

TIMELY TOPICS FOR WOMEN

By Barbara Baines

YOUTH'S OPPORTUNITY IN THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

"Why is it that so many of our youngsters want to start their career sitting at a desk? They aren't weak, for on the average they are healthier than we were. They aren't soft or lazy, for they will drive themselves to exhaustion on a football field. Why then their dread of manual labour? I would try to get work in a machine shop. If that failed I would try to become an apprentice to an electrician or a plumber, or get a job in a service station. But I'd work with my hands." So said William Knudsen, automobile magnate, and now Priorities Director for the United States, in writing to the American Magazine a couple of years ago.

Yet during the last couple of decades young people went to college so they wouldn't have to work with their hands, and the height of every student's ambition on leaving school was to get a white-collar job no matter how small the pay, because manual labour involved a loss of prestige. There may have been some justification for this attitude in pioneer days when book-learning was rare. But more recently the high value set on education was not for itself alone, but because of a kind of spookishness which considered it more honourable to handle a telephone than a pen, and more socially desirable to dictate to a stenographer than to direct a crew of skilled mechanics.

The war of course has changed all this. The emphasis now is on skill and the ability to do things. Book-learning is considered useful only as a tool to make a job simpler. The skilled mechanic, electrician, tool-maker, designer, draughtsman, metallurgist, chemist: these are the men in demand today. More young people in this country are using their hands than ever have before, and they are enjoying the experience. The boys in the army, and airforce are becoming expert technicians; girls in war industries are doing skilled labour, and both are finding an unexpected satisfaction in their work, an outlet for their creative impulses.

But even before the war so abruptly turned the world topsy-turvy our leading educationalists were recommending that more hand work be taught in the schools; that students be trained to fit into a working world, rather than on graduation find themselves crammed with theory but no trade, no practical skill, no useful art.

Psychiatrists have learned the value of occupational therapy and maintain that if executives had learned a trade which could be turned into a hobby there would be fewer nervous breakdowns among them.

Business men tell us that the man who combines book-learning with hand training, who can transfer the science of formula into the science of things, need never worry about getting along.

In the world of tomorrow, when the war is finished, and the depression years forgotten, there will most probably be launched a tremendous industrial programme to supply us with all the things we want and now must do without. . . . an immense programme of modernizing and rebuilding. . . . of developing new products. . . . of adapting war inventions in the chemical and technical world to domestic production.

A new industrial age will be born, in which skilled and trained workers will play a dominant role. And there is little doubt that it will be from this class that the executives of the future will arise. If I were a parent with sons or daughters in their teens I would not encourage them to acquire a formal education with a false tradition of gentility as the motive. Rather were they ever so slightly gifted with their hands, or even remotely interested in science, I would encourage them to fit themselves for a place in the industrial world. . . . the world of opportunity.

APPEALS THAT MERIT YOUR SUPPORT

The Canadian Red Cross is appealing for \$500,000 for the purchase of more medical and relief supplies for the Russian people who have suffered so heavily in the last few months. Surgical instruments, modern medicines, and operating room supplies are needed urgently. Your local Red Cross will be glad to forward your donation. . . . The Health League of Canada is making a drive for \$150,000 to carry on its educational and preventive work. Health attains a new importance in wartime, and the need for improved health conditions in the Dominion was called to public attention in a disquieting way, when it was announced that 90,000 men had been rejected from military service because of physical unfitness, and 40,000 were discharged from service when disabilities came to light. . . . If you would like to fill a ditty bag for a sailor at Christmas do so at once. The Navy League still needs quite a lot more to reach their objective of 20,000. Toronto opened the first blood clinic in November, 1940, and now there is about a dozen in operation across the Dominion. Two thousand donors a week are wanted. All healthy men and women are eligible. . . . Perhaps some of you would like to support these war charities but do not know just how to squeeze the money out of your budget. Here are a couple of suggestions that might help. Send "token" gifts only to your relatives and friends for Christmas and enclose a note explaining that the money you would ordinarily have spent has been used to support your favourite war charity. Exception could be made in the case of children to whom a gift means so much. Extend Christmas greetings by telephone to friends who live in the same community, or whom you see often, and use the money you would have spent on Christmas cards and postage for your war work.

THE BOOK OF THE WEEK

"THE HILL OF DOVES" BY STUART CLOETE
(Collins, 637pp. \$3.00)

"The Hill of Doves" is a vivid and robust story of Africa in 1880, the time of the first Boer War, an even more engrossing novel than "Turning Wheels," which no doubt most of you have read and enjoyed.

For eighty years the English, in their endless quest for gold and diamonds, have gradually forced the Boers back into the "bad lands." And now they want to tax them, for "roads and schools and police," things no good Boer needs. An "incident" is enough to bring the smouldering defiance of the burghers to a head. Fathers and sons ride to join their commando, with rifles loaded.

It is a sad parting for Lena and Dirk, happy in their new-found love, and a time of waiting for many lonely wives. The first battle is at Bronkspuit, a little stream filled with water-cress. When the Boer's red jackets fall from the ranks as rifles spit out from every stone and anti-hill across the stream. In the thick of the battle a Boer mounted on a great chestnut stallion gallops to meet the enemy, firing as he goes. He is Oupa, Lena's great grandfather, a might patriarch of 90 who has fought lions and elephants, kaffirs and zulus as well as uitlanders. . . . a man whose rich philosophy you will admire, and who now dies as he has lived. . . . in action.

There are many characters you will like: Tabankula, Oupa's Zulu henchman; Tanta Martha renowned for her medicines and her wisdom; the blind Boetie, Dirk's young brother who with his flute pipes his goat up into the Hill of Doves, and who becomes a hero when in the dead of night he leads the Boer commando up the precipitous crag to surprise the enemy. Here another bloody battle is fought, a battle that prepares the way for the end of the war.

WHITE FRUIT CAKE

Baking is part of the fun at Christmas time, and with that joyous day just three weeks away it is time you were getting your Christmas cakes and puddings made. This cake is rather expensive for its size, but it is delicious, so perhaps you would like to make it, and serve it in quite small pieces to your family and friends as a special treat.

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| 4 eggs | 1 1/2 pounds white raisins |
| 2 cups white sugar | 1/2 pound blanched almonds |
| 1/2 pound butter | 2 cups shredded cocoanut |
| 1 cup sweet milk (scant) | 1 cup candied cherries (red) |
| 3 cups flour | 1/2 cup candied cherries (green) |
| 2 teaspoons baking powder | 3 slices candied pineapple (red, green and yellow) |
| 1/2 pound citron peel | 1 teaspoon oil of lemon |
| 1/4 teaspoon salt | |

Cream butter, add sugar gradually, and beat thoroughly. Add beaten egg yolks, and then beaten whites. Sift flour, baking powder and salt. Add alternately with milk. Beat well. Add lemon oil, fruit, nuts, and cocoanut. Stir until thoroughly mixed. This amount makes one large size cake, or two smaller cakes. Put in deep cake tins lined with two thicknesses of wax paper. Bake two hours in slow oven (250-275 degrees F.). A small pan of water in the oven will help to keep it moist. Cover with waxed paper for the last hour if it gets too brown. Ice or not as you wish, and keep in an air-tight tin until ready to use.

The newest diet to lose weight is the four food diet; meat, green vegetables, fresh fruit and milk. It contains the protective foods which supply vitamins, but is low in calories. If you lose too quickly you may add cereals to the list.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Barbara Baines welcomes letters from readers. Who has a really good recipe for Christmas cookies they would like to share with us? Address all communications in care of this newspaper.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.,
Dean of The Moody Bible Institute
of Chicago.
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Lesson for December 14

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CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

LESSON TEXT—II Corinthians 8:1-7
GOLDEN TEXT—It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.—I Corinthians 4:2.

The Christmas season, when there is so much thought about gifts, is a most appropriate time for a lesson on Christian giving. Dr. John Willis Baer was once asked: "How can we raise money for foreign missions?" Quick as a flash, he answered: "Don't raise it, give it." "If all believers could come to a true knowledge of what the New Testament teaches regarding giving, and would seriously put this knowledge into practice, the Christian church could advance more in the next 10 years than it has advanced in any 3 years in its history" (Wilbur M. Smith).

I. An Example of Liberality (8:1-5)

For some reason people are overly sensitive when one speaks of money. The subject must be approached tactfully, so Paul skillfully directs the attention of the Corinthian church to their fellow Christians in Macedonia. They had been in a great affliction and were in "deep poverty" (v. 2), but out of their sorrow and want they gave far above Paul's expectation (v. 5) and "beyond their power," and then pleaded with Paul that he should let them give more. The explanation is found in verse 5, where we learn that they had first given "their own selves to the Lord," and then in loving co-operation with Paul himself, as the Lord's agent, in this matter of the offering.

Is it not strange that those who suffer most for the gospel and have the least to give are the most generous in their giving. Those to whom the gospel has come easily, who bear no special burdens for Christ, and who are well situated financially, are commonly the most stingy with their money. Could it be that they have not really given themselves to the Lord? One wonders.

II. An Exhortation to Faithfulness (8:6-9)

Apparently the Corinthians had made a promise or pledge to give for the poor at Jerusalem, but had become a bit forgetful and negligent. It seems to be so easy to neglect to keep up a pledge for the Lord's work. Some folk even feel that they cannot make a pledge. They pledge to pay their rent, to make payments on a car, or a washing machine; but to the church they just can't pledge, or if they do, the promise is often neglected. Such things are dishonoring to the name of Christ.

As they abound in other graces (v. 7), Paul exhorts the Corinthians to abound in "this grace also." So giving is a Christian grace! And why not? Consider Christ (v. 9), who left the glory He had with the Father and came to the poverty of the One who had not where to lay His head, that we through Him might be eternally rich.

III. A Principle of Christian Giving (9:6)

The harvest is always in proportion to the sowing of the seed. The man who is stingy with his seed at sowing time will reap that kind of a harvest. The opposite is also true.

It works in the field of business too. The merchant who gives the stiffest return for one's money and the most liberal measure of service is bound to prosper, while the stingy one is left to lament the fact that his goods rot on his shelves.

In the spiritual realm it is even more true. But, someone may say, we ought not to do good that we may profit by it. No real Christian will give just that he may prosper, but, mark it well, if he does give for Christ's sake and His glory, God will prosper him. "You can't beat God giving."

IV. The Spirit of Christian Stewardship (9:7)

Our giving is to be done according to the purpose of our heart—not grudgingly, nor with grief, nor yet by compulsion, because someone put on pressure.

God loves a cheerful or (as it may be translated) hilarious giver. When done in the right spirit, giving for Christ can be one of the happiest experiences of the Christian life. Let's make offering time in our church services the most joyful time in the meeting. Then we shall be liberal as well as cheerful in this grace of stewardship.

Faith in Christ

"Martha said, 'Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.' Of all the true disciples of Christ this may with perfect confidence be said. 'He is here, therefore they shall not die.' Faith causes Christ to be present in the heart; and where Christ is, eternal death cannot be." —Dean Howson.

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