

The Sunday School Lesson

(Lesson for January 19)

FELLOWSHIP OF THE CHURCH

Acts 2; Rom. 15; Eph. 4; Phil. 1
GOLDEN TEXT — And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sakes hath forgiven you.—Eph. 4:32

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

Approach to the Lesson

We should keep clearly in mind the difference between the Church and the churches. When the Lord said to Peter, "I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18), it is clear enough that He was not thinking in terms of a local church in Jerusalem, or London, or Chicago, but rather of one great body that included all believers. The Apostle Paul has the same in mind in that great fifth chapter of Ephesians when he says, "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." Certainly this is not a localized group, but that great body of believers as they will be presented to Him when He gathers the saints to Himself in that great day. But when we turn to the first three chapters of the Revelation we are introduced to local groups called churches. There were churches also in Corinth, in Rome, in Colosse, in Antioch, and in Jerusalem.

Ideally, every local church should be a miniature of the great Church. The difficulty is that we are not yet wholly sanctified, and therefore the local church is plagued with manifestations of the flesh which will not appear when the whole Church is gathered Home. Nevertheless, it is the duty of every pastor and every church member to bring his local church nearer and nearer to those standards which are set for us in the New Testament so that the world may have true glimpses of what the Church of Jesus Christ really is.

Today's lesson introduces us to the first local church, and we see how its members were striving to represent their risen Head. So well did they do it that great numbers were being continually added to them.

Verse by Verse
 Acts 2:42—... doctrine and fellowship... breaking of bread... prayers. The Greek has three articles which are missing in the K.J.V., which would make the latter part of the verse read, "In the breaking of the bread and the prayers." This would seem to point to the Lord's Supper and public prayers.

Verse 43—... fear... and many wonders... The fear is not here attributed to the wonders, but to the whole movement which made a tremendous impact on the community.

Verse 44—... all that believed... had all things common... This can hardly mean that they lived in one building, in the light of verse 46. It must refer to their daily resorting to the Temple.

Verse 45—... possessions and goods... as every man had need... For further light on the operation of this see 4:32 to 5:11. Need was the basis of distribution.

Victoria Square News

(Jan. 9)

Mrs. W. Sandle
 On Monday, December 30th, the Junior Boys Sunday School

fellowship is sustained by steadfast adherence to apostolic doctrine. Where the teaching of the New Testament is not accepted as being authoritative and is discarded in favor of the opinions of men, you do not have a true church. In such a case the fellowship may be that of a religious or ethical club, but is not Christian fellowship.

3. A true New Testament church consists of believers who gather regularly to remember the Lord in the breaking of bread and to engage in the ministry of prayer. The Lord's Supper, or the Communion, as some call it, is undoubtedly the culminating point in the church's worship, while prayer calls for a far greater place in the life of the church than it has in most places. In our nonliturgical churches the service of worship gives a large place to preaching but a small place to prayer. The Reformation restored the pulpit to a place which it had long lost, but we are inclined to forget that worship is a two-way thoroughfare. There must be a going out to God as well as a receiving from Him.

4. A true New Testament church consists of believers who regard their possessions and goods as a sacred stewardship, not to be used simply for the indulgence of their desires, but for the common need (vs. 44, 45). The method of exercising this stewardship may differ from generation to generation, but the principle remains the same. We are stewards rather than owners.

4. A true New Testament church consists of believers whose whole life is characterized by gladness and sincerity (v. 46). Early believers were not long-faced mourners. They had normal bodies and enjoyed their meals, all the more because their hearts were right with God, and they realized that their food was a gift from Him.

6. A true New Testament church is a growing church. People were being saved through the witness of that early church, and in this living way the church grew.

Victoria Square News

class and leaders spent the afternoon and evening in Toronto. After seeing "Around the World in 80 Days" they took a ride on the subway and some sight-seeing of the downtown area. One of the real interests was the new automatic parking garage on Temperance St. In the evening they had a two and a half hour tour of Police Headquarters, being personally conducted by Deputy Chief of Detectives Alec McCarthy, through the detective dept., fingerprint and photography dept., as well as communications. A good time was had by all. Those who attended were: Douglas Hill, Wayne and Bruce Morrison, David and Errol Matunga, Allen Nichols, Allen Silder, Bobby Ratke, John Gee, Mat Taylor and Lawson Mumberson, W.M.S.

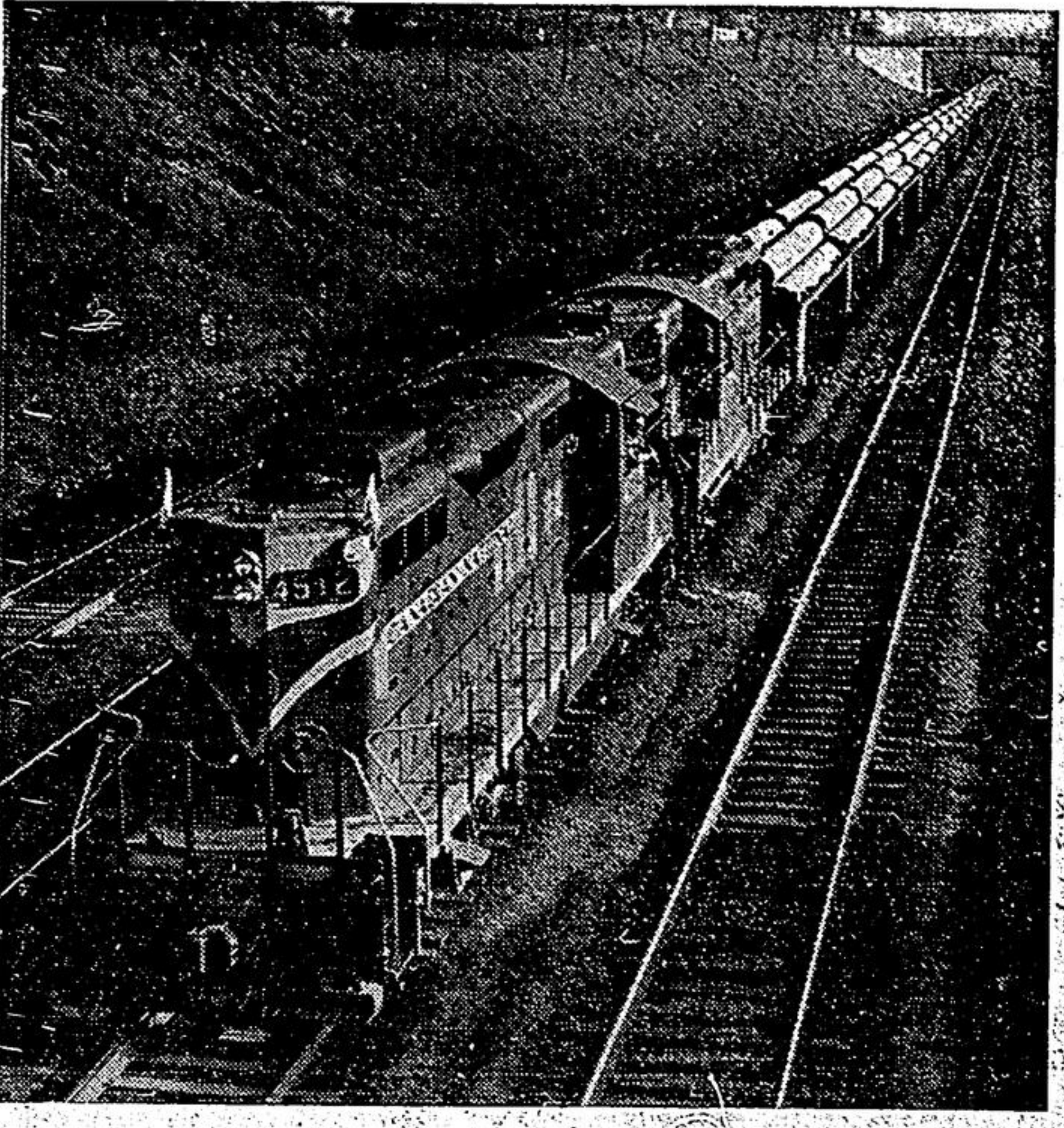
The different secretaries of the W.M.S. met at the home of Mrs. Stanley Boynton on Thursday afternoon of last week to fill out the reports for the past year in the work of the W.M.S. Sunday School Annual.

The annual Sunday School meeting was held in the Sunday School room on Friday evening of last week. It was preceded by a delicious turkey dinner given by the superintendent, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Gee, Rev. W. J. Burton conducted the meeting and election of officers.

Officers for 1958—
 Supt., Mr. Douglas Gee; Assistant, Mr. Ralph Boynton; Secretary, Mr. Nelson Boynton; Treas., Mr. Roy Glover; Assistant Secty. Treas., Donald Boynton; Song Leader, Mr. Percy Bennett; Pianist, Mrs. Jim Barker.
 Teachers — Adult Class, Mr. Percy Bennett; Asst., Mr. Ralph Boynton; Sr. Boys, Ronald Gee; Asst., Frank Nichols; Sr. Girls, Mrs. Jim Barker; Asst., Audrey Gee; Jr. Boys, Mr. Lawson Mumberson; Asst., Mat Taylor; Intermediate Girls, Mrs. Lawson Mumberson; Asst., Mrs. Nellie Snider; Primary, Shirley Gee; Asst., Mrs. Nelson Boynton; Primary, Faye Nichols; Asst., Anne Buchanan; Primary, Mrs. Percy Bennett; Assistant, Mrs. Earl Empringham; Beginners, Mrs. Stanley Boynton; Asst., Carol Mortson; Beginners, Mrs. Douglas Gee; Asst., Lillian Nichols.
 Neighbourhood Notes—
 Mr. and Mrs. Louis Nichols, Miss Vera Nichols and Mr. Wilfred Anderson visited recently with Mrs. B. Alder at London. While there Messrs. Louis Nichols and Wilfred Anderson called on Rev. and Mrs. E. A. Currie. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Nichols, Miss Vera Nichols and Mr. Wilfred Anderson recently called on Mrs. George Stanford at Kitchener.
 Messrs. David Boynton and Denton Brumwell, students at the O.A.C., Guelph, spent their Christmas vacation at their homes here.
 Miss Judy Hart spent a few days last week with Mr. and Mrs. M. Phillely and family at Agincourt.
 Master Terry Hart spent a few days last week with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hill and family at Islington.
 Mrs. Stanley DeFoe entertained a number of ladies from the

Summit Golf and Country Club to luncheon on Friday of last week.
 Mr. and Mrs. John Empringham spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wilson and family in Toronto.
 Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kerwin of Jefferson had Sunday evening dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Collard and family.
 Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Orr spent New Year's Day with Mr. and Mrs. Bob Johnston and daughter at Nashville.
 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Forson and family of Ringwood, Mrs. Ella Ratcliffe of Stouffville, Miss Mabel Sanderson and Mr. An-

gus spent New Year's Day with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Boynton.
 Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Clubine of Detroit, Mich. Mr. and Mrs. Gore of Toronto, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Empringham and girls, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Bennett, spent Saturday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. John Empringham.
 Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Boynton, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Canning called on Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Bilyea in Toronto on Saturday evening.
 A speedy recovery is wished for Mr. Gordon Mortson who is ill in bed, also to Mrs. L. Knapp who is also ill.



Eighty carloads of pipe highball north as construction of the main Trans-Canada Pipe Line progresses across northern Ontario bordering the CNR transcontinental line. Solid trainloads are now being hauled to speed completion of the pipe line, which will carry Alberta natural gas to eastern Canada. Each freight car hauls an average of 11 pieces of this 30-inch pipe which is in 40-foot lengths.

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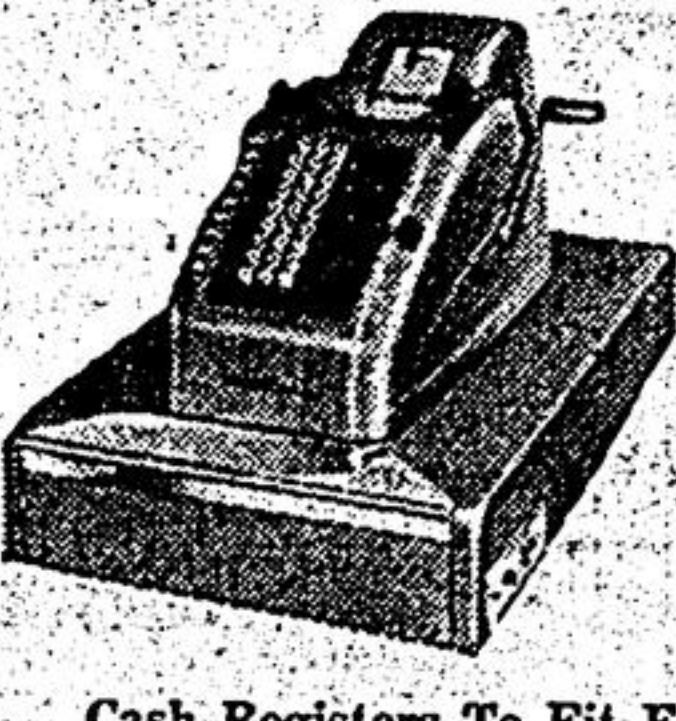


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