16th—"In the Name of the Lord Jesus"	- - - - -	3	0	6977
December 18th	- - - - -	3	0	7022
December 18th	- - - - -	2	0	7028
December 18th—Ilford	- - - - -	5	0	7033
December 19th	- - - - -	6	3	7050
December 23rd	- - - - -	1	0	7085
December 23rd—"For the little ones"	- - - - -	5	0	7099
December 23rd—"V.L."	- - - - -	10	0	7100
December 23rd	- - - - -	1	0	7112
December 23rd	- - - - -	3	5	7126
December 27th	- - - - -	4	0	7146
December 27th	- - - - -	5	0	7148

We have not included the usual Working Party, Harvest and Christmas lists this year, but are most grateful to everyone who has had a share in the Family life, in these practical ways. God bless you all.

We are most happy to welcome Miss M. Burgess into our Staff circle and to know that Mr. James D. Smith, B.D.S., has stepped into his father's shoes as our dental surgeon.



A "hair-do".

CHILDREN'S HOME AND MISSION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1968

1967		1967		£	s.	d.
468	Rates, Taxes and Insurance -	382	Covenants -	347	7	8
1,118	Heat and Light -	6,318	Subscriptions and Donations -	5,813	15	2
	Postage, Printing, Stationery and Telephone -	284	Box Holders -	303	6	6
657	Provisions -	12	Shoe Fund and Pound Day -	16	0	0
2,148	Furniture, Linen, Clothes and Shoes -	2,849	Legacies -	740	0	0
1,696	Household Expenses -	2,384	Payments Received on Account of Children -	2,629	16	0
869	Staff Allowances and National Insurance -	523	Gifts for Holidays -	272	11	0
2,415	Gifts to Staff (Holidays), Donations, and Pocket Money Schemes -	161	Interest on Deposit Account -	158	17	0
724	Medical Supplies -	103	Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year, carried forward -	1,523	6	3
36	Travelling and Excursions -					
457	Repairs to Property -					
1,568	General Repairs and Renewals -					
140	Incidental Expenses -					
76	Holidays -					
644	Depreciation—Motor Van -					
—						
		£13,016		£11,804	19	7

80

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and the foregoing Income and Expenditure Account with the books and vouchers of the Mission and certify that they are correct and in accordance therewith.

Dated this 14th day of February, 1969.

WHITE, SALOMON & CO.,
Chartered Accountants

CHILDREN'S HOME AND MISSION
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1968

1967		1967		£	s.	d.
	Invested Funds					
	The Florence Barclay Memorial Hall -					
	The Doctor F. B. Marsh Gift -					
	The Mr. & Mrs. William Stark Gift -					
5,100		5,100		5,100	0	0
	Accumulated Fund					
	Balance at 1st January, 1968 -			4,919	6	6
	Less: Excess of Expenditure per annexed Accounts -			1,523	6	3
4,919		4,297		4,297		
	Freehold Property					
	Florence Barclay Memorial Hall at cost -			2,250	0	0
	18/24 Crescent Road, E.18 at cost -			1,700	0	0
	8/10 Crescent Road, E.18 at cost -			1,150	0	0
5,100		5,100		5,100	0	0
	Home Accounts					
	Motor Van at cost -			598	10	6
	Less: Depreciation -			149	10	6
		4,297		4,297		
	Bank Deposit Account	9,397		9,397		
	Garage/Shed at cost -	98		98	3	0
	Household Furniture at cost -	500		500	0	0
	Prepayments -	120		150	11	9
	Cash at Bank -	155		493	18	10
		873		1,242	13	7
	Less:					
	Sundry Creditors -	251		251	0	0
		622		622		
£10,019		£10,019		£8,496	0	3

81

£10,019

£8,496 0 3

GOD SAYS:

*“If my people, who are called
by my name, shall humble
themselves, and pray, and
seek my face, and turn
from their wicked ways;
then will I hear from
heaven, and will forgive
their sin, and will heal
their land.”*

2 Chronicles 7-14