BEACON LIGHTS

For Protestant Reformed Youth

VOLUME IV. JUNE — 1944 NUMBER 9

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-in-chief.....Rev. C. Hanko
Business Manager.....Miss Alice Reitsma
Managing Editors.....Dick Vd. Wal—Edw. J. Knott

Beacon Lights is published by the Protestant Reformed Young People's Federation, 706 Franklin St., S. E., Grand Rapids, Michigan.

All matter relative to contents and the Open Forum should be addressed to Rev. C. Hanko, 9402 Minnick Ave., Oak Lawn, Illinois.

Subscriptions may be sent to Miss Alice Reitsma, 706 Franklin St., S. E., Grand Rapids, Mich. All subscriptions will be continued unless notified to the contrary

All copy must be in the hands of Mr. Dick Van Der Wal, 1100 Sigsbee St. S. E., Grand Rapids, Mich. on or before the fifteenth of the month preceding date of issue.

Beacon Lights is published Monthly except July and September.

Subscription Price $1.25 per year.

Entered as 2nd Class Mail at Grand Rapids, Mich.

Contests

SHORT STORY POETRY ESSAY

Three contests are being sponsored by the Executive Board.

Who is eligible to enter these contests?

Any member of a Protestant Reformed Young People's Society, except Executive Board Members, and all our young men and women in the Service may participate in these contests by sending in an original poem, short story or essay on any topic the author may choose to write. Material should, however, be in keeping with the spirit of our publication.

Material will be judged on the following basis:

Poetry will be judged on meter, rhyme and thought.

Short Stories will be judged on plot, character identifications, form and sequence and interest of subject matter.

Essays will be judged on logical presentation of ideas, clarity, and timeliness and interest of subject matter.

The length of poems will be unlimited but stories and essays are not to exceed 1200 words.

Publication and prizes to be awarded.

The prize winning poem, short story and essay will be published in the Literary Department in our August Issue of Beacon Lights and prizes will be awarded the authors.

Mail your material to Beacon Lights, 706 Franklin S. E. Grand Rapids, Michigan on or before June 30, 1944. All material becomes the property of the Executive Board.

CONTEST CLOSES JULY 30, 1944

Beacon Lights

For Protestant Reformed Youth

VOLUME IV | JUNE — 1944 | NUMBER 9

A NEW SONG

By Rev. L. Vermeer — South Holland, Ill.

What should be OUR prayer on D-day? The following article by Rev. L. Vermeer is very enlightening on this subject. Read it!

Recently, on the evening of D-day, June 6, I attended a prayer meeting in our little town, called for the purpose of imploring the Lord for aid and guidance during the invasion of Europe. This meeting was held in the largest church auditorium in our town and this church was packed with people. People from all walks of life and from the various Reformed groups were invited to attend. The ministers were asked to sit on the platform and six elders of as many Reformed churches were asked to lead in prayer, so that in all 10 prayers were offered. Everyone was under the stress of the moment, a moment in which many thousands of our young men were dying and falling wounded on the beachhead of Normandy, France. But as I listened to the words of prayer offered, I became depressed, and felt sorry for all the boys, if what was prayed for by these elders and ministers would actually be heard by our God and fulfilled. With degrees of difference of course, the gist of the prayers sent to heaven that evening was for the early end of the war through victory of American and British arms, and that peace on earth be ushered in. Mind you, a peace was prayed for, that would be purely earthly, worldly, without God or Christ, solely on the basis of a brotherhood of men, yes of all men. I shuddered and silently prayed that the Lord would *not* heed such petitions, for I felt immediately that such petitions were directly contrary to the new and beautiful prayer of our Lord: "Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done". Do not get me wrong, dear reader.

Yes, I too would rejoice if this conflict were ended and we could see our boys come marching home again. Nor would I like to see Germany come out of this conflict the complete victor. That is not the point.

However, the only thing that counts and for which we should pray for is not a humanistic peace of this world, for that is the peace of the Anti-christ, which he shall seek to establish. And, mind you, for such a peace many men prayed the evening of D-day. A peace of the Anti-christ and that for our boys who are fighting and sacrificing so much "over there". It is surely a shame and it does not reflect love to these boys at all. True love to our boys "over there" would reflect itself in a prayer for true peace, the peace that the world cannot give us, but the peace, first that passes all understanding, and secondly, the peace that shall come with the creation of the New Heavens and the New Earth.

With that peace in mind, the Psalmist declares: "Sing unto the Lord a *New* Song", Ps. 98:1. We may not sing the old song. The old song that once was sung by Adam and Eve. It was the song of creation. Beautiful it was at that time, but since, even *that* song of creation has become polluted with sin. And that song the world ever sings. It is the song of the earthy, apart from the heavenly, of the darkness, and not of the light, of sin and not of grace. That song speaks of peace among all men and nations, sings of love to all men, declares to us a new world order. BUT IT REMAINS A WORLD ORDER, *of this world.* But that cannot be the hope, nor desire, nor the prayer of God's child.

Sing a NEW song unto the Lord. Even now, in the midst of awful conflict and bloodshed and death, we must learn of that NEW song. And that NEW song we must sing more and more, with all our heart and mind and soul, and with the voice of a trumpet. For that new song speaks of the RE-creation, the NEW world order which was ushered in by Christ Jesus our Lord and which shall be fully realized when He returns to create a NEW heaven and a NEW earth wherein righteousness shall dwell. That song is NEW for it declares a love so different and other than anything else ever seen or heard of, that it is entirely NEW.

That NEW song has as its contents: THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS. A Jesus who was perfectly the Savior. A Christ who was appointed and anointed by the Father to fulfill all righteousness for us. A Lord who even now sits at the right hand of the Father in heavenly glory, having received all power in heaven and on earth, and exercising that su-

preme power daily unto the salvation of His people. That supreme power He was exercising also on D-day when the blood began to flow again on the soil of France. That supreme power of our Lord causes all things, in heaven and also on this cursed earth, to work together for the coming of the kingdom of peace wherein righteousness shall dwell. And that kingdom of peace in Christ Jesus, becomes more and more the object of the hope and longing and prayer of God's people as they see the vials of God's wrath being poured out over the children of men today. And on that prayer-evening of D-day, I prayed twofold. First, that God might hasten the coming of that kingdom, and secondly, that our boys might even now be assured that they will have a part in that eternal kingdom of peace. This is of grace alone and whoever possesses that grace, can and should take up his Bible and with a direct view upon our own times, sing Ps. 98: "O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: his right hand and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory. The Lord hath made known his salvation; his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen. He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice and sing praise. Sing unto the Lord with the harp: with the harp and the voice of a psalm. With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King. Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together. Before the Lord: for He cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity".

IN MEMORIAM

The Young People's Society of the Hudsonville Protestant Reformed Church hereby wishes to express it's sincere sympathy to two of its members, to Elizabeth Zylman, in the loss of her,

MOTHER

and to its secretary, Mr. Joe Schut, in the loss of his youngest

SISTER

May the God of all grace and comfort strengthen and sustain them, and give them the assurance that all things work together for good to them that love God.

EDITORIAL

Pentecost

By Rev. C. Hanko — Oak Lawn, Ill.

Pentecost, the forgotten day on our church calendar. Pentecost, the day of the "sound as of a rushing wind," of "tongues as of fire", of speaking in "other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance," just another Sunday unless we be forcibly reminded of it.

Christmas always creates a great stir as weeks in advance preparations are made for the festive occasion. Good Friday passes with less fan-fare, but Easter once more receives its share of attention. Ascension Day, in turn, is slighted, and the day of Pentecost comes and goes almost unnoticed.

What accounts for this undue discrimination? Is it true, that the birth of Christ has more practical significance for us than the cross? Is the fact of Christ's resurrection more important to the Church than His ascension into heaven or the outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

Is it not much rather true, that we have lost from sight the true spiritual values of all our special occasions?

Suppose, for example, if you can, a serviceman with an APO address, who received a package from home. First a letter came informing him that a package would be sent off, and he excitedly spread the news to all his buddies. Another letter followed stating that the package was on the way, and once more he shared his joy and eagerness with all his tent-mates. Finally word reached him that the package had arrived, so that he could not contain himself for joy, at least, judging by every outward appearance. But mail-call came and went, yet he never as much as made an effort to claim his package. From that day on the package lay unseen, unopened, unclaimed.

You say: Preposterous! Impossible! Inconceivable! Yet this is exactly what the Church does with her gifts of salvation which God has prepared for her in Christ Jesus. When God sends Christ into the world to merit our salvation for us, the occasion is considered worthy of special commemoration. And well it is. When our salvation is become an accomplished fact

through the death of the cross, we do not entirely fail to give this our consideration. And when God assures us from heaven by the wonder of the resurrection that Christ's work has received its eternal reward of glory, we do not allow the occasion to pass unnoticed. But when Christ departs into glory, sends forth His Spirit to bestow all His merited salvation upon His Church, so that we may share it with Him forever—we hardly give it as much as a passing thought.

"I believe in the Holy Ghost". If that means anything at all, it means that by the grace of God we have learned to celebrate Pentecost as a Harvest Feast, a day in which the full harvest of salvation becomes ours through the outpouring of the Spirit of Christ upon His Church.

Christmas witnesses that God has come to dwell among us: Immanuel, God with us in the likeness of sinful flesh. Easter witnesses that God has merited eternal salvation for us and has raised Christ, our First-fruits, from the dead. Pentecost witnesses that God has now come to dwell *in* us, making our hearts the temples of His Spirit forever.

God in us, abiding in us and blessing us, now and forever.

God in us, we have peace in the midst of the havoc of war.

God in us, we have life even in the midst of death and through death, for ours is the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Preparing for Peace

First it was a war of defence; then it was V for victory; after that they began to speak of post-war plans. And now it is: preparing for peace.

Of course, we all realize that this is a part of the great war propaganda machinery that has been set in motion. Never before in all the history of this world has propaganda played such an important role in a war. The press, but especially the radio, serve this purpose very well. On the one hand, every attempt is made to confuse the enemy and to keep him in a state of suspense and anxiety, while on the other hand, our own soldiers and civilians must be kept enthusiastically behind the war effort.

And so they speak of peace long before the final battle is won, as if the day and hour are already within sight. Whether that peace is anywhere as near as they would have us think, is not nearly so certain. We do know that there

was talk of preparing for peace even before the long awaited European invasion was begun. How long the European phase of the war will last is still difficult to predict. And that still leaves the war in the Pacific, which is but barely begun, at least if we consider that but a small part of the conquered territory has been reclaimed from the hands of the formidable foe in the East.

All of which makes a talk of peace sound like wishful thinking. Not one of us would not be glad to see the day when this bloody combat comes to an end and our boys can return home again, but that does not mean that we should allow ourselves to be swept away with false hopes which can hardly be supported by plain facts.

Then there is the question of what kind of peace we can anticipate. The impression is so easily left that this war will mark the end of all war, so that now surely we are heading for a lasting peace on earth with good-will among men. Many in the church even dream of a period of spiritual awakening in the world and of outward expansion and prosperity for the Church of Jesus Christ after the war.

This is certain, we have the very sure Word of prophecy which informs us that wars and rumors of wars, and famines and pestilences in divers places are but the beginning of sorrows. There may be occasional "breathing spells" between the visitations of God, but we do know that God is visiting the world with His judgments, and that these judgments increase in severity as time goes on. We see it now before our eyes at this very moment, for never has the world witnessed such an international upheaval as at the present time. Whatever the outcome may be, we know that we shall not return to pre-war conditions. Things will never be the same as before the war. But if the nations do succeed in establishing some sort of peace by uniting under one banner to strive for a common cause, the Church may well regard this as the beginning of her great tribulation.

Already the confusion of Babel is beginning to disappear, since all the various "isms" of the world begin to speak a common language which a God-less, Christ-less world well understands. Let us by all means be sober! Let no man deceive you, especially not by a language that satisfies all our carnal desires.

Let us by all means prepare for peace, and do it now.

But let us prepare by holding to the faith entrusted to us by the fathers. Now, if ever, we must walk the narrow way of God's commandments with the Word of God as the only lamp before our feet and light upon our pathway.

The Sovereign Grace Hour

Good News —

At this time we have some good news for our readers. As our 3rd season of broadcasting was nearing its close the Committee came with a new proposal to the various societies represented in the Western League of Young People's Societies, namely, that the Sovereign Grace Hour remain on the air during the summer months. This was agreed upon by all the societies and immediately each group set out to collect more funds to carry on this work.

The gathering of funds is done in two ways. First of all the society members are assessed a certain amount; and in the second place the members or committees appointed for this purpose launch a drive through the congregations in which they are represented. The latter is done in order to give all our people an opportunity to contribute toward this work. Thus far the committee has been able to carry on without any financial embarrassment—and this is as it should be.

The continuance of our weekly broadcasts has several advantages. In the first place, of course, there is the fact that we send out at least ten or fifteen more gospel messages over the air. In the second place, it is a fact that many who just "happen" to tune in to our program, become regular listeners. Now if we leave the air for some time these people will get out of the listening "habit" and it will take several weeks to build up our audience to the point where we leave it in the spring. In the third place, we will be one of a very few religious programs which continue broadcasting during the summer months. This means that for those who want to listen to a certain amount of religious broadcasting on Sunday and who otherwise listened to other programs, our program will now be available to them and it may be that once they become interested they may continue to tune in also in the fall. And finally, our summer broadcasts will make it possible for us to continue sending these sermons to our servicemen also during the summer months.

Speaking of servicemen, it might interest our readers that we are now sending out 93 copies of our radio sermons to servicemen each week. Some of these addresses on the list were sent to us by our listeners who request that these messages be sent out to these servicemen regularly; others are sent to shut-ins who write that they enjoy hearing our programs on Sunday

and would like to have the opportunity to read over the messages during the week; the remainder are sent to the servicemen from our churches in Edgerton, Redlands and Northwest Iowa.

Since the sending of radio sermons does not come directly under Radio Work, the various consistories finance the expenses connected with this project. The sermons are mimeographed on easy to handle sheets, size 6½ by 11 inches. To all of the men in the navy and those on over-seas duty they are entered as first-class mail. This insures faster and more certain delivery. As one of the "boys" wrote: "You would be surprised under what circumstances these sermons reach us. I have received them while at the front, when no other literature came through." It has been very gratifying and encouraging to hear from our boys how much this work is appreciated by them and how much they are benefited by it. As this article is becoming plenty long I will have to wait until another time to quote from some of the letters we have received from boys from our own denomination and also from those not connected with the Protestant Reformed Churches.

At this time your reporter thinks that a word of praise and thanks should be given to the young people's societies who have so courageously put their shoulder to the wheel and who made this radio work possible. Also a word of appreciation is due those who have made this work possible by their moral and financial support; and to our ministers in northwest Iowa and Minnesota who have so willingly, enthusiastically and grattuitiously given of their time and talents toward supplying us with sermons each week. But above all let us be truly thankful to our covenant God who has given us the privilege and means to carry on this work. May it redown to the honor and glory of His most holy Name, and may we work while it is day and while the way is still open until the time comes when the world will take from us this avenue of testifying of God's Sovereign Grace.

The Reporter.

Remembering God

By Rev. G. Vos — Edgerton, Minn.

It is not necessary to become out and out wicked in order to forget God!

Just live your natural life: do just what you like to do, and you will forget the Fountain of your life.

But God sayeth: Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them!

Remember Him!

Its contrast is: to forget God: how inexpressibly awful!

You forget God when your heart is full of the cheer of youth and youthful endeavor. Then you remember much. You have your youth and its youthful body and soul. There is the cheer of a heart full of fun and pleasure. The context speaks of the days of your youth when your companion is a heart full of cheer. That cheery heart is full of the ways of thine heart and the sight of thine eyes. It speaks of the evil of thy flesh and of a youth that is vain.

Who does not know it?!

Youth is the time of strength and power. It's fun just to be alive. We have a marvellously good time. There is the thrill of living every morning. Youth seeks youth and we will have our pleasure together! The day of tomorrow shall be like this no, greater, fuller, more joyous! There is time galore! Let us eat, drink and be merry. Time enough later on in life to become serious. Let us laugh and jump and frolic as the day is long! Hurrah! We are young!

No, we do not begrudge the young their youth, nor the children of the church their springtime of life. To the very contrary: we love to look at them and we smile when we listen to their characteristic speech.

But in all your fun, young people, do not forget your God!

When you are young and walk in the ways of your heart and in the sight of your eyes, do not forget to think on God. Ponder on the ways of God, read of Him, speak of Him and live Him. That is worth your while.

What does it imply when you remember God?

This: in general it means that He occupies the throne of your heart. He rules there where your life begins. You remember God when He becomes the Judge of all the issues of your life your thoughts and meditations, your longings and yearnings, your plans and endeavors. All you see and hear enters that heart and you lay it down be-

fore His scrutinizing eyes. You take life as you see it and do as king Hezekiah of olden times: you lay life before the throne of God, in your heart, and say, See Lord, and hear. This is what I see and hear in the world. What is Thine opinion and judgment?

No it does not mean that you become like old men and women. Far from it! Youth is different from us and it must be. A young man that speaks and thinks and lives like an old man or like an old woman is a monstrosity. Instinctively I shrink from them. Do not trust them either. But you do all those things enumerated above characterized by the youthful exuberance of your childlike existence. God loves to listen to the voice of youth.

In particular, to remember God means that you learn to listen. There are older persons around you. They know more than you do. They have lived. Learn to listen to them: parents, first of all. Take time off to listen to grandpa. Or is he in the home for the aged? Unless that was the only way out, such procedure is a curse of God. I can conceive that in some exceptional cases grandpa and grandma go to such a place, but as a rule they should have a place in the home of their children, the best place. They are the voice of God in your home. God speaks to us in our youth first of all through father and mother, through grandpa and grandma. Before you have learned to read you hear the voice of your Father in heaven through your forbearers. Listen to those voices. No one in this whole wide world loves you like they do.

Second, learn to read. Take time out to read the Book, than which there is none to compare. Only in the measure you have read the Book of God will you in later life know the God of your salvation. If you will heed God's voice: Remember Me! you must read the Bible. That is fundamental to all the fear of God. Piety is wrapped up in reading and meditating on the sweet strain of God's song of Himself.

Third, learn to worship. Do you know the unutterable sweetness of sitting down in the place where the saints gather? Do you like to go to church? You do? Then you are a boy or girl that remembers God. Oh, I can understand David when he sang: A day in Thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness! The job of church-janitor ought to be at a premium! The solomon song, the words of life, the companionship of those that fear Jehovah, the outpouring of our hearts in confession and worship: how adorable! Learn to worship, my son!

Fourth, learn to work. Be sure

and produce. Here is the field of the catechism, the societies of every kind. Make melody and music, write your essay and like it, attend always and be blessed forever!

Remember now your Creator!

You will grow in grace, you will lay the foundation for later joy, you will experience that piety in youth is comely, right and advantageous.

Some of you, doing so by the grace of God, will be ministers in the House of God. Others will come to the mind of God's consistory when they struggle to find duo's for elder and deacon.

As for the girls: piety in youth, makes for God-fearing mothers like Hannah, Leah, Ruth and Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Remember Him now!

When angels see you in such endeavor they sing their song of gladness. When you remember Him at the foot of the Cross, they ascend to heaven singing as they go.

It's still true today as in the days of that Stranger of Galilee: More joy in heaven because of one repentant sinner than because of the queer ninety and nine that need no repentance.

Remember God! It is heaven on earth.

ANNOUNCING - - - -

The Wonder of Grace

A NEW BOOK

by Rev. H. Hoeksema

(Soon to be released by the Eerdmans Publishing House)

A POSITIVE AND CONCISE STATEMENT OF OUR BASIC DOCTRINES PRESENTED IN AN APPEALING AND POSITIVE STYLE.

Send your Orders now to:

The Radio Committee
P. O. Box 8
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Flying Flowers

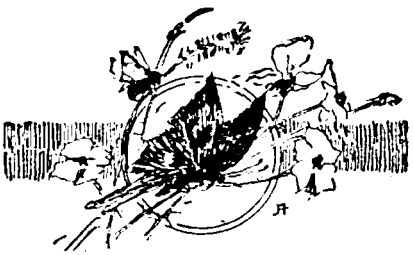
By MR. CLARENCE DE BOER

"The velvet nap which on his wings doth lie,
The silken down with which his back is dight,
His broad out-stretched horns, his hairy thighs,
His glittering colors and his glorious eyes."

From flower to flower we see the delicately painted Fritillary gaily flying along. Unlike most insects, which are repulsive to the eye at first sight, the butterfly occupies a position of universal interest and admiration. The exquisite coloration, the varied wing patterns, and the graceful flight certainly attract ones attention.

Many times the question has been asked, "How can one distinguish between a butterfly and a moth?" If you would catch one and observe it carefully, you might determine this for yourself. First of all, note the feelers or antenae: if they are feather-shaped, it is a moth: but if they are club-like in structure it is a butterfly. Another factor in deciding is the position of the wings while at rest: the wings of a moth are horizontal and held close to the body: however, in the case of the butterfly the wings are held upright in a vertical position. Also, moths usually are noctural in habits and fly at night, while butterflies prefer the bright sunshine.

Beauty is only skin deep! Have you ever wondered why a butter-



fly loses its coloration when you handle it? Did you notice the powdery dust on your fingertips after doing so? These dust-like particles are tiny scales which cover the wings as shingles do a roof. When observed under a microscope these scales reveal many interesting shapes — some resemble tulip petals; others look like ears of corn, or onions; while still others appear as a baseball bat, or the letter "y". Flight is impaired with the loss of these scales. There are certain species of male butterflies which have specialized scent scales called androconea, which produce very pleasant odors useful in attracting their mates. After the scales have been removed, one can see the branched network of veins, each of which consists of a double-tube, the outer supplying the air, while the inner provides the blood.

"Simple and sweet is their food,
They eat no flesh of the living."

It is not unusual to observe these creatures of brilliant hues seeking their sustenance from our own flower garden. For what are they searching? At the base of the flower small glands exude a sweet liquid secretion called nectar, which supplies them with food. You may wonder how these winged insects obtain this nourishment. Their mouth consists of a long slender hollow tube, called the proboscis, thru which they suck the nectar. When at rest this organ resembles the hair spring of a watch, being tightly coiled below the head.

Other organs of interest are the eyes called ocelle. Recent experimental work has proved that butterflies can discriminate between colors, preferring the blue, purple and yellow-red flowers, whereas, green and greenish-yellow do not entice them. Unlike humans they are sensitive to ultra-violet light. In general we might state that their eyes are quite efficient.

"Every worm beneath the sun
Draws different threads,
And late or soon, spins toiling
out
Its own cocoon."

Not all of the life of the butterfly was spent in grandeur and ease. For this gay and attractive creature passed thru a series of changes which together make a complete metamorphosis. From the very tiny egg which is laid singly or in groups on some twig, the worm-like larvae emerges. After feasting upon a diet of leaves for some time, the caterpillar begins to feel uncomfortable as its outer cloak does not expand with the increase in the size of the body itself. Shedding its outer garment is comparatively simple, for it merely crawls out thru an opening at the anterior part of the body. This process of molting may continue three or four times, but, at last, it prepares itself for the rest period during which we call it a "pupa". In temperate regions most butterflies spend the winter seasons in the cocoon, which is spun about the body of the pupa. However, in Arctic lands it may remain encased from two to three years.

"Dead hangs the chrysalis amid
Its bower of living green.
Dead? No! It bursts! and issuing forth
An insect form is seen.
O marvel! that the grave of life
A living thing should yeun!"

Yes, indeed, from a seemingly lifeless tomb creeps forth a crumpled weak creature which in the course of a very few hours strengthens and expands to the lovely adult — the butterfly. The life span of the adult of some species is but two or

three days—long enough to carry out the purpose of creation (bringing forth after its kind), for the eggs are laid to produce the next generation. Other species may live for the entire season; in fact, a few hardy ones may survive the hardships of winter in some well-protected crevice or beneath the loose bark of a tree.

"Lo the bright train their radiant wings unfold!
With silver fringed, and freckled o'er with gold.
Some in richest and softest of velvets arrayed,
Or in mail that does shame to the armorer's trade."

By Rev. H. De Wolf — Manhattan, Montana.

True Service—

We often speak of the boys in the armed forces as being *in service.*

Everything about them, their dress, training and manner of life, indicates that they are enrolled among those who have been called to serve their country in this present crisis. And, of course, the boys themselves know this better than anyone else. I'm sure that there is hardly a moment that they could forget that they are in service: they are reminded of it all the time. And those of the boys who are, or have been, at the front have really learned by first hand experience what it means to be in the service.

True service means sacrifice.

Not only is there the sacrifice involved in leaving their homes and loved ones, as well as the many comforts which they enjoyed in civilian life but there is also a greater sacrifice demanded of them. They are, if need be, ready to give their lives. They may not consider themselves or selfish interests. They are in service for others and for those others they must be willing to die.

True service means obedience.

We are all aware of the fact that the armed forces exercise strict discipline. They demand obedience even to the minutest detail and every infringement of the rules and regulations meets with swift

punishment. The men in service must at all cost learn to obey promptly. It is not for them to question the orders that they receive, it is for them but to obey. And no matter what the circumstances may be, yes, even when it is evident that they are marching into the "valley of death", orders are orders and they must be obedient to the authority over them.

Now we are all no doubt aware of these things.

We should however also realize that these things are not to be limited to the service in the armed forces. This applies to all service, no matter what kind it may be. It stands to reason that it does not apply to the same extent in every kind of service, nevertheless the principle holds.

This is especially true of the christian's service to God.

As children of God we are *always in service*. The very fact that God has called us to be His children in the midst of a world that lies in darkness and the service of sin implies that we are very really in service to Him Who has called us. The christian is therefore always a soldier, however, in the spiritual sense of the word. The battle which we are called to fight is a spiritual battle. It is a battle against the sin that is still in us as well as in the forces of darkness. It is a battle in which we are our own enemy because of the flesh. But the battle is not to be fought with an arm of flesh or with carnal means. Scripture tells us that we must have the armor of God and our weapon must be the sword of the Spirit.

And we must fight that good fight all the time.

Whether we be soldier, sailor or civilian makes no difference as far as this spiritual battle is concerned. Our men in the service must therefore always remember that they are first of all in service to God. And we, who are called civilians, must remember that also, no matter what our earthly vocation may be.

First and always in the service of the Lord!

And if our service is to be a *true* service, it must be characterized by sacrifice and obedience.

Obedience! Yes, but the obedience of love!

Our obedience shall not be one of coercion, nor from fear of punishment, but of love and holy devotion. Any other obedience is external and cannot be pleasing to our heavenly Father. Men may be satisfied with an external conformity to certain rules and regulations, but to the Lord that is an abomination. Always therefore we must pray, "Teach me Lord that I may do." For not he that says, "Lord, Lord", but he who does the will of

Cont. on page 25

Looking Forward

Often it becomes discouraging when we look back and see that already two years have elapsed since our Protestant Reformed Youth gathered in Convention in the little town of Illinois—Oak Lawn! Many of us who participated in that Convention think back upon the thrilling experiences of that occasion and are filled with remorse and disappointment because of the impossibility of this event in the past two summers. And yet our Federation Board, realizing the paramount necessity of such Conventions and knowing that the spirit of common love, cooperation, enthusiasm and unity which was so characteristic two years ago in Oak Lawn is still prevalent among our Youth of today, have ventured to call our Fourth Convention to be held August 30, 31 in our Fuller Ave. Church in Grand Rapids, with the Girl's Society Talitha and the Young Men's Society of that Church acting as hosts. And so, Young People! upon you—upon all of you is conferred an important obligation to first of all reveal your personal interest in this worthy cause, and then to show the Federation Board that YOU are behind them, and finally to create a lively interest and renewed enthusiasm for the Protestant Reformed Truth. However, the climax of this obligation is reached by your personal presence at the Convention wherever this may be possible. All of you from in and near Grand Rapids are surely coming and you from more remote distances might plan your vacations accordingly that you may perhaps visit Grand Rapids the last week in August and aid in attaining the glorious purpose set forth by the Federation, namely, to unite all Protestant Reformed Young People's Societies so that they may work in close unity and secure a sense of solidarity. This is a blessed obligation and most glorious purpose.

However, coming to the Convention this summer you may feel confident that you will fulfill more than your personal obligation to the cause of the Protestant Reformed Youth for the committee in charge of arrangements for this years Convention is busily engaged toward making the occasion a pleasant one for you all. In compliance with this objective they have selected the very appropriate theme, "Christian Liberty" around which the Convention is to center. It is especially in these days of national confusion, war, grief and much suffering that it is so imperative that we as Covenant Youth have a more perfect understanding of those liberties which we as

Christians alone have the privilege of exercising. Such an understanding is of primary significance not only for guidance in our daily walk but also as part of the armor which we bear in our spiritual warfare. So to all of you wherever possible the call comes to come and receive an inspiring blessing from the inspiring addresses of three of our prominent and capable pastors which your committee has secured for this occasion.

Another privilege and blessing which will be afforded you who attend the Convention is that during these days you will enjoy the fellowship and communion of one another of like faith. If any one doubts the value of this great privilege, let him converse with many of our young men now in the service of their country for it is they from whom it has been denied that are best qualified to evaluate these things. This, of course, can and will be attained in many ways— ways which at the time of this writing we do not desire to discuss but which will appear in later issues of both this paper and our other church periodicals. You immediately agree with me do you not, when I say that the matter of christian fellowship is not only a great blessing and a cherished christian liberty but especially in these days a prime necessity. Our individual societies are broken up by the absence of our Young Men, our conventional gathering has been interrupted for two seasons, and difficulties in transportation have created hardships for even local societies to enjoy joint gatherings and so innumerable reasons can be added to point out the incomparable value of this blessed thing. We need it! By the grace of God we shall acquire it and let none of us neglect so great a blessing. Let's join one another in song, music, speech, outing and let's not overlook our Convention Banquet which will be bigger and better than ever. All these features and many more will add to a successful Convention but all of you — the Protestant Reformed Youth — must help whenever and wherever you can. Its your obligation? Oh, yes! it's your privilege? Oh, yes! and finally it's your inner desire and love? Yes, I'm sure it is.

More details on the Convention will appear later but in the meantime be watching, be waiting, be planning, but especially on August 30, 31 BE COMING!

Gerald Vanden Berg.

Editor's Desk

CONVENTION

Any Young People's Society not now member of our Federation and interested in becoming a member Society may send in a request for information or an application for membership to the secretary of our Federation, Miss Helen Ezinga, 1050 Dunham St., S. E., Grand Rapids, Michigan.

All member Societies wishing to submit proposals to the Delegate Board at this year's Convention should mail them in as soon as possible to the Federation Secretary.

CONTESTS

Have you sent in your Essay, Short Story, or Poem to be entered in our Beacon Lights Contest? The rules are published on the inside cover of this issue. So if you are eligible and are interested in entering any one of these contests, and have not yet begun writing that poem or story or essay, do so immediately and mail your material to Beacon Lights, 706 Franklin St., S. E., Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Important Notice: The closing date of these contests has been extended to *July* 30! That gives you an additional month. Better get started right away, though!

We extend a special invitation to our young men and women in the service, to take part in these contests!

YOUNG PEOPLE

Sometime between now and our Convention, August 30-31, let's do a little campaigning for Beacon Lights. WE NEED MORE SUBSCRIBERS! The agents in different localities have done a wonderful job, but they can't do it alone. Everyone of us must go out and *sell* Beacon Lights. Let's acquaint everybody we know with our magazine.

SERVICEMEN'S STATISTICS

120 young men on our mailing list are still stationed somewhere in the States.

75 young men have A.P.O. addresses out of New York. The majority of these boys are undoubtedly fighting on French soil at present.

56 young men have A.P.O. addresses out of San Francisco and are most likely somewhere in the South Pacific War Zone.

Beacon Lights and the Standard Bearer are mailed to each of these Servicemen regularly. Help them receive their mail by helping us keeping our mailing list up to date. Mail all changes and new addresses to Miss Alice Reitsma, 706 Franklin St., S. S., Grand Rapids, Mich.

To Our Boys In Service

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dear Friends,

It is not my purpose to create a feeling of homesickness within your hearts by this writing, for I know full well that there is within the hearts of each one of you this longing for home and friends. Much depends on how strong these home ties are. For the most of you, there are your parents and many, no doubt, have sweethearts at home whom you long to see once again. Others there are who have left wives and children and in this case the longing for home becomes even stronger because of the established home of your own which you for the time being were forced to leave.

In all this I would like to lead you away from the sadness and loneliness this longing for home creates, but direct your thoughts from this very thing and lead you to a higher and better understanding of the home that all God's children long for and shall one day share and of which these present homes are but a weak symbol or type.

For many of you boys the homes you have left have gained a new value in your hearts by your absence from them. We all know how we all become accustomed to good things and take them for granted. You perhaps remember the arguments with brothers and sisters and even the strong discussions which sometimes arose with mother and dad as to whether a certain thing was right or wrong—these all come back to our minds with greater force.

May your thoughts ever turn to the home that is prepared for us by God, for it is to this home that is the final longing and desire of God's children. It may well be that the trials through which you are now passing are God's means to center your hearts and thoughts upon that house of many mansions that the Lord Jesus Christ spoke of in John 14:2. Oh, I know that you still have your youthful ambitions in regard to this life, and that is well, but let us remember that all our efforts in themselves are vain. If only we keep before us the thought that after all we are strangers and sojourners, and with Abraham, we are looking for a city that has foundations, whose builder and maker God is, then we will not cling to the crumbling elements of this world but in all things praise our God.

What a comfort it is to know that when our earthly homes fail us, the eternal home remains our portion. It is certain that this earthly home must ere-long fail and we must understand that we are after all strangers in a strange land.

May you be found diligent in the service of our nation, doing the duties to which you are assigned as good soldiers of our country and may the fear of the Lord be kept alive in your hearts through the grace that has been given you.

Mr. A. Van Tuinen.

Letters From Our Boys

(The following is part of a letter written by Sgt. Richard Visser, former of Grand Rapids, telling of his desperate struggle to survive a troop-ship disaster in the Mediterranean Sea.)

India—April 27, 1944

Dear . . . . .

You have probably read in many papers such headlines as, "Biggest Troop Disaster in World War II" or "One Thousand Lives Lost". Yes, this is the experience which I and 999 other men will never forget.

About 5 months ago our outfit embarked on a ship which was harboring in some port in the Mediterranean. The sea was very rough and most of the soldiers were seasick. But after the first couple of days, we started feeling a little better because everybody was getting used to the swaying of the boat. On the evening of the third day, at about 4 o'clock, we had a boat drill, which later proved futile. At 4:30, one of the fellows came running downstairs to our troop deck all excited and very pale and said, "They got two German planes!" He took his life-belt and inflated it. The other fellows first thought he was crazy but in a few moments the alarm bell rang which meant enemy planes. Then we all knew it was the real thing, and we tied our belts and helmets. The sound of the guns on our boat made a terrific noise especially our four inch guns. When the planes came down for strafing, it sounded as though there was a great hail storm. While this was going on, I was frightened like everyone else, and many thoughts went through my mind. Chills went up and down my spine and my heart was pounding like car knocks. Many boys prayed. Before things began happening I had read Psalm 29 and also portions of Matthew. I was mocked by the men at that time, who said, "Do you think that is going to bring you home safely or help you while you're in danger?" I didn't pay any attention to them, but when things were getting pretty hot and dangerous, they asked me to pray for them. This I will never forget.

About 45 minutes later our ship was hit with terrific force. It knocked me back about 15 feet. The hatches broke down and lights went off. The boys were excited and wanted to rush up on deck, but the officers told us to wait until the bell rang. After getting on deck most of the men wanted to jump overboard because the boat was listing and sinking fast. I saw hundreds of heads in the water. I helped some of our boys put the wounded in lifeboats.

Then our officer told us to abandon ship. After going down the rope we had to jump. It almost took my breath away when I hit the water. I told myself to take it easy. A minesweeper in the distance was picking up survivors and my thoughts became riveted on that boat. The waves were high because of the

storm, but I was told later by some of the fellows that I was swimming like a fish. When I reached the minesweeper, I found it hard to get up directly. I tried about four times to climb the rope, but everytime I was pulled off and pushed under by some men who were panicky. The sailors threw over some cork on which I rested for a time. Then I saw an iron ladder. . The boat swayed with the waves, giving me a chance to grab it. As the boat went up a sailor grabbed me by my clothes and threw me on the deck. I was very weak and plenty cold. After a short time I was put on a bed which felt good, but of course, I couldn't sleep. I was thinking of the rest of the men.

This was my first swim in the Mediterranean. I lost all my personal belongings, my billfold, my portfolio and pictures, everything but my little Bible. I am not worrying about the things I lost though. I'm only thankful that God saved me through all this and that I'm still able to write you.

Richard Visser, (Grand Rapids).

* * * * *

Somewhere in Italy—May, 1944

Dear friends:

It is Monday afternoon and I haven't much to do as yet so I thought I would write you. I should have done so before. I have been receiving the Church papers a year now and am always glad to get them. It never seems like Sunday out here because we boys are always busy. We hear the church bells ringing on Sunday morning but it still does not seem like Sunday.

It has been nice weather the last few weeks and everything is nice and green here. It won't be long and the people out here will be harvesting their grain. We get all American rations so I guess that we haven't anything to complain about. The people out here do not have very much. We give our laundry to some of the people out here and it doesn't cost us much to get it done.

I don't have much more to write. Am enclosing a money order and will write more often. As ever, a Christian friend.

John Den Besten, (Doon, Iowa)

* * * * *

North Africa, April 28, 1944

Dear friends,

I have been receiving "Beacon Lights" since I've been in the service and I wish to thank you a million times for the wonderful uplifting feeling I derive from reading it.

I've been in the service for fourteen months now, the majority of which has been served overseas. I have received no mail for about a week and that is when my Beacon Lights are read over and over again. Every once in a while the mail is held up some place, but that is something that cannot be helped. Aside from periods such as this, I receive many letters from my relatives and my wife. I have a daughter that was born while I was in Africa, so unfortunately I have never seen her, but my wife does send me many pictures

of the baby and I really treasure them.

Since I have been overseas, I have visited Algiers, Arzew, Bizerte, Tunis, and Oron. Tunis and Algiers are beautiful and quite modern cities. Bizerte is a complete wreck from the complete and thorough bombings the Americans gave it when the Jerries had control.

I had a wonderful chicken dinner some time ago in a French civilian home. The people were very kind and they waited on us like servants. All the people out here say all Americans are millionaires. The people beg you for cigarettes and candy. Children will follow you for blocks begging for candy or chewing gum.

I am in the Anti-Aircraft Coast Artillery and I enjoy my work, but naturally there is no place like home.

My wife and I are members of Roosevelt Park Church and I wish to say "Hello" to everyone there.

Pfc. Wm. Koster, Grand Rapids)

* * * * *

South Pacific—April 24, 1944

Dear friends,

Well I finally summed up enough courage to write you a few lines. I can't truthfully say that I didn't have the time to write before as I only work six hours out of every day and I also get one day off per week and on that day we can do as we please. I usually get Sunday off We have services here which last about an hour. Last Sunday we had Chaplain Donnelly deliver a message to us and although it was not half as good as the sermons we are used to back home it still does a fellow a lot of good. They also have a quartet that sings for us each Sunday. We have a white boys quartet and also a colored boys quartet.

Now a little bit as to where I am. I am in the South Pacific on an island that was in Japanese hands in the first stages of the war. We are south of the equator and over the international date line. There are large plantations of coconut palms here and there are also many different kinds of trees to which vines grow and this comprises the jungles, and there are many places in the jungles that are absolutely impenetrable. The swamps also make travel down here very hard and after a heavy rain .... CENSORED ..... there are also large coral reefs and many species of tropical fish, some of which are totally transparent while others are all the colors of the rainbow, and all sizes and shapes.

The natives down here are very friendly and they dye their hair all different colors. The natives are also very smart and all of the souvenirs they sell they want a high price for. They sell us grass skirts and canes beautifully inlaid with shells and they sell us rings made of shells and combs and many other kinds of trinkets. One of the boys here paid $35 to a native for a cane. It was very beautiful and really a work of art. The natives can speak English quite fluently also. They call us soldiers "Joe" and they want to be called the same. They have constructed a very beautiful chapel for us here which they did en-

tirely by hand and in three months time. It is made just of materials from the jungles and no tools were used.

We get plenty of good food to eat and for entertainment we have a fine day room with ping pong tables and plenty of books and magazines. We also have horseshoe courts and volleyball courts and we can also say that we have one of the best baseball diamonds on the islands. We have a nice wide and sandy beach to swim from but the salt water is not as nice to swim in as the fresh water lakes back home.

I get the Beacon Lights and the Standard Bearer regularly and I also received a nice box of eats and stationery from the Priscilla Society of our Fuller Ave. Church. You at home certainly are not forgetting us even when we get overseas.

Well, I suppose that I had better close now and I hope that in the near future this conflict will come to an end and that we can all be together once more.

Gerald J. Sikkema, (Grand Rapids).

* * * * *

Fort Benning, Georgia
April 30, 1944

Dear friends,

I would like to call your attention to my change of address. I enjoy the Beacon Lights very much and wait eagerly for each issue. I arrived here at Officer's Candidate School on the 27th. I will write a letter about my stay here at the School in the near future.

Cpl. Peter Luyk, (Grand Rapids).

— DONATIONS —

Recent donations were received from:

Cpl. Henry Veltman	$ 1.25
Hope Young People's Society	10.00
Mrs. J. P. Miedema	.75
Adult Society, Grand Haven	5.00
Priscilla Society, Sioux Center	5.00
Pfc. John Den Besten	10.00
A Friend, Grand Rapids	1.25
Manhattan Men's Society	5.00
Mary-Martha Society, Manhattan	10.00
Ladies Aid Society, Holland, Mich.	10.00
Holland Ladies Aid, Redlands	11.65
Ladies Aid Society, Kalamazoo	5.00
A Friend, Grand Rapids	1.25
Collection at Mothers' & Daughters Banquet sponsored by Talitha Girls Society, Grand Rapids	28.56

(Mail all donations to Miss A. Reitsma, 706 Franklin, S. E. Grand Rapids, Mich.)

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Cont. from page 17

God, shall enter the kingdom of heaven.

And sacrifice!

Willing sacrifice! For we must be willing to forsake all to take up our cross and follow our Lord in the way of Golgotha. We shall not consider our lives dear to us, yea, we shall count all things but loss for Christ's sake that we may be found in Him.

Christian service-men and women!

Happy in true service of the King!

Confessing Our Lord

Rev. L. Doezema — Bellflower, Calif.

This is a most marvelous work of God in His covenant people. At the very first signs of physical life which our Almighty Creator causes to appear we know that then sometimes He begins that new life in His people. That is the life of regeneration which is the seed from which comes forth that work of confessing His name before men and angels.

Little children are taught to receive the most blessed gift of salvation without their even consciously receiving much of it, when they are taught to sing the wellknown words "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

We usually have in mind though when we speak of confessing our Lord, a very conscious act of the believer. Without a doubt this work of God is begun in covenant youth. Youth is the time of breaking forth into manhood and womanhood. It is the time of life in which God causes man to become conscious of himself and his place in His creation, to become conscious of his powers and his duties. It is especially at that time that guidance is needed and given to help the young man to meet his responsibilities. Educational forces of the world realize this very well and have organized many efforts to help youth solve its problems and come to definite decisions.

This time of life is also the time in which God causes and expects that His covenant youth know of His work in them and confess it. Contrary to the notion that youth cannot be expected to confess the Lord at such an early age as fourteen to eighteen, our Reformed fathers definitely expected it of their children at this age and even urged them to come to the table of the Lord. Our government expects young men to be able to leave home and defend their country at the age of eighteen. Certainly the Creator knows what powers He has given the young man and woman to know Him. And He very clearly calls them to confess Him. "Remember thy creator in the days of thy youth. . . ." "My son give me thine heart." What is our guidance given to our youth? How do we preach to our youth. ". . . . receive not the grace of God in vain . . . . behold now is the accepted time: behold now is the day of salvation."?

Do our young people know some of the clear implications of the Confession of believers?

Do you know that "*to confess*" means "*to speak with*"—to speak with God? God speaks to us by

His Word and Spirit and tells us that we are His. He causes us also to speak with Him and say that He is our Lord and our God. He causes us to say that we believe in God, Almighty, and in Jesus Christ His only begotten Son, our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit. God tells us that salvation is of the Lord and we speak with Him that salvation is all of the Lord. He commands us to obey Him, and we confess and obey Him by saying of our Lord Jesus Christ, "My Lord and my God."

Do you know that to confess our Lord is a duty, a calling, which God seriously places before every one to whom He gives the responsibility to make decisions? He commands men everywhere to repent. Christ solemnly declares that whosoever shall therefore confess me before men, him will I confess before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Do you know that that is not a matter of just one moment in our lives? It is not a matter of "public confession in church" only. Such is a proper point in our lives to begin to partake of the life of the Church Institute. But confessing our Lord is a life long calling.

This extremely serious calling is a difficult one which we can only begin to fulfill by the grace of God. Nevertheless that does not change the admonition. The admonition is, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

--Announcing—

4th Annual PRYPS Convention

August 30-31

First Protestant Reformed Church

Grand Rapids, Michigan

BIG EVENTS — GOOD SPEECHES — CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

—PLAN TO ATTEND—

Open Letter

Dear Friend,

I thought I should write a word to tell you how the plans for the Young Peoples' Federation Convention are coming. The committee has met several times and the plans and suggestions discussed at these meetings are interesting.

As you know the Convention will be held August 30 and 31. On Wednesday afternoon we hope that registration and assignment boarding can be completed. That evening the inspirational mass meeting will be held. After opening remarks by our Federation President, Rev. Wally Hofman, and a group of songs by the Radio Choir, Rev. H. Hoeksema will lecture on the topic, *Christian Liberty*, which is also the general theme of the Convention and which will also be treated in various aspects by our other speakers, Rev. A. Petter and Rev. G. Vos.

Thursday morning an outing is planned where breakfast will be served. The afternoon program includes the speech by Rev. Petter, Federation business, election of officers and anything else the Board decides to bring up. And, of course, refreshments.

Thursday night is, of course, the big event: *The Banquet!* Rev. Vos has been secured as speaker, and other interesting numbers arranged. We have reserved Oakdale Christian School Gym which holds 250 people easily, and we would like to fill it. All the young people and young married people are reminded that this is a "must" Aug. 31.

The Convention has been planned as a response to popular demand. When the Board decided not to have a Convention the Societies said that we should. And so we shall. But . . . . who is coming? ? ? How many can we plan on? ? ? We have no idea on how many to figure on. So—will the secretary of each society or some other responsible person please write and tell us.

1. Who are the delegates from each society.

2. How many are coming, both delegates and visitors.

3. And any proposals which are to be discussed at the Convention.

Please do this immediately. It is very important! Send your information to:

Miss Harriet Doezema
1000 Watkins St., S.E.
Grand Rapids, Mich.

And we hope to see you all there!

Edw. J. Knott.

Life Is A Pilgrimage

Trials are a part of a Christian's life. God sends them with the purpose to draw His children nearer unto Him, and that His name may be glorified in and thru them. We read in Zechariah 13:9: "And I will bring the third part thru the fire and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried, and they shall call on My name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is My people: and they shall say, the Lord is my God." These trials are of a different kind and nature. God alone knows the state of each individual and knows how much they can endure.

These trials may be due to the weakness and frailties of the human body, as is clearly pointed out in the parable Jesus related of the rich man and Lazarus. Lazarus, a picture of the child of God, has nothing appealing in this life, on the contrary he has nothing but the suffering of bodily pain and the crumbs of the rich man's table to eat. The children of God have their abiding place in heaven.

Again, there are the trials which are due to the persecutions for Christ's sake.

Then also there are the sorrows and burdens which every Christian experiences because of the burden of their sins. The apostle Paul relates, "When I would do good, sin is ever present with me." Every Christian must needs testify of this same thing along with the apostle.

Finally, let us not forget all of the trials which each individual experiences. The world is full of misery and troubles, brought about by sin.

But where must we go in the hour of need with our many cares and sorrows of life? There is but One to whom we can go. That is to our God in prayer, for in Him alone shall we find rest. This finding of peace and rest for our souls does not mean that we shall always be relieved of our earthly cares and pains. No, even more we may not come to God with this in mind. On the contrary we must pray, "Lord, Thy will be done, and if it is Thy will that these thorns be not removed from us, give us grace to shoulder our burden and journey on with our eye ever fixed upon the heavenly Jerusalem," for what is this life compared to the glory awaiting the people of God in the hereafter. There shall be no pains, no fears, nor troubles in heaven. And thus, coming to Christ He will give us the conviction in our hearts, "My grace is sufficient for thee."

By Miss Erma Kortering.

News From Our Societies

SOCIETY NEWS FROM HULL, IOWA

The Statistics of the Year 1943

We have again come to the close of another year during which we have enjoyed each others fellowship.

Throughout the entire year 45 meetings were held. Our President, Rev. Cammenga conducted 39 of the meetings. The remaining meetings were conducted by the following: June 6th. Mrs. Cammenga; The topic for the evening was, "Peter's First Sermon." Jim Van Weelden led June 20th and discussed the topic "The Return of Christ." On July 25th Rev. S. Cammenga discussed "The Life of a Christian Pilgrim." Aug. 22nd. Rev. J. Blankespoor conducted the meeting discussing the "Feeding of the Five Thousand." On Sept. 5th. Mrs. Cammenga gave us an interesting discussion on the "Death of Lazarus." On Sept. 26th Rev. S. Cammenga led the meeting. He gave us an instructive talk on. "Seeking the things Above."

The meetings consisted of singing, Bible discusion. and programs.

Bible discusion for the year consisted of the followng: 1st. Beacon Lights — Discussing the "Heroes of Faith." 2nd. Practical subjects — including the "Miracles of Christ." 3rd. Beacon Lights — Discussing the first few chapters of Acts.

The after recess program of Essays, music, recitations, current events and a few improviso's given by the members of the Society.

Our meeting is opened with prayer which is followed by a 10 minute song service led by various members and the president, followed by the Bible Discussion. Next a Psalter number is sung during which the offering is taken. The minutes of the previous meeting are read, after which we have our program, business and closing by the singing of a Psalter number and prayer by the President or a member of the Society.

Many of our young men have volunteered to close the meeting with prayer when asked by the President.

Some of the topics on which essays were given are: The World Today; Should a Christan Woman Join the Wac's, Waves, etc?; Confession of Faith; God's Providence; and Our Desire for Amusements.

Our Society is a member of the Western League. In August we held our yearly convention in Rock Valley. This League sponsors our radio program, "The Sovereign Grace Hour" heard every Sunday over station KSOO, Sioux Falls, S. D. The speaking s conducted by our ministers and the singing by our Societies.

Ten members have been added to our Society. Five have asked for their resignation. At present we have an enrollment of 56 members.

Fifteen of our members have left for the service of our country, with yet more who might leave in the future.

Reporter.

MY GOD IN SPRING OR WAR

Its hard to conceive of a war being fought,
When I look at the grass and the trees:
Its spring, with her beauty too dear to be bought,
That surrounds me with light, gentle breeze.
All creation is moving about me with life:
The birds, like always, sing praise to our King.
I hear croaking of frogs, the air seems just rife,
With the scent of the flowers of spring.

Yet beyond all this calm and circle of peace.
There are thousands of men steeped in battle:
Though hearts may long for the conflict to cease,
The engines of death still do rattle.
I know that there's war with its blood and its tears:
For our loved ones left home to enter the fray.
They know what it means, though I feel not its fears,
They were sent far away,—some to stay.

As I muse on the beauty of spring with its lure,
While, too, on the horrow of war I opine;
Unto deeper thoughts I am brought to be sure,
When I consider the works of your God and mine.
He makes all things live, and He makes them to die;
He creates light, and He makes also the dark.
When He speaks, flowers bud, and robins will fly:
He gives graves of our loved ones their mark.

When unto Thee, O my God, my thoughts do arise,
Far above the circles of spring and war's strife,
When I consider that all Thy works are most wise,
How great art Thou, O Lord of my life!
I praise Thee for each shoot of green about me:
And I stand in awe when loved ones Thou dost take,
To send far from home to fight on land and sea,
Give grace, O Lord, to know its for Thy sake.

Teach me as well as those in battle this day,
To trust Thee with all the mind and the heart:
Make us to see Thy sovereign hand still holds sway
O'er us at home and o'er those far apart.
Cause me too deeply in concern not to pine,
When my loved ones from me far Thou dost send;
Let them now feel that they also are Thine,
And in Thy presence my knees I will bend.

Contributed.

9402 Minnick Ave.
Oak Lawn, Ill.

REMEMBER NOW THY CREATOR

How pleasant are the days of youth, the springtime of our life,
The time when we are strong and do not weary of the strife,
When we are young and handsome and have no pain or sorrow,
Enjoying the pleasures of today, having no worries for the morrow.
To the young man and the maiden comes a message also today—
Remember thy Creator as you travel on life's way.

In the days of our youth we have choices to make.
Let us choose very carefully and make no mistake,
The friends that you choose, do they love the truth?
Or do you spend your precious time with the ungodly youth?
Remember then, young people, this message comes to you,
Love the Lord, thy Maker, and and try His will to do.

Ask thy God for wisdom in choosing your life's task,
For the all-wise God gives abundantly when His children ask,
Look to God with a prayerful heart in choosing a mate for life,
For we cannot serve our Maker with an ungodly man or wife.
O, let us always remember to serve God in our youth,
For only then will we be able to join in the battle for truth.

The time of youth is pleasant, but very soon it will pass,
Man is like a tender flower and his days are like the grass,
We soon lose strength as we work hard each day,
Our eyes become dim and our hair turns gray,
But we have the full assurance that God will protect His own,
In His love will safely keep us till He leads us gently home.

They that serve their Master when old, we read in Psalm 92
Shall still bring forth abundant fruit and try God's will to do.
They shall be fat and flourishing and grow like a cedar tree,
And are longing for the day when from sin they will be free,
What matters then if the hair turns gray of if the eyes grow dim?
Jehovah is my Rock and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Mrs. Gertrude Braaksma,
918 Alta St., Redlands, Calif.