

B.
Paul
them and gave them assurance that they had the proper spirit. What a wonderful encouragement that was for those people. The poet said; "This man saved faith wherever he moved. It was in his hand when he held yours at meeting. Never so called out of yourself, never so loved—Were you or anyone as by this greeting." We need to have sympathy with those who are trying to carry on Christian work. We need understanding of young people and children as they strive in their enthusiasm to do things. We need to sympathize with those who are beset by temptations of all kinds. A small college called Williams College in Ohio was the place where James Garfield went as a young man. He did not have much money, but he came under the influence of Mark Hopkins, one of the great educators. And someone said; "Education was to sit on a log with the pupil on one side & Mark Hopkins on the other." Such an influence can go thru sympathetic person.

Barnabas likewise was one who was an encourager because he "created creators," as the phrase was used by Dean Briggs, one of the leaders of past generation in the schools. So when the church at Antioch needed a leader who could help them carry on the work, it was Barnabas again, who went & got Paul from Tarsus and put him into the work. He it also was who went on missionary journeys with Paul at first, thus encouraging him in that important work. It is said of Edwin Markham that he as a young man came to California. With his teacher Edward Harry Hill he went up into the mts. on an outing. Up there the teacher read him some beautiful poetry & awakened in heart of Markham the sense of poetry. He was called "The Enchanter—the Sorcerer of Song." on a deeper sense even Christ took the disciples in to the mts. & there thru vital contact & thru his personality awakened within them the sense of the divine, gave spirit of service into their souls & the devotion to a great cause.

What are we to do with our Christian faith? Try to hoard it and keep it for self. It will vanish. Are we to squander it on many useless things. We will lose it. Or will we invest it in human personalities and thus advance the Kingdom of Christ our Lord.

"They who has been drive away spread the Gospel as they went from place to place"- Acts 8:4; 11:9
"God's Underground" is the title of a book of recent appearance written by Father George, who had gone thru period of persecution of Christians in Europe during recent war. He tells the story of the people who remained true to Christ & Church even tho driven underground & could not worship openly. Yet the maintained contact with Xtians even of enemy nations, they worshiped in hidden spots, they carried on the work. Often pastors would offer communion thru barab-wire fences to Christians. We are reminded of the "underground railway" before Civil War when run-a-way slaves were led into freedom. In the Middle Ages likewise "Brethern of the Common Life" and other small groups kept real spirit of Christ alive. It was the same spirit that prevailed in the early Christian Church when Christians were driven out of Jerusalem. They did not wait for more opportune time, they used "craze logic" & continued to spread the Gospel, as they went from place to place. They had to hide in catacombs, in private homes, but nevertheless in spite of being pushed "underground" they continued in loyalty to Christ. Such people of "God's Underground" laypeople all of them established the Church in Antioch, which was strictly a lay people's Church.

They had a vital center in Christ Jesus. They knew that He was vital and essential for them and that life without him would be vain. They who had found Him & followed Him and tried to be like Him knew that He was immeasurably, in comparably, unspeakably, greater than themselves. "Tough weary (persecuted), Love is not tired; pressed, it is not straitened; alarmed, it is not confounded; but as lively flame and burning torch it forces its way upward & securely passes thru all."

Since they had Christ as center, their convictions were deep & consequently they felt that Christ was necessary for others & they "spread the Gospel" the good news. Some friend told me about traveling with some Catholic folk on motor tour. These folk insisted in attending their church for a service.

They said afterwards even tho it was inconven-
ient for us, we admired that group, and condemned
ourselves. Protestants often lack conviction.
IN "Time" magazine an article appeared recently
in which the comparison was made between commun-
ists and Christians & that world had to make choice
betw. convinced communists and convinced Xtians.
The communists never seem to miss a trick in
trying to convince others, in creating difficulties.
Christians must be wide awake in taking advantage
of every opportunity to spread the Gospel, for they
have spiritual powers, while the others have only
materialism.

Those "underground Christians, even tho in danger
did not have defeatist attitude, but maintained
victorious atmosphere. Even tho driven from one
place to another, yet they carried on. It is said
of Napoleon "that he had unquestioned magic for
victory, but no technique whatever for defeat".
That is the conviction we need about Christianity
we have no technique for defeat, but we must have
courage to go on and on.

Of those "underground people" it is said that
"the Lord's power was with them." It is striking
to note in the history of the Christian Church
that smaller "cells" were ever effective in the
work. Apostles only a few compared to great wide
world. Early Christians belonged to despised. Always
a "remnant" was found true to the Master. Goege
Fox, Charles Wesley and others established small
groups for intensive work. Such groups need to
get together for study, for prayer, for Scrip-
ture study, for service to this day. All of us need to
share with others the deeper aspects of life. It
means not only inner peace, but also a life lived
for Christ in every household, a ministry in the
daily task. The whole of a person, the whole of
life for Christ, that's new in the faith of this
day and time.

INSPIRED INTERPRETERS

Laymen Active in the Church

Ministering Angel - Dorcas

Acts 9:36 ff.

We are dedicating a picture and many persons to the task of Christian education this morning. The beautiful picture by Harrison with the title; "What happened to your hand?" is an inspiring one. The little child on the Master's lap, the others about the beautiful flowers, the question as the child pts at Jesus' hand is stirring. "What happened to your hand?" is a question that probes deep into the Master's love. He gives the answer out of love for ~~The~~ I was crucified & my hand was pierced. That message of love is one which S.S. workers, Christian workers and parents must also know & to ~~which~~ its answering they must dedicate their lives. You recall that fine imaginative picture of the "Guiding angel" and thus we realize that we have guiding & ministering angels and that we have friends who love Jesus and children and human beings who become ministering angels. That story of love is the one we have to ~~all~~

That is our first task as Christian workers to tell the story of Christ's love. That may be done through words, and thru deeds. In the early Church

Dorcas, a fine disciples of Christ, a laywoman told this story. She had a fine & loving heart & could not see children and widows suffering, so she sewed clothes for them. ~~Stitch~~ ~~after~~ ~~stitch~~ of love was made by her hands in the cloths & goods, so the little bodies might be kept warm. It was a ministry of love. A minister's daughter was ill in the hospit. He told her father; "It is good medicine just to have Miss Hagen, the nurse, come into my room and serve me with a smile." This nurse prayed for her patients. This young woman began work in a hospital when work was still young in that field. She caught a vision of service. She collected to build a hospital. "All the church offers you is hard work." She heard that challenge & responded. "When pain and anguish wring the brow- A ministering angel thou!" That is the spirit of service we need, a willingness to work hard, to sacrifice, to put time into teaching & working for Christ.

We, like Dorcas, show the spirit that is in our heart by showing the story of love thru good deeds

Dorcas, as we noted was kind, was willing to sew & serve & thus became a ministering angel. She did not talk too much about love she acted it out. And is in this way that we can also minister and serve. A very beautiful story is told about "The Mystic Candles." In it we learn of a woman named Erna Bilkau, whose Russian husband and her one son had died shortly after they had come to the U.S. She was almost desperate. She saw a family at worship. Decided to have a family altar for herself and her other son. She set aside a small table and put two candles on it as they read scriptures and had prayed, she lighted these. But they did not burn long anuf. So she sent to her father for a secret formula & made these long-burning candles. She came across a couple quarreling & sent them two candles. He felt that mystic candle might light two hearts & they did. She sent others to people in want & need, troubled souls. She helped a poor woman see them and establish a small store so that she might make a living. So she lighted up many a night. It is this candle of love that we must light in troubled world today. "Rather light a candle than curse the darkness" is what we must do. That is part of our task as ministering angels. We light these candles in the hearts of boys & girls.

Such a message of love, such living a life of love does do something to our hearts. It challenges us. "It's Worth our best." This teaching mission of our Lord's appointing truly "It's worth our best." In a small town lives merchant, who is busiest on Saturday night in his store, and yet for more than 20 years he is one of earliest arrivals at the S.S. & Church, prepared for his duties which are worthy his best. A doctor chief of a hospital staff for 35 years has taught a class of young men. A gradeschool teacher find time in a busy life to teach in Junior Dept. God be thank for those who find such service worth their best. A cc to our Constitut. the pastor and Church Council also have a duty to see to it that Christian education is given to the young. A little interest is not enuf - It's worth our best. - The best recognition for work well done is not a certificate as some of you have received it. The best recognition is response of some boy or girl. It is the place you may find in the heart of a pupil and the place you can make for Jesus Christ in human hearts.

INSPIRED INTERPRETERS

Ananias - Pointing the Way to Christ

Acts 9:10 - 17

A little over a year ago I had the opportunity to meet Dr. Jn.O.Nelson, Director of the Federal Council of Churches' Commission of the Ministry. He is a dynamic person, one vitally pointing the way to Chr.

He has written a book entitled; "Young Laymen-Young Church," in which he shows how lay people can be vitally active in the Church, who have not reigned from Church as Bishop a century ago, or a young shop-girl recently, but find in it the most exciting force in all the world. He cites illustrat after incident to show how people are pointing the way to Christ. John the Baptist did this as Jesus came back from the wilderness when he said; "Behld the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." In our Text for today we catch Ananias being entrusted with the task of pointing the way to Christ for Saul, who was to be a great instrument in Lord's work. From this incident we can learn how we might also point the way to Christ as members of the Church. *Resistant to Lighten*

Ananias is called a "disciple" which implies that he was learner, or follower of Christ. It indicates that he used his gift of reason in pntg the way to Christ. He had to use his brains when God called him and asked him to go to Saul, who had been a persecutor of the Church. He gave his reason why he should not go to see Saul, for this man was dangerous. God does not ask us to serve Him blindly. There is a purpose and a reason for every-thing He asks. So God explained to the reason of Ananias, that this man Saul was to be instrument in bringing the name of Jesus to many, he will have to suffer, but as a chosen vessel he would do much good. So Dr. Jn.R.Mott, *the man* who received the Nobel price a year or two ago, was debating in what line of wrk he would render service he heard the voice of agr athlete repeat the words of Is.the prophet; Seeekst thou great things for thyself, seek them not." Led by these words which appealed to his reason, he gave himself to the task of pointing the way to Jesus. We also need to think our way thru in Xtian faith. Our young people need to do this.

So this man Anias, called of God to point the way to Christ of this man Saul necessarily had to have the gift of faith. He trusted God even tho he was afraid of this man Saul. He had faith in Saul and was convinced that this man would respond to God. He had faith in himself as the instrument of God. Faith is the channel of power. While in the west we came into regions of desert, where hardly anything will grow. We saw some grass very dry. The next day we saw a rancher, who had turned on huge valves, turn a stream of water out of the huge irrigation ditch into lesser channels toward the field. It spread out in thin sheets of cooling water. Soon the appearance of whole section changed. The spirit of God which flows upon the starved human soul & brings new life. Faith is the channel which leads God's power into our lives. We point the way to Christ as we let ourselves be channels of faith.

Ananias had to have gift of love to point way to Christ. He went, he layed his hands on Saul in the spirit of love. This was a most magnificent way of telling Saul he trusted him. It was an expression of the heart. We point the way to Christ quicker than love than any other way. Some months I heard a young lady in a Youth Fellowship meeting tell of her experience in Mexico, where she had gone with some young Quakers to demonstrate the way of love by rebuilding ruined sections, establishing sanitary facilities and associating with the people in spirit of friendliness. Such caravans of love are going thru Europe and Japan & other parts pointing way to Christ.

Ananias used his gift of speech to point Saul to Christ. He said Brother Saul I have been sent by the Lord Jesus, who appeared to thee. Thou wilt receive thy sight & be filled with the Spirit. We need to use our speech to point way to Christ in natural way. In the South at Lake Junalaska lives r. J.B. Ivey, an outstanding business man, who owns large stores. Yet he finds time to raise flowers, to make friends & to work in the Church. He said; "I am always speaking and working in & for the Church in some form. I do it because I love the Church." That is the spirit.

Ananias used gift of life to point way to Christ. He risked it & went to Saul & led him to Lord. We must Christ be master of our wills and do what he purposes for us.

was Mary J. Moundville was prevented by a sick mother from going to school. She stayed in a small town & served in the Church. She was a very good girl & she suggested a good house for people. She did a good work, investing her life as a young girl.

INSPIRED INTERPRETERS (Fall '49)

Laymen Active in the Church

Philip - Evangelistic Deacon - Acts 8:26

Our symbol on the Worship folder is modeled after that of a Boys' School at Srinagar, Kashmir. Within the shield are two oars and the words "Work and Pray". Acc. to ancient saying a monk was giving advice to a new worker and he said; "Pray as if all you work were in vain, work as if all prayer were in vain". So work and prayer must go together, if we only use one or the other by itself we go in a circle. That is the spirit which is needed in the Church today. It was the spirit of the early Church. *Part of the Church's work + plan*

You recall that shortly after the Church began the work become so large the apostles were overwhelmed & they should preach and pray. But poor people had to be looked after, business of the Church looked after, so they elected deacons, men of good report, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom. Among those elected was an evangelistic deacon named Philip. He came first of all from a godly household. He had a fine Christian home. Most of the great leaders of the Church have come from such homes. Our homes must be our first places of worship and the place where children are led to Christ and Church. One of our young men who served in China during the war was especially strengthened by the fact that he had entrance to the home of some missionaries, who had a deep Christian spirit. Here in Scripture reading, in prayer, in singing fine X'tians hymns a deep foundation can be laid. As boys and girls are going back to school we need to enter into the finer aspects of a real Christian homes.

- But note again that this evangelistic deacon - a layman in the early Church was sensitive to the Spirit's guidance. The story from Acts needs just to be recalled to our minds. As this man was in prayer, the Spirit said to him, "go down into the wilderness or desert of Gaza. So he went. Here he saw an Ethiopian, a colored man reading the Scriptures. He ran to him, he conversed with him. "What are you reading?" "From the prophet Isaiah, but I cannot understand just what he means. Dr. Howard Thurman has written a fine book of devotions with the intriguing title; "Meditations for Apostles of Sensitivity." Philip was sensitive to guidance

Are we alert to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our relationship to others, in our conduct, in our reading of Scripture? Then the question arises are we willing to go as the Spirit guides us. Are we interested enuf in people, so that we wish to help them?

Philip the Evangelist as he we asked what the passage meant interpreted it. He interpreted Christ He showed what Christianity was like. He baptized the Ethiopian upon his request. He started a new movement in missions in a new section. This layman Philip was willing to give of his time to the Church. Men and women will give time to Clubs of all kinds, to lodges, to associations of all kinds, but will not give one minute to the parish. We have to come to realize that Christianity is important enuf to demand our choicest time and attention and effort. It is a hard task getting laymen to work. We need workers who are willing to interpret the Word, we need others to go out and invite people in, we must interpret Christ thru our words and our life and actions. ^{Baptist church} Here is one of our churches in New Albany Indiana which has an Undershepherd Plan. The congregations- as we have been doing- had beend ~~divided~~ into about 60 zones. In each one there lived abt 6 to 15 families. Volunteers and drafted people made up the teams that were to responsible for each area or zone. They were called together for a meeting. Each team was supplied with a list of names and addresses in the zone. They also received some literature on the church, thru which- invitations were given to attend Holy Communion or Rally Day or the Lenten service whatever the time of the Church it might be. The invitation was extended. Attendance increased, back dues were paid up. new members were received into the church. Those that went out got a great deal out of the work themselves. In this Church the undershepherds took charge of the district for the year & tried to keep in touch with those on their list. There are people who say that nobody from the church ever calls upon them, except money is wanted. We need to have a friendly church for friendly people, in which we try to help each along on the pathway of life, so that people might know the Chrst and dedicate themselves to Him.

Evangelistic Campaign

Michael Paterson

INSPIRED INTERPRETERS

Laymen at Work in Church

"A Helpful Couple" Acts 18:26

Into the Church at Ephesus there came a strange man, named Apollos. He had been baptized by John the Baptist, then gone away into Egypt & kept up the teachings and ideas of John. He had not heard much of Jesus to whom Jn the Bapt, pointed. This man Apollos was an eloquent and fiery speaker. He could persuade people about their sinfulness and try to convince them of the right things, but did not offer the power to do these things. He knew his Bible, but not Christ's interpretation of it. He had personality & was very courageous. But he did lack the knowledge of and belief in Christ. Now at Ephesus some couple came into his life, which was exceedingly helpful.

The name of this couple was Aquila and Priscilla. They worked together most beautifully, not only in their business as tentweaver or tentmakers, but also in their family and private life they were inspiring one another. They were very good fellowworkers of Paul, having the same trade as he had it. They also worked in the task of bringing in God's kingdom & presenting Christ. Paul cared for them deeply. They were vitally interested in the cause of Jesus Chr.

So they saw that Apollos, who had come to Ephesus had great possibilities in him for Christ and His cause. So this helpful couple befriended him. That was the first aspect of their interest in him. They did not denounce him because he did not know Christ, or scold him bec. he thought differently. They took him into their home and made him feel at home. What a wonderful thing such a helpful couple is. To have the Christian spirit, to build a fine home, to take an interest together in God's work. But this idea of being friends is so exceedingly helpful. A couple man and his wife, business people were conducting a drive-in restaurant in a community. They had such winsome & understanding ways about them that young people loved to come and congregate there. Some of the school and even church people objected and said there must be something wrong going on in that place to attract young people. So they complained about this to the couple. The objectors were invited in to look over the situation. The noted that the couple treated the young people very friendly.

x x h - business people

They also found out in a round-about way that this couple did not allow anything out of the way in the place. No drinks were served, it was simply a congenial place. The couple would help out young people who have difficulties in a financial way or otherwise. When the husband in this partnership died rather suddenly, as he was ministering to a young friend in the hospital, the high school of the community & esp. the young people responded in an overwhelming way. Here was helpful couple, which had a Xtian spirit in the home and in the community.

But we catch another note of helpfulness in the couple at Ephesus, Aquila and Priscilla, they took Apollos into their family & friendship, but they also instructed him. They told him what they knew about the higher life, especially about Jesus, his love and his resurrection. Now Apollos became a finer personality than ever before. Here was indeed a very blessed fellowship. Out of the Church life of a very fine Church in Columbus, O. comes a very interesting observation. This church tries to be as helpful as it possibly can to its people. They have couples club, in which husband and wife say that they will be willing as a couple to help wherever they can. One couple has a fine happy relationship in their home. Another couple has some trouble, so the first offers, upon suggestion by the pastors of the church, to go there & help in situations. Another couple has a fine family atmosphere with its children. Another family has trouble with children, so the 1st couple is asked to go there & gradually be helpful in suggesting how conditions might be improved. They take sponsorship for certain people. There must be deep consecration for that kind of ministry.

They had the privilege, as a couple, A & P. to encourage Apollos. He wanted to go. They sent letters to the brethren where he was to go, asking the disciples to receive him. He became in turn very helpful to people, convinced Jews & showed that Jesus Christ was. What a wonderful thing it is to put a good word in for a friend, to encourage self-confidence in a deeper way among young people & older. How fine it is to prepare the way for a greater effectiveness of the Gospel. This couple could be Christian in their business, helpful to others, inspiring many.

On the grounds of New York City University is a great building called "Hall of Fame." It was completed about the year 1900. It has long corridors in which many famous Americans are honored and rooms in which mementos of these people are housed. Every five years new names are proposed of some famous person who has been dead at least 10 years, who must be voted in by large majority of trustees. Some years while attending a district meeting in upper N.Y. we had opportunity to visit "Baseball Hall of Fame" in Cooperstown, N.Y. & it was quite interesting.

The Bible is such a Hall of Fame in which the record of followers of God is given to us. In Romans 16 we have a Hall of Fame of those people, Christian workers, who found a place in Paul's heart. Why were these people placed there?

Paul calls them fellow-laborers. What a list of names of the workers! They worked with him as deaconesses, like Phoebe, Priscilla & Aquila, the helpful couple, tentmakers by trade and ardent Christian workers. They risked lives, they had a church in their house. Paul praises toil of Mary, of Anronicus & Junius, who had been in prison with him. In the list are included "slaves" some from household of Caesar in Rome. Two young ladies Tryphanea & Tryphosa possibly sisters and twins, whose names might be translated "Dainty and Disdain" are included. Some friends "unnamed" are included in the lists. They were all workers in the church, saints, who tried to live up to the teachings of the Lord. This group of people were all layworkers in the church & it was fine to recognize them in this way. A rather striking incident comes to mind about Branch Rickey, the baseball man now with Brooklyn, formerly with the St. Louis Cardinals. He is a thorough Christian in his outlook and convictions. He said in an interview just recently that "I want to live the ideals of Christ in every-day life, in business and on the athletic field. I want my responses to every situation to rise as automatically Christians, as my nervous responses are in driving an automobile." He exemplified in his life. He would not play ball on Sunday. He organized "knot-hole gangs" to offset juvenile troubles

He was the first one in organized baseball to give a colored man, like Jackie Robinson a chance to play ball. He makes an attempt to be Christian in his life and attitude, lay person. We can be fellowworker by trying to be Christian in all relationships in life.

Paul could include these people in his hall of fame, for they were fellow-sufferers, they had gone thru all kinds of hardships with him. The helpful couple had been driven from Rome. Others had been in prison with Paul, persecuted for their faith. Some were unknown altogether, yet the "nameless saints" that they were honored them. We have seen the tomb to the unknown soldier at Arlington Cem., but there are many nameless saints, everyday, average Christian people to whom recognition should be given. It is common everyday people to maintain country, that maintain Churches. A poet Edward Hale in "Nameless Saints" tells us of the early settlers, who broke the ground & built up communities, whose names will never be known. He also of the many unknown, unheralded Christians who have been faithful in doing the Lord's works. We all need to be faithful where we are and thus be counted among the faithful souls.

In this Hall of Fame we find also many who were as Paul called them - fellow-friends, who gave themselves, their very souls to minister. Paul was always encouraged by friends. A very touching story is told by Dr. Stidger about his early ministry of such a friendship. He was appointed to a church in San Jose, Cal. He was very young and a bit nervous about his first sermon. He walked into the study of the church for a few moments of quiet. The sexton happened to be there & said; Mr. Crumming, a prominent layman was in the study this morning. I came in to brush up & found him on his knees besides your chair praying. I apologized & he said; "I was just offering prayer for our preacher. I asked God to bless him as he sits in this chair, preparing his sermons for us." Here was a fellow-friend. O that more preachers and pastors has those kind of friends. All of us need to be friends. You recall, for thus U.N. Sunday the poem by Foss "The House by the Side of the Road," in which he writes; "Let me live in a house by the side of the road, where the race of men go by- Let me live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend to men."