

The Gospel Witness

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

IN THE INTEREST OF JARVIS STREET BAPTIST
CHURCH, TORONTO, AND OF EVANGELICAL TRUTH.

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PASTOR AND EDITOR

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ." Romans 1: 16.

SATURDAY, MAY 27th, 1922

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THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS.

EVERYONE will admit that we sometimes have warm weather in Canada, weather which makes one feel like taking life as comfortably as possible.

And because of this, the churches have fallen into the habit of relaxing their efforts, and settling down upon the assumption that they cannot do more than mark time during the hot weather. The fact is, however, that while everybody endeavors to find some relaxation from the ordinary strain of life during this season, business is not allowed to cease, the factories continue to operate, the stores keep open, the street cars run as usual, water still flows from the tap, and the light still streams from the electric bulbs—in fact, the work-a-day world keeps on working.

Last summer we learned a little of the possibilities of summer-time evangelism in Toronto. Conditions were more difficult for Jarvis Street then than now. What shall we do this summer? Many, no doubt, will go away for a part of the time; but an army will remain. Shall we dedicate these months to the most earnest efforts we have ever made to give the gospel to the thousands in this city who never go to church? In this the Gospel Car will be of great assistance. While we shall continue to hold our three weekly meetings in the church, we hope that many will be willing to spend other evenings—Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, going to different parts of the city where the people gather, spending the whole evening preaching the Gospel.

This will have the effect of setting the way of salvation before the people, and many will be converted. But it will have the further effect of indirectly advertising our services. People instinctively feel that if the Gospel is of such value as we say it is, we ought to be more energetic in selling our wares. Let us prove our faith by our works, by being at it, and all at it, and always at it. The work will require money. Not very much; but enough to buy gasoline and oil, and to pay for Gospel tracts, and other incidentals. If all who read these words would put twenty-five or fifty cents or one dollar "For Open-Air Work" in an envelope on the plate, we should have plenty for our immediate need.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "HOME MISSIONS"?

We have so many new members that it may be wise to give some information as to how the Denomination carries on its work. Every Baptist church is an independent body. It is a little democracy in which every member has a vote, and its affairs are determined by the vote of the majority. Of course it is assumed that every member seeks to know the will of God, and to be directed by the teachings of His word. But what we mean is, that a Baptist church is not subject to any outside authority. Baptist churches, however, are associated for purposes of co-operation in the Lord's work. The Convention is composed of delegates from the churches. That Convention elects certain Boards, such as the Home Mission Board, and the Foreign Mission Board, and these Boards are entrusted with the administration of the funds collected by the churches for missionary purposes.

By "Home Missions" we mean the collective effort of all the Baptist churches of our Convention, as represented by the work of the Home Mission Board, to establish new Baptist churches where opportunities offer; and to assist such churches with funds until they become strong enough to support themselves. Members of Jarvis Street know how large a place the church occupies in their lives. The Gospel we love we must preach to others. We therefore urge all our new members to take the cause of Baptist Home Missions to heart. During the last twelve months the work has been full of encouragement. The ministry of our noble band of Home Mission Pastors has been fruitful in many conversions. They have been assisted in various places by our faithful evangelists, Rev. W. A. and Mrs. Gunton (greatly loved in Jarvis Street), Rev. Alex. and Mrs. Torrey and Gypsy Hawkins. The efforts of all these have been richly blessed. Twenty-two and a half per cent. of all that is given by this church in its weekly offering for Missions goes to the support of our Home Mission work. If you are not a weekly contributor to Missions begin today. In any case, give a place to Home Missions in your prayers.

REV. C. H. SCHUTT, M.A.

Jarvis St. heartily welcomes the Superintendent of Home Missions to its pulpit to-day, both for his own sake and for the sake of the great work he represents. We assure him of our interest in his work, and also of our earnest prayers for the complete recovery of Mrs. Schutt.

"WE ALSO BELIEVE, AND THEREFORE SPEAK."

The Settlement of our Pastors, Anniversaries of our churches, and the undertaking of new tasks by the churches, may well be made occasions of reaffirmation of our faith in its spirit and content. Power comes from conviction, and conviction comes from the Holy Spirit who takes the things of Christ and shows them unto us. To give ourselves anew to God is to lay hold on Him who is the Author and Finisher of our Salvation; and it is also to lay hold of one another's faith. On such occasions the new light turns to love, and the love turns to power.

Some of our brethren in the United States seem scared to the verge of insanity when it is proposed to stand up and affirm our confidence in the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. Why should we be ashamed of Jesus? We have not served Him so long as Polycarp had, but He has never denied us. If we deny Him He cannot but deny us. Deny Him! No! Let us also go with Him, even if we die with Him.

The Jarvis Street Pulpit

"Joy cometh in the morning."—Psalm 30:5.

What are the characteristics of the Angel of Joy? With whom does she consort? How does she minister to human worth and character? What does she accomplish of enduring value when she "cometh in the morning?"

1. Let us examine **Some of the Characteristics of True Joy.** Joy is always to be distinguished from the fair but fickle sprite called Mirth. Mirth has a melodious voice, but it is of a very light quality, and is unequal to any deep-toned hymn of praise. Her eyes are full of laughter; her mouth betrays a bewitching sense of humor; and her tongue is always trilling some light and lilting song. She is a gay companion for those who are seeking pastimes, for her feet are swift and airy; they are never long in one place; and when Mirth has passed, she does not leave even an enduring footprint behind her. But Joy has a voice of great compass, and of high quality. She can sing as lightly and blithely as Mirth with little children, and on appropriate occasions; but she shows her full powers and the direction of her desires when participating in some glorious oratorio. Her eyes are full of laughter, too; but it is of a deeper and richer quality—they are wells of satisfaction, worlds of unmixed delight. Joy's mouth is made for smiling, and for gracious words, and for the speech of unfailing friendship. She, too, is roe-like in her coming; she can be "like a roe or a young hart on the mountain of Bethel;" but coming early in the morning it is her pleasure to abide even after the sun is down. Joy is therefore stronger than Mirth, and more constant in her ministry.

Another distinguishing feature of this good angel consists in the fact that **her character is rooted in her nature.** Nature is a stronger and deeper word than character. Character is abiding; it is that which is cut or engraved; but it may be made up of that which is natural and acquired. Nature involves the essence of things. The leopard's spots, and the Ethiopian's skin, are the marks, not of character, but of nature. Thus a character which is laboriously built up of natural and acquired qualities, may be overthrown by a sudden eruption of an underlying nature.

Like smiling vineyards on the slopes of a quiescent volcano Mirth may fill the air with rollicking laughter, where only fear and trembling would be the appropriate attitude of soul. But there is no lava beneath the laughter of Joy! Her everlasting songs echo from the everlasting hills. Her character, her outward form, is but the expression of her real nature, of what she is essentially. Or to change the figure, Joy is not a manufactured thing, an artificial production. Joy is a fruit, "The fruit of the Spirit is Joy." Therefore Joy is intimately related to life. It is not physical only,—the exhilaration of a motor ride is not joy. Nor is it mental only. The man of science finds in his discovery intense delight as an intellectual achievement; but he does not find joy. Joy in its fullest meaning is moral. "As the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool." Such is not the laughter of Joy. Joy finds her being, her life, and movement, in right relations. This is the genesis of Joy: "These things have I spoken unto you that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

Thus we may say of Joy as of Hope, that she is an angel of God, and comes to us from the mountains of Bether, and from the place called Calvary. When sinners repent "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God;" for repentance is the beginning of a new nature from which joy springs.

It is characteristic of Joy that her ministry is sometimes exercised in silence. I have already said that she has a rich voice and an eloquent tongue. When Joy sings or speaks all ears are attentive. But she is more than a singing or a talking angel. She loves to be the companion of quiet hours. Sometimes she waits upon a book of holy thoughts and high desires. And he who draws water out of the wells of salvation which are found in the Book of books will always do it "with joy." When faith, like Eliezer, draws near to the well-side, this angel, like Rebekah, is always waiting to let down her pitcher for him to drink. And it is well for us to reflect that there is a deeper satisfaction of soul than the lips can express; that there is a heaven of silence as well as of speech; a joy of meditation as well as a joy of action; a joy of growth as well as a joy of planting; a joy of progress as well as a joy of culmination.

And Joy comes often as a silent angel to witness and assist the souls' commerce with the skies; to share the souls' revel in the spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. There is a joy which is "unspeakable and full of glory."

Another characteristic of this angel is that her visits are sometimes as secret as they are silent. This queen does not always raise the royal standard when she is in residence. It is true that the heart knoweth its own bitterness, and it is also true that "a stranger doth not intermeddle with its joys." The angel of Joy exercises her ministry to the individual, and often displays her greatest powers when none but God is near. When we were younger, and had had less experience of life, we were disposed to estimate religious joy by the volume of its expression; but now most of us have learned that the real springs of life are secret; that the costliest gems are not displayed in the jewellers' window; that the tenderest words are not spoken in the market place; that the hardest lessons are learned in solitude; the most effectual prayers are breathed within the closet; and the deepest joys are found in the secret of the tabernacle of the Most-High.

In this day when people are disposed to live in houses without blinds; to read what books they read aloud and in the public view; and to nourish their religious life only on public religious exercises, I commend to you the ministry of this sometimes silent and secret angel of Joy.

But I might continue my recital of Joy's characteristics almost indefinitely. I might speak of the suddenness of her appearances; of how her storehouses like Joseph's, though long in filling are suddenly thrown open; of how her coming is sometimes, as to Sarah and Abraham, long foretold by Faith and Patience; but time forbids. Only remember, she is an angel of God; she is not like Mirth, of fickle, fleeting, temperament; she is never superficial, she is often silent and secret in her ministry, but that she makes one to rejoice in order to bring gladness to the multitude.

II. Let us now enquire WITH WHOM THIS GOOD ANGEL CON-SORTS. "Birds of a feather flock together;" and the same is true of angels and of principles. There are moral as well as temperamental incompatibilities. Isaac and Ishmael will not long dwell together; and it is inevitable that Jacob

and Esau should some day come to the parting of the ways. There are certain plants which may grow together to their mutual profit, and there are certain flowers, which, without deterioration, may bloom together in the same garden. And the same is true of moral principles and of spiritual graces.

The angel of Joy is careful of her company; and there are places, and principles, and persons, with which she will have nothing to do.

The angel of Joy will never consort with "the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience;" nor with those who walk according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air. I have said that Joy finds her very life and being in right relations; therefore to wait upon the children of disobedience would be her own destruction. The spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience is a spirit of carnal pleasure of intellectual pride, of worldly wisdom; and often stimulates the voice, and puts on the robes of Joy; but in fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind there is no true joy. Joy never dwells where the divine law is infringed; and the disobedient, therefore, are denied this angel's ministry.

Nor does this angel ever attend the steps of the unbelieving. Unbelief chooses to travel by night. It prefers a fire-fly to an angel, and the phosphorescence of decay to the light of the promise of immortality. But the angel of Joy attends the pilgrimage of those who follow the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud, and whose eyes behold the land that is very far off.

There is a resemblance between Hope and Faith. They are twin angels and we have found them to be so in our own experiences. But you will readily recognize that Joy is a kindred spirit to these two, and that all three are related to the sweet angel of Peace. Here is a group picture: "Now the God of hope, fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." Hope, Joy, Peace, Faith, all working in concert that Hope may abound, and all servants of the Holy Ghost. Hope and Faith are closely related, and the angel of Joy is related to both, and to Peace. Peace is not a pioneer, she gathers out no stones, and casts up no highways. She is a gentle minister, of sweet and soothing presence, and always follows in the wake of sturdy and heroic Faith, and provides in her all-pervading presence the earnest of Hope's great expectations. But Joy is no more a pathfinder than Peace. Joy is a follower and supporter, rather than a leader. It is the part of Joy to admire the exploits of Faith; hence she never parts company with Faith. It is equally her mission to exhibit the excellencies of Peace; therefore Joy is inseparable from Peace, and Peace from Joy; and Peace may dwell in the heart of Joy even in times of battle and of war. And it is the function of Joy to make Hope's resplendent anticipations the theme of all her songs; she is, indeed, Hope's own laureate to sing her praises, that Hope may abound. Thus you see you cannot have Hope without Joy; and you cannot have Joy without Peace; and you cannot have either without Faith. These four consort together, and minister to us only through the power of the Holy Ghost.

But I should miss a very important aspect of my subject were I to fail to point out that this angel often comes to us disguised. She came disguised as a jailer to Joseph; and when she had wrought her will with him, she put a gold chain about his neck, and a ring on his hand, and crowned him with honor. And when she had thrown off her robes, he saw that the keeper of the prison had been the angel of Joy! She came in the guise of gaunt Famine,

(attended by Bereavement to Jacob.) But in due time, surrounded by his family, he saw that the angel of Joy had redeemed him from all evil. To Mordecai she came clothed with the sackcloth of neglect, and her head covered with the ashes of ingratitude. But, anon, arraying him in purple, and putting the crown royal upon his head, she led him on the king's horse through the city, proclaiming, "Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the King delighteth to honor."

And still she comes to us in strange garments. As the angel of pain we behold her; as the angel of sorrow we shrink from her; even as the angel of death she sometimes appears to us. But still behind the veil the smiling face of Joy awaits disclosure.

"When rises first the flush of hope,
The saddest heart can sing;
Yet not, for this alone, my soul,
Thy cheerful praises bring.

"Are there no hours of conflict fierce,
No heavy toils and pains,
No watchings and no weariness,
That bring their precious gains?

"O could we once believe the prayer,
Our lips repeat in vain,
Then, as of old, we should be still,
And "walk with God" again.

"And sorrow's face would be unveiled,
And we at last should see
Her eyes are eyes of tenderness;
Her speech but echoes Thee."

The angel of Joy is the inseparable companion of duty. And the path of duty seldom lies, in this present life, along streets of gold, and while "green pastures" are touched here and there as resting places, the paths of righteousness are often steep and stony, and lie through an enemy's country. But these angels I have spoken of never fail to keep the dutiful soul company all the way.

And whoever treads the path of duty with Faith in Him who died, and at Peace with Him Who lives, with Hope in Him Who reigns, and Who will come again, shall not fail of the ministry of the angel of Joy.

"Since all that I meet
Shall work for my good,
The bitter is sweet,
The medicine food;
Though painful at present,
'Twill cease before long;
And then, O how pleasant,
The Conqueror's song."

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER

Acadia as well as McMaster.

It is announced that Rev. Dr. Cutten, President of Acadia University, Wolfville, N. S., has been elected President of Colgate University, Hamilton, New York. The Acadia Governors have upon them a serious task in considering the proposed amalgamation of all the universities in the Maritime Provinces. They may have also to find a new President.

McMaster is studying the question of removal to Hamilton, and has also the responsibility of filling the vacant Chancellorship.

Last week we asked our readers to pray for McMaster. We now urge them to include Acadia in their supplications. The future of Canadian Baptists is to a large degree involved in the history of Acadia and McMaster. May these schools have the light and learning that come from our Lord Who is the Light of the world and its only Redeemer.

The Associations.

Our Associations will in a few days hold their annual meetings. The Toronto Association meets with the St. John's Road church, June 6-8. In the New Testament church history we find each church responsible to its Lord and Saviour in its worship and service. We also see clearly the fellowship of the Spirit, and the sharing of burdens for the spread of the Gospel. Our Associations provide for development of this spirit. Let prayer be offered for these assemblies in their deliberations and decisions. Peace be upon Israel,—the peace that means prosperity and progress. Jesus said, "My peace give I unto you."

Our Own Immediate Need.

Let us never forget that only as we do "everything by prayer" can we have spiritual success. May we ceaselessly pray down God's blessing upon all we attempt in His name in this church.

CHURCH NEWS.

The Gospel Car made its first trip last Sunday afternoon. It had twenty passengers, and three motor cars followed its going abroad. There was much singing, plain preaching, and testifying to the power of divine grace. Thousands must have seen the texts on the side of the car, and many hundreds heard the testimony of those who spoke from its platform. Sunday was a fine beginning.

Mr. A. W. Record our beloved church Treasurer has found it necessary to go away for a rest. We trust that a few weeks of quiet, and of relief from the strenuous life he has lived, will restore him to his old-time vigor. He will be greatly missed during his absence; but we assure him that we shall remember him in prayer continually. Deacon Greenway has been authorized by the Prudential and Finance Committee to act as Deputy Treasurer while Mr. Record is away.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Women's Mission Circle.

The regular monthly meeting of the Women's Home and Foreign Mission Circle will be held in the church parlor, Thursday, at 3 p.m. Mrs. E. J. Zavitz will speak on Foreign Missions. Mrs. Zavitz is a member of our Women's Baptist Foreign Mission Board of Ontario. She will be sure to bring us a message of information and inspiration. All the women of the church and congregation, whether members of the Circle or not, are earnestly requested to be present. As this is the last meeting until September collectors are requested to obtain from their contributors, if possible, the missionary money due for July and August, as well as for June, and hand it to the Treasurer at the meeting.

Open-Air Work.

The Gospel Car will leave the church for service with Rev. A. E. Brownlee, B.A. in charge, and Mr. Howard Staples as driver, at 4.30, Sunday afternoon. All who are ready to help are invited, and those who have cars are urged to accompany the car, carrying as many passengers as possible.

Next Sunday's Communion Service.

The monthly Communion will be held next Sunday evening. We would remind our members of the collection for the poor taken at the service.

The serious illness of one of our beneficiaries has made an extra drain upon our Communion Fund of \$120.00 and we therefore invite the most generous offering next Sunday.

JARVIS STREET CHURCH DIRECTORY.

T. T. SHIELDS, Pastor, 72 Lowther Avenue. Tel., Hill. 563.
A. W. RECORD, Treasurer, 41 Victor Avenue. Tel., Ger. 5273.
VIOET STOAKLEY, Church Clerk and Office Secretary. Tel., M. 5670.
WILLIAM FRASER, Pastor's Secretary, 64 St. Alban's Street. Tel., N. 5714.
C. LEONARD PENNEY, Director of Music, 2 Birch Ave. Tel., Ken. 5223W.
W. J. HUTCHINSON, S. S. Superintendent, 295 George Street. Tel., M. 3321.

The Church Calendar

For the week beginning Sunday, May 28, 1922.

SUNDAY

10.00—Prayer Service in the Church Parlor, conducted by Mr. George Greenway.

10.30—Communion Service in the Church Parlor.

11.00—Public Worship. Rev. C. H. Schutt, M.A., will preach.

3.00—The Bible School will meet.

Lesson for the day: Jeremiah speaks boldly for God. Jer. 26: 1-13.

4.30—Open-Air Work with the Gospel Car, starting from Jarvis Street Church.

3.00—The Parliament Street Bible School, at 250 Parliament Street.

7.00—Public Worship. The Pastor will preach.

Evangelistic Service at Parliament Street Branch, conducted by Mr. W. L. McKay.

MONDAY—8.00—Prayer Service in the Parlor.

WEDNESDAY—8.00—Prayer Service in the Lecture Hall.

FRIDAY—8.00—Choir Rehearsal.

SATURDAY—8.00—Prayer Service.