

Bulletin

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND

DECEMBER 1, 1924.

Do It Now

"Hear ye now what the Lord saith: Arise, contend thou before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice."—Micah 6: 1.

AS we approach the end of the year we are reminded that it is a time when people are in the habit of giving and receiving gifts. The best thing that we can give to anyone is the good news of the Lord's kingdom; for that will bring real joy to the hearts of all who accept it.

The above text applies to spiritual Israel from the time the Lord commands his people to proclaim the day of his vengeance against the devil's organization. That time is now. It is the time when the Lord's true followers on earth should take a positive stand for the Lord Jehovah and for the King of kings and for his kingdom. By faith, seeing certain victory at hand, it becomes their privilege and duty to press forward in the battle and as they go joyfully proclaim: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jehovah's Messengers

The Lord now has a controversy with the nations and kingdoms that have professed to be his people, who have claimed to rule by his authority, but who in truth and in fact have been a part of Satan's organization. Some one must tell them about Jehovah's controversy. According to God's plan there is but one class chosen for this purpose and these are they who have been anointed by the holy spirit to represent the Lord.

The issue is now clearly drawn. A commandment comes to the truly consecrated and anointed ones, saying: "Arise now; do not sit idly down and wait. Obey the command of the Captain of our salvation and declare the message of his kingdom to others."

If we fail to speak now the Lord will call into action some agency, even as Jesus declared that he could make the very stones to cry out as his witnesses.

The Lord's Message To Be Given

To contend means to have boldness in the day of the Lord's judgment in the proclamation of his message of truth concerning the kingdom. The Prophet says: "Contend thou before the mountains"; that is to say, Tell out the message to the nations of the earth. "Let the hills hear thy voice," meaning: Let those who are high and mighty in the government of the nations of the earth hear the message concerning the kingdom. The high and mighty ones, the chief rulers in Christendom, are the clergy and the principal of their flock.

Comfort by Enlightening

The indictment puts the matter clearly before the minds of the people of the nations and also before the rulers, many of whom are in fear and trembling.

Now this message must be quickly followed by the message of consolation and comfort, because to comfort those that mourn is a part of the commission given to the Church this side the veil. This message of comfort is contained in the STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES and associated books. Outside of these publications there are none other on earth that are being put before the people to comfort them. The people of God now occupy the most wonderfully favored position. Jehovah declares that these are his witnesses to testify that he is God and he has put his words into the mouth of such. Hence the voice here represents his message, which they must proclaim. These need have no fear; for the Lord has covered them with the shadow of his hand, which means that they are kept within his power and no evil can befall them.

ADVERTISE THE KING AND THE KINGDOM

Present Bearers of Glad Tidings

In this hour of stress amongst mankind God's command comes clearly and forcefully to everyone who claims to represent him. Now is the time to tell the glad tidings of great joy which the angels of heaven sang to the shepherds 1900 years ago. Now is the time for the beginning of the fulfillment of that prophecy uttered by those heavenly messengers.

What a favored lot has the Church this side the veil to tell the fulfillment of God's great promises to man; that the time has come in

which the Lord will establish the world so that it can not be moved; that now the Lord will establish his kingdom so that the people can dwell together in peace, and that then they may enjoy life, liberty and happiness.

The privilege and responsibility of getting this message before the people lies upon everyone who is begotten and anointed of the holy spirit in proportion as each has opportunity. Let no one fail or refuse to take advantage of the privilege. The time has come to deliver the message. Do it now and do it with joy, and remember that "the joy of the Lord is your strength".

LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS TO DIRECTORS

WATCH TOWER BIBLE & TRACT SOCIETY SERVICE DEPT.

BROOKLYN, N. Y. DECEMBER 1, 1924.

Dear Brother:

The report of the field work during the fiscal year of the SOCIETY, ending October 1st, has as the outstanding feature during 1924 the increased number of homes in which the workers were enabled to place literature per worker. Those who engaged in the service were enabled to put literature into more homes during 1924 with the same effort than each worker was enabled to do during 1923; for during 1923 each individual worker devoting an afternoon to the service, and making on an average 25 calls, placed literature in approximately 2.46 homes.

1924's Increase

During 1924 each individual worker was enabled to place literature in 3.20 homes of the 25 called upon. This indicates to us that the attitude of the people is more favorable toward the Truth; and that the workers, becoming more thoroughly rooted and grounded in the Truth, are therefore more competent in bringing the message to the attention of others in such a way as to interest them and convince them of its reasonableness. In approaching people who already hold some opinions much depends upon the worker in helping these people to get a clear view of the Lord's plan; and no doubt the experience of the preceding year's work removed much of the timidity of the workers and manifests that for the most part people are sympathetic with the message of present Truth.

Those Who Have Not Purchased

This is an encouraging outlook from this standpoint as we engage in the work of 1925. It does not mean, however, that our witnessing is coming to an end, nor that the extent of the witness that the Lord's Word indicates, has been accomplished. Rather it means that the work thus far accomplished has reached the minds that were quick to grasp and that were more open to receive the new truths when brought to their attention. There is still a vast majority of the people in whose homes no literature has been placed, but who during the last few years have been called upon. The influence of the literature that has been placed with their friends or neighbors has no doubt helped them to consider with more regard the

points which have been brought to their attention at their door in the successive calls and which were covered in the canvasses. These people, we think, will respond this coming year: First, because they have thought about the Truth and found that it is becoming more or less generally appreciated; and, secondly, because the workers are better qualified to meet what we might term somewhat stubborn or prejudiced views with more confidence in the message.

Prospect for Workers

Thus, so far as the ability of the workers is concerned, the results of 1925 lie mainly in the province of each worker to reap the increase possible; for it will depend upon the workers' regularity in the service and their persistency in finding ways of getting into the field to take advantage of the interest that the past year's work has manifested. For it is evident that interest lies somewhat latent in the territory awaiting those with ability to develop it.

Weekly Average of Workers

From the viewpoint of the number of workers who were in the field during 1924, the work is much behind that of 1923. During 1923 there was a weekly average of 1789 workers in the field; during 1924 there was an average of 1064 workers in the field weekly, or 745 less workers out in the service every week during 1924 than during 1923, on the average. As to what tended to interfere with the workers' getting into the service we can hardly explain at this time. We are inclined to conclude that the reason is not for lack of interest in the message or for less zeal than during 1923. Rather, we are aware of the extraordinary effort put forth during 1923 by the workers; and it seems that the real fault lies in the general disposition to think that the work of 1924 would at least measure up to 1923 of itself without the extra effort and individual planning of each worker to make it exceed 1923.

Homes Reached

The difference in the number of workers manifests itself in the fact that 942,835 less homes were visited during 1924 than 1923. In other words, those in the

service during 1923 by their personal call and the witness that the canvass holds brought the message to approximately 1,000,000 more homes than during 1924. Consequently the literature, then, was not placed in so many homes. During 1923 sets of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES, THE HARP BIBLE STUDY Course, or the 78c Combination were placed in approximately 239,420 individual homes. During 1924 sets of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES, THE HARP BIBLE STUDY Course or the 78c Combination were placed in a total of 179,823 homes. Therefore there is a difference of 62,227 less homes in which literature was placed during 1924 than during 1923.

A comparison of the individual sales is as follows:

	1923	1924
STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES 7 Vols	11,140	16,650
" " " " 8 Vols		4,627
HARP BIBLE STUDY Course	184,635	156,192
78c Combination	43,645	2,354
TOTALS	239,420	179,823

Basis of Homes Reached

Considering the above number of sales in the field from the standpoint of the number of total books sold instead of the number of homes in which literature has been placed, 1924 did place in the field a larger number of bound Volumes than did 1923. But we do not think that the number of books sold is the proper way of considering the work. The work to be considered should regard the extent of witnessing, the number of homes in which literature was placed, the number of people in whose hands there is some of the Truth reading matter; for this manifests the extent to which the Truth is being placed in the homes throughout the country. If we consider the matter in the light of the number of books placed during 1923, there were 306,260 bound Volumes placed in the field, and during 1924 there were 312,112 bound Volumes placed in homes. Here again is emphasized the individual efficiency of the workers; for the homes reached could have fallen off greatly had not there been a greater response to the effort that actually was put forth.

For instance, if the workers during 1924 met only as favorable conditions as they did during 1923 (that is, out of the 25 people they called upon to have placed literature in 2.46 homes), then there would have been about 95,200 less sales made. But the workers found a more favorable attitude; for out of the 25 homes they visited 3.20 purchased literature, making but a difference of 62,227 less homes reached with the literature.

Colporteurs' Work

What has been stated above excludes the work done by the colporteurs. The colporteurs show a marked increase in activity during 1924 in both the number of colporteurs in the service, the number of homes called upon, and the literature placed. During 1923 there were on the average 365 colporteurs in the service. During 1924 there were on the average 437 colporteurs in the service throughout the entire year. These colporteurs called at approximately 3,146,400 homes. Colporteurs who have reported their sales regularly reported the following:

	1923	1924
STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURE 7 Vols.	12,432	13,824
" " " " 8 Vols.		7,496
TOTAL	12,432	21,320

HARP BIBLE STUDY Courses	115,257	128,996
78c Combination	28,392	1,260

GRAND TOTAL 156,081 151,582

To carry out the comparison of books sold by the classes in the United States with the number sold by the colporteurs: During 1923 the colporteurs placed 229,673 bound volumes, and during 1924 285,998 bound Volumes. For the purpose of comparing the sales, both the reports of the classes and those of the colporteurs do not include the "Talking with the Dead" or the "World's Distress" booklet. We will consider these booklets under another heading.

Convention

In addition to the literature reported by the classes and by the colporteurs, may be added the total of books placed during Service Day at the Columbus Convention. On Service Day July 24th there were 5,051 workers in the field and 361 automobiles employed in carrying the friends to isolated territory.

The workers placed books as follows:

COLUMBUS AND SUBURBS	
HARP BIBLE STUDY Course	3,572
STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES	334
IN THE RURAL SECTIONS	
HARP BIBLE STUDY Courses	3,245
STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES	289

Individual sales total 7,440

In addition to the individual sales reported above there were placed in

COLUMBUS AND SUBURBS	
"Desirable Government"	6,133
Miscellaneous booklets	793
THE RURAL SECTIONS	
"Desirable Government"	5,492
Miscellaneous booklets	609
At the Stadium meeting there were placed	
HARP OF GOD	861
STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES	3
Booklets	885

Therefore a recapitulation of the work in the field during 1924 reported by classes, by colporteurs and by the work at the Columbus Convention is as follows:

	STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES			
	Seven Volumes	Eight Volumes	Harp Courses	78c Comb.
Classes	16,650	4,627	156,192	2,354
Colporteurs	13,824	7,496	127,996	1,260
Columbus Con.	623		6,817	
Stadium	3		6,817	
Total	31,100	12,123	291,806	3,620

The Field at Large

Literature, then, was placed in a total of 338,649 homes; and this literature is within the daily reach of approximately 1,374,596 individual people. Considering the work in the total quantity of books sold, the above represents a total of 610,110 bound volumes. The above total of literature, as has been stated, is what the classes and the colporteurs have reported as actually distributed. In addition to the above bound Volumes the classes have placed, as nearly as we are able to ascertain, 434,809 copies of "A Desirable Government" and 57,896 copies of the "World Distress" booklet. Colporteurs have placed approximately 95,682 copies of the "Desirable Govern-

ment" and 68,831 copies of the "World's Distress" booklet. Further, in addition to the above total number of homes reached with bound Volumes, literature in the form of the above-named booklets was placed in approximately 657,218 homes; and these booklets are within the daily reach of approximately 2,628,872 individuals.

Classes	Homes Canvassed	Sales Made	Book'ts Placed
Colporteurs	1,382,875	179,823	492,805
Columbus Conv.	3,146,400	151,582	164,513
	126,275	7,440	11,625
Totals	4,655,550	336,215	668,943

Granted that each person interviewed at the homes witnessed to, whether he purchased or not, talked to other members of the family about the message, the workers in calling from door to door in this manner witnessed to approximately 14,601,650 individuals during 1924; and thus the literature placed is within the reach of 4,020,560 individuals. The work in the field, then, of going from door to door placed the message in one form or another before the attention of 18,622,210 individuals in the United States. It may be emphasized that the message was actually brought to the attention of these people, not merely that a tract was left at their door which they might or might not read. These people were witnessed to in that they heard what the worker had to say, and had the opportunity of inquiring for further reading matter. This work of bringing the message to the attention of the people regularly is, no doubt, leaving a profound impression of the message. For a period of five years the territory has been gone over, and each time the worker has additional talking points, more distressful conditions throughout the world and happenings of greater moment and importance to bear out the facts he brought to their attention at the previous visit. He is not going back to tell them what he told them in 1920. The worker now approaches the people, pointing to events that have transpired since 1920 in fulfillment of prophecy of a natural and gradual progression to the establishment of the kingdom he has been announcing now for a period of five years.

Trend of Interest Toward Truth

The last four months particularly have manifested a marked change in the attitude of the people. The indictment that has just been distributed, has been reported upon by practically all classes, as having brought less protest and less denouncement from the people in general than did the previous distribution. This but emphasizes the thought that the people are agreeing with the contents of the indictment. If from this the attitude of the people can be sounded, it demonstrates that they are more and more becoming favorable to the message of Truth. Is it not, then, our opportunity to extend the witness for the Truth by bringing it to the attention of the people on even a greater scale than in the past? The work of *The Broadcaster* is proceeding; and those classes that have employed this method have written of the advantages they have found upon canvassing the territory.

Broadcaster and Handbills

Additionally, the handbills tend to attract attention to our message, increasing interest and proving of help in placing the literature. It is the well-planned use of these instruments by the Director that assists the workers greatly in getting the Truth into the hands of the people; and 1925 can be looked forward to hopefully. We are certain that the trend of events is toward the disintegration of the

present order and arrangement; and we can look confidently, then, to 1925 as contributing much to the establishment of the Lord's kingdom upon the face of the earth.

1925 Outlook

Further, the outlook for 1925 is encouraging. It presents to the workers as they go into the field this assistance: First, that from all indications there is a more favorable attitude toward the message; second, that the number of the people who are sufficiently interested in our message to purchase is increasing, and consequently that more literature will be placed by those who engage in the work. Further, it lies within the grasp of each worker to lay hold upon the opportunities that he knows the field holds, making the fullest use of them in telling the people the Truth and thus planting in their minds the message of the Kingdom, knowing certainly that it is the Lord's design that ultimately this message is to extend throughout the entire earth, and that, further, those who are to share in this work beyond the veil are commissioned now to go forth and do what they can to extend the message on this side of the veil.

1925, then, presents to the workers the most favorable of opportunities, and leaves with each individual the privilege of increasing the interests of the kingdom committed to his care.

Class Activity

The following are the thirty classes that have led in activity during 1924. In considering the classes that should be listed among the first, selection has been made, first by the number of sales made per individual worker, that is, how successful the workers were in placing literature in the homes; second, the proportion of class members who were actually in the service throughout the entire year; and third, the total number of sales made during the year by the class:

1. Minneapolis, Minn.
2. Tulsa, Okla.
3. Passaic, N. J.
4. Duluth, Minn.
5. Providence, R. I.
6. Cleveland, O.
7. Detroit, Mich.
8. Norfolk, Va.
9. New York, N. Y.
10. Indianapolis, Ind.
11. Kansas City, Mo.
12. New Haven, Conn.
13. Beverly, Mass.
14. Huntington, W. Va.
15. Grand Rapids, Mich.
16. Denver, Colo.
17. Columbus, O.
18. Baltimore, Md.
19. Dayton, O.
20. Philadelphia, Pa.
21. Pittsburgh, Pa.
22. Greenfield, Mass.
23. Sharon, Pa.
24. Benton Harbor, Mich.
25. Lansing, Mich.
26. Reading, Pa.
27. Jackson, Mich.
28. Easton, Pa.
29. Newark, N. J.
30. Paterson, N. J.

With Christian greetings, we are
Your brethren and servants in the Lord,
Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society