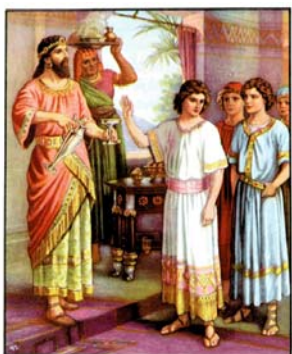




# Inspiration





## The Power of Example

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.  
1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:12, R.S.V.

When most people think of model Christians, they probably think of adults. But our verse for this morning speaks of young people being examples. This really should not surprise us. Some of the most effective examples the world has ever seen have been young people. We think of Joseph, of Daniel and his three companions, and above all, of Jesus. These young men influenced others for good.

Though Paul, in our verse, is encouraging young people to be an example to the "believers," the example of young people need not be restricted to Christians. The apostle was writing about the church in Ephesus, but his counsel is appropriate for all people at all times, even in homes where no profession of Christianity is made.

Some years ago *Guide* magazine (June 30, 1965) carried a story that demonstrates the power a youthful example can have in a home in which Christ is a stranger. Phillip Neal's parents were heavy drinkers. As a result, the house in which they lived, as well as its surroundings, had degenerated into a shambles. Somehow Phil heard about the Faith Bible Course and enrolled in it.



One day, when he felt he could stand the deteriorating home situation no longer, he wrote his instructor and told him he planned to leave home. His instructor wrote back and suggested he tried putting into practice his new-found faith by doing what he could to make his home a better place to live. Phil decided to give it a try. He began cleaning his house. His parents came home in the midst of his house cleaning and were pleasantly surprised. Phil said little, but things began to change, not only around the house, but in his parents' lives. In time the home that had been an eyesore became a model Christian home.

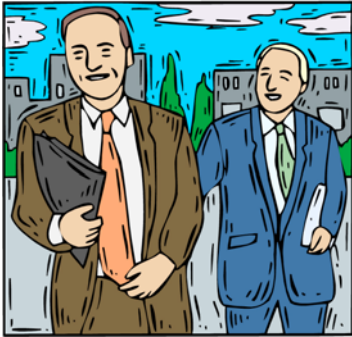
## The Power of Example



Setting a good example does not necessarily guarantee that others will follow it. However, it does increase the chances of change for the better. But after all, our motivation for living a godly life should not be to get people to follow us. This is only a byproduct. Christians do what is right "not with eye service, as men pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart." (Eph. 6:6)

There is no home, no matter how good it may be, that cannot be improved. If you see things in your home that could be improved, do not wait for someone else to begin improving them. "Be thou an example." Begin with the job that needs to be done, and God will help you.

By Don Mansell



## Angels Unawares

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrew 13:2

On one occasion when Cecil A. Williams was publishing secretary in South Korea in the 1960's, he visited a brother Kang, one of our Korean colporteurs in the small town of Idi. One morning before the men went out to sell books, Pastor Williams prayed, as he usually did, that God would give them a special manifestation of His blessing that day. Then the men went out to work. As they came past the door of one of the business establishments they had just canvassed, they were accosted by a Korean gentleman, well groomed and neatly dressed in a dark-blue suit and matching tie. He told them to follow him. Pastor Williams assumed that the stranger was an acquaintance of Brother Kang, and Brother Kang made the same assumption about Pastor Williams.

As the three men walked along, they discussed various topics of common interest, such as the price of rice. After a while they reached the outskirts of town and finally came to a peasant's home out in the country. In the front yard they saw a woman working, and several children playing nearby. Pastor Williams introduced himself and his companions and explained their work to her. The woman invited the colporteurs into her home, and then asked them to sit down. They did so, and the stranger sat between Pastor Williams and Brother Kang.



Pastor Williams canvassed the woman for the little book Steps to Christ. As he explained the nature of the book, tears welled up in the woman's eyes. At last she said, "I have been praying for fifteen years that someone would come and teach me the way to Christ, and here you come to bring me this little book Steps to Christ."

## Inspiration

### Angels Unawares

After words of encouragement and prayer, the colporteurs left. A short distance down the road, Pastor Williams and Brother Kang suddenly remembered that in their joy over finding a soul who was seeking God they had forgotten to thank the stranger who had led them to the house. Quickly they retraced their steps, but he was nowhere to be found. And what was more remarkable, the woman had never seen the stranger at all!

We are told that "All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers, tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace and for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in." (The Acts of the Apostles, p. 109) If God were to send an angel in human guise to guide you to such a soul, would he find you willing to go?

By Don Mansell







## 'But You Promised'

Many years ago, Indian braves would go away in solitude to prepare for manhood. One hiked into a beautiful valley, green with trees, bright with flowers. There, as he looked at the surrounding mountains, he noticed one rugged peak capped with dazzling snow.

I will test myself against that mountain, he thought. He put on his buffalo-hide shirt, threw his blanket over his shoulders and set off to climb the pinnacle.

When he reached the top, he stood on the rim of the world. He could see forever, and his heart swelled with pride. Then he heard a rustle at his feet. Looking down, he saw a snake. Before he could move, the snake spoke.

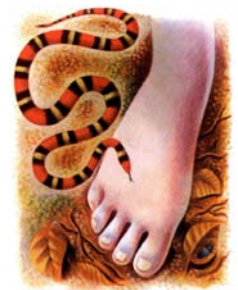


"I am about to die," said the snake. "It is too cold for me up here and there is no food. Put me under your shirt and take me down to the valley."

"No," said the youth. "I know your kind. You are a rattle snake. If I pick you up, you will bite; and your bite will kill me."

"Not so," said the snake. "I will treat you differently. If you do this for me, I will not harm you."

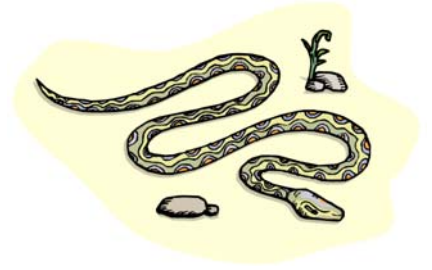
The youth resisted awhile, but this was a very persuasive snake. At last the youth tucked it under his shirt and carried it down to the valley. There he laid it down gently. Suddenly the snake coiled, rattled, and leaped, biting him on the leg.



## Inspiration

"But you promised!" cried the youth.

"You knew what I was when you picked me up," said the snake as it slithered away.



And now, wherever I go, I tell the story to young people who might be tempted by drugs. Remember the words of the snake: "You knew what I was when you picked me up."

Courtesy of Ivan Eyes Cody 1989  
*Reader's Digest*  
Pleasantville, NY 10570

Note: Teacher could make other applications for endings.



## Thoughts to Challenge Children

Anecdotes and Quotations from Biography



### "I LIKE TO WORK"

Booker T. Washington, according to *The Penn-Trail*, shortly after he had taken charge of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama passed the house of a wealthy family. The woman of the house, not knowing Mr. Washington by sight, asked if he would chop some wood.

Professor Washington took off his coat and chopped the wood. He also carried it into the kitchen. There a servant girl recognized him, and later told her mistress of his identity.

The next morning the woman went to Professor Washington's office and apologized, saying, "I did not know it was you I put to work."

"It's entirely all right, Madam," the great Negro replied; "I like to work, and I'm delighted to do favors for my friends."

His simple act won this woman's admiration, and she persuaded wealthy acquaintances to give thousands of dollars to the school.

*Courtesy of Sunshine Magazine*



## The Edison Sponge

Thomas A. Edison, the great inventor, was talking one day with the governor of North Carolina, and the governor complimented him on his inventive genius.

"I am not great inventor," said Edison.

"But you have over a thousand patents to your credit, haven't you?" queried the governor.

"Yes, but about the only invention I can really claim as absolutely original is the phonograph," was the reply.

"Why, I'm afraid I don't understand what you mean," said the governor.

"Well", explained Edison, "I guess I'm an awfully good sponge. I absorb ideas from every source I can and put them to practical use. Then I improve them until they become of some value. The ideas which I use are mostly the ideas of other people who don't develop them themselves."

Adapted from *Just a Moment*  
Anecdotes and Quotations from Biography





Until I actually experienced one, I thought that anxiety attacks were just something that weak people who lacked self-control suffered. I was sure that they were brought on by nervously dwelling on some imaginary problem.

Out of the blue one day as my car climbed up a steep on-ramp on a freeway, time began to slow down. My heart rate accelerated, my face broke out in a sweat, a pounding began in my head, my breathing became short and raspy. I was absolutely terrified. I began to drive slower and slower. I considered stopping the car, abandoning it, and walking back to lower ground. It seemed as if I would die long before I would ever reach a place where I could pull the car over. I frantically pleaded with God to rescue me.

Eventually, after a passage of time that gave new meaning to the concept of eternity, I reached the freeway, and the feeling passed. I was very puzzled. Of what was I so afraid? It was not as if this was a new stretch of freeway; I had driven on this ramp occasionally for over twenty years and had never had any trouble. I had had no accident. I happily rode Ferris wheels and climbed fire towers for the view. I decided that this episode was a strange fluke.

Unfortunately, this turned out not to be so. Repeatedly, whenever I drove up ramps or over bridges, I experienced the anxiety attacks. I grew to dread them. Strangely enough, if I was a passenger I had no problems.

I lived for ten years like this. Most of the time I could avoid areas that had bridges, or I could use ones that had high edges. Sometimes I would get caught, though--always with the same reaction.

I decided that it would be possible to live the rest of my life without ever driving across another bridge. Then I was asked to serve on a

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committee over 300 miles from home. And between my home and the meeting there was a very long, high bridge.

I very much wished to serve on the committee. I made up my mind that somehow, some way, I was going to conquer these anxiety attacks. I developed a technique. Right before the bridge crossing there was a rest stop. I would pull into the rest area, pray for about ten minutes, and then begin to sing hymns and choruses. Then I would pull out, drive as close to the middle line as I could, poke around until a tractor trailer blocked my view on the right, and set off. I went fairly slowly, and focused on the far shore. I forced myself to breathe regularly. I found that the simple Cradle Roll Songs worked best: "Angels Are Watching Over Me."

For years I went back and forth to committee meetings several times, every time using my technique: stop for prayer, stay in the middle, sing songs, breathe deeply, and focus on the destination. Always I would greatly enjoy the meetings.

Each time I set out I would plead for the Lord to take this from me. Finally, one day, as I sat praying at the rest stop one day, I asked the Lord, "Why? Why won't you take this from me? I so love serving on these committees. I feel like I have something to offer. Why won't you take this?"

And I heard the Lord answer: "I have given you the perfect metaphor for living your life. When you encounter difficult things, stop and pray. Enter your trial singing and praying. Try to stay balanced and in the middle of the road, not swaying one way or the other. Don't try to rush through the trial. And keep your eye on the destination. The destination is what is important. Some day soon, that far shore is where you will end up, and the trip across the bridge will seem like a short dream. Remember, the destination is worth it."

More years have gone by, many more trips. They never seemed quite as bad again. As I continued to face bridges, I gradually lost the reaction to them. During the latest trip across that bridge, I found I had no reaction at all; in fact I was able to drive across without any fear and even enjoyed the scenery over the edge.



## *Anecdotes for Inspiration*

These "Wise Sayings" are designed to be printed on colored paper or cardstock and cut apart.



The best way to get even  
is to forget

Feed your faith and your doubts will  
starve to death



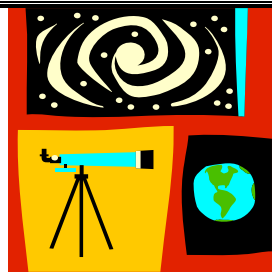
God wants spiritual fruit,



not religious nuts.



Some folks wear their  
halos much too tight.



Unless you can create the **WHOLE** universe in 6 days, then perhaps giving "advice" to God, isn't such a good idea.

Standing in the middle of the road is dangerous. You will get knocked down by the traffic from both ways.



It isn't difficult  
to make a mountain out of a molehill,  
just add a little dirt.



A skeptic is a person who when he sees the handwriting on the wall, claims it's a forgery.

The might oak tree was

once a little nut



that held its ground.

The tongue must be heavy indeed,  
because not many people can hold it.



To forgive is to set the prisoner free,  
and then discover the prisoner was  
you.

You have to wonder  
about humans,  
they think God is dead  
and Elvis is alive.





You'll notice that a turtle only makes progress when it sticks out its neck....

If the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, you can bet the water bill is higher.



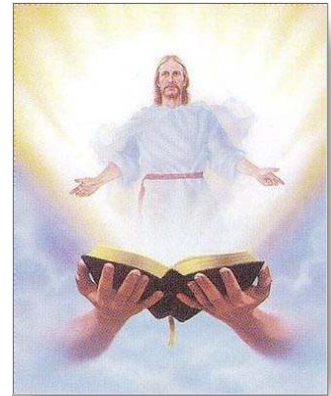
God formed man,

Sin deformed him,

Education informs him,

Religion may reform him,

**Only Jesus Christ can transform him.**



## Plan Your School Time with God

What are your plans for this year? How can you be prepared for study? Students are often asked to list their goals for the school year in August or September. However, we can make new goals at any time of the year, including New Year's.

Today, I want you to think of having success at school by thinking about putting on the whole armor of God. Read Ephesians 6:11, 13-18. What could you use as examples for each part of the armor? Look at the following suggestions, and then make up your own.

Arm yourself for school:

girded loins - - be truthful

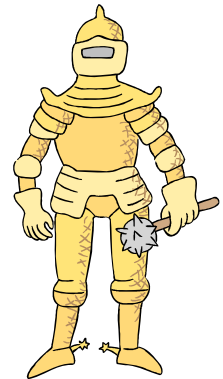
breastplate - - learn what is right

feet - - seek solutions to conflict

shield - - have faith in God and His help

helmet - - remember your sacrifice is minor compared to Christ's  
sacrifice

sword - - cut through confusion with God's Book of Life



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Remember - without constant communication with God, the armor's protection will fail. Prayers are the bindings that hold the armor together.

You are fortunate to be an important part of Christian education. Learning goes beyond your classroom studies. Learning takes place everywhere. You are taught by your parents, family members, and friends. Sometimes we forget what education means. Ellen G. White states in *Education*, p. 13: "Our ideas for education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader scope, a higher aim."

There are three aspects of education. The physical, mental, and spiritual parts of your education must be balanced. When your parent takes the family car to the garage for a tune-up, the mechanic checks the car's fluids, the condition of moving parts, and the lights. All parts of the car must be tuned to required specifications for safe operation. If the oil is low, it can cause harmful engine friction. When the coolant is low, the engine overheats.

Your school experience must be balanced. Physical exercise helps to clear the mind and relax the body. Do not neglect this aspect of your education. Strengthen your mind by

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reading quality publications. You must learn what is good and what to avoid. Your love for God and constant seeking of God's Word will assure your spiritual education.

Think about the following examples:

The story of Moses is fascinating when analyzed using the three aspects of education. Read Exodus 2 and 3.

### Physical

Moses lived with his parents for a few years and then was taken to Pharaoh's household.

### Mental

Moses was taught by his biological and adoptive mothers. He was trained as a Jew and was trained as a prince.

### Spiritual

Moses was taught about God and taught about Egyptian gods.

... "Train up a child" . . . . Moses knew that he was not Egyptian. His sympathies were with the Israelites. The training he received from his biological parents carried him through 40 years in Pharaoh's palace.

When he killed the Egyptian, he publicly and irrevocably broke ties with his adoptive family. God knew he needed to become intimately reacquainted with the Scriptures. He had a plan for Moses.

Moses lived in Midian as a part of Jethro's household. He needed to mature physically, spiritually, and mentally. He was beginning true education. Power is God's and not man's! Moses had to learn that God is the source of knowledge and wisdom.

The years in the wilderness made him humble. Life held more meaning for him there. He had his family again! God gave Moses a memorable graduation. As described in Exodus 3:1-7 and 10, God used the burning-bush experience to show Moses he was ready for his life's work.

### Physical

In the wilderness Moses gained stamina for the children of Israel's wilderness journey.





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### Mental

Moses learned humility, seeking to relearn what his parents had taught him before his going to Pharaoh's palace.

### Spiritual

Moses learned that God is the source of knowledge and strength.

Plan for a great school year! Make a personal chart of practical things you can do to balance the spiritual, mental, and physical aspects of your education. Share it with your classmates and hang it up at home in a prominent place. This should be your working plan to make the school year successful. Aim high!

The following list may help you:

1. Determine to learn everything you can at home and school.
2. Study the Bible.
3. Communicate with God several times a day.
4. Pray for wisdom and guidance.
5. Commit texts, poems, and lessons to memory.
6. Make a conscious effort to remember your devotions throughout the day.
7. Share what you learn. Sharing brings us closer to God.
8. Learn about yourself.
9. Be proud of what you accomplish - but keep it in perspective. Remember, other goals need to be met.
10. Find the higher ground. Consciously think about and prepare for Heaven.
11. Be prepared to stand for your values! Riches and accolades may not be yours. Yet, strive to do your best.
12. You will experience failures and obstacles. Remember, our Master Teacher, Jesus, suffered for us. He understands. Trust Him!



## CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

*Introduction: A reading adaptable for one or multiple readers, using Christmas single candles lighted in sequence. Use a string of colored lights for the cross. The program can be extended with the inclusion of appropriate Christmas music.*

Have you even been in total darkness? (House lights extinguished, and quiet for 30 seconds.)

In total darkness objects are invisible. Sounds seem to come from nothing.

There is no beauty, no meaning, and no joy in darkness.

God hates the darkness. On the first day of Creation He created light, and He added the sun and moon on the third day. God hates spiritual darkness, too. Throughout history He has communicated light and truth. Beginning with Moses, the Sacred Scriptures have been a guiding lamp for His people.

Through the books of Moses, through the books of history and the poetry of the Psalms, through the bitter-sweet messages of the prophets, God has enlightened His people; and through them, the dark world.

But ancient Israel's love of the darkness often took them away from the lighted path. Isaiah grieved, "We look for light but all is darkness, for the light of dawn, but we walk in deep gloom. We grope like blind men along a wall, feeling our way like men without eyes; we stumble at noonday as if it were twilight." (Isaiah 59:9, 10)

Why does mankind have such a love affair with darkness? How can man created in the image of God love what God hates?

The Bible says, "Men loved darkness rather than light for their deeds were evil . . . . Everyone who does evil hates the light and does not come into it. (John 3:19)

Throughout the universe spiritual light abounds except for one planet—earth, where sin has enshrouded the world in darkness. But God has not abandoned us to this eternal fate. He would not surrender our happiness and salvation. Scattered through the Old Testament were promises of a future outburst of light and truth that would shatter the darkness; the Prince of Light would personally oppose the Angel of Darkness.

It was a hint of good news. With each prophetic message the darkness brightened. An early prophet to bear these tidings was the unlikely Balaam. Echoing the dying words of Jacob, he said: [**While the text is read, light candle #1.**]

"I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star shall come forth from Jacob, and a Scepter shall rise from Israel." (Numbers. 24:17)

In the depths of despair, Job expressed hope in the coming Redeemer: [**While the text is read, light candle #2.**]

“I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.”  
(Job 19:25)

In Jeremiah, the message about the light was focused on the coming of the Messiah, who would restore David’s throne. [**While the text is read, light candle #3.**]

“Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, which I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. . . . He will be called, ‘The Lord our Righteousness.’”  
(Jeremiah. 23:6)

The prophet Micah foretold the place of birth of the Prince of Light: [**While the text is read, light candle #4.**]

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrata, who are little to be among the clan of Judah, from you shall come forth for me a governor who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from old.”  
(Micah 5:2)

Haggai called Him the “Desire of all ages.” (Haggai. 2:7)

Isaiah was heralded the coming of the light when he wrote: [**While the text is read, light candle #5.**]

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.” (Isaiah. 9:2) Therefore, the Lord himself will give a sign. “Behold a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” (Isaiah. 7:14)

But what was promised in the Old Testament became a reality in the New. The apostle John said it this way: [**While the text is read, light candle #6.**]

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things were made through him and without him was not anything made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men . . . .

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory as of the only Son from the Father.” (John 1:1-14)

In the fullness of time, God became one of us. He came to us himself a star; he spoke to us himself a song. He whom the world could not unwrap came and lay on Mary’s lap.

There’s a song in the air! There’s a star in the sky! There’s a mother’s deep prayer and a baby’s low cry!



The writer of Hebrews proclaimed: [**While the text is read, light candle #7.**]

“In many various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son who reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature.” (Hebrews. 1:1-3)

The light came among us in this way: [**While the text is read, light candle #8.**]

“And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shown around them; and they were afraid. (Luke 2:7-9) [**While the text is read, light candle #9.**]

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.’” (Luke 2:13, 14)

Hurrying to Bethlehem, the shepherds found Mary and Joseph with Jesus lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known around the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. (Luke 2:17)

If Christ had come into this world as a strong beam of light, it would only have blinded men. But Christ came into this world as a small 5-watt bulb to better guide them in the narrow way.

Did you know the human eye can see a 25-watt bulb on a clear dark night until it disappears over the horizon?

And so with Jesus the light got brighter with every sermon, every miracle, and every parable. Look upon his glory. See how he made the lame walk.

See how he caused the blind to see, the deaf to hear, and the mute to talk. Hear the Sermon on the Mount, the Parable of the Sower, the Lord’s Prayer:

“Our Father, which art in heaven; hallowed be thy name.”

But the light of Christ shone brightest when he was hanging on the cross. Each point of light represents billions of people who except for him would have a destiny of eternal darkness.

Whoever you are and whatever you do, Christ is for you:

To the architect He is the Chief Cornerstone



To the banker, he is the Redeemer

To the carpenter, He is the door.

To the doctor He is the great physician.

To the educator He is the great teacher.

To the farmer He is the Lord of the harvest.

To the geologist He is the Rock of Ages.

To the lawyer He is the Law-giver.

To the traveler He is the way.

To the weary He is the Giver of rest.

One day Jesus stood before the resplendent Temple in Jerusalem. When the morning sun shone on the gold-plated panels and pure white marble and the cut-glass chandelier, the brilliance was like looking at the sun.

One day, with the Temple glowing with light, Jesus stood up and said: [**While the text is read, light candle #10.**]

I am the light of the World. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life. (John 8:12)

That's right! you can have the light of life. When faith is planted in the heart and you accept the Light of the world, a wonderful thing happens. You become a point of light, a little beacon of light to illumine a dark world and help others find the true light.

As Jesus said, "While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." (John 12:36)

As Isaiah wrote: "Arise, shine; for they light is come. And the glory for the Lord is risen upon you." (Isaiah. 60:1)

So what will you do with that light? This little light of yours, will you let it shine, let it shine, let it shine? "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

As Paul says: "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of Light." (Ephesians. 5:8)



Many years ago, King George VI of England addressed the British Commonwealth on New Year's Eve at a moment in history when the whole world stood on the brink of uncertainty. Despondency and uncertainty filled the air. The king's own body was racked by cancer. Before that year was over, his life ended. Unaware of his own physical maladies, he uttered these memorable words:

"I said to the man at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I might walk safely into the unknown.' And he said to me, 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. It shall be to you safer than the light and better than the known.' "



This reading was adapted and shared by Pastor Warren Ruff, Pastor of the Leominster Seventh-day Adventist Church in Leominster, MA.







## Education Zingers

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Psalm 32:8 (NIV)*

- ☺ To teach is to learn twice.
- ☺ A good teacher captures a student’s attention so he /she can direct it toward God.
- ☺ School is a building with four walls—with tomorrow inside.
- ☺ Most students have the spark of genius—but a few seem to have ignition trouble.
- ☺ It’s what you learn after you know it all that counts.
- ☺ The highest knowledge is the knowledge of God.
- ☺ Intelligence is like a river—the deeper it is, the less noise it makes.
- ☺ Knowledge is power only when it is turned on.
- ☺ Knowing that you don’t know much is knowing more than most.
- ☺ If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.
- ☺ The greatest aid to the education of adults is children.
- ☺ It is better to make new mistakes than it is to repeat the old ones.
- ☺ The best education is caught—not taught.
- ☺ He who ceases to learn cannot adequately teach.
- ☺ Readers make good talkers.
- ☺ Wouldn’t it be nice to be as sure of anything as some people are of everything?
- ☺ The heart of education is the education of the heart.
- ☺ Education is what you have left over when you subtract what you’ve forgotten from what you’ve learned.
- ☺ Ideas are like children—our own are very wonderful.
- ☺ Forget your mistakes, but remember what they taught you.
- ☺ People who tell everything they know wouldn’t be so bad if they would stop there.
- ☺ You’re never too old to learn—and what you learn is what makes you old.
- ☺ Experience has been defined as “compulsory education”.



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- ☺ He who can take advice is sometimes superior to him who can give it.
- ☺ Machines are so human that they can do things without using any intelligence.
- ☺ The trouble with some people is that they are educated beyond their intelligence.
- ☺ Broad-minded: capable of seeing both points—the wrong one and his own.
- ☺ Education is a chest of tools.
- ☺ Education covers a lot of ground, but it does not cultivate it.
- ☺ He who knows how to read but doesn't is no different than the man who can't read.

Courtesy of The complete Book of Zingers, Croft M. Pentz, 1990



## Friendship Zingers

*A friend loves at all times.... Proverbs 17:17*

- ☺ Don't worry about knowing people—just make yourself worth knowing.
- ☺ Friends are those rare people who ask how we are and then wait to hear the answer.
- ☺ Christian fellowship simply means an opening of Christian hearts.
- ☺ Christ's friendship prevails when human friendship fails.
- ☺ He is you friend who pushes you nearer to God.
- ☺ Friendship is the cement that holds the world together.
- ☺ The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail and not his tongue.
- ☺ Pick your friends, but not to pieces.
- ☺ The best vitamin for developing friends is B1.
- ☺ Being square creates a circle of friends.
- ☺ The quickest way to wipe out a friend is to sponge on him.
- ☺ If you cannot think of any nice things to say about your friends, then you have the wrong friends.
- ☺ A friend is someone who can step on your toes without messing the shine.
- ☺ A friend is someone who thinks you're a good egg even though you're slightly cracked.
- ☺ Make friends before you need them.
- ☺ If every Christian were as friendly as you are, would any visitor come back to church?
- ☺ You can meet friends everywhere, but you cannot meet enemies anywhere—you have to make them.
- ☺ Friendship doubles our joy and divides our grief.
- ☺ If you *long* to be with Christians, you *belong* to Christ.
- ☺ An unwelcome guest is one of the best things going.
- ☺ You cannot see eye to eye with the person you look down upon.
- ☺ Friends are those who speak to you after others don't.



## Inspiration

- ☺ If you can buy a person's friendship, it is not worth it.
- ☺ We will think and talk like the person we listen to the most.
- ☺ You can bank on any friendship where interest is paid.
- ☺ A friend is one who helps you bridge the gaps between loneliness and fellowship, frustration and confidence, despair and hope, setbacks and success.
- ☺ To be without a friend is a serious form of poverty.
- ☺ Before borrowing money from a friend, decide which you need more.
- ☺ There is nothing like a long face to shorten one's list of friends.
- ☺ Solitude is very sad, but too much company is twice as bad.

Courtesy of The complete Book of Zingers, Croft M. Pentz, 1990



# A SOUTH CAROLINIAN LEADER

**Isaiah 55:11** “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper [in the thing] whereto I sent it.”

After the Civil War, one of the Black orphans who had to look after himself was George Washington Murray. It did not appear likely that this friendless waif would ever amount to anything. Murray was born in 1853 to slave parents in Sumter County, South Carolina. He was intelligent and somehow managed to obtain enough education to eventually enable him to teach. Later in life, he would often refer to the fact that he had never been in a school until he went there as a teacher.

When George was elected to Congress in the 1890s, he was almost 40 years old; and by that time he had attended South Carolina University and the State Normal Institute. He was admitted into the university at age 21 by taking a competency test. His studies ended abruptly two years later when the university was once again closed to Black students. Rather than becoming discouraged, Murray channeled his energies in other directions. For more than 10 years, he taught school, purchased enough acreage of land to farm, attended the State Normal Institute as a part-time student, and entered Republican Party politics.

In 1890, President Benjamin Harrison appointed Murray Customs Inspector for the Port of Charleston. That same year, Murray tried but failed to win the party's nomination for Congressman. Determined, he attempted again in 1892, this time winning by only 40 votes. Murray tried in vain to stop the disenfranchisement of his fellow Blacks. The presidency and both Houses of Congress were now controlled by Democrats, who were determined to repeal certain human rights. Trying to accomplish what he could, Murray campaigned for trade schools to teach skills, and for aid to the poor and aged. After being elected to a second term in 1895, he spent his efforts trying to combat political fraud and harassment in South Carolina.



In addition to his struggles in Congress, Murray took on the responsibilities of a family, marrying, and eventually fathering two children. He bought 10,000 acres of land in South Carolina and sold parcels to other Blacks. He added to his accomplishments by inventing and patenting various farm implements, including a fertilizer, planter, and harvester.

With the Democrats firmly in control, the Republicans were split into opposing factions. Efforts to secure the rights of Blacks were abandoned. Murray's reactions are quoted in the book *Black Americans in Congress*: “We stand helpless and amazed. I declare that the patient, long-suffering generous Black man has never attempted to domineer anywhere in the country. At the very dawn of freedom, when the refusal to act on the part of the master class placed the reins of government in his hands with only a handful of White men in his party, he gave nearly every position of honor and emolument to them....”

## Inspiration

In 1905, Murray moved to Chicago where he wrote and privately published two books, *Race Ideals* in 1914, and *Light in Dark Places* in 1925. He continued to lecture about his experiences in his rise from orphan to congressman. In the spring of 1926, he became ill, having waited too long to obtain a much-needed surgical operation.

In April, he died, leaving behind his wife, Cornelia, and two children. The funeral service for this last Black congressman from South Carolina included a eulogy which highlighted Murray's independence of thought and his action on behalf of Blacks during the Reconstruction period. This eulogy was presented by a fellow freedom-fighter, John R. Lynch, another significant Black congressman who had witnessed the rise and fall of Black rights during Reconstruction.

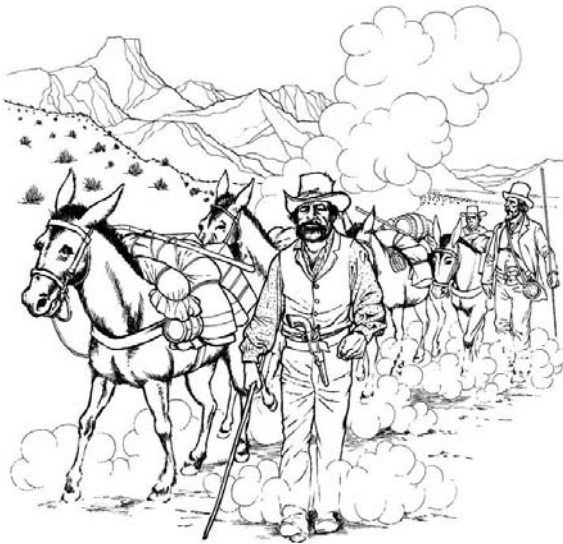




# ACHIEVER OF GOALS

The lure of gold and success drew Mifflin W. Gibbs to California and Canada. The need for an education led him to become a lawyer, judge, and a diplomat. Gibbs believed both goals, wealth and education, were the keys to racial progress.

Gibbs was born in 1823 in Philadelphia, to Jonathan Gibbs, a Wesleyan Methodist minister, and Maria Gibbs. His father's death in 1831 left Mifflin and three other children to be reared by their invalid mother. Through an apprenticeship, Mifflin became a bootblack. But young Gibbs was more interested in cultural things, so he joined with other black men in a literary society called the Philomathean Institute. And although born free, he demonstrated his concern for enslaved Blacks by helping the Underground Railroad, an escape network for southern slaves.



It was 1849, while on a speaking tour with that great Black leader Frederick Douglass, that the direction of Gibbs' life changed. He learned of the discovery of gold in California, and he became one of the 80,000 "Forty-niners" who rushed to California to make their fortune. After arriving in San Francisco, he opened a bootblack stand in front of the Union Hotel and became part of the hustle and bustle of the booming city. Later, he and a partner, Peter Lister, operated a shoe repair business. Optimistic and adventurous, Gibbs was a man of action; and he was active in the Black community, attending

state conventions of Blacks in the 1850s and founding a Black newspaper, *Mirror of the Times*, in 1855. His continued interest in race issues was evident in his sponsorship of a host of civil rights resolutions in the *Alto California*, the leading Black newspaper in the area.

Once again, the lure of gold and greater opportunity altered his life. In 1858, gold was discovered in British Columbia, Canada. This brought a rush of prospectors and businessmen like Gibbs from California to Canada. Gibbs made a quick fortune selling supplies to prospectors and buying real estate in the booming frontier town of Victoria, British Columbia. In 1859, he briefly returned to the United States to marry Maria A. Alexander, with whom he would have five children. The couple settled in Victoria, where Gibbs became active in the community, serving as a councilman from his district. Working as a contractor, he built a railroad from the Queen Charlotte coal mines to Skidgate Harbor, and shipped the cargo of coal mined on the Pacific coast to San Francisco.



In 1869, the restless and energetic Gibbs left Canada in pursuit of another goal, to finish his law education at Oberlin (Ohio) College, the school his wife had attended. The family then settled in Little Rock, Arkansas, a city considered by Gibbs to be receptive to Black ambition. He was admitted to the Arkansas State Bar in 1870



## Inspiration

and elected City Judge in 1873. This prominence brought him to national attention and led to bigger political appointments: U.S. Land Office official in Little Rock, and U.S. Consul to Madagascar, the fourth largest island in the world, situated off the southeast coast of Africa.

Retiring from the government in 1901, Gibbs' many experiences put him in demand as a lecturer. Returning to Little Rock, he became a bank president and a partner in the local electric light company. He owned shares in several other companies and a substantial amount of Little Rock real estate. He also published his autobiography, *Shadow and Light*, before his death in 1915.

Although his life took many paths, Gibbs believed a skilled middle class of Black farmers and industrial workers was essential for genuine racial progress.

