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Here is Jack Pennock, son of Mr. Edw. Pennock of Stouffville, giving a trim in his tonsorial parlour, Yonge St., Aurora, where he is one of the town's most popular business men.

**VICTORIA SQUARE**

August 10

A speedy recovery is wished for Mrs. P. W. Willows who is ill.

Congratulations to our new brides, Mr. and Mrs. John Loeffler, who were married on Saturday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Westbrook and family of Toronto, Mr. and Mrs. V. Westbrook, spent Wednesday of last week with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Mortson and family at their summer cottage at Duclos Point, Lake Simcoe.

Miss Rosemary March, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Bennett and Ray spent last week holidaying in New York City.

Misses Gladys and Heather McMurray of Bracebridge, spent last week with Misses Margaret and Joan Smith.

We welcome Dr. and Mrs. Connell and family of Toronto to our community, who have purchased the house formerly owned by Mr. Clark Johnson.

Misses Marion Nichols and Dorothy Hooper, Messrs Nelson Buchanan and Billy Robb attended the Old-time Fiddlers' Contest at Shelburne, on Friday evening of last week.

The November and December groups of the W. A. will hold a Bake Sale on the church lawn on Friday, August 13, commencing at 3 p.m. Any donations will be appreciated.

The baseball game with the young people of the Fifth Line vs the young people of the Square resulted in a close score. However, the Fifth Line were victorious—14-12.

The regular meeting of the W. A. will be held on Wednesday, August 18 at 8 p.m. in the Sunday School room. All ladies are invited to attend.

Remember the joint service at Brown's Corners on Sunday, August 15 at 11 a.m. Guest speaker—Rev. Garnet Lynd, Sunday School at 9.45 a.m.

**PINE ORCHARD**

Thursday, August 12, 1954

Miss Laurine Brammar spent a few days with Miss Doris Brandon of Uxbridge.

Miss Sandra Davis is holidaying in Parry Sound district.

Mr. W. Hope is on holidays for two weeks.

Miss Myrna McClure returned home with her parents last week after visiting her grandparents in Thornbury several days.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Evely and sons visited the homes of W. Johnston and R. Chapman last week. Bruce and Verne are spending this week with Earl Johnston.

Mrs. Bob Middleton of King spent last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Sytema.

Messrs Sam Gibney and Rus. Allen attended Sutton Fair Saturday.

Mr. Summerfelt is sporting a Pontiac.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Haines were visitors in Niagara district recently.

Mr. and Mrs. James Sheridan and girls called on Mr. and Mrs. James Hope, Sunday.

The W. V. visited the Old Folks Home on Yonge Street Wednesday and put on an interesting program with visitors and residents joining in a song. A generous treat of cookies and candy was given to the inmates. The staff of the home served orange drink before the visitors toured the large building. Many commented on its shiny cleanliness and much improved homey atmosphere.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Mason were in Toronto attending a friend's wedding on Saturday.

**BALLANTRAE**

Thursday, August 12, 1954

Thursday evening a surprise party was given for Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hill and David at their home. Twenty-five people were present and had a very enjoyable evening. Mr. and Mrs. Hill have sold their farm and are moving soon to make their home in Hollywood, Cal.

Ballantrae W. A. and Thursday group presented them with a lovely linen tablecloth with serviettes and a piggy bank for David. We wish them every success and happiness in their new home.

Mrs. C. Hollingshead of Woodbridge is spending a week with her nephew and family, Mr. and Mrs. A. Watson.

Miss Pauline McKewen spent the weekend with her grandmother, Mrs. J. Paisley and Gene.

Mrs. Judson and Miss Mabel Judson of Toronto have been visiting this past week with Mr. and Mrs. George Fockler.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hill and David visited with Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson at Alliston last week.

Mrs. Dorothy Morrison, Barley and Shirley of Newmarket, holidayed for a week with Mrs. Morning's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. Radford Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Wallwork Jr. and Linda were guests on Monday of Mr. and Mrs. C. Young at Willowdale.

Mrs. M. Clarkson of Newmarket is visiting for a week with her brother Mr. W. Cockerill.

Mrs. C. Johnson has sold her home and will leave with her daughter, Mrs. H. Ward and Marsha to make her home with them in Los Angeles, Cal. We are sorry Mrs. Johnson is leaving our neighbourhood. Our best wishes are extended to her for happiness in her new home.

Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Ward and Marsha are motorjoring to Los Angeles and leave on Monday.

**THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON**

**CHRISTIAN GIVING**  
(Lesson for August 22)  
Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:1, 2; 2 Cor. 8:1-7

**Golden Text—It is more blessed to give than to receive.—Acts 20:35**

**THE LESSON AS A WHOLE**  
By J. C. Macaulay, D.D.  
Approach to the Lesson

"Ye have the poor always with you," said Jesus, and then the church in Jerusalem had them from the beginning. Right after France and an economic situation arose which was met by a pooling of resources. Soon a more permanent arrangement was established for ministering to the needs of the poor, and especially the widows. It was in this connection that the new organization was set up releasing the apostles from the burden of serving tables. Many hold this to be the origin of the diaconate.

This care of the poor continued to be a prominent feature of the early church. It is notable that when Paul submitted to the elders at Jerusalem the Gospel which he preached to the Gentiles, and they gave him the hand of fellowship in regard to his particular ministry, they added the exhortation that he should remember the poor "the same which I also was forward to do," adds Paul (Gal. 2:10).

The great apostle did not forget this responsibility. He was particularly mindful of the poor saints in Jerusalem, where naming the name of Christ was costly, often involving the loss of means of livelihood. All times of famine and depression the responsibility of the church for its poor was redoubled. Remembering that "salvation is of the Jews," Paul insisted that Gentile believers had an obligation with regard to those whose spiritual heritage they shared. Thus he exhorted a helping hand to their poor brethren in Jerusalem. Indeed, he launched a financial campaign on their behalf, enlisting the services of Titus and others to instruct the several churches in this grace of liberality (2 Cor. 8:22-24). Both by letter and through these brethren he instructed the several churches. The substance of that instruction we have in his letters to the Corinthians. While these instructions concern a particular situation, there can be no doubt that they convey the mind of the Spirit concerning Christian giving in general, and where financial problems have been reduced to the vanishing point.

It is of interest to remember that at the climax of this financial campaign, when he had carried the fruit of it to Jerusalem, Paul fell into the hands of his enemies, and a period of imprisonment began, lasting for over four years.

Verse 1—"Now concerning the collection, as I have given order, even so do ye." For this collection, see Romans 15:26 and Acts 24:17. See also Galatians 2:10. Paul's instructions to the churches of Galatia on the matter were not given in the extant letter, but probably in a letter now lost.

Verse 2—"Upon the first day of the week, lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." The first day of the week had clearly assumed a place of prominence in the Christian church. See Acts 20:7. It is not clear whether "in store" refers to the church treasury or to setting apart a portion at home until the time came for bringing the special offering.

2 Cor. 8:1—"... we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia." "Do you to wit" is an old expression for "inform you." Grace here signifies the spirit of generosity which God had given to the Macedonians. Paul had boasted about the Achaean (to which group the Corinthians belonged) so stirring them up to liberality. He now boasts of the Macedonians to the Achaean to inspire them to a full effort.

Verse 3—"... the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality." Deep affliction could not quench the joy of these saints, nor deep poverty their singlehearted generosity. Poverty is no bar to liberality where the joy of the Lord reigns.

Verse 4—"... beyond their power, willing of themselves." They broke the barrier of "what they could afford" in their intense eagerness to give.

Verse 5—"Praying us that we would receive the gift... the ministering to the saints." Paul seems to have been reluctant to accept such largesse from such poor people, but they regarded it as a grace, a privilege, and begged not to be denied.

Verse 6—"... first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God." The Macedonians had spiritual insight to realize that God does not want "ours" as a substitute for ourselves. Saints who have given themselves to the Lord are the readiest to give themselves in glad co-operation in the service of the Lord.

Verse 7—"... we desired Titus... finish in you the same grace also." The actions of the Macedonians made Paul long to see such a manifestation of grace in the Corinthians, so he appointed Titus to this special ministry.

Verse 8—"As ye abound in everything... see that ye abound in this grace also." The very wealth of "gifts" in the Corinthian church created its own problem, requiring the exhortation of chapter 12 and the directions of chapter 14. Paul now calls on them to add this further manifestation of the Spirit.

Verse 9—"I speak not by commandment, but to prove the sincerity of your love." Paul did not put giving on the basis of obedience to an apostolic command, but on the principle of love with the impetus of a good example, that of the Macedonians.

Verse 9—"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." The great pattern of giving is our Lord Himself, whose self-improvement released the riches of grace for poverty-stricken sinners.

The Heart of the Lesson

Paul has preserved for us a statement by our Lord Jesus, not found in our Gospels: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." But giving is not an impulsive, spasmodic, irresponsible practice. There are principles of giving taught in Scripture which lift it to the plane of a rational, yet spiritual exercise. Some of these principles are set forth in this week's lesson.

One important lesson presented is that giving is not the peculiar privilege of the rich, but to be shared by all. The Macedonians, of whom Paul boasted to the Corinthians, gave out of deep poverty, regarding it as no hardship to share their meager resources, but finding supreme joy and satisfaction in it. The widow's two mites were more acceptable to the Lord than the much displayed bouquets of the rich. With Him it is not the amount that counts, but the heart and the sacrifice of love.

Another principle of giving is that it begins with the giving of oneself (2 Cor. 8:5). All the thousands bestowed on charities have no value to God if the giver withholds himself. "seek not yours, but you," said the Apostle Paul (2 Cor. 12:14). That but echoes the thought of God. Surely another way of saying the same thing is: "Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing." Where love is, where one gives himself first, there will be no doubt about the giving.

Giving after the Christian order is both regular and proportionate. The apostle suggested basing it on the weekly earnings, and setting aside the amount determined so that it would be reserved for the allotted purpose, and in no danger of being absorbed in the general expenditure. Where the income is monthly, the division will doubtless be made on a monthly basis. Some have insisted that the phrase "in store" refers to the treasury of the local church. This, however, is doubtful, although Paul wanted all the gathering of the contributions to be taken care of before his arrival. I have known men who had a separate bank account in which they deposited the Lord's portion at each reckoning, and had it indicated "in trust." It was then a matter of wise stewardship to make proper distribution.

The regular giving is as important as the regular laying by. Local churches, as well as missionary societies, depend largely on the regular gifts. The occasional gifts are useful for special needs, no doubt, but the steady flow is the mainstay of the work.

For the encouragement of "small" donors, I may mention that the average gift to the Moody Bible Institute (with which I have the privilege of being connected as a teacher) is \$10. The steady flow of these small amounts keeps the wheels of this multiple ministry turning. The power is of God.

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