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### The Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 1950

CHURCH ORGANIZATION AND LEADERSHIP

Golden Text - Do your best to present yourself to God, as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2 Tim. 2: 15. Lesson Text-Ac. 6: 1-6; 20: 17-18, 28; 1 Cor. 12: 27-28.

Lane

By Lillian Collier Gray

in a raging February storm.

might be described as purple.

tober and November.

tops and pour out great bursts

disgrace for the way he attacks the

in the form of several kinds of back

Canadian Literature".

ed woman as teacher.

northern nesting grounds.

This column had just recorded 6: 1-6.

with a vim and vigour which we had almost forgotten ever existed. was happening to the birds that had what officers and servants to appoint to meet any new exigency be privately interested. so recently been enjoying summer sunshine. No doubt great numbers that arises. The words of the 12 of them perished from hunger and should sink into the hearts of us all other families all through that win- leave the Word of God and serve try weather. The birds visit her in tables." That is precisely what the concession. great numbers the year around, for Church in many places wishes a they always find the baskets she minister of the gospel to do. It hangs in her trees filled with seeds wishes him to raise finances, run and suet. On the stormiest day the charity societies, grace social funclittle feathered creatures came right tions with his presence and with his to the windows and doors calling speeches. If the minister today for food and no doubt asking if consents to do all the world and their kind friend would mind just even the church desires and exmaking the weather a little more pects him to do, he will have no greeable. Among the visitors was time left for his own proper work, one little song sparrow. How sadly "prayer and the ministry of the out of place he must have looked word" (v. 4). "It is not pleasing to God:" he is called to higher offices Another bird lover has reported in the community. If this work having seen, or at least heard the must be done, someone else should

song of a purple finch on one of the be found to do it. stormiest days last week. The clear, Note carefully the kind of men liquid notes of the song came to the apostles considered necessary to him out of the thick of the storm. look after the temporal affairs of These hardy little birds come down the church: (1) They should be into Southern Ontario every fall "men of good report": No men of winter from their nesting doubtful reputation should be chosgrounds in the north. In appearance en merely because they were rich and habits, the purple finch resem- or influential. (2) They should be bles the grosbeaks, siskins, and "full of the Spirit": How careless crossbills. But why they are called some churches are in choosing their purple is a mystery, unless it may officers, especialy those looking be that the individual who named after the financial affairs of the them was colour blind. When the church, never asking, "Are these male bird is three years old, he men full of the Spirit?" (3) "Full takes on a shade of rose-red in his of wisdom": There are many who plumage, but at no time does the are deemed spiritual, but do not colour ever deepen to anything that show good sense in some directions. However good they may be, they When this part of the country was ought not to be chosen for deacons. If a man is really "full of the Spirit" thicker with native conifers, the he will be full of wisdom, for the finches sometimes remained here Holy Spirit is "the spirit of power, for the nesting season. But now, of love and of a sound mind" (2 most of them seek northern haunts,

coming back here from the south in The church at Jerusalem showed ebruary, March and April, and returning again in September, Oc- a gracious spirit in choosing Grecian Jews for their first deacons. This was because the Grecian Jews had The purple finch's song is delightcomplained that their widows and ful. And the males begin to sing orphans were neglected (v. 1). The during the middle or latter part of two first named deacons developed February. By March they are sing. into mighty · preachers. Stephen ing in great volume, and a chorus stands out: he is one of the most given by the occasional straggling beautiful characters of the Bible: flocks is something indeed to listen (1) Full of faith, (2) full of the to. Sometimes flocks will pause Holy Spirit, (3) full of grace, (4) in their feeding and gather in treefull of power. As a result of the spirit of fairness and the character melody on the spring air. With of the deacons chosen, "the Word patches of snow still adorning the ncreased, and the number of the landscape, such a chorus is deligntdisciples multiplied in Jerusalem ful. And we only hear it during exceedingly." Right through the that short period while the birds Acts we read this same history of are feeding before going on to their an ever-growing church. Every chapter has its note of victory (2: Sometimes the purple finch is in 47; 4: 4; 5: 14).

II. Paul's Faithfulness, 20: 17, 18,

young buds of the birches, willows. 28 and maples. These make up his Though Paul passed near Ephesalads, I suppose. However, these sus, the scene of such an eventful trees still seem to have sufficient and fruitful year of his life, he deleaves, so probably the damage is termined not to visit it at this time, negligible. And salad is not his though he anticipated that it was only food. He eats his cereal, too, the last time that he should be in that vicinity (v. 25). He was deterweed seeds, such as ragweed. Hay mined if possible to be at Jerusalem fever sufferers should consider the on the day of Pentecost, about little finch a real friend for that which so many hallowed memories clustered and where he would be New arrivals from the south will able to meet so many Christians surprise us almost daily now for from different places. He sent for weeks to come. We had an arrival the representatives of that church from the south for the week-end. to meet him at Miletus, twenty or But she wasn't a lark or a finch, thirty miles away. Paul begins with She was a lady from Niagara Falls, an appeal to their own knowledge whose name is well known in Wo- of his manner of life among them. men's Institute and literary circles. They knew that he had served the And she arrived, by coincidence Lord as a devoted bond-servant. and good luck, on the same train They knew also that this service with Miss Elsie Pomeroy who was had been with "all lowliness of addressing our Canadian Club on mind." Not only had he served "Canadian Poets as the founders of with humility of mind but "with all humility of mind." He had served Our friend was as thrilled and with "tears" too, tears over the delighted with Miss Pomeroy's ad- hardness and impenitence of their dress as were apparently all the hearts (v. 31). There had been rest of her listeners. Two evenings hard trials too, through the many stand out in my memory, evenings plots of the Jews. How Paul's hisspent in the home of a friend in tory puts to shame our worrying another town, where Miss Pomeroy over the small trials that come to was one of the guests, and where us in the path of loyalty to truth the rest of the people assembled and to Christ!

there, three or four of us, just sat III. The Body of Christ, 1 Cor.

back and listened as our gifted 12: 27-28. friend recounted tale after tale con- No member of the body suffers cerning Canadian writers, and re- alone in the physical body, nor does cited beautifully and at great length any member in the Church suffer from their works. Miss Pomeroy is alone; when "one member sufferone of those speakers whose love eth all the members suffer with it." for her subject carries her listeners Chrysostom has said, "When a thorn right away on wings of magic to enters the heel, the whole body other worlds. Or is it that she feels it and is concerned; the back makes us more conscious of the bends, the belly and thigh contract wonders of the world in which we themselves, the hands come forlive through her own interpretation ward and draw out the thorn, the of literature. Literature and life head stoops, and the eyes regard the are one and the same thing to her. affected member with intense gaze." Literature must be a living thing or He might have added, the eyes it is not literature. And so she weep and the mouth cries out with makes it live as she talks and re- pain. Just so it is in the Church, cites. Fortunate indeed have been the body of Christ; an injury to the the students who have had this gift- most significant member is an injury to the whole body; the whole

ody feels it. On the other hand when "one member is honored all the members rejoice with it." On this Chrysostom says again, "When the head is crowned the whole man feels honored, the mouth expresses, and the eyes look gladness." So let us never forget that we "are the body of Christ, and severally members thereof."

#### CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS

If we are going to stop this steady drift of the government into private business and more ex penditures of public funds, then, asserts The Financial Post, there Exposition - I. The Praying, will have to be some wholesale Teaching, Multiplying Church, Ac. conversions and without reserva-

the arrival in some districts of the It is impossible to say of any fixed When we demand that governhorned larks when winter arrived form of government, "This and this ment expenditures be reduced we only is the Divine and true and or- must mean exactly that even if it iginal form." The Holy Spirit is in involves cutting out some nones-We couldn't help wondering what the church to show what to do, sential government agency, subsidy or other activity in which we may

We are not going to get very far in this business if we simply keep cold. My Lady of the Birds tells today, "It is not reason (literally, passing fine sounding resolutions me she fed huge flocks of birds of 'pleasing,' to God) that we should then hop the night train to Ottawa to try and wangle some special

> Liberal strength in Britain's parliament is down to one in 32.

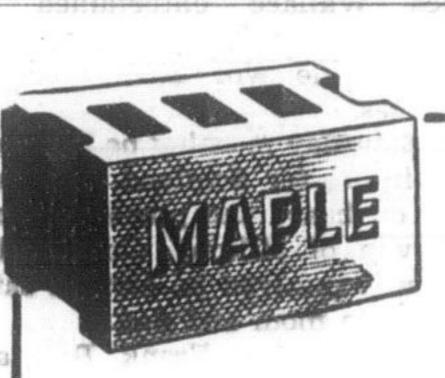
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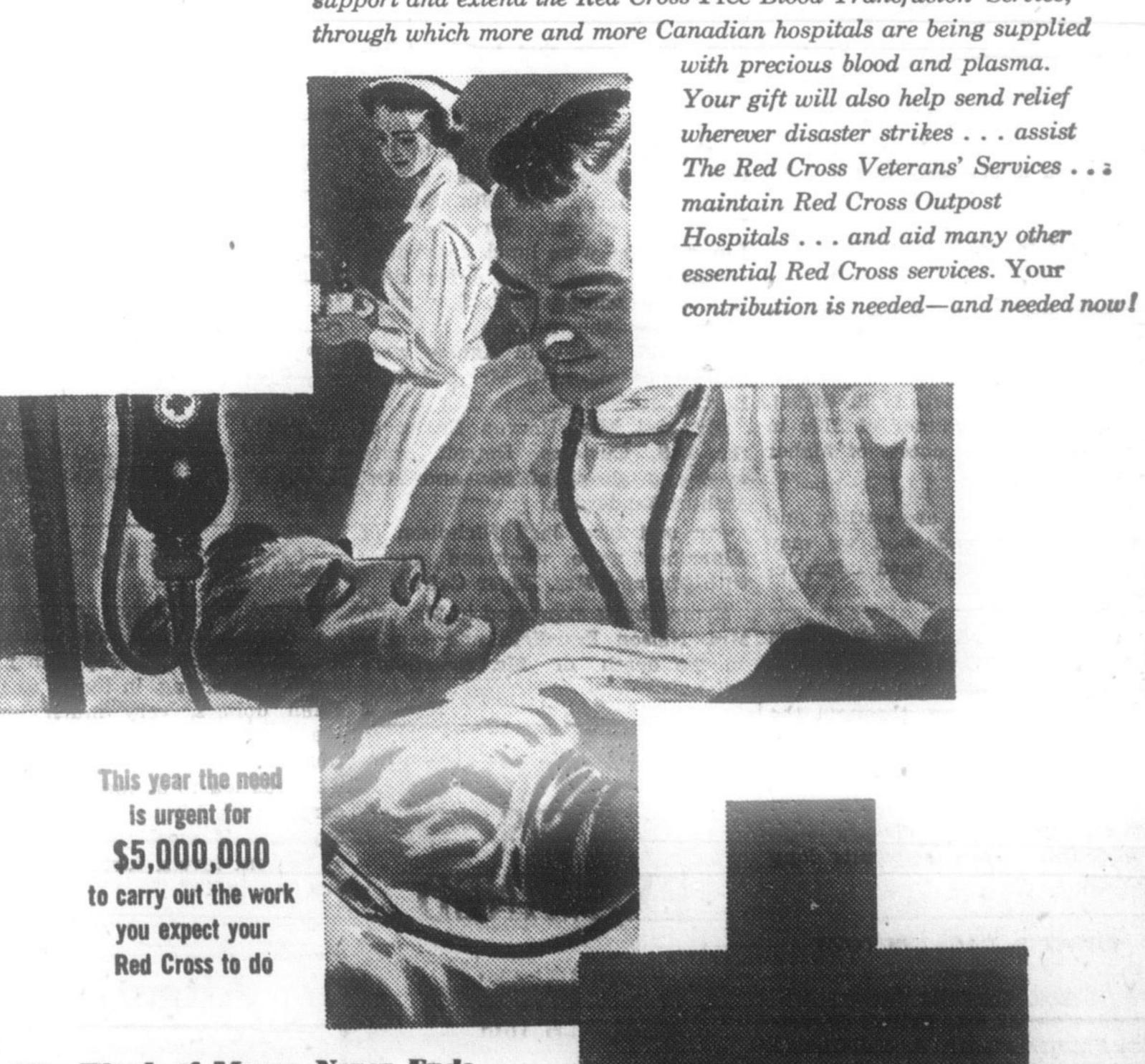
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