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The Road to Damascus and after.

(Convention Address)

“I count all things hut loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.” Phil. 3:8.

THE account of Paul’s experiences on the way to Damascus is given three times in the book of Acts, so it must have been important. We have three versions of the same thing. Firstly Luke gives us the account, then Paul himself tells it to the Jews, then later on to King Agrippa.

We have no new message ‘to give, but have a few questions to ask, just as Saul had a few questions knocking at his brain. The answer to those questions is going to be consoling, or is going to be worrying: It is a retrospective view of this way that we are going to examine, and a few lines are appropriate to it

“It is good to remember the way He hath led us,
To view once again both the track and the road—
To rest on the fact that unfailing He fed us,
A faithful and loving, compassionate God.

“It is good to remember that He Himself brought us
Through all of Life’s trying road up to this day—
Forgave us our sins and our blunders, and taught us
To cleave unto Him and make Him our stay.”

The Apostle never ceased giving praise to God for His leadings, and expressed wonder that such a man as he should see the light which struck him down on the way to Damascus.

There is a great similarity between Paul’s day and our day; similar issues seem to be alive and very vital to our interests—and not only our interests, but those of honest people everywhere:— those in positions of authority, the Jews to whom Paul was preaching, King Agrippa, and especially the followers of Christ. This has been a great problem all through the age, but it was particularly striking at that time. It began, really, with John the Baptist, this great question mark that each one will have to answer. It will throb away and each will have to answer, and give an account, as it were—“What think ye of Christ?”

John the Baptist came preaching repentance, and baptizing, and pointing out the Messiah, and his own experiences became more and more strenuous until finally he was beheaded. But he was pleased, as it were, to take the place of the friend of the Bridegroom, and direct his disciples into the Bridegroom’s arms. He willingly gave up his disciples to follow the Lamb of God, so that they might become the Bride of Christ.

Now Jesus really took up this great question in His preaching and ministrations as He journeyed throughout the coasts of that country, for it was particularly, shall we say, vital to His interests. Jesus himself said to His disciples, “Whom say men that I

am?" That was the big question of that day. They said, "Some say you are John the Baptist, or Elijah, or Jeremiah, or one of the Prophets." But not the Messiah. He was not very concerned about that—"But whom say ye that I am?" The same question was put to two different sets of people. "Whom say ye that I am?" Peter gave the answer that He was the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and the Lord said that flesh and blood had not revealed this to him, but the Father. That confirms, as it were, what Paul says in this passage we have under discussion, the light that struck him down was not natural light. He did not receive it from men's hands or ministrations, but it was a direct intervention on the part of God.

It is the same direct question that hits at the understanding of all creatures at some time, and we are particularly favoured to be able to give it some consideration. "What think ye of Christ?"

We have other illustrations. Nicodemus was an honest man, well-intentioned; he came to the Lord and asked certain questions. He addressed Him as Rabbi, and acknowledged that Christ could not do these things unless He were the Son of God. But Nicodemus could not exactly leave the respectability of the order of that day and follow Him; yet we see the good intentions of Nicodemus. The Lord gave him the answers to his problems. We do not know how he finished up eventually, but we have reason to believe that Nicodemus saw much of that which our Lord tried to instruct him that night.

Then there was the Ethiopian. "Does this refer to Christ, or to some other man?" At the end of that Age the same question was on all lips. It all centred around the words, "What think ye of Christ?" That is the big thing today. It is knocking at the hearts of all people everywhere. It is knocking two ways, either condemning the error or elevating the truth.

That was at the first advent. It is so much like a fairy story—Once upon a time there was a wicked man named Saul. But we know it is true, because the same thing has happened to us. If we are going to be of assistance to anyone, or everyone, we want to help them along this Damascus road. The point of which we want to enquire is, What part of that road are you on? Are you still going to Damascus, or are you on the "after" part? Are you still, as it were, the persecutor, or are you now the persecuted? There are two camps today. Which are you in?

We have to decide this thing sooner or later. It is best to be on the right road, though it may bring much persecution and troubles. But it is going to be worth it, friends. We are to have a joy and peace that nothing can buy, and better still, nothing will take away. There is a message about it too, just like Paul's on helping the brethren. There were not many, just companies like ourselves. The people he was persecuting were people like ourselves, who wanted to gather on the Sabbath; they often went out to a stream, where prayer was wont to be made. They were little companies seeking to please the Lord. They were querying about their own conduct and efficiency as God's ministers, and desiring to improve in those respects and not misrepresent God himself. The Apostle John said, "We have the assurance that if we love the brethren we have passed from death to life." But God has chosen certain people—no-one can do this without it is God-given. So the men Saul would stone today he lays down his life for tomorrow.

Now we would like to draw your attention to the persecuted and the persecutors. You might say that you would never be like Saul. No. But there were many men behind Saul, behind the scenes, giving him that authority, that impetus and encouragement to persecute in this way. He had been encouraged in this nefarious conduct of stamping out the Christians. But there was one peculiar thing about Saul; he was honest; he was sincere. Honest men may be tricked for a time, but they watch their actions, they have their eye on the road, and ask themselves, "Is this right?"

So Saul heard the voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" and he answered, "Who art thou, Lord?" "Jesus of Nazareth." Saul was persecuting the Lord himself. Not exactly in a personal way, but we remember Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these ye have done it to me." It is given to us to consider these things, sometimes possibly before we are worthy of Them.

Have you considered the bindings, how everyone is being bound today in something? That body of Scribes and Pharisees who were doing the binding into bundles in that far-off day, thought they had in Saul a pretty good vessel for their purpose. And what a terrible thing it was he did! He tells us himself that he "spoiled the Lord's church." Many had good, peaceful aspirations, nothing but love in their hearts, and he spoiled them. He says he was the chiefest of sinners. Friends, we too, must hammer it out once more. What side are we on? Persecuted? Persecutors?

Now you say, I was not like Saul, I did not do those terrible things. Did we give some little support and direction?

It is the same thing. Perhaps somebody else was doing the persecuting. And do you know what it amounts to? Roughness and smoothness. Are you making the road smooth or rougher for someone? You must answer the question yourself, the same as I have to. If you can say in all sincerity that you desire that it should be smoother, and that you have a good conscience, you have passed Damascus. If you cannot, you still can hear the voice. "Lord, what hast thou for me to do?" "It will be told you what to do," You do not need me to tell you. That little voice will tell you what to do. It is the answer to that great question.

What a similarity there is between those days and this! There are not many of us. "What think ye of Christ?" It is the problem of

the age, and of the day. As it was in the end of that age, so in this. It has to be answered. There is no running away from it. It begins with individuals, it comes into companies, it goes to nations and then it becomes an international question. We want our affairs, our loves, hopes and joys not to be confined to just you and me, but to all. Shall we begin with those in our own town? We can then extend to those of other towns in our own land. The love of Christ will abound more and more. If we can do that, we will reach others of other lands, and we will not be ashamed of them as brethren.

The Lord did not say, You are not worthy to be my disciple. No. Him whom the Father draws I will in no wise cast out. It is for us, too. Him whom the Father draws in this company, it is not for us to question.

Now friends, we have a job before us of smoothing out the road or making it rougher. What are you going to do?

Are you on the way to Damascus, or after?

As we go about our business we can see these questions hammered, we won't say in so many words, but in so many principles, in so many ways of conduct. We know we come short, but that is not our intention, is not our desire. We want to grasp the opportunities that arise through the various circumstances of ministering, where we can, in whatever way is possible, to the Lord's people, irrespective of who they are and of who it offends. We are not to persecute anybody. Stephen was persecuted, then Paul.

This question, after the Church is gone, will be for the benefit of humanity. Then they will be delivered from the corruption of selfishness, pride, hatred, strife and envying etc., as the question of "What think ye of Christ" is faced and answered as it should be. They cannot solve the problem today. It needs faithfulness and staunchness on our part to see that we carry out our ministry. We cannot do much, yet we can inspire one another and direct one another's thoughts to the Word and to the Throne of Grace. We are all pleased to receive this grace. We know our failures. But we are not too pleased when our brethren exhibit the same failings. We might speak a little ill of them, and condemn them. But if we were in the same position, we might be a hundred times worse. So it is not for us to stand over our brethren in any way at all.

We will be able to assist one another. You will be surprised, when you think of it.' I have discovered myself how far a little thing can go, just a word of comfort and cheer in the right way and spoken in truth and sincerity. You do not need to travel, you have all the problems right with you, and you will find everywhere the same sort of people as we have here, with the same difficulties and problems, and the same answers are applicable to them.

Don't forget. Persecuted? or Persecutors? Well, God has done His work, let us do ours!

''PEOPLES PAPER AND HERALD OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM.

(Monthly) 4/- (80 cents) per annum, post paid,

Published by the Berean Bible Institute, 19 Ermington Place, Kew, E4, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

While it is our intention that these columns be used for teachings strictly in accord with the Lord's Word, we cannot accept responsibility for every expression used, either in the correspondence or in the sermons reported.

A Cross (x) on the wrapper indicates that the Subscription to "Peoples Paper" is overdue.

General Report Berean Bible Institute

IN presenting another report briefly covering the work of the Berean Bible Institute and including the Balance Sheet of the General Tract Fund for the twelve months to the end of April last, we again wish to express much thankfulness to the Lord for His favours and guidance manifest upon the efforts of all dear friends who have co-operated in this service of the truth throughout another year. It is most encouraging and due appreciation is expressed to many of our friends who render such willing assistance in the work carried on from the Institute, and as all is undertaken voluntarily no doubt it is accepted of the Lord as done unto Himself.

Our monthly publication "Peoples Paper and Herald of Christ's Kingdom" continues to provide a regular contact with our brethren and friends over a wide area, and appreciative remarks from readers give evidence that the messages from its pages provide spiritual food and encouragement to many in the Christian way, by the Lord's grace. We are grateful to our brethren who contribute to the columns of "Peoples Paper" by the addresses given at Conventions etc., and are always ready to consider articles submitted by friends from time to time. Since the notification given in March and April issues of the increase in subscription rates to "Peoples Paper" from 3/- to 4/- per year, made necessary by the extra cost of production, even greater increases in costs are in evidence, and those friends who obtain new subscribers or forward subscriptions for others are assisting greatly the publication of the "Paper." While the deficiency to cover the cost of "Peoples Paper" made up by the General Tract Fund over the year past was no greater than in former times, yet in the months ahead the full increase in costs will apply for each issue. However, as numbers of the "Paper" are distributed free each month to those who apply for literature, it is felt that the extra cost above the subscriptions is well used in the service of the Lord.

Free tracts and Kingdom Cards have been supplied in some quantities to various friends who are alert to the opportunities of witnessing for the truth, and the work with the Consolation Cards has been encouraging over the year past again, as many bereaved have been helped with the literature as a result of receiving these cards through the post. Other friends who can use the tracts or cards to advantage should apply for these.

Public lectures have been continued throughout the year and some new friends have been assisted by these meetings to a clearer and fuller appreciation of the truth. The messages at these public meetings have been arranged to provide encouragement in the narrow way for the brethren as well as enlightenment and help for those coming to a knowledge and appreciation of the plan of redemption. Where-ever possible gatherings of this kind should surely be continued by those with talent and opportunities for service in this way.

Quantities of books and booklets are continually going out to various parts of the harvest field, and it is hoped to produce further supplies in the months ahead of some which have been out of print of late, A new edition of "Poems of Dawn" and "The Ten Camels" will receive attention as early as possible, and it is hoped to provide again the valuable work "The Bible Teachings on the Covenants etc.," before the end of this year. It is expected that the booklet on "The Manner of Christ's Return" comprising the articles on this subject which have appeared in "Peoples Paper" will be printed in a few weeks; further reference to this will be found in this issue. Good supplies of the very helpful booklet "Plan of God—in Brief" are on hand, and this is a most suitable work for general distribution. We shall be glad to hear from friends able to devote some time to colporteur work with the literature.

From the General Tract Fund below the assistance to the general work and the expenses: met are shown. The voluntary contributions indicate the willing sacrifices on the part of many of the brethren by which under the Lord's providence, the work is carried on. All expenses have been covered throughout the year past and the small balance is carried forward into the new term.

Looking forward to the days ahead it is with confidence and trust in the Lord as we seek to fulfil our privileges and opportunities in the service of His truth. World conditions more than ever impress the fact that "the night is far spent and the day is at hand," and the momentous happenings should but stimulate the faith and zeal of God's people to perform, all His good pleasure, both as respects their own welfare and the encouragement of other members in Christ. Once again it is requested that the dear friends everywhere remember in prayer the work being carried on, that God's blessing and oversight may be in evidence and His guidance realised in all things, to His praise. The words of the faithful Apostle in Heb. 6:10, 11, surely apply as truly today to the Lord's people as when written—"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end."

General Tract Fund.		
To Credit Balance. 1st May, 1947 ...	£215	6
Donations ..	3285	0
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	£3310	6
Bv Free Books and Booklets . .	£89	6
Free Tracts and Deficiency "Peoples Paper"	745	11
Advertising. Hall Rents, Circulars .	272	6
Pilgrim Work. Travel. Sundries	190	2
Towards Personal and House Exnense	1300	0
General Expenses (Office, etc.) ..	311	11
Postage . . .	3411	1
Consolation Cards	47	6
Balance . . .	26	11
	<hr/>	
	£3310	6

The Radio Work.

WITNESSING to the truths of God's word by means of the radio continues to be an effectual means: of reaching those people who are sincerely desirous of knowing of the wonderful plan of salvation through Christ, and this feature of the work carried on from the Institute has been blessed by God also throughout another year, for which gratitude is again gladly expressed to the Lord of the Harvest.

There has been no change in radio stations over the year past, and 3GL Geelong (Vic.) and 2KY Sydney continue to give good service and are reaching listeners over a considerable area. The friends in Perth have also continued with the same witness through 6KY for the benefit of those who may be found with ears to hear in that locality.

It is most encouraging to find that quite a number of radio listeners are now rejoicing in the full knowledge and appreciation of the truth. The advantage of offering the printed copies of each broadcast after the sessions has been well demonstrated again over the year just completed, as considerable numbers have been supplied to appreciative listeners, together with other literature. Quantities of the printed Dialogues are also mailed each month with the "Peoples Paper" to many of our friends, and these copies are used as tracts for distribution where good may be done.

The radio cards for advertising the broadcasts have been used by a number of workers throughout the year and this is an effective means of reaching those who have a desire for spiritual things. Friends who can use these cards in the areas where the broadcasts are heard are advised to apply for supplies which are made available from the Radio Fund. Some advertising in papers has been undertaken also, and we are glad of the co-operation shown in this respect by those who make use of papers in their own localities.

The financial assistance to enable this witness work to continue has been very well maintained by the voluntary donations received, and in this respect it is realised also that much sacrifice is indicated in the good amount listed for this branch of the truth service. After meeting all expenses the credit of 1 70/6/2 is carried over into the new term.

It will be appreciated if our brethren will join in prayer for this witness of the truth, that in these last days the Lord's blessing may also attend the message of His truth in this form, that still others may hear and appreciate the joyful sound and be brought to the Lord in accordance with His good will. "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold, not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." (Eccles. 11 :6.) .

Radio Fund.

To Credit Balance,	1 1 513	1
1st May, 1947 ..		
„ Donations ..	444	12 6
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	1 460	5 7
By Radio Stations-3GL Victoria, and N. S.2KY		
„ Recordings and Freight ..	6	0
Recording Needle ..	262	9
„ Printing Quantities of Dialogues	26	0
„ Extra Paper for Dialogues ..	27	12 6
Radio Cards. Advertising. etc. .	113	6
Travel and Sundries ..	177	6
„ Bank Charges ..	518	10
„ Credit Balance at 1st May, 1948	12	4
	706	2
	<hr/>	
	1 460	5 7

Booklet—Manner of Christ’s Return.

As announced last month it is proposed to print in booklet form the articles which have appeared in the “Peoples Paper” under the above title. The orders already received are appreciated, and we shall be pleased to hear from other friends desiring copies when they are ready. The price will be announced as soon as possible.

“The Plan of God—in Brief.”

A most helpful explanation of God’s Word, with Chart of the Ages. 104 pages; paper cover.

Explains the following :—The Bible Viewed in the Light of Reason ; The Development of the Divine Plan ; The Mystery Hid ; Our Lord’s Return ; The Permission of Evil ; The Day of Judgment ; Ransom and Restitution ; Natures Separate and Distinct ; The Three Ways ; The Kingdoms of This World ; The Kingdom of God ; The Day of Jehovah ; Concluding Thoughts.

These books supplied at 1/- per copy, or 6 copies for 5/- ; post paid.

Cards, Desolation—Restoration.

This poem is now available in post card size, in a variety of colours. Many of our friends will know the very helpful message it contains for the bereaved. It is also very useful in conveying the hope of salvation in a general way. It is supplied at 3 for 6d., 1/8 per dozen ; or 1/6 per dozen in 3 -dozen lots.

The Manner of Christ's Return

(Part 8. Continued from May Issue.)

SCOFFING FORETOLD.

HE Apostle Peter describes how some of the unfaithful servants and hypocrites will scoff during the presence of the Lord, even as they scoffed in they days of Noah. (2 Pet. 3:3, 4, 10,12.) Notice that the Apostle wrote to the Church, and that the scoffers he describes are in the nominal church and professedly interested in the Lord's work and plan, and believers, therefore, that He will come some time. The scoffing described is on the very subject here noticed, and such as we hear and shall hear from professed Christians, whenever the subject of the Lord's presence and harvest work, etc., is presented. Christians generally, until they investigate the subject, have such ideas of literal manifestations of fire, trumpets, voices, etc., and of seeing the Lord descending through the air, a shining body of flesh, that when they hear of His invisible presence, without taking time to investigate a subject upon which they feel so sure, busied with worldly plans, and intoxicated with the spirit of the world, they will dismiss the matter quickly as unworthy of investigation.

It is to this class of professed Christians that the Apostle refers, saying, "In the last days [in the closing years of the Gospel age—in the "harvest" shall come scoffers walking after their own, desires [plans, theories, etc., , asking, Where is the promise of his presence 1 parousia ? for ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as at present from the beginning of creation." When referred to our Lord's statement (Mat. 24:37-39; Luke 17:26) that in His days, in the days of His presence, things would indeed continue as before; and that, as in Noah's day, men would be eating, drinking, marrying, planting and building; and that, as then the world know not of His presence, and read not the signs of the speedy and great changes just at hand, they are too busy to consider the testimony carefully, and only continue to scoff.

Ah! says Peter, they forget the great change which occurred in the days of Noah; and then, under the symbol of fire, he describes the overwhelming flood of trouble which shall shortly overtake the whole world, utterly overthrowing all civil and ecclesiastical rule [the heavens] and melting the entire social fabric [the earth [—producing anarchy and social chaos until the new heavens [ruling powers—the Kingdom of God] shall be fully established, as well as a new earth [society organized on a new and better basis, of love, equality and righteousness].

In verse 10 he assures us that "the Day of the Lord will arrive [Greek, heko] as a thief" (Old Manuscripts omit here the words, "in the night.") [unobservedly, quietly: it will be present, while some are scoffing and smiting those fellow- servants who declare the truth] . The Apostle then exhorts the saints to separateness from the world; that they be not swallowed up by politics, money-getting, etc., but that they set their affections on higher things. He says, Seeing that in God's plan present earthly conditions are only temporary and will soon give place to the better order, what manner of persons ought we to be, in respect of holy conduct and piety?—'looking for the PRESENCE [paronsia] of the Day of God"--watching for the evidences (signs) to prove that it has come.

And, thanks be to God, His provision is so abundant that all those of piety, who are looking for that day, will know of it before the full bursting forth of the fire of wrath. Through Paul, He assures us that none of the children of the light will be left in darkness, that that day should come upon them unawares. (1 Thes. 5:4.) Hence, though we are already in the day of the Lord's presence, and in the beginning of the great fire of trouble, we see that it is even as shown us in symbol (Rev. 7:1, 2)—the storm is held in check until the faithful servants of God are "sealed in their foreheads:" i.e., until such are given an intellectual appreciation of the time, presence, etc., which will not only comfort them,, and shield them, but also be a mark, seal or evidence of their son-ship, as indicated by our Lord when He promised that the holy Spirit should show to the faithful "things to come."—John 16:13.

Some take Peter's statement literally, that "the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved and pass away with a great noise;" and also the Revelator's description of the same events, by a very similar symbol, "The heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together." It would seem, however, that one glance upward at the myriad gems of night shining through millions of miles of space, with nothing between to roll away, or to take fire, should 'be argument enough in one moment to convince such that they had erred in supposing these statements to be literal—should convince them that their expectation of a literal fulfilment is absurd in the extreme.

So, then, God veiled from mankind under figures of trumpets, voices, fire, etc., information (which was not for the worldly to know, but only for the "little flock" of consecrated saints) regarding the harvest, the Lord's presence, His spiritual kingdom etc.; and yet He arranged them so that, in due time, they would speak clearly and emphatically to the class for whom He intended the information. As at the first advent, so to a similar consecrated class it may now be said, in the time of the second advent—"Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God; but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables"—in figures and dark sayings—in order that, even though having the Bible before them, others than the consecrated may not really see and understand.—Mark 4:11, 12.

The world is not ignorant of the unprecedented events and circumstances of the present time, and their increasing noteworthiness with every passing year; but not perceiving the grand outcome, these only fill their minds with dark forebodings of evil. As foretold, they are in fear, looking forward to those things that are coming on earth; for already the powers of the heaven (the present ruling powers) are being shaken.

That the Lord must be present, and exercise His great power so as to dash the nations to pieces as a potter's vessel, is clearly indicated; for it is "in the days of these kings" that the God of heaven shall set up His Kingdom. And IT shall break in pieces and consume all these. (Dan. 2:44.) And in harmony with this, we see all about us evidence of the smiting, shaking and overturning of the present powers, preparatory to the establishment of the kingdom "which cannot be moved"—the strong government.

In these days of our Lord's presence, He has been verifying His promise to those in the proper attitude of watchfulness—"Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching: Verily, I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them." (Luke 12:37.)

Even so, He has opened unto us the Scriptures, showing us truth concerning His present glorious nature, the object, manner and time of His coming, and the character of His manifestations to the household of faith and to the world.

He has drawn our attention to the prophecies which definitely locate us on the stream of time, and has shown us the order of His plan of operations in this harvest time. He has shown us, first of all, that it is a harvest of the saints, a time for their full ripening, and for their separation from the tares; and secondly, that it is a time for the world to reap its whirlwind harvest—for the reaping of the vine of the earth, and the treading of its fruitage in the winepress of the wrath of Almighty God.

But the reader must not expect to have passages of Scripture pointed out in which these matters are plainly written. On the contrary, he must bear in mind that all these things have been hidden by the Lord, in such manner that they could not be understood or appreciated until the due time had come, and then only by His earnest, faithful children, who esteem truth as more precious than rubies, and who are willing to seek it as men search for silver. Truth, like silver, must be not only mined, but also refined, separated from dross, before its value can be appreciated. While many may prefer to take a statement without the trouble of verifying it from the Scriptures, this will not be the case with the real truth-seeker. He must, so far as possible, make every point, argument and proof his own, direct from God's Word, by tracing all the connections, and thus convincing himself of the truthfulness of the account presented.

Though the Lord provides it, and the servants bring forth the "meat in due season for the household," yet each, to be strengthened thereby, must eat for himself.

(Concluded)

Correspondence.

U.S.A.

Dear Brethren—Today, I borrowed a copy of “The Bible Teachings” published by you; I was very happy to know of its existence and of the wonderful teachings inscribed.

Although born of truth parents it was not until recently that I realised the wonderful opportunity and blessing bestowed upon us by our Lord to know of His wonderful plan of salvation to redeem mankind from Adamic sin.

I would very much like to receive a copy of my own and if additional copies are available I know the brethren would be very happy to have them to read and study. . . . Your book “Foregleams of the Golden Age” also I would like to have. I’d best put it this way, dear brethren; in whatever way you can help, no matter what it be, I would greatly appreciate any information on books for Bible students. The “Dawn” has the volumes and some leaflet literature, but books such as the previously mentioned are not printed; reasons probably are financial.

Thanking you one and all, I pray blessings to you and all the Lord’s obedient and self-sacrificing servants. Sincerely Yours.

P.S. Kindly remember us here in your prayers--at this time of great trouble our faith must be made steadfast to our Lord’s will.

(It is hoped to produce the book “The Bible Teachings on the Covenants, etc.” this year, notice of which will be given in “P. Paper.”—B.B. Institute.)

The following quotation is from an English friend:— I got my little batch of “Peoples Papers” last week and have enjoyed that first article “Have Faith in God.” It is indeed “a word in season,” and all from the Word of God, so simply given and yet so comprehensive and finishing with one of Francis Ridley Havergal’s beautiful little poems. It is a real joy to me to pass these “Peoples Papers” on, but I feel I would like to contribute to them but do not know how to do so.

Germany.

Dear Brethren in our Lord Jesus Christ—Don’t be so very much astonished to receive this letter from so far away. We here in Germany were so long time cut off from all, that we are so happy now for the possibility to correspond again with other countries.

We receive papers from America and feel so happy to experience the bond of love and the unity of His spirit that combines our Lord’s people all over the world. It’s so refreshing for us to receive “Manna,” the food for the spirit; you really can’t imagine what fun it was for us when the first paper came . . . We have been missing such “meat in due season” all that long bad time; we are really made happy.

I am only very young in the truth; I consecrated last year, and feel happy since as I did never before, and this happiness and satisfaction increases the more I understand the glorious plan of our great Father since I began to understand that He is love . . . It would do me so much good to hear from you; you would make me especially glad as there are no friends near me, dealing with me in the same hope and longing for that unity of the spirit and love we all are longing for as children of our great Father and brethren of our Elder Brother, Jesus Christ, whom we all love and whom we try to follow through this “time of trouble.”

Do you have own papers over there? . . . Have you anything good to read for us; we are in want of good papers as we can’t get any here interesting us. Night is becoming darker all over the world; time will not be far when all true saints who stayed true till the end shall be with our Lord and Master. O happiness, it is so wonderful what will await all who prove true unto death that _ sometimes I can’t grasp all, and yet we are told “the half was never told.”

I beg you all, brethren of Melbourne, to pray for me that our Lord might strengthen me, that I might grow in love and all what’s necessary to reach our high goal, that also I might be able to stand in those darker days we feel to be near. Do me the love to answer, I am eagerly looking forward to your letter. Are there many of us? Have you great classes? I would like to ask you so much and there would be so much to tell you about that bad war time and many other things.

I love you all who follow our Lord bearing their crosses and longing to come home into that house our Father is now preparing for all who earnestly follow our Master. My hearty greetings with warmest Christian love; Your young sister in the truth.

Victoria.

Dear Frank and Ernest, or whom it may concern—I just wish to thank you good people for posting me some literature. I phoned asking for a certain booklet, but you not only sent it but quite a few “Peoples Papers” for which I thank you and enjoyed very much. Enclosed is P.N. for 5/- and I would be glad if you could send me one monthly. The last you sent was this month’s (May’s). Thanking you in anticipation and may God bless your good work. I am, Yours faithfully.

Dear Sirs—I was very interested in your message given over the air last Sunday, and as there is still doubt in my mind concerning the state of the dead, due to many conflicting beliefs, would like to read the booklet “Hope Beyond the Grave.”

When possible I always listen with interest to these discussions on the radio, as it is my earnest desire to know more and more of the truth revealed in God’s Word. Thanking you in the Name of the Lord. Yours in Christ.

Dear Frank and Ernest, Dear Friends—We listen with very great pleasure to your interesting discussions on the Bible. We would like the booklet on the second coming of the Master; also a copy of today’s Dialogue. Thanking you; God bless you both.

Frank and Ernest, Dear Sirs—I would like to have a copy of your talk given last Sunday morning on “Christ’s Second Presence.” I enjoy very much your discussions on the Bible; they are very helpful; God bless you in your good work.

I don’t know whether there is any charge for these copies; if so, please inform me and I will willingly forward same to you. Thanking you in anticipation. Yours truly.

Berean Bible Institute, Dear Sirs—Please find enclosed postal note for 6/-. I would like 6 copies of “Hope Beyond the Grave” also 4/- subscription for “Peoples Paper.” I have enjoyed your broadcasts very much and like your explanations, but at present we have no wireless, but thank you for sending your “Paper,” as I have not been a subscriber before. I pray that your work will be richly Messed as it must be a blessing to many. Thanking you; Yours faithfully.

N. S. Wales.

Dear Brother—Warm Christian Greetings. Your letter came duly to hand also May “P.P.” and the accounts of the Memorial observances from various centres are very nice and helpful; truly the oneness of the holy spirit is manifested in the accounts.

I am enclosing a 10/- note to pay for the “P.P.” to be sent to the two enclosed addresses. These friends are anxious to become subscribers, having lately taken great interest in the precious truth; in fact we have started a little class at one of the homes. They are very earnest and anxious to know more of the deep things of God’s loving plan for the blessing of all mankind, and we have given them several Chart Talks on the Divine Plan. In fact at one of the meetings there were 14 present, the majority being C. of E. members who do not seem satisfied with the food they are getting and are taking note of the trend of world events.

As regards the proposed booklet on the “Manner of Christ’s Return” I will be pleased to have several copies; the 21- over cost of “PPs” keep towards same when ready. In conclusion may God’s blessing rest upon you all. Your Brother in Christ.

Dear Christian Friend—I have very much pleasure in enclosing you my overdue sub. for this year’s “P.P.” and a like amount for my next year’s subscription. The messages contained in the “P.P.” are truly very helpful, especially to such as myself in isolation. I must say some of the recent articles are very helpful, notably “The Manner of Christ’s Return.” If you have any fresh Frank and Ernest leaflets from time to time to spare I will be very pleased to read them and pass them on as occasion offers. These too to my mind are becoming particularly instructive. With kindest Christian regards; Your sincerely.

Frank and Ernest, Dear Sirs—I am greatly interested in your discussions over 2KY on Sunday mornings and would be pleased to receive a copy of them from the “Coming of Christ” to the discussion given to-day on the Lord’s reign on earth with His people. Thanking you; I remain, Yours faithfully.

South Australia.

Dear Frank and Ernest—Enclosed please find 10/- for renewal of subscription to “Peoples Paper.” I must apologise for not forwarding last month. Will you please also send “The- Development of the Divine Plan.” Thanking you for the helpful literature you have sent me. Sincerely.

Dear Friends—We thank you very much for papers you kindly forward from time to time; they are indeed a help as regards Bible studies. Enclosed you will find 10/- postal note for “Peoples Paper,” balance to use as you think best in forwarding the good work. Yours sincerely.

Western Australia.

Berean Bible Institute, Dear Christian Friends—My subscription is nearly due for “Peoples Paper.” I am enclosing a postal note for 5/- which is small enough. The last “P.P.” and Dialogues arrived a few days ago; thank you very much for sending them. I always look forward to their arrival as they are a means of comfort and enlightenment to me. Yours sincerely.

Queensland.

Dear Sir—Some months ago an old friend lent me some books and some old “Peoples Papers” and as I have a Bible I have been reading it quite a bit in connection with the books lent me, and I have become very interested in your church since that time.

I am enclosing postal note for 10/- which I hope will be sufficient for books—“Divine Plan of the Ages,” “Chosen People,” “Tabernacle Shadows,” and 2 “Daily Heavenly Manna.” If you have any leaflets that I could have to read I should be very much obliged as I rarely go to any church and do not even hear any wireless services. Trusting to receive parcel soon. I am, faithfully.

Tasmania.

Berean Bible Institute, Dear Sirs—I received your letter and papers a week or two ago and prior to that the Dialogues and booklets for which I wish to thank you; they were very helpful and instructive. Truly God’s plan of salvation for us, who least deserve it, is marvellous and wonderful.

I would be pleased if you could post to me the Frank and Ernest Dialogues from month to month and any booklets relative to these; if there is any cost I shall be pleased to forward it if you will let me know. Trusting to receive same shortly. I am, Yours in His glad service.

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